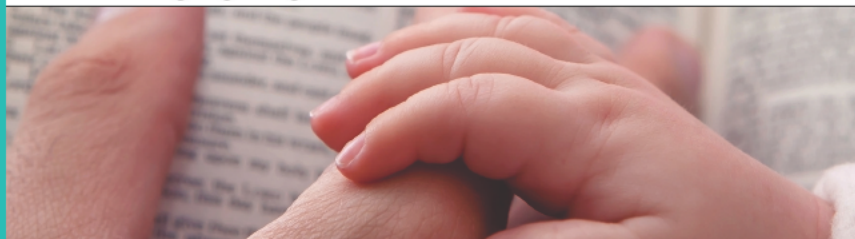


2013

Engaging Families with Jesus



As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

(Joshua 24:15)

**Report of the
96th Annual Convention
of the
Evangelical Lutheran Synod**

Mankato, Minnesota
June 16–19, 2013



REPORT OF THE
96TH REGULAR CONVENTION
OF THE
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

and the

57TH ANNUAL MEETING
OF
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE, INC.

Convention Theme:

Engaging Families With Jesus

Essayist:
The Rev. Donald Moldstad

Compiled by
The Rev. Craig A. Ferkenstad, Secretary

Held at
BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

Mankato, Minnesota
June 16–19, 2013

Artwork by Paul Fries

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THE CONVENTION DAY BY DAY

THE CONVENTION DAY BY DAY

SYNOD SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2013

The 96th Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 57th 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. R. Flohr (Golden Valley, Minnesota) preached the sermon based on Philippians 2:3–8 under the theme “Engaging Families with Jesus—Let It Begin with Dads!” Despite society’s continual downplaying of “fatherhood,” dads play a vital role in the health and development of the family, especially when it comes to their spiritual well-being. Our sinful natures are at the core of why dads fail to live up to their high calling, but God’s forgiveness, through Christ, and the power of God’s word provide the motivation and strength to have a gospel-impact on their families, as dads seek to be a model of the love that God, our heavenly Father, has showered on us.

MONDAY, JUNE 17, 2013

The first working day of the 96th Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 57th Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation was opened with a devotion conducted at 9:30 a.m. in Trinity Chapel. The chaplain, the Rev. S. Gullixson (Bishop, California) preached the opening sermon based on Genesis 12:1–3 under the theme “The Christian Home is a Home by Grace.” Making a home a Christian home is messy business. How can we make our home a Christian home when there are tempers, favoritism, and pride? Our attempts at it are rather comical if you think about it: sinners trying to teach sinners how not to live like sinners, while sinning in the process. How can we do it? The truth is, we can’t. A Christian home is not made by rules and guidelines, though they will be there. A Christian home is not made or maintained by hiding or ignoring our family problems. A home is a Christian home by grace. Only God can make your home a Christian one; and it is messy business. A lot of blood and sweat went into it... not yours, but Christ’s. It was worth every drop in order that He might bless you and your family. The Service included the chanting of Psalm 102 and the singing of the hymns, “Come, Holy Ghost in Love” and “Our Father, by Whose Name.”

After those in attendance assembled in the convention auditorium, Secretary Ferkenstad announced that the roll had been gathered at the credentials desk. Seventy-seven permanent voting members and twenty-six permanent advisory members responded to the initial gathering of the roll; eighty-six voting members and thirty permanent advisory members were present by the end of the first working day. By the conclusion of the convention there were 91 permanent voting members, 39 permanent advisory members, and 97 delegates who had registered their attendance.

At 10:20 a.m. President Moldstad declared the 96th Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 57th 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.” He also led the assembly in prayer.

President Moldstad then read the President’s Message saying that these are trying times for the Christian faith and family. Yet our escape from the sin and assorted trials and troubles of our day is in the holy lifeblood of God’s Son. The heavenly Father accepted the ransom! Check the empty tomb! This is why we are here and hold another convention of our dear ELS. We desire that each of us here be fully engaged with Jesus, even as we together strategize on how to reach *others* and engage them with the Savior. This includes the way we interact with our families, with those near and dear to us, those with whom we have daily contact.

Secretary Ferkenstad read the decision of the Commission on the Appeal regarding the appeal made by the Rev. Kent Dethlefsen.

Greetings were read from Missionary Tim Erickson (Chile) and Mario Galvez (president of the Chilean national church).

Committee assignments were made and work was assigned. The chaplain closed the session with prayer. Committee meetings took place during the afternoon.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2013

The Tuesday morning devotion was conducted by the Rev. L. Ulrich (Bowling Green, Ohio) who preached a sermon based upon Psalm 128. He emphasized the heavy and solemn responsibility that is felt by those who are to oversee and be in charge of a family. Often, as we seek to live up to our responsibilities to our families, we fail. The only way to succeed is to place trust in God to shoulder the responsibility of making us fruitful. As the psalm says: "Blessed is the man who fears the Lord, and walks in His ways." As families we seek God's righteousness, which He has provided for us through the work of Christ Jesus and comes to us (and to our families) through the Means of Grace. When seeking to have a fruitful family, "Fear the Lord" and "Walk in His ways!" The devotion included the singing of the hymn "Of the Father's Love Begotten."

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

The majority of the business of the convention occurred during the Tuesday sessions. The morning session consisted of reports from the committees on Elementary Education, Miscellaneous, and President's Message & Report. A presentation was made on behalf of the Lutheran Home Association and the Rev. Steven Lange brought a greeting on behalf of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Prior to the start of any elections, the guidelines for "Election Procedures" which were adopted at the 2012 convention were read to the assembly. On Wednesday morning, a motion to suspend the guidelines only for the election of the Committee on Nominations was lost by a voice vote.

The afternoon session began at 1:30 p.m. with the singing of the hymn "O Blest the House, Whate'er Befall." The session consisted of reports from the committees on Higher Education, Doctrine, Parish Services, and Finances. Presentations were made by the presidents of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, and a video presentation was made by the Board for Home Outreach concerning the "Engaging Others with Jesus" seminars.

At 4:30 p.m. the convention recessed to Trinity Chapel where the Anniversary Service was conducted at 5:00 p.m. by the Rev. E. Ekhoﬀ (Golden Valley, Minnesota). The sermon was based upon Matthew 9:9. As Jesus called Matthew to the public ministry, so Jesus through His church continues to call His messengers to the fields which are white unto harvest. His message of "follow me" is spoken to unworthy candidates. We have all missed God's mark of perfection. We humbly join Matthew to follow Jesus. We receive the gift of faith and with it comes forgiveness and blessings. Unworthy candidates have been called by this unusual message of "follow me." This message is not about us or self-help. The message is all about God and His desire to save us. This mystery was known to God and revealed in time through His own Son. The virgin born Jesus is God and man, the one Savior of every nation. His obedience, death, and resurrection won salvation. God's Spirit uses this message and through it works faith in the hearts of the penitent. The message of "follow me" is amazing grace. May the Holy Spirit keep us following our Savior all the days of our lives. As we have been saved through this message, so we proclaim this "follow me" message so that others may come to know the Lord Jesus as we

do. May the Lord of the Church continue to bless His pastors and people. The service included the singing of the hymn, “Lord Jesus, Who Art Come.”

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 19, 2013

The Wednesday morning devotion was conducted by the Rev. J. Skogen (Portage, Indiana) who based his sermon upon Colossians 3:16–21 under the theme: “The Christian Home is a Home of Love and Discipline.” God is a God of love and discipline. We see examples of this in the accounts of the bronze serpent and also the dialogue between Nathan and David. God loves by teaching us His gospel. He disciplines so that we may repent and seek comfort in God, whom we know is forgiving and merciful. Love and discipline go together. This love and discipline of God is also a characteristic of the Christian home. By love and discipline parents give a picture of the love and discipline of the heavenly Father. They also teach children to live the baptismal life of repentance and faith. Repent and know that God is love and for Christ’s sake is merciful and forgiving. He receives His baptized children and through His word, He preserves His children in the baptismal life. The devotion included the singing of selected verses of the hymn, “Let Children Hear the Mighty Deeds.”

President Moldstad introduced the essayist, the Rev. Donald Moldstad (Mankato, Minnesota). The essayist began reading the essay, *Engaging Families with Jesus*. Discussion followed.

During the remainder of the morning, presentations were made by the Giving Counselor and the Board for World Outreach which included a greeting brought by the Rev. Pradeep Lingala (Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India).

The afternoon session was opened with a selection by the ELS Honor Choir. During the afternoon, reports were considered from the committees on World Outreach, Synodical Membership, Home Outreach, Pastoral Conference Records, Resolutions, and Excuses. The election of the 2014 Committee on Nominations took considerable time during this session.

For the first time, in memory, the work of the convention was concluded on the third working day. At 4:00 p.m., the essayist concluded the reading of the essay, *Engaging Families with Jesus*. Additional discussion followed and thanks was extended to the essayist.

The president extended thanks to the Pages, College Staff (Greg Costello, Carrie Flanagan, and others), Essayist (Don Moldstad), Chaplain (Samuel Gullixson), Organist (John Bauman), Program Committee, Ushers, Tellers, and Synod Secretary (Craig Ferkenstad), and the Synod Staff (Keith Wiederhoeft, Paul Fries, Denise Luehmann, Elsa Ferkenstad). He also extended thanks to the pastors and delegates who attended for their time, attention, and input.

In the president’s concluding remarks, he directed us to the convention artwork where the father’s hand is pointing to God’s word and directing his child to it. God promises His blessings as the scripture says, “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!” The president also read Psalm 98:3, led the assembly in the singing of the hymn, “The Lord, my God Be Praised,” and prayer.

At 5:31 p.m. the president declared the 96th Regular Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the 57th Annual Meeting of the Bethany Lutheran College Corporation to be closed “In the Name of Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.”

Following the adjournment of the convention, the Communion Services was conducted in Trinity Chapel beginning at 7:30 p.m. The Rev. D. Holbird (Mankato, Minnesota) preached the sermon and the Rev. J. Petersen (Mankato, Minnesota) served as liturgist for the service.

Soli Deo Gloria

ROLL CALL OF PERMANENT MEMBERS

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

1. Pastors serving member congregations:

Members having the right to vote

Present: H.Abrahamson, N.Abrahamson, K.Anderson, M.Bartels, T.Bartels, J.Braun, M.Brooks, E.Bryant, L.Buelow, T.Buelow, J.Burkhardt, A.Burmeister, M.Crick, C.Dale, M.Dale, E.Ekhoff, M.Faugstad, P.Faugstad, C.Ferkenstad, D.Finn, R.Flohr, J.Gernander, W.Grimm, S.Gullixson, T.Gullixson, C.Hahnke, W.Halvorsen, A.Hamilton, R.Harting, D.Hartwig, T.Hartwig, K.Hermanson, P.Heyn, T.Heyn, E.Hoeft, M.Hoesch, R.Holtz, B.Homan, J.Jacobsen, J.Kassera, S.Kauffeld, C.Keeler, B.Kerkow, K.Kluge, J.Krikava, F.Lams, D.Larson, B.Leonatti, G.Lilienthal, J.Londgren, H.B.Longshore, M.Luttman, J.Madson, K.Mellon, J.E.Merseth, J.S.Merseth, N.Merseth, M.Moldstad, M.Muehlenhardt, G.Obenberger, D.Oberer, R.Otto, A.Palmquist, R.Pederson, J.Petersen, A.Pittenger, N.Proksch, T.Rank, A.Ring, M.Rogers, T.Saari, S.Schmeling, P.Schneider, B.Schwark, J.Skogen, G.Smith, J.K.Smith, S.Sparley, S.Stafford, P.Sullivan, F.Theiste, D.Thompson, B.Tweit, L.Ulrich, S.P.Van Kampen, D.Webber, J.Willitz, L.Willitz, J.Wilson, P.Zager, T.Zenda

Excused: J.Abrahamson, D.Bakke, D.Faugstad, F.Fiedler, T.Fox, R.Fyffe, G.Haugen, N.Krause, H.Mosley, D.Russow, R.Tragasz, T.Westendorf

Absent: J.Dalke, A.Dethlefsen, D.Locklair, J.Luplow, G.Schmidt, W.Stehr, E.C.F.Stubenvoll, R.VanMehren, L.Wentzlaff

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

Excused: T.Smuda

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

Advisory membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: M.DeGarmeaux, M.Harstad, D.Holbird, T.Kuster, P.Lepak, D.Moldstad, S.Reagles, G.Schmeling, T.Schmeling, M.Smith, E.Teigen

Excused: A.Harstad

Absent: B.Klebig, D.Marzolf

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

Advisory membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: D.Basel, P.Fries, J.Moldstad, S.Petersen

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

Advisory membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: K.Madson

Absent: T.Erickson, D.Haeuser, Y.Kim, T.Schultz

7. Pastors emeriti:

Advisory membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: R.Carter, E.Geistfeld, R.Honsey, N.Madson, P.Madson, D.Schmidt, K.Schmidt, T.Skaaland, J.Smith, R.Wiechmann, C.Wosje

Excused: P.Anderson, M.Doepel, H.Huhnerkoch,

Absent: H.Bartels, K.Brumble, J.Krueger, H.Larson, D.Lillegard, M.Marozick, J.Moldstad, J.Olsen, G.Orvick, W.Petersen, F.Schmugge, E.Stubenvoll, L.Vinton, R.Waters, T.Zeller

8. Teachers serving in schools of member congregations:

Advisory membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: D.Aswege, S.Beilke, A.Labitzky, T.Schubkegel, T.Thies, C.Zibrowski

Absent: R.Brei, J.Gregovich, D.Morrison, L.Rude

INACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Advisory membership: Not having the right to vote

Present: G.Sahlstrom

Excused: D.Jaech

Absent: E.Gernander, J.Kim, D.McQuality, C.Sielaff, D.Meyer

INDIVIDUALS

Present: D.Bruss, M.Meyer

Absent: S.Born

2013 REPRESENTATIVES ELIGIBLE TO VOTE

Congregation	Address	Delegate
Abiding Shepherd	Cottage Grove, WI	Matt Banbury
Abiding Word	Bowling Green, OH	Paul Brueggemeier
Apostles	Ukiah, CA	
Ascension	Eau Claire, WI	
Ascension	St. Helens, OR	Joseph Michael Burkhardt
Bethany	Ames, IA	Robb McMullen
		Jode Edwards
Bethany	Luverne, MN	Bruce Wilson
		Jeff Swenson
Bethany	Port Orchard, WA	Tim Thies
Bethany	Princeton, MN	Glen Hansen
Bethany	The Dalles, OR	Herbert Klaviter
		Terry Nelson
Calvary	Ulen, MN	
Center	Scarville, IA	
Christ	Klamath Falls, OR	Dale Hauck
Christ	Port St. Lucie, FL	David Clark
		Keith Duin
Christ	Sutherlin, OR	
Christ	Windsor, CA	
Christ the King	Bell Gardens, CA	
Christ the King	Green Bay, WI	Steven Buelow
Concordia	Eau Claire, WI	Gary Peterson
		Donald Hahnke
Concordia	Hood River, OR	
English	Cottonwood, MN	Ray Pederson
Faith	Carthage, MO	Dan Barger
Faith	Clara City, MN	Scott Knutson
		Todd Beck
Faith	East Jordan, MI	Robert Carter
Faith	Hillman, MI	Marlin Goebel
Faith	Irvine, CA	
Faith	Medford, OR	
Faith	Oregon, WI	Jeff John
		Denny Behr
Faith	Parkersburg, IA	
Faith	San Antonio, TX	
Family of God	Fort Mohave, AZ	
First	Suttons Bay, MI	
First Shell Rock	Northwood, IA	Dale Songstad
First Trinity	Marinette, WI	
Forest	Forest City, IA	Gary Anderson
Gloria Dei	Cold Spring, MN	Fritz Miller
		Roger Knauss
		Roger Dohrmann (alt.)
Gloria Dei	Saginaw, MI	Lester Appold
Good Shepherd	Avon, IN	

Good Shepherd	Bloomer, WI	William Anderson Darrell Hoepner
Good Shepherd	Indianola, IA	
Grace	Hobart, IN	
Grace	Madison, WI	
Grace	Piedmont, MO	
Grace	Redmond, OR	
Grace	Vero Beach, FL	Norbert Stege
Grace	Weston, OH	
Hartland	Hartland, MN	Donald Jordahl Arvil Bartness Dustin Howley James Olson Robert Smith (alt.) Jeff Tillman Kermit Traska
Heritage	Apple Valley, MN	Robert Brown Jerome Hoeft Stephen Berg
Holton	Holton, MI	
Holy Cross	Madison, WI	
Holy Scripture	Midland, MI	
Holy Trinity	Okauchee, WI	
Hope	Leander, TX	
Hope	Farmington, MN	
Hope	Leander, TX	
Hope	Portage, IN	
Hope	West Jordan, UT	
Immanuel	Audubon, MN	Jerry Nelson Marty Wolbaum
Immanuel	Riceville, IA	
Jerico	New Hampton, IA	James Costello Benjamin Wiechmann Jim Minor
King of Grace	Golden Valley, MN	
King of Grace	Waukon, IA	
Lake Mills	Lake Mills, IA	Harlan Levorson William Humphrey
Lakewood	Lakewood, WA	
Lime Creek	Lake Mills, IA	
Lord of Life	Holland, MI	
Manchester	Manchester, MN	
Messiah	Omro, WI	Michael Buchanan Paul Tweit Herman Harstad
Mt. Olive	Mankato, MN	
Mt. Olive	Trail, MN	
Nazareth	Trail, MN	
New Life	Sebring, FL	
Newport	Wisconsin Dells, WI	Dennis Korth Shawn Anderson Darwin Gunderson Seth Ferkenstad Nathan Kranz Rod Tollefson
Norseland	St. Peter, MN	
Norwegian Grove	Gaylord, MN	
Oak Park	Oklee, MN	

Our Redeemer	Yelm, WA	John Anderson
Our Savior	Bishop, CA	
Our Savior	Grants Pass, OR	
Our Savior	Lakeland, FL	
Our Savior	Naples, FL	
Our Savior's	Albert Lea, MN	Richard Bjelland Jim Schneider
Our Savior's	Amherst Jct., WI	
Our Savior's	Bagley, MN	
Our Savior's	Belview, MN	
Our Savior's	Elderon, WI	
Our Savior's	Princeton, MN	Robert Soule Christopher Zenda
Our Saviour	Lake Havasu City, AZ	Roger Duberowski Hal Lee
Our Saviour's	Madison, WI	Don Heiliger
Parkland	Tacoma, WA	Todd Knutson Donald Hurst
Peace	Jefferson City, MO	
Peace	Kissimmee, FL	Kenneth Sell Ken Meyer
Peace	Lakeland, FL	William Dumke
Peace	North Mankato, MN	Paul Madson Norman Madson Mark Perlwitz
Pilgrim	Waterloo, IA	
Pinehurst	Eau Claire, WI	
Pinewood	Burlington, MA	
Redeemer	Iola, WI	
Redeemer	New Hampton, IA	Wallace Knutson Derwin Robinson
Redeemer	Scottsdale, AZ	Norman Hartigan
Redeeming Grace	Rogers, MN	Darrell Lawrence Dennis Schmidt
Resurrection	North Bend, OR	
Resurrection	Winter Haven, FL	
Richland	Thornton, IA	Richard Maginnis
River Heights	East Grand Forks, MN	Steven Moulds Jacob Faugstad
Rock Dell	Belview, MN	
Saude	Lawler, IA	
Saved by Grace	Gresham, OR	David Sparley
Scarville	Scarville, IA	Benjamin Faugstad Erling Brudvig
Scarville	Scarville, IA	
Scriptural	Cape Girardeau, MO	
Somber	Northwood, IA	Greg Holt Joseph Holt
St. John's	Frankenmuth, MI	Tom Conzelmann
St. Katherine's	Menomonie, WI	Tim Kriewall

St. Luke	Mt. Vernon, WA	
St. Martin	Shawano, WI	Howard Waldschmidt Glenn Van der Linden
St. Matthew	Myrtle Creek, OR	
St. Paul	Lengby, MN	Luverne Lomen
St. Paul's	Portage, WI	
St. Timothy	Lombard, IL	Leroy Meyer
Trinity	Brewster, MA	Paul Chamberlin
Trinity	Calmar, IA	
Trinity	Rogers City, MI	
Trinity	Sebastian, FL	
Trinity	West Bend, WI	Martin Knuth Ralph Seidensticker Alfred Kroll
Western Koshkonong	Cottage Grove, WI	
Zion	Irwin, PA	
Zion	Thompson, IA	
Zion	Tracy, MN	

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

1. PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND REPORT

Rev. Matthew Luttman
Rev. Richard Wiechmann
Mr. Steven Beilke
Mr. Robb McMullen
Mr. Jim Minor

2. COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ
Rev. Timothy Hartwig
Rev. David Russow
Rev. Steven Sparley
Mr. Keith Duin
Mr. Jeremy Merseth
Mr. Norman Werner
Mr. Ronald Young

3. CREDENTIALS

Rev. Kurt Kluge
Rev. Shawn Stafford

4. PROGRAM

Rev. Nile Merseth
Rev. Nicholas Proksch

5. MINUTES

Rev. Matthew Moldstad
Rev. Trent Saari
Mr. Jeremy Merseth

6. DOCTRINE

Rev. Mark Bartels
Rev. Edward Bryant
Rev. Joseph Burkhardt
Rev. Matthew Crick
Rev. Peter Faugstad
Rev. Jerome Gernander
Rev. Robert Harting
Rev. Roger Holtz
Rev. Bradley Kerkow
Rev. Jeff Londgren
Rev. Matthew Moldstad
Rev. Michael Muehlenhardt
Rev. Greg Sahlstrom
Rev. Timothy Zenda
Mr. Richard Bjelland
Mr. David Clark

Mr. Benjamin Faugstad
Mr. Darwin Gunderson
Mr. Todd Knutson
Mr. Luverne Lomen
Mr. Richard Maginnis
Mr. Jerry Nelson
Mr. Derwin Robinson
Mr. Ralph Seidensticker
Mr. Norbert Stege
Mr. Jeff Swenson
Mr. Timothy Thies
Mr. Jeff Tillman
Mr. Glenn Van der Linden

7. FINANCES

Rev. Nate Abrahamson
Rev. James Braun
Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ
Rev. Tim Hartwig
Rev. Peter Heyn
Rev. James Kassera
Rev. Phillip Lepak
Rev. Kyle Madson
Rev. Ken Mellon
Rev. Nicholas Proksch
Rev. S. Piet Van Kampen
Rev. Luke Willitz
Mr. Michael Burkhardt
Mr. Keith Duin
Mr. Seth Ferkenstad
Mr. Norman Hartigan
Mr. Dustin Howley
Mr. Roger Knauss
Mr. Darrell Lawrence
Mr. Hal Lee
Mr. Ken Sell

8. HIGHER EDUCATION

Rev. Matthew Brooks
Rev. Micah Ernst
Rev. Daniel Finn
Rev. Aaron Hamilton
Rev. Erich Hoef
Rev. Shawn Kauffeld
Rev. Ronald Pederson
Rev. Tosten Skaaland
Rev. Paul Sullivan

Rev. David Thompson
Rev. Carl Wosje
Mr. John Anderson
Mr. William Anderson
Mr. Stephen Berg
Mr. Tom Conzelmann
Mr. Jacob Faugstad
Mr. Joseph Holt
Mr. Fritz Miller
Mr. James Olson
Mr. Kermit Traska

9. HOME OUTREACH

Rev. Timothy Buelow
Rev. Theodore Gullixson
Rev. Daniel Larson
Rev. Samuel Schmeling
Rev. Carlton Sielaff
Rev. Steven Sparley
Rev. Shawn Stafford
Mr. Gary Anderson
Mr. Lester Appold
Mr. Dennis Behr
Mr. Jode Edwards
Mr. Jerry Hoeft
Mr. Martin Knuth
Mr. Scott Knutson
Mr. Mike McInnis
Mr. James Schneider
Mr. Dale Songstad
Mr. Rod Tollefsen
Mr. Howard Waldschmidt
Mr. Marty Wolbaum

10. WORLD OUTREACH

Rev. Doyle Holbird
Rev. David Locklair
Rev. Tom Rank
Rev. Trent Saari
Rev. Michael Smith
Rev. Erling Teigen
Rev. Frederick Theiste
Rev. David Webber
Mr. Dan Aswege
Mr. Matt Banbury
Mr. Dan Barger
Mr. Arvil Bartness
Mr. Herman Harstad
Mr. William Humphrey
Mr. Carl Jackson

Mr. Herb Klaviter
Mr. Alfred Knoll
Mr. Nathan Kranz
Mr. Tim Kriewall
Mr. Leroy Meyer
Mr. Robert Soule
Mr. David Sparley
Mr. Bruce Wilson

11. ELEMENTARY EDUCATION

Rev. Andrew Burmeister
Rev. Rodney Flohr
Rev. Jesse Jacobsen
Rev. Kurt Kluge
Rev. Bruce Leonatti
Rev. Jonathan Madson
Rev. Nile Merseth
Rev. Donald Moldstad
Rev. Steven Reagles
Rev. Joshua Skogen
Rev. Glenn Smith
Rev. J. Kincaid Smith
Rev. Luke Ulrich
Rev. Joel Willitz
Mr. Shawn Anderson
Mr. Steven Buelow
Mr. Donald Hahnke
Mr. Don Heiliger
Mr. Darrell Hoepner
Mr. Donald Hurst
Mr. Dennis Korth
Mr. Jeff John
Mr. Jeremy Merseth
Mr. Terry Nelson
Mr. Lee Stroschine

12. PARISH SERVICES

Rev. Anthony Pittinger
Rev. Daniel Basel
Rev. Mark Faugstad
Rev. Wayne Halvorson
Rev. Karl Hermanson
Rev. Thomas Heyn
Rev. James Krikava
Rev. Gene Lilienthal
Rev. Andrew Palmquist
Rev. Tony Pittenger
Rev. Mark Rogers
Rev. Kenneth Schmidt
Rev. James Dale Wilson

Mr. Robert Brown
Mr. Michael Buchanan
Mr. Paul Brueggemeier
Mr. Paul Chamberlin
Mr. Jim Costello
Mr. Harlan Levorson
Mr. Paul Tweit
Mr. Kenneth Meyer
Mr. Mark Perlwitz
Mr. Christopher Zenda

13. SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP

Rev. Leonard Buelow
Rev. Bill Grimm
Rev. Samuel Gullixson
Rev. Daniel Hartwig
Rev. Brad Homan
Rev. Fred Lams
Rev. Gaylin Schmeling
Rev. Bruce Schwark
Rev. Timothy Bartels
Mr. Wallace Knutson
Mr. Steven Moulds
Mr. Raymond Pederson
Mr. Gary Peterson

14. MISCELLANEOUS

Rev. Michael Dale
Rev. Ernest Geistfeld
Rev. Martin Hoesch
Rev. Charles Keeler
Rev. Tom Kuster
Rev. John Merseth Sr.
Rev. Bob Otto
Rev. Steve Petersen
Rev. John Petersen
Rev. Paul Schneider
Rev. Paul Zager
Mr. Roger Duberowski
Mr. William Dumke
Mr. Marlin Goebel
Mr. Dale Hauck
Mr. Greg Holt
Mr. Don Jordahl
Mr. Marvin Meyer
Mr. Jacob Young

15. PASTORAL CONFERENCE RECORDS

Rev. Norman Madson
Rev. Dennis Schmidt
Rev. John Smith

16. RESOLUTIONS

Rev. Robert Carter
Rev. Paul Madson

17. TELLERS

Nathanael Abrahamson
Jesse DeDeyne
Peter Heyn
James Kassera
David Locklair
Matthew Moldstad
Benjamin Wiechmann
Luke Willitz

18. CHAPLAIN

Rev. Samuel Gullixson

19. HEAD USHERS

Rev. Micah Ernst
Rev. S. Piet Van Kampen

20. PARLIAMENTARIANS

Rev. Thomas Kuster
Rev. Erling Teigen

21. ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Rev. Michael Smith

22. CONVENTION MANAGER

Mr. Greg Costello



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AND REPORT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Pastors, Delegates, Members and Friends of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Greetings in the name of our beloved Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Again the nation was jolted. The Boston bombings in April invoked the somber realities of life after 9-11. What is next? Anyone—even in the heartland—who supposes immunity from the threats of terrorism suffers from acute naïveté. We find our relatively secure and robust country not only imitating Europe and the Mideast in socioeconomics; similarly we find ourselves dealing with recurring attacks from Muslim extremists and other fanatics. Yet the providential care of God for his church in a world of evil, as stated by Solomon long ago, still stands: “The Lord works out everything for his own ends—even the wicked for a day of disaster” (Proverbs 16:4).

Does the era of terror give occasion to limelight aspects of life we Christians cherish and foster for the benefit of Christ's kingdom? Dr. Gene Veith suggests this in his volume *Christianity in an Age of Terrorism*. He writes:

Terrorism wrecks violence upon every fabric of society. This includes violating vocation. And yet, in those targeted by terrorism, vocation can be seen all the more as a precious gift of God. Not only fire fighters, police officers, and other rescue workers, but pilots and flight attendants and chaplains assumed a heroic cast in the September 11 assault. . . . The most foundational vocation of them all, that of the family, was seen in a new light as husbands and wives, fathers and mothers, children and in-laws grieved in either loss or sympathy and clung closer to each other.¹

These are trying times for the Christian faith. Hardly any believer would disagree. Contenting for the truth is a struggle. Arrows from Satan's arsenal appear countless. Naturally those poisoned-tipped darts are honed on destroying the one message that alone saves: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. We look around us and observe not only the subtle but open attacks on the Christian faith. There continues to be a lack of concern for human life—even for the most vulnerable, the tiny ones looking to be released from the umbilical cord. We see rampant disregard for marriage as the way God intended it. Secularization of the church. Disrespect and disdain for biblical and confessional teaching. Immorality openly celebrated. Breakdown of the family. Love for money and possessions, with little concern for the well-being of others. Who can forget, of course, the shootings in Colorado and in Connecticut, the unspeakable inhumanity of the kidnappings and rapes in Cleveland, etc.? Where does the lurid litany of lasciviousness end?

Thank God we are not millennialists! We yearn for the world to come. We are not living for a final utopian goal of a better life on planet earth. Obviously we want to assist society in moral living, when and where we can. But we would be more than delusional if we assumed our task fairly complete, were we only to pass legislation more in keeping with biblical perspectives. Luther once said: “The world resembles a drunken peasant; when you lift him into the saddle on one side, he tumbles off on the other. There is no helping the world. No matter what attitude you take, it wants to belong to the devil.”²

Then, there is arguably the most dangerous enemy of the gospel each one of us faces—yes, even for all gathered at this sacred convention: our own corrupt, sinful flesh. Our Lutheran Confessions remind us of our serious condition according to our human lineage: “By nature every one of us inherits from Adam a sinful heart, sensation, and mind-set which, in its high-

1 G. E. Veith. *Christianity in an Age of Terrorism* (St. Louis: CPH, 2002), 33.

2 Plass, E. *What Luther Says*, vol. III. St. Louis: CPH, #4973; cf. *WA Tischreden*, No. 631.

est powers and the light of reason, is by nature diametrically opposed to God and his highest commands and is actually enmity against God, especially in divine and spiritual matters.”³

Where is our great escape from all this sin and evil and from the assorted trials and troubles? As amazing as the escape was for those Ohio women recently, living under horrible conditions and tormented night and day by an unspeakably evil captor, we have been granted an escape of surpassingly higher proportions. In our case a *ransom* was paid—not only for us but for all. The ransom was paid not to the captor. What good would that do? The Evil One is not in the position of full control. He was not in any way to be placated. No, the ransom for our straying souls was paid where justice had to be met—before the throne of God. Therefore, our Rescuer became our “neighbor” but in every way was and is fully God! He did not just take us by the hand and lead us out, but he gave his holy lifeblood *before the throne of God’s justice*. The heavenly Father accepted the ransom! *Check the empty tomb!* There can be no question that our escape has been sealed.

So, why fear any more the torturing darts of our captor? We have the shield of faith that extinguishes the flaming arrows of the evil one (Ephesians 6:16). Or, as the apostle John puts it in his first epistle: “This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God” (1 John 5:5). Again, the same apostle reminds us of something else in connection with that great enemy, our sinful flesh. Whenever our hearts condemn us, we are to know and believe for our eternal peace this blessed fact: “God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything” (1 John 3:20).

Where is such faith to be found? From where does it come? How can we get more of it? When Peter made his bold confession of faith in Christ, the reply from our Lord was: “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven” (Matthew 16:17). You and I know that “no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:3).

Ultimately, isn’t this also why we are here? Isn’t this what drives us to hold another convention for our dear ELS? Isn’t this what moves us to gather each week in our sundry church buildings of varied shapes and sizes, where a sermon on sin and grace is heard, where a Table of bread and wine is prepared, where a font of living water renews and refreshes? We have a wonderful Savior, our Lord Jesus, who has entered our world. He has lived an immaculate life in the place of each of us and in the place of every sinner. He has yielded his life on Calvary’s cross as the atoning sacrifice for all sin. He has risen from the tomb as our glorious Victor. He has ascended with the promise that he will be coming again when all eyes will see him. He further promises that all believers in him will then be transported body and soul to live with him in bliss and glory forever and ever!

So, our focus as we convene—whether here in Mankato or in communities at our houses of worship—is always and only on our Redeemer. We desire that *each of us here* be fully engaged with Jesus, even as we together strategize on how to reach *others* and engage them with the Savior. The more we see Jesus, the more our faith is increased and the more we are prepared to deal with the challenges in the world around us. Our prayer is, as Jesus said in John 17, *not* that we would be taken out of the world—though we surely look forward to the day of our eternal transport. It is rather that we would be so sanctified through the Word of truth that we might have an impact on the lives of those around us, before the night comes when no one can work.

This includes, of course, the way we interact with our families, with those near and dear to us, those with whom we have daily contact. Our collective concern as a church is that Christ’s saving gospel be proclaimed to the nations. The commission from our Lord to his believers of all times is well known. Yet, among the “nations,” exists the most natural setting for us in having our light shine (Matthew 5:16) and in declaring the praises of him who called

3 Formula of Concord, Article I, Tappert edition, 510.

us out of darkness into his wonderful light (1 Peter 2:9): **the family**. This year at our convention the home gets our attention. We have selected for our theme, “Engaging Families With Jesus.” Families are seeking help for the raising and training of their children. Our preschools, Lutheran elementary schools, our Sunday Schools, youth programs, the use of Bethany Lutheran College, and our congregations’ sincere interest in the lives of our young people can fill the void. Isn’t this why we are often described as “the body of Christ”? Binding together in our Gospel-centered efforts, we aim to assist families in “the one thing needful” (Luke 10:42).

The late Rev. Bo Giertz, once bishop in the Lutheran Church of Sweden and author of the popular *Hammer of God*, reflected on the “one body in Christ” aspect of Romans 12 (vv. 5–6). He said:

I’m not an isolated individual who has to take care of himself and live his own life. I’m a member connected to other members. I’m here to carry out something that other members need. The eye, ear, and hand don’t exist for their own sake. They exist so the whole body can function. That’s the way it is with us. God has incorporated us into a family, a community, a congregation, and mankind *for the sake of others*. In other words, God had a purpose when He put me in the situation I’m in right now.⁴

It is our hope and prayer that a spirited discussion of the essay, coupled with the devotions for this week, will help us see the immeasurable value of Christ in the home as expressed in the hymn, *O Blest the House, What’er Befall*. “O blest the parents who give heed/Unto their children’s foremost need/And weary not of care or cost./May none to them and heav’n be lost!”⁵

Turning back to the 2011 convention, our synod adopted a strategic plan with a determined vision: **In the next five years, we will learn to engage others more faithfully with Jesus**. Here we are now two years into the plan. Among the goals we outlined for our membership was this key one: “View each congregation in the synod as a mission congregation.” We need to assess how we are doing. The board especially entrusted with the thrust of the plan, our Board for Home Outreach (BHO), has been busy. We are pleased that six of a scheduled eight evangelism retreats have already been conducted throughout the circuits of our synod. For the most part, the feedback has been positive. The BHO is also working with individual congregations, by way of follow-up, helping them to implement various ideas shared at the retreats. We encourage churches to be in touch with the board. A video presentation of the entire retreat is available for use. The board has other resources to share, including use of a demographic study called Percept. We also pray that, if it is the Lord’s will, the Evangelism–Missions Counselor (EMC) position would soon be filled to assist our congregations in the months ahead. There is still so much to be done in advancing the work of Christ’s kingdom at large. Every congregation and every member needs to be enlisted for prayerful support.

As most of you know, serious financial challenges face us. A special letter was sent from the president’s office to be shared with every member congregation. So that each delegate is well informed of our current need, permit me to summarize the situation. Budgeting for the ELS each year involves revenue from four main categories: congregational contributions, individual donations, grant monies from organizations (The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans), and investment income. For many years now, the congregational contribution portion of our budget has been set at \$725,000, and we perennially have had difficulty meeting this goal. The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation found it necessary to reduce its grant monies for the ELS, including a sizable decrease for the mission work carried on by Thoughts of Faith, Inc. Further, the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans block grant will go away at the end of this calendar year. Yet, there is so much to do as we

4 Giertz, Bo. *To Live With Christ* (transl. by R. Wood and B. Erickson) (St. Louis: CPH, 2008), 563.

5 Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, #190:3

seek to bring the Good News of sinners' redemption to many more souls through the efforts of our Board for Home Outreach and also our Board for World Outreach. So, what are we asking? Each congregation is, first of all, urged to pray for the Lord's continued blessings on our mission efforts. Then, we are asking each parish to consider increasing its amount of financial support for our synod work. We are happy to note that a number of our churches already have done so in the past four months. Some have decided to help with a one-time increase. Others have set a percentage increase of their total annual offerings. At present, we are observing that—even on an increased congregational contribution budget (\$750,000 for 2013)—the general giving is outpacing previous years. We give thanks to God for these expressions of gratitude and love.

The synod's Assignment Committee is pleased to report that placements were made for the two seminary graduates. While it is true that in recent years the ELS has had limited call opportunities because of a lack of vacancies, the age demographic indicates 42% of our entire clergy roster (active, inactive/retired) in the 55–69 age bracket. Let us not grow lax in encouraging young men to pursue studies for the pastoral ministry. Our Lord's words spoken so many centuries ago still stand for his church of all time: "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field" (Matthew 9:37–38).

This past April your synod president was honored to present an essay at a free conference in Tacoma, Washington. The essay focused on lessons to be gleaned from ELS history in relation to inter-church dialogue. The Emmaus Conference for 2013 served as the third year in a row where presidents from the former Synodical Conference gave papers and reactions. President Matthew Harrison of the LCMS, President Mark Schroeder of WELS, and President Moldstad also participated in a roundtable discussion on church challenges. In December of this year, an informal meeting once again is planned where leaders from WELS, ELS and the LCMS will have opportunity to address issues that historically have separated the bodies of the former Synodical Conference. Official discussions are not envisioned; yet informal meetings can be beneficial in dispelling caricatures, staying abreast of trends and challenges, and helping ascertain if/when formal talks (e.g., involving doctrinal commissions, use of documents—existing and new) should occur.

When the Planning and Coordinating Committee met in January, *new* challenges and opportunities were discussed since the time our synod adopted our "Engage Others With Jesus" plan in 2011. While there *always* exist challenges and opportunities, some specificity in recent years was noted. For example: **New challenges for the church at large**—general moral decay/increased secularization of American culture; acceptance of homosexuality and same sex marriage now appears entrenched; non-religious youth on the rise; youth within the church often holding competing world views; encroachment of government on religious freedom; need for wise and careful use of technology; economic instability; a new "spirituality" apart from organized religion; demographic shifts; and the great challenge of retaining youth in Lutheranism. **New opportunities for the church at large**—dedicated Christians moved to speak up/defend the faith; churches becoming concerned about protecting religious freedom; realization of a mission field not to be abandoned, e.g., reaching the growing homosexual community with Law and Gospel, repentance and forgiveness; increased awareness of the importance of educating our youth in the basics of the Christian faith; opportunities abounding in our own "backyards" to touch other cultures with the gospel of Christ.

Where does the ELS fit into all of this? Do we as a confessional synod in a changing and challenging world have something to offer? We certainly do. Law and gospel preaching is a noticeable strength in our congregations. Pastor Charles Keeler delivered an essay in 1987 entitled, "How the Church Can Deal with the Crisis Facing Our Young People." In the es-

say he referenced this strength as our one and only God-given remedy for the real challenges before us.

All people need to be made aware of their common need for salvation through Christ. The church has no other reason for existing than to preach the truth. Only the Holy Spirit, working though the law brings this knowledge. In the schools the cry is made, “Back to the basics.” The law and the Gospel of unmerited love and forgiveness through the Son of God are the real basics for all meaningful life. Perchance we could prevent teenage suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual promiscuity, and any other problems, what have we accomplished? We would have only bandaged the sores. The wounds underneath would continue to fester until the healing balm of the Gospel, the blood of Jesus, closed the wound and healed the sore.⁶

If we are convinced the only real change-agent (both for issues of present life and that to come) is *God the Holy Spirit*, then our efforts and energy as a synod will reflect this guiding principle. We can easily become discouraged in promoting confessional Lutheranism. We realize we are faced with financial challenges. But together as members of our Evangelical Lutheran Synod we can prioritize and re-commit to a deeper, personal and collective study of God’s Word, stressing sacramental worship, and compelling—for the sake of Christ—a sincere love for souls of every stripe and background. This is how the Holy Spirit works. There is no other way. It is the sure way. For, in all of the planting and watering God permits us to be involved with, it always is *He alone* who gives the increase (1 Corinthians 3:7).

We can weave the gospel into our conversations with our children, reminding them of their baptism and the new creatures they have become in Christ. We can weave the gospel into our conversations with fellow Christians when the conversation moves beyond weather and gets into the problems and joys they are experiencing. We can weave the gospel in one of its many facets into our conversations with unbelieving friends at work when they ask us to give a reason for our hope.⁷

The apostle Paul gave a description of the expansion of our Lord’s church when he wrote to the believers at Colossae. What he said alludes to Jesus’ picture of the mustard seed producing a substantial yield: “All over the world this gospel is bearing fruit and growing, just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and understood God’s grace in all its truth” (Colossians 1:6).

May our gracious Lord Jesus give us an extra measure of his Holy Spirit as we carry on the blessed work before us!

John A. Moldstad, president

6 *ELS Synod Report* 1987, 46.

7 Robert Koester. *Gospel Motivation—More Than “Jesus Died for My Sins”* (Milwaukee: NPH, 2006), 167.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ORDINATIONS, INSTALLATIONS, AND COMMISSIONING

Candidate of Theology Nathanael Abrahamson was ordained and installed as pastor of Abiding Shepherd Lutheran Church in Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, on July 1, 2012.

The Rev. Paul Fries was installed as the communication director of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod on August 14, 2012, during the regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Candidate of Theology Peter Heyn was ordained and installed as pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Lakeland, Florida, on August 26, 2012. Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch, served as the liturgist and conducted the ordination and installation; the Rev. Matthew Moldstad served as lector; and the Rev. Thomas Heyn delivered the sermon. Others who participated in the laying on of hands were the Reverends Charles Keeler and Andrew Palmquist and Candidate of Theology Luke Willitz.

The Rev. Harvey Abrahamson was installed as pastor of Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Elderon, Wisconsin, on September 2, 2012.

Candidate of Theology Luke Willitz was ordained and installed as pastor of New Life Lutheran Church in Sebring, Florida, on September 2, 2012. The Rev. Joel Willitz preached the sermon, the Rev. Peter Heyn served as liturgist, and the Rev. Matthew Moldstad served as lector. Circuit Visitor, the Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch, conducted the ordination and installation. Other pastors who participated in the service were Reverends Michael Dale, Charles Keeler, David Lillegard, and Andrew Palmquist.

The Rev. Joshua Skogen was installed as pastor of Hope Lutheran Church in Portage, Indiana, on September 9, 2012.

The Rev. Andrew Palmquist was installed as pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church in Luverne, Minnesota, on September 30, 2012. Pastors who participated in the service were the Reverends Karl Anderson, Ernest Geistfeld, Norman Madson, Paul Madson, John Petersen, Piet Van Kampen, Larry Wentzlaff, and James Grabitske (WELS).

The Rev. Wayne Halvorson was installed as pastor of Forest Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church in Forest City and Thompson, Iowa, on October 21, 2012. President John Moldstad preached the sermon and also performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Andrew Burmeister was installed as pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lakeland, Florida, on April 7, 2013. The Rev. Peter Heyn served as liturgist and Rev. Matthew Moldstad as lector. The Rev. Michael Dale preached the installation sermon. The Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch, Circuit Visitor, performed the rite of installation.

The Rev. Kyle Madson was commissioned as an exploratory missionary in the Weatherford/Hudson Oaks area of Texas, on May 19, 2013. The service was hosted by Abiding Faith Lutheran Church (WELS) in Ft. Worth. The Rev. Christian Eisenbeis, a graduate of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, who serves as a pastor at Grace Lutheran Church (WELS) in Norman, Oklahoma, preached the sermon. Other pastors participating in the service were the Reverends Nathanael Bourman, Micah Ernst, Wayne Fischer, William Gabb, Mark Gefaller, John Hering, Brad Kerkow, John Koelpin, Michael Smith, and John Vieths.

The Rev. Christopher Dale was installed at Christ Lutheran Church in Port St. Lucie, Florida, on June 2, 2013. The Rev. Rodger Dale preached the sermon, the Rev. Michael Dale served as liturgist, and the Rev. Matthew Luttman performed the rite of installation.

ANNIVERSARIES

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lengby, Minnesota, celebrated her 125th anniversary on September 16, 2012. The Rev. Joseph Burkhardt, a former pastor of the parish, preached the



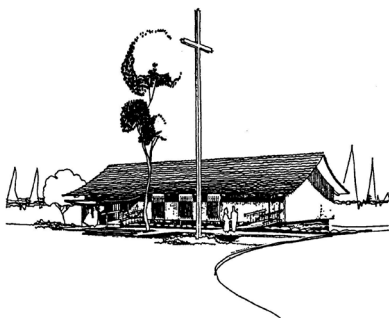
*St. Paul Lutheran Church
Lengby, Minnesota*



*Zion Lutheran Church
Tracy, Minnesota*



*Christ the King Lutheran Church
Green Bay, Wisconsin*



*Lakewood Lutheran Church
Lakewood, Washington*

sermon for the occasion and current pastor, Mark Faugstad, was the liturgist. The Rev. Shawn Stafford read letters from former pastors and the synod.

Zion Lutheran Church, Tracy, Minnesota, celebrated her 125th anniversary and the 75th anniversary of her church building on September 16, 2012. President John Moldstad preached for the occasion; President Gaylin Schmeling, a former pastor of the congregation, served as lector; and the Rev. Samuel Schmeling, current pastor of the congregation, served as liturgist.

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Green Bay, Wisconsin, celebrated the 20th anniversary of her organization and the 15th anniversary of the dedication of the church building on December 9, 2012. Pres. John Moldstad preached for the occasion and the Rev. Leonard Buelow served as liturgist.

On February 24, 2013, Lakewood Lutheran Church in Lakewood, Washington, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the dedication of its current church building. “Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

APPOINTMENTS, RETIREMENTS, TRANSFERS, AND RESIGNATIONS

The Rev. Andrew Schmidt was transferred to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod on July 6, 2012.

The Rev. Tosten Skaaland retired from the active ministry in August 2012.

The Rev. Kurt Kluge was appointed to serve as the Alternate Visitor for Circuit 6.

The Board for World Outreach informs us that the Rev. Oto Rodriguez no longer serves our mission in Chile. As of September 1, 2012, the Rev. Rodriguez is no longer listed on the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Dr. William Kessel was transferred to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod on October 9, 2012.

Following a resolution from the 2012 convention, the president appointed an ad hoc committee to determine the feasibility of maintaining a military monument and developing a military ministry. Members of the committee are: Rev. Cory Hahnke (Cold Spring, Minnesota), David Covell (Mt. Vernon, Washington), Rev. Kincaid Smith (Mankato, Minnesota), Ray Pederson (Cottonwood, Minnesota), and Juel Merseeth (Mankato, Minnesota).

On August 14, 2012, the following members of the standing Board of Appeals were selected in a blind draw by the ELS Board of Trustees to serve on a Commission on the Appeal: the Rev. David Russow, the Rev. Theodore Gullixson, the Rev. Ken Mellon, Mr. Kermit Traska, and Mr. Glen Hansen.

The Rev. Greg Haugen resigned his call as pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church, Omro, Wisconsin, as of January 27, 2013.

Mr. Glen Hansen resigned from the Board for Home Outreach, effective June 20, 2013.

Mr. Paul Nielsen resigned from the Board for World Outreach in May 2013.

The Rev. John Vogt was transferred to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod on May 6, 2013.

The Rev. Joel Ehlert resigned from clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod on May 8, 2013.

The Rev. Joel Willitz resigned from the Board of Regents on May 16, 2013.

CLOSED

Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Roseau, Minnesota, closed in September 2012.

Asian Mission Church in Irvine, California, no longer is holding worship services as of the end of 2012.

ANNIVERSARIES OF ORDINATION

Frederick Schmugge	65 years
George Orvick	60 years
Wilhelm Petersen	60 years
Norman Madson	55 years
Carl Wosje	50 years
Edward Bryant	40 years
David Haeuser	40 years
Mark Marozick	40 years
Dennis Schmidt	40 years
Paul Schneider	40 years
J. Kincaid Smith	40 years
Klebe Brumble	25 years
Micah Ernst	25 years
David J. Webber	25 years
James Wilson	25 years

MEMBERSHIP REQUESTS

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

The Rev. Nathanael Abrahamson, pastor of Abiding Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin.

The Rev. Peter Heyn, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Lakeland, Florida.

The Rev. Luke Willitz, pastor of New Life Lutheran Church, Sebring, Florida.

Mr. Dan Aswege, teacher at Trinity Lutheran School, West Bend, Wisconsin.

Hope Lutheran Church, Leander, Texas has applied for membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

DEATHS

Mrs. Katherine Oesleby passed away on November 29, 2012.

Mrs. Lois Weseloh passed away on March 9, 2013.

