

# President's Newsletter



Office of the President

Glenn R. Obenberger

6 Browns Court Mankato, Minnesota 56001  
507-344-7356 glenn.obenberger@blc.edu

July 2023

## Fundraising in Frankenmuth for Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti

St. John's Lutheran Church in Frankenmuth Michigan held a community secondhand sale out of their gymnasium and raised \$3,200 for Branch Lutheran Schools of Haiti ([www.branchlutheranschoolshaiti.org](http://www.branchlutheranschoolshaiti.org)). In addition, Pastor Patrick Ernst announced the sale after services, which are broadcast on an area radio station. A non-member who listens to the service broadcast anonymously donated an additional \$10,000 to Branch Schools. Look for an article in the August 2023 issue of the *Lutheran Sentinel* for more information about this fundraising effort and the state of the gospel in Haiti.

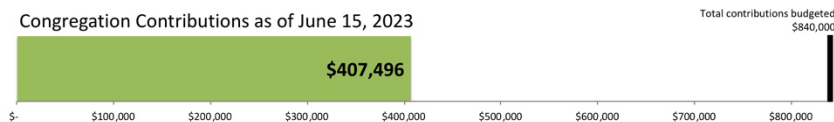


## Upcoming Events

July 20–21 – Board for Home Outreach

July 27–30 – LYA Convention

August 16 – Board of Trustees



To receive this newsletter directly to your email visit [els.org/subscribe](http://els.org/subscribe)

Dear Members and Friends of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod,

Greetings in the name of the One whose blood covers us cleansing us from all our sin so that we are blessed in our living and our dying!

By some estimates the 20th century was the bloodiest of all the centuries of human history: a quarter of a billion people, military and civilian, were killed on account of conflicts. Sadly, wars and rumors of war still persist in the 21st century. But the greatest bloodbath of all time was when the Son of God suffered death for all people of all times. His holy blood was shed so that all would be delivered from sin, death and hell. Peace with God is now secure forever in the blood of His holy Lamb poured out for the sins of the world and thus for you. Consider these words of Dr. Luther and be at peace:

“Baptism is a washing in which we are washed by the blood of the innocent Lamb, Christ. He pays for sin and puts death to death. This power and ability is not found in the pope’s Mass, requiem, or pilgrimages, but there is only one innocent Lamb who shed His blood and overcame death; and since it is not in the cowl and tonsure, it is to be sought in Baptism, in the Supper, the Gospel and the Absolution. We are sure that all these things are instituted by God. This is certain and is seasoned and anointed with the innocent blood of Christ. It has the Father, Son and Holy Spirit with His ordinance and Word. It all comes from the merit of Christ. For this reason, the fathers said that all the sacraments flowed from the side of Christ. The blood of Christ flows into Baptism, into the chalice, and Absolution.”

In Jesus’ name,  
Glenn Obenberger

## Bethany Activity Center Dedication

The Bethany Activity Center was dedicated on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, during the 106th Convention of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. The Service of Dedication was conducted by Bethany Chaplain Reverend Don Moldstad. The ceremony also included an anthem by the Lutheran Honor Choir and remarks from Reverend Herb Huhnerkoch Chairman of the Bethany Board of Regents, Bethany President Gene Pfeifer, and Art Westphal Senior Advancement Officer at Bethany. The recreation and activity facility opened on May 1, 2023. To God Be The Glory!



## The Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of Kenya

The ELS at the 2023 Convention formally recognized and declared it is in full doctrinal fellowship with the ELDK. We rejoice that we have been united by our Lord with these brothers and sisters in Christ and look forward to working together

offering each other fraternal support. Please pray for them as they faithfully seek to serve the Lord in their part of the world, while enduring persecution at the hands of the heterodox church body from which they have disaffiliated.

## “We Are Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”

Pastor Aaron Hamilton gave the 2023 Convention essay under this title. It was well received as we considered God’s precious gift to our human race of our bodies. This would make an excellent resource for congregational Bible Classes. And while it is a good read, if the video is watched, Pr. Hamilton’s poetical and whimsical style will be appreciated all the more and you will see why he received a standing ovation by those who first heard it.

## ELS Military Monument Dedication

The ELS Military Monument was dedicated on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 during the Synod Convention. This monument is not a war memorial nor is it an attempt to support what is often called "Christian Nationalism." Rather it is to honor all veterans who have served in this God-pleasing vocation of warrior to defend against evil which will always part of this fallen world. This also serves as a reminder to our ELS members, the Mankato community, students on our BLC campus and to many others to value this vocation which functions to secure peace for us, so that the Gospel of Jesus Christ may have free course among us and be preached to the joy and edifying of His Church on earth. Pavers with inscriptions are still available for donations. For more information, visit [www.els.org/monument](http://www.els.org/monument)

