



THE LUTHERAN WITNESS™

VOL. 129 NO. 8 AUGUST 2010



Convention Report

REV. MATTHEW C. HARRISON IS ELECTED
13TH PRESIDENT OF THE LCMS

Plus:

**Seeing Creation
Ablaze! Snapshots**

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To the Reader

Welcome to the August issue of *The Lutheran Witness*. It's been two months since we've arrived in your mailbox, or on your doorstep, and a lot has changed in the interval: Our Synod has met in convention in Houston, which we highlight in this issue; elected a new president, Rev. Matthew C. Harrison, executive director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care; and, by way of adopting significant relationship changes at the national level, mandated a new structural composition for the church. You will find more about these important changes in the pages that follow.

In these pages also, we highlight the remarkable career of Col. Jeffrey N. Williams, a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Houston. Recently returned from an assignment on the International Space Station, Williams brought official greetings to the convention during its opening business session. Elsewhere, we update you on activities of four LCMS congregations reaching out and serving their communities in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

Finally, we want to introduce you to a new member of our communications team. Adriane Dorr has joined us as the managing editor of *The Lutheran Witness*. Dorr, 26, is a 2005 graduate of Concordia University Wisconsin. In May, she received her master of arts from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, where she also held several administrative positions, served as a copy editor for *Life of the World* and other publications, and assisted with other editorial projects.

Since 2005, Dorr has served as assistant editor and then managing editor of *Higher Things* magazine, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization through the Board for District and Congregational Services. From 2005 to 2009, she also was the Christian life editor of the LWML's *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*.

A native of Marcus, Iowa, Dorr is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne. She is in the process of relocating to St. Louis.

We are delighted and blessed to have Adriane as part of our team. We pray you will welcome her too.

James H. Heine, Executive Editor
The Lutheran Witness
James.Heine@lcms.org



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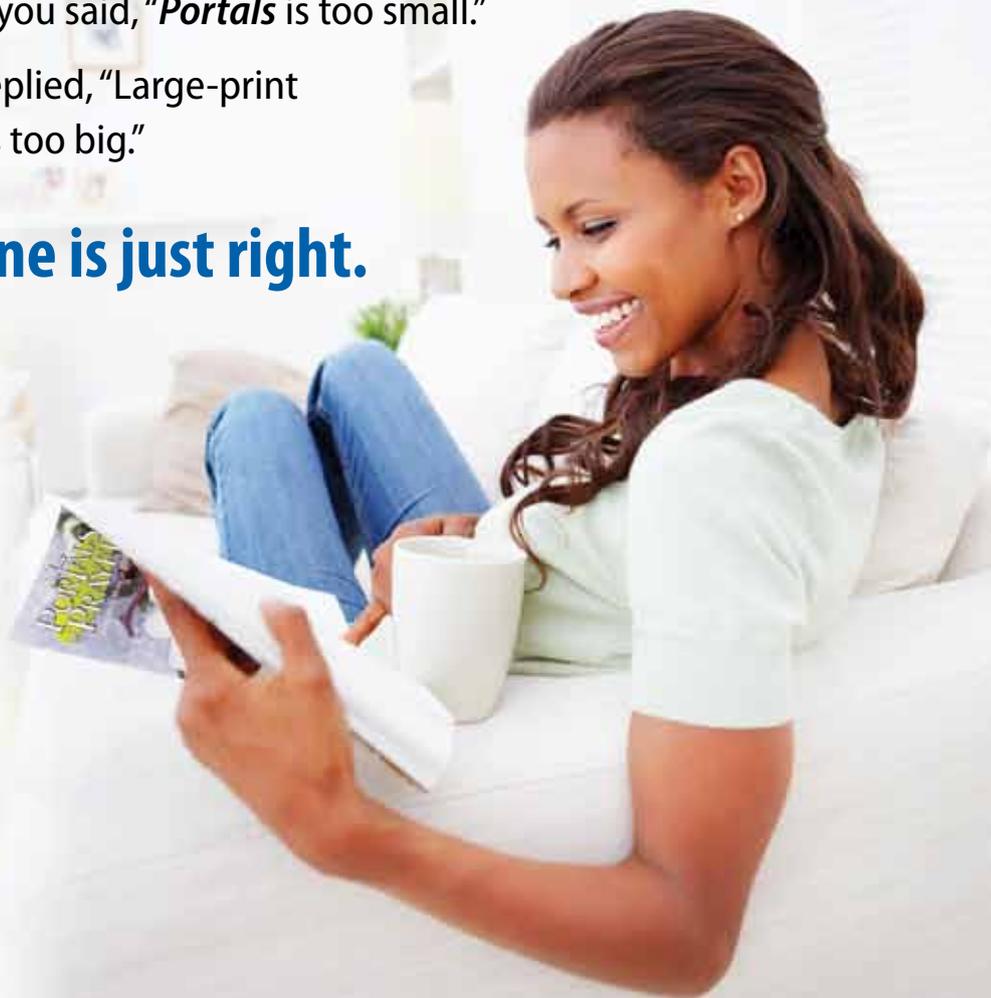
On the Web at *lcms.org*

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- For the latest Synod news, visit *Reporter Online* at lcms.org/reporter.

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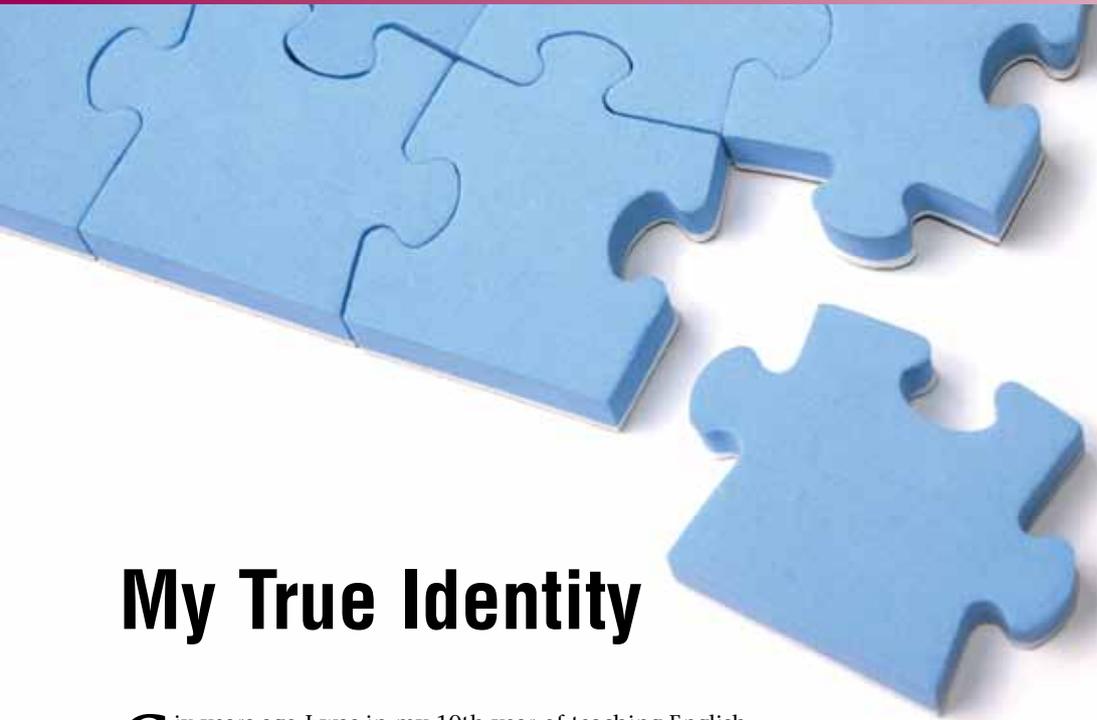
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My True Identity

Six years ago I was in my 10th year of teaching English at a public middle school. I was a tenured teacher with a lot of responsibilities. I sponsored the school newspaper, coached track, and directed the annual play. I also held the position of department chair. *English teacher* was my vocation and my identity, and I envisioned a healthy, lifetime career in education with the goal of a secure retirement.

However, in January 2004, I became ill. I was diagnosed with obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD) and major depression. The symptoms of these illnesses consumed and incapacitated me, and I became so sick that I had to take medication and receive help from a doctor. And the OCD and depression didn't go completely away with these treatments. In fact, even now in 2010, I am still struggling to be well. Because of this struggle, I have not yet returned to teaching, and due to the deprecating nature of depression, I have been left to wonder: *If I am not a teacher, then who am I?* I have even questioned the purpose of my earthly existence, sadly disregarding God and pondering, "Why do I live if only to die?"

My pastor faithfully addressed these questions when I went to him for counsel, but it wasn't until a visit to church on a Sunday early in February that an answer to my questions became clear to me. During worship, I listened intently to the Scripture readings, the sermon, and the closing hymn. In the Old Testament lesson for the day, the Lord asks Isaiah, "Whom shall I send?" and Isaiah responds, "Hear am I. Send me" (Is. 6:8 NIV). Similarly, in the Gospel lesson, Jesus tells Simon Peter, a fisherman by earthly trade, that he will become a fisher of men, taking on a new spiritual trade (Luke 5:1–11). Both Isaiah and Peter are called to be dedicated, practicing servants of the Lord and stewards of His Word. Theirs is a high calling—but so is mine and yours. Stanza 1 of Hymn 853 in our *Lutheran Service Book* offers this wonderful insight:

*How clear is our vocation, Lord,
When once we heed Your call:
To live according to Your Word
And daily learn, refreshed, restored,
That You are Lord of all
And will not let us fall.*

For me, the key to this stanza is the last line: "And will not let us fall." When in a bout of depression and a cycle of OCD, my university education does not help me. My teaching skills do not help. All the earthly wisdom I have gained over the years does not help. However, the promises of my Baptism do. In Baptism, I am a child of God, and as His child, I am called to serve Him. In so doing, "[He] will not let [me] fall." He brings new meaning and reason for living by taking away sin and death. Like the apostle Paul proclaims, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain" (Phil. 1:21).

When I get into the rut of identifying myself solely as a teacher, I am left without direction and purpose when depression and OCD incapacitate me. But when identifying myself as a child of God, these illnesses have no power over me, for I know I am guaranteed an everlasting retirement in heaven.

Deborah J. Alig (kindle_reads@yahoo.com) is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church, Roanoke, Ill.

"How Clear Is My Vocation, Lord," stanza 1—text: Fred Pratt Green (1903–2000), Copyright © 1982, Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.



LETTERS

Providing a complete picture

The May issue of *The Lutheran Witness* carried a fine article by President Kieschnick and a longer article of equal quality by the Rev. Charles Werth of Bethesda Lutheran Communities. Both items focused on ministry with and to people with disabilities.

At a previous Synod convention, a task force was formed to deal effectively with this ministry. This task force has done some fine work and is to be complimented for its activity.

This ministry is under the direction of the Board for Human Care, which appears to be an ally of Lutheran World Relief. Much space and effort is given to work in foreign and domestic circles in disaster relief.



Comforting words indeed

The courageous May “Lifeline” story of Nancy Callies’s confrontation with disease and death becomes eternally important as she reaches for Luther’s favorite Psalm (46). This pastor’s wife brings to *Lutheran Witness* readers a true Mother’s Day message: “Be still and know that I am God.” In the midst of suffering, jihad fears, and economic uncertainties, the comforting words from this faithful woman are rooted in what Jesus Christ said to His disciples as the storm raged and the waves roared, and it is applicable to our own time today.

*Dr. Albert E. Jabs
Lexington, S.C.*

It is nice to have updates on disaster relief. It would complete the picture to have equal reports on ministry with and to people with disabilities.

*Arthur G. Wahlers
Portland, Ore.*

This is good. Permit me to suggest that we hear more of what is being done in the area of ministry with and to some 20 to 25 percent of our population in this country who need acceptance and welcome into full participation in Gospel ministry—so well stated in the two articles. I look with hope and expectation for more updates on these efforts.

It is nice to have updates on disaster relief. It would complete the picture to have equal reports on ministry with and to people with disabilities.

*Arthur G. Wahlers
Portland, Ore.*

The May “Lifeline” story, “Frazzled Faith,” struck home. I lost my beloved husband to pulmonary fibrosis Jan. 1, 2003. I can relate to what Nancy Callies is saying. My husband was 73 years old, vibrant and alive, a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

To this day, even after seven years, it sends chills up my spine to see someone on oxygen. I have to turn off the TV when there is such a scene.

It is a terrible thing to be told there is nothing more that can be done, that it is terminal. Although we realize we are all terminal, we are never prepared to hear these words.

I hope the lung transplant has been helpful for Nancy and that our Lord will indeed give her more time to enjoy her family—and a life lived to God’s glory.

“Be still and know that I am God” (Ps. 46:10) is a meaningful verse for all of us, even when we are enjoying robust health.