PARISHES FORMED

On March 10, 2013, Richland Lutheran of Thornton, Iowa, voted to accept a request from Prince of Peace Lutheran (WELS) in Mason City, Iowa, to form a dual parish. The Rev. David Locklair will serve as pastor for both congregations. Prince of Peace and Richland will each retain their respective synodical affiliations.

Cross Lutheran (WELS), Charles City, Iowa, has formed a three-point parish with the Saude and Jerico congregations. The Rev. Daniel Larson will serve as pastor for the parish.

EVERGREEN LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

After thirty-five years of renting and borrowing, of making due with condemned buildings and portables, holding classes in gymnasiums and stages, Evergreen Lutheran High School purchased a high school in Tacoma, Washington, on December 18, 2012. Move-in for the school is scheduled to take place in July 2013. The writer of Psalm 66:1-2 captures this moment well with these words: "Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; give to him glorious praise!"

YOUTH CONVENTION 2012

The annual youth convention was held on the campus of Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio, July 26-29, 2012. A main attraction for the weekend was a trip to the nearby Cre-

ation Museum, Petersburg, Kentucky. Our synod's Board for Youth Outreach selected as the theme "From Beginning to End You are Mine." Dr. David Mention, a renowned speaker from "Answers in Genesis" addressed the two hundred plus youth and chaperons on two separate occasions.

ENGAGE OTHERS WITH JESUS RETREATS

The Board for Home Outreach is holding regional retreats throughout the synod. Each church is asked to select two key lay leaders from the congregation to attend with their wives, together with the congregation's pastor and his wife. The leaders should be ones who are willing and able to bring information they learn from the retreat back to their congregations for wider dissemination. The participation of wives (pastors' and leaders') is also important so that a wider demographic is being reached. These retreats are an integral part of working toward attaining our adopted goals as a synod, including "every congregation viewed as a mission congregation." Attendees are given practical methods for engaging others in their communities with the Gospel message, while being reminded that we, as Lutherans, have the best evangelism tools already available to us: the Word and Sacraments.

COMMITTEE FOR COMMUNICATION

Following the action of the 2011 convention, a temporary committee was appointed for service of one year to help us with synodical communication. At last year's convention there were two men that were elected to the Committee for Communication, together with the two appointees by the president. Currently serving on the committee are the following: the Rev. James Braun, chairman (elected); Mr. David Gruen (elected); Mr. Steven Buelow (appointed); Mr. Lance Schwartz (appointed). During this past year the committee has held its meetings by Skype or teleconference.

A major item for the committee was the study of the resolution adopted at last year's convention (cf. *Synod Report*, 2012, p. 149, resolution 2). The resolution advised the committee to re-examine its recommendations for changes to the "publication schedule and format of the *Lutheran Sentinel* and report back to the 2013 Convention." In its report to this year's convention, the committee has endorsed, with the president's authority, the following changes for the publication and dissemination of the *Lutheran Sentinel*.

- The *Lutheran Sentinel* will be printed six times per year. These issues will also be available online.
- The issue schedule will be combined as follows:
 - January–February
 - March–April
 - May–June
 - July–August
 - September–October
 - November–December
- Corporate Graphics of North Mankato, Minnesota, will print each issue and provide mailing services. We are thankful for the past, dedicated service of our former publisher, Stoyles of Mason City, Iowa.
- Business management (subscriptions, etc.) will move to the synod offices. The positions of Managing Editor and Business Manager no longer are needed. The Communication Director will oversee these aspects of the *Sentinel* and will arrange for assistance, if needed. The Rev. Wayne and the late Lois Halvorson and Arline Walker deserve our hearty thanks for helping us over the years with the managing.
- The *Lutheran Sentinel Online* (online-only issues) will not be produced.

- An email list is being created, enabling anyone to receive notification as soon as an issue is available online. Names may be added to the list by contacting <paul.fries@blc.edu>.

The committee and the synod are very grateful for the continued excellent work of editing our synod's periodical and those who are involved in regular proof work. The Rev. Ted Gulixson, who serves as pastor of Grace Lutheran Church in Madison, Wisconsin, is the editor-in-chief of our *Lutheran Sentinel*.

Under the area of communications, the committee, along with our synod's Communication Director, the Rev. Paul Fries, considered the following: website updates, blogging, Facebook/Twitter, discussion forums for church leaders, and live video streaming of worship services. There also are a number of video projects being proposed.

Daily devotions are now available online. There is a link provided on the homepage of the synod website or at <www.els.name/devotions>. We urge our members to let others know about this daily opportunity for meditation on God's Word. We might also advise our congregations to add the link on their sites.

EDITING OF THE ELS HANDBOOK

Over the past number of years many changes have been adopted relating to the guidelines for boards and synodical procedures. The Synod Review Committee deserves our sincere thanks for its dedicated and thorough work. Especially we note the work of the chairman and the secretary of this committee, Prof. Erling Teigen and Mr. Norman Werner, respectively. Now that there has been a much needed reprieve (no work assigned since convention 2012), it seems appropriate for an overhaul of the entire *Handbook of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod*. The president is requesting the synod to assign this editing task to the committee, beginning the fall of 2013. The current edition of the handbook is available on the synod website under the "Our Work Together" tab ("Administration").

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES

On March 4, 2013, a letter was mailed to all pastors of our synod asking that information be shared with congregations in regard to serious financial challenges facing our church body. Our hope is that the letter would be read in every one of our 130 congregations and that each member be moved to pray for the Lord's blessings as we together go forward with mission work in his saving name.

The annual budgeting process for the ELS involves a combination of resources to help us accomplish our mission goals. The sources of revenue come from four main categories: congregational contributions, individual donations, grant monies from organizations (Schwan, Thrivent), and investment income. For the past four years we have adopted an *annual congregational contribution budget* of \$725,000. During this period we have had difficulty meeting our stated goal and ended 2012 with a contribution shortfall. On top of this, the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation has needed to reduce its grant monies for the ELS. This means for 2013 we are receiving \$225,000 less (a 30% reduction) than the previous year. Another item to note is the permanent loss of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans church-wide block grant (was \$40,000 in 2012).

There is much to be done as we strive to carry out our *Engage Others With Jesus* plan. Our Board for Home Outreach continues to host the regional evangelism retreats as scheduled, and has called another home missionary. Through the efforts of our synod, we seek to advance the Gospel of Christ in more communities across our land.

Our Board for World Outreach faces *severe* cutbacks. Especially impacted are the activities we carry on in our mission in India (LMSI) and those through Thoughts of Faith, Inc. (Ukraine, Latvia, and the Czech Republic). Many souls still need to hear the saving gospel of

our Lord Jesus, and we as a church body have been privileged to assist. Yet, financing remains an issue.

These financial challenges will have an impact on our convention's planning for mission work. We ask members of the synod to pray that the Lord will bless our mission efforts. We encourage individuals and congregations to make special gifts for the kingdom work.

SPECIAL GIFT FOR ADMINISTRATION

In spite of challenges just mentioned, we have noted an increase in some individual giving toward specified areas of work in our synod. One such gift was received as an endowment for added support of the full-time office of the synod president. In 2012 an amount of \$250,000 was received for this endowed gift, and other significant gifts are anticipated in the future. For these gifts we are truly thankful to our Lord and his servants.

CHILEAN CHURCH ELECTION

We congratulate and wish the Lord's blessings on the men elected on February 23, 2013, to the national board of the Chilean church: Victor Henríquez from San Bernardo, secretary; Nelson Fuentes from Linares, multifunctional delegate; Mario Gálvez from La Cisterna, president; Missionary Erickson; Guillermo Ruz from Puente Alto, multifunctional delegate; Ariel Arriagada from Linares, treasurer. A letter of greeting from the ELS president was read to the membership of the Chilean church. We pray for the work of our Chilean brothers and sisters in Christ, and also ask for continued blessings on our American workers in that country, Rev. Timothy and Ellen Erickson and Chelsea Dietsche.

ANOTHER MISSION IN TEXAS

The Rev. Kyle Madson has accepted the call from the Board for Home Outreach to serve as missionary for exploratory work in the region of Hudson Oaks/Weatherford, Texas. Please keep him, his wife Alicia and family in your prayers.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFESSIONAL FORUM

Representatives of the ELS and WELS met on Monday, October 22 and Tuesday, October 23, 2012, at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in Mankato, Minnesota. The *Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum* meets biennially to discuss our work in the Lord's kingdom, encourage one another and strengthen the bond of fellowship.

WELS CONVENTION

Our sister synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), will meet for its biennial convention in New Ulm, Minnesota, on July 29–August 1, 2013. Your president has been invited to extend greetings to our sister church.

EMMAUS CONFERENCE, TACOMA, WASHINGTON, 2013

The Sixth Annual Emmaus Conference April 11-12, 2013, was held at Parkland Lutheran Church and School in Tacoma, Washington. This was the third time presidents of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS), the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), and the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) convened for informal discussions in a “free conference” arrangement. ELS President J. Moldstad presented the essay entitled “*Grace Before, In and For All Time: The Election Controversy with application to inter-church dialogue.*” The Rev. Mark Schroeder, president of WELS and the Rev. Matthew Harrison, president of the LCMS, served as reactors.

INFORMAL MEETINGS BETWEEN ELS, WELS, AND LCMS

Fifteen leaders from the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), and ELS met for informal dialogue on December 4–7, 2012. The group consisted of seven men from the WELS, seven from the LCMS, and Pres. Moldstad as the sole representative from the ELS. While none of the participants anticipate impending formal doctrinal discussions toward fellowship, the meetings were viewed as helpful in dispelling certain caricatures, learning of challenges faced by each synod, and taking a look at what currently unites/divides the church bodies of the former Synodical Conference in their respective efforts to pursue confessional Lutheranism. A similar meeting is planned for 2013.

INACTIVE MEMBERS

The Guidelines for the Clergy Roster (§223.III.A) read: “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 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 name has been on our inactive list: Daniel McQuality. At his request and with the approval of the president and secretary, the convention is being asked to extend the clergy roster status for the Rev. Daniel McQuality.

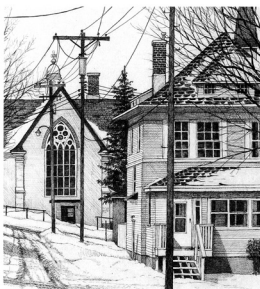
CONGREGATIONS VISITED DURING THE PAST YEAR

Bethany, Luverne, Minnesota; Zion, Tracy, Minnesota; Forest, Forest City, Iowa; Abiding Word, Bowling Green, Ohio; River Heights, East Grand Forks, Minnesota; Christ the King, Green Bay, Wisconsin; Peace, Kissimmee, Florida; Grace, Vero Beach, Florida; Scriptural, Cape Girardeau, Missouri; Bethany, Port Orchard, Washington; Faith, Clara City, Minnesota.

PASTORAL CONFERENCES ATTENDED

General Pastoral Conference; West Coast Conference (circuits 11–12); Great Lakes Conference (circuits 3–6); Southern Minnesota Conference (circuit 9).

The Rev. John A. Moldstad, president



CONVENTION ESSAY

ENGAGING FAMILIES WITH JESUS

The Rev. Donald Moldstad

INTRODUCTION

He rushed the two men through the door of his house. Moments before he had been holding the tip of his large knife against his abdomen, contemplating suicide. Thoughts of his family had been distant as he selfishly wanted to end it all; but now, something had changed. Suddenly the knowledge these men possessed was so valuable that they must meet his family. Those who were closest and most precious to him—with whom he had the most direct influence—must be enlightened as he now was. How quickly did the jailer of Philippi make his way home that evening? How loudly did he call for everyone to come and meet Paul and Silas? After drawing water for their baptisms, who went first?

When the wonderful knowledge of Christ touches the heart there is a new Spirit-driven impulse awakened toward our loved ones. Luke describes the joyful scene,

Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night and washed their stripes. And immediately he and all his family were baptized. Now when he had brought them into his house, he set food before them; and he rejoiced, having believed in God with all his household. (*Acts 16:32–34*)

The jailer's entrance into the kingdom of grace immediately colored his vocations in life, beginning with his roles as husband and father, to influence those closest to him.

“Place the oxygen mask on yourself first, and then assist your child.” This announcement must be given by flight attendants because the first inclination embedded in our nature is to provide care for our children. If a cure for cancer was discovered, even an atheist parent would place his child in line ahead of himself for the vaccine. How much more should we not expect this response in those regenerated by the Gospel? On the day of Pentecost, it is not difficult to imagine parents having their children stand in line ahead of themselves to receive the washing of regeneration from the Apostles following Peter's invitation (*Acts 2:38–39*). This reaction in us may be rooted in natural law, but, more importantly, is now co-opted by the new obedience we have been given toward the Lamb of God who has redeemed us. Our children are the most precious earthly gifts we have. Pastors have discovered through the years that you win over the hearts of your members through their children.

Following an Adult Instruction class, a young man who had never before learned of God's grace, approached me wanting to know how to explain this wonderful truth to his brother. The subject of evangelism had not even been mentioned in the few classes thus far, but he was already anxious to spread the doctrine of justification. The Gospel brings with it the power to produce its own evangelists. When a dead branch is grafted into the Vine of Christ, one of the first grapes to appear is the desire to reach others, typically those closest to you.

KEEPING OUR EYES ON THE TARGET

There is a potential danger to this study: All of us mutually recognize the great importance of the Christian home, and yet our theological focus is not to be on the family. The Pharisees of Jesus' day probably had great marriages, and may have been wonderful parents, impressing Biblical commands on their children. However, the central target of Biblical instruction is not



The Rev. Donald Moldstad

to have strong marriages, and morally upright children, but our focus must remain on the work of Christ to redeem us from sin and death. The Mormons have demonstrated very well that Satan can use even the blessings of solid families to deter people from the Gospel.

As the sainted Prof. Juul Madson once said, “Sometimes sanctification can get in the way of justification.” Staying off drugs, retaining one’s virginity until marriage, etc. are to be treated as wonderful by-products of keeping our families with Christ, but should not become the focus of our theology. The thief on the cross may have come from a broken home, struggled with alcoholism, and lead a rebellious adolescence prior to his conversion. The woman at the well lived in the sin of fornication, had multiple marriages, and yet, by God’s grace came to repentance. How many others in Jesus’ day had all the right outward, moral criteria for being considered a healthy family, and yet lacked repentance and trust in Him alone for salvation? There will be many in hell who had strong marriages, and great parent-child relations. We must keep our eyes on the true target of our faith: heaven through repentance and faith in Christ.

Keeping this final heavenly goal in perspective is essential for our understanding of the Biblical purpose of the Christian home, as Dr. Martin Luther states:

Married people should know that they can perform no better and no more useful work for God, Christianity, the world, themselves and their children, than by bringing up their children well. Pilgrimages to Rome and to Jerusalem, building churches, providing for masses, or whatever else the work may be called, is nothing in comparison with the right training of children, for that is the straight road to heaven; and it can not be more easily attained in any other way. It is the peculiar work of parents, and when they do not attend to it, there is a perversion of nature, as when fire does not burn or water moisten.¹

THE CHRISTIAN HOME: HEAVEN’S LITTLE EMBASSY

In my ancestry there was a pagan forefather/mother who was brought to the Christian faith, altering the spiritual direction of my family tree. I do not know his/her name, or how many generations have come and gone since that time. At some point the Holy Spirit broke that heathen chain, and since then has chiefly utilized private homes as the way to reach my spiritually dead heart and bring me to Christ. For most Christians today, this is the path the Gospel has taken to reach us. Dr. David Scaer writes,

The Gospel is at work through one person in the home, and the best missionaries are a believing mother or father whose life is a preaching of salvation for their spouses and children. The best missionaries are not ‘the evangelists’ who bring tears to our eyes and cause us to fall on our knees. The best missionaries are parents who bring their children to church for baptism and those who are patient with their unbelieving spouses.²

The Christian home is of great concern to our heavenly Father since it serves as the primary—though not exclusive—venue for passing on the Gospel. Where families embrace Christ and His Word, these homes will also become the best outreach centers for the church into the community. When home missions are started, the primary evangelists are the dedicated members of the church, whether married couples, single parents or singles without children. It is God alone who can bring a person to faith through the efficacious Word of Christ, which “is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes” (*Romans 1:16*). It is that same God who frequently makes use of human associations to carry out this work. The relationships

1 Painter, *Luther on Education*, pp. 116-117

2 Scaer, D., *In Christ, vol. 1 – Sermons*, Concordia Catechetical Academy, 2004, p. 240

of husband to wife, parent to child, and extended relations in the family are treated with the highest degree of care throughout Scripture, due to the tremendous spiritual importance attached to them. Luther instructs us:

The greatest good in married life, that which makes all suffering and labor worth while, is that God grants offspring and commands that they be brought up to worship and serve Him. In all the world this is the noblest and most precious work, because to God there can be nothing dearer than the salvation of souls. ... You can see how rich the estate of marriage is in good works. God has entrusted to its bosom souls begotten of its own body on whom it can lavish all manner of Christian works. Most certainly father and mother are apostles, bishops, and priests to their children, for it is they who make them acquainted with the Gospel. In short there is no greater or nobler authority on earth than that of parents over their children, for this authority is both spiritual and temporal. Whoever teaches the Gospel to another is truly his apostle and bishop. Mitre and staff and great estates indeed produce idols, but teaching the Gospel produces apostles and bishops. See therefore how good and great is God's work and ordinance!³

God frequently uses images of family to depict our relationship with Him: He is "our Father," Christ is our "Brother," through Baptism we are the "Bride of Christ," we are the "children of God," and "brothers and sisters in Christ." When the Second Person of the Trinity became incarnate to save us, He was not placed into a pack of animals, nor did He come in a garrison of angels, but was rather born to a Virgin mother and raised in a humble home with earthly parents. Due to their sway, the Holy Spirit consistently instructs us in these holy vocations in the home throughout Scripture. Dr. C.F.W. Walther suggests that once a child is baptized, parents should consider themselves to be like Mary and Joseph:

If the parents of the most holy God-man recognized it as their duty to lead Him into the house of the Lord, how much more should we recognize our duty to lead our children, who are sinners in need of grace, to the Lord early on! ... Our children are not given to us as toys and pleasantries or as our servants. Instead they are entrusted to us by God, so that when they know nothing about Him we should lead them to their heavenly Father. ... (As parents) We each have a little Child Jesus to carry in our house and in our arms.⁴

"Most people catch their presuppositions from their family and surrounding society the way a child catches measles," so writes Francis Schaeffer.⁵ It goes without saying that a person's upbringing will often determine his/her spiritual foundation. The concept of in-home evangelism displays itself throughout Scripture. In the Ten Commandments God specifically decrees that a holy Sabbath is to be observed by all members of the family, a day of rest which depicts the coming Christ, who is our Sabbath-rest (*Hebrews 4:10-11, Romans 4:5-8*). This command applied to parents, children, servants and even the strangers within their gates (*Exodus 20:10*). Though we think of this Third Commandment as part of the Moral Law, it is intended to create a family environment in which the Gospel of the coming Messiah would be highlighted on at least a weekly basis.

In his Large Catechism, Luther dispenses three times the amount of ink expounding upon the Fourth Commandment when compared to any of the other nine. Half of his categories in

3 Luther, *Luther's Works*, vol. 45, p. 46

4 CFW Walther, *God Grant It*, CPH, p. 116

5 Schaeffer, F., *How Should We Then Live?*, Fleming H. Revell Co., NJ, 1976

his *Table of Duties* address family relations. He clearly understood God's spiritual design for the home. Since Christian parents are engaged in the highest heavenly work, they must realize the extreme importance of their roles, and view their children in the proper light. In similar fashion the reformer frequently exhorts children to see their parents as the very representatives of God in their lives. Here are some samplings:

This is a sad evil that all live on as though God gave us children for our pleasure or amusement, and servants that we should employ them like a cow or ass, only for work.

Let every one know, therefore, that above all things it is his duty (or otherwise he will lose his divine favor) to bring up his children in the fear and knowledge of God.

See to it that you first of all have your children instructed in spiritual things, giving them first to God, and afterwards to secular duties.

(God) separates and distinguishes father and mother above all other persons on earth, and places them next to Himself. For to honor is far higher than to love, inasmuch as it comprehends not only love, but also modesty, humility, and deference as though to a majesty there hidden, and requires not only that they be addressed kindly and with reverence, but most of all that both in heart and with the body so we act as to show that we esteem them very highly, and that, next to God, we regard them the very highest.⁶

In this way, our namesake set the tone and mind-set for Confessional Lutherans since the Reformation. The early years of a child in the home are so crucial for his/her future with the church, since all else will be built upon this instruction. It was expressed well in a synod essay from 1953, by Rev. Milton Tweit:

We are to teach and train our children from the time they are small. The foundation we lay in those years must be safe and sure so that they can build a safe and happy life upon it. People today pride themselves on their scientific and careful approach to all things. Before building, they plan very carefully how they may lay a foundation which shall be lasting and strong, standing unbroken even after the superstructure is decayed. Cost is certainly figured in, but is not spared, because the wise man knows that a poor foundation will cave in, and the whole building put thereon fall into ruins. It is a good thing that people use wisdom in planning the foundations of life, which are exceedingly more important! Woe unto us, if it must be said to us by God: "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light" (Luke 16:8). God help us to apply true Godly wisdom in the training of our children.⁷

HOME-LIFE IN BIBLICAL TIMES

The first mention of formal worship (*Genesis 4:26*) is listed in the middle of all the names of Adam's growing family. Luther speculates that our first father preached to numerous generations regarding the Gospel given in Eden: "Adam, Seth, Enos exhorted their descendants to wait for the redemption, to believe the promise about the woman's Seed."⁸ We are not surprised

6 All from Painter, *Luther on Education*, pp. 115-120

7 Tweit, M. E., 1953 Synod Convention Essay, p. 35

8 Luther, M., *Luther's Works*, vol. I, Lectures on Genesis, p. 328

that the believers who survive the flood are all from one family. From the earliest days, the Messianic promise (the Gospel) was to be passed on carefully in the home. God indicates this special design for family relations to be utilized for the spreading of His saving Promise:

The LORD said, "Shall I hide from Abraham what I am doing, since Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him? For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him." (*Genesis 18:19*)

Old Testament believers clearly saw the significance of home-life where souls would be engaged with the Messianic faith. Dr. Walther observes, "Until the time of Moses, the holy preaching office was exercised by the father of the house and head of the family or head of an entire tribe. It was one part of their fatherly office and authority, carried out in God's stead."⁹

Among the ancient Jews, children were considered to be a great blessing, and the duty of teaching your child in the faith was of supreme importance. Though this concept is certainly familiar to us who are members of the church, this was unusual among other peoples of the day, who at times would even sacrifice their own children to pagan gods. According to Josephus, during the Exodus, Israelite parents had taught their youth to hold Moses in such high regard that upon his death: "The young grieved (not only to lose Moses), but also because it so happened that they were to be left by him before they had well tasted of his virtue."¹⁰

Jews were consumed with the stages of a child's development, using eight distinct terms to denote various steps from infancy to young adulthood. Informal training in the faith began very early. The Jewish philosopher Philo claimed children were trained to recognize God while still bundled in swaddling clothes. Jewish mothers taught the Law to their children while nursing. Josephus writes that from their earliest consciousness they memorized the commandments to have them imprinted on their hearts. Family customs involved with church festivals contained a formal question and answer session from child to parent regarding the significance of the event, in keeping with God's directives (*Deuteronomy 6:20–25*). Some families utilized honey and sweet cakes during instruction in the Torah so the child would associate it with a pleasurable experience.¹¹

Formal education for boys began at age six, when they were sent to learn at the feet of local rabbis. Girls were primarily taught in the home by their fathers. Each town had a school, typically in the synagogue, and education was compulsory (it was considered unlawful to live in a community with no school). Reading and writing were part of the standard curriculum. From ages 6–10 there would be training in the Torah (first five books of the Bible). From ages 10–15 they would study the Mishnah (doctrinal commentary). By age 15 and beyond they would study in the school of the rabbis, should they desire to advance. Instructors were ordered not to over-work their students to prevent them from growing weary of religious instruction. By their mid-teens, young men were expected to begin contributing to the family income. Quite often marriages were arranged by families, though with the child's consent. As an older teen or young adult you would typically start married life by living with the groom's parents for a few years. The entire progression of life was geared to prepare your child for a stable adulthood and remain in the faith of the fathers.

Jewish leaders, rabbis, scribes and priests placed a great burden of responsibility upon the Jewish father. He was expected to fulfill the following for his son: have him circumcised, teach

9 Walther, CFW, found in *At Home in the House of My Fathers*, M. Harrison, p. 147

10 Josephus, *Antiquities* 4:8, 48

11 Kessel, Wm., *Children in the Bible*, Lutheran Synod Quarterly, 1991, XXXI, #4

him the Torah, teach him a trade, find him a wife, and teach him to swim. The synagogues had numerous rituals and traditions connected with various stages of a child's education. A child learned to fast for a few hours, starting at age 9, in hopes of working up to fasting for an entire day by age 13.¹²

In the life of a young Jewish child, ceremonies and rituals had strong corporate, community and familial aspects to them. In the centuries before the Messiah's arrival, unlike our own culture, your identity was not formed by your individualism. Rather, your identity came from your relationship to the larger church community and by embracing the established traditions of the faith. Conforming to these well-established practices was the norm of the day. This thinking was embedded into the Jewish view of family, worship, and society at large. Observing customs of the church was of the highest importance.

During Passover it was customary for the youngest child to be re-taught its meaning as the rest of the family listened. In Jesus' day, each home commemorated the rededication of the Temple (Hanukkah) by having children light a new candle for each of the 8 nights. The Jewish calendar was carefully observed, marking the special times of purification, when all yeast (representative of sin) would be removed from the house. By the first century BC, it was not uncommon for families to have a copy or at least a portion of Scripture in the home. Religious instruction was all-encompassing, according to Dr. Alfred Edersheim, a convert from Judaism:

In the days of Christ the pious Jew had no other knowledge, neither sought nor cared for any other—in fact, denounced it—than that of the law of God. ...The knowledge of God was everything; and to prepare for or impart that knowledge was the sum total, the sole object of his education.”¹³

A similar approach carried over into the New Testament church, based heavily upon Jewish practices. The Holy Spirit records for our learning the in-home religious training which young Timothy received from his grandmother Lois, and mother Eunice (*II Timothy 1:5*). Clement of Alexandria (150–215 AD) writes that many parents already had copies of the Scriptures and were reading them to their children in their houses. The historian, Eusebius, records interesting details about the upbringing of young Origen (184–254 AD), whose parents required him to memorize Bible passages even as a little child. His hunger for Christian doctrine grew beyond his parents' ability to answer his questions. This produced wonderful fruit: when his father was about to be martyred for his faith, the teenage Origen was so ready to die with him, that his mother had to hide his clothes to prevent him from leaving the house. He wrote his father a letter of encouragement in the faith, saying, “Don't change your mind on our account.”¹⁴

EVANGELISM AND MARRIAGE

At the core of the Christian home is the institution of marriage, given first to Adam and Eve prior to the Fall into Sin. God has implanted this estate into the very fabric of humanity. As our Lutheran Confessions state regarding marriage, this “union of man and woman is by natural right,” and “is an ordinance divinely stamped on nature.”¹⁵ To demonstrate its great value, our Lord showcased His first public miracle at a wedding celebration (*John 2:1–11*). The Holy Spirit uses its imagery to describe our union with Christ through Baptism (*Ephesians 5*). Though marriage is not the primary subject of this paper, we note that it is intended by God to provide the foundational footings for heaven's earthly embassy in the home. Within its

12 Edersheim, A., *Sketches of Jewish Social Life*, p. 99ff

13 Edersheim, A., (quoted by Martin Galstad in “*The Value of a Child*” Convention essay)

14 Eusebius, *The History of the Church from Christ to Constantine*, Barnes and Noble Books, 1995, p. 240

15 Apology to the Augsburg Confession, XXIII, *The Book of Concord*, Tappert, CPH, p. 240-241

boundaries, God intends to dispense numerous temporal and eternal blessings to spouse and children alike.

The early patriarchs safeguarded marriage primarily due to its direct connection to the mission of the church: Abraham made his servant take an oath that he would find a wife for his son, Isaac, from those of their faith, and not from the nearby Canaanites (*Genesis 24*). When Esau married pagan women from the Hittite tribe, the Holy Spirit records, “they were a grief of mind to Isaac and Rebekah” (*Genesis 26:34–35*). This prompted them to demand of their son, Jacob, “You shall not take a wife from the daughters of Canaan. Arise, go to Padan Aram, to the house of Bethuel your mother’s father, and take yourself a wife from there” (*Genesis 28:1–2*).

Marrying one who is not of the household of faith, poses a potential threat for your own spiritual contamination, and will probably cause great challenges to raising your children in the faith. Sad to say, in our day many young Christian men and women have discovered this difficulty the hard way. It may not seem so significant on the front end of the relationship, but will typically show up when a child reaches the age of three or four years old.

Recently the dissolution of the marriage of Hollywood stars, Katie Holmes (a professed Christian) and Tom Cruise (a Scientologist) was a great example of this problem. What seemed to be meaningless religious differences during the early years of their relationship, suddenly became very significant when their little daughter, around age 4 or 5, was old enough to develop a world view, reaching a stage where she would ask the deeper questions about life. Ms. Holmes realized that the religious beliefs of her husband’s cult were turning the girl “into a monster” (her words). She believed her only option for protecting her daughter from having her mind polluted was to divorce. Her daughter is now enrolled in a Catholic school.

If parents are pulling the spiritual cart in opposite directions there will usually be a nullifying impact on the child. How many souls have had their eternal welfare sacrificed by a parent’s poor choice of an unbelieving mate in favor of less important human qualities? We must instruct our teenagers to be thinking of Judgment Day for their future children even when they begin the dating or courting process. The selection of a spouse is the most important determining factor in establishing the spiritual course of the home. Though one Christian parent may be less intense in his/her faith than his/her spouse, it is at least necessary that both husband and wife are demonstrating some appreciation for Christ’s Word and Sacrament—pulling the cart in the same direction.

Satan has attained the highest degree in Christian doctrine. He recognizes the tremendous significance of marriage for both the temporal and the spiritual kingdoms, and understands how unique it is in God’s plan for evangelizing humanity. One of the apparent deplorable by-products of the acceptance of gay marriage is that it has typically coincided with a drop in appreciation for “traditional marriage” in countries where it has been embraced. May this upcoming generation be made aware. Like enemy combatants seeking to destroy their opponent’s embassy, throughout time the devil has waged war against this divine gift. The nineteenth century Norwegian Bishop, Nils Laache, writes:

Marriage is the foundation of human society, planted by God at creation and sanctified from the beginning. But ever since it was corrupted by the fall into sin, the devil still rages against it, for he knows that when he spoils marriage, he undermines all order of society and makes us like Sodom and Gomorrah... As many as will follow the Lord Jesus must heartily hate this lie of the devil and maintain the sacred, indissoluble nature of marriage.¹⁶

Luther provides similar commentary:

16 Laache, N., *The Book of Family Prayer*, Luth. Synod Book Co., trans. M. DeGarmeaux, 2000, p. 117

Next to God's Word, the world has not a more lovely and endearing treasure on earth than the holy estate of matrimony, which He Himself instituted, preserving it, having adorned and blessed it above all stations, from which not only all emperors, kings and saints, but even the eternal Son of God, though in a super-natural way, are born. Whoever, therefore, hates the married state, and speaks evil of it, certainly is of the devil.¹⁷

There can also be a wonderful evangelistic "glow" from a Christian marriage and home for outside observers, especially those who have not experienced such blessings in their own families. Many have commented that they were drawn toward the Christian faith by experiencing the stable and happy home-life of someone they were dating. In this way, without their awareness, many Christian families let their light shine before men in their communities, serving as a wonderful by-product of the Gospel.

For those who find themselves married to an unbeliever, God specifically instructs the believer to remain married for the sake of continued mission work among both the children and spouse. Paul writes, "For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?" (*I Corinthians 7:16*). From heaven's perspective, maintaining the marital union is all about preserving opportunities for the family to be engaged with the Gospel of Christ. It is fitting that the Lord chooses to first address women in this predicament. Pastors will tell you that most often it has been a faithful, believing wife who has been used by the Holy Spirit to gently lead her husband to Christ. Her tenderhearted, daily witness of her Savior by humble acts of Christian kindness, can finally "wear down" her husband to seek out the Source of such love. As my father often said, "There will be many men in heaven because of Christian wives."

THE UNIQUE OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN FATHERHOOD

Many years ago two families came for a private Baptism. The one family I knew very well, since they had been faithful members connected with the parish for generations. I was introduced to the other family as they entered the narthex, and it became very apparent that the non-member great-grandfather of the child was not taking this event very seriously. He made it known that he had much better things to do with his Saturday morning. The great-grandfather associated with our church, on the other hand, had dressed up for the service and saw this day as the sacred entrance of his great-grandchild into the kingdom of light. As we went through the responses in the Rite of Baptism, I observed the 40–50 worshipers. It was visibly obvious how the views of each great-grandfather had been passed down to the entire side of his respective family. You could see the reverence in the faces of the first family, and how irrelevant this seemed to be in the minds of everyone in the second family (with the exception of the child's mother, who had since taken instruction). In each case, the great-grandfather's attitude had clearly been handed down to succeeding generations.

A "generational fallout" nearly always takes place when a father despises God and His Word. Hatred toward God is a disease which one then inherits due to a lack of training or love toward God in childhood and adolescence. The consequences are often eternal. The Lord threatens that He will "visit the iniquities of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generation of those who hate Me" (*Exodus 20:5*). For this reason, throughout Scripture, God primarily addresses the fathers with the charge of spiritual leadership in the home (*Exodus 34:4–9; Leviticus 26:36–42; Numbers 14:17–19; Jeremiah 32:17–20, Ephesians 6:4*). For some reason, God has designed these human relationships to rely heavily on the father's role when it comes to spiritual matters. A father's impact on the religious life of his children cannot be over-emphasized. Luther states it rather strongly,

17 Luther, M., found in *Luther on Education*, Painter, pp. 113-114

No one should become a father unless he is able to instruct his children in the Ten Commandments and in the Gospel, so that he may bring up true Christians. ... If the kingdom of God is to come in power, we must begin with children, and teach them from the cradle.¹⁸

Engaging families with Christ means first and foremost recognizing this “spiritual gravitas” that God has placed into the office of fatherhood. The number one predictor of a child’s worship life is the worship life of his father. In his book, *The Pastor at Work*, Rev. Arthur Haake makes this case:

The church’s first chief effort in evangelism should be with the husband and father. All too often the church’s mission efforts with a family begin and end with the child. Most of the examples of Biblical evangelism have to do with the men. The father, according to God’s order, is to be the priest in the home. The efforts to bring him into the fold will bring many blessings. The best thing which can be done for a family is to lead the father to walk with God and have him assume his exalted and God-given position in the home as a priest of God.¹⁹

Numerous sociological studies have borne this out. In 1994 an extensive survey was conducted among hundreds of families in Switzerland to determine whether a person’s religion carried through to the next generation (the study did not set out to demonstrate anything in particular about the role of fatherhood). Here are the findings, reported in the theological journal, *Touchstone*:

One critical, overwhelming factor became obvious: The religious practice of the family’s father, above anything else, determines the future attendance at or absence from church of the children. Even if the mother is regular in attending church, and the father is non-practicing, only 2% of children will become regular worshippers as adults, and only 37% will attend irregularly (twice a year). In such homes over 60% of their children will be completely lost to the church.

However, when the father is regularly in church, but the mother is not, the percentage of children growing up to become regular in church goes up to 38%, and up to 44% for those who are less regular in attending church.

In short, if a father does not go to church, no matter how faithful his wife’s devotions, only one child in 50 will become a regular worshipper. If a father does go regularly, regardless of the practice of the mother, between two-thirds and three-quarters of their children will become churchgoers (regular and irregular). ... A non-practicing mother with a regular-attending father will see a minimum of two-thirds of her children ending up at church. In contrast, a non-practicing father with a regular mother will see two-thirds of his children never darken the church door.²⁰

The author of the report, Anglican theologian, Robbie Low, then makes these applications for his own church body, the Church of England:

18 Painter, pp. 119-120

19 Haake, Arthur H., *The Pastor at Work*, Concordia Publishing House, 1960, p. 271

20 *The Truth About Men & the Church*, on-line: Touchstone, a Journal of Mere Christianity, June, 2003, publ. by Fellowship of St. James

You cannot buck the biology of the created order. Father's influence ... is out of all proportion to his allotted, and severely diminished role in Western liberal society. ... The Church of England had a 45/55% ratio of men to women before 1990. Now the ratio is 37/63%. Of the 300,000 people who left the Church of England during their targeted 'Decade of Evangelism,' some 200,000 must have been men. During that same time attendance by children dropped by 50%. ... The churches are losing men and, if the Swiss figures are correct, are therefore losing children. You cannot feminize the church and keep the men, and you cannot keep the children if you do not keep the men.^{21 22}

He ends with this straightforward conclusion: "No father—no family—no faith. Winning and keeping men is essential to the community of faith and vital to the work of all mothers and the future salvation of our children." Might this explain why Satan expends so much time trying to diminish male leadership in ecclesiastical positions, and why God has established these principles for both the home and the church?

In his book, *Family Vocations*, Dr. Gene E. Veith writes regarding the role of fathers:

Because God works through the vocation, vacating the office of father has serious consequences. Whether we are culturally belittling fatherhood, socially experimenting with it, or historically pretending its irrelevance, we cannot manipulate God away from the channels He has chosen to provide. The needs for a father will remain.²³

"Our Father, Who art in heaven...'—God would hereby tenderly invite us to believe that He is our true Father, and that we are His true children." God exercises His fatherhood through earthly fathers and mothers. By His design there is to be a link in the chain of authority from Himself through the parents (primarily the father) and then to the child. Learning to have spiritual respect toward the parents is the primary place for teaching a child to have a similar spiritual respect toward God. Veith notes that this cannot be taught—or at best can rarely be taught—by a youth leader or a pastor, or, we might add, a Christian day school teacher. It is best instilled in the mind and heart of the child in the home during the early "plastic stage" of life, as Dr. Paul Kretzmann labels it.

Dr. Veith summarizes that the duties for a Christian father toward his child, as set forth in Holy Writ, do not require any great degree of schooling, but are actually quite simple:

- 1) Be married to their mother
- 2) Do not divorce her.
- 3) Do not abandon your children.
- 4) Be involved in your children's lives.
- 5) Take your children to church.²⁴

An atheist parent can grant forgiveness to his child, but only a Christian parent will tie his/her personal forgiveness back to Calvary. Luther suggests that fathers should recognize their

21 Ibid.

22 See Appendix A for a short survey taken on Bethany's campus

23 Veith, G. & M. Moerbe, *Family Vocations*, p. 127

24 Ibid. p. 128

unique position as God's proxy and mimic our heavenly Father when dealing with a sinful child to apply the Gospel:

(After disciplining his son, the father) again invites his child to himself and gives him the very best words. He stops and throws away the rod, yes, he rages against the rod, leers at it and treads it under his feet as if it were the rod and not he that had done the chastening. This is the best interpretation of his distemper, since he has meant it for good and it is not wrath. It rather becomes pure love. He gives him thereafter a penny or apple as a sign of the truth so that the poor child forgets the rod and he establishes him again as his child.²⁵

Fatherhood is treated lightly in our current culture. As the comedian, Adam Corolla put it, "We look down more on smokers than we do on dead-beat dads." The role of the male parent has been devalued. Americans have generally lost respect for the office of fatherhood, considering it almost unnecessary. This brings great negative consequences for our society as a whole in which the church must operate. Might this trend increase as more and more women become the primary bread-winners in the home, and fewer couples seek marriage? A Twin Cities news station reported that inside the city limits of Minneapolis 78% of newborns come home to a house with no father. David Blankenhorn, a Harvard graduate, writes:

Tonight, about 40% of American children will go to sleep in homes in which their fathers do not live. Before they reach the age of 18, more than half our nation's children are likely to spend at least a significant portion of their childhoods living apart from their fathers... The most important absence our society must confront is not the absence of fathers, but the absence of our belief in fathers.²⁶

This unique role is also highlighted by the warning St. Paul provides the church in Ephesus: "Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (*Ephesians 6:4*). Instruction in the Word of God must be dispensed in a loving and careful way. As much as a Christian father can bring great blessing to his child's spiritual life, he may also run the risk of alienating him/her from the church if his control is too harsh. When an adult child has wandered from the faith, it is important for both parents—but especially the father—to retain communication with the child, and gently use your loving admonitions to invite him/her back to Christ. In this way we imitate the patient father waiting for his son's return in Jesus' parable of the prodigal.²⁷ This is a delicate balance. Luther encourages parents to create a happy learning environment in the home, where discipline is guided by love:

(St. Paul) forbids that parents should provoke their children to anger, and thus discourage them. This is spoken against those who use passionate violence in bringing up their children. Such discipline begets in the child's mind, which is yet tender, a state of fear and imbecility, and develops a feeling of hate toward the parents, so that (the child) often runs away from home. (St. Paul means) that we should discipline them from love, seeking not to cool our anger, but to make them better.

It is highly necessary that all parents regard the soul of their child more than his body, and look upon him as a precious, eternal treasure, which God has entrusted

25 Luther, M., *Commentary on the Prophet Zechariah*

26 Blankenhorn, D., *Fatherless America*, pp. 1-3

27 I encourage parents to read an ELS Circuit 12 Conference paper by Rev. G. Obenberger, *Enabling Adult Children's Apostasy*

to them for preservation, so that the world, the flesh and the devil do not destroy him.²⁸

The father's spiritual influence on his child seems to retain some force even when faced with less-than-desirable circumstances. I have observed cases where men have failed to train up their children in their early years, but decades later have still managed to have a positive spiritual impact once the child has reached adulthood. Some have managed to do so even after a divorce, when handled properly in light of God's Word, or even after death. Veith notes similar examples:

In the case of divorce, a father with visitation rights who stays in His children's lives can still exercise his fatherhood. In a strange grace, when the father dies, the effect of his absence is not so harmful. Again, it is the sense of being abandoned, having the feeling that my father doesn't love me, that a child finds so devastating. A father who dies, by contrast, loved me and, in Christian hope, still loves me.²⁹

Luther suggests that there are only three ways a father can ruin his children spiritually:

- 1) Neglect to instruct them properly in the truths of God's Word
- 2) Provide them with a bad example in word and deed
- 3) Teach them to love the world and all its wealth, and to be important in the world's eyes

THE UNIQUE OFFICE OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERHOOD

In the 1920s an English theologian wrote that while in college he nearly abandoned his Christian faith upon learning the theory of evolution. Coming to his senses, he finally reasoned that his mother had taught him the creation truth so wonderfully, that denying this would now mean a rejection of her honest and faithful instruction. This thought alone prevented him from leaving the faith. Mothers are blessed with an almost irreplaceable gift for reaching the heart. If you grew up with Christian parents you probably have very fond memories of your mother leading you in bedtime prayers, reading Bible stories to you, and providing you with gentle admonitions throughout the day (some of us received more admonitions than others. I could tell you what Ivory soap tasted like by age four). The Holy Spirit even uses this quality in our mothers to demonstrate how strong God's love is toward us (*Isaiah 49:15*). A mother's approach touches the deep emotional aspects of a child's spiritual life, in a different way than the father. My own mother kept a well-worn, little booklet entitled "Heaven" on the nightstand next to her bed. Every time I entered that room I noticed it.

Though God clearly places the largest responsibility upon fathers, in Scripture the Holy Spirit frequently spotlights the care of spiritually-minded mothers when it comes to evangelizing in the home. Samuel's mother, Hannah, is the one extolled in Scripture for her dedication to the faith, delivering her young son to the Temple for service. The Proverbs contain many passages addressing the important role a mother's instruction plays in the foundational years of life. Solomon writes, "My son, hear the instruction of your father, do not forsake the law of your mother; for they will be graceful ornaments on your head, and chains about your neck" (*Proverbs 1:8–9*). Quite often it is the mother who sits and patiently applies the godly principles of life upon the heart and conscience of a young child through tender conversations. Where this knowledge is received and followed, the child, once grown, will wear her Biblical wisdom like costly jewelry, seen by all who know him. Solomon again emphasizes this imagery,

28 Painter, pp. 123-124

29 Veith and Moerbe, p. 127

“Do not forsake the law of your mother. Bind them continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck. When you roam they will lead you; when you sleep they will keep you; and when you awake they will speak with you” (*Proverbs* 6:20–22). This education is so precious, that God warns the child through graphic imagery: “The eye that mocks his father, and scorns obedience to his mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it” (*Proverbs* 30:17). When a child strays from the faith, it is often the mother who serves as the most active family-advocate before God in prayer.

The mother of King Lemuel is highlighted by the Holy Spirit as one who taught the faith so well to her son. She is then quoted instructing him in the numerous qualities of a virtuous woman whom he should seek as a believing wife: “Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her, ‘Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all’” (*Proverbs* 31).

The New Testament also provides us with wonderful examples of motherhood evangelism: John-Mark’s mother, Mary, is believed to have been an early convert to the Christian faith and deeply dedicated to Christ. One can easily assume her influence played a large role in the conversion of her son, the Gospel writer, who was sent out by Jesus among the seventy apostles. Early tradition indicates she provided the “upper room” for the institution of the Holy Supper. Her home also served as the first headquarters of Christianity in Jerusalem, mentioned as Peter’s “safe-house” upon his miraculous release from prison (*Acts* 12:12).

Eunice, Timothy’s mother, along with Lois, his grandmother, is displayed as a shining example of theological training for young Timothy. In hopes of encouraging him to continue in the doctrines of Scripture, rather than pointing to any seminary training, Paul directs the young pastor to remember his mother as one who taught him, “knowing from whom you learned them” since she had impressed these truths on him even from his infancy (*II Timothy* 3:14–16). As if Paul is saying, “Think what wonderful teachers you have had in your mother and grandmother. Don’t fall away from this. Continue to believe in the truths they have so faithfully taught you from Scripture.”

Salome, the mother of James and John, was among the women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and observed His crucifixion. Their father is never mentioned in this regard. Twice in Scripture the name of Priscilla is placed before the name of her husband (which is very uncommon), causing many to believe she played the more prominent role in supporting the mission of the church, even instructing Apollos “more accurately” in Christian doctrine (*Acts* 18:26). Along with Aquila she frequently opened her home as a meeting place for worship.

The characteristics of a Christian mother tend to be that of sensitivity, warmth and individual tenderness not found as noticeably in fathers. Most often they have more daily contact with the children, especially in the early years when the Baptismal faith is being nurtured. Mothers are blessed with tremendous insights into the practical application of Biblical truths, and have their pulse on the emotional needs of each son or daughter. They generally foster more of a devotional prayer life for the child. Many are gifted in music and utilize the gifts of hymnology to impress the faith into the heart and memory.

In addition, Christian mothers are typically blessed with a better sense of timing and insight than most men. This became very apparent to me one evening, when our ninth grade son had gotten into some trouble at school, and came home very upset with himself. Unbeknown to me, his spirit was very crushed. I received the news at my office, and came home in a hurry to deal with the situation. As I entered the house, rather upset and ready to climb the stairs to verbally chastise him, my wife stopped me in the hall and wisely said, “Don, he needs the Gospel, not the Law.” Not only did she show her ability to “properly divide the Word of truth,” but she understood precisely when each doctrine should be applied, and the potential consequences of my anger as his father.

During my time in parish ministry, an eighth grade boy, whose father had abandoned the family, said to me on the weekend of his Confirmation, “Pastor, you know my dad is not involved in my life. Can you please help me stay in my faith?” His mother had been—and, I assume, continues to be—extremely diligent in keeping him with Christ. Her efforts have been blessed through the years. In fact, through her son others have also had the chance to hear the Gospel. Due to a variety of circumstances, some Christian mothers have been left to raise their children in the faith with little or no assistance from the fathers. In such cases, as noted above, this is a huge mountain to climb all alone. How amazing it is when a woman does not have the support of a husband in spiritual matters, but still manages to keep her child loving Christ, and coming to receive His Word and Sacrament! These are “champion mothers.” Those of us who know how challenging this task can be with *two* spouses devoted to the cause, should sit in amazement of their dedication. We, as pastors and leaders in the church, need to applaud and encourage their wonderful commitment to preserving their children in the grace of Baptism. It is also incumbent on all of us in the church to find ways to assist them in this overwhelming task.

THE CHRISTIAN GRANDPARENT

On two consecutive Sundays a middle-aged gentleman in my congregation had brought along his 3-year-old granddaughter to church. He was proud to introduce her to me. His eyes began to swell up with tears as he said, “I’ve decided to bring her to church every Sunday. I’m not going to make the same mistake that I made with my own children.” Though grandparents are typically not as directly involved in the daily spiritual lives of their grandchildren, they can provide tremendous support and encouragement as shown by Timothy’s grandmother, Lois. Some have faithfully stepped in when the father of their grandchild is absent on Sundays. Scripture frequently speaks of the influence you may have on “your children’s children,” “from generation to generation.” Moses commanded the Israelites, upon their entrance to the Promised Land, “Take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren” (*Deuteronomy 4:9*).

Grandparenthood is a unique relationship in the child’s life. Not as burdened with the day-to-day issues parents must handle, and seasoned with so much experience, Christian grandparents are often gifted with helping their grandchildren see the big picture of life from God’s perspective. They are also able to offer spiritual wisdom and direction for their own children in parenting, as Scripture directs, and as their children request. Some manage to get through to a grandchild spiritually when a parent is “too close” to the situation. St. Paul encourages the use of this godly influence in the church when he writes to Titus,

Teach the older men to be temperate, worthy of respect, self-controlled, and sound in faith, in love and in endurance. Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God. (*Titus 2:2–5*)

SINGLE CHRISTIANS & COUPLES WITHOUT CHILDREN

The theme “Engaging Families with Jesus,” may cause us to overlook other very important groupings in our congregations: single Christians and those who have no children. They are frequently left out of our thinking, preaching and instruction when we think of families, though there are many in our congregations who use their talents and gifts in exceptional ways for the glory of God. It is noteworthy that the most well-known evangelist of the faith was

himself a single man, whom God uses even today as the chief educator in the New Testament church by means of his epistles. St. Paul's instruction shapes our understanding of the Gospel more than any other servant next to Christ. Despite never having had children, Paul refers to Titus, converted through his ministry, as "my true son in our common faith."