*Mrs. Darline Kussmann
Brunswick, Mo.*

Thank you for the “Frazzled Faith” article. Please keep us informed as to how Nancy Callies is doing after her lung transplant. I pray she is doing better and can be doing more things again.

*Arlene Leodler
Beecher, Ill.*

Nancy Callies reports that, despite some adjustments to medications and several health issues related to the transplant itself, God has been “very gracious” to her. She is no longer homebound and is oxygen-free during the day. Challenges remain, she says, but “I am confident God will lead me through them, even as He has cared for me in the past.”—Ed.

The fruits of her labor

I appreciated your article on Tilahun Menedo, our new president here at Concordia College in Selma. I have only one complaint, and that is when your author remarked that Dr. Rosa Young (the founder of Concordia) was not a Lutheran. While she may not have been one when she first contacted the Synodical Conference, she most certainly became a staunch Lutheran who worked tirelessly to help spread Lutheranism throughout Alabama. The fruits of her labors are still visible today.

*Karl E. Baughman
Assistant Professor of History
Concordia College Selma, Ala.*

A worthy diet

Thank you for the recent theological articles such as “The Forgotten Holiday” (May) that have appeared in recent issues of *The Lutheran Witness*. In my mind, little else could be more “practical” than knowing why we

believe what we believe. Indeed, a regular diet of theology helps us to “think God’s thoughts after Him.”

*Darin Johnson
Richardson, Texas*

Read more letters to the editor at lcms.org/witness. We welcome letters that comment on articles in *The Lutheran Witness*. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. Send letters to “Letters,” c/o *The Lutheran Witness*, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295; or send them via e-mail to lutheran.witness@lcms.org. Please include your name, postal address, and telephone number. Letters without this information cannot be considered for publication.



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Big Decisions in a Big City



Left: Opening worship service and procession of the 2010 convention.

Right: Delegates stand in appreciation of President Kieschnick and President-elect Harrison.



Delegates to the 64th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod made important decisions that will chart the course of the Synod for years to come.

To describe Houston as big is no overstatement. As the heart of the fourth-largest metropolitan area in the United States, Houston is a city of big buildings, big avenues, big ideas, and a dynamic multicultural population in a big, boisterous state. A lynchpin in the economy of Texas and the Gulf region (not to mention Latin America), it is a hub of activity and commerce. And as part of the LCMS Texas District, it is also home to a vibrant collection of Lutheran congregations and schools that share the Good News of Jesus with an increasingly diverse community.

For the second time this millennium, Houston was also the destination of delegates to a gathering of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. From July 10 to July 17, delegates and visitors gathered at the cavernous George R. Brown Convention Center for the Synod's 64th Regular Convention. On the agenda: a host of issues. Yet, two items dominated the thoughts of many: Who would be

elected president? And would the recommendations of the Synod's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance, created by Synod President Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick in 2005, be affirmed? The two items seemed inexorably linked. Probably, the endorsement of one would signal the success of the other. Or vice versa.

As things turned out, delegates had other ideas.

Electing a President

On Tuesday afternoon, July 13, the hot Houston air was as still outside the George R. Brown Convention Center as the much cooler air was inside the building. After months of robust and sometimes passionate debate, theological discussion, Facebook fan groups, YouTube videos, and mass mailings supporting either Kieschnick—the current LCMS president—or his chief opponent, Rev. Matthew C. Harrison, executive director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, some 3,000 convention participants—including roughly 1,200 clergy and lay voting delegates—waited in silence as the votes for president were tallied. Then, Rev. Russell Sommerfeld, president of the LCMS Nebraska District and chairman of the Floor Committee on Registration, Credentials, and Elections, announced: "Matthew C. Harrison is declared elected with 643 votes, 54 percent of the vote."

The Synod had a new leader.

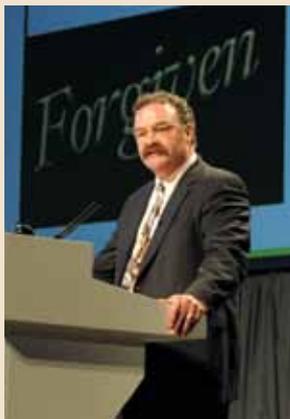
With his arm around his wife, Harrison, 48, made his way from the back of the convention hall and ascended the convention stage to be announced as the new president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Who Is Matthew Harrison?

- Kathy's husband of 29 years;
- dad to Matthew and Mark, both in high school;
- a 1989 Master of Divinity and 1991 Master of Sacred Theology graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.; additional graduate study at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo.;
- a former missionary in Canada and pastor to parishes in rural Iowa and inner-city Fort Wayne, Ind., where he spearheaded a revitalization project that cleared decaying and rundown houses to revive an unstable neighborhood;
- well-known in the scholarly realm as an engaging speaker;
- the author and translator of several books, such as *The Little Book on Joy: The Secret of Living a Good News Life in a Bad News World* (2010) and *At Home in the House of My Fathers*, a 2009 compendium of translated sermons and essays by LCMS church fathers.

For an in-depth Q & A with Rev. Matthew Harrison, read the August issue of *Reporter*, the Synod's official newspaper, or visit *Reporter Online* at lcms.org/reporter. Also, *Reporter* will contain a more detailed summary of important convention actions.

—A.A.D.



Suffering Together, Rejoicing Together

After his election July 13, Rev. Matthew C. Harrison addressed the convention and introduced his wife, Kathy, to the assembly. Following is the edited text of his brief statement.—Ed.

If one member suffers, all suffer together. If one rejoices, all rejoice together. Right now, there are many rejoicing, and there are many suffering.

Luther says when you're walking along, and you strike your little toe on a chair or a table leg, what happens is the whole body bends over, the face grimaces, and the body grabs that little toe. There is no use saying, "That's just a little toe," because the whole body suffers.

This, I realize, is a tumultuous change in the life of our Synod. I wish to thank President Kieschnick for his heart for evangelism and his deep desire to move this Synod forward. Many are suffering, and it will be very challenging times to work together.

I wish to inform you that you have kept your perfect record of electing sinners as president of the Missouri Synod. I guarantee you I will sin and fail. I will fall short. I will sin against you. I wish also to say that right now I forgive all who in any way have sinned against me or anybody else and plead your forgiveness for anything that I said or did that offended you.

I beg of you your prayers. I beg of you your daily prayers and intercession. These are challenging times. I promise you that I will be as straight with you as I possibly can, to the best of my ability, guided by the Spirit of God.

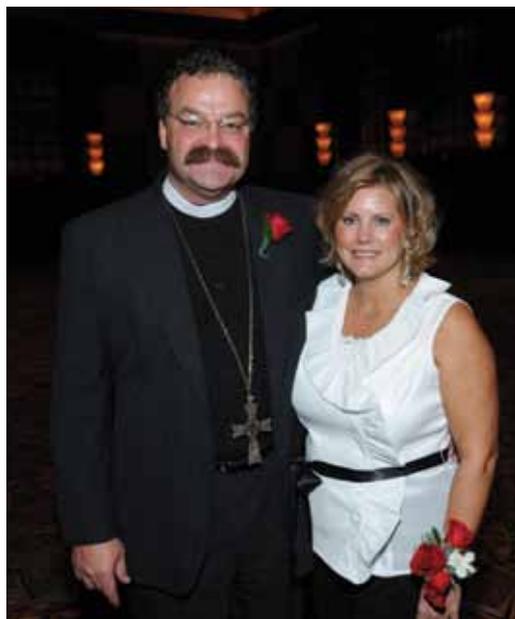
I pledge to you that I will not coerce you. I will do my best, by the Word of Christ, to lead with the generous Gospel of Jesus Christ, which forgives us all of our sins and motivates us to love and care for our neighbor in mercy and compassion. And I will work as hard as I possibly can for unity around the clear and compelling Word of God and nothing else.

• • •

I'm so impressed by you at this convention, how you've borne with one another, been patient, asked for forgiveness. This is the greatest privilege and honor of one's life, to stand before this body in this fashion. I could never imagine it.

And I pray the Lord will bless you in the days to come, to work for unity and love and compassion, that the Gospel of Christ may go forth from all of us in every single place everywhere around the world that many may know—many, many more may know—the Gospel of Jesus for eternal life. The Lord be with you.

—Matthew C. Harrison





With his arm around Kathy, his wife, Harrison, 48, made his way from the back of the convention hall and ascended the convention stage to be announced as the new president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He and Kieschnick embraced, and then Harrison addressed the delegates. He will serve as the 13th president of the LCMS, following Kieschnick's nine-year, three-term presidency.

Speaking briefly (see sidebar), Harrison reiterated the convention's theme: "ONE People—Forgiven."

As director of the church's mercy arm since 2001 and a member of the boards for Lutheran World Relief, Baltimore, and Lutheran Services in America, Harrison is best-known for coordinating numerous disaster-relief efforts following such catastrophes as the tsunami in Asia, Hurricane Katrina, and the recent earthquake in Haiti.

Pastoral delegate Jared Melius of Denver, Colo., who voted for Harrison, noted, "Pastor Harrison has a pastoral heart, genuine zeal for Lutheran missions, and a desire to unite the Synod around the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

"Working toward healing is something that has to begin in each of us, including me," Harrison said. Speaking both to the delegates on the convention floor as well as those who watched the convention live online, he pledged to "do my best, by the word of Christ, to lead with the generous Gospel of Jesus Christ, which forgives us all of our sins and motivates us to love and care for our neighbor in mercy and compassion."

The election concluded with a display of unity as convention attendees rose to sing the Doxology in acknowledgement of Kieschnick's service and then quickly pledged unanimously to work together, despite differences, to further the work of the Church.

Following the election, Kieschnick also took a moment to address the delegates, reflecting on his time of service: "It's been a humbling burden and awesome privilege," he said, "and I pray the Lord will continue to richly bless this beloved church body that I will always love and will always serve."



Synod Restructuring

Harrison's election followed several days of polite yet intense and passionate discussion regarding resolutions drawn up by the Floor Committee on Synod Structure and Governance, which had formed the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance (often referred to by its initials as the "BRTFSSG") into resolutions.

The task force was appointed by Kieschnick in 2005 to complete "a thorough, zero-based assessment on the system of governance and organizational structure of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod," according to "Congregations Walking Together in Mission," the task force's final report.

Dr. Larry A. Stoterau, president of the Pacific Southwest District and chair of the committee, led the discussions on behalf of the commit-

Harrison's election followed several days of polite yet intense and passionate discussion regarding resolutions drawn up by the Floor Committee on Synod Structure and Governance, which had formed the recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance into resolutions.

tee when the issue came before the assembly on Sunday, July 11. Since the basic structure under which the Synod currently operates was created at its inception 163 years ago, the task force determined that "what worked for 14 congregations doesn't work for 6,000 congregations," Stoterau said.

The BRTFSSG ultimately concluded that the Synod's current organization needed to be realigned to reflect that "the heart of Synod structure is the local congregation," Stoterau explained. Rev. David Buegler, the Synod's fifth vice-president and vice-chair of the floor committee, told delegates that this will "put power in the hands of the congregation."

The biggest change came with Res. 8-08A, a proposal that prompted widespread discussion before the convention and a great deal of debate during it before eventually passing by the narrow margin of 51.9 percent

Above: Dr. Larry Stoterau presented the findings of the BRTFSSG. Delegates took time each day for the study of God's Word.





to 48.1 percent (613 votes yes; 568 no). The resolution brings about a significant structural change at the national office in St. Louis, giving more authority to the president and realigning the national Synod around two ministry boards—the Board for National Mission and the Board for International Mission—which, in turn, establish policies and procedures for an Office of National Mission and the Office of International Mission—both of which answer to a chief mission officer (CMO) appointed by the president with the concurrence of the Board of Directors.

The resolution eliminated nearly all current boards and commissions, although their functions “will still continue in one way or another,” Stoterau said. “The ministries don’t go away just because the boards go away.” The president’s office is now responsible for coordinating not only those efforts but also those of communications, public relations, seminary formation, and other activities.

Christian Preus, a lay delegate who served on the Synod’s Board of Directors from 1995 to 2007, noted his concern with the resolution, saying, “There’s a tremendous amount we don’t know here. This is not going to save money and is sending the authority the wrong way.” Rev. Preston Wagner, Wake Forest, N.C., however, approved of the change: “This resolution is about helping us walk together with great unity. It’s time for us to empower our synodical president to provide servant leadership.”

Carol Booth, lay delegate from Bayside, N.Y., said that observing the restructuring discussion “was a learning experience” and indicated that “in order for churches to move ahead, sometimes they need to look at what worked and what didn’t. Change is hard.”

Harrison publically opposed the restructuring, believing that it put too much power in the hands of the president. In a paper published before the convention, he wrote that structure was not the issue but instead, “our fundamental problem is one of repentance and lack of faith in the power of the Word to unite even us.” Following the restructuring votes and his own election, he reflected on the irony of the situation: “I did not request this authority and then end up getting elected. It [is] a very humbling reality,” he said.