The apostle saw great benefit in his status as a single Christian, when he writes, "I wish that all men were even as I myself" (*1 Corinthians 7:7*). Having no earthly ties allowed him to be used by the Holy Spirit to be unhindered in serving the Gospel throughout the world, far and wide. His personal home-life could be entirely directed toward the evangelism of others outside the walls of his house or tent. How many dedicated single Christians, as well as married couples without children, have had an enormous impression on families and children through the ministry of God's Word, as pastors, teachers, professors and other positions which support the church? In every congregation I have served, I was blessed to have very capable and willing servants such as these to assist me. While visiting one of my shut-ins who had never married, she showed me a well-worn list of nearly 25 names of those associated with the ministry in our local congregation and our synod. She said she prayed for everyone on this list every day that God would bless their work in His Kingdom. Her home served as the support system for the larger church family. I look forward to discovering in heaven just how efficacious were her many, many prayers.

BAPTISMAL SPONSORS

The practice of God-parents dates back very, very early in the church. Some believe it was started by St. Paul's student, Dionysius. It is already mentioned by the time of Tertullian (160–225 AD), primarily in connection with adult baptisms during an era of persecution. Sponsors would publicly testify to the faithfulness of the convert to prevent the infiltration of those hoping to destroy the church.³⁰ Christians have seen the benefit of sponsors to augment the spiritual work conducted in the home. Such a role may provide on-going evangelistic opportunities especially when a child grows delinquent in the faith. Sponsors should be sure to take advantage of this spiritual relationship as the parents initially intended.

CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS: SUPPORTING HEAVEN'S LITTLE EMBASSIES

Very early in the development of our predecessor church body, the Norwegian Synod, there was a strong dedication to the establishment of Christian schools to assist parents in this sacred endeavor. In his annual Synod report of 1875, Rev. Herman Amberg Preus declared:

A thoroughly Christian educational system is the chief of all conditions for our church body's health and development in this country. But in the gross neglect thereof, in a non-Christian, irreligious, more or less worldly-minded training of our children and youth, I see the decay and destruction of our beloved church within a few generations. But if we are obedient to God's will in this matter and faithfully do what God wills, then the children of our church will shine like diamonds in the crowns of saints in the kingdom above.³¹

At the 50th anniversary of the Norwegian Synod, Pres. U. V. Koren stated: "If there is any cause that is of supreme importance for us, a cause which the Synod now at the beginning of a new period should embrace with all its power and enthusiasm, it is the cause of schools for our children."³²

30 Schmeling, G., *Baptism: My Adoption into God's Family*, Northwestern Publ. House, 1999, p. 30

31 Galstad, M., 1936 Synod Convention essay, *The Value of a Child*

32 Koren, U.V., found in *Grace for Grace*, Lutheran Synod Book Co., 1953, p. 80

Historically the members of our church body took this directive to heart. Among the handful of congregations which re-organized in 1918 there was a much greater commitment to Christian schools for children than among the churches entering the Merger. In 1919 Pres. Bjug Harstad made a strong plea for the congregations to start schools for their children. In 1928, Rev. Norman Madson, Sr., who at first had entered the Merger, but joined our synod within a few years, explained how this issue drew him to the ELS:

One of the reasons for my leaving the NLCA was its attitude toward the parochial school. As you all no doubt know, there is not to be found within this large church body a single Christian Day School. Our little Synod maintains at present seven such schools, and it is the earnest purpose of our Synod to establish such an institution in every congregation belonging to the Synod. ... Every Christian should be interested in the proper indoctrination of the young. It is our only hope for the future.³³

As we have seen through the centuries, members of local synagogues and Christian churches have organized to provide avenues for formal education in the faith for their children. When this occurs, it should never be viewed as a replacement for the instruction taking place in the home, but rather for augmentation. Formal classes are most effective when linked with parents who are committed to continue this instruction. Without the spiritual engagement of the parents through regular worship, nearly all potential gains for the child are nullified.³⁴

MODELING THE FAITH—MODELING REPENTANCE

Consider these familiar words from the Small Catechism in the context of the Christian home: “God’s name is hallowed when His Word is taught in its truth and purity, and we as children of God live holy lives according to it.” This explanation for the first petition of the Lord’s Prayer, written by Luther, implies that the converse is therefore a corrosive danger to the proclamation of the name of God in the home. When parents do not strive to live holy lives according to God’s Word, they dishonor God and His name among their children, over whom they have the greatest influence. The first dean of our synod’s seminary, Dr. Madson, preached rather pointedly to parents when he was in the parish:

There is no sin that is more severely condemned by the Savior of souls than the sin of hypocrisy. And why is that? Because it is so destructive in a twofold way. First of all, it blinds you to your own faults, and then it keeps many a poor soul that might be won for the Gospel away from it, because that poor soul judges the Christian Church by what you are. Can you think of a more vicious way to poison the heart and soul of a little child, than to speak piously of the word of God and the Church, only to be a living example of what a Christian should not be in your daily life? How

33 Madson, N.A. Sr., “Jubilee Souvenir” booklet, p. 32, from G. Orvick: *The History of the Christian Day School in the ELS*

34 Anecdotally: Not many years ago an official from the Wisconsin Synod mentioned that a study was conducted regarding the worship lives of those who had attended the WELS school system all the way through high school. The survey discovered that despite all of this religious instruction, if the parents did not go to church, children from these homes, once they became adults, did not attend church. In fact they were just as delinquent as children from homes of delinquent members who had never attended their schools. In other words, if church attendance is lacking in the parents, all the benefits of placing your child at the feet of dedicated Lutheran educators day after day are virtually wiped out. There are very few “success stories” from such homes. When parents place the spiritual teaching of their child entirely and completely into the hands of others, the child disengages from the church. However, where the parents *are* demonstrating a commitment to the Gospel through regular worship, coupling this with a formal Christian education will most often bring great rewards.

telling are not the words of Emerson, who, when he heard a man speak very piously about a good cause, but of which the man's own life was a total denial: "What you *are* speaks so loudly that I can't hear what you *say*."³⁵

A teenage girl was sent to her pastor for having lied to her parents about her grades in school. During the talk she justified her sin by informing him that her dad often lied to police officers when stopped for speeding. Even though her father had told her numerous times not to lie, and even punished her for it, his own actions had over-ruled his instruction and established her attitude toward this sin. When the Holy Spirit addresses parents, He would have us view our personal lives in the home with an all-encompassing dedication to the faith. The instruction of our children is to be a natural part of everyday life, permeating all of our words and deeds. Bringing up our children in the faith is not to be limited to simply taking them to church or sending them to Confirmation classes. God calls upon parents to live out this faith in their daily lives, as living sermons for their children:

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (*Deuteronomy 6:6–9*)

Numerous surveys have indicated that one of the chief reasons listed by young people for abandoning their Christian faith is observing hypocrisy in those placed over them, whether it be parents, pastors or church leaders. When your spiritual overseer lives in a way that is inconsistent with the faith they hope to impress upon you, this undermines his/her guidance and instruction. The child views the authority of God and His Word through the authority of the parent. It is often not the sin itself that causes the damage, but how the sin is handled. Hypocrisy in a parent is like wearing a T-shirt that says, "God's Word is not important," while encouraging them to go to church and hear that Word. It militates against the very foundations of Scripture. When dad considers Hooters to be his favorite family restaurant, don't be surprised when his children don't take Christianity seriously. Mixed messages always work in Satan's favor.

Knowing how weak and sinful we are as parents, and how we struggle with our own temptations, this burden of responsibility may cause us to throw up our hands in despair. However, God has the answer for our weakness: repentance and grace—repentance first and foremost before Him, but also repentance before our children. When they witness our sin, we must be sure to explain how we struggle and need the grace of God every day. If our sin was directly against them, we also must seek their forgiveness. This will model the Christian life. Here the doctrine of saint and sinner (*simil justis et peccator*) plays itself out in very real terms inside our homes, and keeps everything in proper balance. Your authority as a Christian parent is never undermined when you admit to your failings in the light of God's Word. It is only enhanced.

My mother was an amazing Christian woman. I cannot think of a single instance in my life when she sinned in front of me. (As an adult I was shocked to learn she had a reputation for a certain sin as a young girl.) Yet, during my upbringing, she managed to convey to me that she was undeserving of God's grace, and had a deep need for her Savior. Your children do not

35 Madson, N. A., Sr., *Morning Bells*, Lutheran Synod Book Co., 2008, p. 227, from a sermon on Matt. 7:1–6

have to witness your sin, or know details about it, but they do need to know you *have* sin, and that you deal with it at the foot of the cross through Word and Sacrament. As one of our senior pastors once said, “Lift up the corner of the rug of your life so that your children know there is dirt under it, but don’t show them the whole pile.”

Our children need to know that the Absolution of Christ is precious to us because of our desperate and fallen condition. To paraphrase Norwegian Bishop, J. C. Huech: “It will never hurt the children to see their father or mother reaching for the cross of Christ with the same trembling hand as they do.” Tell your children that the Means of Grace are important all you want, but if it is not backed up by modeling this in your own life, these will be empty words. When repentance is expressed or displayed in the home, this also keeps the regenerated new man as the dominant spiritual figure before the child’s eyes. We strive very hard, as we ought, not to sin in front of our children, yet they do need to know that we are fellow beggars with them who hunger for—and can also lead them to—the Bread of Life.

At times this can play itself out even in extreme circumstances. I have dealt with and heard about Christian parents who have struggled greatly with sins of drunkenness, drug abuse, pornography, anger, and even infidelity, but who, by the grace of God, bowed before Him in sincere repentance and desired to produce fruits of a changed of heart. Though their children may have known about and were often troubled by their sins, they still retained a level of respect when they knew their parent was penitent for his/her failings. In their eyes this keeps everything in its proper order.

THE AUTHORITY BOOKCASE

Imagine a four-shelf bookcase sitting in the family room of a Christian home. On the top shelf is a copy of the Bible. Its position represents God’s authority over all other books on the rows beneath it. On the shelf beneath Holy Scripture are two books representing the desires, wishes and will of the parents in the family. They are entitled, “The Book of What Mom Wants,” and “The Book of What Dad Wants.” On the lower shelves are similar books for the children, “The Book of What Junior Wants,” etc. When a parent openly disobeys the Word of God, in essence they have removed Scripture from its top position of authority, dropped it down a few shelves, and moved their own personal book into its place.

This shuffling of books sends a confusing message to the children. Mom and Dad may claim, “God’s Word is important,” and yet the child can clearly see that there is a different book now replacing Scripture. There is a new standard sitting on the top shelf in the home. The child naturally feels entitled to take his own book also and move it to the top shelf. The parents’ claim of Scripture’s supremacy now appears to be hollow. This is why divorce, for instance, is often so spiritually devastating to children. Despite what their parents may say, they can now see that at least one of the parents (if not both) have removed Scripture from its top position and replaced it with another standard. The child reasons, “Why should I care about what the Bible says if my parent doesn’t seem to care? Why go back to church?” God has been deposed of His seat of authority. Satan’s first temptation in the Garden of Eden has won out in the mind of the child. People have become like God.

However, every time this takes place, even in extreme cases like divorce, there is a simple way of putting things right: sincere repentance. When the offending parent acknowledges his/her sin before the child, lets them know that what they have done is against the will of God, that they are sorry, and in need of God’s grace, they again put Scripture back on the top shelf. Heaven’s order is restored. Even if the marriage is beyond the point of being salvaged, the child at least observes the parent placing God back in the position of authority.

God demands that we be perfect parents. This only happens through repentance and faith in Christ. Our Lord’s Active Obedience—His keeping of God’s holy Law in our place—is the only real comfort we have when we consider our roles as mothers and fathers, and the awesome

task He has given us in the home. In Him we are perfect, absolutely holy parents. Our Lord Jesus is the perfect husband to His Bride, the Church. Through faith He has sanctified her, cleansing Her with the washing with water through the Word, to present Her to Himself as a glorious Church, without stain or wrinkle, but holy and without blemish (*Ephesians 5:25–27*). When children witness this confession of Christ active in the hearts and lives of their mothers and fathers through repentance and faith, they are truly blessed to live with perfect parents.

SATAN'S ATTACKS ON GOD'S EMBASSY

Since the Christian home is designed and constructed by God, where souls are engaged with Christ for their salvation, this means it will be the most assaulted institution on earth. You can see how important home-evangelism is in the life of the church by how much time and energy the devil hurls against it. He sends his troops to surround God's embassy, and make his entrance through any window, door, chimney, computer screen or crack in the wall he can find. From Satan's perspective what happens here in a Christian home is so detrimental to the cause of Hell that it simply must be annihilated. Let us focus on four of the main weapons in his arsenal:

1. *Modern Culture*

Luther often referred to the Gospel moving through the world like a passing summer rain. It would stay over a land for a time, but as people grew apathetic it would move on to another place, vacating the previous country. This is such an accurate picture of Europe where churches once filled to capacity are now empty museums. One can only wonder how long it will be until the ungodly culture surrounding us pushes the Gospel away to other lands. It is less and less appreciated among our population. A study published by the *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology* in the spring of 2005, reports that in 1950 their denomination reached one new adult convert for every 19 members in the church. In 1978 that rate had dropped to one convert for every 36 church members. By 2003 the ratio was 43 to 1.³⁶

Coinciding with a growing spiritual apathy in the US has come a decline of morality that has had a devastating impact on the church. Gone are the days when the major motion picture industry somewhat embraced, and even celebrated many of the Biblical beliefs that presented marriage and family as a blessing from God ("It's a Wonderful Life," "Father Knows Best," etc.). The media at one time even glorified family cohesion and the joys of marriage. In 1953, McCall's magazine reported that less than 10% of the US adult population thought an unmarried person could be happy. The article went on to encourage people to marry young and raise a large family. Today, similar avenues of communication have become weapons of attack on this very same set of beliefs and ridicules them, from almost every angle. The television industry has taken the lead role producing shows, such as "The New Normal" (an NBC series based around a gay couple hoping to have a child—now cancelled due to low viewership).

As difficult as things may have been for those of us who grew up in the 1960s and 1970s, the challenges our Christian youth face today in regard to their faith are even more intense. Their peers, academic institutions, the media and the youth culture are growing more and more antagonistic against the beliefs confessed in their homes. Christian beliefs are openly mocked in primetime television shows. Christian youth are being shaken to the core. In his book, *You Lost Me*, researcher David Kinnaman of the Barna Group states, "Our research ... leads me to believe that the next generation of Christians has a ... crisis of confidence in institutions, including government, the workplace, education, and marriage, as well as the church." He categorizes Christian youth who have fallen away from the church into three groups:

36 Rainer, T. S., *Southern Baptist Journal of Theology*, Spring, 2005, on-line: www.sbts.edu

Nomads – who walk away from church engagement but still consider themselves Christians.

Prodigals – who lose their faith, and describe themselves as “no longer Christian.”

Exiles – who are still invested in their Christian faith but feel stuck (or lost) between the pressures of their culture and the church.³⁷ (*It is this group where most of our ELS & WELS teens would fall today -DM*).

The guidance we provide around our dinner tables is more crucial than ever. A shallow faith will not survive these cultural pressures. God does not command that we remove our children from the world, but rather teach them how to live in it while holding on to Christ, the Light of the world. For decades, standing up for the Biblical teaching of creation has made young Christians a target of ridicule by those who consider such beliefs to be ignorant. However, standing up for the Biblical teachings on present day matters of sexual morality have made young Christians targets of ridicule as “bigots,” which is a much more challenging label to bear. It is easier to live with the tag of “stupid” than it is to live with the tag of “hateful.” In this way there is a stronger emotional force that accompanies the tensions our young people are facing. Like the pressure Peter felt in the Temple courtyard, some have begun to deny or even abandon their relationship to Christ and His Word for fear of being ostracized by society.

2. Divorce

Retired Oklahoma Governor, Frank Keating, once said, “Today it is easier to get out of a marriage than a Tupperware contract.” Our society has made the dissolution of the marital union so simple and commonplace that the church has caved in on holding people to the vows they have made before God and the witness of the church. We are not immune in our own little synod. One of our dedicated ELS Christian day school teachers commented that by 5th grade (age 10) already one third of her students (mostly from the congregation) were from broken homes. This is among our most dedicated members. It has had devastating results on both parents and children. Veith writes:

The breakdown of the family has had catastrophic effects at every level. It is difficult for children to develop any sense of continuity and permanence when the most basic institution of their lives has no stability.³⁸

The shame of divorce often drives one or both spouses away from the church. Rarely does an entire family stay regular in worship following the breakup. The divorced parent, who only gets the child on a weekend, will be very unlikely to spend his/her precious little time in church with the child during that stay. The devil knows what he is doing. Divorce erects an enormous impediment to spiritual life. Unlike our Lord Jesus who is the Great Healer, Satan is the Great Divider, with his sights set on the home. Dr. Judith Wallerstein conducted a massive 25-year study on the fallout of divorce in our society. She summarizes that children, both young and old, who experience divorce by their parents, develop a “broken template” toward all aspects of adult life. It shakes a person’s foundation and erodes confidence in all they once stood upon.³⁹ The church is a primary arena where this “brokenness” plays itself out.

The subject of divorce is so personal to many in our churches. One member told me she would avoid coming to church on the Second Sunday in Epiphany (Gospel: The Wedding at Cana) because it is “too difficult to sit through.” Pastors must help pick up the pieces of shat-

37 Kinnaman, D., *You Lost Me*, pp. 14ff

38 Veith, G. E., *Postmodern Times*, Crossway Books, Wheaton, IL, 1994, p. 144

39 Wallerstein, J., *The Unexpected Legacy of Divorce*, Hyperion Books, NY, 2000, p. 62

tered homes, through the gentle use of Law and Gospel. The personal aspect of divorce makes it even more difficult for shepherds to address. David Scaer provides this assessment:

Divorce, even for a valid cause, is a tragedy and spawns other tragedies. A visiting pastor has an advantage in preaching about marriage and the family. What he says cannot be taken personally because he does not know the people directly. ... The church, however, lives under the tension of knowing that the world has a morality it cannot condone but often cannot change.⁴⁰

We must be transformed by the renewing of our minds. We must take the time and energy to preserve this blessed gift of marriage, and teach our members how to recognize its significance. Husbands and wives must learn that the best way to love their children is to go home and love each other. It will never hurt the family to spend time, money and attention on keeping the marriage strong. A senior pastor in our synod once suggested that it would benefit the congregation to give each married couple enough money to spend one romantic weekend together each year. Couples must also learn to get past their pride, and seek help before problems get out of hand and they lose respect for each other. In the same way that Christ has made it His primary concern to invest in the eternal happiness of His Bride, may we strive to do the same in our marriages so God may use this blessed estate for both temporal and eternal good.

3. Twisted Education

When addressing this convention in 1953, Rev. Milton E. Tweit, stated:

It is very plain that (Christ) has never asked to give the training of your children into the hands of any persons or agency which leaves Him out of consideration. ... (A child's) training ... will take on a certain flavor. Milk or butter left uncovered will soon absorb any odor or flavor near it. Children will take on the flavor, that is, the outlook and point of view of their teachers. If it is a Christian teacher, it will be a Christian outlook and way of life. If it is a worldly teacher, it will be worldly.⁴¹

Public schooling in America was at one time almost supportive of the Christian faith. Elderly members recall memorizing the 23rd Psalm or the Lord's Prayer in their schools (I'm not suggesting we should return to that practice). During my childhood in the 1960s & 1970s the public elementary and secondary schools were rather neutral toward religion. Today, however, we must face the reality that our public school system is at times taking stands against the very faith we instill in our children. This does not mean a Christian family cannot use them, or that it is sinful to have our children attend them. It also does not mean that those teaching in the public schools are non-Christian. In fact, rather, we should thank God for the many devout Christian men and women who continue to serve their Lord through such a vocation, even from our own congregations. Many faithful public school teachers live out their Christian faith in this God-pleasing vocation each day. We pray that they may continue to be the salt that seasons our nation's schools with their Christian presence. However, we must also be on our guard for potential intrusions into the minds of our children through educational philosophies that undermine Scripture.

Exhibit A: Dr. Daniel C. Dennett is considered to be a leading scholar in American Education. He is known particularly as a specialist in the field of cognitive development for children. He is frequently interviewed on PBS, has authored over three hundred published articles on the direction our schools should take, and is highly sought as a speaker. His chilling words represent the mindset of many who are the leading experts in this field:

40 Scaer, D., *In Christ*, p. 25

41 Tweit, M. E., Synod Convention essay, 1953, p. 41

If you want to teach your children that they are the tools of God ... If you insist on teaching your children false-hoods—that the Earth is flat, that ‘Man’ is not a product of evolution by natural selection—then you must expect, at the very least, that those of us who have freedom of speech will feel free to describe your teachings as the spreading of falsehoods, and will attempt to demonstrate this to your children at our earliest opportunity. Our future well-being—the well-being of all of us on the planet—depends on the education of our descendants.⁴²

We minimize the danger of Dennett’s words when we see them only as an assault on the doctrine of creation. They are, but they are more importantly an assault on God, on the authority of Scripture, on faith, and—in a related way—on Christian parenthood. They are a declaration of war on the evangelism which occurs in the home. This is not neutrality. Some educators have gone so far as to suggest that teaching your child the Biblical doctrine of creation is equal to child abuse. Though we may not see this ideology playing itself out blatantly in our local schools, it does remind us that Christian parents must constantly be on their guard with what their children are learning, and how it may be corrosive to their faith. Many wonderful Christian fathers and mothers choose to utilize our public education system every day. May God give them due diligence so that the faith carefully planted in the hearts of their children is not being destroyed by those who consider such instruction “the spreading of falsehoods.”

Luther expressed great concern over Satan’s influence in the schools of Germany, if a child’s education was devoid of Biblical instruction:

(Preventing children from studying the Word of God) seems to me to be a real masterpiece of the devil’s art. He sees that in our time he cannot do what he would like to do; therefore he intends to have his way with our offspring. Before our very eyes he is preparing them so that they will learn nothing and know nothing. Then when we are dead, he will have before him a naked, bare, defenseless people with whom he can do as he pleases.⁴³

Quite often it is not until junior high or high school when a difference in philosophy becomes more apparent. A major study conducted by the Barna Group, reported two strikingly polarizing trends among Christian young people:

- 1) Teenagers are some of the most religiously active Americans.
- 2) American twenty-somethings are the least religiously active.^{44 45}

These findings corroborate the research of Gallup Polls which reported that the average Christian has stronger Biblical beliefs at age 16 than he/she will at age 24.⁴⁶ There are numerous factors which cause this stage of life to be so challenging for young believers. Many Christians have observed that the higher one moves in public academic institutions there is a stronger suction to remove the Christian faith out of our youth. It has had a devastating effect on the church. Ages 17–24 are absolutely crucial for most young Christians when it comes to retaining the faith instilled in them by their parents. When a grown child finally prepares to leave the heavenly embassy for further education, at whose feet will he/she be seated? Will they

42 Dennett, D., *Darwin’s Dangerous Idea: Evolution and the Meanings of Life*, 1995, Simon & Schuster

43 Luther, M., *Luther’s Works*, vol. 46, p. 217

44 Kinnaman

45 See Appendix B, the Spiritual Stages of Adolescence

46 Gallup, G. Jr., *The Religiosity Cycle*, Gallup Polls at www.Gallup.com

be instructors who respect and support the fact that you have spent the past eighteen years engaging your child with the teachings of Christ? How many souls have been sacrificed on the altar of our universities in recent decades?

4. Anonymous Adultery

In his attacks on God's embassy, Satan has frequently challenged the core relationship between a husband and wife with temptations of infidelity. He now has found a new weapon for destruction. The computer, coupled with the internet, may be the most well designed tool to date for corrupting and obliterating marriage. Under the shield of supposed anonymity the browser is permitted to seek out and participate in activity which infects the soul and annihilates trust in the marriage bond established by God. For men this danger is primarily a temptation of visual and physical lust. For women the temptation is more often emotional in nature, by exploring virtual "friendships."

Though lust has been with us since the Fall into Sin, Satan's use of the internet today has added a new dimension in our times. Thirty years ago one had to go out into public to purchase a magazine, or enter a strip club. For most, the public shame was enough of a shield against such activity. The web has now made such immoral imagery so accessible, and secret, so one can easily view it in the privacy of a home or dorm room without anyone's knowledge. Activity once only associated with "low-lives" and "perverts" is now taking place in homes of decent, upstanding citizens and Christian families—a temptation that is just as powerful on the godly as the ungodly. It has become a spiritual epidemic that seeks to destroy both marriage and the soul. Due to the private and shameful nature of these sins they are often rarely addressed in the church or even the family. The embarrassment and stigma causes a silence and isolation, which Satan seeks to capitalize. Many Christian teenage boys and men—and a growing number of women—are trapped in this evil stronghold, or live under a cloud of self-loathing, which tends to push them from Christ, some even question whether they have true Christian faith. Dr. James Dobson claims that dealing with this guilt is one of the main reasons why young Christian men give up on the struggle, and finally avoid the church. The proliferation of pornography has also contributed to a longer delay in getting married, or the avoidance of marriage entirely. Many twenty and thirty-year-olds are choosing to live a life of suspended adolescence, which our modern culture is more than willing to encourage and accommodate.

We must avoid becoming desensitized to this spiritual cancer. Inter-net infidelity undermines the gift of marriage. It causes the user to feel less of an attraction—physical or emotional—toward his/her spouse. St. Paul describes how these sins ultimately defame and degrade the believer's body, which is the Temple of the Holy Spirit (*I Corinthians 6:12–20*). When having fallen to these attacks, one must avoid the route taken by Judas, imagining that his/her sin is too great, and that it is beyond the ability of Christ to forgive (*I John 1:8–2:2*). This is Satan's greatest lie. "The blood of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanses us from all sin" (*I John 1:7*).⁴⁷

LUTHER'S CATECHISMS: FOUNDATION FOR THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Years before authoring the 95 theses, Martin Luther had already published tracts on teaching the faith in the home, as well as explanations on how to conduct family devotions. These pamphlets were accompanied by a series of sermons on evangelism in the home. Once the Reformation was underway, Luther visited numerous parishes in Saxony, and discovered how few families or pastors knew even the basics of the Christian faith. He wrote:

Good God, what wretchedness I beheld! The common people, especially those who live in the country, have no knowledge whatever of Christian teaching, and unfortunately many pastors are quite incompetent and unfitted for teaching. Although the

47 See Appendix C

people are supposed to be Christian, are baptized, and receive the holy sacrament, they do not know the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, or the Ten Commandments, they live as if they were pigs and irrational beasts, and now that the Gospel has been restored they have mastered the fine art of abusing liberty. ... I therefore beg of you for God's sake, my beloved brethren who are pastors and preachers, that you take the duties of your office seriously, that you have pity on the people who are entrusted to your care, and that you help me to teach the catechism to the people, especially to those who are young.⁴⁸

Luther quickly saw the need for creating educational materials for parents, culminating in the publication of the catechisms in 1529. Regarding the use of these books, he wrote: "It is... the duty, then, of every father of a family to question his children and servants at least once a week and hear what they know or have learned of it, and when they do not know it, earnestly insist that they learn it."

Preparing your child to receive the Holy Sacrament of the Altar was of utmost importance to Luther. In a sermon from 1528, he exhorts parents:

Hence, you parents and heads of families, invite your subordinates to this Sacrament: and we shall demand an account of you if you neglect it. If you will not go yourselves, let the young go; we are much concerned about them. When they come, we shall learn, by examining them, how you instruct them in the Word as prescribed. Hence, do come frequently to the Sacrament, and also admonish your children to do so when they have reached the age of discretion. For in this way we want to learn who are Christians, and who are not. If you will not do so, we shall speak to you on the subject. For even though you older people insist on going to the devil, we shall still inquire about your children. Necessity: because sin, the devil, and death are ever present. Benefit: because the remission of sin and the Holy Spirit are received.⁴⁹

In his Small Catechism, the first table began with this note from Luther: "The Ten Commandments, as the head of the family should teach them in a simple way to his household." F. Bente explains his thought-process:

(Luther) realized that besides the Large Catechism, parents were in need of a textbook containing questions and answers, adapted for catechizing the children on the meaning of each part of the Catechism. This, too, was the reason why the Small Catechism was rapidly completed before the Large, which had been begun first. Luther intended parents to use it, first of all for their own instruction and edification, but also for the purpose of enabling them to discharge their duty by their children and household. ... (The Small Catechism) was to be placed into the hands of the children, who were to use and memorize it at home, and to bring it with them for instruction in the church. ... Luther was accustomed to direct his admonition to partake of the Lord's Supper diligently also to children, and that, too, to children of comparatively tender years.⁵⁰

In his preface, the great reformer advocated that once the children had committed the words to memory, they should then be taught the meaning. And, he adds, "if any refuse to

48 Teigen, BW, 1979 Synod Convention Essay

49 Luther, M., found in Bente's *Historical Introductions to the Symbolical Books, Concordia Triglotta*, CPH, 1921, p. 82

50 Ibid., p. 82

receive your instruction, tell them that they deny Christ and are no Christians.” (To emphasize his point, Luther even suggested that parents and employers should refuse to furnish them with food and drink, and the prince should banish them from his land.) Rev. Johannes Bugenhagen suggested that little children as young as eight-years old, once they have received this catechetical instruction in the Sacrament, should be allowed to commune. Luther also admonished the learned scholars and pastors not to be so presumptuous to think they know everything, but to go through these basic truths so that one’s faith would remain fresh and “not be overgrown by mildew.” The Catechisms, both Large and Small, continue to be great blessings for the church. Luther’s gift of placing such sacred truths into simple, concise statements has helped to guide the church for nearly 500 years. May we continue to utilize this treasure for generations to come.

DOING THE LITTLE THINGS: SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR HOMES

In a sermon on Jesus’ miracle at the wedding of Cana, Dr. Madson writes,

We are so prone to imagine that it is only in life’s big occasions that great things may be done. There are many who are willing to do something also for the kingdom of Christ when they can be along in big movements, do things which even the unbelieving world must take note of and admire. But, oh, how few are willing to do those things which are common and unobserved! It is comparatively easy to do those things which are admitted to be great by all who see them. But it is not so easy to do those things which are considered little or of no importance by the vast majority. How many see the importance of daily devotions in their homes? How many see the blessings which come to the church of God through the daily instruction in a congregational school? How many are ready to give of their *little* gifts that the word of life may be brought to those who still sit in darkness in the shadow of death?⁵¹

Having been raised in a house with wonderful, dedicated Christian parents, who provided us with twice-daily family devotions, I can think of no better way to carry out this evangelistic task. The most tattered books they handed down to me were “The Family Altar,” Laache’s “Book of Family Prayer,” and “Little Visits with God.” Yes, there were times when I wanted to sing a shorter closing hymn so I could get out to the baseball field. However, the few minutes we spent together each day in our devotions were some of the best memories of family life. Our morning breakfast devotion was simply the reading of a prayer for each day (ELH, pp. 166–171). The phrases of those prayers still resonate in my memory.

Home should be a place where the young can ask spiritual questions, and have them discussed in the light of God’s holy Word. Devotions serve as a “Christian filter” on all the events of the day. So often, parenting lends itself to being primarily a Law function. Studies show that the most frequently spoken word parents say to their little children is “No.” Having regular devotions helps mothers and fathers import the Gospel into parenting, which, as Luther says, is an alien doctrine in the minds of us all. Daily instruction in the Gospel also brings with it the side benefit of peace in family relations. Teaching a loving obedience toward our gracious heavenly Father carries with it obedience to our earthly mothers and fathers. If time does not allow for a full meditation reading, the Lord’s Prayer is a wonderful way to keep your family focused on Christ and His Word. It is amazing how much our Lord has packed into seven petitions that take only 30 seconds to pray. Analyze it closely and you will see that it deals with nearly every aspect of family life. An entire paper could also be written on the use of hymns in the home. Another wonderful opportunity for spiritual instruction takes place when a child

51 Madson, N., *Morning Bells*, p. 69

has done wrong. Upon absolving your child, add God's absolution along with your personal forgiveness, connecting it all back to the cross.

My father impressed upon us children that he was not responsible for having us believe—that job, he said, belonged to the Holy Spirit. However, he stated clearly that he *was* responsible for placing us where this activity could take place. It was well-understood in our home that while we lived under their roof our parents would require us to be sitting in the Lord's house on Sunday morning, regardless of how late we came in on a Saturday night. Today it frustrates pastors to see parents abdicate their authority once the child is confirmed, imagining they no longer have a say in the matter of church attendance. We must teach them to retain spiritual control in the home. They have the right to say about worship, "This is a non-negotiable issue." Think how meaningless the child's Sunday soccer and basketball leagues will seem to everyone on the Day of Judgment. Trying to be the lenient parent in their youth may be the very attitude that undermines their relation with Christ. Satan beams with joy when he sees parents place a higher priority on a child's batting average than his connection to Christ.

At the same time we must stay balanced and avoid cramming religion down the throats of our children. The last card you should play when they challenge you is to say, "Because I said so," although this must be played if necessary. Explain to your child the responsibilities God has given you as part of your parental love, so they understand the reasons and motives you have for "forcing" them to go to church.

The best teaching method is by example. May our children learn to love their Savior and His Word, by seeing it reflected in our love for Him. As a wonderful Christian father once told me, "You cannot push someone with a rope, but you can pull them along with you."

Having grown up in a parsonage, let me suggest some particular thoughts for pastors as well as other leaders in the church: My father never burdened us children with his Call. I never remember him saying to us, "You can't do that because you are the pastor's child." The reasons for our obedience always had to do with Christ, and what it meant to be a Christian, not because we were "p.k.s." We do not want the children of our pastors (or teachers, or deacons) to grow up resenting the church due to an additional burden placed upon them that they did not request. My father also was careful not to talk about the negative aspects of his work in front of us. It was not until I became an adult that I learned of some of the struggles he endured in the ministry. When I asked him why he had never mentioned this when we were young he answered, "I didn't want you to grow up with a bad attitude about the church, the synod or the college." We must be careful not to taint our child's view of the church or the ministry by complaining about a meager salary, the size of the parsonage, or how certain members of the council treat us. God has given us wives and fellow pastors for such conversations.

CONCLUSION

Though we may chastise the reformed churches for placing too much emphasis on matters of marriage and home, I believe modern Confessional Lutheranism has been somewhat negligent in seeing the importance family issues hold for our members and how they impact the life of the church. In our own ELS, throughout all the years of our *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* (nearly 200 issues, containing 800–900 writings) we have offered only 3 theological papers that deal directly with family life: one paper was published on divorce (from nearly 50 years ago), one dealt with the training of children pertaining to Sunday School materials, and two papers were offered on marriage. Despite providing numerous devotional books for families, our Bethany Bookstore carries only four Lutheran books on parenting, four on marriage, and one on surviving divorce, amidst the nearly one thousand books on its shelves.

These subjects tend to fall under the realm of sanctification and third use of the Law, which we certainly do not want to become the main focus of our theology. Still, the question needs to be asked: Have we underestimated the importance of these issues in the life of the

church, especially in the challenging times we face? Dr. Luther managed to deal with issues of home-life very thoroughly, Biblically and doctrinally while keeping the spotlight on Christ and the Gospel.

Since these matters confront us primarily with the Law, highlighting family issues both in marriage and parenting can cause two unhealthy reactions in us: a self-righteous pride in how we have raised have our children (“God, I thank you I’m not like other parents”); or despair over our many failures in the home. May God’s Word properly bring us to our spiritual knees to see that all of us are weak, heavy laden and covered with a load of sin when examining ourselves in His holy Law. Then may we find our only consolation in being lifted up by His mercy in Christ, our brother in the flesh, and our Bridegroom who has given us His perfect record as our own in the marital waters of Baptism. May that same comforting Word of God guide and direct us so that our homes may be embassies of the eternal kingdom He has prepared for us. How wonderful it is to know, that “as a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him” (*Psalms 103:13*).

SOLI DEO GLORIA

APPENDIX A: FATHERS & CHURCH ATTENDANCE

103 Bethany Students participated in the survey, taken in May, 2013

Among the 8 who say they have never gone to church in 2013:

6 said their fathers likewise have never gone to church in 2013
one said his/her father has gone to church 4–5 times in 2013
and one said his/her father goes to church nearly every Sunday

Among the 12 students who have gone to church once or twice in 2013:

5 said their fathers never go, or have only gone once or twice in 2013
4 said their father has gone to church 4–5 times in 2013
3 said their father goes to church every Sunday

Among the 38 students who have gone to church 4–5 times in 2013:

23 said their father attends church almost every Sunday
11 said their father has attended church 4–5 times in 2013
4 said their father never attends church

Among the 45 students who have gone to church nearly every Sunday in 2013:

43 said their father attends church nearly every Sunday
2 said their father has attended church once or twice in 2013

APPENDIX B: SPIRITUAL TRENDS IN THE STAGES OF ADOLESCENCE

Early Adolescence (ages 12–14) Age of Confirmation

Identity is strongly determined by the opinion of their peers

Great need for concrete examples of Biblical doctrines / less able to grasp the abstract

Still strongly identify with parent's influence in spiritual matters

Boredom with "same old stories" from Sunday School which seem "too childish"

Beginning to feel the guilt over sexual feelings, and embarrassed by the subject

(Especially teenage boys go through an intense internal struggle)

Greatly worried about how they are seen by peers—if they are "too Christian"

Tend to "hide" their faith for fear of not fitting in

PK's sometimes rebel to show their independence into "adulthood" (*"I will not be defined by my dad."*)

Typically self-focused, lessons applied to them personally are the most relevant

Despite some questions about the Bible, they have a general high-regard for Scripture

Topic of death is almost irrelevant, unless it has struck near them recently

Mid Adolescence (ages 15–16)

Males: Intense guilt over increased sexual desire ("Is it easier to give up, than to face God?")

Strong period of questioning authority—parental, governmental and even Divine

Less parental control or influence; enjoying the freedom of making their own choices

Attempt to pick apart Christian teachings or concepts to show their independence

More willing to engage in arguments about religious & moral subjects

(this does not necessarily mean throwing them aside, but often for "exploring")

Assuming "ownership" of their own spiritual life and values

Religion is associated with parents' influence—they may wish to separate from this to show their independence

More capable of grasping abstract teachings of Biblical doctrine

Concept of life coming to an end is still far removed from their thinking

Acutely aware of "hypocrisy" in others, such as parents, teachers, pastors, etc.

Late Adolescence (Ages 17 to early 20's)

Greater independence from parents' spiritual care

With move toward more intimate relationships, a willingness to include spiritual direction in the relationship, or move away from it

Less rebellion toward parents and other authority

Some developing an appreciation for their Christian training as they meet others in the world

Beginning to connect proper Christian choices for their future

Some humility about self is beginning to return (note the word "some")

Becoming more aware of their own weaknesses

More easily tempted by humanistic thought as they search for truth

Begin to think in terms of serving others

Increased focus on personal future

APPENDIX C: PORNOGRAPHY: STEPS TO TAKE IN THIS SPIRITUAL BATTLE

1) Recognize the spiritual warfare at play.

This is not just a physiological or psychological matter, but primarily a spiritual matter. It is a battle for the soul. Our struggle is with an evil enemy of our faith (Ephesians 6:10–18).

2) Understand the wonderful, cleansing nature of repentance.

This is what causes the angels to rejoice. Though you may have fallen, and are considered a “scum-bag” in the eyes of others, yet, through repentance and faith in Christ you are now seen by the Father in the same way He views His own Son, in whom He is well-pleased (Luke 23:39–43). One may lose physical virginity through fornication, but through repentance may regain spiritual virginity, which is of much greater value to God.

3) Be comforted by the grace and mercy of Christ.

May the pain in your conscience cause you to crave the forgiveness of your Savior, who shed His blood for sins just like this. Wrap yourself in His Gospel. When the prodigal son returned to his father, even before he could utter a word, the dad fell on him with his forgiveness (Luke 15).

4) Arm yourself with God’s Word and prayer.

St. Paul’s instructions exhort us to prepare ourselves for spiritual battle. All of the pieces of this armor are actually Christ Himself (Ephesians 6:13–18).

5) Seek help by talking to other Christians.

All of us are stones in the Church, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Himself as the cornerstone. This is all held together with the mortar of Christian love and concern. We should utilize this strength in numbers. Satan is ecstatic when we think we can fight this battle on our own (Colossians 3:15–17).

6) Find ways to bring light and transparency to this issue.

As children of light we are to live in the light of God’s truth, and not hide under the cover of darkness in which Satan can easily dominate us (Ephesians 5:8–20). (See www.covenanteyes.com)

7) Establish boundaries to protect yourself.

Set up screens of protection: where you keep your computer, having your door open for others to see what you are doing, etc. Small preventative steps taken in the beginning may help to diminish the gravity of the temptation.

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REPORTS AND ACTION

SYNODICAL MEMBERSHIP—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Membership Application of Pastors

WHEREAS, The following pastors have been recommended by the seminary faculty and approved by the Board of Regents of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, and,
WHEREAS, It has been established that in their applications for synodical membership the requirements of the constitution have been met, therefore,

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

The Rev. Nathanael Abrahamson, pastor of Abiding Shepherd Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin.

The Rev. Peter Heyn, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church, Lakeland, Florida.

The Rev. Luke Willitz, pastor of New Life Lutheran Church, Sebring, Florida.

Resolution 2: Membership Application of a Teacher:

WHEREAS, Mr. Daniel Aswege has been received provisionally into membership through transfer from the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that Mr. Daniel Aswege be received into permanent membership of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolution 3: Membership Application of a Congregation:

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

BE IT RESOLVED, That Hope Evangelical Lutheran Church of Williamson County, Inc. (Texas) be received into membership of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Resolution 4: Pastor application for continued membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

WHEREAS, The Reverend Daniel McQuality has requested to remain as a member on the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, and,

WHEREAS, The president and secretary of the synod are approving the extension, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod grant the Reverend Daniel McQuality's request.

CREDENTIALS—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Excuses of pastors: non-attendance

WHEREAS, Excuses for absence from the 2013 Synod Convention have been received from the following pastors: Joe Abrahamson, Paul Anderson, Darryl Bakke, Martin Doepel, Daniel Faugstad, Frank Fiedler, Thomas Fox, Richard Fyffe, Adolph Harstad, Herbert Huhnerkoch, Greg Haugen, Dale Jaech, Nathan Krause, Homer Mosley, David Russow, Thomas Smuda, Richard, Tragasz, and Thomas Westendorf, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

Resolution 2: Excuse of congregation: partial attendance

WHEREAS, An excuse for absence of one delegate from the 2013 Synod Convention has been received from the following congregation: Gloria Dei Lutheran (Saginaw, Michigan), therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That she be excused.

Resolution 3: Excuse of pastor: late arrival

WHEREAS, An excuse for late arrival at the 2013 Synod Convention has been received from the following pastor: Jeff Londgren, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That he be excused.

Resolution 4: Excuses of pastors: early departure

WHEREAS, Excuses for early departure from the 2013 Synod Convention have been received from the following pastors: Timothy Buelow, Dan Finn, Thomas Heyn, William Grimm, Kurt Kluge, Fred Lams, David Locklair, Kenneth Schmidt, and Frederick Theiste, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

Resolution 5: Excuses of delegates: early departure

WHEREAS, Excuses for early departure from the 2013 Synod Convention have been received from Steven Buelow, Don Heiliger, Tim Kriewall, Alfred Kroll, Glenn Van der Linden, and Howard Waldschmidt, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That they be excused.

REPORT OF THE DOCTRINE COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The Doctrine Committee consists of Mr. Allen Quist, the Rev. Thomas Rank, Prof. Gaylin Schmeling, Prof. Erling Teigen, Mr. Paul Tweit, the Rev. David Jay Webber, the Rev. Paul Zager, and Pres. John Moldstad as a non-voting, advisory member. The Doctrine Committee’s three meetings 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

The biennial meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum (ELCF) was held on October 22–23, 2012, in Mankato, Minnesota. The forum, consisting of twelve representatives of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) and twelve representatives of the Wisconsin

Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), is intended to express the fellowship enjoyed by the two synods. The forum meetings are divided into the administration division, mission division, doctrine division, higher education division, Lutheran elementary schools division, and stewardship division. 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. There were two papers delivered at the forum. The first paper, entitled “The Two Kingdoms Revisited,” was presented by Prof. Erling Teigen. The second paper, entitled “Brotherly Admonition in the Ministerium,” was presented by the Rev. Earle Treptow.

BIBLICAL TEACHING CONCERNING APOLOGETICS

There is a considerable amount of discussion among Christians today concerning apologetics. The term “apologetics” refers to the defense of the Christian faith. Defending the Christian faith may include an explanation of the basic beliefs of Christianity. It may also include giving grounds or reasons for accepting the Christian Gospel message as true or a refutation of criticisms of the faith, as well as exposing inadequacies in alternative religions and worldviews. In 2012 the Doctrine Committee produced a study on apologetics. The 2012 convention encouraged the use of this document to assist the membership of the synod to *engage others with Jesus*. This document, for use in the congregations, may be found in the *Synod Report* (2012, beginning on page 82) or on the synod website <<http://www.evangelicallutheransynod.org/apologeticsdoc/>>.

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS

A number of congregations in the ELS currently use the NIV (1984) Bible for worship and Christian education. This edition of the NIV is no longer being printed. It has been replaced with the NIV (2011) which makes significant changes to the text of the NIV (1984). These changes have diminished the accuracy of the NIV. Therefore, based on preliminary study of the NIV (2011), the Doctrine Committee recommends against the use of the NIV (2011).

Some of the reasons for the ELS recommending against the use of the NIV (2011) are listed below.

1. The NIV (1984) was not as widely used in the ELS as elsewhere. Only about half of our synod used the NIV (1984), and therefore many of our people are not familiar with it. The reason that many pastors and congregations did not use the NIV (1984) was concern over the translations of Acts 3:21, 1 Corinthians 10:16–17, Philippians 2:6–8, and other passages in this version. These same concerns are found in the NIV (2011).
2. On a continuum between formal equivalency and functional equivalency, ELS congregations generally are looking for a translation that is closer to formal equivalency (word for word) than functional equivalency (thought for thought). It is understood that no translation is purely formal or functional.
3. The ELS tends to be traditional in language, as is seen in the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*.
4. The gender question: All will admit that feminism has changed our language and made inroads into our culture. How then should one react? The ELS is looking for a translation which is faithful to the original text and is readable.
5. Even non-Lutheran church bodies of the Reformed persuasion have voiced concerns about the NIV (2011). The Southern Baptists passed a resolution critical of the version.

The Doctrine Committee recommends for use in the ELS translations such as: New King James Version (NKJV), English Standard Version (ESV), An American Translation (Beck,

AAT), and the New American Standard Bible 1995 (NASB 95). These translations are accurate and understandable. If a new Lutheran translation is prepared in the future, this also could be an option for use in the ELS.

The essay by the Rev. Brian Keller (WELS), “Evaluating Bible Translations,” is suggested for further study <<http://www.wels.net/sites/wels/files/Essay%20-%20Keller.pdf>>. Other essays for additional reading on this topic may be found here: <<http://www.wels.net/about-wels/synod-reports/bible-translation/choosing-best-bible-translation-wels-publications>>. Also the 2012 Bjarne Wollan Teigen Reformation Lectures were dedicated to the topic of Bible translations (see *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* vol. 53, no. 1 [March 2013]).

BIBLE STUDY FOR REFORMATION AND SYNOD ANNIVERSARY

The Doctrine Committee has been asked by the synod president and the Centennial Committee to produce a Bible study for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the 100th anniversary of the synod. The Bible study will include six segments. These segments will compare the history and theology of the Reformation with the history and doctrinal issues that helped shape the synod.

ELS-ELCA DIFFERENCES BROCHURE

Requests have been made by members of the synod for a usable brochure to explain the differences between the ELS and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). The Doctrine Committee is working on producing an updated brochure explaining the differences between the ELS and ELCA for use in our congregations.

CONFESSIONAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

The Theological Commission of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC) met on May 28–30, 2013, in Mequon, Wisconsin. The members of the Theological Commission of the CELC are Prof. John Brenner, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS); the Rev. Andreas Drechsler, Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (ELFK), Germany; the Rev. Davison Mutentami, Lutheran Church of Central Africa—Zambia (LCCA-Z); the Rev. Takeshi Nadaira, Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church (LECC), Japan; Prof. Gaylin Schmeling, Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS); and the Rev. Daniel Koelpin, CELC president, *ex officio*.

The Theological Commission is writing a document summarizing the five essays on the doctrine of the church delivered at the 2011 CELC convention in New Ulm, Minnesota. In addition, the commission completed its review of a statement entitled “Make Known God’s Manifold Wisdom,” focusing on outreach, for publication and presentation to the 2014 CELC convention. This topic will be Article VI of *The Eternal Word: A Lutheran Confession for the Twenty-First Century*. Article I is a study of the doctrine of Holy Scripture, Article II of the doctrine of justification, Article III of the work of the Holy Spirit, Article IV of the person and work of Christ, and Article V of the doctrine of eschatology. These statements may be found in PDF form on the CELC website under the heading “Eternal Word: A Lutheran Confession” <www.celc.info>.

The triennial convention of the CELC will be held in Lima, Peru, in 2014. The officers of the CELC are: president, the Rev. Daniel Koelpin; vice-president, Prof. Michael Smith; secretary, Prof. Thomas Nass; planning committee, the Rev. Michael Duncan and the Rev. Steven Petersen.

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 represents twenty-four church bodies with approximately 450,000 members. The conference accepts the canonical books of the Old and New Testaments (the

verbally inspired and inerrant Word of God) as the 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 Christ and His Word.

THEOLOGICAL TRENDS

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, the “emergent church” phenomenon, “contemporary worship” practices, government encroachment on religious liberty, etc.). 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. In addition to this, Mr. Allen Quist is leading the committee in its study of postmodernism in society, the Rev. Thomas Rank is leading the committee in its study of Bible translations, and Prof. Erling Teigen is leading the committee in its study of the two kingdoms.