The floor committee also presented delegates with a BRTFSSG proposal that would have changed the three-year

Synod convention cycle to four years in an effort potentially to save millions of dollars. Delegates eventually declined the proposal, opting to leave the cycle as it is.

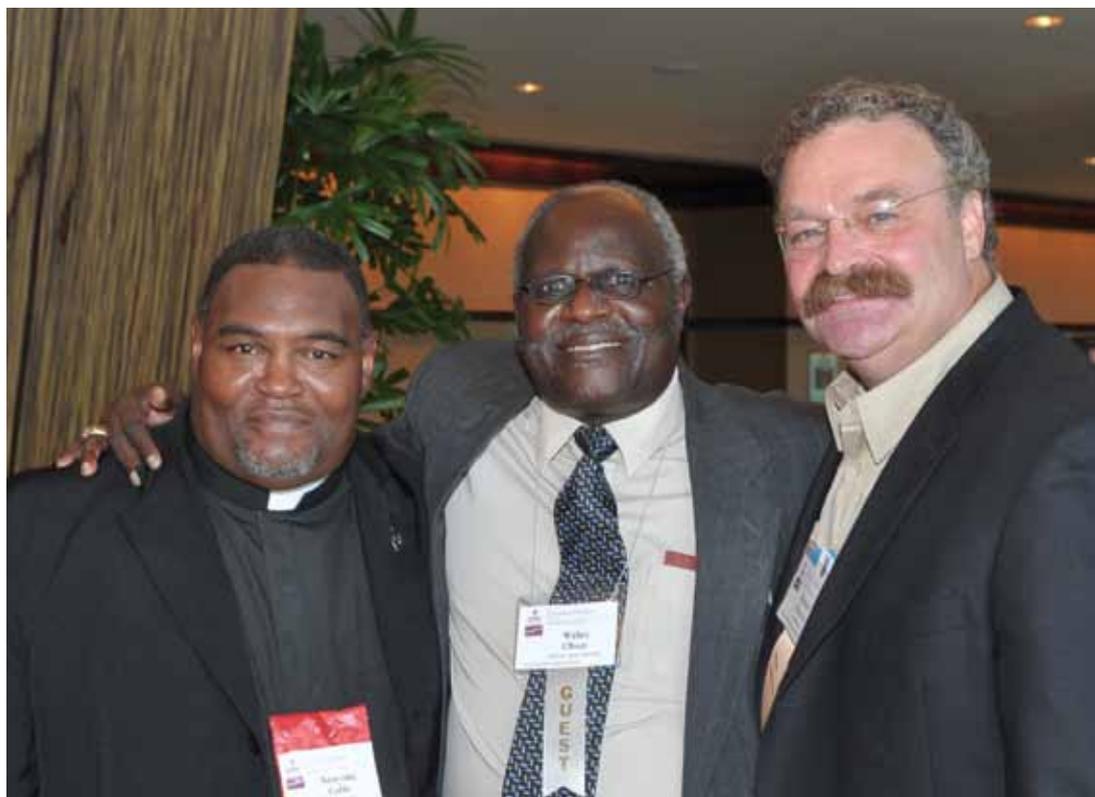
Other restructuring proposals that gained the approval of the convention include allowing congregations to have a direct say in the election of the president of Synod and the election of Synod vice-presidents two through five on a regional basis. (Currently, only one of Synod’s vice-presidents lives west of the Mississippi River.)

Despite the vigorous debate before the votes on structural overhaul, the delegates were commended several times throughout the week for their cordiality and patience with the process, both from the podium and the floor. “Debate isn’t disunity,” said Gregg Hein, lay delegate from Billings, Mont. “Questions aren’t fighting.”

Rev. Robert Bugbee, president of the Lutheran Church—Canada, who was also in attendance, noted, “We know as partner churches that there are some issues and even elections here that are somewhat contentious, but people have seemed quite mature in the way that they’re handling this. I don’t see disrespect from the floor but rather patience with each other.”

Other Actions

Delegates also passed a variety of other resolutions, one of which responded to actions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) at its Churchwide Assembly in 2009. In a vote that garnered widespread media coverage, the ELCA decided to acknowledge





Opposite: Rev. Kenyatta Cobb, Dr. Walter Obare, and President-elect Harrison.

Left: Rev. Marky Kessa brought greetings on behalf of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti.

“publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships” both for laity and those in the pastoral office.

In response, with a vote of 1,133 to 35, the LCMS delegates voted to adopt Res. 3-01A, which affirms the LCMS stance that “God created man and woman for one another” and encourages the Synod to “commend the statement of the ILC, ‘Same-Gender Relationships and the Church,’ for further study and reference.” The statement, drawn up by a task force of the International Lutheran Council (ILC), compares the differences in beliefs between the ELCA and the LCMS regarding Scripture and the way in which the Bible speaks to human sexuality.

Lutheran church leaders from around the globe also spoke to several resolutions brought to the convention floor. Rev. Marky Kessa, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti, and Rev. Revenel Benoit, president of the Lutheran Church Haiti, both took the stage prior to the vote on Res. 6-01, which commended the Synod’s works of mercy in Haiti following the recent earthquake and urged the church to continue disaster response and relief efforts so that the Synod can, according to the resolution, “respond in Christ’s love to our brothers and sisters in need when the next disaster strikes.”

Mourning the loss of 350,000 lives due to the earthquake, Kessa said, “Your spiritual, social, moral, and economic support has kept us going despite all odds.”

For his pastoral care to the people in Haiti, Kessa, joined by other members of his delegation, received a standing ovation from the convention. Moments later, when Res. 6-01 passed by a 99-percent margin, President Kieschnick praised the delegates, saying, “Thank you so much for your support, dear delegates, of this resolution and for your continued support of the church to the terrible condition in Haiti. These are wonderful people of God who are suffering much.”

Dr. Walter Obare, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya, also addressed the convention, speaking in favor of Res. 6-04, in which the LCMS would support the “goals of education, advocacy, and fundraising to prevent and contain malaria.”

Speaking to the matter personally, Obare said, “I was number 10 of 15 children. Only five of the 15 children survived malaria, I being one of them . . . If God can grant us grace to see to it that we can do something about it to save a life, it is a needful event.” The resolution passed with 97 percent of delegates voting in its favor.

More Elections

Other elections took place as well. The slate for nominations for first vice-president—consisting of Rev. Herbert Mueller Jr., Dr. William R. Diekelman, Rev. Daniel Preus, Dr. Wallace Schulz, and Dr. Jeffrey Schrank—was also presented to the delegates and approved. Rev. Herbert Mueller Jr., president of the Southern Illinois District since 1994, was elected first vice-president on the first ballot, receiving 31 more votes than the required 600 needed to win.

The remainder of the praesidium was elected as well. Dr. John Wohlrabe, Dr. Paul Maier, Rev. Daniel Preus, and Dr. Scott Murray were elected second through fifth vice-presidents, respectively.

Delegates also elected new members to the Board of Directors for the Synod, as well as that of Concordia Publishing House, Concordia Theological Seminary,

‘Your spiritual, social, moral, and economic support has kept us going despite all odds.’

— Rev. Marky Kessa

Concordia Seminary, the boards of regents of Concordia University System colleges and universities, and the Commission on Theology and Church Relations.

Fan into Flame

Amidst elections and resolutions, delegates received updates on a number of Synod projects, including *Fan into Flame*, a six-year-old campaign that to date has raised \$58.9 million in support of the church's *Ablaze!* effort. By adopting Res. 1-01, delegates voted to continue the program until Reformation 2011. The money raised has—and will—continue to fund *Ablaze!* projects, missionary work, the founding of new congregations, and other outreach efforts.

Attendees also heard about "What a Way," the Synod's effort to "rebuild active recruitment and retention of church workers." Dr. L. Dean Hempelmann, the program's executive director, noted decreasing numbers of future church workers attending LCMS colleges, universities, and seminaries. Encouraging both pastors and laity to promote the recruitment of church workers, he counseled, "Jesus was urgent in His prayer for the Lord of the harvest to send out workers. There is an urgency that continues for the Church and the world in this day."

Worship

Worship and daily devotions were also prominent throughout the convention. The opening worship service, hosted by Trinity Klein Lutheran Church, Spring, Texas, took place on Saturday, July 10, and echoed the event's forgiveness theme. "Offering forgiveness in Word and Sacrament is the business of the church of Jesus Christ that includes The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod," Kieschnick said during his sermon. "That is the hallmark of our faith."

An organ, orchestra, praise band, and adult and children's choirs provided music for the opening service. Artists at the Center for Liturgical Art at Concordia University Nebraska were responsible for the altar, lectern, and baptismal font used in the service, all of which were then transported to New Orleans for use at the National LCMS Youth Gathering July 17–21. Pastors from the Houston area, as well as the Synod's 35 district presidents and the praesidium, distributed the Lord's Supper.

Punctuating the convention proceedings were short "red chair" videos featuring more than 35 district and Synod officials offering personal stories of confession and forgiveness. "The red chair symbolizes our redemption, as Christians, in the blood of Christ," said Frank Hart, producer of the videos and music director at CrossPoint Community Church in Katy, Texas. The videos are available online at lcms.org/redchair.

Pastors also heard private confession and offered absolution throughout the convention, and volunteers staffed a prayer tent on the convention floor. On Friday, July 16, convention chaplain Jotham Johann, associate



LWML president Janice Wendorf

executive director of the LCMS World Mission National Team, led a Service of Reconciliation during which he thanked the "prayer team of 20 people and the 500 vigil leaders" for their prayers throughout the week.

In keeping with the Church's historic rhythm of prayer throughout the day, Kieschnick, chair of the convention, halted proceedings each morning and afternoon for attendees to participate in devotions and Bible studies. Ted Kober, founder and president of Ambassadors of Reconciliation, led the majority of Bible studies, which focused on variations of the convention's theme, "ONE People—Forgiven."

Greetings

Throughout the long week of parliamentary procedures, elections, and even humor, from both Kieschnick and the delegates, the assembly received greetings and updates from representatives of partner organizations and churches around the United States and world. LCMS member Jeff Williams, an astronaut who has flown three separate missions in space, brought official greetings to the convention. (See the following story for a profile of Col. Williams.)

Key leaders and representatives from other Lutheran church bodies were in attendance throughout the week. These included Rev. Robert Bugbee, president of the Lutheran Church—Canada; Dr. Walter Obare, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya; Rev. James Pope of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod; Rev. Franklin Hays of the American Association of Lutheran Churches; and David Swartling, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Former presidents and Synod officials in attendance were also recognized: Dr. Robert Kuhn, who served as president for a short time following President A.L. Barry's death

in 2001; Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, who was president from 1981 to 1992; and Rev. Daniel Preus, former first vice-president of the Synod and newly elected fourth vice-president.

Janice Wendorf, president of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, greeted the delegates on behalf of the LWML, saying, "It is our pride and joy to be women of the church who serve the Lord with gladness." Kieschnick commended the work of the LWML, saying, "Without their support, the mission of our Synod would be greatly hampered."

Delegates also heard from Brad Hewitt, chief executive officer of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, who noted that, "Lutherans figuring out how to solve problems has resulted in an AA best-rated Fortune 500 company with \$70 billion in assets." Dr. Bruce Kintz, president and CEO of Concordia Publishing House, introduced the delegates to "PrayNow," an application for iPhones and iPads that offers users the church's historic daily prayers and Bible readings.

Returning Home

Kieschnick concluded the convention on Saturday, July 17, with a Trinitarian pounding of the Synod's historic convention gavel. "May our almighty God lead this church by the Holy Spirit to live as one people forgiven," he said.

Convention attendees then began boarding shuttles and planes, attempting to wrap their arms around the dramatic structural and ideological shifts that had taken place during the past week. Rev. Michael Kumm, newly elected to the Synod's Board of Directors, pondered the future, stating, "I believe we must govern by the same standard we use for our theology, that being the Word of God. Stewardship, fellowship, and business decisions should be made in accord with God's Word and in keeping with our confession of faith."

The way forward, many delegates acknowledge, will not be easy, nor is it necessarily clear. The implementation of the Synod's restructuring as well as its impact on local congregations,

circuits, and districts remains to be seen. But President-elect Harrison urged patience, saying, "The Lord has given us this, and I have sensed nothing since the election but just a deep hopefulness." Encouraging prayers on the Synod's behalf, he promised, "We'll get through the restructuring, take a deep breath, and we will set our face toward the future and the mission of Christ."

Harrison and the other officers and board members of Synod take office Sept. 1. They will be installed Sept. 11 at the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

**Adriane Dorr (adriane.dorr@lcms.org)
is managing editor
of *The Lutheran Witness*.**

Want More Info?

For more information on convention activities, resolutions, photo galleries, Bible studies, and other activities, visit lcms.org, click on "Convention," then "View the Official Convention Web site."