As members of the ELS and the CELC we strive to preserve the Word of God in its truth and purity and spread the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Only this Word can give us peace and comfort in this life and hope for the life to come. As we continue to engage others with Jesus, may we always pray that God bestow on us His grace as we sing in Luther’s mission hymn:

May God bestow on us His grace,
With blessings rich provide us,
And may the brightness of His face
To life eternal guide us
That we His saving health may know,
His gracious will and pleasure,
And also to the heathen show
Christ’s riches without measure
And unto God convert them.
(ELH 591:1)

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

DOCTRINE—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Biblical Teaching Concerning Apologetics

WHEREAS, The Doctrine Committee has presented and published a statement on apologetics for use in the congregations and as a guide to us in the proper use and understanding of apologetics, and,

WHEREAS, As our pastors and members “engage others with Jesus” there is a greater need for material that properly offers a defense of the faith, and,

WHEREAS, Much of the mainstream scholarly work on apologetics is not supportive of the Holy Scriptures and orthodox Christianity, and,

WHEREAS, Useful material on apologetics is of varying quality and influenced by various erring theologies, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Doctrine Committee develop and/or identify apologetics resources useful for Bible study, evangelism, and general use within the congregation and distribute them in consultation with the communication director, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Doctrine Committee look for ways to encourage the participation of faithful and orthodox scholars in the scholarly marketplace of ideas in the field of apologetics.

Resolution 2: Bible Translations

WHEREAS, The discontinuation of the 1984 edition of the New International Version and its replacement by a revised version (NIV2011) has elevated the awareness of the importance of choices in Bible translations, and,

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) has not specifically authorized any Bible translation for use in our churches, and,

WHEREAS, At times those who publish educational materials may choose to follow one or another translation more or less exclusively, making the selection of a translation an important matter, and,

WHEREAS, The ELS has had a number of different translations in use in our churches and in publications over the years, and,

WHEREAS, The Doctrine Committee has recommended against the use of the NIV(2011), and,

WHEREAS, The selection of translations for use in our fellowship is still somewhat in flux, as in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod's consideration of translations this summer and the possibility of a new Lutheran translation, or ELS/WELS participation in other translation efforts, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the ELS Doctrine committee be asked to provide a guide to the most common translations which our people and pastors are likely to use, including but not limited to the KJV, NKJV, NRSV, ESV, AAT, NASB(95), NIV(1984), and NIV(2011), and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the guide include a discussion of the concepts of formal and functional equivalency, the significance of issues such as gender neutrality in translation, and the pros and cons (strengths and weaknesses) of the various translations, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Doctrine Committee provide the guide by revision of existing work, by assignment within the committee, or by other reasonable means, and,

D. BE IT RESOLVED, That the guide be distributed in consultation with the communication director.

Resolution 3: Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Fellowship

WHEREAS, The biennial meeting of the Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Forum (held October 22–23, 2012, in Mankato, Minnesota) and the meeting of the Theological Commission of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (held May 28–30, 2013, in Mequon, Wisconsin) provided opportunities to express the fellowship that the ELS enjoys with other confessional Lutheran church bodies around the world, and,

WHEREAS, Such expressions of fellowship continue to strengthen each of the member church bodies through mutual encouragement and consultation, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank and praise God for such Christian fellowship in the Word and that we express our appreciation for all of the church bodies with which we are in fellowship.

Resolution 4: ELS/ELCA Differences Brochure

WHEREAS, The members of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod have requested a usable, well-documented brochure to explain the differences between the ELS and the ELCA, and,

WHEREAS, The Doctrine Committee is working on producing an updated brochure explaining these differences for use in our congregations, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Doctrine Committee be encouraged in this endeavor and be asked to provide the brochure by time of the 2014 convention, and report accordingly, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the brochure be produced in consultation with the communication director.

Resolution 5: Theological Trends

WHEREAS, The Doctrine Committee strives to keep abreast of doctrinal trends (e.g. homosexuality, feminism, the “church growth” movement, the “emergent church” phenomenon, “contemporary worship” practices, government encroachment on religious liberties, etc.), therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Doctrine Committee be encouraged to continue to maintain a watchful eye on current theological trends and share their findings with the synod, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Doctrine Committee and the communication director plan strategically how best to keep the synod up to date on such issues.

Resolution 6: Anniversary Bible Study

WHEREAS, The Doctrine Committee has been asked by the Centennial Committee to produce a Bible study for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the 100th anniversary of the synod, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Doctrine Committee be encouraged to produce this Bible study for use in local congregations, and,
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Bible study be written to help our people understand both how the ELS is a continuation of Reformation theology and practice and how this applies to current issues and challenges.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS AND BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE

BOARD OF REGENTS

Members of the board during the past year: The Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch, Kissimmee, Florida, chairman; Harold Theiste, Pinehurst, North Carolina, vice-chairman; The Rev. Joel Willitz, Bridgeport, Michigan, secretary; Dr. Willis Anthony, St. Peter, Minnesota; The Rev. Mark Bartels, Madison, Wisconsin; Paul T. Chamberlin, South Chatham, Massachusetts; The Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, Golden Valley, Minnesota; Lyle Fahning, Prior Lake, Minnesota; James Minor, Danbury, Wisconsin; The Rev. Kenneth V. Schmidt, West Bend, Wisconsin; The Rev. Dr. J. Kincaid Smith, Mankato, Minnesota; and Timothy E. Thiele, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin.

Advisory Members: The Rev. John A. Moldstad, Mankato, Minnesota, President of the ELS; and The Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf, St. Louis, Missouri.

The board at their November meeting elected Tim Thiele to a type “B” second term member beginning in June 2013. The synod is asked to ratify that election at the 2013 convention.

THE FACULTY AND STAFF

Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary are thankful that the Lord continues to provide talented and committed men and women who embrace the mission of the college and seminary and serve as faculty and staff. We praise God for sending us these dedicated workers. During a special service on February 11, 2013, the college and seminary observed the following anniversaries:

BLC Faculty/Staff Anniversaries Observed 2013

Steven Reagles, Professor, Religious Studies/Communication	30 years
Joni Wiederhoeft, Assistant to the Director of Financial Aid	30 years
Peter Bloedel, Professor, Theatre	20 years
Connie Gullixson, Payroll and Account Specialist	20 years
Donald Westphal, Dean of Admissions	20 years
Jeff Haugen, Housekeeping Technician	15 years
Theodore Manthe, Dean of Student Services	15 years
Kathleen Petersen, Secretary, Admissions	15 years
Robert Pipal, Assistant Professor, Physical Education; and Coach, Men's Soccer	15 years
Orrin Ausen, Director of Library Services	10 years
Polly Browne, Assistant Professor, Elementary Education	10 years
Dan Bruss, President	10 years
Kathy Bruss, Adjunct Faculty, Spanish; and Coordinator, Study Abroad	10 years
Jonathan Kovaciny, Coordinator of Web Services	10 years
Ryan MacPherson, Associate Professor, History	10 years
Robert Ring, Adjunct Professor, English	10 years

This past academic year we had the following new faculty and professional personnel join our staff: David Ring, Cross Country and Indoor and Outdoor Track Coach; Jonathan Stadler, Associate Professor Psychology; and Eric Theiste, Assistant Professor Chemistry.

ENROLLMENT

On December 9, 2011, twenty-two students graduated and on May 11, 2012, ninety-two students graduated for a total of 114 graduates receiving the baccalaureate degree as part of the thirteenth four-year graduating class. These graduates represented 18 of the 19 majors.

The 2012-2013 enrollment was as follows:

	1st Semester	2nd Semester
1 st year	193	176
2 nd year	168	161
3 rd year	115	112
4 th year	97	81
5 th year	22	24
6 th year	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>598*</u>	<u>558*</u>

<i>Full-time students only:</i>	<i>571</i>	<i>523</i>
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*Totals include full-time, part-time, and study-abroad students.

We continue to give thanks that we have the opportunity to provide a Christ-centered education for these students.

CURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR PROJECTS

On October 12–14, 2012, the college hosted the Media Outreach in World Missions Conference sponsored by the Christ in Media Institute which is based on our campus. The conference brought together approximately 125 attendees including a number of leaders of national church bodies of our fellowship (CELC) from around the world, who are leaders and professionals in academia, media, and mission societies. The purpose of the conference was to advance the effective use of technology for gospel outreach in world missions.

In May of 2013, Bethany hosted its first international film festival as part of the first annual Media Week. Films were submitted from every part of the world in a variety of categories.

After prescreening by our faculty, the top films were shown at the previously vacant Mankato Place theaters and judged by a panel of distinguished judges comprised of professionals from the industry.

During the 2012–2013 academic year, the Erling M. Bolstad Chair in Contemporary Culture and Christianity previously held by the now retired Dr. William Kessel was filled by Dr. Steve Reagles and the Glen Taylor Chair of Business and Leadership previously held by Dr. Janet Moldstad was filled by Dr. Shane Bowyer.

Bethany Lutheran College is proud to report that we have added men and women's indoor and outdoor track as well as cross-country, and have hired David Ring as coach. We look forward to its growth and success.

GRANTS

Financial support from a variety of grants continues to provide assistance to carry on the mission of Bethany Lutheran College. We received a generous grant from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation to continue to enhance our programmatic offerings and physical facilities. We are thankful for their generous support.

We are grateful that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans continues to provide matching funds to its members who support the college. This year Thrivent Financial for Lutherans provided \$25,893 in matching support. In addition many corporations match their employees' contributions to the college through their corporate foundations. These funds maximize the donors' gifts.

The Bethany Lutheran College Women's Auxiliary made a commitment of \$10,525 to several projects including the Dorothy Theiste Memorial Auxiliary Scholarship, and equipment for students in photojournalism, theater, and biology. These funds have a direct impact on our students, and have provided financial, emotional and spiritual support for them for many years. We are very thankful to this group of generous women.

ESTATES

The college gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the following estates totaling \$353,611.57, and received through December 31, 2012:

Ahrens, Helen	\$498.44
Anderson, Laurine	2,662.01
Harting, Elaine E.	8,843.06
Ireland, Elayne	120,302.83
Knop, Louis H.	109,098.10
Mellem, Elvira Anne	10,228.58
Miles, Madelyn E.	54,455.76
Nystrom, Marvin T.	24,899.94
Runquist, Marjorie H.	4,813.67
West, Clara	2,860.37
Winters, Donald F.	14,948.81

CONCLUSION

The Lord has richly blessed Bethany Lutheran College during the past year. We are humbled by the generous financial support, prayers and words of encouragement of alumni and friends. We are grateful to have the opportunity to provide a Christ-centered education to give our students the foundation needed as they leave campus to pursue their vocation of choice.

Herbert Hubnerkoch, Chairman
Joel Willitz, Secretary
Dan R. Bruss, President

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS AND BETHANY LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

This year is the 1700th anniversary the Edict of Milan granting religious toleration for the Christian faith in the Roman Empire. In 312, Constantine marched into Italy to remove Maxentius from his position of power in Rome. The two armies faced each other a few miles outside the city at the Milvian Bridge. The day before the battle, Constantine is to have seen the sign of a cross in the sky and above it the words *In hoc signo vinces* (in this sign you will conquer). Constantine pledged that if he won the battle he would become a Christian. The next day, October 28, his army won a complete victory. In February 313 The Edict of Milan was published, which gave the church freedom of worship. Now the church was able to worship the one true God, the Triune God, without fear or harassment. Churches and monasteries were built in many places. Mission work and evangelism increased so that the Gospel of salvation in the Savior Jesus Christ was heard in every part of the empire and beyond. What a blessing we have received in the Edict of Milan. It facilitated the spread of the Gospel throughout Europe so that our forefathers heard the message of salvation.

The purpose of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary is to prepare men who will join the ranks of those who have been a part of the great march of faith, lifting high the cross, proclaiming the Gospel throughout the ages. The seminary desires to inculcate in our students a mission-minded spirit, which sees each congregation as a mission and each pastor as a missionary, thus engaging others with the Crucified and His cross. In this sign we will conquer. Each year we continue to send forth more workers who have been prepared to preach the saving truths of God's Word. The Lord permitted us another school year where men were trained for this blessed ministry. May our gracious Lord continue to bless our seminary to the glory of His name and the welfare of precious souls.

BOARD OF REGENTS

The Board of Regents is responsible for overseeing and governing 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. Herbert Huhnerkoch, Kissimmee, Florida, chairman; Mr. Harold Theiste, Pinehurst, North Carolina, vice-chairman; the Rev. Joel Willitz, Frankenmuth, Michigan, secretary; the Rev. Mark Bartels, Madison, Wisconsin; the Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ, Golden Valley, Minnesota; the Rev. Dr. J. Kincaid Smith, Mankato, Minnesota; the Rev. Kenneth Schmidt, West Bend, Wisconsin; Dr. Willis Anthony, St. Peter, Minnesota; Mr. Paul Chamberlin, South Chatham, Massachusetts; Mr. Lyle Fahnning, Prior Lake, Minnesota; Mr. James Minor, Danbury, Wisconsin; and Mr. Timothy Thiele, Oconomowoc, Wisconsin. By virtue of office, the president of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc., the Rev. John Moldstad, Mankato, Minnesota, serves as a member of the Board of Regents. The Rev. Lawrence Burgdorf, St. Charles, Missouri, serves as an advisory member to the board.

FACULTY

The following professors taught in the seminary during the 2012–13 school year: Adolph Harstad, Michael Smith, Thomas Kuster, Dennis Marzolf, Thomas Flunker 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, Symbolics, Homiletics and other practical courses. Professor Kuster teaches Communication, Professor Marzolf teaches Hymnology, and Professor Flunker teaches Hispanic outreach. President Schmeling teaches Church History, Dogmatics, Homiletics, and other practical courses.

ENROLLMENT

There were eleven students enrolled at the seminary in the 2012–13 academic year. It breaks down as follows: 5 juniors, 2 middlers, 1 senior, and 3 vicars. Those who were serving their vicarages: Paul Webber at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, Minnesota; Ben Wiechmann at King of Grace Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, Minnesota; and Michael Willitz at Christ Lutheran Church, Sutherlin, Oregon.

RECRUITMENT

Although our synod is blessed with few vacancies at present, new pastors will be needed in the coming years. Our synod desires to begin new missions and to continue serving our present congregations. Therefore, the seminary continues to encourage men to consider the pastoral ministry 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, and those not so young, to study for the pastoral 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.

EVANGELISM TRAINING

In keeping with our Lord’s Great Commission and our synod’s mission of “engaging others with Jesus,” the seminary provides its students with specific training pertinent to these worthy goals. Two classes in the seminary’s curriculum focus entirely on evangelism and mission work. In “Mission Application: Evangelism,” the students examine the history, theology, and methodology of evangelism, and also learn how to organize congregations for outreach and evangelism. In “History and Theology of Missions,” the students learn how Christianity was spread throughout the world from New Testament times to the present, examining in particular the theology and methodology of mission work. In addition to this, in “Pastoral Office, Care of Souls” there is a segment on evangelism and missions, and the other courses in the seminary are taught with an evangelism emphasis.

Each year, the seminary also hosts the synod’s Board for Home Outreach for a one-day seminar on outreach and evangelism. The emphasis in these seminars is not only motivation for this vital work, but also practical means of bringing God’s law and Gospel to others.

As part of their practical training during their years at seminary, the students are also required to participate on an annual basis in outreach/evangelism-related activities as part of their field education experience. Such activities might include neighborhood canvassing efforts, making evangelism calls on prospective members of their field education congregations, and meeting with congregational evangelism committees.

The seminary has a course in Hispanic Outreach. This class includes a study of Hispanic culture and the Spanish language to prepare men for mission work in Hispanic communities. Because Hispanics are one of the largest ethnic groups in our country this is an important mission emphasis. This course is taught by Professor Thomas Flunker.

ACTIVITIES

Annual Pastors’ Institute: The annual pastors’ institute of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary has been held in various locations throughout the country in order to make it possible for more of our pastors to attend. This year the institute took place at Grace Lutheran Church in Vero Beach, Florida, on March 2, 2012. The first portion of the institute was a presentation entitled “The Divine Liturgy and Its Use.” This presentation included a summary of

the development of the liturgy throughout history, with special emphasis on the divine service in the Lutheran Church. The divine service is first and foremost God's service to us. Here God serves us with Word and Sacrament, and secondarily, we serve Him with praise and thanksgiving. There was a discussion of present-day worship forms. A beneficial guideline in considering worship forms is that we follow the historic outline of the divine service because it has served and continues to serve as the preeminent means to present properly the Word and Sacrament. The other segment of the institute was an assessment of the liturgical movement, proper Lutheran art and architecture, and an explanation of the various parts of the divine service. These presentations were delivered by President Gaylin Schmeling.

Reformation Lectures: The name of the Reformation Lectures has been changed to the Bjarne Wollan Teigen Reformation Lectures. Dr. B.W. Teigen was instrumental in the establishment of these lectures. For more information, see the article, "The Bjarne Wollan Teigen Reformation Lectures" (*Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, March 2013). The lectures were held October 25–26, 2012. These lectures are sponsored jointly by Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. This was the forty-fifth in the series of annual Reformation Lectures which began in 1967. The theme of the lectures was **Bible Translations for the Twenty-First Century**. The titles and presenters were: *Battling over Bibles: Episodes in the History of Translating the Scriptures* by Cameron MacKenzie and *Formal and Functional Equivalence in Bible Translation* by Paul Wendland.

Mission and Ministry: An invitation was extended to our students to attend the annual Mission and Ministry Seminar at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, Wisconsin, on February 5–7, 2013. The theme of the seminar was "United in Spirit and Purpose," based on Philippians 2:1–5, emphasizing home and world outreach.

Seminary Marriage Workshop: On February 23, Professor Michael and Anita Smith conducted a marriage workshop for the seminary students and their wives/fiancées. Three different pastors and their wives made brief presentations regarding "Joys and Challenges of Parsonage Life" and then answered questions during group discussion. Additional pastors and their wives were present to add input to the discussion. The workshop also focused on what makes any marriage successful: a joint commitment to Christ Jesus.

Seminary Wives: The seminary wives have regular monthly meetings where important issues concerning the pastor's family, finances, and parish life are discussed. This program is led by President Gaylin and Rebecca Schmeling.

The Family of Ruth Webber: Ruth, wife of seminarian Paul Webber, was diagnosed with stomach cancer during her pregnancy. John Wilde Webber, the son of Paul and Ruth, was born February 7, 2012. Ruth's battle with cancer came to an end on September 30, 2012, when the angels carried her home to the heavenly mansions above. The seminary asks that everyone keep the Webber family, and especially her husband Paul and young son John, continually in their prayers. Ruth's passing brought home the reality of death and eternal life to everyone on campus. This life is but a moment; a preparation for the life to come. This period of time has been a learning experience in pastoral theology for each of our seminary students.

Vicar Workshop: Our annual vicar workshop was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2013. 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.

Graduation and Call Service: The seminary graduation and call service was held on Wednesday, May 15, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. in Trinity Chapel. The Rev. Paul Welke was the preacher, President Gaylin Schmeling served as liturgist and the Rev. Dr. J. Kincaid Smith represented the Board of Regents. The following men graduated from the seminary with a Master of Divinity degree: Jesse DeDeyne and Benjamin Wiechmann.

LUTHERAN SYNOD QUARTERLY

The *Lutheran Synod Quarterly* is a continuation of the *Clergy Bulletin* (1941–1960). The purpose of the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, as was the purpose of the *Clergy Bulletin*, is to provide a testimony of the theological position of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod and also to promote the academic growth of her clergy roster by providing scholarly articles, rooted in the inerrancy of the Holy Scriptures and the Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church. The subscription price is \$25.00 per year and can be obtained by writing to Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001. If you would prefer to receive the *Quarterly* in PDF format, rather than a printed copy, please contact the seminary office. Past issues of the *Quarterly* are to be found on the Bethany Seminary website <www.blts.edu/lsq>.

GRANTS AND OTHER FINANCIAL SUPPORT

We are grateful to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for the grants given to the seminary through the Thrivent Choice program.

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 Seminary Fund, Scholarship Fund and Student Support Fund. This has been a wonderful blessing for our students. Thank you for all your help.

The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation supports the seminary in a significant way. Grants from the foundation have provided support for the seminary operations and for our seminarians and their families.

LEGACIES AND GIFT ANNUITIES

The following legacies were received in fiscal year July 1, 2011 – June 30, 2012:

Lulu Anderson	\$ 2,700.61
Elaine Harting	\$ 8,843.06
Julius Mundschenk	\$ 464,769.11
Margaret Schneidenbach	\$ 6,667.03
Carol Williams	\$ 40,980.22

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: Rev. Theodore and Melvina Aaberg, 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, Gregory C. and Susan D. Bovid, Buelow-Kubiak, Nora Buffington, Larry and Jane Carlovsky, Arthur O. Carlsen, Glenn and Dorothy Collins, Mabel Dahlgren, Allen and Susan Daniels, Davis-Nelson, Robert and Betty Diesing, Roger and Lois Dohrmann, Stuart Dorr, John Dukleth Memorial, Keith and Claudia Eisberg, George and Dorothy Feil, Howard and Jeanette (Hovland) Gulbrandson, Donald and Opal Hackbarth, Albert S. Hammer, Paul and Cordia Hasz, Hoiland Family, Lyle and Debby Hoverson, Lenwick and Glenna Hoyord, Ewald and Verda Kohlmeyer, Jens, Jerome and Laverne Kvam, Ernest W. Larsen, Albin Levorson, George O. Lillegard, Harold and Ellen Loe, Lorentz Book, Gwenn and Sigfred Lysne, Juul B. Madson Memorial Fund for Excellence in New Testament Greek, Norman A. Madson Sr., Rev. William and Jean McMurdie, Clarence E. and June Labb Miller, Joe and

Peggy Moll, Rev. Richard and Hazel Newgard, George Nygaard, Arleta M. Olson, Ordal, George and Ruth Orvick, Kenneth and Violet Peter, Emil and Martha Peterson, Timothy and Gail Peterson, Richard and Florence Rado, Chauncey and Enanda Reinertson, Roland and Lois Reinholtz, Richland Lutheran Church, Merrill and Dorothy Rope, Ronald and Gay Rose, Herbert, Linette and Grace Sahnou, Edna May Scherzer-Getz, Eugene and Bertha Schiller, Gaylin and Rebecca Schmeling, Kenneth and Pat Schneider, Herb and Cathy Schulz, John and DeLores Seime, Robert and Madelyn Soule, St. Mark's Lutheran Memorial, Rev. Alhert and Clara Strand, Thomas Stueck, Calhoun and Jean Sumrall, Timothy and Nancy Thiele, Gerald and Gwen Tjernagel, Milton E. Tweit Student Support, Jim and Juanita Walberg, Walker-Schneider, William and Eunice Wehrenberg, Gerhard and Lois Weseloh, Patty Jo Weseloh, Whipple, Wayne and Esther Wiechmann, 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.

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.

The Rev. Gaylin Schmeling, president
The Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch, chairman
The Rev. Joel Willitz, secretary

Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. Consolidating Statement of Activities Year Ended June 30, 2012

	<u>College</u>	<u>Seminary</u>	<u>Total</u>
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT			
Tuition and fees	12,778,173	210,100	12,988,273
Less: Scholarships and grants	<u>(5,459,003)</u>	<u>(202,695)</u>	<u>(5,661,698)</u>
Net tuition and fees	7,319,170	7,405	7,326,575
Government grants	134,611	-	134,611
Contributions	4,685,387	540,721	5,226,108
Endowment income	476,759	89,237	565,996
Endowment gains (losses)	(921,630)	(235,502)	(1,157,132)
Gains (losses) of beneficial interest in funds held in trust	(5,466)	(10,372)	(15,838)
Gain (loss) on beneficial interest in perpetual trust	(18,952)	(18,952)	(37,904)
Sales and services of student activities	102,733	-	102,733
Other sources	405,870	100,417	506,287
Auxiliary services	3,109,293	-	3,109,293
Adjustment of actuarial liability	<u>(4,016)</u>	<u>254,287</u>	<u>250,271</u>
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	<u>15,283,759</u>	<u>727,241</u>	<u>16,011,000</u>

EXPENSES

Program expenses			
Instruction	5,665,696	497,729	6,163,425
Academic support	666,509	-	666,509
Student services	4,191,996	200,832	4,392,828
Auxiliary enterprises	3,009,943	-	3,009,943
Support expenses			
Institutional support	3,507,315	94,770	3,602,085
Allocable expenses			
Operation and maintenance of plant	1,818,727	30,409	1,849,136
Depreciation	2,346,773	70,793	2,417,566
Amortization	9,290	-	9,290
Interest	89,227	-	89,227
Less: Allocated expenses	(4,264,017)	(101,202)	(4,365,219)
Contributions receivable written-off	28,784	-	28,784
Intercompany interest	82,966	(82,966)	
Total expenses	<u>17,153,209</u>	<u>710,365</u>	<u>17,863,574</u>
Change in Net Assets	(1,869,450)	16,876	(1,852,574)
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	<u>72,342,928</u>	<u>9,184,170</u>	<u>81,527,098</u>
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	<u>70,473,478</u>	<u>9,201,046</u>	<u>79,674,524</u>

HIGHER EDUCATION—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Appointment to the Board of Regents

WHEREAS, Mr. Tim Thiele was elected as a type “B” second term member beginning in June 2013, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod ratify the election.

Resolution 2: Report of the Board of Regents and Bethany Lutheran College

WHEREAS, The report of the Board of Regents and Bethany Lutheran College has informed the synod of God’s blessings through the faithful service of the faculty and staff of Bethany Lutheran College, enrollment at the college, curricular and co-curricular projects, grants, and estates, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the report with thanks to God and great appreciation to the Board of Regents, the faculty and staff, and the various benefactors of Bethany Lutheran College.

Resolution 3: Report of the Board of Regents and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary

WHEREAS, The report of the Board of Regents and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary has informed the synod of God’s blessings of the faculty and students of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, and,
WHEREAS, The report noted the evangelism training, and various activities of the seminary, and,

WHEREAS, The report noted the importance of encouragement offered by pastors and congregations for men to study for the pastoral ministry, in order that the gospel continue to be promoted in the years to come, and,
WHEREAS, The report noted the seminary's work in continuing to publish the *Lutheran Synod Quarterly*, and,
WHEREAS, The report has informed the synod of God's blessings in financial support of the seminary and funds available to the students, therefore,
A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage promising men to study for the pastoral ministry, and,
B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the report with thanks to God and deep gratitude to the Board of Regents and the faculty and staff of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

See further action under "Memorials."

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR HOME OUTREACH

Just prior to his ascension, Jesus gave this command and assurance to his church: "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Mt 28:19-20; ESV). The synod has made our Lord's Great Commission its focus in the next few years by adopting a vision statement summarized by *Engage Others With Jesus*. The Board for Home Outreach assists the synod's members in serving their Lord through their outreach, evangelism, and mission efforts in the U.S.

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

The following members comprise the board: Prof. Michael K. Smith,* chairman; the Rev. Timothy Hartwig, vice chairman and chaplain; the Rev. Rod Flohr, secretary; Mr. Keith Duin, Financial Coordinator; the Rev. Aaron Hamilton, Outreach Strategist; Mr. Glen Hansen, Missionary Care Coordinator; Mr. Mark Perlwitz, Site Selection Coordinator; Mr. Robert Smith,* Property Management Coordinator; and the Rev. Larry Wentzlaff, Resource Coordinator. Members marked with an asterisk also serve on the Trustees/Home Outreach Subcommittee. Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft serves as an advisory member to the board.

SUMMARY OF POSITIONS

As part of its restructuring and long-range planning, the board has decided that the following positions will assist in achieving its goals and objectives. (Note: these positions may change when the Evangelism-Missions Counselor position is filled.)

Chairman: The chairman's responsibilities include arranging for and conducting the meetings of the board. He serves as the primary contact person of the board and as the primary liaison between the board and the home missionaries. The chairman also reports to the synod's Board of Trustees on behalf of the board. He distributes newsletters to the home missionaries, board, and synod at large.

Vice Chairman: The vice chairman conducts the meetings of the board in the absence of the chairman and also assists the chairman as needed.

Chaplain: The chaplain arranges for the devotions for meetings and events of the board.

Secretary: The secretary records and distributes the minutes of the meetings of the board. He also coordinates the correspondence of the board and signs official documents of the board as needed.

Financial Coordinator: This coordinator works in consultation with the synod's business administrator to oversee the finances of the board and of the home missions under its supervision. He also is charged with making recommendations regarding the board's operating budget.

Missionary Care Coordinator: The missionary care coordinator is responsible for contacting the home missionaries on a regular basis to learn about concerns and questions the missionary might have. These concerns or questions are to be relayed to the board chairman or the EMC. This coordinator is also to contact the missionaries' wives periodically to learn about their concerns.

Site Selection Coordinator: This coordinator is charged with keeping abreast of population trends and other factors which may point to particular areas as having potential for new home mission starts. He also receives and follows up on requests for and information about potential mission starts. This coordinator makes recommendations to the board that certain potential mission sites be investigated more intensely.

Resource Coordinator: The resource coordinator recommends various outreach and evangelism resources deemed appropriate for use in the congregations of the synod. He also keeps track of supplies of current outreach and evangelism resources and coordinates the distribution of same.

Outreach Strategist: The outreach strategist seeks out new or modified strategies for outreach appropriate for use in the synod. He also attends seminars or workshops regarding outreach strategies to determine feasibility for using them in the synod.

Property Management Coordinator: This coordinator oversees the maintenance of the property of the synod's exploratory missions and mission congregation. He also reviews any contracts for lease or purchase of property by the board, the synod's exploratory missions, or mission congregations.

PRIORITIES OF THE BOARD

In its long-range planning, the board has chosen to focus on two priorities as it assists the synod in engaging others with Jesus: 1) to equip members of the synod to be evangelists so that every congregation views itself as a "mission" congregation, and 2) to establish home missions. At each of its meetings the board reviews these priorities to ensure that its work is focused so as to address these priorities. The board also continues to make plans to develop an educational package for congregations to use in equipping members for evangelism, to develop innovative methods of outreach, and to function as a clearinghouse for ideas and methods of outreach, evangelism, and missions that seem to be working at the congregational level.

"ENGAGE OTHERS WITH JESUS" RETREATS

To address the first priority listed above, since November 2012 the board has conducted six evangelism retreats for nine circuits of the synod. To each of these events, the pastors of each congregation and two couples from each congregation were invited to a Friday evening–Saturday retreat at a location conducive for the individual circuit. The design of the retreat is that these key leaders from the congregation would be able to glean useful and edifying information from the retreat and relay it to their congregation. The content of these retreats has focused on individual and congregational outreach and evangelism, including the topics, "Motivation for Evangelism," "Engaging Others with Jesus Through Vocation," "Overcoming Fears," "What to Say," and "Prospect Nurture." Pastors Tim Hartwig and David Russow have served as the primary presenters for these retreats, as well as Pres. John Moldstad and Pastor

Daniel Basel. Pastor Larry Wentzlaff has served as the organizer and coordinator of the retreats. These retreats have been well attended and well received overall. Video of the retreat sessions is available on DVD for congregations that wish to use them for review and education. Pastor Wentzlaff has also served as the individual who has assisted with any requested follow-up work with congregations after the retreats.

NEW EXPLORATORY WORK

In early April 2013, the Rev. Kyle Madson moved to Weatherford, Texas to begin exploratory mission work in that area (Weatherford/Hudson Oaks). A commissioning service for Pastor Madson was held on May 19, 2013, at Abiding Faith Lutheran Church (WELS), Ft. Worth, Texas. The board is excited for this new opportunity to spread the gospel and continues to pray for blessings on Pastor Madson's efforts.

HOME MISSION UPDATES

Hope Lutheran Church, Cedar Park/Leander, Texas: The Rev. Brad Kerkow continues to serve Hope, which is applying this year for membership in the synod as a congregation. God has blessed the efforts of Pastor Kerkow and the members of Hope over this past year. The congregation held its initial worship service at Cox Elementary School on Easter Sunday of 2012, with 90 people in attendance. Hope has been active in its community, taking part twice in the annual "Holiday Tree Lighting" ceremony by hosting a game booth, and by providing workers for a clean-up day at a community park. In the summer of 2012 a six-acre parcel of land with a house was purchased. The house is being used as a ministry center and as a parsonage. Some special worship services have been held at the ministry center along with Bible classes, confirmation classes, and organizational meetings. The Charter Sunday for Hope took place on May 5, 2013. At the time of its application for membership in the ELS, Hope will number approximately 51 baptized and 29 communicant members.

Hope Lutheran Church, Farmington, Minnesota: The Rev. Dan Oberer serves Hope in this community just south of the Twin Cities metro area. Hope presently meets in leased space in downtown Farmington and currently numbers 70 baptized and 43 communicant members. By the time of synod convention, Lord willing, the purchase of 7.5 acres on Highway 3 on the north side of Farmington will be completed. This land will provide an excellent location for the congregation on which to build a permanent facility along a major thoroughfare. Hope has focused recently on outreach to residents in the community, sending a welcome packet including a customized refrigerator magnet to each household. The congregation has also taken part in community events, such as volunteering for "Feed My Starving Children" and providing a "Hope Help Tent" for a youth baseball tournament.

Redeeming Grace Lutheran Church, Rogers, Minnesota: The Rev. David Russow is the pastor of Redeeming Grace, located on the northwest side of the Twin Cities metro area. The congregation numbers 172 baptized and 128 communicant members. Redeeming Grace also has a preschool with 14 students enrolled. The recent focus of the congregation has been on outreach and evangelism via a bi-weekly "Grow and Share" Bible study, in which students discuss how to respond to various questions about or objections to the Christian faith. Last fall Hope was co-sponsor of the "Hope and Hearts Run," a community event to support the Missing GRACE Foundation of Rogers. The congregation plans to make this an annual part of their community outreach, which also includes a booth at the local farmers' market, participation in the Rogers Business Expo, and participation in a wedding fair.

Faith Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas: The Rev. Matthew Crick has served Faith since 2000. Located on the northeast side of San Antonio, the congregation worships in a new sanctuary (dedicated in 2011) with 75 baptized and 49 communicant members. Faith's outreach efforts have focused on weekly door-to-door canvassing, with interested people thereafter

receiving a weekly email, the “Faith Messenger.” In the summer the congregation also sponsors an annual “Creation Seminar” with guest speakers who are experts in their field.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Holland, Michigan: The Rev. Nicholas Proksch is the pastor of Lord of Life in this west Michigan community. The congregation numbers 68 baptized and 55 communicant members. Lord of Life continues to conduct at least ten outreach events each year, including handing out free hot chocolate and coffee at the community’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade, handing out frisbees at the community’s Fourth of July fireworks, conducting a soccer-themed VBS, Easter for Kids, Christmas for Kids, and more. This past summer the congregation took part in a local farmers’ market by selling “Big Deal Pretzels,” with all the proceeds going to the orphanages of the Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India.

HOME MISSIONS SEMINAR

In January 2013, the members of the board and the home missionaries of the synod met in Orlando, Florida for the biennial home missions seminar. A number of the pastors of Circuit 1 also attended. In addition to discussing various matters regarding the relationship between the board and the home missions, those in attendance also listened to Rev. Phil Huebner, who serves Christ the King Lutheran Church (WELS), Palm Coast, Florida, explain the history of their growing mission and how to tailor outreach to one’s community. Rev. Brad Kerkow made a presentation about “New Perspectives on Mission Work.” The Rev. Paul Fries gave a presentation regarding the use of technology for outreach. Rev. Daniel Basel also gave a presentation regarding stewardship.

EVANGELISM–MISSIONS COUNSELOR

At its 2012 convention, the synod approved the creation of the position of “Evangelism-Missions Counselor” and gave the board permission to call a man to this position. As of April 1, 2013, the board has called five different men to this position. All five have declined the call. The board is continuing to try to fill this vital position.

THANKS FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Mr. Robert Smith has served on the Board for Home Missions and the Board for Home Outreach for the past twenty years. He has decided to end his time of service on the board. We heartily thank him for his dedicated work.

SALARY SCALE FOR 2014

In addition to the following scale, a housing and utilities allowance for home missionaries is determined using 135% of the three-bedroom fair market value within a specific county according to the most recent survey of the U.S Department of Housing and Urban Development (Federal Register, Part III, 24 CFR Part 888). If the house is to also serve as the office for the mission, the scale may increase to include a four-bedroom fair market value using the HUD figures. 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 \$1000 deductible level. The board approves the use of a Health Savings Account (HSA) or other alternative deductibles, as long as the called worker receives similar benefits. Pension is 6% of base salary. Vacation time allotted: 0-5 years: 2 Sundays plus 20 days; 6-15 years: 3 Sundays plus 25 days; 16+ years: 4 Sundays plus 30 days.

2014 Salary Schedule		
<i>Years of Service</i>	<i>Home Mission Salary</i>	<i>Increment Increase</i>
0	31,391	250
1	31,641	
2	31,891	
3	32,141	
4	32,391	
5	32,641	
6	32,966	325
7	33,291	
8	33,616	
9	33,941	
10	34,266	
11	34,666	400
12	35,066	
13	35,466	
14	35,866	
15	36,266	
16	36,741	475
17	37,216	
18	37,691	
19	38,166	
20	38,641	
21	39,191	550
22	39,741	
23	40,291	
24	40,841	
25	41,391	

26	42,016	625
27	42,641	
28	43,266	
29	43,891	
30	44,516	
31-W	44,516	N/A

OPERATING BUDGET – 2013

Please refer to the audited financial report submitted by the synod treasurer for actual home outreach expenditures for 2012.

SUBSIDY —EXPLORATORY MISSIONS

Hope, Cedar Park/Leander \$125,000

Exploratory, Weatherford/Hudson Oaks 118,420

SUBSIDY — HOME MISSIONS

Hope, Farmington \$75,000

Redeeming Grace, Rogers 84,000

SUBSIDY — CONGREGATIONS RECEIVING SUPPORT

Faith, San Antonio \$57,800

Lord of Life, Holland 13,200

EVANGELISM/MISSIONS COUNSELOR \$60,000

BOARD EXPENSES

Board expenses \$12,000

Advertising Subsidy 2,000

Total Expected Expenditures 2013 \$547,420

THANK YOU

We are quite pleased that various individuals, congregations, and other organizations continue to contribute special gifts toward our home outreach efforts. We also thank Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for their organizational grants directed toward helping various aspects of our outreach and missions. Thanks are also extended to Cross-stitch for its generous support of home outreach efforts. In 2012 the synod budgeted \$177,085 of congregational contributions for the home outreach 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 (home outreach portion: \$202,500), estates, earned and accumulated interest, and home outreach reserve funds.

God grant us his continued blessings as we engage others with Jesus.

The Rev. Prof. Michael K. Smith, chairman

HOME OUTREACH—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Priorities of the Board for Home Outreach

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Outreach has established an online clearinghouse for the sharing of outreach and evangelism materials and ideas, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That congregations be encouraged to make use of the evangelism clearinghouse and to contribute ideas to it.

Resolution 2: “Engage Others with Jesus” Retreats

WHEREAS, Since November 2012 the Board for Home Outreach has conducted six evangelism retreats for nine circuits of the synod, and,

WHEREAS, These retreats have been well attended and well received overall, and,

WHEREAS, Video of the retreat sessions is available on DVD for congregations that wish to use them for review and education, and,

WHEREAS, The design of the retreat is that these key leaders from the congregation would be able to glean useful and edifying information from the retreat and relay it to their congregation, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the board complete its plan to hold retreats in the remaining circuits and congregations of the synod, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the board continue its follow-up with the congregations and, where desirable, circuits, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That congregations be encouraged to utilize the materials, resources and tools presented at the retreat, including the demographic tool Mission Area Profile (MAP).

Resolution 3: New Exploratory Work/Home Mission Updates

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the Lord that two new home missions have been established in the last two years, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the home missionaries for their diligent work in spreading the Gospel.

Resolution 4: Evangelism–Missions Counselor

WHEREAS, The synod approved the calling of an “Evangelism–Missions Counselor” at the 2012 Convention, and,

WHEREAS, The board continues to seek to fill this position, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the board be encouraged to continue its efforts to fill the call, re-examining the parameters of the call as needed.

Resolution 5: Appointment to the Board for Home Outreach

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Outreach has nominated Mr. Robert Smith to serve a three-year term as a Type “B” member, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod ratify his appointment to the board.

Resolution 6: Salary Scale for 2014

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Outreach has prayerfully considered the 2014 salary schedule and operating budget for 2013, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the 2014 salary schedule be approved and the congregations of the synod be encouraged to use it as a guide for their pastors’ salaries, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the 2013 operating budget for this board be accepted as recommended.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR WORLD OUTREACH

Near the end of his life, St. Paul reflected on the trials he had endured for the sake of the Gospel. He had faced opposition and hardship. Sometimes the same is true for the missionaries we send to foreign fields and the affiliates we work with world-wide. But these Brothers-and-

Sisters-in-Christ can say with Paul *the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed ...* (2 Timothy 4:17). This year we again thank God for the blessings He has granted the Church through those who proclaim the Gospel on our behalf in South America, Asia and Europe. It is the privilege of the Board for World Outreach to serve the synod, its missionaries and affiliates in mission-ministry.

BOARD ORGANIZATION AND PERSONNEL

The Board for World Outreach (BWO) is comprised of three committees: Asia, responsible for ELS-sponsored work in Korea and India (Prof. Silas Born, Rev. Paul Fries [Chair], Mr. Paul Nielsen); Europe, responsible for ELS-sponsored work in Latvia, Czech Republic and Ukraine (Mr. Dan Browning [Chair], Mr. Tom Conzelman, Rev. John Petersen, Rev. Timothy Buelow); South America, responsible for ELS-sponsored work in Peru and Chile (Mr. Marlin Goebel, Rev. Wayne Halvorson [Chair]).

Rev. Steven Petersen serves as World Outreach Administrator, Mrs. Denise Luehmann is the Financial Assistant. Mr. Dan Browning serves as BWO Chairman.

The BWO meets in plenary session in April to review previous year work and in November to plan following year work. The committee chairs meet in January and August for budgeting purposes. The committees meet by teleconference between plenary sessions.

COMMUNICATIONS, FUND RAISING AND AUXILIARY ORGANIZATIONS

Helping Hands primarily supports the work in the South American fields. General gifts are raised each year by individual donors, much in response to the mission calendar. The *Helping Hands Mission Newsletter*, published three times each year, provides updates on work in Peru and Chile.

Faith Mission Society continues to promote ELS missions through publication of *Mission News* with focus on South America, India and Gift of Life. *Mission News* is now published twice each year in full color and a Christmas/New Year letter is provided to all ELS congregations.

Thoughts of Faith's *Newsletter* is published bi-monthly with news about affiliate churches in Latvia, Ukraine and Czech Republic.

The BWO Communication Committee coordinates the various media used by BWO to share information with constituents, including those noted above and also the *Lutheran Sentinel*.

In October, representatives from six of our fields participated in the Christ in Media Institute's mission conference at Bethany Lutheran College.

Cross-stitch is the network of ELS Women's Mission Societies. Regional gatherings are held for worship, fellowship and information about ELS missions. Annually Cross-stitch generously raises funds for extra-budgetary projects, such as capital needs, care for orphans, etc.

Visit the BWO website at <www.elsworldoutreach.org> and find updates on Facebook at <facebook.com/ELSWorldOutreach>.

FINANCIAL ISSUES

A major donor to ELS world outreach has been forced to reduce its level of support for our work. The greatest reduction of funding has affected the affiliates in Europe, where most pastors must find secular employment to support their families. Also our work in India has been impacted. With reduced resources available, BWO has proposed restructuring of the Ukrainian Lutheran Church, the Confessional Lutheran Church in Latvia and the Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India. In each case, some elements of ministry have been discontinued in an effort to direct greater support toward core ministries to sustain the Church body for the future. Please pray for God's blessing as these Churches face challenges in the future.

THANK YOU

During the past year many donors have supported the ELS world outreach efforts. Individuals, congregations and foundations (The Antioch Foundation, the IHS Foundation, and The Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation) have provided much-needed support. Thanks to all donors for their generous gifts!

It is the privilege of the Board for World Outreach to serve our Synod, our Savior and His saving Gospel so that *the message might be fully proclaimed* in many lands.

The Rev. Steven Petersen, BWO Administrator

ASIA COMMITTEE

India

The Lutheran Mission of Salvation—India (LMSI) is a mission of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, funded through the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation. LMSI's 20,000+ members are served by four national pastors, Pastor Solomon Mamidi, Pastor Ananda Raju Gollapalli, Pastor Pradeep Lingala and Pastor Kalyan Gollapalli and a group of 250 Gospel Workers (laymen in various stages of theological training). The mission is divided into the Hyderabad, Rajahmundry and Jabalpur districts. Pastor Mamidi serves as president of the Hyderabad District, Pastor G. J. Ananda Raju serves as president of the Rajahmundry District and Mr. Vijay Sidney serves as president of the Jabalpur District.

The primary focus of the ELS Board for World Outreach for India is the training of national pastors. To that end, the ELS began a "visiting professor" seminary program for LMSI in January of 2006. Currently, seminary classes are held in the Hyderabad District and in the Rajahmundry District, utilizing the four ordained pastors. Fourteen men will complete their seminary in mid-2013 and will likely be ordained in early 2014.

Over 300 children (orphans, semi-orphans or children from poverty-stricken families) are cared for in 20 homes operated by LMSI. Widows also receive support and housing. Two elementary schools are operated in the Rajahmundry and Jabalpur districts and a school is planned for the community of Guntipalli in the Hyderabad district. See the "Guntipalli School Project" at <www.elsworldoutreach.org>.

World Outreach Administrator Rev. Steven Petersen meets with the LMSI presidents and other leaders annually to review the work of the mission, discuss issues and opportunities and plan for the coming year.

The reduction in US funding for LMSI has resulted in serious curtailment of our work in the Jabalpur district and a lesser, but significant, reduction of work in the other two districts. Donations from individuals and congregations are gratefully received and are divided among the districts, schools and orphan homes on a *pro rata* basis.

South Korea

At the end of 2012, East Seoul Canaan Lutheran Church had 273 baptized members (plus approximately 70 high school students in the US), with approximately 150 people in attendance each Sunday. Adult instruction classes are offered several times per week, using Luther's *Small Catechism* (translated into Korean) and WELS adult instruction programs "Communicating Christ" and "Go and Teach". The ELS booklet *We Believe, Teach and Confess* also has been translated into Korean and is used in instruction.

A building in Seoul has been leased and remodeled to serve the congregation, with a sanctuary, office space, a kitchen and fellowship hall, and classrooms. The congregation regularly sends offerings to the ELS.

English as a Foreign Language is offered at Canaan Language Institute. Operated by the mission, the school was granted official status with the Korean government in 2006. This

school offers training in the English language to many native Koreans, while providing the opportunity for outreach through the classes. Mr. Dennis Morrison and Mrs. Dolores Morrison continued to serve as teachers in the school. In addition to teaching English, the Morrisons help to prepare Korean high school students for enrollment in WELS/ELS high schools. During the past year 72 students from ESCC enrolled in Lutheran high schools of our fellowship in the United States. The English as a Foreign Language program is self-supporting, with assistance from the Korean congregation, including the teachers' salaries.

One member of the Korean mission, Sung Gyu Choi, graduated from Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary in 2011 and is currently enrolled in a doctoral program at another Lutheran seminary. Another member, Kyun Young Chung, enrolled in the WELS Pastoral Studies Institute after attending Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. He returned to Korea in December of 2012 to serve a vicarage under Pastor Kim. We anticipate Mr. Chung will be ordained this year then start a new congregation.

In addition to work in Korea, the BWO plans eventually to launch outreach to the Korean-speaking provinces of northeastern China. Funds received unexpectedly from an estate have been designated to support this work.

The Rev. Paul Fries, Asia Committee Chair

EUROPE COMMITTEE

Under God's direction the Thoughts of Faith (TOF) mission society has become fully incorporated into the ongoing operations and management of the Board for World Outreach. The Thoughts of Faith "brand" identity to its many supporters and followers has been preserved while fully noting the connections to the ELS. The three supported church bodies in Ukraine, Latvia and the Czech Republic are funded by an American foundation through Missions Advancement Project, Inc. and through donations received through the Thoughts of Faith bi-monthly newsletter.

In January of 2013 BWO was advised that funding for TOF would be seriously reduced. The following report deals primarily with developments in TOF fields during 2012, but also notes some changes due to funding reductions for the current year and for the future.

Ukraine

The Ukrainian Lutheran Church (ULC) continues to be served by Pastor V'yacheslav (Slavik) Horpynchuk as the Bishop. The church body is comprised of approximately 1000 souls in twenty-eight congregations and preaching stations. About one-third of the twenty-three ULC clergy have made use of a grant for bi-vocational training support. Church buildings and parsonages remain a critical need for the Ukrainian Lutheran Church. The political systems and current national government administration in Ukraine continues to give the ULC and all other non-Russian Orthodox churches concerns over the potential loss of the significant religious freedoms enjoyed during the past decade of change.

Pastor John Vogt has served as the Rector (president) of the St. Sophia Lutheran Theological Seminary in Ternopil (western Ukraine) since 2006. The seminary program enters a period of hiatus following the graduation of its three current students in June, 2013. This also marks the end of Rector Vogt's service in Ukraine.

During the past several years, Rector Vogt has divided his time and travels between the affairs of the ELS/TOF/BWO in Ukraine, and WELS interests in Albania and Bulgaria. Recently he has taught pre-seminary level classes at East Seoul Canaan Church. We thank Pastor Vogt and his wife, Sandy, for their faithful service to Thoughts of Faith and the Ukrainian Lutheran Church.

The Vacation Bible School program in 2012 was staffed by students from Bethany Lutheran College, Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran College. VBS programs were conducted in six ULC congregations with over 265 children participating.

Due to the reduction in financial support, BWO is only able currently to provide full pastoral support at four metropolitan congregations and bi-vocational level support for three multi-site parishes, in addition to some seminary and administrative expenses. The Ukrainian Lutheran Church has requested the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod to assume sponsorship.

International Charitable Fund Gift of Life

ELS humanitarian work in Ukraine is provided by Gift of Life through Thoughts of Faith. *The mission of Gift of Life is to enlarge and strengthen the body of Christ by providing opportunities for the Ukrainian Lutheran Church to proclaim God's Word.* This ministry advocates Christian love and a wholesome life for the people of Ukraine, including the unborn, and especially for the family of believers.