Also online, as noted, are the heartfelt "red chair" videos. You can find them at lcms.org/redchair.

Kieschnick concluded the convention on Saturday, July 17, with a Trinitarian pounding of the Synod's historic convention gavel. 'May our almighty God lead this church by the Holy Spirit to live as one people forgiven,' he said.





Seeing Creation

Jeffrey N. Williams

Age: 52

Church: Gloria Dei Lutheran, Houston, Texas

Family: Wife Anna-Marie; adult sons Brad and Jason

Hometown: Born in Superior, Wis.; Raised in Winter, Wis., on a dairy farm that his grandfather carved out of the woods after emigrating from Sweden.

Education: U.S. Military Academy; U.S. Naval Postgraduate School; U.S. Naval War College

Military: Served more than 27 years in the U.S. Army. Retired colonel.

‘The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of His hands’ (Psalm 19:1 NIV).



Gaze at the stars scattered across the night sky, or at the layers of cumulus floating through powder-blue daylight, and it's easy to feel David's praise in Psalm 19. From the Earth, words can scarcely capture the glory.

But from the heavens themselves, a man of God and a man of science brings a witness to God's glory and grace and further testimony through an extraordinary perspective: the windows of his spacecraft.

Colonel Jeffrey Williams—husband, father, grandfather, and astronaut—most recently brought official greetings to the delegates of the 2010 convention in Houston. He has also flown three missions into space. On two of them he spent months at the International Space Station.

Reflecting on God's creation from orbit, “as a recipient of God's grace, it's a humbling thing,” Williams says.

“The more we grow in an understanding of God's grace . . . the fact that He loved us enough to pay the price that He did is a tremendous, humbling significance.

“To view the Earth from space just magnifies all of that in the context of the Creator.”

Williams became an astronaut in 1996. He flew a 10-day mission on the space shuttle in 2000. In 2006, he was a member of Expedition 13, which took him to the International Space Station for six months. And in March, as he dropped into Kazakhstan at sunrise, he ended his third flight, which included nearly six months on the space station.

The International Space Station orbits Earth every 90 minutes, passing 16 sunrises and 16 sunsets every 24 hours. And with each orbit, Earth rotates a little more than 22 degrees, so Williams got a view of a different part of the planet each time around.

from a Spacecraft Window

Expedition 13, his 2006 mission, orbited the Earth more than 2,800 times. During those spins, Williams took more photographs of Earth than any other astronaut.

Photographs from that flight make up his new book, *The Work of His Hands: A View of God's Creation from Space*, published by Concordia Publishing House.

Those photographs provide not only documentation useful for scientists but lessons about the order of the universe, God's provisions for us, and "a new significance to the truth of many familiar biblical texts," Williams writes.

"There is a fascinating passage in the Old Testament Book of Job that I have marveled at for years and now has special significance to me," he writes.

"It speaks of God's greatness manifested in His creation. . . . Any space traveler who has seen the Earth from orbit completely understands this sentence from Job: '[God] stretches out the north over the void and hangs the earth on nothing' (Job 26:7 ESV).

"God really does suspend the Earth on nothing!"

While it sounds glamorous to go to space, and it is, it's hard to be away from family, Williams says. He left on his last mission two days after his grandson, Braeden, was born.

It's also tough for family to face certain life events alone. "But going through those experiences just grows our trust and confidence in the faithful provision that comes from our Lord," Williams says.

"Oftentimes we don't see that until after the fact. We have a duty to trust in it and then acknowledge it and see it. That grows our sense of trust in Him, our sense of contentment, grows our biblical definition of joy. Transcending all of that, it grows our gratitude in our gracious God, in all the ways grace is manifested."

Part of that gratitude is being privileged to witness that perspective, Williams says. And sharing the experience, he finds, is the biggest reward of his work.

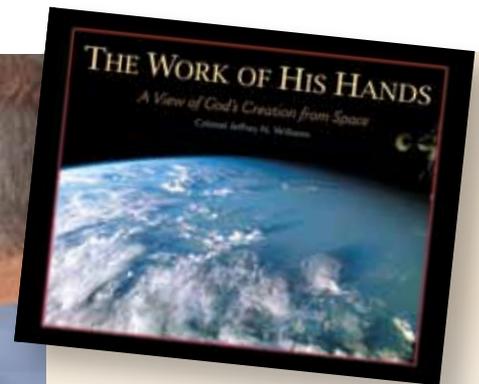
As part of that witness, he continued to shoot photos on his mission that ended in March, taking more photographs—about 100,000—than ever before.

He'll have time to see what those photos of Earth and space say to him as he awaits the birth of his granddaughter in September. It's likely the photos will speak more about God as creator and provider.

But creation "does not even begin to reveal who He is . . .," Williams writes in his book. "He is only fully revealed in His Word."

Psalm 19 is one of Williams' favorite Scripture verses: "The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple" (19:7 NIV).

A veteran reporter and editor, Sandy Wood (sandalwood@charter.net) is a member of Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Mo.



To order Col. Williams' book, call 1-800-325-3040 or visit cph.org.

Counterclockwise: Colonel Williams at book signing at Concordia Publishing House.

Greeting the delegates of the 64th Regular Convention of the LCMS in Houston.

With all tasks accomplished, he spends a final moment taking in the view.

Photo courtesy of the Image Science & Analysis Laboratory, NASA Johnson Space Center. It can be accessed on The Gateway to Astronaut Photography of Earth Web site at <http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov>.

Ablaze

Snapshots

Even though times have been tough, LCMS congregations are still reaching out to their neighbors with compassion and the Good News of Jesus.

Creativity, community outreach, working with young people: These are the responses of numerous LCMS congregations to the economic downturn we've all experienced recently.

Instead of looking at their current situations in life as "a glass half-empty," many congregations have used the recession as a hidden blessing, allowing them to rally their "troops" to reach out with the Gospel to the communities around them.

These congregations are boldly and winsomely sharing the Gospel with some of the most unreached and strategic mission fields in the United States: the Hispanic population and young people in their 20s and 30s.

They are not using budget cuts, unemployment, or lack of grants as an excuse for not sharing the Gospel. Rather, they are using the gifts and resources of volunteers, innovative programs, engaging community-outreach events, and deployment of lay leaders to bring the Good News to disadvantaged, lonely, and hurting people.

The following is a snapshot of these Gospel outreach activities through the lens of four specific congregations in mission.



➤ Fourth Friday: Focusing on Families

Church: St. Paul's Lutheran
Location: Cheney, Kan.
Pastor: Rev. Ken Kaufmann
Membership: 470

On the fourth Friday of every month from February through October, St. Paul's Lutheran Church invites the community of Cheney to a night of dinner and entertainment.

In April it was Fiesta night, with tacos, piñatas for the kids, and the movie "Beverly Hills Chihuahua."

Last summer, there was a movie under the stars and swimming. This year's events include Big Truck Night this month, Zero Gravity in September, and Fallabration in October. (Last month's event was Christmas in July.)

The cost: \$1 per person; \$3 per family.

"Last year was the debut of Fourth Friday in our community," says Emily Kerschen. "It has been exciting to see the Lord work through Fourth Friday and allow it to begin to blossom."



Left: Abrianna DeLeon (foreground), Damon Galloway, Hannah DeLeon, and Trenton Dancaster wait in line for a turn to hit the piñata.

Below: Abrianna and her sister, Hannah DeLeon, check out the tortillas.

Photos courtesy Carl Koster Jr.

Kerschen is a member of the young adults Bible-study group that developed the Fourth Friday program and coordinates the event each month.

The Bible-study group wanted to offer families an opportunity for a night together that was inexpensive and fun in a Christian setting, Kerschen says. "Our main mission was to show others the love of Christ through our event."

This year, the group has included more emphasis on prayer. Between the meal and the evening's entertainment, there is a special devotion or personal testimony along with prayer.

And then those attending have the opportunity to fill out prayer-request cards.

"Prayer teams of St. Paul's members will focus on praying specifically for the individual families attending Fourth Friday," Kerschen says. "Our prayer is that members from these prayer teams will have the opportunity to contact families once they have attended Fourth Friday and serve as the bridge between the event and further spiritual growth."

Fourth Fridays also have given Rev. Ken Kaufmann, the church's pastor, a chance to connect more closely with some families in one of the church's other ministries—its latchkey program, called REAL (reaching, educating, and loving) Kids.

"Many of those families are members of the community but not of the congregation," he says. "I'm not often with them that much, but members of those families have been coming, and I'm getting to know them, and they're getting to know other members."

Kerschen says that Fourth Fridays keep a continued focus on simply living the Gospel—loving our neighbors. "Giving without the expectation of getting anything in return opens the door to share and show how Jesus loves us."





Left: Pastor Rich Tursic visits at Colonial Heights & Gardens Retirement Community in Florence, where he leads services about four times a year. **Below:** Kirk Porter, Tina Tolson, and Mary Givhan, who are members of the Human Care Committee at Good Shepherd, clean up the yard of a citizen in her 80s. The church committee does a variety of services for the community.

Photos courtesy Good Shepherd School

> A Light on a Hill

Church: Good Shepherd Lutheran
Location: Florence, Ky.
Pastor: Rev. Rich Tursic
Membership: 410

On a hill in northern Kentucky, members of a dynamic congregation rally their brainpower to find more ways to share their faith in Christ with more people in more places in their community.

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church is just one example of how LCMS congregations across the country are focusing on reaching into their communities to share Christ's love and the good news of the Gospel.

"We are sited on a hill and hope to be a light to our community that all can see," says Rev. Rich Tursic, the church's pastor. He refers to Matt. 5:14 and 16: "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. . . . In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven" (ESV).

Members of the community may see the light shine on that hill, but they see it blaze brightest as it flows through their streets and into their homes and businesses and hearts.

Women in alcohol rehabilitation at a residential facility nearby see it. Church members spent time with them and touched their lives.

The directors of a network of home-schooled students see that light. About 80 students use the church facility every week.

Residents of a local retirement village see it, as Tursic conducts worship services and members lead sing-a-longs there.

And Dean Daniels, a church elder about to begin a term as chairman of the congregation, saw that light when he walked into the church less than two years ago.

"I had just moved to the area and had three churches on my list to check out," he said. "When I walked in . . . I thought I might have already found a match."

Tursic says the church's human-care outreach is dynamic because of the commitment of the people involved, and that at least every quarter they engage in a new way to reach out with Christ's love.

"My people are nuts . . . in a biblical sense," he says, quoting the apostle Paul: "If we are out of our mind, it is for the sake of God . . . For Christ's love compels us . . . He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him" (2 Cor. 5:13-15 NIV).





Coffeeshop crew Karla Burkee (in apron) and Bruce Ray (far right) chat with visitors in the kitchen. The sign displays the selection of bistro-style coffees. Photo courtesy John Schweitzer

Below: The 58watt Coffeeshop looks out over acreage lush with oak trees. Photo courtesy Bruce Ray

➤ Encouraging Fellowship: It's All Free

Church: Trinity Lutheran
Location: Baton Rouge, La.
Pastor: Rev. Benjamin Bahr
Membership: 1200

Bruce Ray's daughter, Stephanie, wanted to see more people in her 20-something age group involved with church, and more importantly, with Jesus.

Ray, who is president of Trinity Lutheran, knew that he needed to bring something centered on Christ to them, rather than just asking them to come to church.

"I prayed about what God was telling me," Ray says. Seeing young people gathering in coffee shops got Ray thinking that his church could provide something similar, but Christ-centered.

And shortly after Easter two years ago, Trinity's "58watt coffeeshop" opened.

Now, every Wednesday night, folks come to share a meal, pray, study the Word, sometimes hear music, and just relate in the fellowship of Christ. And drink fancy coffees.

It's a concept that a handful of other LCMS congregations have adopted or are starting as they experiment with sharing their faith in new ways.

During the first six months of the coffee shop, the crowd was mainly high-schoolers.

"Then we began to have an older group, with 50s to 60s meeting and visiting in one area, the high-schoolers in another," Ray says.

Charles Tate and his 5-year-old granddaughter, Jasmine, have been coming to 58watt pretty much since it started.

"The faith group there has become a very real family to Jasmine," Tate says.

"Every week, we look forward to going. Although we're Roman Catholic, we share our likenesses."

They meet in a sleek house on 25 acres. The location, called Trinity Oaks, is in a growing area of Baton Rouge, Ray says.

For that area, the coffee house provides an opportunity to share the Good News, observes Rev. Benjamin Bahr, Trinity's pastor: "At 58watt, we are able to show compassion and care to people who have fallen away from organized religion, from churches, and they are able to be reached with the Gospel of Christ again."