The pediatric dental and medical clinics continue to travel throughout Ukraine providing free medical and dental care to children in towns, villages, and cities. The Gift of Life program also operates five Pro-Life counseling centers. The counselors at the centers provide Christian pregnancy counseling, pro-life presentations and humanitarian assistance. Service provided in 2011 include 4,836 visits to the medical clinic; 4,804 visits to the dental clinic; 22,904 attending pro-life presentations at various institutions throughout Ukraine; 5,949 attending programs conducted in the centers themselves; 1,414 individual counseling sessions were given; 1,575 attended group counseling sessions as well. The total number of saved babies is not known because of confidentiality. They probably number several hundred each year. However, it is known that 108 babies were counted as baptized (several in the Lutheran faith). Humanitarian aid in the form of clothing and medical and dental supplies is now sent directly to Gift of Life by congregations, schools and other organizational groups from the U.S.A. and dispersed by Gift of Life and the Ukrainian Lutheran Church, to life center clients, orphanages and the neediest in Ukraine.

Confessional Lutheranism is promoted everywhere the clinics visit by the Ukrainian Lutheran Church deaconess and, at the counseling centers, and to those who receive material aid. Gift of Life provides hope and opportunities to tell others about eternal life and the love of God in Jesus.

Please join us in giving thanks as Gift of Life celebrates its twentieth anniversary of providing outreach opportunities in Ukraine. A service of thanksgiving was held at Holy Cross Lutheran church in Madison, Wisconsin in April 2012. Nick and Kerry Laper administrate the Ukrainian and stateside program. Web site: <www.us.giftoflife.org.ua>.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. (Galatians 6:9–10)

Mr. Nicholas Laper, Gift of Life Executive Director

Czech Republic

Throughout 2012–13 there continues to be no full-time Americans on the staff in Plzen, but we have had the blessings of minimally paid volunteers who generally assist the Czech teachers and pastors by teaching and tutoring in the English language in classrooms and through the use of Bible studies. Czech national pastors Petr Krakora and Martin Vrsecky carry on the pastoral ministry to the souls at St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Reductions in support have moved these pastors to bi-vocational ministry with secular employment, Krakora as

an English teacher and Vrsecky as an accountant. We hope both will be employed at Martin Luther School so that their contact with prospect families there will continue.

The very successful and locally popular Martin Luther School is managed by Director Milos Vrsecky with a current enrollment of over 200 students. A large grant from the European Union for school improvement has enabled the construction of additional classrooms at the school. BWO continues to seek US volunteers to assist in teaching English in the school (March–May and September–November each year), which remains a valuable tool in mission outreach. Prospective volunteers are encouraged to contact the BWO Administrator for details.

Latvia

Minimal salary support is offered to the Confessional Lutheran Church of Latvia (CLCL). Eight national pastors are serving seven congregations with nearly 800 baptized souls.. Reduced support led BWO to fund full-time ministry at Kekava and Ozolneicki, congregations with beautiful church buildings, and to provide subsistence support to six pastors serving the other much smaller CLCL congregations. Seven of the Latvian pastors have taken advantage of the bi-vocational training support funding. To God be the glory for the resolve and resiliency of the Latvian pastors in carrying out their ministerial duties in the face of numerous adverse economic and cultural conditions in Latvia.

The BWO has offered to the CLCL additional funding and encouragement to restart the *Latvian Lutheran*, which in years past proved to be a valuable vehicle for generating interest in Confessional Lutheran theology. The on-line version of this publication may be found at <<http://www.latvijasluteranis.lv/>>.

BWO Appreciation

Fund raising efforts continue, and support remains generous, for these special ministries in Central and Eastern Europe. Major funding is provided by the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation. We offer our special gratitude to Foundation representatives for their friendship, encouragement, and counsel in providing for the means to reach souls with the eternal salvation message of Christ-crucified and Risen. To God be the glory!

Mr. Dan Browning, Europe Committee Chair

SOUTH AMERICA COMMITTEE

Peru

There have been some significant strides forward for the Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church (PELCC). There are now thirty-one pastors, vicars and pre-seminary (evangelists) serving congregations of the national church. Membership in the Peru Synod is about 2000 at a most recent count, in about sixty congregations. The BWO's primary focus in Peru is continuing progress toward independence.

By far the majority of those national workers are bi-vocational, supporting themselves in secular employment while they direct congregations and outreach in their location. That enables the congregations to manage the outreach in a more economically feasible manner. There are two students in the seminary in Peru, ten in the extension seminary in northern Peru (Chimbote) and six in the Mountain region (Chiquian). The other site for the extension seminary is Tarapoto (Amazon Jungle area) where there are three pre-seminary students and twelve in the Seminary.

The new seminary building in Lima, dedicated two years ago, serves well for the classes and the site of the congregation that meets there, as well as synod headquarters. Pastor Segundo Gutierrez serves as the president of the seminary as well as being pastor in Chimbote

on the North Coast region. Rev. David Haeuser continues to be a seminary professor, director of the mission and mentor for the Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church.

Two elementary schools continue to train the youth in Lima: Año Nuevo on the north side of Lima with thirty pre-school, ninety elementary, and thirty high school students. The capacity of that building is 160 students. There are fifteen teachers on staff. In Reynoso on the west side of Lima, there are 157 elementary students with a capacity of 170 students, and fourteen teachers. These schools are for the most part self-supporting. The families pay tuition and it covers nearly all of the costs in administration and teacher pay.

There are also two elementary schools in the Amazon Jungle area. They continue to train the youth of the Shawi tribes. The town of Louis Terry has an elementary school of twenty-five students and a high school of twelve students (now in its fourth year). Nuevo Oriente has an elementary school of fifteen students. There are six teachers in those schools. It is the plan that such youth will become workers and leaders in the Peruvian church, especially those who might become teachers and lay leaders in the churches of the Amazon region.

The leadership in this area is provided by the national leaders and Missionary Terry Schultz, who continues to assist in the direction of the Amazon regional church and the schools. He travels there a number of weeks a year to teach in the seminary (in Tarapoto) and encourage the national leaders. He plans to continue to give direction to the national leaders for at least the next two or three years.

The BWO is truly grateful that the Lord of the Church continues to strengthen the leaders of the National Church to take responsibility for their PELCC. The goal is that the Peruvian national church will eventually direct all of its affairs and become self-propagating. With new responsibilities comes leadership challenges. BWO continues to give guidance to the ruling body of the PELCC. A new *junta directiva* (board of directors) was elected and is taking its leadership roll seriously.

Chile

The BWO's mission outreach in Chile is committed to this primary focus: to reach into the middle class of Chilean society. This has resulted in the relocation of some church sites, and the re-allocation of funds from some properties that were sold, to become the operating budget for a few years. The plan will allow more of the management and direction of the work to be guided by the *junta directiva* of the Chilean church. At a recent synod meeting, new leaders were elected.

Guillermo Russ, our first national vicar, continues his seminary education and guides the work of the congregation that has been formed in Puente Alto, a community of Santiago. He continues to support himself with bi-vocational employment. Seminary training of six promising students is directed by Missionary Timothy Erickson. The projection is that four of them will be nearing completion of their seminary in 3–4 years.

Oto Rodriguez has left the mission for health reasons. That has required the seminary students and lay leaders to expand their roll in managing the national church. The congregation at Linares has now begun to draw up plans for their own chapel and education facility and renovation has begun. The officers of the national church are eager to complete their worship facility in stages, when they acquire enough funds to do so.

Missionary Timothy Erickson, our veteran missionary, continues to direct the mission work in the Chile. His focus is on seminary training in Linares and Santiago, as well as directing the congregations in La Cisterna and San Bernardo (two suburbs of the capital city). He strives to guide the national students and leaders to become self-governing, self-supporting and self-sustaining.

A bright spot is the work of Chelsea Dietsche, volunteer English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher at Linares. Through her contacts with unchurched students, the congregation

reaches others with the Gospel of Christ. Thus the congregation can grow to sufficient size to become self-supporting. She is in her second year, and has about twenty students in five different classes. Through her work about twelve individuals have become members or prospects at the congregation at Linares.

Rev. Wayne Halvorson, South America Committee Chair

WORLD OUTREACH—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Chilean Election

WHEREAS, The Chilean Church elected its national board on February 23, 2013, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, That we congratulate them on their elections and wish them God's blessings in the confession of the Christian faith.

Resolution 2: Communications, Fund Raising, and Auxiliary Organizations

WHEREAS, The following groups have been active in supporting the work of world outreach: Helping Hands, Faith Mission Society, Thoughts of Faith, BWO Communications Committee, and Cross-stitch, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank them for their faithful support and encourage them in their ongoing work.

Resolution 3: Thank You

WHEREAS, Many individuals, congregations, and foundations have supported the Board for World Outreach, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank them for their generosity in the past year in supporting the proclamation of the gospel in many lands.

Resolution 4: Ukraine

WHEREAS, The Rev. John Vogt the outgoing rector of St. Sophia Ukrainian Lutheran Theological Seminary and his wife, Sandy have served in Ukraine since 2006, therefore, BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the Vogts for their faithful service to Thoughts of Faith and the Ukrainian Lutheran Church.

Resolution 5: Financial Issues

WHEREAS, The Board for World Outreach has been forced to reduce its level of monetary support to the various mission fields, therefore, A. BE IT RESOLVED, That thank them for their management of the various financial challenges in the mission fields by focusing on identified core issues within each unique field, and, B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage individuals and congregations prayerfully to consider increasing their support.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF AMERICA

BOARD MEMBERS

The board serves to support the schools of the ELS using the insights of pastors, professional educators and laymen from around the synod. Currently the board is served by Rev. Alexander Ring (chair), Rev. Michael Dale (secretary) Mr. Shu-Ting Lai (secretary of schools),

Mr. Norman Hartigan, Mr. Ken Meyer and Mr. Oakleigh Natvig. Rev Jon Madson serves as an advisory member from the Board of Trustees, and Prof. Silas Born and Prof. Mike Butzow serve as an advisory member from Bethany Lutheran College.

MEETINGS

The board met on October 1, 2012 and March 7–8, 2013 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

RECOGNITION OF BOARD MEMBERS

The board wishes to recognize the service of both the Rev. Ed Bryant and Mr. Allen Labitzky. Both resigned from the board this past year after a number of years of service. The Rev. Ed Bryant started on the board in 2006 and spearheaded the work of the board in classical education curriculum development, and Mr Allen Labitzky has served on the board since 2006 and as Secretary of Schools since 2010.

WORK OF THE BOARD IN THE PAST YEAR

Planning

At the last convention the board was asked to “develop or form a system to monitor... how much our Lutheran schools are engaging others with Jesus with the goal of sharing those policies and techniques that are effective.” In response to this a survey was sent out to all ELS schools. The results were compiled by Mr. Shu-Ting Lai, who reported on them at our March 2013 meeting. The full report is available from the board, but the three things that especially stood out in the report were that our schools are serving more and more non-member students; we have a high percentage of member children not attending our schools (42%); and our schools are doing a number of things to engage their communities.

Principals Meeting

For the past three years the Board has hosted a principals meeting the Monday during the synod convention. This gives a chance for us to share information with our principals and a chance for them to share support and ideas with each other.

Classical Education

We continue to oversee and encourage the development of LSA model schools and promote the use of Classical Education within our synod and its schools. This continues to be a touch point for us with those outside the synod. The Rev. Alexander Ring continues to act as administrator for this.

FUTURE WORK OF THE BOARD

School Visitation

The board is organizing school visits for all the schools in the synod to be done in the Spring of 2014. The visits will be done by ELS principals, education faculty from Bethany Lutheran College and members of the board. The purpose of the visits is to give advice, encouragement at support to our schools and teachers.

Teachers' Conference

The board is planning and ELS Teachers' Conference to be held August 7–10, 2014 in Washington, D.C.

Video Promotion

We are currently working with the Communication Director of the synod to put together some short videos that can be used by all our schools as promotional tools. This can be put on

the internet where school parents and prospective parents can see them and learn more about us.

Joint Work

The board plans to discuss with Board for Outreach the possibility of planting early learning centers with home mission starts.

“I’m Called”

Prof. Jennifer Wosmek of Bethany Lutheran College has been working with Mt. Olive Lutheran School the past year on a program entitled *I’m Called*. It is designed to promote a sense of community within Lutheran schools. Mt. Olive in Mankato is being used as the pilot school for this program. The board approved the recommendation to have this program presented to the principals this summer during convention, and perhaps later as something to be used by all of our schools.

TEACHER SALARY SCHEDULE

It is the responsibility of the board to provide a minimum salary recommendation for consideration by our schools.

Years of Service	ELS Bachelor of Science Salary 2012/13	Increment Increase	ELS Bachelor of Science Salary proposal 2013/14	ELS Bachelor of Science Salary proposal 2014/15
			2%	2%
0	\$27,591	\$250	\$28,143	\$28,706
1	\$27,841		\$28,393	\$28,956
2	\$28,091		\$28,643	\$29,206
3	\$28,341		\$28,893	\$29,456
4	\$28,591		\$29,143	\$29,706
5	\$28,841		\$29,393	\$29,956
6	\$29,166	\$325	\$29,718	\$30,281
7	\$29,491		\$30,043	\$30,606
8	\$29,816		\$30,368	\$30,931
9	\$30,141		\$30,693	\$31,256
10	\$30,466		\$31,018	\$31,581
11	\$30,866	\$400	\$31,418	\$31,981
12	\$31,266		\$31,818	\$32,381
13	\$31,666		\$32,218	\$32,781
14	\$32,066		\$32,618	\$33,181
15	\$32,466		\$33,018	\$33,581

Years of Service	ELS Masters Degree Salaries for 2012/13	Increment Increase	ELS Masters Degree Proposed Salaries for 2013/14	ELS Masters Degree Proposed Salaries for 2014/15
			2%	2%
0	\$29,471	\$250	\$30,060	\$30,662
1	\$29,721		\$30,310	\$30,912
2	\$29,971		\$30,560	\$31,162
3	\$30,221		\$30,810	\$31,412
4	\$30,471		\$31,060	\$31,662
5	\$30,721		\$31,310	\$31,912
6	\$31,046	\$325	\$31,635	\$32,237
7	\$31,371		\$31,960	\$32,562
8	\$31,696		\$32,285	\$32,887
9	\$32,021		\$32,610	\$33,212
10	\$32,346		\$32,935	\$33,537
11	\$32,746	\$400	\$33,335	\$33,937
12	\$33,146		\$33,735	\$34,337
13	\$33,546		\$34,135	\$34,737
14	\$33,946		\$34,535	\$35,137
15	\$34,346		\$34,935	\$35,537

16	\$32,941	\$475	\$33,493	\$34,056
17	\$33,416		\$33,968	\$34,531
18	\$33,891		\$34,443	\$35,006
19	\$34,366		\$34,918	\$35,481
20	\$34,841		\$35,393	\$35,956
21	\$35,391	\$550	\$35,943	\$36,506
22	\$35,941		\$36,493	\$37,056
23	\$36,491		\$37,043	\$37,606
24	\$37,041		\$37,593	\$38,156
25	\$37,591		\$38,143	\$38,706
26	\$38,216	\$625	\$38,768	\$39,331
27	\$38,841		\$39,393	\$39,956
28	\$39,466		\$40,018	\$40,581
29	\$40,091		\$40,643	\$41,206
30	\$40,716		\$41,268	\$41,831

16	\$34,821	\$475	\$35,410	\$36,012
17	\$35,296		\$35,885	\$36,487
18	\$35,771		\$36,360	\$36,962
19	\$36,246		\$36,835	\$37,437
20	\$36,721		\$37,310	\$37,912
21	\$37,271	\$550	\$37,860	\$38,462
22	\$37,821		\$38,410	\$39,012
23	\$38,371		\$38,960	\$39,562
24	\$38,921		\$39,510	\$40,112
25	\$39,471		\$40,060	\$40,662
26	\$40,096	\$625	\$40,685	\$41,287
27	\$40,721		\$41,310	\$41,912
28	\$41,346		\$41,935	\$42,537
29	\$41,971		\$42,560	\$43,162
30	\$42,596		\$43,185	\$43,787

In determining the appropriate salary and benefits package for full-time ELS teachers, LSA strongly encourages congregational representatives to account for the following considerations.

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 teachers' continuing education. 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 coursework by providing incremental increases based upon additional credits.
3. The congregation should insist that the teachers attend the annual teachers' 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 upon distance and circumstances.
7. In addition, we recommend that teachers receive: a) housing based upon family need or a housing allowance equivalent to 135% of the HUD rental value of a three-bedroom home in their community; b) family health insurance; and c) a pension set at 6% of the teacher's salary.

The Rev. Alexander Ring, chairman

ELEMENTARY EDUCATION—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Salary Schedule

WHEREAS, The Board for Lutheran Schools of America (BLSA) has recommended a salary schedule for teachers in the ELS, and,

WHEREAS, The proposal recommends a 2% salary increase for the 2013-2014 school year and a 2% salary increase for the 2014–2015 school year, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the salary schedule recommended by the BLSA, along with the benefit package, be adopted, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That congregations with Lutheran elementary schools be encouraged to meet the salary recommendations, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the BLSA study its financial models and policies regarding the compensation packages for teachers to help congregations fairly compensate, attract, and retain qualified Lutheran school teachers.

Resolution 2: Recognition of Board Members

WHEREAS, After a number of years of faithfully serving the board, the Rev. Edward Bryant and Mr. Allen Labitzky have resigned from the board, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod give thanks for their service on the BLSA.

Resolution 3: Recognition of Dr. Wosmek & Others

WHEREAS, Dr. Jennifer Wosmek has been working with Mt. Olive Lutheran School to develop a program entitled “I’m Called” in order to promote connections between our schools and communities as well as our schools and parents, and,

WHEREAS, This is aligned with our “Engaging Others with Jesus” mission statement, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank her and all who are involved with this program and encourage them in their continued work.

Resolution 4: LSA Website

WHEREAS, The internet is an essential resource for the dissemination of critical information, and,

WHEREAS, The LSA website is not currently operating, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, We encourage the board to set a date to re-engage the LSA website, maintain and update it in a timely fashion, and that this be done in cooperation with the communication director of the synod.

Resolution 5: Support for Homeschooling

WHEREAS, Many ELS parents are requesting information and materials to use in home-schooling their children, and,

WHEREAS, An increasing number of ELS parents are unable to enroll their children in a local Lutheran elementary school, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the BLSA make available online resources, materials, curricula, and information for parents to use in the Christian training and instruction of their children.

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR YOUTH OUTREACH

Since the 2012 ELS Convention, the Board for Youth Outreach (formerly the Board for Parish Education and Youth) has had one face-to-face meeting, January 15–16, 2013. The

BYO continues its work of conducting an annual youth convention, producing *Young Branches* magazine, supporting area youth retreats and summer camps, and reviewing Sunday School and VBS materials, etc.

The members of the board include the following: Pastor Matt Brooks, Prof. Peter Bloedel, Mr. Ben Faugstad, Pastor Kyle Madson, Dr. Josh Mears, Pastor Tony Pittenger, and Pastor Bernt Tweit. Kyle Madson and Ben Faugstad were elected to the board at the 2012 Convention. Also at the 2012 convention, the size of the board was reduced from nine members to seven members. Mr. Bruce Swenson, Pastor Aaron Hamilton, Chaplain Don Moldstad, and Mr. Ron Younge no longer serve on the BYO. Officers of the BYO in the past year were Chairman: Bernt Tweit, Recording Secretary: Matt Brooks and Secretary of Sunday Schools: Tony Pittenger.

The 2012 ELS Lutheran Youth Association (LYA) Convention was held on the campus of Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, from July 26–29. Matt Brooks served as director. The theme of the convention was: *From Beginning to End: You are Mine*. This year the students had the option of attending one of three sectional Bible studies. The convention included devotions, Bible studies, fellowship and trips to the Creation Museum and downtown Cincinnati. A highlight was to hear from Dr. David Menton, a nationally recognized speaker from the Creation Museum. We are thankful for all who took time to help as counselors in addition to the sectional and devotion leaders. Two hundred youth and chaperones who attended: 152 youth and 48 adults. Youth and adults attended from 24 of our synod's 131 churches.

The 2013 LYA Convention will be held in Winter Park, Florida, July 25–28. Highlights of the weekend will be a visit to Island of Adventure—Universal Studios and a trip to Vero Beach, Florida. The theme is: *You Are the Salt of the Earth*. This year it was decided to have an early registration fee (\$250) and a late registration fee (\$300). Bernt Tweit is serving as the convention director. We are planning for the 2014 LYA convention to be somewhere in the northwest, possibly Montana. The dates will be July 24–27. The 2015 LYA Convention will be held at Bethany Lutheran College.

Several area youth retreats were held throughout the synod in addition to summer youth camps. The BYO is, in some cases, able to defray some of the costs at the retreats. We also provided some financial support for the 2012 Youth Honor Choir and will continue to do so in 2013. It is thought that about 90% of Youth Honor Choir participants enroll at BLC.

The BYO would like to encourage the members of the synod to purchase the following publications of the board that are for sale in the Bethany Bookstore: the Hebrews Bible Study and the VBS kit, *The Armor of God*. The synod youth magazine, *Young Branches*, is being regularly distributed and Kyle Madson serves as the editor. The Spring 2013 issue encouraged the youth to find ways to engage others with Jesus. The BYO is excited about working with the new synod Communication Director, the Rev. Paul Fries.

The BYO would also like to encourage the churches of the synod to incorporate Bible history and facts into their confirmation instruction, or prior to confirmation instruction. In addition, the BYO encourages the families of the synod to take the training of their children seriously and use devotional materials to teach their children the truths of the Bible.

At its January 2013 meeting the board had a lengthy discussion on whether or not today's youth see a need to memorize, since the internet and facts, even the *Small Catechism*, is so readily available in a matter of seconds. While appreciating the value of ready information of Bible knowledge from the internet, our board encourages the long term memorization of these facts and doctrines in addition to easy, immediate access to them.

Since the theme of the 2013 Synod Convention is *Engaging Families with Jesus*, our board hopes to at least have a table set up at the convention at which our work can be highlighted and where plenty of devotional resources for families are available.

The Rev. Matthew Brooks, secretary

REPORT OF THE BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE

The ELS Board for Christian Service currently consists of the following personnel: the Rev. Erich Hoeft, secretary; the Rev. S. Piet Van Kampen, chairman of the board, Clergy Assistance Program Coordinator and our board's current representative to the synod's Planning and Coordinating Committee; Mr. Herb Berg; Mr. Joel Petersen, Retired Benefit Coordinator; and Mr. Jeff Younge, Widows and Retired Workers Special Needs Coordinator. The board met three times in the past year, with regular meetings in June, September, and February.

TERM LIFE INSURANCE

The synod carries a \$50,000 term life insurance policy on all of its pastors. Currently our congregations reimburse the premium costs of that term life insurance to the synod. In 2012, a number of congregations neglected to reimburse the synod for their premium costs. The board made up for this shortfall of \$920.

HEALTH INSURANCE/WELS VEBA

This past year the board learned that WELS VEBA, the health insurance provider of the ELS, did raise premiums at the start of 2012. A large percentage of our pastors use WELS VEBA as their primary insurance provider, while a growing number of congregations have sought health insurance for their clergymen from other sources. Some on our clergy roster receive health insurance through their spouse's employer. The board is currently trying to ascertain how many on our clergy roster have no health insurance at all.

With the passage of federal health care reform in late 2009, many still have questions about the ramifications of the health care legislation. How will the new health care laws affect WELS VEBA? Will the government now tax health insurance premiums that are paid by congregations? The board will attempt to address these and other questions about the new health care laws in the near future.

Last year a memorial was presented to the synod convention requesting that the synod subsidize health care premiums for congregations with less than 100 members. With the substantial number of ELS congregations in that position, the synod determined that it was not feasible to provide this kind of assistance.

WORLD NEEDS FUND

This past year the World Needs Fund received donations totaling \$37,420 for the year 2012.

In 2012, Hurricane Sandy on the Eastern Seaboard left behind heartache and destruction. The people of the ELS responded with a generous outpouring of prayers and donations. The synod sent \$7,257 in relief funds to the various World Needs projects (Hurricane Sandy Relief, Ukraine Medical Assistance, and other foreign aid). The board thanks all the individuals and congregations who donated toward relief in these areas for their generosity. We praise our heavenly Father for the blessings He has showered on His people!

In addition to providing relief to those suffering from those catastrophic natural disasters, the board has given an additional \$5,500 to help individuals suffering through other struggles and disasters. The board also utilized \$2,100 from the World Needs Fund in supplying Christian counseling through our Clergy Assistance Program.

If anyone knows of any person or organization that the ELS Board for Christian Service can help, they can let the board know by filling out the board's application for assistance. The form is available online in PDF format at <<http://www.evangelicallutheransynod.org/synod/bcs>>. Note that the rest of the board's guidelines for assistance can be found there as well.

The board follows these recommended limits on assistance, as published in the 2008 Synod Report:

\$0 - \$2,000	Individuals
\$5,000 - \$10,000	Congregations & organizations
\$5,000 - \$10,000	World Relief

Please note that the Board for Christian Service can adjust these amounts as need and situations arise.

PENSION PLAN/RETIREMENT BENEFITS

In January of 2009 the federal government put into effect new guidelines for the stewardship of 403(b) and 403(b)(9) retirement plans, giving the employer control over the plan rather than the employee, with stricter reporting requirements. In response to these changes, WELS and ELS developed the Shepherd Plan solution with the Hahn Financial Group, Inc. and OneAmerica Securities, Inc. The plan has been quite successful up to this point and the board strongly encourages the pastors and teachers of our synod to consider enrolling in the Shepherd Plan.

In 2012 the synod matched congregational funding of pastors' and teachers' pensions up to \$300 for full-time workers and \$150 for part-time workers. That figure will decrease in 2013 based on the grant money which will be received from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation. The amount distributed for 2012 was \$37,765.

WIDOWS' SUBSIDIES

In 2012, the board helped seven widows with a subsidy of \$310 per month totaling \$26,040 for the year. At this point the board has not planned any changes to this amount for 2014.

CLERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (CAP)

The synod renewed its contract with Wisconsin Lutheran Child and Family Services (WLCFS), a church-related organization of the WELS, to offer internet-based or phone-based counseling services to the pastors and teachers of our clergy roster. For \$75 per session, the synod agreed to prepay for ten counseling sessions (\$700) to be used by our pastors, teachers and the pastors' immediate families. The sessions must be purchased in clusters of ten, but the prepaid sessions never expire from year to year. While all information about clients is kept confidential, the board was informed that for 2012, a total of nine cases were opened.

This service is not meant to replace the circuit visitor in his capacity as counselor, but rather to supplement the circuit visitor. In fact, for most matters, the board still encourages the pastors of the ELS to make use of their circuit visitor in this area. At the same time, the board realizes that there may be some non-ministry, family-related issues that are better handled by a counselor than by a circuit visitor. Also, a circuit visitor may, after meeting with an individual, feel the need to refer him or her to a professional counselor. Now the circuit visitor can refer people in the certain knowledge that he is referring to counselors who are of the same Christian fellowship and who share a Christian, confessional Lutheran worldview.

The board would also like to encourage individual ELS congregations to examine the practical costs and benefits of the Member Assistance Program from WLCFS for their own use. For a relatively small cost, a church can offer professional, Christian counseling to all of its members. For more information, please search online at the WLCFS web site <<http://www.wlcfs.org>>, or call WLCFS at 1-800-438-1772.

SERVING OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL

Over the last number of years the Synod Review Committee has been assisting the synod in making changes to our ELS *Handbook*. Since There has been some combining or eliminating of boards, there was a need for rewriting the guidelines for a number of boards. In the process, an item was overlooked that originally appeared in the guidelines for the Board for Parish Education and Youth. The item was that of helping our synod stay in touch with our military personnel in connection with their devotional life and also encouraging our members to pray for them regularly. After some discussion with both the Synod Review Committee and the Board for Youth Outreach, the suggestion was made that the former rubric dealing with ministry to our military would better fall under the purview of the Board for Christian Service. Therefore, the Board for Christian Service recommends the following resolution:

WHEREAS, The third purpose listed in Chapter III of the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod is to “promote the development of Christian life (Galatians 5:22–25) within its membership,” and,

WHEREAS, It has come to the attention of the Board for Christian Service that there is a need for our synod to stay in touch with our military personnel in connection with devotional materials, and,

WHEREAS, The former Board for Parish Education and Youth had as one of its guidelines: “Maintain a current file of armed services personnel and provide them with worthwhile devotional materials and tracts,” and,

WHEREAS, The Synod Review Committee in bringing its recommendations to the 2012 convention concerning the guidelines for the new Board for Youth Outreach chose not to assign the former duty to any board until there was further consultation, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod instruct the Board for Christian Service in consultation with the Synod Review Committee to establish guidelines pertaining to ministry to our military personnel.

PROPOSED EXPENDITURES FOR 2014

Widow support	\$29,760
Board Expenses	6,175
Pastor Retirement support	
(Schwan Foundation grant)	<u>35,000</u>
Total	\$70,935

The Rev. Erich Hoeft, secretary

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON WORSHIP

The committee currently is served by Mr. James Olsen, Mr. James Baxter, the Rev. Dennis Marzolf (secretary), the Rev. Timothy Hartwig, and the Rev. Matthew Crick (chairman).

The committee met in April 2013 and plans for a second regular meeting during this year's synod convention.

Currently the committee is in the process of gathering and prioritizing project ideas which will be of service to the congregations of the ELS. The committee would like to highlight three general project categories it is considering to pursue and develop in the coming year(s):

1. Development of electronic resources, such as a high quality MIDI recording of portions of the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*.

2. Development of Bible Studies related to the history, purpose, and enduring value of Christian liturgy and hymnody, with a specific emphasis on Lutheran worship.

3. Development of resources, online and/or printed, which will help our congregations in use of the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*, assist choir directors and organists in the selection of music, pastoral helps in matter of planning and conducting funeral and wedding services, etc.

In service of the congregations of the ELS the committee will provide additional details as soon as it is able.

The Rev. Matthew W. Crick, chairman

PARISH SERVICES—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Bible history and knowledge

WHEREAS, The Board for Youth Outreach reports a general decline in knowledge of Bible history in confirmation students, and,

WHEREAS, Knowledge of these accounts is essential to understand God's dealing with man, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Youth outreach conduct a survey at the 2013 General Pastoral Conference on our pastors' practice of Bible history instruction and include the results in their 2013 annual report.

Resolution 2: Report of the Board for Youth Outreach

WHEREAS, The Board for Youth Outreach submitted its report, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod accept the report of the Board for Youth Outreach with thanks.

Resolution 3: Pastors' retirement benefits

WHEREAS, The synod for many years has graciously provided a synod match to those congregations which have placed funds into the qualified retirement account of their pastor, and,

WHEREAS, The synod has designated the match to be at different levels for "full-time" and "part-time" pastors, and,

WHEREAS, Congregations are having difficulty maintaining a living salary for their pastors resulting in the pastors' need to seek outside employment to supplement the support they receive from their congregations and become bi-vocational, and,

WHEREAS, There may be confusion within congregations over whether their bi-vocational pastor is a full-time or part-time pastor, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees consider that the synod match the congregation contributions to retirement accounts without distinguishing whether a pastor is employed full-time, part-time, or bi-vocationally.

Resolution 4: Clergy Assistance Program

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service has submitted its report, and,

WHEREAS, The secretary of the Board for Christian Service has agreed to a friendly amendment to their report, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the section of the report labeled "Clergy Assistance Program (CAP)", first sentence, be amended to read: "The synod renewed its contract with Wisconsin Lu-

theran Child and Family Services (WLCFS), a church-related organization of the WELS, to offer internet-based or phone-based counseling services to the pastors and teachers of *our* rosters.”

Resolution 5: Serving our military personnel

WHEREAS, The third purpose listed in Chapter III of the Constitution of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod is to “promote the development of Christian life (Galatians 5:22–25) within its membership,” and,

WHEREAS, It has come to the attention of the Board for Christian Service that there is a need for our synod to stay in touch with our military personnel and families in connection with devotional materials, and,

WHEREAS, The former Board for Parish Education and Youth had as one of its guidelines: “Maintain a current file of armed services personnel and provide them with worthwhile devotional materials and tracts,” and,

WHEREAS, The Synod Review Committee in bringing its recommendations to the 2012 convention concerning the guidelines for the new Board for Youth Outreach chose not to assign the former duty to any board until there was further consultation, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod instruct the Board for Christian Service in consultation with the Synod Review Committee to establish guidelines pertaining to ministry to our military personnel and families.

Resolution 6: Report of the Board for Christian Service

WHEREAS, The Board for Christian Service has submitted its report, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod approve the report of the Board for Christian Service as amended in resolutions 3, 4 and 5.

Resolution 7: Report of the Committee on Worship

WHEREAS, The Committee on Worship has proposed three projects of value to the synod, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod receive the report of the Committee on Worship with thanks and encourage the committee to continue in its work on these and other projects.

See further action under the Report of the Ac Hoc Committee on Military Matters.

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, after being invoiced, 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 2012 convention.

Statement of Cash Receipts and Disbursements

Balance on Hand 3/1/2012		\$ 5,962.86
Receipts:		
Church Assessments Received	\$ 19,297.00	
Interest Income	<u>\$ 1.96</u>	
Total Receipts		<u>\$ 19,298.96</u>
Total		\$ 25,261.82
Disbursements:		
Delegates:		
Air Fares and Mileage	\$ 20,733.00	
Printing, Postage, checks, etc.	<u>\$ 58.17</u>	
Total Disbursements		<u>\$ 20,791.17</u>
Balance on Hand 2/28/2013		<u>\$ 4,470.65</u>

1. Delegates that were registered at the convention and turned in round trip mileage, and/or travel expenses received reimbursement.

2. Delegates were encouraged to ride together, whenever possible. This stewardship of money enabled the Equalization Fund to cover more of the expenses.

3. Mileage payments were made at the rate of \$.25 per mile (round trip – home to convention site) to any layman delegate who drove his own car and \$.40 per mile if accompanied by a second delegate or a pastor. Bus fares and shuttle services were also accepted. Only mileage to or from an airport was reimbursed. Car rental costs were not reimbursed. Mileage from the point of departure was reimbursed at the lesser of the mileage rate or the cost of an airline ticket, up to a maximum of \$600.00 per delegate, as determined by the Equalization Committee.

4. The chairman was to receive \$.25 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.

Ralph Miller, acting chairman

REPORT OF THE PLANNING AND COORDINATING COMMITTEE

MEMBERSHIP

The Planning and Coordinating Committee consists of the three officers of the synod, the chairman (or the designated representative) of the Board for Christian Service, the Doctrine Committee, the Board for Home Outreach, the Board for World Outreach, the Board for Lutheran Schools of America, the Board for Youth Outreach, the Board of Regents, and three (3) laymen elected by the synod at its convention. The president and the secretary of the synod serve as the chairman and secretary of the committee.

MEETING

Since the last convention, the committee met on January 14, 2013.

2013 BUDGET

During the past four years, the synod has adopted a \$725,000 congregational funding budget. At last year's convention, a 2013 congregation funding budget of \$750,000 was adopted. This budget increase is designated only for the Board for Home Outreach and only after \$725,000 has been received. During this year, this presents a special opportunity for the members of the synod to directly fund home mission outreach *after* our basic budget needs have been met. The apostle Paul encourages us in this work when he writes to the Christians at Corinth, "And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints. And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will" (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

2014 BUDGET

The Planning and Coordinating Committee is confident that God's people will generously respond to the needs of the Lord's kingdom remembering the great blessings which God has bestowed upon us.

It is with such confidence that a congregation contribution budget of \$760,000 is proposed for adoption. This budget includes a worthy challenge for the members of our synod by increasing the funding for home outreach an additional \$10,000. This increase in funding will apply only to the Board for Home Outreach after basic contributions of \$725,000 have been reached.

As we seek to *engage others with Jesus*, we must move forward. This budget increase of \$25,000 in 2013 and the modest proposal of a \$10,000 increase for 2014 is achievable with annual contributions of less than \$2 per baptized member of the synod.

It is with such confidence, that the committee recommends a 2014 congregation contribution budget of \$760,000.

Description	2014 Budget Request	Congregational Funding	Budget Supplement	Total Available
Bethany Lutheran College	\$202,033	\$133,158	\$33,665	\$166,823
Bethany Lutheran Seminary	\$42,794	\$28,205	\$7,131	\$35,336
Home Outreach	\$250,506	*\$200,106	\$41,742	\$241,848
World Outreach	\$174,483	\$115,000	\$29,075	\$144,075
Youth Outreach	\$20,203	\$13,316	\$3,367	\$16,682
Lutheran Elementary Schools	\$27,550	\$18,158	\$4,591	\$22,749
Communications & Technology	\$41,325	\$27,237	\$6,886	\$34,123
Christian Service	\$35,000	\$23,068	\$11,932	\$35,000
Synod Fund	\$306,106	\$201,752	\$106,611	\$308,363
Totals	\$1,100,000	\$760,000	\$245,000	\$1,005,000

* Only if \$760,000 Congregational Offerings are realized for the year. Church contributions between \$725,000 and \$760,000 will all go to Home Outreach.

The Rev. John Moldstad, chairman
The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, secretary

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

MEMBERSHIP

The Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod consists of nine trustees: Mr. Dennis Behr, Mr. Robert Brown, Mr. David Ewert, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, Mr. Donald Heiliger, Mr. Leroy Meyer, the Rev. Jonathan Madson, the Rev. John A. Moldstad, and the Rev. Paul Schneider. The Rev. Glenn Obenberger serves as an advisory member to the board. The Rev. Keith Boheim represents the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation as an advisory consultant.

MEETINGS

The Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod has met since the last convention for regular quarterly meetings on August 14, November 13, 2012 and February 12, 2013. The board also met via telephone conference call on September 24, 2012.

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.

Members serving on the Board of Regents–Board of Trustees Subcommittee are: Mr. David Ewert, the Rev. Jonathan Madson, and Mr. Leroy Meyer. Members serving on the Board of Trustees–Home Outreach Subcommittee are: Mr. Dennis Behr, Mr. David Ewert, and the Rev. Paul Schneider.

STAFF

The Giving Counselor, the Rev. Daniel Basel, and the Business Administrator, Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft, serve under the direction of the board and report regularly. Regular reports also are received from the World Outreach Administrator and the chairman of the Board for Home Missions. Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft is appointed, by the board, as the treasurer of the synod and reports regularly.

TRUSTEES

The board serves as the Board of Trustees for the Evangelical Lutheran Foundation; Bethany Lutheran College, Inc. and Lutheran Schools of America, Inc.

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 consists of four members each elected to two-year terms. Mr. Leroy Meyer and the Rev. Richard Wiechmann were elected in 2012. Mr. Robert Brown and Mr. David Ewert were elected in 2011.

The committee considers and makes recommendations regarding the investment of its assets and the use of the income from those investments. The rate of return for all investments for the calendar year 2012 was (12.07%). For the year 2013, the distribution percentage from the endowments will be 2% of three year rolling average of 2009-10-11. An accounting is found in the “Financial Statements and Supplementary information.”

Bethany Lutheran College, Inc.

Since the Board of Trustees and the officers of the synod also are the Board of Directors and the officers of Bethany Lutheran College, Inc., they regularly receive quarterly reports con-

cerning the finances of Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Joint meetings also are held periodically with the Board of Regents.

Lutheran Schools of America, Inc.

The Board of Trustees of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod also serves as the Board of Trustees for the Lutheran Schools of America, Inc. As such, a written report normally is expected at each meeting of the Board of Trustees. The president of the synod, or his representative from the Board of Trustees, serves as a voting member of the Board for the Lutheran Schools of America (BLSA).

PROPERTIES

The board serves as custodians of the synod's property and is responsible for any financial obligations of the synod.

Loans

During this past year, six acres of property were purchased in Leander, Texas, for \$605,000. Approval was given for the purchase of land in Farmington, Minnesota. Due to unusual circumstances, the synod established a \$60,000 escrow account for Gloria Dei Lutheran Church (Cold Spring, Minnesota) and also approved a \$20,000 line-of-credit to the congregation.

The loans for Redeemer Lutheran Church (Scottsdale, Arizona) were consolidated and renegotiated.

The board determined that rate for congregation loans, which are payable to the synod, will reflect the prime rate beginning on a January 1 calendar year.

Abiding Shepherd (Cottage Grove) has refinanced their loan and removed the synod's name as a co-signature. The title for the property has been transferred to the congregation.

Archives and Museum

The Committee on Archives and History is responsible both for the archival and museum collections of the synod and is elected by the Board of Trustees. Committee members are: the Rev. Mark Harstad (chair), Mr. Sigurd Lee, the Rev. Norman Madson, the Rev. John Petersen, Mr. Erik Soule, and Mr. Norman Werner. The board also appoints an archivist. The Rev. Paul Madson currently serves as the archivist pro tem. The Committee on Archives and History has appointed Becky DeGarmeaux to serve as Director of Programming for the Ottesen Museum.

During this past year, a number of archival items which relate directly to Bethany Lutheran College were transferred to the care of the newly established college archives.

FINANCES

The Board of Trustees oversees the operation of the synodical budget. The annual budgeting process for the synod involves a combination of resources to help the synod accomplish its mission goals. The sources of revenue come from four main categories: congregational contributions, individual donations, investment income, and grant monies from organizations such as the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. For the past four years we have adopted an annual congregational contribution budget of \$725,000. During this period we have had difficulty meeting our stated goal. Even though congregation contributions were \$11,000 higher than the previous year, the synod ended 2012 with a contribution shortfall of \$14,789. In addition, the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation has needed to reduce its grant monies for the ELS. This means for 2013 we will receive \$225,000 less than the previous year (a 30% reduction). Another item to note is the permanent loss of the Thrivent church-wide block grant at the end of this year (which was \$40,000 in 2012).

Congregation Contributions

In 2012, the synod received \$710,210.75 toward its 2012 congregational contribution budget of \$725,000. In March a letter was sent throughout the synod by our synod's president asking congregations and individuals to prayerfully consider extra gifts for the work we do together as a church body.

Missions Advancement Project, Inc.

Missions Advancement Project (MAP) furnishes support for the synod. It operates under the auspices of the Board of Trustees which appoints the Board of Directors: Mr. David Ewert (treasurer), Mr. Marlin Goebel, the Rev. Michael Smith (chairman), Mr. Ronald Young, and the Rev. Richard Wiechmann,

For the year 2013, MAP made a total funding request of \$1,015,000 to the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation. Approval has been received for the following funding for 2013:

Gift of Life	\$200,000
Thoughts of Faith	\$160,000
Helping Hands	\$60,000
Lutheran Mission of Salvation – India	<u>\$165,000</u>
Total	\$585,000

This is a considerable reduction in support. We pray that God will bless us with wisdom on how to administer the large decrease, and also that he would move hearts to respond generously for our mission needs.

Program Funds

The synod continues to be grateful to the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for its level of support. This funding is important to the continued work of the synod. For 2013, the Foundation is providing a grant of \$500,000. This will be distributed on a percentage basis of the request made at the 2012 convention:

World Outreach	\$ 100,000
Home Outreach	150,000
Retirement Contribution (TSA)	27,500
CDS Match (3%)	15,000
Board of Trustees	32,500
Budget Supplement	<u>175,000</u>
Total	\$500,000

Project Grants

Grants are awarded from the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for special projects. Application for such grants are made to the synod's Board for Trustees for review and recommendation and are awarded upon approval of the Foundation. Application forms are available on the synod's website.

For 2012, the following projects received approval and funding.

Evangelism Mission Counselor	\$20,000
Communications	40,000
National Teachers' Conference	<u>15,000</u>
	\$75,000

Wills and Estates

The synod gratefully acknowledges the receipt of proceeds from the following estates during the period of April 13, 2012 to February 22, 2013:

Elayne Ireland (Portion of Gift Annuity)	\$ 21,229.91 (home outreach)
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Elaine Harting (Beneficiary Designation)	\$ 8,858.91 (synod)
Deloris Holler (Portion of estate)	\$1,816.79 (synod)
Marilyn Anderson (Beneficiary Designation)	\$21,239.76 (synod)
Hans Ostrand Estate (Partial Payout of estate)	\$35,000.00 (synod)
Paul Ylvisaker Estate (Final Payout)	\$18,246.51 (synod)
(Paul Ylvisaker estate total over two years: \$30,732.47)	

Ingeborg Grass (Gift Annuity) \$ 1,486.00 (synod)

Estates received by the college or the seminary are acknowledged within their respective reports.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

We extend the thanks of the synod to Thrivent Financial for Lutherans for a block grant for the year 2012 in the amount of \$40,000. The grant has been used for the following projects:

Home Outreach start-up costs	\$20,000
Home Outreach seminars	<u>20,000</u>
	\$40,000

A grant for 2013 in the amount of \$40,000 has been approved by Thrivent.

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will be ending its block grants to synods at the end of this year.

2014 Program Funds Recommendation

The Board of Trustees recommends the following allocation of Program Funds be requested of the Marvin M. Schwan Charitable Foundation for 2014; this recommendation comes with the understanding that any reduction or additions to Program Funds be reallocated by the Board of Trustees following the percentage reflected below.

World Outreach	\$ 140,000
Home Outreach	210,000
Retirement contribution (TSA)	38,500
CDS match (3%)	21,000
Board of Trustees	45,500
Budget supplement	<u>350,000</u>
Total	\$ 700,000

A detail for the use of the "Budget Supplement" can be found in the report of the Planning & Coordinating Committee.

Centennial Funding

The board has approved a funding request of \$48,500 toward the synod's centennial observance which will occur 2017–18.

STEWARDSHIP

The Giving Counselor, under the direction of the Board of Trustees and supervision of the synod's president has the general responsibility of promoting stewardship throughout the synod. The following report is provided by the Rev. Daniel Basel, ELS Giving Counselor:

This work of promoting stewardship takes place at two levels.

The first level is promotion of Christ-centered Biblical stewardship among our synod's membership. Some of the ways this is carried out include, 1) Guest preaching in parishes throughout our synod, 2) Published articles on stewardship published in the Lutheran Sentinel and other newsletters, 3) Making stewardship resources available to pastors and stewardship boards/committees through materials like the booklet, *Managing My Master's Money*. Other sermon and bible study materials are made available upon request as well as made available on the synod's website. In addition members and pastors of our synod are encouraged to speak

with the Giving Counselor to consider customized or handpicked materials that fit their needs on a personal or parish level.

The other level of stewardship in the synod is to encourage synod wide support of synodical ministries. This includes the responsibility of coordinating special synod-wide offerings under the direction of the convention as well as various campaigns for support of missions and our seminary. Another part of this work continues to be done through the monthly reports on congregational offerings to synod. These are sent out by our synod's financial administrator. His office continues to email to all our pastors and their parishes a copy of the monthly contributions. Pastors are encouraged to share this information with their financial officers and congregations to make sure we are recording their gifts properly and that gifts are in line with their intended support for the work we do together as a synod.

Other activities dovetail with some of the Giving Counselors duties. A encouragement to Christ-centered stewardship are seen in the form of published inserts for our synod's parishes and the promotion of support for the various ministries of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the first and foremost of which is the local parish.

The Giving Counselor has also promoted stewardship among our members and parishes through the evangelism retreats which have been conducted throughout our synod. Six regional retreats will have been held by the time of this convention. As we carry out these retreats they each contain a component of stewardship promoting our members to be wise with money and encouraging them to live generously in support of gospel ministry.

The giving counselor stands ready to help promote Biblical stewardship and help all the saints thrive in their individual callings to be faithful stewards of all that our Lord has entrusted to their care and to use those resources to care for themselves, their families, and to join in working together to spread the saving message of the gospel unto all generations.

*The Rev. John Moldstad, chairman
The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, secretary*

FINANCES—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Special Gifts

WHEREAS, We are facing some difficult financial cutbacks, and,
WHEREAS, The synod received an endowment of \$250,000 in 2012 to support the full-time office of the president, and other gifts are anticipated, and,
WHEREAS, The members of the synod also have generously given of their time, talent and money for the work of the synod, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank God for His blessings.

Resolution 2: Making Synod Members More Aware of the Ministry/Ongoing Story/Value of the Synod

WHEREAS, The president has made us aware of the financial challenges of decreased funding, and,
WHEREAS, The work of the synod is worth sharing with our members, and,
WHEREAS, There are numerous congregations that continue to give nothing to the synod budget, and giving per communicant is decreasing, and,
WHEREAS, The survey of 2008 conducted by the Planning and Coordinating Committee showed that there was a disconnect between the congregations around the country and the synod, therefore,
A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the president with the communication director more effectively share with every congregation and individual member of our synod the value of the work and its resulting blessings, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the president with the communication director find ways to present a unified picture of synodical activity.

Resolution 3: Report of the Laymen's Delegates Equalization Fund Committee

WHEREAS, The Laymen's Delegates Equalization Fund has provided its report on the cash receipts and disbursements for the 2012 convention period, and,

WHEREAS, The convention Committee on Finances has reviewed it and found it to be in proper order, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the report of the Laymen's Delegates Equalization Fund Committee be accepted.

Resolution 4: Report of the Planning and Coordinating Committee – Budget 2014

WHEREAS, The committee has provided its report on the proposed budget for congregational funding for 2014, and,

WHEREAS, The Planning and Coordinating Committee, as part of the proposed budget, has stipulated that congregational giving in excess of \$725,000 will be designated for the Board for Home Outreach, and,

WHEREAS, The convention Committee on Finances has reviewed the report and found it to be in order, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the proposed congregational funding budget of \$760,000 for the year 2014.

Resolution 5: Report of the Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, The Board of Trustees has provided its report on its activities, and,

WHEREAS, The convention Committee on Finances has reviewed the report and found it to be in order, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the report of the Board of Trustees be accepted.

Resolution 6: Synod Treasurer's Report and Independent Accountant's Review

WHEREAS, The treasurer has provided the independent accountant's review entitled, "Evangelical Lutheran Synod Consolidated Financial Statements and Supplementary Information" as of December 31, 2012 and 2011; and he has provided the "Treasurer's Financial Statements and Supplemental Information" as of December 31, 2012, and,

WHEREAS, The convention Committee on Finances has reviewed them and found them to be in proper order, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the treasurer's report and the independent accountant's review as of December 31, 2012, be accepted.

Resolution 7: Stewardship

WHEREAS, The Apostle Paul encouraged generous giving from Christian congregations to provide offerings for the Jerusalem Church, and,

WHEREAS, The Great Commission mandates that all congregations think and work with the gospel both inside and outside their communities, and,

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod exists to aid congregations in carrying the gospel to the nations through missions at home and abroad, to train pastors and teachers to serve in our congregations, and to promote Christian education, and,

WHEREAS, A sign of congregations thinking and working outside their communities is the presence of synodical contributions, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the members and congregations of the synod urge one another to establish first-fruits giving to the synod in their budgets, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That we all take seriously our responsibilities as Christian stewards (2 Corinthians 8:20–21).

REPORT OF THE CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Centennial Committee was appointed in 2009 by President Moldstad and consists of Prof. Mark Harstad (chairman), the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad, Prof. Don Moldstad, and President John Moldstad.

The anniversary theme is *Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done: The Evangelical Lutheran Synod, Our Heritage of Grace*. This theme is taken from Martin Luther's 1524 hymn, "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice" and expresses our sentiments for the two significant anniversaries which are before us: the 500th anniversary of the start of the Reformation in 2017 and the 100th anniversary of the reorganization of the synod in 2018. These two events will mark the beginning and the end of a year-long observance. Component elements of the anniversary have been published the previous two years in the synod reports. A funding request of \$48,500 has been approved for the synod by the Board of Trustees.

The committee has met twice since the last convention.

The Doctrine Committee plans to produce a Bible study for use in our congregations during the fall of 2017.

The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad has consented to be the author for the pictorial history which is to be published. This volume is envisioned as presenting the history of the synod through an opening of the photographic collection of the synodical archives. This should be a valuable addition to the previously published histories of the synod.

A video production of the synod's history is under consideration if funding is available. This is intended for use at the 2018 convention and for congregation and school use

As has been done during the previous anniversaries of the synod, it also is fitting to come before the Lord at this time with gifts of thanksgiving. The committee is proposing that a two-year anniversary thankoffering be gathered within the congregations of our synod concluding at the 2018 convention. The committee recommends the following action be taken by the convention:

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod will observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the 100th anniversary of the reorganization of the synod, and,

WHEREAS, A thankoffering is an appropriate expression of our gratitude to God for the wonders He has done, and,

WHEREAS, We want to continue to proclaim the wonders God has done, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations of the synod gather a two-year anniversary thankoffering, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the president of the synod appoint an Ad-Hoc Anniversary Thankoffering Committee, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Anniversary Thankoffering Committee bring recommendations to the 2014 convention regarding the beneficiary(ies) of the thankoffering.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD REVIEW COMMITTEE

In accordance with its guidelines in *Handbook of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod*, the Synod Review Committee considers matters that are assigned to it by the Evangelical Lutheran

Synod in convention, the synod's Board of Trustees, or the synod's president. The handbook is available on the synod website <www.evangelicallutheransynod.org>.

The members of the committee are Prof. Erling T. Teigen, chairman, Mr. Robert Brown, the Rev. Paul G. Madson, the Rev. S. Piet Van Kampen and Mr. Norman Werner. President John Moldstad serves as an advisory member.

The 2012 convention of the synod assigned no projects to the committee. During the past year the Board of Trustees and the president have also made no assignments. Therefore, the committee has held no meetings since the last convention.

During the fall of 1996 President George Orvick directed the Self Study Committee (later renamed Synod Review Committee) to review the guidelines of the synod. During the years 1997 to 2002 the synod conventions approved amended guidelines recommended by the committee. Since that time several new guidelines, and amendments to various other guidelines, have been approved. In 2002 it was recommended that a general review of the guidelines should be made every five years (Introduction, *Handbook*). The guidelines of the synod define, direct and implement the work of the synod and its boards and committees. A review is intended to determine that the guidelines are still effective, that time has not made them ineffective or a hindrance to the goals and work, to correct any inconsistencies between guidelines, and to correct any clerical errors. It is recommended that the convention direct the Synod Review Committee to conduct a review of the *Handbook of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod* and report to the 2014 convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Mr. Norman Werner, Secretary

MISCELLANEOUS—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1

WHEREAS, The Evangelical Lutheran Synod will observe the 500th anniversary of the Reformation and the 100th anniversary of the reorganization of the synod, and,

WHEREAS, A thankoffering is an appropriate expression of our gratitude to God for the wonders He has done, and,

WHEREAS, We want to continue to proclaim the wonders God has done, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the congregations of the synod gather a two-year anniversary thankoffering, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the president of the synod appoint an Ad-Hoc Anniversary Thankoffering Committee, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Anniversary Thankoffering Committee bring recommendations to the 2014 convention regarding the beneficiary(ies) of the thankoffering.

Resolution 2

WHEREAS, The centennial committee has been meeting to work out the details for a centennial Bible Study, pictorial history, video production of the synod's history, and special thankoffering, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank them, and encourage them to continue with these and other possible ideas.

Resolution 3

WHEREAS, A review of the *Handbook of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod* has not been done since 2002, and,

WHEREAS, It is good to review the *Handbook* in order to determine that the guidelines are still effective, and that time has not made them ineffective or a hindrance to the goals and

work, to correct any inconsistencies between guidelines, and to correct any clerical errors, and,

WHEREAS, The Synod Review Committee and Pres. Moldstad have both requested a review of the *Handbook*, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That the convention direct the Synod Review Committee to conduct such review of the *Handbook*, and to report their progress to the 2014 annual convention.

Resolution 4

BE IT RESOLVED, That the 2014 ELS Convention be held at Bethany Lutheran College, Mankato, Minnesota, from Sunday, June 15 to Thursday, June 19, 2014.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE AND REPORT—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Engage Others with Jesus Retreats

WHEREAS, An adopted goal of the synod is that “every congregation view itself as a mission congregation,” and,

WHEREAS, The Board for Home Outreach has held six regional retreats attended by congregational leaders, and,

WHEREAS, Two additional retreats are scheduled, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank the members of the Board for Home Outreach for their encouraging presentations, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That they complete the remaining regional retreats, and,

C. BE IT RESOLVED, That the Board for Home Outreach and the congregations implement the strategies presented to engage others with Jesus.

Resolution 2

WHEREAS, The Rev. Theodore Gullixson has been serving as editor of the *Lutheran Sentinel* for many years, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank him for his faithful and excellent work.

Resolution 3

WHEREAS, The synod’s communication director is now overseeing the management of the *Lutheran Sentinel*, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, That we thank our former management team, the Rev. Wayne and the late Lois Halvorson and Arline Walker, for their years of dedicated service.

Resolution 4: President’s Report

WHEREAS, The committee reviewed the President’s Report, and,

WHEREAS, The president provides leadership in all aspects of the synod’s work, and,

WHEREAS, The president gives needed encouragement to congregations, pastors, and teachers, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod thank God for the faithful service of the synod president, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That the president be encouraged to continue his faithful service to the Lord and to the synod.

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 16, 2013, as well as the Monday business session, June 17, 2013, and found them to be correct, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the minutes as read.

Resolution 2: Secretary's Minutes

WHEREAS, The Minutes Committee has heard the minutes of the secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod for the Tuesday morning and afternoon business sessions, June 18, 2013, and found them to be correct, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the minutes as read.

Resolution 3: 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 Wednesday, June 19, 2013, morning and afternoon sessions.

PASTORAL CONFERENCE RECORDS—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Circuit Minutes and Meetings

WHEREAS, Minutes and/or overviews from circuits 1, 2, 5, and 9 were submitted, reviewed and found to be in order, and,
WHEREAS, These minutes show a continuing interest by our pastors in consistent spiritual study and growth, and,
WHEREAS, Regular conference meetings provide opportunities for Christian fellowship and discussion amongst the brethren, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That we commend the circuit officials for promoting such conferences and thank the various circuit secretaries for their diligence in maintaining and submitting these records.

Resolution 2: Circuit Minutes not presented

WHEREAS, The minutes of eight circuits were not presented to the committee for review, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That the secretaries of said circuits take note of the requirement of submitting such minutes and do so in the future.

RESOLUTIONS—ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That letters of congratulations be sent to the following pastors upon the anniversary of ordination into the pastoral ministry: Frederick Schmugge (65 years), George Orvick (60 years), Wilhelm Petersen (60 years), Norman Madson (55 years), Carl Wosje (50 years), Edward Bryant (40 years), David Haeuser (40 years), Mark Marozick (40 years), Dennis Schmidt (40 years), Paul Schneider (40 years), J. Kincaid Smith (40 years), Klebe Brumble (25 years), Micah Ernst (25 years), David J. Webber (25 years), James Wilson (25 years).
- B. BE IT RESOLVED, That letters of condolence be sent to the families of each of the following: Mrs. Katherine Oesleby and Mrs. Lois Weseloh.

Resolution 2

BE IT RESOLVED, That letters of acknowledgement of receipt of written greetings to the 96th annual convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod be sent to the following: Pres. Mario Galvez and Missionary Tim Erickson.

MEMORIAL

Subject: Biblical Languages and Bethany Lutheran College

WHEREAS, Recently Bethany Lutheran College changed first year Greek and Hebrew courses to be offered only every other year, and,

WHEREAS, This change increases the time needed to complete the necessary courses for admission to Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary resulting in substantially increased expense for a student, and,

WHEREAS, Bethany Lutheran College, due to its four year degree program, is now the primary higher education institution providing students for the seminary, as opposed to earlier years when students would pursue Bachelor of Arts degrees from other institutions, which would provide access to a wider variety of advanced language studies, and,

WHEREAS, The Biblical languages, Greek and Hebrew, are foundational to the church's proclamation of and right dividing of Law and Gospel, as Martin Luther explained:

In proportion then as we value the gospel, let us zealously hold to the languages. For it was not without purpose that God caused his Scriptures to be set down in these two languages alone—the Old Testament in Hebrew, the New in Greek. Now if God did not despise them but chose them above all others for his word, then we too ought to honor them above all others. (LW 45, 359)

And let us be sure of this: we will not long preserve the gospel without the languages. The languages are the sheath in which this sword of the Spirit [Eph. 6:17] is contained; they are the casket in which this jewel is enshrined; they are the vessel in which this wine is held; they are the larder in which this food is stored; and, as the gospel itself points out [Matt. 14:20], they are the baskets in which are kept these loaves and fishes and fragments. (LW 45, 360)

There is a vast difference therefore between a simple preacher of the faith and a person who expounds Scripture, or, as St. Paul puts it [I Cor. 12:28–30; 14:26–32], a prophet. A simple preacher (it is true) has so many clear passages and texts available through translations that he can know and teach Christ, lead a holy life, and preach to others. But when it comes to interpreting Scripture, and working with it on your own, and disputing with those who cite it incorrectly, he is unequal to the task; that cannot be done without languages. Now there must always be such prophets in the Christian church who can dig into Scripture, expound it, and carry on disputations. (LW 45, 363)

WHEREAS, The college has been able to provide annually both first year (introductory) and second year courses in the Hebrew and Greek languages throughout its history, until recent years, and,

WHEREAS, This is an issue of the church for which the “bottom line” cannot be measured monetarily but must be viewed as directly connected to “the one thing needful,” and,

WHEREAS, The current study of new Bible translations serves as a timely reminder of the need for our pastors to be competent in the Biblical languages, therefore,

A. BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod encourage the administration and regents of Bethany Lutheran College to provide first and second year courses in both the Greek and Hebrew biblical languages on an annual basis, and,

B. BE IT RESOLVED, That synod study the need for further commitment to the Biblical languages through offering more advanced courses in these languages, and other languages related to Biblical studies.

*Scarville Lutheran Church
Scarville, Iowa*

*Center Lutheran Church
Scarville, Iowa*

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

BE IT RESOLVED, That the synod adopt the memorial as submitted by Scarville and Center Lutheran Churches.

REPORT OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON MILITARY MATTERS

The committee originally met this fall: the Rev. Kincaid Smith, Mr. Ray Pedersen, Mr. David Covell, Mr. Juul Merseth, and the Rev. Cory Hahnke, on the campus of Bethany Lutheran College.

In keeping with the action of the synod that an ad hoc committee meet and report to the synod “the feasibility of establishing a monument and developing a military ministry,” the committee makes the following recommendations:

1. A plaque/monument be established at Bethany Lutheran College, near the flagpole—perhaps a metal Chi Rho symbol either inscribed or with a plaque with something to the extent of: Dedicated to those who have served their country, even willing to sacrifice their lives, in accordance with the love of Christ: “Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.” John 15: 13. Juul Merseth was to check into the possibility with Bethany officials.
2. Rather than a wall with people’s names that would need to be constantly updated, we would suggest that names be recorded by volunteers with copies placed in the synod archives. We would like to have one volunteer per congregation to encourage and facilitate the collection of names, as well as possibly assisting with goal 4.
3. We would recommend that current pastors and those in training receive further instruction in the area of counseling as well as military counseling in particular. (A specialist from WELS or other could be invited to the General Pastoral Conference as well as into the seminary every few years.)
4. We would recommend that some medium be sought for spreading ideas and information concerning military issues among the congregations. Even an emailed newsletter could serve to inform congregations about what is available and new ideas, *as long as it is faithfully distributed and posted.*

Counseling military style:

1. Military (as well as police, firefighters, etc.) can have issues with Post Traumatic Stress Disorders. Sometimes these may take years to manifest themselves.
2. Military individuals and families often have a higher temptation to adultery. When deployed or away from home a desire to need someone, especially when deprived of spouse, can occur. It can happen both to the soldier and the spouse left at home. Other marriage issues also arise as well because of the changing roles in the family dynamic.

3. Today's military members often look at their deployment as a sentence (jail). Soldiers in WWII knew the goals, they were to win and then come home. Today's deployed soldiers see it as a time frame, almost a sentence of time. They feel like they haven't always accomplished something, and also feel like they would not have to fear going back if they had accomplished the mission and then came home. This can also be more stressful for families because they transition more often than soldiers from previous wars.
4. A twenty-four hour hotline might be an interesting suggestion (was given to me by a soldier I am serving who is a single mother). She stated that at base or deployed, there was always someone to talk to, even in the middle of the night. As a single mother, she misses the unity of her team and being able to always reach out and talk to someone.
5. Many others could be listed.

Important Information that needs to get out:

1. WELS has a sign up for currently active military on/attached to their website. During the Gulf Wars, WELS chaplains even travelled to the desert to give communion to registered members.
2. WELS has a military Chaplain in Germany, who is asked to visit any injured service members in addition to his other duties.
3. Many congregations as well as BLC have services online and available for download. Some congregations even have daily devotions.
4. If a pastor is called to a congregation/ministry where he deals with members of the military, there are resources for training, such as Winterim classes at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and others.
5. Pastor Pittenger has a number of good ideas, as he has a strong military presence in his congregation. He has the military members present colors at the beginning and end of the service on the Sunday nearest Veterans Day. They also have a bulletin board in which they have all active military with their pictures. One side is for those deployed (blue star recognition) and one side for those who are active, but home. Care packages are done every month by different groups within the congregation.
6. The LCMS also has an active military ministry and ideas can be gleaned from them.
Please feel free to comment and add as needed.

The Rev. Cory Hahnke, chairman

ACTION OF THE SYNOD

Resolution 1: Report of the ad hoc Committee on Military Matters

WHEREAS, It is essential to continue the ministry and outreach of the Word of God to our active military, veterans and their families, and,

WHEREAS, It is necessary to know who these people are in order that we may serve them, therefore,

- A. BE IT RESOLVED, That we encourage all pastors and delegates to note well the services available to our members involved in the military from the ELS and its sister synods, and,
- B. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we also encourage our congregations to reach out to military personnel and their families, and,
- C. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Board for Christian Service address the needs that come with military service.

Resolution 2: Feasibility of establishing a monument or memorial

WHEREAS, The ad hoc Committee on Military Matters suggests continued investigation into the size, cost, source of funding, and location of a monument or memorial to ELS veterans

who were killed in action, missing in action, or prisoners of war (2012 *Synod Report*, p. 152, Resolution A), therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, That the issue of the remembrance be referred to the Board for Christian Service for further planning.

COMMISSION ON THE APPEAL

The Commission on the Appeal was selected through a blind draw by the Board of Trustees on August 14, 2012. Members of Commission on the Appeal were the Rev. David Russow (chair), the Rev. Theodore Gullixson, the Rev. Kenneth Mellon, Mr. Kermit Traska, and Mr. Glen Hansen.

Our synod guidelines state, “The decision of the commission shall be filed with the president and the secretary of the synod and recorded in the annual Synod Report. By this recording the Commission on the Appeal shall be dismissed” (Guidelines for Synodical Discipline and Appeals V.H).

The following report was received on May 28, 2013:

As of its meeting on April 24, 2013, it is the unanimous determination and ruling of the Commission on the Appeal—Dethlefsen, based on the following findings, that the removal of the Rev. Kent T. Dethlefsen from the clergy roster of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod by its president, the Rev. John A. Moldstad, Jr., be upheld.

This decision is made with regard to the following considerations:

- a. The Rev. Kent Dethlefsen did file for a divorce from his wife.
- b. Pastors and called workers are held to a higher standard of behavior because:
 - 1) God has placed them in authority as leaders of His Church (Acts 20:28),
 - 2) They are to lead their families as an example to His Church (1 Timothy 3:4, Titus 1:6),
 - 3) They are to have a good reputation with those who are outside the Church (1 Timothy 3:7)
- c. Pastors and called workers are called to “take heed to yourselves and to all the flock” and to be an example to the flock over which the Holy Spirit has placed them (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 3:4–5; Titus 1:9, 2:7–8), and
- d. Pastors and called workers are ultimately responsible for the spiritual well-being of their family (1 Timothy 3:4, Titus 1:6).



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
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YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011**

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CliftonLarsonAllen LLP
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INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT

Board of Trustees
Evangelical Lutheran Synod
Mankato, Minnesota

We have reviewed the accompanying consolidated statements of financial position of Evangelical Lutheran Synod as of December 31, 2012 and 2011, and the related consolidated statements of activities and cash flows for the years then ended. A review includes primarily applying analytical procedures to management's financial data and making inquiries of entity management. A review is substantially less in scope than an audit, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the consolidated financial statements as a whole. Accordingly, we do not express such an opinion.

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America and for designing, implementing, and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the consolidated financial statements.

Our responsibility is to conduct the review in accordance with Statements on Standards for Accounting and Review Services issued by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Those standards require us to perform procedures to obtain limited assurance that there are no material modifications that should be made to the consolidated financial statements. We believe that the results of our procedures provide a reasonable basis for our report.

Based on our reviews, 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 consolidated 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, Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Gift of Life, Faith in Action and School of Martin Luther should be consolidated into the consolidated financial statements of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod to conform to accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects of this departure from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America on the consolidated financial statements have not been determined.

Board of Trustees
Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Our reviews were made for the purpose of expressing a conclusion that there are no material modifications that should be made to the consolidated financial statements in order for them to be in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The supplementary information contained in the accompanying schedules of financial position-operating divisions, activities-operating divisions, and combining schedule of financial position, are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic consolidated financial statements. We have not audited or reviewed the supplementary information and, accordingly do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on such information.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "CliftonLarsonAllen LLP".

CliftonLarsonAllen LLP

Austin, Minnesota
May 23, 2013

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011
(SEE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT)

	ASSETS	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents		\$ 821,380	\$ 769,727
Cash in Escrow		59,152	-
Accounts Receivable		158,649	193,885
Interest Receivable		56,114	61,956
Inventory of Publications		68,563	71,680
Prepaid Expenses		198,779	15,938
Loans Receivable		906,784	944,056
Mission Deposits		368,500	392,500
Investments		16,736,818	15,996,833
Property Held for Resale		606,410	-
Property, Plant, and Equipment, Net		<u>888,155</u>	<u>878,752</u>
Total Assets		<u>\$ 20,869,304</u>	<u>\$ 19,325,327</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS			
LIABILITIES			
Accounts Payable		\$ 94,479	\$ 96,573
Interest Payable		5,293	1,652
Other Liabilities		198,031	162,747
Notes Payable		514,614	533,202
Charitable Gift Annuity and Trust Agreements		<u>1,009,342</u>	<u>1,075,366</u>
Total Liabilities		1,821,759	1,869,540
NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted:			
Designated		2,876,810	2,576,597
Undesignated		<u>3,640,516</u>	<u>3,293,305</u>
Total Unrestricted Net Assets		6,517,326	5,869,902
Temporarily Restricted		6,774,095	6,089,761
Permanently Restricted		<u>5,758,124</u>	<u>5,496,124</u>
Total Net Assets		<u>19,047,545</u>	<u>17,455,787</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets		<u>\$ 20,869,304</u>	<u>\$ 19,325,327</u>

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated financial Statements.

(3)

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012
(SEE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Contributions:				
Congregations/Organizations/Individuals	\$ 1,033,349	\$ 146,995	\$ 260,000	\$ 1,440,344
Estate, Trusts, and Memorials	67,081	-	-	67,081
Thrivent	40,000	-	-	40,000
Helping Hands	103,345	-	-	103,345
Mission Advancement Project	845,000	-	-	845,000
Schwan Funds	749,999	-	-	749,999
Others	62,983	-	-	62,983
Interest	1,252	87,408	-	88,660
Investment Income	146,633	225,949	-	372,582
Rent and Royalties	577	-	-	577
Publications	14,979	-	-	14,979
Registration Fees	55,639	-	-	55,639
Subscriptions	31,367	-	-	31,367
Realized and Unrealized Gains on				
Long-Term Investments	531,276	961,561	-	1,492,837
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	737,579	(737,579)	-	-
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	4,421,059	684,334	260,000	5,365,393
EXPENSES				
Bethany Lutheran College	173,932	-	-	173,932
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary	36,842	-	-	36,842
Lutheran Schools of America	38,478	-	-	38,478
Thoughts of Faith	897,172	-	-	897,172
Christian Services	80,796	-	-	80,796
Church Extension	8,822	-	-	8,822
Youth Outreach	62,319	-	-	62,319
World Outreach	929,096	-	-	929,096
Home Missions/Evangelism	535,831	-	-	535,831
Publications	55,629	-	-	55,629
Synod Fund	549,546	-	-	549,546
Other Programs and Costs	390,784	-	-	390,784
Depreciation	14,388	-	-	14,388
Total Expenses	3,773,635	-	-	3,773,635
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS				
Net Assets - Beginning	5,869,902	6,089,761	5,496,124	17,455,787
NET ASSETS - ENDING	\$ 6,517,326	\$ 6,774,095	\$ 5,756,124	\$ 19,047,545

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated financial Statements.

(4)

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2011
(SEE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT)

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT				
Contributions:				
Congregations/Organizations/Individuals	\$ 1,034,356	\$ 220,194	\$ -	\$ 1,254,550
Estate, Trusts, and Memorials	75,231	-	-	75,231
Thrivent	50,000	-	-	50,000
Helping Hands	82,981	-	-	82,981
Mission Advancement Project	838,086	-	-	838,086
Schwan Funds	749,999	-	-	749,999
Others	59,712	-	-	59,712
Interest	36,857	208,774	-	245,631
Investment Income	151,828	235,991	-	387,819
Rent and Royalties	103	-	-	103
Publications	20,055	-	-	20,055
Registration Fees	69,000	-	-	69,000
Subscriptions	58,134	-	-	58,134
Realized and Unrealized Loss on				
Long-Term Investments	(397,249)	(667,822)	-	(1,065,071)
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	418,778	(418,778)	-	-
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	3,247,871	(421,641)	-	2,826,230
EXPENSES				
Bethany Lutheran College	174,634	-	-	174,634
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary	36,991	-	-	36,991
Lutheran Schools of America	29,931	-	-	29,931
Thoughts of Faith	1,116,800	-	-	1,116,800
Christian Services	107,228	-	-	107,228
Church Extension	10,508	-	-	10,508
Youth Outreach	49,295	-	-	49,295
World Outreach	850,469	-	-	850,469
Home Missions/Evangelism	575,143	-	-	575,143
Publications	92,447	-	-	92,447
Synod Fund	510,045	-	-	510,045
Other Programs and Costs	205,575	-	-	205,575
Depreciation	11,421	-	-	11,421
Total Expenses	3,770,487	-	-	3,770,487
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	(522,616)	(421,641)	-	(944,257)
Net Assets - Beginning	6,392,518	6,511,402	5,496,124	18,400,044
NET ASSETS - ENDING	<u>\$ 5,869,902</u>	<u>\$ 6,089,761</u>	<u>\$ 5,496,124</u>	<u>\$ 17,455,787</u>

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated financial Statements.

(5)

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS
YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011
(SEE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT)

	2012	2011
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Change in Net Assets	\$ 1,591,758	\$ (944,257)
Adjustments to Reconcile Change in Net Assets to Net		
Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities:		
Depreciation	14,388	11,421
Reissuance of Notes Payable	-	100,000
Contributions Restricted for Long-Term Purposes	(260,000)	-
Decrease in Liability for Charitable Gift Annuity and Trust Agreements	(66,024)	(75,154)
Realized and Unrealized (Gains) Losses on Investments	(1,492,837)	1,065,071
(Increase) Decrease in:		
Accounts Receivable	35,236	(116,614)
Interest Receivable	5,842	(55,543)
Inventory of Publications	3,117	4,783
Prepaid Expenses	(182,841)	760
Mission Deposits	24,000	6,357
Land Held for Resale	(606,410)	-
Increase (Decrease) in:		
Accounts Payable	(2,094)	4,280
Interest Payable	3,641	(2,494)
Deferred Revenue	-	(150)
Other Liabilities	35,284	41,634
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Operating Activities	(896,940)	40,094
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES		
Proceeds from Investments	1,707,173	754,782
Purchases of Investments	(1,013,473)	(720,136)
Issuance of Loans Receivable	(31,932)	(140,488)
Collections of Loans Receivable	69,204	282,583
Purchase of Equipment	(23,791)	(10,792)
Net Cash Provided by Investing Activities	707,181	165,949
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENT FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES		
Payment of Notes Payable	(18,588)	(46,949)
Contributions Restricted for Long-Term Purposes	260,000	-
Net Cash Provided (Used) by Financing Activities	241,412	(46,949)
INCREASE IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS	51,653	159,094
Cash and Cash Equivalents - Beginning	769,727	610,633
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS - ENDING	<u>\$ 821,380</u>	<u>\$ 769,727</u>
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION		
Cash Paid for Interest	<u>\$ 12,858</u>	<u>\$ 9,180</u>

See accompanying Notes to Consolidated financial Statements.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011
(SEE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT)

NOTE 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.

Lutheran Schools of America is a non-profit organization controlled by the Synod whose mission is to support and encourage new and existing Lutheran Schools within churches of the Synod.

Thoughts of Faith, Inc. is a religious non-profit organization. The Evangelical Lutheran Synod is the sole member of Thoughts of Faith, Inc. whose primary purpose is to provide Lutheran ministry to Ukraine, Czech Republic, Latvia and Moldova through radio broadcasting, literature and missionaries. Gift of Life, Faith in Action and School of Martin Luther are all subsidiaries of Thoughts of Faith and are not included within the scope of this report. The effects of this departure from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America on the financial statements have not been determined.

Bethany Lutheran College, and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, are also subsidiaries of the Synod that are not included within the scope of this report. The effects of this departure from accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America on the financial statements have not been determined.

Principles of Consolidation

The consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Evangelical Lutheran Synod (Synod), Lutheran Schools of America and Thoughts of Faith, Inc. All significant intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in the consolidation.

Basis of Accounting

The consolidated 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 for the following:

The board of trustees of the Synod has majority control over Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. The board of trustees of the Synod also has majority control over Gift of Life, Faith in Action and School of Martin Luther. Therefore, the financial statements of the three subsidiaries should be consolidated into the consolidated financial statements of the Synod. The Board has elected not to present these subsidiaries.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011
(SEE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT)

NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Basis of Presentation

Net assets and revenues, gains, and losses are classified based on donor imposed restrictions. Accordingly, net assets of the Synod and changes therein are classified and reported as follows:

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 consolidated statements 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.

Due to changes related to the need of a restricted gift, permission was received from the donor in 2010 to reclassify \$250,000 of permanently restricted net assets to unrestricted net assets in the prior year.

Cash and Cash Equivalents

For purposes of the consolidated statement 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 as of December 31, 2012 and 2011.

Charitable Gift Annuity and Trust Agreements

The Synod has agreements with donors classified as charitable gift annuities. Under these agreements the Synod agrees to pay the donor stipulated amounts over the donor's life. The Synod records an unrestricted contribution upon receipt of the gift as the difference between the fair value of the amounts received and the actuarially determined present value of future payments to the donor. On an annual basis, the Synod revalues the liability to annuitants based on actuarial assumptions. The present value of the estimated future payments is calculated using a discount rate established at the date of the gift and applicable mortality tables and amounted to \$182,885 and \$167,561 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and is included in annuities payable on the consolidated statements of financial position. Also included in annuities payable at December 31, 2012 and 2011 is \$636 and \$121,414, respectively, which represents the fair value amount of the charitable gift annuity agreements that is to be distributed to others at the time of the donor's death.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011
(SEE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT)

NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Charitable Gift Annuity and Trust Agreements (Continued)

The Synod administers various charitable remainder unitrusts that provide, among other matters, that the Synod, as trustee shall pay to the donors an annual income payment over the life of the beneficiary. At the time of the donor's death, the trust is to terminate and the remaining trust assets are to be distributed to others or retained by the Synod. The present value of the future benefit to be received by the Synod is recorded in the consolidated statements of activities as a temporarily restricted contribution. The Synod records an agency obligation for those charitable remainder unitrusts that are to be distributed to others. These agency obligations amounted to \$539,953 and \$520,952 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively. The liability for the charitable remainder unitrust that is designated to beneficiaries of the trust agreement and retained by the Synod is revalued on an annual basis based on actuarial assumptions. The present value of the estimated future payments is calculated using a discount rate establish at the data of the gift and applicable mortality tables and amounted to \$285,868 and \$265,439 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

Assets held by the Synod under Trust agreements are reported at fair value based on quoted market prices and amounted to \$851,836 and \$809,288 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, and are included in investments.

Income Tax Status

The Synod is exempt from federal and state income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Accordingly, no provision for income taxes has been recorded at December 31, 2012.

The Synod evaluated its tax positions and determined that it has no uncertain tax positions as of December 31, 2012.

With few exceptions, the Synod is no longer subject to federal, state, or local income tax examinations by tax authorities for years before 2009.

Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivables are unsecured and are shown net of an allowance for doubtful accounts. The allowance for doubtful accounts is determined based on management's judgment, considering factors such as historical bad debt experience and an evaluation of account aging. No allowance was required at December 31, 2012 and 2011.

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NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Deposits

The deposits are rental deposits for the Pastor's apartments and the Synod's church in South Korea. In South Korea it is required to put a large amount down and then the monthly payments are less based on the deposit. The Synod will get their money back either when the church pays it down to zero or the mission is pulled out of South Korea.

Inventory

Inventories consist of publications held for sale and are reported at lower of cost or market. A reserve for discontinued inventory is determined based on management's judgment. No reserve was required as of December 31, 2012 and 2011.

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 consolidated statements 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 which is not reflected in the financial statement.

Functional Expenses

Expenses are allocated directly whenever directly identifiable. Expenses which are not directly identifiable by program or support service are allocated based on the best estimates of management.

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NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Use of Estimates

The preparation of consolidated 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.

Fair Value

The Synod categorizes its assets and liabilities measured at fair value into a three-level hierarchy based on the priority of the inputs to the valuation technique used to determine fair value. The fair value hierarchy gives the highest priority to quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). If the inputs used in the determination of the fair value measurement fall within different levels of the hierarchy, the categorization is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Assets and liabilities valued at fair value are categorized based on the inputs to the valuation techniques as follows:

Level 1 – Inputs that utilize quoted prices (unadjusted) in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Synod has the ability to access.

Level 2 – Inputs that include quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets and inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the consolidated financial instrument. Fair values for these instruments are estimated using pricing models, quoted prices of securities with similar characteristics, or discounted cash flows.

Level 3 – Inputs that are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability, which are typically based on an entity's own assumptions, as there is little, if any, related market activity.

In instances where the determination of the fair value measurement is based on inputs from different levels of the fair value hierarchy, the level in the fair value hierarchy within which the entire fair value measurement falls is based on the lowest level input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

Subsequent to initial recognition, the Synod may remeasure the carrying value of assets and liabilities measured on a nonrecurring basis to fair value. Adjustments to fair value usually result when certain assets are impaired. Such assets are written down from their carrying amounts to their fair value.

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NOTE 1 SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (CONTINUED)

Fair Value (Continued)

Professional standards allow entities the irrevocable option to elect to measure certain financial instruments and other items at fair value for the initial and subsequent measurement on an instrument-by-instrument basis. The Synod has not elected to measure any existing financial instruments at fair value. However, it may elect to measure newly acquired financial instruments at fair value in the future.

Financial instruments carried at fair value on a recurring basis at December 31, 2012 and 2011 are as follows:

	December 31, 2012			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments:				
Equity Mutual Funds	\$ 2,264,640	\$ 125,500	\$ -	\$ 2,390,140
Equities	7,854,337	-	-	7,854,337
Alternative Investments	1,848,305	-	-	1,848,305
Real Estate & Specialty Assets	1,957,977	-	-	1,957,977
Government Obligations	620,250	-	-	620,250
Corporate Obligations	1,144,669	-	-	1,144,669
Total	<u>\$ 15,690,178</u>	<u>\$ 125,500</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 15,815,678</u>
	December 31, 2011			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments:				
Equity Mutual Funds	\$ 1,857,578	\$ 111,498	\$ -	\$ 1,969,076
Equities	8,391,041	-	-	8,391,041
Alternative Investments	1,597,164	-	-	1,597,164
Real Estate & Specialty Assets	1,546,379	-	-	1,546,379
Government Obligations	699,903	-	-	699,903
Corporate Obligations	872,533	-	-	872,533
Total	<u>\$ 14,964,598</u>	<u>\$ 111,498</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 15,076,096</u>

Subsequent Events

In preparing these consolidated financial statements, the Synod has evaluated events and transactions for potential recognition or disclosure through May 23, 2013, the date the consolidated financial statements were available to be issued.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
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NOTE 2 INVESTMENTS

Investments consist of the following at December 31, 2012 and 2011:

	2012	2011
Equity Mutual Funds	\$ 2,390,140	\$ 1,969,076
Equities	7,854,337	8,391,041
Alternative Investments	1,848,305	1,597,164
Real Estate & Specialty Assets	1,957,977	1,546,379
Government Obligations	620,250	699,903
Corporate Obligations	1,144,669	872,533
International Obligations	7,082	-
	<u>15,822,760</u>	<u>15,076,096</u>
Certificates of Deposit	709,058	715,737
Lutheran Association for Church Extension, Inc., Certificates	<u>205,000</u>	<u>205,000</u>
Total Investments	<u>\$ 16,736,818</u>	<u>\$ 15,996,833</u>

Assets held by the Synod under the charitable remainder unitrust agreements as of December 31, 2012 and 2011 totaled \$851,836 and \$809,288, respectively. They are included in the various investment categories.

	2012	2011
Investment return is summarized as follows:		
Interest Income	\$ 88,660	\$ 245,631
Investment Income	372,582	387,819
Realized and Unrealized Gains (Losses)	<u>1,492,837</u>	<u>(1,065,071)</u>
Total	<u>\$ 1,954,079</u>	<u>\$ (431,621)</u>

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
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NOTE 3 LOANS RECEIVABLE

Loans receivable consist of various secured and unsecured loans advanced to member congregations and others primarily for land, construction, or building purchase. The Synod subsidized 50% to 90% of the interest on loans to mission congregations for up to 10 years.

	Interest Rate	Maturity	2012	2011
Congregational Loans:				
Faith, Oregon, WI	7.00%	September 1, 2019	\$ -	\$ 48,203
Hope, West Jordan, UT	6.00%	December 1, 2022	152,810	152,810
Lakewood, WA	3.25%	N/A	118,068	118,068
Peace, Kissimmee, FL	6.00%	June 1, 2015	-	-
Peace, Kissimmee, FL	3.25%	N/A	-	-
Peace, Lakeland, FL	3.25 - 5.00%	N/A	21,212	21,212
Redeemer, Scottsdale AZ	3.00 - 5.78%	February 1, 2012	351,462	351,962
Resurrection, FL	5.78%	November 1, 2020	182,403	184,903
Faith, San Antonio, TX	0.00%	Construction Loan	-	18,000
Family of God, Fort Mohave AZ	5.75%	June 15, 2024	79,829	47,898
Other Loan:				
Christen Service Loan to Individual	0.00%	September 8, 2013	1,000	1,000
Anna Salzwedel Estate	6.00%	May 1, 2014	-	-
Total Loans Receivable			<u>\$ 906,784</u>	<u>\$ 944,056</u>

Maturities of the notes receivable for the year ending December 31 are as follows:

<u>Year Ending December 31,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2013	\$ 8,294
2014	22,051
2015	23,798
2016	25,684
2017	27,722
Thereafter	<u>799,235</u>
	<u>\$ 906,784</u>

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NOTE 3 LOANS RECEIVABLE (CONTINUED)

The following table presents the aging of past due loans by loan segment as of March 31, 2012 and 2011:

<u>As of December 31, 2012</u>	Current	31 - 90 Days Past Due	90+ Days Past Due	Total	Nonaccruing Loans
Congregational Loans	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 905,784	\$ 905,784	\$ -
Loan to Individuals/Estates	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
	<u>\$ 1,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 905,784</u>	<u>\$ 906,784</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
 <u>As of December 31, 2011</u>	 Current	 31 - 60 Days Past Due	 90+ Days Past Due	 Total	 Nonaccruing Loans
Congregational Loans	\$ 66,203	\$ 337,713	\$ 539,140	\$ 943,056	\$ -
Loan to Individuals/Estates	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
	<u>\$ 67,203</u>	<u>\$ 337,713</u>	<u>\$ 539,140</u>	<u>\$ 944,056</u>	<u>\$ -</u>

The Synod evaluates each loan for credit risk which includes the ability of the congregation or other party to pay as well as the availability and value of collateral to support the loan amount. The Synod may extend payments on loans when consistent with the overall mission of the Synod. Loan credit risks are reviewed periodically but no less than annually and at any time there is a significant change, positive or negative, in the borrower's operations or valuation of collateral.

The loans are grouped as current, watch or past due. Current loans are being paid in accordance with the loan terms. Watch loans have payments being made but at amounts reduced from the original loan terms. Past due loan are loan where there is no current interest or principal payments being made and it is probable the Synod will recover from the loan collateral.

<u>As of December 31, 2012</u>	Current	Watch	Past Due	Doubtful	Total
Congregational Loans	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 905,784	\$ -	\$ 905,784
Loan to Individuals/Estates	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>\$ 1,000</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 905,784</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 906,784</u>
 <u>As of December 31, 2011</u>	 Current	 Watch	 Past Due	 Doubtful	 Total
Congregational Loans	\$ 66,203	\$ 337,713	\$ 539,140	\$ -	\$ 943,056
Loan to Individuals/Estates	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
	<u>\$ 67,203</u>	<u>\$ 337,713</u>	<u>\$ 539,140</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 944,056</u>

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NOTE 3 LOANS RECEIVABLE (CONTINUED)

Allowance for loan losses: An allowance for loan losses (loan loss reserve) is established as losses are estimated to have occurred through a provision for loan losses charged to earnings. Loans are charged against the loan loss reserve when management confirms that the principal will not be collected. Subsequent recoveries, if any, are credited to the allowance. The allowance for loan losses 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. As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, there was no allowance for uncollectible accounts.

NOTE 4 PROPERTY, PLANT, AND EQUIPMENT

	December 31, 2011	Additions	Disposals	December 31, 2012
Land and Land Improvements	\$ 710,536	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 710,536
Buildings	197,842	-	-	197,842
Equipment	<u>72,177</u>	<u>23,791</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>95,968</u>
	980,555	23,791	-	1,004,346
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>101,803</u>	<u>14,388</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>116,191</u>
	<u>\$ 878,752</u>	<u>\$ 9,403</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 888,155</u>

	December 31, 2010	Additions	Disposals	December 31, 2011
Land and Land Improvements	\$ 710,536	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 710,536
Buildings	197,842	-	-	197,842
Equipment	<u>61,385</u>	<u>10,792</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>72,177</u>
	969,763	10,792	-	980,555
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	<u>90,382</u>	<u>11,421</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>101,803</u>
	<u>\$ 879,381</u>	<u>\$ (629)</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 878,752</u>

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NOTE 5 DEFERRED COMPENSATION

In January 2007, an employment agreement was entered into which provided for salary deferral each month in the amount of \$4,180 through December, 2008. This amount was deposited into a separate investment account for the key employee. The employee gets the benefit or risk of loss for any gains or losses in the fund. Upon termination of employment on or after the employee shall have reached age 65, the Organization shall pay 24 monthly installments in an amount equal to the fair value of the assets. The total amount payable to the employee shall be appropriately increased or decreased as the case may be to reflect the appreciation or depreciation in value and the net income or loss on the funds which remain invested. The Organization has accrued for this retirement benefit of \$125,500 and \$111,498 on December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, which is equal to the related investment account.

NOTE 6 NOTES PAYABLE

Notes payable at December 31, 2012 and 2011 consists of the following:

<u>Description</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Investment program notes, unsecured, amounts loaned by individuals, congregations, and organizations for periods less than one year; interest rates at 0% - 2.15% per annum	\$ 287,384	\$ 287,525
Life Loan Plan notes, unsecured, amounts loaned by individuals at interest rates from 5% to 6% per annum	7,723	7,657
Unsecured working capital demand loan from Holy Scripture; interest rate of 4% per annum	100,000	100,000
Unsecured working capital demand loan from Helping Hands; payment terms variable	100,000	100,000
WELS CEF Loan, monthly payments of \$1,667, including interest at 5%, unsecured, due January 2014	19,507	38,020
	<u>\$ 514,614</u>	<u>\$ 533,202</u>

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NOTE 6 NOTES PAYABLE (CONTINUED)

Principal payments due for the years ending December 31 are listed below. It is expected that many of the amounts due in the next year will be renewed for an additional one year term.

<u>Year Ending December 31,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2013	\$ 506,891
2014	-
2015	-
2016	-
2017	-
Thereafter	7,723
	<u>\$ 514,614</u>

NOTE 7 CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY AND TRUST AGREEMENTS

Obligations under charitable gift annuity and trust agreements at December 31, 2012 and 2011 consist of the following:

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Charitable Gift Annuities - Due to Donors	\$ 182,885	\$ 167,561
Charitable Gift Annuities - Agency Obligations	636	121,414
Charitable Gift Annuities - Due to Others Upon		
Death of the Donor	285,868	265,439
Agency Obligations (Unitrusts)	539,953	520,952
Total	<u>\$ 1,009,342</u>	<u>\$ 1,075,366</u>

NOTE 8 DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PLAN

The Organization has a retirement plan qualifying under the Internal Revenue Code 403(b) for the benefit of all employees at Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The Organization's annual and maximum contribution is based on 8% for office employees and 6% for missionaries.

Organization contribution for the years ended December 31, 2012, and 2011 was approximately \$34,950 and \$31,926, respectively. The related employee contributions were \$43,386 and \$33,814 for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

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NOTE 9 FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

The Synod provides programs and support for various churches for the purposes and responsibilities such as evangelism, foreign and home missions, education, Bethany Lutheran College, and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. Functional expenses for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011 is as follows:

	2012	2011
Program	\$ 3,228,206	\$ 3,272,463
General and Administrative	545,429	498,024
Total	<u>\$ 3,773,635</u>	<u>\$ 3,770,487</u>

NOTE 10 RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

Related Organizations to the Synod are Bethany Lutheran College and Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary. The Synod provided \$173,932 and \$174,634 on December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, to Bethany Lutheran College and \$36,842 and \$36,991 on December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively, to Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary.

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the amounts included in accounts payable for Bethany Lutheran College were \$24,491 and \$34,139, respectively, and for Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary the amounts were \$3,735 and \$4,692, respectively.

NOTE 11 CONTINGENCIES

As of December 31, 2012 and 2011, the Synod is contingently liable to the extent of approximately \$4,995,000 and \$5,264,000, respectively, as guarantor of the indebtedness for the following congregations: Family of God - Ft. Mohave, Arizona; Peace - North Mankato, Minnesota, Redeeming Grace - Rogers, Minnesota. Abiding Shepherd - Cottage Grove, Wisconsin; Abiding Word - Bowling Green, Ohio; Faith - San Antonio, Texas; Peace - Lakeland, Florida and Peace - Kissimmee, Florida. As of December 31, 2012, congregations were current with their loan payments. The Synod is currently making payments for the Family of God - Ft. Mohave for defaulting on their loan.

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NOTE 12 UNRESTRICTED DESIGNATED, TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED AND PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCES

Unrestricted board designated net assets consist of the following at December 31, 2012 and 2011:

	2012	2011
World Outreach	\$ 690,374	\$ 688,230
Home Missions/Evangelism	103,915	56,634
Lutheran Schools of America	136,677	113,505
Projects and Grants	39,858	91,954
Publications	81,104	79,383
Youth Outreach	96,002	88,883
World Needs	37,420	37,353
Book of Family Prayer	14,385	14,385
Christian Service	11,528	4,696
Pension Plan	95	735
Thoughts of Faith	6,425	9,275
ELS Foundation:		
Donated	695,801	636,452
Board of Trustees	983,594	884,023
World Outreach Mission Seminary	-	(37,398)
Marvin and Delores Schwan	-	(32,315)
75th Anniversary / His Truth for Our Youth	(20,368)	(53,872)
ELS School Endowment	-	(340)
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment	-	(4,986)
	<u>\$ 2,876,810</u>	<u>\$ 2,576,597</u>

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NOTE 12 UNRESTRICTED DESIGNATED, TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED AND PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSET BALANCES (CONTINUED)

Temporarily restricted net assets consist of the following at December 31, 2012 and 2011:

	2012	2011
Home Mission Expansion/Evangelism	\$ 3,139,494	\$ 2,940,543
ELS Foundation		
World Outreach	835,000	-
General World Outreach	515,048	1,352,354
Church Extension	1,290,457	1,163,932
Home Mission/Evangelism Reserve	210,353	192,586
Thoughts of Faith	71,674	74,496
Robert & Madelyn Soule Endowment Fund	115,480	10,206
Partners in the Gospel	266,700	179,945
World Outreach Mission Seminary	53,163	-
President's Office	94,983	35,221
Charitable Gift Annuity	154,105	131,286
Marvin and Delores Schwan	21,093	-
St. Martin Lutheran Church - Shawano, WI	1,524	-
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment	3,954	-
ELS Schools	1,067	9,192
	<u>\$ 6,774,095</u>	<u>\$ 6,089,761</u>

Temporarily restricted net assets were released during the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011 for as qualifying expenditures were made by the Synod.

Permanently restricted net assets are restricted for the following purposes at December 31, 2012 and 2011:

	2012	2011
Partners in the Gospel	\$ 1,755,977	\$ 1,755,977
World Outreach 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
Robert & Madelyn Soule Endowment Fund	1,250,000	1,000,000
ELS Schools	20,000	10,000
St. Martin Lutheran Church - Shawano, WI	20,147	20,147
	<u>\$ 5,756,124</u>	<u>\$ 5,496,124</u>

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NOTE 13 ENDOWMENT

The Synod's endowment consists of donor-restricted endowment funds. As required by GAAP, net assets associated with endowment funds are classified and reported based on the existence or absence of donor-imposed restrictions.

Interpretation of Relevant Law

The board of directors of the Synod has interpreted the Minnesota Uniform Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (UPMIFA) as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the gift date of the donor-restricted endowment fund absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, the Synod classifies as permanently restricted net assets the original value of the gifts to the permanent endowment and the value of subsequent gifts to the permanent endowment. The remaining portion of donor-restricted endowment funds, if any that is not classified as permanently restricted net assets is classified as temporarily restricted net assets until those amounts are appropriated for expenditure by the Synod. In accordance with UPMIFA, the Synod considers the following factors in making a determination to appropriate or accumulate donor-restricted endowment funds:

- (1) The duration and preservation of the fund
- (2) The purposes of the local synod and the endowment fund
- (3) General economic conditions
- (4) The possible effect of inflation or deflation
- (5) The expected total return from income and the appreciation of investments
- (6) Other resources of the local synod
- (7) The investment policies of the local synod

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NOTE 13 ENDOWMENT (CONTINUED)

Interpretation of Relevant Law (Continued)

The following is a summary of endowment funds for the years ended December 31, 2012 and 2011:

	<u>Unrestricted</u>	<u>Temporarily Restricted</u>	<u>Permanently Restricted</u>	<u>Total</u>
Endowment Net Assets, January 1, 2010	\$ (27,931)	\$ 348,927	\$ 5,496,124	\$ 5,817,120
Investment Return:				
Investment Income	53,601	166,379	-	219,980
Net Realized and Unrealized Losses	<u>(154,581)</u>	<u>(178,289)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(332,870)</u>
Total Investment Return	(100,980)	(11,910)	-	(112,890)
Contributions	-	-	-	-
Appropriations and Release of Endowment Assets for Expenditure	<u>-</u>	<u>(102,453)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(102,453)</u>
Endowment Net Assets, December 31, 2011	(128,911)	234,564	5,496,124	5,601,777
Investment Return:				
Investment Income	9,210	98,741	-	107,951
Net Realized and Unrealized Gains	<u>33,369</u>	<u>332,899</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>366,268</u>
Total Investment Return	42,579	431,640	-	474,219
Contributions	-	-	260,000	260,000
Appropriations/Transfers of Endowment Assets for Expenditure	<u>65,964</u>	<u>(134,811)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(68,847)</u>
Endowment Net Assets, December 31, 2012	<u>\$ (20,368)</u>	<u>\$ 531,393</u>	<u>\$ 5,756,124</u>	<u>\$ 6,267,149</u>

Funds with Deficiencies

From time to time, the fair value of assets associated with individual donor-restricted endowment funds may fall below the level that the donor requires the Synod to retain as a fund of perpetual duration. In accordance with GAAP, deficiencies of this nature, related to temporarily restricted net assets, that are reported in unrestricted net assets were \$20,386 and \$128,911 at December 31, 2012 and 2011, respectively.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
DECEMBER 31, 2012 AND 2011
(SEE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT)

NOTE 13 ENDOWMENT (CONTINUED)

Investment Objectives and Strategies

The Synod has adopted an investment policy to provide guidelines for investing endowment assets. Under this policy, as approved by the Investment Committee of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the endowment assets are invested in a manner that is intended to:

- Achieve a balanced return of current income and modest growth of principal.
- To minimize the probability of loss of principal over the investment horizon. Emphasis is placed on minimizing return volatility rather than maximizing return.
- To emphasize long-term growth of principal while avoiding excessive risk. Short-term volatility will be tolerated in as much as it is consistent with the volatility of a comparable market index.