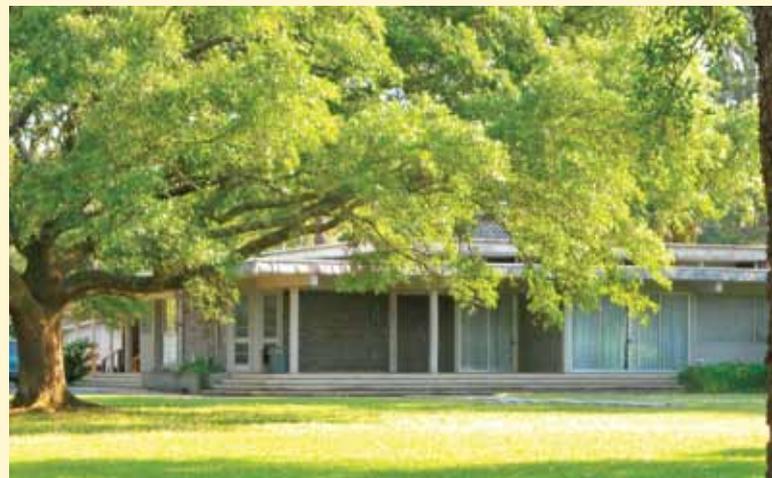
Often, at 58watt, several things go on at once, including a Bible-study group and tutoring for junior-high students. It's all free, though donations are accepted.

Ray says it's clear that God's hand was in all of this. One of the women he recruited to be on a team to get things started asked if Ray wanted her husband to bring the coffee. Turns out, he is a production manager for a company that supplies coffee pods for espresso machines. Ray had no idea.

And the coffee-house name became a good conversation starter.

It's from Eph. 5:8 (NIV): "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light."

Ray: "We all thought that this describes the journey that we are all on."





Young gardeners help the more seasoned ones tend the crop at Trinity Lutheran's community garden.

Below: Students participate in an English as a Second Language class, an important part of Trinity Lutheran's ministry.

Photos courtesy Fred Kramer

English worship services. Angelica and Santos completed instruction and were received into membership. Their oldest son, Carlos, graduated from Trinity School and is an honor student at Portland Lutheran High School. The two younger children are enrolled at Trinity School."

He goes on to say that Santos is now a member of the congregation's lay-ministry board. And Angelica serves in many capacities at Trinity, including teaching English and Sunday School—and is an effective evangelism outreach person.

Rev. Darren Anderson, the church's pastor, says Trinity is hosting the community market on the church parking lot every Saturday this summer. The market and the second garden reach beyond the Latino community to the rest of the congregation's Portland neighborhood—a neighborhood with only one grocery store, making the market, where fresh produce is sold, a vital place.

Both of the new ventures grew out of Trinity's members spending time with people in the community.

And in turn, the community is reaching back to the church. The group organizing the Saturday market wanted Trinity to have an active, visible presence there.

So every Saturday, customers visiting the market to buy fresh produce can learn about Trinity and hear the gracious invitation Philip extended to Nathanael: "Come and see" (John 1:46).

The invitation is at the heart of all of Trinity's work.

Rev. Jotham Johann (jotham.johann@lcms.org) is an executive consultant with the LCMS World Mission/National Mission Team.

An award-winning reporter and editor, Sandy Wood (sandra@charter.net) is a member of Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Mo.

Rev. Darren Anderson of Trinity, Portland, recently accepted a call from St. Paul Lutheran Church, Plano, Texas, to be a missionary pastor. His work there will include planting a new church in inner-city Dallas.



➤ Growing Vegetables— and Growing in Faith

Church: Trinity Lutheran
Location: Portland, Ore.
Pastor: Rev. Darren Anderson
Membership: 350

For some LCMS congregations, growing gardens is a way of "growing faith" in Christ in their communities.

In Portland, Trinity Lutheran began its sixth season this year with one garden, started another, and became the host of a community market also.

The church's first garden is part of an outreach program to its Latino community. With help from a local plant society, Trinity provides the space, compost, water, and basic tools, while a local food bank helps with plants and seeds.

Sometimes, the garden itself is enough to open a door and connect someone to church, explains Fred Kramer, Trinity's coordinator of Latino Ministry.

Sometimes, too, the garden works in concert with the other parts of Trinity's outreach program, which includes English and computer classes, an emergency food program, summer school for immigrant children, and enrollment in the church's school.

Kramer shares this story of Angelica Ek Juarez:

"Eight years ago, Angelica Ek Juarez began attending English classes," Kramer says. "Sometime later, Angelica, her husband Santos, and the children began attending



The Internet and the Eighth Commandment

A staff member of our congregation has been designated in a will to serve as a personal representative of a person giving large sums of money to causes promoting sinful behavior. I discovered this information on the Internet and have discussed it with others—although to my knowledge the congregation does not know this. I believe the staff member’s action is inappropriate. What should I do as a concerned fellow-Christian?

Christian love and concern requires that you first learn the facts of the case and that you not rush to judgment. In keeping with the spirit of Matt. 18:15ff., you are encouraged to speak directly, and privately, with the staff member regarding your concern.

As you consider this matter, it would be important to bear in mind that serving as an executor, or administrator, of a will does not entail a moral judgment either for or against the deceased’s requests expressed in the will. In fact, the duties of the administrator can be carried out faithfully and honestly even if he or she may have moral objections to the way assets are to be distributed. Even though we, for various reasons, may personally regard the conduct of fellow Christians as unwise or inappropriate in the given case, we must exercise great care, lest we lay a burden of conscience on another in areas involving human judgment, not express biblical teaching.

Though your staff member could without sin serve as an administrator of this will, his (or her) good name and ministry could suffer great harm if false or misleading information is circulated. In cases like this especially, we all would do well to heed Martin Luther’s counsel in his explanation of the Eighth Commandment to defend

our neighbor, speak well of him and explain his actions in the kindest way. More poignantly in the Large Catechism Luther says, “It is a particularly fine, noble virtue to put the best construction on all we may hear about our neighbors (as long as it is not an evil that is publicly known), and to defend them against the poisonous tongues of those who are busily trying to pry out and pounce on something to criticize in their neighbor, misconstruing and twisting things in the worst way” (*Large Catechism*, I, 289 [Kolb/Wengert]).

A further caution seems appropriate here. The ready availability of information today on the Internet (even about the personal lives of individuals) and the ease of its instant and widespread distribution bring a set of temptations unparalleled in previous generations. Irretrievably great harm to the reputation of others may be caused by the failure to bridle the tongue electronically (see James 3:1–12).

Mindful of the grace and mercy shown to us in our Savior Jesus Christ, our general approach ought to be to do “only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear” (Eph. 4:29 ESV).

Until his retirement, Dr. Jerald C. Joersz was an associate executive director of the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations.



Send your questions to Q & A, *The Lutheran Witness*, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295; or send them via e-mail to lutheran.witness@lcms.org. Please include your name and address. While we look for questions that have broad interest among our readers, no question is unimportant. Unfortunately, the volume of questions we receive makes it impossible to answer every question individually.

Note: The "official notices" are published for a single purpose only: giving notice of a result, namely, changes in the Synod's membership rosters by the addition or deletion of the names of individuals and congregations. It is not always appropriate that reasons for the changes be identified in the published notices. Since a change can occur for any of a variety of reasons, no assumptions may be made merely from the fact that a change has occurred.—Ed.

Official Notices— From the Districts

PENNY JOHNSON, as of March 4, and WILLIAM R. ZABEL, as of April 30, were removed from the Ministers of Commissioned roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and are, therefore, no longer eligible to receive a call. HENRY E. DRUMMOND resigned from the Ministers of Religion—Ordained roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, effective May 28. He is, therefore, no longer eligible to receive a call. REV. MARK A. JURGENSEN resigned from the Ministers of Religion—Ordained roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is, therefore, no longer eligible to receive a call, effective July 16, 2007.—Rev. Gregory S. Walton, President, LCMS Florida-Georgia District.

REV. GERALD WITTMAYER was appointed circuit counselor of the Rolla Circuit, replacing REV. RICHARD ANDEREGG who resigned effective July 1. AMANDA FORSBERG, RACHAEL FULK, and CLAUDIA PICO were removed from the Commissioned

roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and are, therefore, no longer eligible to receive a call.—Rev. Ray G. Mirly, President, LCMS Missouri District.

REV. JOHN R. RICKERT was appointed circuit counselor for Circuit #18, replacing REV. CLIFFORD W. GADE. CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, Greensboro, N.C., disbanded effective Jan. 3 and was removed from the congregational roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.—Dr. Jon T. Diefenthaler, President, LCMS Southeastern District.

Official Notices—Colloquies

MAUREEN D. HAUCK, Shoreview, Minn.; AARON A. SCHULTZ, New Orleans, La.; DANA M. BERG, Freistatt, Mo., have submitted applications for the Teacher Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn. Correspondence regarding these applications should be directed within four weeks after publication of this notice to Dr. William R. Diekelman, Chairman, Colloquy Committee, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.

LUIS ENRIQUE BARRETO-LUGO, Temecula, Calif.; JAMES D. CHINERY, Iron Mountain, Mich.; DAVID C. NOLL, Spokane, Wash.; RANDAL SCHOEMANN, Kewaunee, Wis.; and TERRY F. WIECHMAN, Valley Center, Kan.; have completed all requirements for the Pastoral Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and are, therefore, eligible to receive a call. RICHARD J. NIEBANCK, Delhi, N.Y., has completed all requirements for emeritus status in the Pastoral Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is, therefore, eligible for a call.—Dr. William R. Diekelman, Chairman, Colloquy Committee, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.

MARTIN K. ERHARDT, Princeton, N.J.; has applied for the Pastoral Colloquy Program through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Correspondence regarding this application should be directed within four weeks after publication of this notice to Dr. William R. Diekelman, Chairman, Colloquy Committee, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295. SHARON R. PORTERFIELD, Park Ridge, Ill., and DEBORAH WROZIER, St. Peters, Mo., have completed all the requirements of the Teacher Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and are, therefore, eligible to receive a call.—Mark A. Waldron, Concordia University Chicago, 7400 Augusta St., River Forest, IL 60305-1499.

CHRISTINE C. FLOHRA, Fullerton, Calif., has completed all the requirements of the Teacher Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is, therefore, eligible to receive a call.—Dr. Becky Peters, Director, Colloquy Program, Concordia University, Irvine, 1530 Concordia West, Irvine, CA 92612-3203.

LINDA C. RUSSELL, Roseburg, Ore.; JOANNA I. GELLERMANN, Renton, Wash.; JOEL T. REPP, Everett, Wash.; and HEATHER STAHL, Everett, Wash., have completed all the requirements of the Teacher Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and are, therefore, eligible to receive a call.—Dr. Norman Metzler, Chairman, Colloquy Committee, Concordia University, Portland, 2811 N.E. Holman St., Portland, OR 97211.

VALORIE NELSON, Flushing, Mich., has completed the Director of Christian Outreach Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is, therefore, eligible to receive a call.—Dr. Stephen C. Stohmann, Director of Colloquy, Concordia University, St. Paul, 275 Syndicate St. N., St. Paul, MN 55104

JENNIFER M. NIGG, Madison, Ind.; REBECCA D. TELLOCK, Weyauwega, Wis.; and CHERYL A. WITEK, Racine, Wis., have completed all the requirements of the Teacher Colloquy Program of

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and are, therefore, eligible to receive a call.—Rev. John W. Oberdeck, Ph.D., Assistant Director for Lay Ministry/Teacher Colloquy Program, Concordia University Wisconsin, 12800 N. Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, WI 53097-2402.

Official Notices— Notice of Intent

The Board of Regents of Concordia University, River Forest, Ill., herewith gives notice of intent to grant tenure to KRISTIE STRICKER and SANDRA DOERING. Any comments concerning this intent should be addressed to the following within six weeks after publication of this notice.—Dr. John Johnson, Executive Officer, Board of Regents, Concordia University, 7400 Augusta St., River Forest, IL 60305-1499; fax: 708-209-3534.

Official Notices—Requests for Reinstatement

WILLIAM PAUL SCHMIDT, Asheville, N.C., has applied for reinstatement to the Ministers of Religion—Ordained roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. DEBORAH L. AMICK, Sunnyvale, Calif.; KATE BERNARDINI, Garfield Heights, Ohio; CHRISTINE S. BOETTCHER, Menasha, Wis.; TERRY SUE CHOW (nee HYDE), Glendale, Calif.; CORRENE D. CONSTANTINO (nee SCHILKE); JOAN PAEZ CROW, Long Beach, Calif.; KYLE MOTZKUS, West Bend, Wis.; JANELLE NEWTON, Napa, Calif.; BRENDA MICHELLE NGUYEN (nee HILL); Glendora, Calif.; and JUDY THOMPSON, Fenton, Mo., have applied for reinstatement to the Ministers of Religion—Commissioned roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Correspondence regarding these applications should be directed to the undersigned for receipt no later than Sept. 5.—Dr. Raymond L. Hartwig, Secretary, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.

OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE 3558 S. Jefferson Ave. St. Louis, MO

**Contact: Anthony Shimkus,
Director of Facilities
for appointment to view facility
314-268-1262**

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Call for Nominations

The Board of Directors of the Synod herewith calls for nominations for the position of Vice-President—Finance—Treasurer (Chief Financial Officer) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The Board of Directors appoints the Synod's chief financial officer in consultation and mutual concurrence with the President of the Synod (Bylaw 3.4.1.1 as adopted by the 2010 convention of the Synod).

Constitution Art. XI E and Bylaws 3.4.1ff. (as adopted by the 2010 convention) provide a description of the responsibilities of this position, which include all customary duties of a corporate chief financial officer. Names should be submitted in writing to the undersigned no later than Wednesday, September 15, 2010.

Dr. Raymond L. Hartwig, Secretary
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
1333 S. Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, MO 63122-7295

Positions

The Lutheran Witness welcomes notices for positions available at affiliated entities and Recognized Service Organizations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The deadline for receipt of such notices is the 20th of the month two months prior to the publication month (e.g., Aug. 20 for the October issue). Send notices to karen.higgins@lcms.org.—Ed.

Lutheran Bible Translators seeks an experienced **director of Program Ministries** to provide leadership to Program Ministries, its staff and mission-aries, and to liaison with partner organizations.

The successful candidate will have a strong background in administration and strategic planning, as well as being a team leader handling sensitive issues. Essential duties and responsibilities include being a relationship builder, especially with staff, missionaries, co-workers and partners, both international and domestic. This relationship building is to ensure understanding of issues impacting the mission of the organization. The candidate must be good in networking with other agencies involved in Bible translation activities and have seven-plus years of experience, especially as a Bible translation missionary in a cross-cultural setting. The candidate must hold a graduate degree (theological or academic) in a field related to the position. Salary is negotiable.

Submit cover letter with salary history and resume by Sept. 15 to dmehl@lbt.org or mail to Dean Mehl, Human Resources Manager, Lutheran Bible Translators, 303 N. Lake St., Aurora, IL 60507; www.lbt.org.

The following institutions of the **Concordia University System** (CUS) are seeking candidates for positions described below:

Concordia College—New York, Bronxville, N.Y., seeks to fill the following positions: **Social Work; Special Education; Co-Director of Financial Aid—Loan Processing.**

Concordia University Texas, Austin, Texas, seeks to fill the following faculty positions: **Center Dean, Houston; Center Dean, San Antonio; Vice-Provost for Assessment and Quality Enhancement.**

Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, seeks to fill the following faculty positions: **Athletic Training; Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences; Molecular Pharmacology; Pharmaceutics; Pharmacy Administration; Toxicology/Poison Control.**

Concordia University, Portland, Ore., seeks to fill the following positions: **Associate Dean for**

Academic Affairs, School of Law (Boise, ID campus); Clinical Nursing; Medical/Surgical Nursing; Middle/Secondary Education: Math and Science; Middle/Secondary Education: Language Arts, Classroom Management, and Social Studies.

Concordia College, Selma, Ala., seeks to fill the following positions: **Network System Administrator; Enterprise Applications Administrator.**

For more information about these and other CUS positions, including complete job descriptions, qualifications, and application process, visit <http://www.lcms.org/cusjobs> and click on "Positions Available at Our Campuses."

Anniversaries

The Lutheran Witness welcomes notices of no more than 50 words from LCMS congregations about their upcoming "milestone" anniversaries. The deadline for receipt of such notices is the 20th of the month two months prior to the publication month (e.g., Aug. 20 for the October issue). Send notices to karen.higgins@lcms.org.—Ed.

St. John, Storm Lake, Iowa, will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a 10 a.m. special service on Aug. 8, with Rev. Ben Dose, son of the congregation, as speaker, followed by a catered dinner. Dr. Thomas Zehnder, director of LCMS World Mission, will deliver a special message at the 2 p.m. hymn festival. Contact church office 712-732-2400 or stjohnsl@questoffice.net.

Salem, Gurley, Neb., will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a 10:35 a.m. worship service, Aug. 8. Former pastor Chaplain Daniel G. Jones will be speaker. A catered meal will follow, along with a 2 p.m. special service.

Faith, Carpentersville, Ill., will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a 10 a.m. worship service Aug. 8, with a picnic to follow. Former members are encouraged to leave contact information at 847-428-2079; e-mail faithle61@att.net.

St. Matthews, Mancelona, Mich., will celebrate its 120th anniversary with a 10 a.m. Festival Service Aug. 22, with former Pastor James Walburg as the speaker. For more information, contact Rev. Donald Ritter at sagritter@aol.com.

Our Saviour, Vernal, Utah, will celebrate its 50th anniversary with services at 6 p.m., Aug. 28, and at 11:15 a.m., Aug. 29. Guest speakers include Rev. Michael Bailey, Rev. Ron Pederson and Rev. Daniel Praeuner. Contact the church office at 435-789-1421.

Messiah, Ewa Beach, Hawaii, will celebrate its 50th anniversary on Aug. 29. For more information, contact Pastor Robert Brown at rbrown3618@yahoo.com.

St. Peter, Hampton, Neb., will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a special 10 a.m. service Sept. 5. Nebraska District President Russ Sommerfeld will be guest preacher. A dinner will follow at the Hampton Auditorium.

Christ, Eagan, Minn., will celebrate its 100th anniversary Sept. 11. Dr. Paul Maier of Western Michigan University will present a seminar on the topic of "Christ or Caricature." For reservations or more information, contact Sharonlee Strohkirch at 952-431-1865, Eileen Gregory at 952-469-6552, or the church office at 651-454-4091.

Trinity, Van Meter, Iowa, will celebrate its 125th anniversary Sept. 11–12. Special events are scheduled the 11th. Rev. Justin Laughridge, grandson of the congregation, will be guest speaker at the 10 a.m. service on Sept. 12, followed by a noon meal and 2 p.m. special celebration service. For more information, call 515-758-3005.

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First, Waldorf, Minn., will celebrate its 100th anniversary at the 10 a.m. service Sept. 19, followed by a catered meal and program. The theme is "Lifting High the Cross for 100 Years and Beyond." A church history book will be available for purchase. For reservations, call the church office at 507-239-2431.

Faith, Bay City, Mich., will celebrate its 50th anniversary at the 8 and 10:30 a.m. worship services Sept. 19. Former Michigan District president, Dr. C. William Hoesman, will be guest preacher. A catered dinner and celebration will follow the late service. Contact the church office at 989-684-3430.

Zion, Morris, Minn., will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 2-3. A 5:30 p.m. meal and fellowship will be held Oct. 2. At the 10:15 a.m. worship service Oct. 3, Rev. John Pasche, son of the congregation, will be guest speaker, followed by a free-will offering noon meal. At 2 p.m. former pastor, Dr. Harold Senkbeil will be guest speaker. Refreshments will follow. Contact 320-589-2744 or zion@hometownsolutions.net.

Zion, Argonia, Kan., will celebrate its 125th anniversary Oct. 10 with a catered dinner and fellowship following its regular 10:45 a.m. Communion service. A 3 p.m. special service will be held, with former pastors and organists to participate and also to be honored. Call 620-435-6575 or e-mail slick@havielandtelco.com.

Beautiful Savior, Tempe, Ariz., will celebrate its 50th anniversary the weekend of Oct. 23-24. On Oct. 23, the 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. activities include a 1:15 p.m. worship service. Dr. Larry Stoterau, Pacific Southwest District president, will be guest preacher. At the 10 a.m. worship service on Oct. 24, Dr. Ken Klaus of The Lutheran Hour will be guest speaker. A barbecue luncheon will follow. E-mail besavioluchu1001@Questoffice.net.

Faith, Abilene, Kan., will celebrate its 60th anniversary with a 4 p.m., Oct. 31, Reformation service. Rev. Keith Kohlmeier, Kansas District president, will be guest speaker. A light meal will follow. For more information, contact the church office at 785-263-1842 or visit online at www.faithabilene.org.

St. Stephen, Detroit, Mich., will celebrate its 120th anniversary with a 10:30 a.m. worship service Nov. 14, with a luncheon to follow. Pastor Al Wingfield will be guest speaker. Contact Vicar Dan Ramthun at dramthun@lusa.com to RSVP or for more information.

In Memoriam

Obituary information is provided by district offices to the Synod's Office of Rosters and Statistics. Any questions about content should be referred, therefore, to the appropriate district office.—Ed.

ORDAINED

ALEMAN, RAUL; Aug. 24, 1926, San Salvador, El Salvador, to May 17, 2010, Sturtevant, Wis.; son of Rodolfo and Fadia Aleman; colloquy, 1980. Served 1980-1995. Ministry/parish: Racine, Wis.; retired 1995. Survivors: Martha (Fuentes) Aleman; daughters: Reina, Fidelia, Martha. Cremation.

ARNDT, RICHARD LOUIS; Dec. 23, 1943, Blue Hill, Neb., to May 4, 2010, Cherokee, Iowa; son of Louis and Dorothy (Schunk) Arndt; graduated Springfield, 1976. Served 1976-2010. Ministries/parishes: Kimball, Plainview, Ogallala, Neb.; Cherokee, Iowa. Survivors: Leila (Lacy) Arndt; sons: Timothy, Richard, Jonathan; daughter: Tara. Funeral: May 8, 2010, Cherokee, Iowa; interment: May 10, 2010, Scottsbluff, Neb.

BARNES, BOB ALLEN; May 1, 1938, Detroit, Mich., to April 18, 2010, Stevens Point, Wis.; son of Harvey and Wanda (Bates) Barnes; graduated Springfield, 1965. Served 1965-2003. Ministries/parishes: Logan, Utah; Stevens Point, Wis.; retired 2003. Survivors: Betty (Edwards) Barnes; son: William;

daughters: Leslyn Wiese, Rebecca Logan, Elizabeth Medina. Funeral and interment: April 21, 2010, Stevens Point, Wis.

CROOK, NORRIS C.; June 24, 1923, Speaker, Mich., to May 6, 2010, Oviedo, Fla.; son of Herbert and Hazel (Kipp) Crook; graduated Springfield, 1947. Served 1947-1978; 1996-1997. Ministries/parishes: Council Bluffs, Mallard, Iowa; Elyria, Ohio; Milwaukee, Wis.; Kenya, East Africa; Slippery Rock, Pa.; Lehigh Acres, Fla.; retired 1997. Survivor: Bernice (Gabram) Crook. Funeral and interment: May 24, 2010, Oviedo, Fla.

DICKINSON, RICHARD CHARLES; March 20, 1925, Kimbrough, Ala., to April 17, 2010, St. Louis, Mo.; son of Armstead and Alice Dickinson; graduated Greensboro, 1952. Served 1952-1990. Ministries/parishes: Buena Vista, Ala.; Kannapolis, N.C.; Gary, Ind.; Chicago, Ill.; St. Louis, Mo.; retired 1990. Survivors: Blanche (Watson) Dickinson; sons: Richard Jr., Bernard, Rev. Dwight; daughter: Deborah Mitchell. Funeral and interment: April 23, 2010, St. Louis, Mo.

DIETZ, PAUL THEODORE; Sept. 7, 1922, Milwaukee, Wis., to June 3, 2010, Germantown, Wis.; son of Paul and Elsie (Imse) Dietz; graduated St. Louis, 1949. Served 1950-1989. Ministries/parishes: Green Grove, Colby, Milwaukee, Menomonee Falls, Wis.; retired 1989. Preceded in death by his wife, Corinne (Braeger) Dietz. Survivors: Evelyn (Janke) Dietz; son: David; daughters: Christine, Mary Picard. Funeral: June 12, 2010, Menomonee Falls, Wis.; interment: June 12, 2010, Milwaukee, Wis.

FECHNER, RAYMOND WALTER; May 29, 1916, Vernon, British Columbia, Canada, to May 16, 2010, Racine, Wis.; son of Rev. Walter and Minnie (Fickenscher) Fechner; graduated St. Louis, 1939. Served 1940-1981. Ministries/parishes: Chicago, Oak Lawn, Ill.; Conroy, Vinton, Des Moines, Iowa; retired 1981. Survivors: Dorothy (Lippmann) Fechner; son: Rev. David; daughters: Karen Arnbrecht, Deborah Drain, Andrea Larson, Michele Meewes. Funeral: May 22, 2010, Racine, Wis.; interment: May 23, 2010, Conroy, Iowa.

FRINCKE, HERMAN RUDOLPH; July 22, 1912, Mount Clemens, Mich., to May 23, 2010, Rochester, N.Y.; son of Rev. Otto and Ella (Miller) Frincke; graduated St. Louis, 1936. Served 1937-1976. Ministries/parishes: Rochester, Williamsville, N.Y.; retired 1978. Preceded in death by his wife, Arline (Hooper) Frincke. Survivors: daughters: Marcia Kroenke, Marline Fitzpatrick. Memorial service: May 29, 2010, Rochester, N.Y.