Spending Policy

The Investment Committee will attempt to balance the shorter-term grant making obligations with its goal to provide grants into perpetuity, and therefore design a spending policy which is flexible. Since expected investment returns from "riskier" portfolios are not consistent and predictable, the Investment Committee feels that shorter-term spending in dollar terms must be flexible enough to endure periods of underperformance without excessive deterioration of real principal. Therefore, this endowment may tend toward a more "aggressive" investment strategy seeking higher long-term investment returns than would be the case if grant making from year to year were less flexible. The total annual distribution shall not exceed 6% nor be less than 2% of the three-year moving average market value of the fund. The target annual distribution rate shall be 5% of the three-year moving value. The target annual distribution policy shall be reviewed annually by the Foundation Investment Committee with any recommended changes submitted to the board of trustees for final action. The Investment Committee expects that annual contributions to the endowment will remain relatively consistent and will increase somewhat over time.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
CONSOLIDATING SCHEDULE OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2012
(SEE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT)

	Evangelical Lutheran Synod	Lutheran Schools of America	Thoughts of Faith, Inc.	Total
ASSETS				
ASSETS				
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 821,380	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 821,380
Cash in Escrow	59,152	-	-	59,152
Accounts Receivable	119,223	240	39,186	158,649
Interest Receivable	56,114	-	-	56,114
Inventory of Publications	68,563	-	-	68,563
Prepaid Expenses	140,135	-	58,644	198,779
Loans Receivable	906,784	-	-	906,784
Mission Deposits	368,500	-	-	368,500
Investments	15,993,895	225,087	517,836	16,736,818
Property Held For Resale	606,410	-	-	606,410
Property, Plant, and Equipment, Net	888,155	-	-	888,155
Total Assets	<u>\$ 20,028,311</u>	<u>\$ 225,327</u>	<u>\$ 615,666</u>	<u>\$ 20,869,304</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	\$ 91,807	\$ 16	\$ 2,656	\$ 94,479
Interest Payable	1,293	-	4,000	5,293
Other Liabilities	4,330	-	193,701	198,031
Notes Payable	295,107	-	219,507	514,614
Charitable Gift Annuity and Trust Agreements	<u>1,009,342</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,009,342</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>1,401,879</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>419,864</u>	<u>1,821,759</u>
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted				
Designated	2,733,708	136,677	6,425	2,876,810
Undesignated	<u>3,434,179</u>	<u>88,634</u>	<u>117,703</u>	<u>3,640,516</u>
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	<u>6,167,887</u>	<u>225,311</u>	<u>124,128</u>	<u>6,517,326</u>
Temporarily Restricted	6,702,421	-	71,674	6,774,095
Permanently Restricted	<u>5,756,124</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,756,124</u>
Total Net Assets	<u>18,626,432</u>	<u>225,311</u>	<u>195,802</u>	<u>19,047,545</u>
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 20,028,311</u>	<u>\$ 225,327</u>	<u>\$ 615,666</u>	<u>\$ 20,869,304</u>

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
CONSOLIDATING SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012
(SEE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT)**

	Evangelical Lutheran Synod	Lutheran Schools of America	Thoughts of Faith, Inc	Total
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS				
Revenues, Gains and Other Support:				
Congregations/Organizations/Individuals	\$ 803,789	\$ 6,757	\$ 222,803	\$ 1,033,349
Estate, Trusts, and Memorials	62,636	-	4,445	67,081
Thrivent	40,000	-	-	40,000
Helping Hands	103,345	-	-	103,345
Mission Advancement Project	230,000	-	615,000	845,000
Schwan Funds	708,793	41,206	-	749,999
Others	20,008	-	42,975	62,983
Interest	1,252	-	-	1,252
Investment Income	132,154	4,702	9,777	146,633
Rent and Royalties	577	-	-	577
Publications	14,979	-	-	14,979
Registration Fees	48,839	-	6,800	55,639
Subscriptions	31,367	-	-	31,367
Realized and Unrealized Losses on				
Long-Term Investments	478,812	17,041	35,423	531,276
Transfers	(21,179)	21,179	-	-
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	734,757	-	2,822	737,579
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	3,390,129	90,885	940,045	4,421,059
EXPENSES				
Bethany Lutheran College	173,932	-	-	173,932
Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary	36,842	-	-	36,842
Lutheran Schools of America	-	38,478	-	38,478
Thoughts of Faith	-	-	897,172	897,172
Christian Services	80,796	-	-	80,796
Church Extension	8,822	-	-	8,822
Youth Outreach	62,319	-	-	62,319
World Outreach	929,096	-	-	929,096
Home Missions/Evangelism	535,831	-	-	535,831
Publications	55,629	-	-	55,629
Synod Fund	549,546	-	-	549,546
Other Programs and Costs	390,784	-	-	390,784
Depreciation	14,388	-	-	14,388
Total Expenses	2,837,985	38,478	897,172	3,773,635
CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	552,144	52,407	42,873	647,424

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
CONSOLIDATING SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES (CONTINUED)
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012
(SEE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT)

	Evangelical Lutheran Synod	Lutheran Schools of America	Thoughts of Faith, Inc	Total
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS				
Support:				
Congregations, Organizations and Individuals	146,995	-	-	146,995
Interest	87,408	-	-	87,408
Investment Income	225,949	-	-	225,949
Realized and Unrealized Losses on Long-Term Investments	961,561	-	-	961,561
Net Assets Released from Restrictions	(734,757)	-	(2,822)	(737,579)
CHANGE IN TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>687,156</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(2,822)</u>	<u>684,334</u>
PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS				
Support:				
Congregations, Organizations and Individuals	260,000	-	-	260,000
CHANGE IN PERMANENTLY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS	<u>260,000</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>260,000</u>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS (DEFICIT)	<u>\$ 1,499,300</u>	<u>\$ 52,407</u>	<u>\$ 40,051</u>	<u>\$ 1,591,758</u>

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
COMBINING SCHEDULE OF FINANCIAL POSITION
DECEMBER 31, 2012
(SEE INDEPENDENT ACCOUNTANTS' REVIEW REPORT)**

	Evangelical Lutheran Synod	Bethany Lutheran College	Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary	Total
ASSETS	December 31, 2012	June 30, 2012	June 30, 2012	
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 821,380	\$ 249,989	\$ 48,315	\$ 1,119,684
Cash in Escrow	59,152	-	-	59,152
Inter-Company Receivable (Payable)	-	43,455	(43,455)	-
Accounts Receivable	158,649	-	-	158,649
Student Accounts Receivable, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$65,000	-	51,720	-	51,720
Contributions Receivable	-	470,931	-	470,931
Interest Receivable	56,114	-	-	56,114
Other Receivables, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Accounts of \$2,000	-	108,725	10,391	119,116
Inventory	68,563	241,872	-	310,435
Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets	567,279	18,905	-	586,184
Student Notes Receivable, Net of Allowance for Doubtful Notes of \$40,000	-	486,838	-	486,838
Loans Receivable	906,784	-	-	906,784
Investments	16,736,818	24,668,437	7,602,513	49,007,768
Deferred Debt Acquisition Costs	-	31,353	-	31,353
Beneficial Interest in Funds Held in Trust	-	125,461	82,300	207,761
Beneficial Interest in Perpetual Trust	-	336,735	336,735	673,470
Land Held for Resale	606,410	-	-	606,410
Property, Plant, and Equipment, Net	888,155	52,876,579	1,555,409	55,320,143
Total Assets	<u>\$ 20,869,304</u>	<u>\$ 79,711,000</u>	<u>\$ 9,592,208</u>	<u>\$ 110,172,512</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS				
LIABILITIES				
Accounts Payable	\$ 94,479	\$ 209,879	\$ 3,402	\$ 307,760
Interest Payable	5,293	-	-	5,293
Other Liabilities	198,031	-	-	198,031
Accrued Liabilities	-	686,257	4,034	690,291
Deposit Accounts	-	62,489	-	62,489
Line of Credit Payable	-	500,053	-	500,053
Long-Term Debt and Notes Payable	514,614	6,250,000	-	6,764,614
Charitable Gift Annuity and Trust Agreements	1,009,342	743,822	372,294	2,125,458
Deposits Held in Custody for Others	-	320,084	11,432	331,516
U.S. Government Grants Refundable	-	464,938	-	464,938
Total Liabilities	1,821,759	9,237,522	391,162	11,450,443
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted:				
Designated	2,876,810	-	-	2,876,810
Undesignated	3,640,516	13,099,753	1,612,942	18,353,211
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	6,517,326	13,099,753	1,612,942	21,230,021
Temporarily Restricted	8,774,095	33,728,357	362,790	40,865,242
Permanently Restricted	5,756,124	23,645,368	7,225,314	36,626,806
Total Net Assets	19,047,545	70,473,478	9,201,046	98,722,069
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	<u>\$ 20,869,304</u>	<u>\$ 79,711,000</u>	<u>\$ 9,592,208</u>	<u>\$ 110,172,512</u>

TREASURER'S
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS & SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION
FOR YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2012

**EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD
MANKATO, MINNESOTA**

C O N T E N T S

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Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2012

[illegible]

TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,849,327.84	\$1,579,133.75	\$364,015.57	\$1,302,094.09	\$1,094,685.66	\$225,327.42	\$615,666.57	\$13,839,051.89	\$20,869,302.79
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LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCES

Notes payable: (Note C & Schedule B)

- Working capital
- Investment program
- Mortgage/Demand notes
- Life loan plan
- Accounts payable
- Interest payable
- Deferred revenue
- Annuities payable
- Other liabilities

Unrestricted - designated (Note D)

Unrestricted (Note E)
 Permanently restricted (Note F)
 Temporarily restricted (Note G)

[illegible]

TOTAL LIABILITIES & FUND BALANCES	\$1,849,327.84	\$1,579,133.75	\$364,015.57	\$1,302,094.09	\$1,094,585.56	\$225,327.42	\$615,666.57	\$13,839,051.89	\$20,869,302.79
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EXHIBIT II

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2012

	GENERAL FUND 1	CHURCH EXTENSION AND LOAN FUND 2	RESIDENCES AND REAL ESTATE FUND 5	HOME OUTREACH FUND 6	WORLD OUTREACH FUND 7	LUTHERAN SCHOOLS OF AMERICA	THOUGHTS OF FAITH	EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD FOUNDATION	TOTAL ALL FUNDS
Balance 12/31/2011									
Permanently Restricted	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,496,123.95	\$5,496,123.95
Temporarily Restricted	0.00	1,163,932.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$74,496.19	4,851,333.30	6,089,761.82
Unrestricted	\$1,354,459.04	\$0.00	\$378,403.21	\$1,012,169.95	\$418,985.20	\$59,395.09	\$71,979.44	0.00	\$3,293,304.82
Unrestricted - Designated	\$317,389.85	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16,634.42	\$869,229.20	\$13,505.59	\$9,275.00	\$1,391,562.30	\$2,576,596.37
TOTAL FUND BALANCES 12/31/2011	\$1,671,846.90	\$1,163,932.33	\$378,403.21	\$1,028,804.37	\$1,105,114.49	\$172,900.68	\$165,750.63	\$11,739,019.55	\$17,455,786.57
ADD:									
Investment Portfolio Income	\$36,503.16	\$23,566.57	\$0.00	\$28,691.93	\$27,513.48	\$1,820.23	\$6,142.87	\$0.00	\$124,238.24
Investment Services	(8,952.47)	(5,527.95)	0.00	(6,730.19)	(9,453.76)	(426.96)	(\$1,440.91)	0.00	(29,142.24)
Change in Split Interest Agreements	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00
Annuity/Trust Amortization	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00
Distributions	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	\$0.00	0.00	0.00
Market Value Gains (Losses)	132,255.78	85,385.04	0.00	103,954.95	99,685.27	6,594.93	\$22,255.51	0.00	450,132.48
Excess of Income Over Expenditures and Appropriations for the Period	(74,472.13)	23,101.99	(14,337.64)	99,577.56	(132,900.49)	44,422.42	13,094.00	0.00	(41,565.19)
TOTAL ADDITIONS	\$85,724.34	\$126,524.75	(\$14,337.64)	\$225,494.25	(\$12,155.50)	\$52,410.62	\$40,082.47	\$0.00	\$503,663.29
SUBTOTAL	\$1,757,573.24	\$1,290,457.08	\$364,065.57	\$1,294,311.03	\$1,092,958.99	\$225,311.30	\$195,803.10	\$11,739,019.55	\$17,959,449.86
Balance 12/31/2012									
Unrestricted - Designated (Note D)	\$280,301.58	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$103,914.78	\$690,374.02	\$136,676.74	\$6,425.00	\$0.00	\$1,217,782.12
Unrestricted (Note E)	\$1,477,161.66	\$0.00	\$64,015.57	1,190,396.25	402,554.97	88,634.56	117,704.02	0.00	\$3,640,517.03
Permanently Restricted (Note F)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Temporarily Restricted (Note G)	\$0.00	\$1,290,457.08	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,674.08	0.00	\$1,362,131.16
TOTAL FUND BALANCES 12/31/2012	\$1,757,573.24	\$1,290,457.08	\$364,065.57	\$1,294,311.03	\$1,092,958.99	\$225,311.30	\$195,803.10	\$0.00	\$6,220,430.31

Descriptions of ELS Foundation Funds

Fund Number	Title	Description
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 Mission Trust Endowment \$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 contributions to Helping Hands
21	Partners in the Gospel Endowment \$1,755,977 Permanently Restricted	Principal derived from special synod wide offering. Income only available. To be used as endowment for Home Missions/Evangelism.
22	Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment \$100,000 Permanently Restricted	Principal donated as endowment for World Outreach. Income only available.
23	Seminary Endowment \$1,000,000 Permanently Restricted	Principal donated by Marvin Schwan as endowment to support seminary in South America. Income only available.
24	Board for World Outreach Reserve Unrestricted	From estates designated for World Outreach. "Fund functioning as endowment". Income for World Outreach.
25	Charitable Gift & Trust Agreements Temporarily Restricted	Fund established to account for Charitable Gift & Trust Agreements of which the beneficiaries are Synod programs when the donor dies.
26	Board for Home Outreach Reserve Temporarily Restricted	Original principle of \$100,000 from Marvin Schwan to serve as contingency for use by the Board for Home Outreach if deficits occur. Principal can be used but never has been. Deficits have been funded from estates and other available sources.
27	Robert & Madelyn Soule Endowment \$1,250,000 Permanently Restricted	Donated by Bob & Madelyn Soule as endowment. Income only available. On 1M - income divided equally between Bob & Madelyn Soule Scholarship Fund (BLC), Foreign Student Support (BLTS), and World Outreach (ELS). On CCL - income for president's office.
28	Board for Home Outreach Expansion Temporarily Restricted	Original principal from Marvin Schwan. Principal and income not restricted. Used for Home Outreach Expansion and to absorb any deficits. Also used for capital purposes in form of loans.
29	St. Martin-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 Missions/Evangelism and World Outreach for work in the USA and abroad.

EXHIBIT III

Page 2 of 2

Fund Description for ELS Foundation (cont.)

30	Truth for Youth Endowment \$410,000 Permanently Restricted	Principal derived from special synod wide offering. Income only available. To be used for youth programs.
31	School Endowment \$20,000 Permanently Restricted	Principal donated by John Arends, Income only available. Income to be used for 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	Trustee 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.

CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
December 31, 2012

Cash in Bank
Investment management accounts
Loans receivable from congregations (Schedule B)
Accounts Receivable
Prepaid Expenses/Deposits
Interest Receivable
Property Held For Resale

TOTAL ASSETS

Accounts Payable
Charity Gift Annuity
Agency Obligations

FUND BALANCES

Permanently Restricted
 Temporarily Restricted
 Unrestricted - Designated
TOTAL

Income - Net
Investment Portfolio Income
Investment Services
Change in Split Interest Agreements
Distributions
Market value gains (losses)

Balance 12/31/2012
 Permanently Restricted (Note F)
 Temporarily Restricted (Note G)
 Unrestricted - Designated (Note D)

	BMO	BMO	BMO	BMO	BMO	BMO	BMO
PRESIDENTS' DELIVERANCE MISSION TRUST OFFICE ENDOWMENT	FUND 19	FUND 20	FUND 21	FUND 22	FUND 23	FUND 24	FUND 25
MARVIN AND PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL ENDOWMENT	FUND 26	FUND 27	FUND 28	FUND 29	FUND 30	FUND 31	FUND 32
WHIPPLE - WILSON	FUND 33	FUND 34	FUND 35	FUND 36	FUND 37	FUND 38	FUND 39
BMO SEMINARY ENDOWMENT	FUND 40	FUND 41	FUND 42	FUND 43	FUND 44	FUND 45	FUND 46
BMO RESERVE FUND	FUND 47	FUND 48	FUND 49	FUND 50	FUND 51	FUND 52	FUND 53
CHARITABLE GIFT & TRUST AGREEMENTS	FUND 54	FUND 55	FUND 56	FUND 57	FUND 58	FUND 59	FUND 60
BMO OUTREACH RESERVE FUND	FUND 61	FUND 62	FUND 63	FUND 64	FUND 65	FUND 66	FUND 67

[illegible]

\$994,982.98	\$21,062.59	\$2,022,878.76	\$103,953.52	\$1,053,163.40	\$1,352,642.58	\$1,163,447.03	\$210,352.70
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,593.95	\$0.00	\$0.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	182,884.99	0.00
\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00	828,457.06	0.00

	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,553.95	\$1,039,342.05
\$600,000.00	\$600,000.00	\$1,755,977.00	\$100,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
35,221.17	0.00	179,944.80	0.00	0.00	1,352,364.25	131,285.99	192,586.49
(32,315.54)	0.00	0.00	(4,885.33)	(37,388.46)	0.00	0.00	0.00
\$57,654.96	\$1,035,921.80	\$95,013.67	\$962,601.54	\$1,352,364.25	\$131,285.99	\$192,586.49	
\$635,221.17							

	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$4,720.34	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
	16,427.62	13,481.04	23,417.03	2,575.18	24,854.94	23,952.80	40,833.53	4,900.18
	(3,853.38)	(3,443.94)	(5,492.87)	(5,639.34)	(5,639.34)	(5,618.54)	(10,803.50)	(1,149.42)
	(11,020.92)	(11,020.92)	(20,732.76)	(1,643.68)	(18,687.72)	(10,643.40)	0.00	0.00
	59,519.61	53,191.50	84,843.22	8,902.73	90,194.83	86,794.41	142,914.55	17,754.05
	\$59,761.81	\$53,407.93	\$86,734.96	\$8,939.65	\$90,161.86	\$87,305.62	\$142,914.55	\$17,766.21

\$600,000.00	\$800,000.00	\$1,755,977.00	\$100,000.00	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
94,982.98	21,092.59	266,698.76	3,953.52	53,163.40	1,350,048.63	154,104.98	210,352.70
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
\$694,982.98	\$27,092.59	\$2,022,676.76	\$103,953.52	\$1,053,163.40	\$1,350,048.63	\$154,104.98	\$210,352.70

**BALANCE SHEET AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES (cont.)**
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation
December 31, 2012

Exhibit IV
Page 2 of 2

	BIOLOGICALS		BIOGENO		REV		LISA		TRUSTEES		
	ROBERT & MADELYN ENDOWMENT	SOULE EXPANSION FUND 27	BHO FUND 28	ST. MARTIN SHAWANO ENDOWMENT	OUR YOUTH ENDOWMENT	FUND 30	SCHOOL ENDOWMENT	FUND 31	FUND 40	FUND 45	TOTAL
ASSETS											
Cash in Bank	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Investment management accounts	1,365,480.32	2,475,272.46		21,670.89	386,632.02		21,066.52		695,801.60	963,594.01	12,233,857.88
Loans receivable from congregations (Schedule B)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	372,673.98
Accounts Receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,500.00
Prepaid Expenses/Deposits	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	368,500.00
Interest receivable	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	22,956.18
Property Held For Resale	0.00	654,222.51	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-1,089,324.47
	\$1,365,480.32	\$3,139,494.97	\$21,670.89	\$386,632.02	\$386,632.02	\$21,066.52	\$21,066.52	\$0.00	\$695,801.60	\$963,594.01	\$14,088,915.51
Due from (to) other funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	(\$249,763.67)
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,365,480.32	\$3,139,494.97	\$21,670.89	\$386,632.02	\$386,632.02	\$21,066.52	\$21,066.52	\$0.00	\$695,801.60	\$963,594.01	\$13,839,051.89
LIABILITIES											
Accounts Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,593.95
Charity Gift Annuity Payable	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$162,884.99
Agency Obligations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$526,457.06
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,011,936.00
FUND BALANCES											
Balance 12/31/2011	\$1,000,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,146.95	\$410,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	5,496,123.95
Permanently Restricted	10,206.30	2,940,542.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	9,191.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,651,333.30
Temporarily Restricted	0.00	0.00	0.00	(3,000.00)	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,000.00
Unrestricted	\$1,010,206.30	\$2,940,542.60	\$19,807.12	\$356,127.46	\$356,127.46	\$19,191.70	\$536,452.16	\$0.00	\$636,452.16	\$864,022.64	\$11,739,019.55
TOTAL	\$250,000.00	\$13,654.73	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,675.70	\$162,269.88
Add:											
Income - Net	26,645.34	54,788.10	512.24	9,209.90	487.18	16,340.55	23,104.85				282,467.63
Investment Portfolio Income	(6,250.12)	(12,851.49)	(120.15)	(116.62)	(3,632.96)	(5,419.64)	(67,527.64)				(149,532.09)
Investment Services	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00				(98,932.09)
Change in Split Interest Agreements	(11,681.06)	(55,144.08)	(384.24)	(6,413.80)	(307.08)	(12,362.28)	(12,501.72)				(178,273.36)
Distributions	96,539.86	198,505.11	1,855.92	33,369.80	1,801.34	\$33,369.84	\$99,571.37				\$1,088,066.34
Market value gains (losses)	\$355,274.02	\$196,062.37	\$1,663.77	\$33,043.56	\$1,674.82	\$33,043.56	\$99,571.37				\$1,088,066.34
TOTAL	\$1,250,000.00	\$0.00	\$20,146.95	\$410,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$0.00	1,096.52	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,756,123.95
Balance 12/31/2012	115,480.32	3,139,494.97	1,523.94								5,411,964.31
Permanently Restricted (Note F)	0.00	0.00	0.00	(20,367.88)	0.00	0.00	695,801.60				1,659,027.63
Temporarily Restricted (Note G)	0.00	0.00	0.00				0.00				963,594.01
Unrestricted - Designated (Note D)	\$1,355,480.32	\$3,139,494.97	\$21,670.89	\$386,632.02	\$21,066.52	\$0.00	\$963,594.01				\$12,827,115.69
TOTAL	\$1,355,480.32	\$3,139,494.97	\$21,670.89	\$386,632.02	\$21,066.52	\$0.00	\$963,594.01	\$12,827,115.69			

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES BY FUND
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Markato, Minnesota
 December 31, 2012

EXHIBIT V
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Account Number	INCOME/EXPENSES	General 1	Church Extension 2	Remainder Trust 4	Residence & Real Estate 5	Home Outreach 6	World Outreach 7	Lutheran Schools of America	Thoughts of Faith 19	Schwann Foundation 20	Partners in the Gospel 21
	TOTAL										
40910	INCOME										
40910	Congregational Contributions	42,429.72	17,895.39			6,915.05	18,728.62	4,267.41	14,635.26		
41000	Contributions - Other	770,410.75	416,649.93			16,649.93	1,145,649.93	1,145,649.93			
42000	Schwann Program	438,760.00	81,000.00			202,500.00	135,000.00	20,250.00			
40510	Organizational Contributions	113,893.88	19,777.53			9,115.98	35,382.59	105.14	48,532.64		
40920	Investment Portfolio Income	372,583.45	36,503.16			28,691.93	27,513.48	4,703.42	9,778.79	14,681.04	23,417.03
40920	Interest	88,659.16	1,252.22								6,859.60
40920	Gifts	11,110.00									
40920	Individual Gifts & Bequests	553,410.22	34,368.07			37,454.65	70,817.00	2,365.00	158,635.28		
40920	Miscellaneous	7.69									
42010	Schwann Program Budget Supplement	236,350.00	143,813.44			48,765.74	37,724.34	5,595.48			
42020	Schwann - Project Grants	75,000.00	40,000.00			20,000.00	20,000.00	15,000.00			
43010	Tithing	40,000.00				40,000.00					
44000	Grants/Trusts	6,345.00	29,345.02			21,728.91					
46000	Miscellaneous	5,780.00	1,385.00			35.00	103,345.00		4,445.00		
47000	Helping Hands	103,345.00				1,350.00	220,000.00		615,000.00		
47010	Mission Advancement Project	845,000.00							6,800.00		
48000	Registration/Fees/Dues	55,639.00									
48210	Subscriptions	31,337.30									
48220	Publications	14,000.00									
48270	Royalties	673.57									
48300	Salary Reimbursement	62,975.32	20,000.00						42,975.32		
49450	Permanent Transfers Unrestricted	170,499.35	40,989.60			79,807.56	46,274.88	3,419.32	35,427.70	53,191.50	84,843.22
49990	Unrestricted Gain	1,492,837.14	132,255.78	0.00	0.00	781,324.82	916,940.48	90,886.40	937,222.99	67,872.54	115,119.85
	TOTAL INCOME	5,535,892.61	1,111,419.10	0.00	0.00	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,350.00	1,350.00
	EXPENSES										
51100	Salaries/Admin/Sup	(537,234.24)	(194,159.20)			(11,794.98)	(221,145.30)		(110,134.78)		
51110	Salaries/Administrative Assistant	(31,266.45)	(15,634.49)						(15,631.96)		
51120	Salaries/Church Clerk	(2,945.00)	(1,472.50)								
52000	Moving Expenses	(5,784.00)	(2,892.00)								
52100	Housing & Furnishing Allow.	(157,375.00)	(66,375.00)			(36,000.00)	(14,000.00)		(41,000.00)		
52140	Student Travel	(6,338.89)					(6,338.89)				
52150	School Tuition	(13,170.00)				(2,970.00)					
52200	FICA/Medicare	(14,955.39)	(6,803.79)						(7,991.59)		
52210	Life Insurance	(10,000.00)	(3,000.00)			(16,000.00)	(32,010.00)		(20,000.00)		
52300	Life Insurance	(1,547.88)	(663.51)			(118.80)	(633.32)		(632.50)		
52400	Tax Sheltered Annuities	(34,949.82)	(22,513.10)			(2,030.88)	(7,771.92)		(2,827.82)		
52450	Workers Compensation	(4,677.00)	(1,755.58)			(313.42)	(1,544.37)		(1,063.65)		
52500	Other Employee Benefits	(8,435.00)					(8,435.00)				
52600	Investment Services	(93,198.69)	(4,582.43)			(6,750.19)	(6,453.76)	(1,103.27)	(2,295.31)	(3,853.38)	(5,492.87)
53100	Legal Services	(1,622.60)	(1,600.00)			(822.50)					
53150	Other Professional Services	(42,356.09)	(27,864.00)			(10,312.09)	(4,000.00)		(8,186.59)		
53200	Printing & Publishing	(68,233.86)	(39,589.94)			(10,177.67)	(10,177.67)		(150.00)		
53250	Data Processing Services	(3,604.19)	(3,304.19)			(1,677.26)	(150.00)		(1,120.87)		
53300	Postage & Freight	(2,451.77)	(1,350.00)			(1,142.91)	(172.20)		(1,062.00)		
53350	Postage & Freight	(2,451.77)	(1,350.00)			(1,142.91)	(172.20)		(1,062.00)		
53400	Commercial Multi-Peril	(6,558.03)	(4,016.00)			(850.03)			(350.00)		
53470	Unbilled Liability	(1,350.00)	(1,000.00)								
53500	Repairs & Maintenance	(12,357.12)	(10,032.25)			(2,324.87)					

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES BY FUND
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 December 31, 2012

EXHIBIT V
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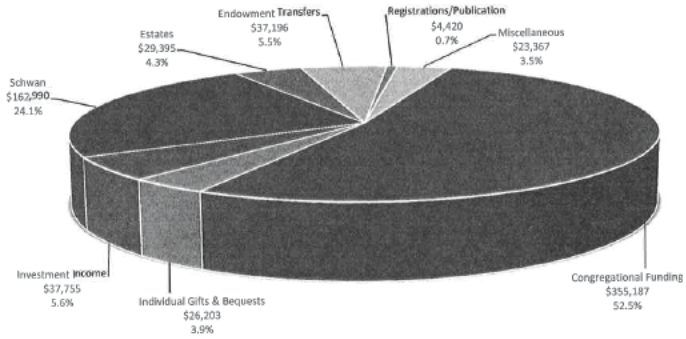
Account Number	INCOME/EXPENSES	Whipple Outreach 22	World Outreach 23	Gen World Outreach 24	Charitable Gift & Trust 25	Homes Outreach Real Estate 26	Homes Outreach Expense 27	Homes Outreach Expense 28	St. Martin's 29	76th Anniversary 30	ELS Secondary Schools 31	Donated 40	Trustees Designated 48
	INCOME												
40010	Congregational Contributions												
40020	Congregational Fundraising												
40030	Scholarship Fund												
40510	Organizational Contributions												
40900	Investment Portfolio Income												
40920	Interest												
40930	Rent												
40940	Gifts												
40980	Miscellaneous												
42010	Annual Gifts & Bequests												
42020	Scholarship Program Budget Supplement												
42030	Scholarship - Project Grants												
43010	Thrivent												
43020	Salaries/Trusts												
43030	Maintenance												
43040	Helping Hands												
47000	Mission Advancement Project												
47010	Registration/Fees/Dues												
48210	Subscriptions												
48220	Salaries of Publications												
48230	Publications												
48300	Salary Reimbursement												
48480	Permanent Transfers Unrestricted												
48990	Unrealized Gain												
	Total Income	8,502.73	90,104.83	86,784.41	142,914.55	17,754.05	96,539.86	199,205.11	1,855.92	33,369.80	1,801.24	59,204.13	83,712.18
		11,369.91	116,088.92	110,737.21	183,564.08	22,664.23	373,185.20	266,917.94	2,366.16	42,578.70	2,298.62	76,544.68	117,402.73
	EXPENSES												
51100	Salaries/Admin/Sup												
51110	Salaries/Administrative Assistant												
51200	Salaries/Clerical												
51300	Salaries/Programs												
52100	Housing & Fundraising Allow.												
52140	Student Travel												
52150	School Tuition			(10,200.00)									
52200	FICA/Medicare												
52250	Health/Disability Insurance												
52300	Life Insurance												
52400	Tax Sheltered Annuities												
52450	Workers Compensation												
52500	Other Employee Benefits												
53000	Investment Services												
53100	Legal Services												
53160	Legal Services												
53170	Other Professional Services												
53200	Printing & Publishing												
53250	Data Processing Services												
53300	Communication Services												
53350	Professional Services												
53400	Commercial Services												
53460	Commercial Multi-Pert												
53470	Umbrella Liability												
53500	Repairs & Maintenance												

SUMMARY OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES BY FUND
 Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
 December 31, 2012

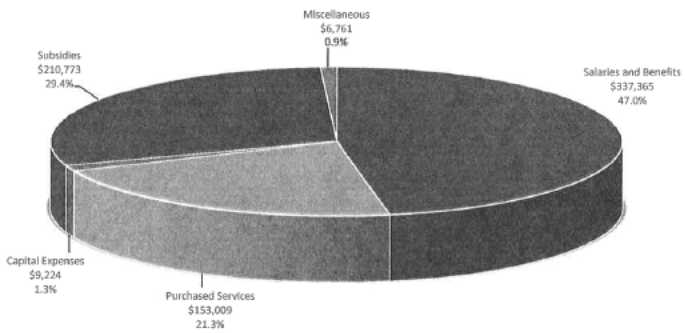
EXHIBIT V
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Account Number	INCOME/EXPENSES	Whipple Olson 22	World Outreach 23	Gen World Outreach 24	Charitable Gift & Trust 25	Home Outreach Reserve 26	Souls Endowment 27	Home Outreach Expansion 28	SL Martins 29	75th Anniversary 30	ELS Schools 31	Donated 40	Trustees Designated 45
	EXPENSES (cont.)												
53350	Travel/Metalodging			(5,341.69)									
53800	Registration Fees												
53950	Leases or Rentals			(16,239.20)									
53700	Advertising			(65,000.00)			(7,774.02)						
53800	Signage												
53900	Payment to Others												
53901	Capital Projects Payment												
53410	Heat												
53420	Lighting												
53440	Videos/Sevier/Carriage												
54050	Supplies & Materials												
54600	Publications/Subscriptions												
54700	Books												
55300	Equipment/Furniture												
55400	Specialty Gifts/Purchases												
56650	Advertising Support												
55100	Operating Support												
56110	Rent Support												
56200	Interest Support												
56200	Maintenance Support												
56200	Print Support												
56600	LVA Travel Support												
56610	Youth Retreat Grant												
56620	Continuing Education Grant												
56630	Christian Day School												
57710	Widow Support												
56700	Prayer Support												
56720	Group Term Insurance Support												
57400	Interest												
58200	Dues & Membership												
58300	Property Taxes/Assessments												
58900	Depreciation												
58900	Mailings												
59100	Transfers												
59990	Change in Charitable Gift Annuity												
		(1,843.68)	(18,087.72)	(10,643.40)	(149,532.09)	(3,738.80)	(3,867.04)	(55,144.08)	(384.24)	(6,913.82)	(307.08)	(12,352.26)	(12,501.72)
	Total Expenses	(2,395.06)	(24,504.09)	(13,018.83)	(160,710.09)	(4,862.02)	(17,854.18)	(67,867.57)	(475.39)	(9,044.14)	(392.70)	(16,155.24)	(17,876.38)
	Net Profit (Loss)	8,961.85	90,584.85	(2,261.62)	22,843.99	17,792.21	355,301.02	199,980.37	1,892.77	33,524.56	1,905.82	59,389.44	99,616.37

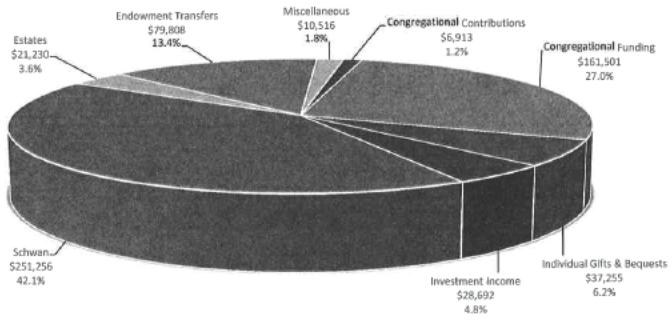
**Synod Fund Income Excluding Unrealized Gain
\$676,513**



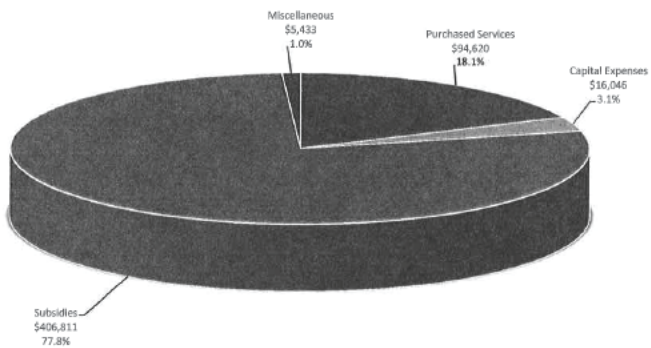
**Synod Fund Expenses
\$717,133**



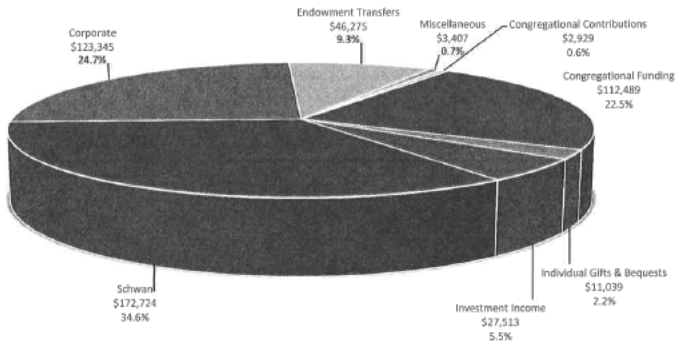
Home Outreach Income Excluding Unrealized Gain \$597,171



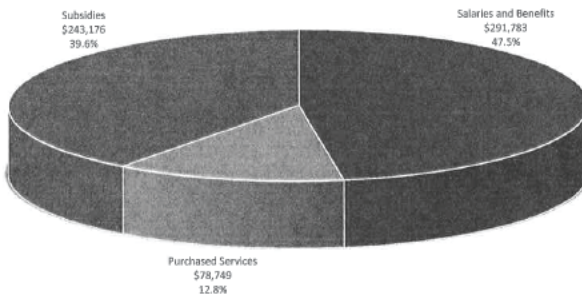
Home Outreach Expenses \$522,911



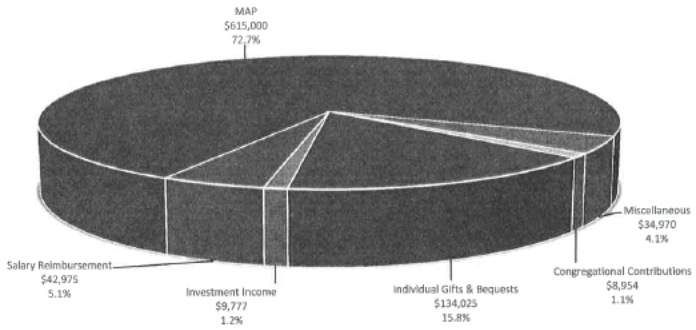
World Outreach Income Excluding Unrealized Gain
\$499,721



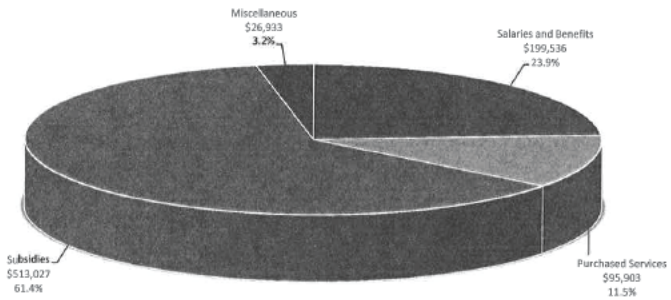
World Outreach Expenses
\$613,708



Thoughts of Faith Income Excluding Unrealized Gain
\$845,701



Thoughts of Faith Expenses
\$835,399



NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2012

EXHIBIT VI

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(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 Outreach Fund, World Outreach Fund, Lutheran School of America Fund and Thoughts of Faith 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 Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation is an fund established by the Synod's Board of Trustees to invest gifts and bequests for the exclusive benefit of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. In addition to donations specified for the Foundation, two-thirds of undesignated trust and estate income is appropriated to the Foundation each year. The fund includes both strict endowment funds and funds acting as an endowments.

(B) Residences and real estate have been stated at cost or acquisition.

(C) Notes Payable:

The working capital notes are 0% - 4% demand loans from a congregation and an organization.

Investment program notes are amounts loaned by individuals, congregations and organizations for one year at the interest rate of .9%

The Demand/Mortgage Note Payable is a note loaned by the WELS Church Extension Fund at an interest rate of 5%, maturing November 2013

Life Loan Plan notes are amounts loaned by individuals at interest rates from 5% - 6%.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2012

EXHIBIT VI

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(D) Unrestricted - Designated:

General Fund		
Christian Service	\$11,527.60	
Pension Plan	95.22	
World Needs	37,419.83	
Publications	81,104.49	
Youth Outreach	96,001.81	
Book of Family Prayer	<u>14,384.92</u>	
		\$240,533.87
Project/Grants		
Cross-Stitch	(\$6,658.50)	
Stewardship	7,847.49	
Kessel Book	12,318.65	
Administration Communication	2,873.45	
Large Print Sentinel	8,473.20	
CFIT	8,413.42	
PEA	3,730.81	
Festival Writing	1,375.87	
Spanish Language Training	<u>1,483.32</u>	
		<u>\$39,857.71</u>
Total General Fund Unrestricted - Designated		\$280,391.58
Home Outreach		
Project/Grants		
Evangelism Retreat	\$12,080.36	
Conference	\$2,745.68	
Preschool	14,000.00	
Mentoring	14,500.00	
New Start	20,000.00	
Cross-stitch Home Outreach Promotion	5,000.00	
Vicar Support	15,588.74	
Evangelism Counselor Start-up Costs	<u>20,000.00</u>	
Total Home Outreach Fund Unrestricted - Designated		\$103,914.78
World Outreach		
Chile - General	59,160.22	
Chile - ESL	29,649.71	
Chile - Seminary Startup	155,200.00	
Korea Exploratory	59,966.99	
India-General	56,522.42	
India-College Fund Orphans	16,063.00	
Peru-General	26,928.26	

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2012

EXHIBIT VI

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World Outreach Unrestricted - Designated (cont.)		
Peru-Jungle School	65,786.81	
Peru-Christian Day School	37,127.51	
Peru-Seminay	27,432.08	
South America Contingencies	56,864.57	
Amazon	<u>34,288.96</u>	
Total World Outreach Unrestricted - Designated		\$624,990.53
Project/Grants		
Field Visit Conference	\$18,981.28	
Jungle School	40,500.00	
Peru Transition	<u>5,902.21</u>	
Total Project/Grants Unrestricted - Designated		<u>\$65,383.49</u>
Total World Outreach Fund Unrestricted - Designated		\$690,374.02
Lutheran Schools of America (LSA)		
Lutheran Elementary Schools	<u>35,627.58</u>	
		\$35,627.58
Project/Grants		
Teacher Conference	\$29,272.74	
BOT Grant	44,493.09	
School Visit	<u>27,283.33</u>	
		<u>\$101,049.16</u>
Total LSA Fund Unrestricted - Designated		\$136,676.74
Thoughts of Faith		
Bi-vocational	<u>6,425.00</u>	
Total Thoughts of Faith		\$6,425.00
Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation		
Trustees	695,801.60	
Donated	983,594.01	
75th Anniversary - Truth for our Youth	<u>(20,367.98)</u>	
Total Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation		<u>\$1,659,027.63</u>
Total Unrestricted - Designated		<u>\$2,876,809.75</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2012

EXHIBIT VI

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(E) Unrestricted

General Fund	\$1,477,181.66
Residences & Real Estate	364,015.57
Home Outreach	1,190,396.25
World Outreach	402,584.97
Lutheran Schools of America	88,634.56
Thoughts of Faith	<u>117,704.02</u>

Total Unrestricted

\$3,640,517.03

(F) Permanently Restricted

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation	
President's Office Endowment	\$600,000.00
Marvin & Delores Schwan World Outreach Trust Fund	600,000.00
Partners in the Gospel Home Missions/Evangelism Fund	1,755,977.00
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment	100,000.00
World Outreach Seminary Endowment	1,000,000.00
Robert & Madelyn Soule Endowment	1,250,000.00
St. Martin Lutheran Church	20,146.95
75th Anniversary - Truth for our Youth	410,000.00
ELS School Endowment Fund	<u>20,000.00</u>

Total Permanently Restricted

\$5,756,123.95

(G) Temporarily Restricted

Church Extension & Loan Fund	\$1,140,457.08
Herbert and Cathy Schulz	<u>150,000.00</u>
Total Church Extension & Loan Fund	\$1,290,457.08
Thoughts of Faith	66,197.69
Vacation Bible School	<u>5,476.39</u>
Total Thoughts of Faith	71,674.08

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation	
President's Office Endowment	\$94,982.98
Marvin & Delores Schwan World Outreach Trust F	21,092.59
Partners in the Gospel	266,699.76
Whipple-Olson-Wilson Endowment	3,953.52
World Outreach Seminary Endowment	53,163.40
World Outreach Reserve Fund	<u>1,350,048.63</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (cont.)