GEISLER, JOHN H.; Sept. 15, 1923, Fort Worth, Texas, to March 25, 2010, Santa Ana, Calif.; son of Rev. Walter and Anna (Rathke) Geisler; graduated St. Louis, 1946. Served 1946-1988. Ministries/parishes: Paris, Clarksville, Texas; Orange, Calif.; Southern California District circuit counselor 1960-1966. Survivors: daughters: Ruth, Carol. Funeral and interment: March 30, 2010, Orange, Calif.

GILMORE, ROZELL PEARSEY; Feb. 15, 1931, Baxley, Ga., to May 10, 2010, Portland, Ore.; son of William Pearsey and Doshie (Williams) Gilmore; colloquy, 1982. Served 1982-1998. Ministries/parishes: Miami, Fla.; Chicago, Ill.; Seattle, Wash.; Portland, Ore.; retired 1998. Survivors: Beatrice Cannon; sons: Anthony, Reuben; daughters: LaVeta Jones, Mary West. Funeral and interment: May 20, 2010, Portland, Ore.

GRIESSE, ELMER EDWARD; Feb. 7, 1919, Meinert, Mo., to May 15, 2010, Yakima, Wash.; son of August and Lydia (Wassman) Griesse; graduated St. Louis, 1943. Served 1945-1984. Ministries/parishes: India; Pocatello, Idaho; Battle Creek, Iowa; Tobias, Neb.; Natchez, Miss.; retired 1984. Survivors: Florine (Erdmann) Griesse; son: Rev. Mark; daughter: Margaret. Funeral: May 27, 2010, Selah, Wash.; cremation.

GROSS, EDWARD H. II; July 7, 1937, Brooklyn, N.Y., to April 9, 2010, Boynton Beach, Fla.; DELTO, 2006. Served 2006-2010. Ministry/parish: Delray Beach,

Fla. Survivors: Laura Gross; son: Edward III; daughter: Katherine Albertine; stepdaughter: Cassie Meyer. Memorial service: April 17, 2010, Delray Beach, Fla.

KELM, ALVIN DEAN; Oct. 29, 1938, Malone, Texas, to April 4, 2010, Odessa, Texas; son of Otto and Esther (Graf) Kelm; graduated Springfield, 1965. Served 1965-2010. Ministries/parishes: Andrews, Kermit, Odessa, Rankin, Texas; Texas District circuit counselor 2009-2010. Survivors: Loretta (Brown) Kelm; sons: Christopher, Derek; daughter: Jennifer. Funeral and interment: April 8, 2010, Odessa, Texas.

KOLLER, WALTER EMIL; Sept. 20, 1928, Central Park, N.Y., to April 13, 2010, Cheltenham, Pa.; son of Walter and Charlotte (Wicks) Koller; graduated St. Louis, 1953. Served 1954-1993. Ministries/parishes: Richmond, Calif.; Baltimore, Odenton, Gambrills, Md.; Cheltenham, Philadelphia, Pa.; Williamsville, N.Y.; Eastern District circuit counselor: 1991-1992; 1994-1994; retired 1993. Survivors: Dolores (Tedesco) Koller; son: Walter. Funeral and interment: April 16, 2010, Amityville, N.Y.

KRUEGER, STEPHEN CHARLES; Aug. 9, 1949, Blue Island, Ill., to Jan. 5, 2010, Ruskin, Fla.; son of Edward and Ruth (Brandhorst) Krueger; colloquy, 1993. Served 1993-2005. Ministries/parishes: Portage, Ind.; Portland, Ore.; San Diego, Calif.; retired 2008. Survivors: Wendy (Schultz) Krueger; sons: Martin, Michael, Matthew. Funeral: Jan. 9, 2010, Apollo Beach, Fla.; cremation.

MACKENSEN, GORDON ROBERT; Dec. 20, 1918, Moorhead, Minn., to April 7, 2010, Alhambra, Calif.; son of Rev. Henry and Laura (Bohnsack) Mackensen; graduated Springfield, 1944. Served 1944-1984. Ministries/parishes: Wilmington, Ill.; El Centro, Calif.; Southern California District circuit counselor: 1950-1954; 1956-1958; English District circuit counselor: 1962-1963; 1995-1997; retired 1984. Preceded in death by his daughter, Dorothy. Survivors: Marian (Jahnke) Mackensen; son: Daniel; daughter: Susan. Memorial service: April 24, 2010, Alhambra, Calif.; cremation.

MILLER, LAMAR SR.; June 18, 1926, Hillsboro, Kan., to May 30, 2010, Crown Point, Ind.; son of Gus and Marie (Ratzlaff) Miller; graduated St. Louis, 1951. Served 1951-2007. Ministries/parishes: Parish, James, Strafford, Hansen Township, S.D.; Victorville, Barstow, Bell Gardens, Ojai, Calif.; Blue Island, Chicago, Ill.; retired 2007. Survivors: Eunice (Schmid) Miller; son: Rev. LaMar Jr.; daughter: Robbyn Rebeck. Funeral: June 5, 2010, Blue Island, Ill.; interment: June 8, 2010, Hillsboro, Kan.

NICKEL, DAVID MARTIN; March 13, 1935, Wyandotte, Mich., to April 22, 2010, Manheim Township, Pa.; son of Rev. Edmund and Edna (Krueger) Nickel; graduated St. Louis, 1960. Served 1960-2001. Ministries/parishes: Spring Valley, Ormiston, Coronach, Galilee, Saskatchewan, Canada; Scribner, Neb.; Alpena, Mich.; retired 2001. Survivors: Joyce (Halverson) Nickel; son: Jeffrey; daughter: Sherri Milstone. Memorial service and interment: May 8, 2010, Lititz, Pa.

NISSEN, NORMAN E.; June 19, 1930, Fergus Falls, Minn., to March 25, 2010, Prior Lake, Minn.; son of Nanning and Marie (Chell) Nissen; graduated St. Louis, 1958. Served 1959-1987; 1992-1998. Ministries/parishes: St. Louis, Mo.; Hancock, Hagerstown, Md.; Hinckley, Sandstone, Minn.; East Grand Forks, N.D.; Latuna, Texas; El Reno, Okla.; retired 1998. Preceded in death by his son, Jeremy. Survivors: Eunice (Naumann) Nissen; sons: Nathan, Joel, Jonas, Nicholas; daughters: Naomi Horsager, Christina. Funeral and interment: March 29, 2010, Fergus Falls, Minn.

PRIFOGLIE, MITCHELL JOHN; May 7, 1915, Huntington, Ind., to April 17, 2010, Las Vegas, Nev.; son of Elmer and Mary Alma (Weber) Prifogle; graduated St. Louis, 1938. Served 1941-1980. Ministries/parishes:

Bowie, Bridgeport, Wilson, Denison, Honey Grove, Mart, Texas; Anderson, Ind.; San Gabriel, Oceanside, Needles, Calif.; Yuma, Ariz.; retired 1980. Preceded in death by his wife, Margaret (Markworth) Prifogle, and his son, Jerry. Survivor: Robbie Marie Prifogle. Memorial service: April 24, 2010, Las Vegas, Nev.; interment: April 22, 2010, Las Vegas, Nev.

ROWOLDT, WALTER E.; April 11, 1916, Buffalo, N.Y., to March 23, 2010, Lincoln, Neb.; son of Rev. Paul and Marie (Boetcker) Rowoldt; colloquy, 1996. Joined LCMS as Emeritus, 1996. Preceded in death by his wife, Eunice (Magnuson) Rowoldt. Survivors: Esther Welcherl Barjenbruch Rowoldt; sons: Stephen, James; daughters: Grace Planalp, Mary Martin. Funeral: March 26, 2010, Lincoln, Neb.; interment: March 26, 2010, Fremont, Neb.

RUHLIG, ERWIN ALLAN; Oct. 30, 1928, Dexter, Mich., to June 3, 2010, Athens, Ill.; son of Emil and Hazel (Campbell) Ruhlig; graduated Springfield, 1961. Served 1961–1991. Ministries/parishes: Northrop, Fairmont, Minn.; Indianola, Iowa; Sturgis, Mich.; Athens, Ill.; retired 1991. Preceded in death by his son, Daniel. Survivors: Karen (Keller) Ruhlig; sons: Steven, Rev. Michael; daughters: Beth Fosse, Sarah Dunnagan. Funeral: June 6, 2010, Athens, Ill.; interment: June 9, 2010, Sturgis, Mich.

SAUER, JOHN A.; Aug. 26, 1940, Burlington, Wis., to May 1, 2010, Irvine, Calif.; son of Rev. Alfred and Eleanor Sauer; graduated St. Louis, 1966. Served 1966–1978; 1981–2006. Ministries/parishes: Cottage Hills, Ill.; Hollywood, Van Nuys, Calif.; retired 2006. Survivors: Laura (Mountford) Sauer; sons: Mark, Paul, John, Peter; daughters: Julie, Rebecca. Funeral: May 15, 2010, Van Nuys, Calif.; cremation.

SCHINNERER, CARL FREDERICK; July 22, 1925, Ludington, Mich., to May 2, 2010, Clinton Township, Mich.; son of Rev. Carl and Ida (Mountler) Schinnerer; graduated St. Louis, 1948. Served 1948–1990. Ministries/parishes: Detroit, Fenton, Bad Axe, Flushing, Warren, Mich.; retired 1990. Preceded in

death by his wife, Doris. Survivors: son: Lloyd; daughters: Lynn Morgan, Lois Jankow. Funeral: May 7, 2010, Macomb, Mich.; cremation.

SCHLECHT, RICHARD LOUIS FRANK; April 15, 1921, Halliday, N.D., to April 20, 2010, Rochester, Mich.; son of Rev. Otto and Martha (Orlove) Schlecht; graduated St. Louis, 1945. Served 1945–1986. Ministries/parishes: Cody, Powell, Wyo.; Fairbury, Neb.; Royal Oak, Rochester, Ann Arbor, Mich.; Michigan District President: 1970–1985; retired 1986. Survivors: Ruth (Rockensuess) Schlecht; son: Richard; daughters: Susan Reed, Elizabeth Rufner. Funeral and interment: April 24, 2010, Rochester, Mich.

SCHLESSMANN, PHILLIP CARL; Oct. 25, 1927, Milwaukee, Wis., to May 7, 2010, Melbourne, Fla.; son of Phillip and Anna (Wetstein) Schlessmann; graduated Springfield, 1953. Served 1953–1991. Ministries/parishes: Sanford, Eustis, Hialeah, Rockledge, Fla.; retired 1991. Preceded in death by his wife, Shirley (Loomer) Schlessmann. Survivors: daughters: Victoria, Cristine, Catherine, Patricia. Funeral and interment: May 12, 2010, Rockledge, Fla.

SCHLIE, DAVID S.; Sept. 26, 1928, Elgin, Ill., to June 1, 2010, Fort Wayne, Ind.; son of Henry and Augusta (Wilharm) Schlie; colloquy, 1966. Served 1966–1992. Ministries/parishes: St. Louis, Mo.; Albany, Ga.; Fort Wayne, Ind.; retired 1992. Preceded in death by his son, Samuel. Survivors: Elaine (Daniel) Schlie; sons: Peter, Joseph, David; daughters: Gail Luley, Susan Hauser, Jane Koehler. Funeral and interment: June 5, 2010, Fort Wayne, Ind.

SCHMIDT, EDWARD ALBERT; April 17, 1925, Posen, Mich., to March 16, 2010, St. Louis, Mo.; son of Rev. Edward and Lillian (Sting) Schmidt; graduated St. Louis, 1948. Served 1948–1991. Ministries/parishes: Riverton, Laramie, Wyo.; St. Louis, Mo.; retired 1991. Survivors: Virginia (Maack) Schmidt; son: Edward; daughters: Ellen Arnold, Susan Taylor, Jane Stabenow, Ann Zimmermann. Funeral and interment: March 19, 2010, St. Louis, Mo.

STEINBERG, ALAN G.R.; Aug. 31, 1927, Milwaukee, Wis., to May 16, 2010, Bronx, N.Y.; son of Paul and Irma (Schultz) Steinberg; graduated Fort Wayne, 1999. Served 1999–2003. Ministries/parishes: Bronxville, Yonkers, Hastings-on-Hudson, Mount Vernon, N.Y. Survivors: son: Paul; daughter: Virginia Leaver. Funeral: May 21, 2010, Hawthorne, N.Y.; interment: May 21, 2010, Hastings-on-Hudson, N.Y.