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2012

EXHIBIT VI

Page 5 of 5

Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation (cont.)	
Robert & Madelyn Soule Endowment	115,480.32
Charitable Gift & Trust Agreements	154,104.98
Home Outreach Reserve Fund	210,352.70
Home Outreach Expansion Fund	3,139,494.97
St. Martin Lutheran Church	1,523.94
School Endowment Fund	<u>1,066.52</u>
Total Evangelical Lutheran Synod Foundation	<u>\$5,411,964.31</u>
Total Temporarily Restricted	<u>\$6,774,095.47</u>

LOANS RECEIVABLE

Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Mankato, Minnesota
December 31, 2012

SCHEDULE A

ORIGINAL LOAN BALANCE	REMAINING LOAN BALANCE 12/31/2011	RECLASS / NEW LOANS 2012	PAID 2012	TOTAL PAID	REMAINING LOAN BALANCE 12/31/2012
1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,000.00
General Fund (Fund 01)					
Christian Service Loan					
Church Extension Loan (Fund 02)					
Faith - Oregon, Wisconsin:					
\$155,500.62	\$48,202.80	\$0.00	\$48,202.80	\$155,500.62	\$0.00
186,203.42	152,809.71	0.00	0.00	33,393.71	152,809.71
490,610.83	184,902.67	0.00	2,499.79	308,207.95	182,402.88
101,250.00	118,068.34	0.00	0.00	-16,818.34	118,068.34
0.00	47,897.68	0.00	-31,931.52	-79,829.20	79,829.20
\$933,564.87	\$551,881.20	\$0.00	\$18,771.07	\$400,454.74	\$533,110.13
Home Outreach Loan (Fund 06)					
Faith - San Antonio, TX (Construction)					
\$0.00	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	\$18,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Partners in the Gospel (Fund 21)					
Peace - Lakeland, Florida					
39,333.03	21,211.78	0.00	0.00	18,121.25	21,211.78
355,007.44	351,962.20	0.00	500.00	3,545.24	351,462.20
\$394,340.47	\$373,173.98	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$21,666.49	\$372,673.98
Totals					
\$1,328,905.34	\$944,055.18	\$0.00	\$37,271.07	\$422,121.23	\$906,784.11

* Defaulted on LACE loan - Synod currently making payments

WORKING CAPITAL NOTES PAYABLE

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Secured</u>	<u>Total</u>
Holy Scripture - Midland, MI	No	\$100,000.00
Helping Hands	No	<u>\$100,000.00</u>
Total		<u><u>\$200,000.00</u></u>

INVESTMENT PROGRAM

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Secured</u>	<u>Total</u>
Bethesda Lutheran Home Foundation	No	\$250,000.00
Ingebretson, Lucille	No	10,000.00
Rock Dell Cemetery Fd	No	5,500.00
Saude Cemetery Fd	No	8,562.00
Tjernagel, Bertha C.	No	1,000.00
Western Koshkonong CF	No	<u>12,321.76</u>
Total		<u><u>\$287,383.76</u></u>

DEMAND NOTES

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Secured</u>	<u>Total</u>
WELS Church Extension Fund	No	<u>\$19,506.57</u>
Total		<u><u>\$19,506.57</u></u>

LIFE LOANS

<u>Payee</u>	<u>Secured</u>	<u>Total</u>
Marvin Guderian	No	\$1,000.00
Lois Petersen	No	500.00
Mildred Johnson	No	2,500.00
Margaret L. Overson	No	500.00
Eldo & Margaret Overson	No	2,000.00
Janet Schinker	No	<u>1,223.06</u>
Total		<u><u>\$7,723.06</u></u>



STATISTICS

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD: STATISTICAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2012

CONGREGATION				MEMBERS			MINISTRATIONS							SERVICES	
	State	Location	Congregation	Baptized	Communicant	Voters	Children Baptized	Adults Baptized	Children Confirmed	Adults Confirmed	Communed	Marriages	Burials	Sunday Services	Average Attendance
1	AZ	Fort Mohave	Family of God	57	46	18	4	2			324		1	53	40
2	AZ	Lake Havasu City	Our Saviour	203	146	58	1		3	2	2,100		3	105	114
3	AZ	Scottsdale	Redeemer	87	47	24	2				1,749		1	53	49
4	CA	Bell Gardens	Christ the King	41	26	8	1				317			53	21
5	CA	Bishop	Our Savior	25	18	4	2						1	53	15
6	CA	Irvine	Faith*	93	82	28			3	3	521	1	4	52	65
7	CA	Ukiah	Apostles*	35	28	14							1	52	30
8	CA	Windsor	Christ*	36	36	12	1				345			52	30
9	FL	Kissimmee	Peace	146	109	41	13	2	6	1,824	1	2		106	108
10	FL	Lakeland	Our Savior*	46	37	14					701		1	52	35
11	FL	Lakeland	Peace	85	74	27	1				626			54	38
12	FL	Naples	Our Savior	192	158	51	3	2	2			2	2	68	130
13	FL	Port St. Lucie	Christ	79	67	27			2		1,287		3	53	58
14	FL	Sebastian	Trinity	102	83	22					1,027	2	2	52	53
15	FL	Sebring	New Life	39	35	19					981		2	53	44
16	FL	Vero Beach	Grace	184	165	30					1,613		6	53	99
17	FL	Winter Haven	Resurrection	103	88	14	1		1		1,529			53	63
18	IL	Lombard	St. Timothy	130	112	22	1	3	3	1,226			4	53	60
19	IN	Avon	Good Shepherd	26	22	10			1		390			52	16
20	IN	Hobart	Grace	238	191	23	14	5	4	10	3,215	1	2	53	141
21	IN	Portage	Hope	103	76	23	5	1		1				53	36
22	IA	Ames	Bethany	52	39	14	3				785			53	44
23	IA	Calmar	Trinity	23	20	7	1			1	202			51	13
24	IA	Forest City	Forest	49	40	16				1	180		1	50	26
25	IA	Indianola	Good Shepherd	52	46	17			1		586	1	1	53	32
26	IA	Lake Mills	Lake Mills*	49	41		1				210	1	4	17	46
27	IA	Lake Mills	Lime Creek*	26	26						142		1	17	46
28	IA	Lawler	Saude	167	127	53		1			532	1	1	53	47
29	IA	New Hampton	Jerico	136	117	48	1				591		2	53	40
30	IA	New Hampton	Redeemer	78	68	31	2				513		3	53	38
31	IA	Northwood	First Shell Rock*	72	66		1				240		1	50	33
32	IA	Northwood	Somber*	30	30						210		2	17	46
33	IA	Parkersburg	Faith*	70	60	12	2				325	1	5	51	27
34	IA	Riceville	Immanuel*	14	14						100			39	10
35	IA	Scarville	Center*	82	66	24		1		1	24		2	49	
36	IA	Scarville	Scarville*	116	82	28	1	1			1,103	3	2	49	

	SERVICES			EDUCATION										FINANCES				
	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	14	27				9	2	20					177,234	960	525,000	430,000		
2	20	54		7	1	8	3	30	30			4	250,273	1,200	2,353,500	77,428		
3	16	27				8	5	45			1	3	133,945	185	750,000	365,000		
4	13	9						11	4				35,495	495	200,000			
5	11	9				1	1											
6	12	27				10	4	20	27	1	1	7	164,518	4,552	30,000			
7	10	25				5	2	15										
8	10	22						16					62,368	13,323	525,000	54,000		
9	16	42		57	4	8	1	23	70			3	304,103	12,099	1,017,000	30,121	12,356	
10	22	19				11	3	16	20	2		1	88,225	4,315	700,000			
11	13	27				3	2	13			1	4	49,875		350,000	27,327		
12	13	70				25	4	20	100		2	10	251,095	16,660	2,000,000	125,763		
13	14	33				16	4	14	62			8	99,400	8,590	650,000			
14	17	30				14	2	22	15			6	96,883		335,030	136,033		
15	18	36											94,979	6,371	402,603		81,598	
16	12	61				10	3	26	90	2		7	149,535	43,118	1,113,500			
17	14	36						10					97,000	1,000	350,000	187,000		
18	17	38		1		14	4	51	12	1	1	7	162,680	15,042	2,000,000	53,444		
19	16	11				4	2	13	13		2	4	46,845	4,700	5,000			
20	13	108				51	10	73	47			32	135,631	23,204	800,000		257,719	
21	10	26				9	4	9		2		7	83,986	2,786				
22	15	32				9	3	19	37			3	66,965		315,400			
23	9	8						8					31,600	370	150,000		10,000	
24	5	22				9	2						20,031	310				
25	13	21				6	3	20	40	5	3	2	91,805	3,922	100,000	10,000		
26	2	22				8	1		8		1	2						
27	2	22																
28	5	37				16	3	12	28		1	5	62,000	3,900			44,000	
29	10	39				12	3	12	28			2	59,000	3,700			69,000	
30	10	32				7	1	9	14	1		4			300,000		22,525	
31	6	17				6	3		8			3						
32	2	22																
33	10	23				2	1					2	49,172	1,200			180,000	
34																		
35	5							16				2	26,370	1,925				
36	8			10	1	16	4	30	12	2	5	6	37,450	50,000				

* Current statistics not provided # Not yet a member of the synod

	CONGREGATION			MEMBERS			MINISTRATIONS							SERVICES	
	State	Location	Congregation	Baptized	Communicant	Voters	Children Baptized	Adults Baptized	Children Confirmed	Adults Confirmed	Communed	Marriages	Burials	Sunday Services	Average Attendance
37	IA	Thompson	Zion	29	29	20					200		1	50	18
38	IA	Thornton	Richland	58	49	23	1		4		661			53	33
39	IA	Waterloo	Pilgrim*	135	93	25	4	1	3		670	1	1	51	50
40	IA	Waukon	King of Grace	46	45	18			1		554			53	28
41	MA	Brewster	Trinity*	88	78	27	4				1,830	4	2	52	42
42	MA	Burlington	Pinewood	137	93	32					920	1	1	52	61
43	MI	East Jordan	Faith	52	42	11					76			51	12
44	MI	Frankenmuth	St. John's	474	389	106	12	3	2	4	3,329	4	12	104	165
45	MI	Hillman	Faith	68	49	15					480		1	52	34
46	MI	Holland	Lord of Life	72	56	29	2		1		509	1		53	23
47	MI	Holton	Holton	321	240	21	6		4		1,636		5	53	80
48	MI	Midland	Holy Scripture	142	124	24			2		1,820	2	2	53	80
49	MI	Rogers City	Trinity	34	29	12					366	1	1	51	23
50	MI	Saginaw	Gloria Dei*	242	215	82	5	1	2		2,340	1	3	69	98
51	MI	Suttons Bay	First	91	71	22	1	2			456		1	52	21
52	MN	Albert Lea	Our Savior's	489	345	146	8	2	3	3	1,806	4	6	55	100
53	MN	Apple Valley	Heritage	248	191	68	7		6	1	2,114	1	1	91	96
54	MN	Audubon	Immanuel	138	116	42			3		1,185	1	4	52	79
55	MN	Bagley	Our Savior's	141	124	22			1	3	583	1		53	34
56	MN	Belview	Our Savior's	113	77	13	1				884		3	52	34
57	MN	Belview	Rock Dell	111	76	17	1		2		714	1	1	51	30
58	MN	Clara City	Faith	58	53	24				1	414	1	1	52	33
59	MN	Cold Spring	Gloria Dei	181	146	60	4	1	3		146	3	2	53	
60	MN	Cottonwood	English	179	151	20			1		608		2	52	44
61	MN	East Grand Forks	River Heights	112	95	21			3		897	1	1	51	63
62	MN	Farmington	Hope	70	43	22	1		1		300	1		53	38
63	MN	Gaylord	Norwegian Grove	99	87	42	2				359		2	52	35
64	MN	Golden Valley	King of Grace	729	553	205	9		16	7	6,497	8	1	106	411
65	MN	Grygla	St. Petri* #	58	33	9			2		403			50	29
66	MN	Hartland	Hartland	218	164	72	3				820		2	53	47
67	MN	Lengby	St. Paul	130	111	21	1	1	2	5	715	1		53	45
68	MN	Luverne	Bethany	187	169	51	1		2		1,295	1	3	53	66
69	MN	Manchester	Manchester	49	36	13					142		1	53	16
70	MN	Mankato	Mt. Olive	894	668	274	20	1	22			2	6	154	466
71	MN	North Mankato	Peace	343	251	116	5	1	4	10	3,526	3		89	220
72	MN	Oklee	Oak Park*	147	105	25	4				1,401	2	1	45	70
73	MN	Princeton	Bethany	208	159		1		5	1	2,262	2	4	53	73
74	MN	Princeton	Our Savior's*	204	156	70	4		1		453		1	52	73
75	MN	Rogers	Redeeming Grace	167	124	42	4		4	4	1305		2	53	106
76	MN	St. Peter	Norseland	244	190	92	8		2	2	920	2	4	52	105
77	MN	Tracy	Zion	171	148	19	1		1		847	1	1	51	60
78	MN	Trail	Mt. Olive*	17	11	5							3	51	12

	SERVICES		EDUCATION									FINANCES				
	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
37	6	19			3	2	17				1	12,452				
38	10	26			16	5		20	3							
39	8	22			3	2	14	8			7	47,965	4,290	100,000	25,000	
40	7	19			5	1	15	8				81,137		500,000		
41	23	40			23	4	31	20			9	110,000	3,000	1,000,000		100,000
42	11	26			5	1		12		2	5	27,573	400	5,000		
43	5	6	9		16	2	28	43	5	2	18	326,118	53,228	3,000,000		346,478
44	16	103			17	3	5	25			8	50,607	1,559	250,000		
45	6	15			5	2	7	16			4	69,200	2,012			
46	13	15			40	4	25	50			12	118,907	520	1,000,000	194,432	
47	17	37			12	5	46			1	4	141,128	32,932	2,750,000		
48	16	60					6					32,748	1,550	150,000		
49	6	14	2		25	3	30	65	4		4	161,235	14,000	1,500,000	600,000	35,000
50	16	66			2	1					4	47,714	1,200	400,000		700
51	11	13			26	5	27	17	5		7	108,058	9,190	402,000		
52	12	45	12	1	60	12	40	55		11	16	318,870	20,667	1,850,000	1,340,443	
53	14	77			21	4	22	17	12	2	2	96,172	5,529	1,131,000		
54	15	44			5	2	5	3			2	39,571	2,328	379,773		
55	15	31			4	3	7	6			4	57,331	2,100	160,000		
56	10	33			8	3	7	10			7	53,296	1,695	150,000		
57	6	39			5	3	8	53			7	64,729	6,800	233,000	3,500	
58	14	34	7	2	23	4	28	10				109,619	11,597	1,029,000	729,000	20,000
59	10		5		16	3	10	16	4	2	5	78,631	10,738	1,000,000		
60	12	38			10	3	20	15			7	92,061	4,649	1,300,000		
61	14	28			8	2	15				8	25,918				
62	3	35	2		5	2	4	2		1	1	32,081	12,284	962,000		
63	9	30			8	2										
64	17	211	164	11	68	7	123	114		42		618,524	71,000	2,225,000		
65	9	20	10	2	10	3	14		3		4	12,560	259	60,000		
66	12	50			25	4	5	31	4	1	14	76,514	4,467	400,000		69,373
67	16	30			16	4	7	13	1		8	36,706	1,230	194,000		
68	14	40	1		13	4	18	21		2	2	114,772	8,820	375,000		16,940
69	11	23			7	2	3	7	2	2	4	16,962	130	125,000		13,406
70	18	225	127	9	145	22	7	70	10	47	40	1,027,130	87,520	3,635,116	1,224,163	
71	14	127			50	5	80	40	2	20	12	324,029	27,457	1,264,328	770,592	
72	7	59	5	2	15	4	25	34	3	2	14	40,190	2,200	240,000	45,500	
73	12	60	6	1	20	6	27	20	6		9	89,728	17,907			
74	15	43	27	3	19	4	10	20	2	3	5	65,321	11,644	400,000		
75	15	54			21	4	36	36		4	7	143,304	13,316	975,000	1,378,409	
76	10	72	7		26	6	7	21	2	3	3	93,793	33,740	2,700,000		
77	12	55			27	6		25	4		4	66,323	6,997	375,400		
78	12	17			4	1		4								

* Current statistics not provided # Not yet a member of the synod

	CONGREGATION			MEMBERS			MINISTRATIONS							SERVICES	
	State	Location	Congregation	Baptized	Communicant	Voters	Children Baptized	Adults Baptized	Children Confirmed	Adults Confirmed	Communed	Marriages	Burials	Sunday Services	Average Attendance
79	MN	Trail	Nazareth*	87	52	14		2		451	1	2		46	22
80	MN	Ulen	Calvary	65	54	29				252			1	53	31
81	MO	Cape Girardeau	Scriptural	100	80	7	1		4	232				53	29
82	MO	Carthage	Faith	73	66	25		1	3	1,080	1	3		53	55
83	MO	Jefferson City	Peace	85	65	20	2			768			1	53	55
84	MO	Osage Beach	Beautiful Savior of the Lake #	21	13	5	1		1	112				52	10
85	MO	Piedmont	Grace*	16	11	2		1		12				53	7
86	OH	Bowling Green	Abiding Word	181	139	43	2	2		1,340	2	2		53	95
87	OH	Deshler	Peace #	364	283	55	3	3		1,062	1	5		53	98
88	OH	Weston	Grace	90	64	11	1			656			1	53	35
89	OR	Grants Pass	Our Savior*	70	63	16			2	1,271			2	52	41
90	OR	Gresham	Saved by Grace*	135	105	17	1	3		1,027			5	52	49
91	OR	Hood River	Concordia*	31	25	6	2	1	3	1	248		1	52	18
92	OR	Klamath Falls	Christ	59	48	19			3	600	2	2		131	30
93	OR	Medford	Faith	63	46	18	1		2	689			4	53	39
94	OR	Myrtle Creek	St. Matthew*	48	44	12	2	2			1			52	25
95	OR	North Bend	Resurrection	17	17	5						1	1	51	11
96	OR	Redmond	Grace*												
97	OR	St. Helens	Ascension	42	28	12				402			3	48	15
98	OR	Sutherlin	Christ*	60	51	15	2				1			52	30
99	OR	The Dalles	Bethany	103	65	24	2			455		1		52	34
100	PA	Irwin	Zion	23	15	4			1	200				52	21
101	TX	Austin	Hope #							134	1			40	35
102	TX	San Antonio	Faith	75	49	10			3	701	1	1		53	45
103	UT	West Jordan	Hope	152	95	7	1	5	1	1,351	1			53	42
104	WA	Lakewood	Lakewood	110	80	10	8	2	9	497			1	53	31
105	WA	Mt. Vernon	St. Luke	77	52	20	4			738	1			52	39
106	WA	Port Orchard	Bethany	594	403	62	8	1	7	8	3,437	1	7	155	192
107	WA	Tacoma	Parkland	462	371	52	10	7	5	6	3,647	2	5	105	169
108	WA	Yelm	Our Redeemer*	69	55	19	1	2		837			2	52	45
109	WI	Amherst Jct.	Our Savior's	22	22	6				171			1	51	12
110	WI	Bloomer	Good Shepherd	92	81	30				1,136	1			53	53
111	WI	Cottage Grove	Abiding Shepherd	415	315		13	8	3	3,879	4	2		154	239
112	WI	Cottage Grove	Western Koshkonong*	95	81	25	3		2	472			4	51	54
113	WI	Eau Claire	Ascension	143	128	51	2	1		1,200	2	5		52	49
114	WI	Eau Claire	Concordia	428	341	122	7	2	1	2,875	2	9		106	143

	SERVICES		EDUCATION									FINANCES				
	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
79	6	41									9	18,372	730	100,000		5000
80	4	19			12	3	12	14			1	45,787	1,540			
81	8	12			8	2	3	8				42,198	583	350,000	6,021	8,750
82	11	51			4	1	25	13	3	4	1	72,842	1,418	1,250,000		200,000
83	17	30			12	3	10	10		2	5	62,582	3,190			5,622
84	1	14					10		24	1	2	9,600		3,000		
85					1	1					1	11,100	2,440	252,000		
86	16	30			21	4	23	35			9	172,714	5,572	630,000	167,559	
87	12	61			13	6	25	14			13					
88	17	12			4	1	12	12			12	63,361	8,020			
89	14	26			5	2	40			1	3	53,821	1,750	235,000		
90	13	32			8	2	20	15			3			1,000,000	175,000	
91	6	28			12	3	2				6					
92	15	18			3	1	28				2	70,601	7,083			
93	15	22			8	3	25	27			3	53,886	7,444	200,000		
94	11	15														
95	14	6			6	1	5				1	24,079				
96																
97	4	7														
98	11	15														
99	6	31			13	3	15	40			5	78,000	2,000	200,000		
100	2	6										64,000	2,000	350,000		
101	2	49			14	1	15					18,504	638	605,000		
102					11	4	15					132,148	8,740	1,000,000	797,000	
103	17	6			15	4	20	15		1	5	73,954		750,000	150,000	
104	11	32	21	3			8	28		1	8	175,110	424	2,511,500	214,211	4,835
105	11	36						16			3					
106	13	110	67	5	42	7	39	105	110	10	31	657,776	69,370	2,198,047	407,371	
107	22	68	82	7	4	2	28		10	12	27	726,526	3,199	5,148,189	881,482	
108	18	20	13	2	6	2	10		7	2	7	89,885	286	2,000,000	300,962	
109	5	10					10				1	20,943	68	350,000		
110	12	31			10	6	23	22	3		4	65,042	9,990	199,950		10,000
111	13				45	4	90		2	2	7	356,085	26,780	1,364,000	883,000	
112	12	33			10	4	15				10	77,415	3,373	1,620,000		15,084
113	16	23			13	4	8					69,950	4,372	700,000		
114	14	79	9		40	11	61			1	34	214,260	11,129	346,500	108,856	

* Current statistics not provided # Not yet a member of the synod

	CONGREGATION			MEMBERS			MINISTRATIONS							SERVICES	
	State	Location	Congregation	Baptized	Communicant	Voters	Children Baptized	Adults Baptized	Children Confirmed	Adults Confirmed	Communed	Marriages	Burials	Sunday Services	Average Attendance
115	WI	Eau Claire	Pinehurst*	147	122	44	2	3	3	1,154	1	4		103	63
116	WI	Elderon	Our Savior's	62	56	23		2		482				51	29
117	WI	Green Bay	Christ the King	191	151	38	2	2	2	1,819	2	3		105	108
118	WI	Iola	Redeemer	43	38	13				646				53	29
119	WI	Madison	Grace*	67	60	11				526		3		51	30
120	WI	Madison	Holy Cross	1,005	871	333	16	2	9	11	6,284	7	15	154	387
121	WI	Madison	Our Saviour's*	288	208	56	6	4	2	1,617	2	4		52	74
122	WI	Marinette	First Trinity	169	150	49	7	1					6	106	98
123	WI	Menomonie	St. Katherine's*	108	87	22	1	2	2	546	1	4		61	38
124	WI	Okauchee	Holy Trinity	477	384	125	7	1	8	5	5292	1	3	126	258
125	WI	Omro	Messiah	42	37	12				496				52	23
126	WI	Oregon	Faith	140	114	47	2	1	1				1	52	62
127	WI	Portage	St. Paul's	48	40	10								53	15
128	WI	Shawano	St. Martin	207	180	78	1	2		1,702	3	2		52	95
129	WI	West Bend	Trinity	429	354	143	2	7	2	1,892	5	4		151	214
130	WI	Wisconsin Dells	Newport	53	44	15	2								
	TOTALS (December 31, 2012)			18,703	14,775	4,509	302	39	208	157	126,349	114	261	7,787	8,267

	SERVICES			EDUCATION								FINANCES																				
	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	
115	16	34				20	5	12	34	2													90,050	2,809	836,500							
116	8	24				6	2		10														23,410	3,091								
117	17	58				28	7	51	35		1	10											158,591	23,000	1,900,000							
118	14	19						11															30,916	350	100,000				92,975			
119	32	17				5	2	12	15	1	1	1											79,281	3,960	500,000				6,220			
120	15	193	78	7	75	12	95	57	26	22	64												523,377	75,172	5,000,000	139,500	168,759					
121	21	38				12	2	14	12		2	28											90,015		1,245,000	198,000	45,000					
122	11	69				25	5	20				13											86,396	14,314								
123	7	17				8	2	6	8	8													22,633									
124	16	146	59	5	30	5	95	45		21	21												543,000	88,000	1,650,000	531,000						
125	12	19				2	2	16				5											55,445	5,757	140,000	50,760						
126	15	43				11	2																									
127	8	10																														
128	11	60				12	4	13	12	1	2	15											94,698	15,000	500,000							
129	16	132	56	5	21	5	49	47		33	26												403,994	30,861	2,000,000	350,190	5,000					
130																																
	1,490	4,887	844	71	1,721	383	2,343	2,241	285	284	810												13,679,788	1,157,335	84,427,336	13,168,067	1,846,340					

* Current statistics not provided # Not yet a member of the synod



DIRECTORIES

CHURCH BODIES IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

CONFESSIONAL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CONFERENCE

www.celc.info

Officers

President:

The Rev. Daniel Koelpin
N16 W23377 Stone Ridge Dr
Waukesha WI 53188
414-256-3233
Dan.Koelpin@wels.net

Vice President: Prof. Michael Smith

Secretary: Prof. Thomas Nass

Treasurer: Mr. Mark Schulz

Planning Committee Members at Large:

The Rev. Michael Duncan
The Rev. Steven Petersen

Member Churches

All Saints Lutheran Church (Nigeria)
Bulgarian Lutheran Church
Christ the King Lutheran Church (Nigeria)
Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church (Mexico)
Confessional Lutheran Church in Latvia
Czech Evangelical Lutheran Church
East Seoul Canaan Church (South Korea; associate)
Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church (Finland)
Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church (Puerto Rico)
Evangelical Lutheran Free Church (Germany)
Evangelical Lutheran Synod (USA)
Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia
Gereja Lutheran—Indonesia
Lutheran Church of Cameroon
Lutheran Church of Central Africa—Malawi
Lutheran Church of Central Africa—Zambia
Lutheran Church of Portugal (associate)
Lutheran Confessional Church (Norway)
Lutheran Confessional Church (Sweden)
Lutheran Evangelical Christian Church—Japan
Peruvian Evangelical Lutheran Confessional Church
Soglasie (Concord) Evangelical Lutheran Church (Russia)
Ukrainian Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (USA)

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN SYNOD

6 Browns Ct
Mankato, Minnesota 56001
507-344-7354
www.evangelicallutheransynod.org

OFFICERS

President The Rev. John A. Moldstad

Vice President The Rev. Glenn R. Obenberger

Secretary..... The Rev. Craig Ferkenstad

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

2014

Mr. Robert Brown
Mr. David Ewert
Rev. John Moldstad

2015

Mr. Dennis Behr
Rev. Paul Schneider

2016

Rev. Craig Ferkenstad
Mr. Donald Heiliger
Rev. Jonathan Madson
Mr. Leroy Meyer

Advisory Members: The Rev. Glenn Obenberger, vice-president
 Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft, treasurer

BETHANY LUTHERAN COLLEGE, INCORPORATED

General Officers

President

Rev. John Moldstad

Vice-President

Rev. Glenn Obenberger

Secretary

Rev. Craig Ferkenstad

Board of Regents

Type A members

2014

Dr. Willis Anthony
Mr. Lyle Fahning
Mr. James Minor

2015

Mr. Paul Chamberlin
Rev. Erwin Ekhoft
Rev. Kenneth Schmidt

2016

Rev. Mark Bartels
Mr. Bruce Gratz
Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch

*Type B members**

2014

Mr. Harold Theiste

By virtue of office:

2015

Rev. J. Kincaid Smith

The Rev. John Moldstad, president

2016

Mr. Tim Thiele*

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Circuit Visitors

(2016)

Circuit 1.....	The Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch Alt. The Rev. Michael Dale
Circuit 2.....	The Rev. Thomas Fox Alt. The Rev. James Krikava
Circuit 3.....	The Rev. Paul Schneider Alt. The Rev. Joel Willitz
Circuit 4.....	The Rev. Edward Bryant Alt. The Rev. Frederic Lams
Circuit 5.....	The Rev. Jonathan Madson Alt. The Rev. Kenneth Mellon
Circuit 6.....	The Rev. Robert Otto Alt. The Rev. Roger Holtz
Circuit 7.....	The Rev. Wayne Halvorson Alt. The Rev. Robert Harting
Circuit 8.....	The Rev. David Thompson Alt. The Rev. Boyd Longshore
Circuit 9.....	The Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ Alt. The Rev. Timothy Hartwig
Circuit 10.....	The Rev. Micah Ernst Alt. The Rev. Timothy Buelow
Circuit 11.....	The Rev. David J. Webber Alt. The Rev. Samuel Gullixson
Circuit 12.....	The Rev. Steven Sparley Alt. The Rev. Alex Ring

Doctrine Committee

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Rev. Thomas Rank Mr. Paul Tweit	Mr. Allen Quist Rev. David Jay Webber	Rev. Erling Teigen Rev. Paul Zager
By virtue of office:	President of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary	

Board for Home Outreach

Type A members

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Mr. David Sparley Rev. Larry Wentzlaff	Mr. Keith Duin Rev. Aaron Hamilton Rev. Michael Smith	Rev. Rodney Flohr Mr. Mark Perlwitz

*Type B members**

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Rev. Timothy Hartwig	--	Mr. Robert Smith
Advisory Members:	Evangelism–Missions Counselor Treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod	

Board for World Outreach

2014
Mr. Silas Born
Rev. Timothy Buelow
Mr. Marlin Goebel

2015
Mr. Thomas Conzelmann
Rev. Paul Fries
Rev. Bradley Kerkow

2016
Mr. Dan Browning
Rev. Wayne Halvorson
Rev. John Petersen

Board for Youth Outreach

2014
Mr. Benjamin Faugstad
Rev. Anthony Pittenger

2015
Mr. Peter Bloedel
Rev. Matthew Brooks
Rev. Bernt Tweit

2016
Rev. Kyle Madson
Dr. Joshua Mears

Board for Christian Service

2014
Rev. Erich Hoeft
Mr. Jeff Younge

2015
Mr. Herb Berg

2016
Mr. Michael O'Neill
Rev. S. Piet Van Kampen

Committee on Worship

2014
Mr. James Baxter
Rev. Timothy Hartwig

2015
Rev. Matthew Crick

2016
Rev. Dennis Marzolf
Mr. James Olson

Committee for Communication

Elected Positions

2014
Rev. James Braun
Mr. David Gruen

Appointed by the synod president

2014
Mr. Steven Buelow
Mr. Lance Schwartz

Equalization Committee

2014
Rev. Roger Holtz

2015
Mr. William Anderson

2016
Mr. Shaun Grabow

Board for Lutheran Schools of America

2014
Rev. Jerome Gernander
Mr. Norman Hartigan
Mr. Timothy Thies

2015
Mr. Ken Meyer
Rev. Alex Ring
Mr. Timothy Schubkegel

2016
Rev. Michael Dale
Mr. Oakleigh Natvig

By virtue of office:
Advisory members:

President of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod or designee
President of Bethany Lutheran College
President of Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary
Elementary Ed. Coordinator of Bethany Lutheran College
Treasurer of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Planning and Coordinating Committee

The officers of the synod

The chairman (or his representative) of the following boards:

Board of Regents	Board for Youth Outreach
Doctrine Committee	Board for Christian Service
Board for Home Outreach	Board for Lutheran Schools of America
Board for World Outreach	

Three (3) laymen:

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Mr. Tom Reason	Mr. Ronald Younge	Mr. Kermit Traska

Board of Appeals*

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Rev. Erwin Ekhoﬀ*	Rev. Mark Bartels*	Dr. Willis Anthony
Mr. Oakleigh Natvig*	Rev. Theodore Gullixson*	Mr. Keith Duin
Rev. John Petersen*	Mr. Glen Hansen*	Rev. Thomas Fox*
Rev. Frederick Theiste*	Dr. Ryan MacPherson	Rev. Timothy Hartwig
Rev. David Thompson*	Rev. Jonathan Madson*	Dr. Joshua Mears
Mr. Kermit Traska	Rev. Kenneth Mellon*	Rev. Samuel Schmeling

Synod Review Committee

Elected Positions

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Rev. Paul Madson	--	Mr. Robert Brown

Appointed by the synod president

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Rev. Erling Teigen	Rev. Piet Van Kampen	Mr. Norman Werner

Missions Advancement Project

Elected by the Board of Trustees

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Mr. David Ewert	Rev. Richard Wiechmann	Mr. Marlin Goebel
	Mr. Ronald Younge	Rev. Michael Smith

By virtue of office: President of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod

Committee on Nominations for the 2014 Convention

Rev. Edward Bryant	Mr. Dennis Behr
Rev. Peter Faugstad	Mr. Dan Browning
Rev. Jerry Gernander	Mr. Glen Hansen
Rev. Kenneth Mellon	Dr. Joshua Mears

Committee on Archives and History

Elected by the Board of Trustees

<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Rev. John Petersen	Mr. Sigurd Lee	Rev. Norman Madson
Mr. Erik Soule	Mr. Norman Werner	Rev. Shawn Stafford

Archivist (pro tem): The Rev. Paul Madson

years indicate expiration of current term
**term limit/currently serving second term*

Administration

Rev. Daniel Basel, Giving Counselor
Rev. Paul Fries, Communication Director
Rev. Steven Petersen, World Outreach Administrator
Mr. Keith Wiederhoeft, Business Administrator
Elsa Ferkenstad, Executive Assistant
Denise Luehmann, Financial Assistant



LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS AND PRESCHOOLS

Secretary of Schools (Board for Lutheran Schools of America)vacant

Director of Christian Education (Bethany Lutheran College)Silas Born

Bethany Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

151 Tremont West

Port Orchard WA 98366-3737

Tel. 360-876-1300

Fax 360-876-5098

E-mail: Bethany.Lutheran@wavecable.com

Becky Bergemann

Christopher Denney

Katie Denney

Barb Mantey

Janine Thies

Timothy Thies*

Christ Ev. Lutheran School

(Preschool and K-5)

1592 SE Floresta Dr

Port St Lucie FL 34983

Tel. 772-879-1353

E-mail: mloury@chridtporlstlucie.org

Chris Dale*

Marcella Lowry

Concordia Preschool

(Preschool Only)

3715 London Road

Eau Claire WI 54701-7813

Tel. 715-834-9097

E-mail: concordia-ec@sbcglobal.net

Lynda Krueger*

Dei Spring Academy

(Preschool)

601 Red River Ave. S.

Cold Spring MN 56320

Tel. 320-685-4120

E-mail: deispringacademy@clearwire.net

Cory Hahnke*

Kasey Hoffmann

Gracie's Preschool

(Preschool Only)

1150 41st Ave.

Vero Beach FL 32960

Tel. 772-562-2904

E-mail: gracevbpreschool@bellsouth.net

Alyssa Blais

Leann Boman-Thimmer

Ann Holmes*

Britt Matschner

Toni Morales

Candace Rittenhoue

Lindsay Sword

Noelle Weston

Heritage Lutheran School

(Preschool and Kindergarten)

13401 Johnny Cake Ridge Road

Apple Valley MN 55124

Tel. 952-431-6225

E-mail: office@heritagelutheran.org

Stacy Kiecker*

Teresa Lehne

Sarah Smith

Holy Cross Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

2670 Milwaukee Street

Madison WI 53704

Tel. 608-249-3101

Fax 608-249-0601

E-mail: Tschubkegel@holycross.org

Rebecca Cleven

Camilla Dashcund

Ione Ibeling

Elizabeth Krause

Katherine Larson

Linda Marozick

Barbara Pape (PT)

Timothy Schubkegel*

Shelly Schoenherr (PT)

Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

35181 Wisconsin Avenue

PO Box 146

Okauchee WI 53069

Tel. 262-567-0669

Fax 262-567-2615

E-mail: school@htlutheran.net

Marjorie Bentz

Jonathan Madson*

Dawn Sauer

Susan Schoenike

Christina Westendorf

James Young

Jesus' Lambs at Peace

(Preschool Only)

2090 Commerce Drive

North Mankato MN 56003

Tel. 507-385-1386

E-mail: joslynm@chartermi.net

Joslyn Moldstad*

Heidi Riehl

King of Grace Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

6000 Duluth Street

Golden Valley MN 55422

Tel. 763-546-3131

Fax 763-540-0028

E-mail: awalz@kog-els.org

Sheila Degner

Joshua Gregovich

Allen Labitzky*

William Lubansky

Judy Luxford

Karen Madson

Jonathan Matzke

Karen Merseth

Aaron Olmanson

Carol Robison

Kay Russow

Joy Veach

Lakewood Lutheran School

(Preschool through Second Grade)

10202 112th Street SW

Tacoma WA 98498

Tel. 253-584-6024

Fax 253-584-4615

E-mail: Lakewoodlutheran@gmail.com

Tina Murray*

vacancy

Mt. Olive Lutheran School

(Kindergarten through Eighth Grade)

1123 Marsh Street

Mankato MN 56001

Tel. 507-345-7927

E-mail: adminassist@mtolivelutheran.org

Steven Beilke

Susan Beilke

Miranda Dittmer

Alissa Griebel

Larry Rude*

Kari Sehloff

Craig Zibrowski

Our Savior Lutheran Preschool

(Preschool only)

1955 Curling Ave.

Naples FL 34109

Tel. 239-597-6009

Fax 239-597-8846

E-mail: psoslc@embarqmail.com

Marlene Canacho

Kimberley Jones*

Oemi Miranda

Emmi Sass

Our Saviour's Lutheran School

(Kindergarten through Third Grade)

3045 Arapaho Drive

Lake Havasu City AZ 86406

Tel. 928-680-6181

Hannah Horn

Trent Saari*

Parkland Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

120 123rd St S

Tacoma WA 98444

Tel. 253-537-1901

Fax 253-537-0172

E-mail: school@parklandlutheran.org

Connie Davis

Sharon King

Jolene McClung

Linda Perry

Brent Sorn*

Alex Ring

Chris Rogich

Glen Obenberger

Peace Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

3249 Windmill Point Blvd.

Kissimmee FL 34746

Tel. 407-870-5965

E-mail: jdraeger@mypeacekids.org

Jason Draeger*

Sarah Hoffman

Barbara Huhnerkoch

Danielle Powers

Princeton Ev. Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

7401 Alpha Road

Princeton MN 55371

Tel. 763-389-0704

E-mail: Pels2009@pelsmn.com

Linda Larson

Monica Minzlaff

Redeeming Grace Lutheran School

(Preschool)

14077 Monarch Lane

Rogers MN 55374

Tel. 763-424-5535

Linda Hoffmann

David Russow*

Scarville Lutheran School

(Kindergarten through Eighth Grade)

Box 20

Scarville IA 50473

Tel. 641-568-3372

E-mail: Thalía.Pollard@blc.edu

Thalia Pollard

Trinity Lutheran School

(Preschool through Eighth Grade)

1268 Pleasant Valley Road

West Bend WI 53095

Tel. 262-675-6627

E-mail: school@trinityels.org

Dan Aswege*

Diana Bormann

Jeanine Heller

Barbara Speerschneider

vacancy

The School of Martin Luther

(Kindergarten through Ninth Grade)

Skolní náměstí

131805 Plzeň, Czech Republic

Tel. 011-420-377-387-009

* indicates school administrator/
principal/director

CONGREGATIONS

CIRCUIT 1

FLORIDA

Kissimmee: *Peace*

10:00; Spanish 12:00
M. Moldstad, H. Huhnerkoch
3249 Windmill Point Blvd; 34746

Lakeland: *Our Savior*

9:30
A. Burmeister
6920 North Socrum Loop Rd
Mail: PO Box 91905; 33804-1905

Lakeland: *Peace*

10:00 (S 9:00)
P. Heyn
5970 Lakeland Highlands Rd; 33813

Naples: *Our Savior*

9:00 (8:30 & 11:00 Jan. – Easter)
G. Schmidt
1955 Curling Ave; 34109

Port St. Lucie: *Christ*

10:00
M. Dale, C. Dale
1592 SE Floresta Dr; 34983

Sebastian: *Trinity*

10:00
vacant
611 Schumann Dr; 32958

Sebring: *New Life*

10:00
L. Willitz
3725 Hammock Rd; 33872

Vero Beach: *Grace*

8:45 & 10:45
M. Luttman
1150 41st Ave; 32960

Winter Haven: *Resurrection*

10:15
C. Keeler
4620 Cypress Gardens Rd; 33884

CIRCUIT 2

MASSACHUSETTS

Brewster: *Trinity*

9:30
J. Krikava
1883 Main St (Route 6A); 02631

Burlington: *Pinewood*

10:45 (S 10:00)
T. Fox
24 Wilmington Rd; 01803

CIRCUIT 3

MICHIGAN

East Jordan: *Faith*

Sun. 4:00 p.m.

J. Londgren

2148 S Wilson Rd; 49727

Frankenmuth: *St. John's*

10:00, Sat. 6:00 p.m.

J. Willitz, J. Luplow

1200 E Genesee St; 48734

Hillman: *Faith*

11:00

J. Londgren

24640 Veterans Memorial Hwy; 49746

Holland: *Lord of Life*

9:30

N. Proksch

512 S Waverly Rd; 49423

Holton: *Holton*

9:30

P. Zager

6655 Marvin Rd; 49425

Midland: *Holy Scripture*

9:00

P. Schneider

4525 West Main St; 48640

Rogers City: *Trinity*

8:45

J. Londgren

6134 US 23 North

Mail: 6789 – 40 Mile Pointe Rd; 49779

Saginaw: *Gloria Dei*

9:30

H. Mosley Jr.

5250 Mackinaw

Mail: 3718 Mannion Rd; 48603

Suttons Bay: *First*

10:00

R. Pederson

321 St Mary's Ave

Mail: PO Box 189; 49682

OHIO

Bowling Green: *Abiding Word*

10:00

L. Ulrich

17202 N Mercer Rd; 43402

Weston: *Grace*

10:00

J. Merseeth Sr.

20425 Taylor St; 43569

Deshler: *Peace*

9:30

T. Smuda

5039 County Rd G; 43516-9788

PENNSYLVANIA

Irwin: *Zion*

10:30

B. Leonatti

351 Robbins-Station Rd; 15642

CIRCUIT 4

ILLINOIS

Lombard: *St. Timothy*

10:15

E. Bryant

547 N Main St; 60148

INDIANA

Brownsburg: *Good Shepherd*

10:15

G. Lilienthal

901 Pine Ridge Way, Brownsburg;
46112

Portage: *Hope*

10:30

J. Skogen

6322 Portage Ave; 46368

Hobart: *Grace*

9:00

F. Lams

6240 Grand Blvd

Mail: 1031 Hickey St; 46342

CIRCUIT 5

WISCONSIN

Cottage Grove: *Abiding Shepherd*

9:00 & 10:45, Mon. 7:00 p.m.

N. Krause, N. Abrahamson

406 West Cottage Grove Rd; 53527

Cottage Grove: *Western Koshkonong*

9:30

T. Heyn

2633 Church St; 53527

Madison: *Grace*

10:00

T. Gullixson

1 South Rosa Rd; 53705-4438

Madison: *Holy Cross*

8:00 & 10:30, Mon. 6:30 p.m.

(S 8:00 & 10:00, Mon. 6:30 p.m.)

M. Bartels, B. Tweit

2670 Milwaukee St; 53704

Madison: *Our Saviour's*

9:15, Sat. 5:30 p.m.

B. Homan

1201 Droster Rd; 53716

Okauchee: *Holy Trinity*

7:45 & 10:15 (S 9:00, Thu. 7:00 p.m.)

J. Madson, D. Hartwig

35181 Wisconsin Ave

Mail: PO Box 146; 53069

Oregon: *Faith*

9:00

K. Hermanson

143 Washington St; 53575

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 p.m.

K. Mellon

1268 Pleasant Valley Rd; 53095

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
10388 State Hwy 161
Mail: N6916 TU Lakes Rd, Scandinavia;
54977

Bloomer: *Good Shepherd*

9:30
R. Otto
1504 Vine St; 54724

Eau Claire: *Ascension*

9:00, Mon. 6:30 p.m.
P. Sullivan
1500 Peterson Ave; 54703

Eau Claire: *Concordia*

8:00 & 10:30 (S 9:00, Mon. 7:00 p.m.)
F. Theiste
3715 London Rd; 54701-7813

Eau Claire: *Pinehurst*

9:00, Mon. 6:30 p.m.
B. Schwark
3304 Fern Ct; 54703

Elderon: *Our Savior's*

9:00
H. Abrahamson
Hwy 49 N; 54429

Green Bay: *Christ the King*

9:00, Thu. 6:30 p.m. (Apr.–Nov.)
9:00, Sat. 5:00 p.m. (Dec.–Mar.)
L. Buelow
1700 Cardinal Lane; 54313

Iola: *Redeemer*

9:00
R. Holtz
125 North St
Mail: PO Box 95; 54945-0095

Marinette: *First Trinity*

8:00 & 10:00 (S 9:00)
E.C.F. Stubenvoll, Jr.
920 Wells St; 54143

Menomonie: *St. Katherine's*

9:30
S. Kauffeld
E7250 N Cty Hwy E
Mail: N4931 572nd St; 54751

Omro: *Messiah*

9:00
J. DeDeyne
7394 Liberty School Rd
Mail: PO Box 214; 54963-0214

Shawano: *St. Martin*

9:00
K. Kluge
W8302 Belle Plaine Ave
Mail: W8079 Belle Plaine Ave; 54166

CIRCUIT 7

IOWA

Ames: *Bethany*

10:00
M. Hoesch
3113 Diamond St
Mail: 3219 Diamond Ave; 50010

Calmar: *Trinity*

10:30
G. Smith
306 W. Clark St (Box 814)
Mail: 611 W Court St, New Hampton;
50659

Forest City: *Forest*

W. Halvorson
546 West M St; 50436

Indianola: *Good Shepherd*

9:00
R. Harting
202 North Kenwood; 50125

Lake Mills: *Lake Mills*

9:00 (October – January)
E. Hoeft
107 N 1st Ave E
Mail: 106 13th St S, Northwood; 50459

Lake Mills: *Lime Creek*

9:00 (June – September)
E. Hoeft
4 miles N, 1 mile W
Mail: 106 13th St S, Northwood; 50459

Lawler: *Saude*

9:00 (2nd & 4th Sundays)
10:30 (1st & 3rd Sundays)
D. Larson
10 miles N, 1 mile W
Mail: 2940 Stevens Tr; 52154

New Hampton: *Jerico*

9:00 (1st & 3rd Sundays)
10:30 (2nd & 4th Sundays)
D. Larson
9 miles N, 3 miles E
Mail: 2940 Stevens Tr, Lawler; 52154

New Hampton: *Redeemer*

8:00
G. Smith
611 West Court St; 50659

Northwood: *First Shell Rock*

10:45
E. Hoeft
1406 Central
Mail: 106 13th St S; 50459

Northwood: *Somber*

9:00 (February – May)
E. Hoeft
10 miles W, 1 mile S
Mail: 106 13th St S; 50459

Parkersburg: *Faith*

11:00
M. Brooks
608 Sixth St
Mail: PO Box 149; 50665

Riceville: *Immanuel*

6:00 p.m.
E. Hoeft
Main St
Mail: 106 13th St S, Northwood; 50459

Scarville: *Center**

T. Rank
5 miles S
Mail: PO Box 105; 50473

Scarville: *Scarville**

T. Rank
411 Logan St
Mail: PO Box 105; 50473

Thompson: *Zion*

W. Halvorson
226 Monroe St; 50478

Thornton: *Richland*

10:30 (S 9:30)
D. Locklair
300 Elm St
Mail: PO Box 86; 50479

Waterloo: *Pilgrim*

9:00

M. Brooks

3815 Ansborough Ave; 50701

Waukon: *King of Grace*

9:00

vacant

101 Second St NW; 52172

MINNESOTA**Albert Lea: *Our Savior's***

9:00

J. Kassera

320 W College St; 56007

Manchester: *Manchester*

9:00 (S 10:30)

S. Stafford

101 McKinley

Mail: PO Box 188, Hartland; 56042

Hartland: *Hartland*

10:45 (S 9:00)

S. Stafford

404 Broadway

Mail: PO Box 188; 56042

CIRCUIT 8**MINNESOTA****Audubon: *Immanuel***

10:00

D. Thompson

180 Swan St

Mail: PO Box 187; 56511

Oklee: *Oak Park*

10:00 (S 11:00)

J. Abrahamson

8 miles N, 4 miles E

Mail: 13478 330th Ave S; 56742

Bagley: *Our Savior's*

9:30 (S 9:00)

M. Faugstad

36021 County 7

Mail: PO Box 26, Lengby; 56651

Trail: *Mt. Olive*

Sat. 8:30

J. Abrahamson

Mail: 13478 330th Ave S, Oklee; 56742

East Grand Forks: *River Heights*

10:15 (S 9:00)

N. Merseth

2214 10th Ave NW; 56721

Trail: *Nazareth*

1:00 p.m. (S 9:45)

J. Abrahamson

11 miles N, 2 miles E

Mail: 13478 330th Ave S, Oklee; 56742

Grygla: *St. Petri*

8:00

J. Abrahamson

3 miles W, 1 mile N

Mail: 13478 330th Ave S, Oklee; 56742

Ulen: *Calvary*

9:00

B. Longshore

207 1st St NW

Mail: PO Box 381; 56585

Lengby: *St. Paul*

11:00 (S 10:30)

M. Faugstad

38978 450th St SE

Mail: PO Box 26; 56651

CIRCUIT 9

MINNESOTA

Apple Valley: *Heritage*

8:00 & 10:30 (S 9:30, Wed. 6:30 pm)
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
L. Wentzlaff
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 9:00, Mon. 7:00)
S.P. Van Kampen
110 East Main St
Mail: PO Box 37; 56229

Farmington: *Hope*

10:00
D. Oberer
319 Fourth St; 55024

Gaylord: *Norwegian Grove*

9:00 or 10:30* (S 8:30 or 10:00*)
C. Ferkenstad
33879 State Hwy 22
Mail: 37777 State Hwy 22, St Peter;
56082

Golden Valley: *King of Grace*

8:15 & 10:45, Mon. 6:30 p.m.
(S 8:15 & 10:00, Mon. 6:30 p.m.)
E. Ekhoft, R. Flohr, B. Wiechmann
6000 Duluth St; 55422

Luverne: *Bethany*

10:15
A. Palmquist
720 N Kniss Ave
Mail: 735 N Freeman Ave; 56156

Mankato: *Mt. Olive*

8:30 & 10:45, Mon. 6:00 p.m.
(S 8:30 & 10:00, Mon. 6:00 p.m.)
J. Petersen
1123 Marsh St; 56001

North Mankato: *Peace*

8:30 & 10:45 (S 9:00)
T. Hartwig
2090 Commerce Dr; 56003

Princeton: *Bethany*

9:00
J. Gernander
801 South Sixth St; 55371

Princeton: *Our Savior's*

9:00
T. Zenda
18977 17th St; 55371

Rogers: *Redeeming Grace*

10:00 (S 9:00, Mon. 7:00 p.m.)
D. Russow
14077 Monarch Ln; 55374

St. Peter: *Norseland*

9:00 or 10:30* (S 8:30 or 10:00*)
C. Ferkenstad
37777 State Hwy 22; 56082

Tracy: *Zion*

10:15
S. Schmeling
200 Emory Street
Mail: PO Box 1172; 56175

CIRCUIT 10

MISSOURI

Cape Girardeau: *Scriptural*

10:00

M. Rogers

3587 County Rd 635; 63701

Carthage: *Faith*

10:30

T. Buelow

2134 Grand Ave; 64836

Jefferson City: *Peace*

8:30

J. Merseth

7808 New Church Rd; 65101

Osage Beach: *Beautiful Savior of the Lake*

[Preaching station]

Sat. 6:30 p.m.

M. Ernst

328 S. Frontage Rd; 65065

Piedmont: *Grace*

10:30

vacant

114 E Green St

Mail: PO Box 146; 63957

TEXAS

Leander: *Hope*

10:00

B. Kerkow

Cox Elementary School, Cedar Park

Mail: 2950 County Rd 175; 78641

San Antonio: *Faith*

10:30

M. Crick

14819 Jones-Maltsberger Rd; 78247

Weatherford: *Divine Mercy*

K. Madson

CIRCUIT 11

ARIZONA

Fort Mohave: *Family of God*

10:15
R. Fyffe
1863 Panadaro Rd
Mail: PO Box 10949; 86427

Lake Havasu City: *Our Saviour*

9:00
T. Saari
3163 Maricopa Ave; 86406

Bell Gardens: *Christ the King*

10:45
E. Zimdars
6541 Eastern Ave; 90201

Bishop: *Our Savior*

9:30
S. Gullixson
162 Sneden St; 93514

Irvine: *Faith*

9:30
W. Stehr
Northwood Community Center
4531 Bryan
Mail: 349 Stanford Ct; 92612

Lake Havasu City: *Our Saviour's Chapel*

[Mission of Our Saviour Lutheran]
10:30
T. Saari
2150 Kiowa Blvd
Mail: 3163 Maricopa Ave; 86406

Scottsdale: *Redeemer*

9:00
D. Webber
7670 E Jomax Rd; 85266

CALIFORNIA

Ukiah: *Apostles*

9:30
A. Dethlefsen
710 S State St Suite E
Mail: PO Box 1511; 95482

Windsor: *Christ*

11:00
J. Smith
125 Shiloh Rd; 95492

CIRCUIT 12

OREGON

Grants Pass: *Our Savior*

10:15
S. Sparley
230 Buysman Way; 97526

Gresham: *Saved By Grace*

10:00
T. Bartels
2010 NE Division St; 97030

Hood River: *Concordia*

9:00
J. Jacobsen
1107 Pine St; 97031

Klamath Falls: *Christ*

9:30, Wed. 7:00
M. Muehlenhardt
127 N Spring St; 97601

Medford: *Faith*

10:30
T. Westendorf
1773 S Columbus Ave; 97501

Myrtle Creek: *St. Matthew*

11:00
F. Fiedler III
436 Old North Pacific Hwy; 97457

North Bend: *Resurrection*

10:30
J. Wilson
1890 Monroe
Mail: 1320 Ford Ln; 97459

Redmond: *Grace*

R. VanMehren
Mail: 4125 SW Salmon Rd; 97756

Saint Helens: *Ascension*

9:30
J. Burkhardt
1911 Columbia Blvd; 97051

Sutherlin: *Christ*

9:00
F. Fiedler III
161 W 2nd St
Mail: Box R; 97479

The Dalles: *Bethany*

11:00
J. Jacobsen
2323 East 12th St; 97058

UTAH

West Jordan: *Hope*

10:30
A. Hamilton
2930 W 9000 S; 84088

WASHINGTON

Lakewood: *Lakewood*

9:00
P. Faugstad
10202 112th St SW; 98498

Mt. Vernon: *St. Luke*

10:00
J. Dalke
1524 E Blackburn Rd; 98274

Port Orchard: *Bethany*

8:15 & 11:00, Mon. 7:00 p.m.
A. Pittenger
151 Tremont W; 98366

Tacoma: *Parkland*

8:00 & 10:30, Mon. 6:30 p.m.
G. Obenberger, P. Faugstad, A. Ring
120 123rd St South; 98444

Yelm: *Our Redeemer*

10:45
J. Braun
805 East Yelm Ave
Mail: PO Box 2169; 98597

*Consult pastor for service time

INDEPENDENT CONGREGATION IN AUSTRALIA IN FELLOWSHIP WITH THE ELS

Our Redeemer Lutheran

10:00

D. Finn

Old Petrie Town Village Chapel

Dayboro Rd

Petrie QLD 4502

Australia

Mail: 24 Boardman St, Kallangur QLD 4503, Australia

Tel. 011-617-3204-6118

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