WAECH, OSWALD ARTHUR; Oct. 3, 1911, Spring, Texas, to June 1, 2010, Pomona, Calif.; son of Rev. Charles and Minna (Fisher) Waech; graduated St. Louis, 1936. Served 1936–1979. Ministries/parishes: Buffalo, N.Y.; St. Louis, Mo.; Los Angeles, Calif.; retired 1979. Survivors: Marion (Korn) Waech; son: David; daughters: Phyllis, Marcia, Judith. Funeral: June 7, 2010, Chino, Calif.; interment: June 7, 2010, Ontario, Calif.

WEBERN, WOLFGANG MARTIN; June 16, 1935, Hirschberg, Silesia, Germany, to April 13, 2010, St. Louis, Mo.; son of Erich and Ottilie (Tubben) Webern; graduated Springfield, 1964. Served 1964–2000. Ministries/parishes: Lester Prairie, Minn.; Chicago, Thornton, Melrose Park, Ill.; Woodson Terrace, Mo.; retired 2000. Survivors: Marilyn (Marquardt) Webern; daughters: Kaethe Grabenhofer, Carola Gloyd. Funeral: April 17, 2010, St. Louis, Mo.; cremation.

WESSELSCHMIDT, QUENTIN F.; Feb. 3, 1937, Washington, Mo., to May 12, 2010, Wildwood, Mo.; son of Raenhard and Thelma (Hartge) Wesselschmidt; graduated St. Louis, 1963. Served 1963–2009. Ministries/parishes: Hillsboro, Ill.; Milwaukee, Wis.; St. Louis, Mo.; retired 2009. Survivor: Susan (Susanka) Wesselschmidt. Funeral: May 18, 2010, St. Louis, Mo.; interment: May 18, 2010, Affton, Mo.

COMMISSIONED

BURRIGHT, GEORGE DOUG; Nov. 28, 1929, Sioux City, Neb., to May 26, 2010, Fort Smith, Ark.; son of Louie and Marie (Beach) Burright; graduated

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‘Choice’ Words

Our child attends a Lutheran prekindergarten. We were dismayed when he came home with some words we don’t approve of. Before this year, he didn’t have a lot of interaction with other children, so this is a new experience for us. Do we talk to the teacher? Reprimand our son? Complain to the pastor?

Having gone through the anxiety of placing your son in a new environment for part of the day, you now face a situation you may never have expected in a Christian school. You might be wondering whether the pains you took to provide a caring and respectful environment were for nothing. Take heart. Your son is not the first, nor will he be the last, to come home with “choice” words. The fact that you are asking advice about what to do suggests you have not overreacted, and for that I congratulate you.

Focusing too much on the behavior might be a cue for your son to think that these new words are interesting, and therefore, deserve more attention. Punishing him may send the message that his natural curiosity is “bad.” Calmly tell him in a way he can understand that the words are inappropriate, and that you don’t use them in your home.

When your son says and does things that are inappropriate, write them on slips of paper and place them in a shoebox labeled as such. This can be a helpful visual and tactile tool for him during this learning stage, when concrete aides are effective. Your role for now is as a coach of good behavior, not as an evaluative judge. By being clear about your expectations, you are helping draw family boundaries that will serve as a pattern for choices he will face throughout his life.

These and other measured and caring responses also teach your son the Christ-like behavior that the most effective witness to the world is not harsh judgment but faithful adherence to Christian values.

Indeed, you should speak with your child’s teacher. If you have reason to believe that cursing or other unchristian behavior is more widespread, a conversation with the school principal, and perhaps the pastor, might be appropriate. This is a wonderful opportunity to educate school leaders about the tone you try to set at home. In this way, you enlist their support and hold open the door for them to continue being your allies in that effort.

Dr. Leslie (Jack) Fyans is a clinical psychologist and member of the Ministerial Health Committee of the LCMS Central Illinois District.

Send your questions to Family Counselor, *The Lutheran Witness*, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295; or send them via e-mail to lutheran.witness@lcms.org. Please include your name and address. While we look for questions that have broad interest among our readers, no question is unimportant. Unfortunately, the volume of questions we receive makes it impossible to answer every question individually.

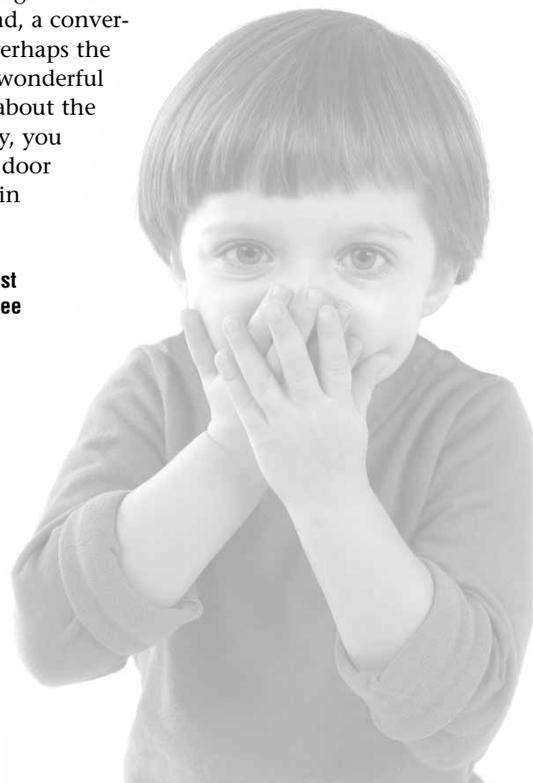


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A Gift for Jesus

When my grandchildren go to church with me, I like to give them each a quarter to put in the collection plate, which they both get very excited about doing. Well, on Easter this year, after dinner, my sisters hid some plastic eggs around my parents' yard for the grandchildren to find. There was a surprise inside each egg. After having found them all, the children opened the eggs to see what was inside. When my 3-year-old grandson opened an egg containing two quarters, he excitedly held up the quarters and blurted out, "Look, money for Jesus!"

Michael Peters
Peace Lutheran Church
Alcester, S.D.

'... And the Door Will Be Opened'

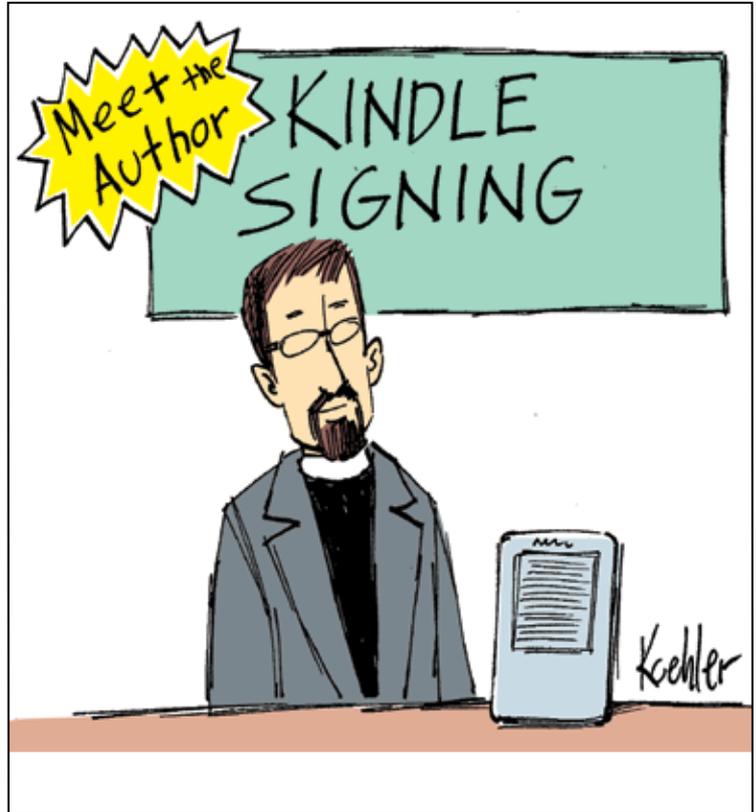
A nurse on a pediatric ward, before listening to little ones' chests, would put her stethoscope in their ears and let them listen to their own hearts. Their eyes would always light up with awe, but she never got a response equal to that of 4-year-old David.

Gently, she tucked the stethoscope into his ears and placed the disk over his heart. "Listen," she said. "What do you suppose that is?"

At the strange tap, tap, tapping, David drew his eyebrows together, and for a moment, he seemed puzzled. Then he broke into a wondrous grin.

"Is that Jesus knocking?" he asked.

Alice Simon
Parker, S.D.



NOTICES

(continued from page 25)

Seward, 1977. Served 1977–1995. Schools/ministries: Mentor, Ohio; Thayer, Fort Smith, Ark., retired 1995. Survivors: Virgene (Grimm) Burrignt; daughters: Cindy Tuttle, Lease Freese, Anita Stevenson, Pam Sackschewsky. Funeral and interment: June 1, 2010, Fort Smith, Ark.

FAWCETT, CAROL JEAN (KLEIN); Jan. 4, 1937, Cleveland, Ohio, to Feb. 15, 2010, Parma, Ohio; daughter of Louis and Leona (Kruggel) Klein; graduated River Forest, 1958. Served 1978–2010. School/ministry: Cleveland, Ohio. Preceded in death by her husband, Harold Fawcett Jr. Survivors: daughters: Cara, Melody Leech, Krista Nagy. Funeral: Feb. 20, 2010, North Royalton, Ohio; interment: Feb. 20, 2010, Cleveland, Ohio.

GREWE, EDWIN ARNOLD; Jan. 23, 1924, Bartlett Township, Minn., to Sept. 7, 2009, Williamsburg, Va.; son of William Sr. and Elizabeth (Eggers) Grewe; graduated River Forest, 1953. Served 1953–1994. School/ministry: New Orleans, La.; retired 1994. Survivors: Rhonda (Schmidt) Grewe, who since passed away in December 2009; son: Melvin; daughter: Jeane Gillespie. Funeral: Sept. 12, 2009, Williamsburg, Va.; interment: Bartlett Township, Minn.

HAUCH, ROBERT H.; March 11, 1949, Michigan City, Ind., to May 27, 2010, Napa, Calif.; son

of Herman and Adelyc Hauch; graduated River Forest, 1972. Served 1972–2010. Schools/ministries: Chicago, Ill.; Napa, Calif. Funeral and interment: May 31, 2010, Napa, Calif.

KOEPKE, EDGAR AUGUST; Jan. 29, 1918, Polar, Wis., to May 7, 2010, Menomonee Falls, Wis.; son of August and Sarah (Torke) Koepke; graduated River Forest, 1941. Served 1941–1980. Schools/ministries: Granville, Wauwau, Brookfield, Milwaukee, Wis.; retired 1980. Preceded in death by his wife, Janet (Leifer) Koepke and his son, Robert. Survivors: Eleanor (Pearson) Koepke; sons: James, Ronald, Alan; daughter: Marian Toy; stepson: Robert Wheeler; stepdaughter: Janet Severson. Funeral: May 12, 2010, Brookfield, Wis.; interment: June 13, 2010, Cascade, Wis.

KRUEGER, FREDERIC RAYMOND; Feb. 10, 1944, St. Louis, Mo., to May 18, 2010, Storm Lake, Iowa; son of Rev. Raymond and Hilda (Popp) Krueger; graduated Seward, 1966. Served 1966–2003. Schools/ministries: Millington, Mich.; Storm Lake, Iowa; Davenport, Neb.; Cottage Grove, Gaylord, Fulda, Minn.; Afton, Mo.; Atchison, Kan.; Lincoln, Ill.; retired 2003. Survivors: Diane (Dierenfield) Krueger; sons: Rev. James, Daniel, Michael; daughter: Joni Timm. Funeral and interment: May 22, 2010, Storm Lake, Iowa.

MARTEN, WILBERT CLARENCE; June 29, 1914, Chicago, Ill., to May 20, 2010, Menomonee Falls, Wis.; son of Paul and Adella (Freund) Marten; graduated River Forest, 1934. Served 1935–1980. Schools/ministries: Chicago, Ill.; Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, Wis.; retired 1980. Preceded in death by his wife, Eleanore (Bohl) Marten, and his daughter, Pearl Loeber. Survivor: son: Glenn. Funeral and interment: May 24, 2010, Wauwatosa, Wis.

NELSON, PAULA BETH (MANZ); Nov. 2, 1947, Cleveland, Ohio, to May 7, 2010, St. Louis, Mo.; daughter of Alfred and Martha Manz; graduated Seward, 1969. Served 1969–2010. Schools/ministries: Memphis, Tenn.; Woodburn, Ind.; St. Louis, Mo.; Edwardsville, Ill. Survivors: Rev. Ronald Nelson; son: Jason; daughter: Kristin Warren. Funeral: May 11, 2010, St. Louis, Mo.; cremation.

POYNTER, RACHEL LEA (HOGER); Jan. 7, 1972, Joliet, Ill., to April 28, 2010, Thawville, Ill.; daughter of Melvin and Constance Hoger; graduated River Forest, 1994. Served 1994–2004. Schools/ministries: Cincinnati, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Ind. Survivors: Rev. Michael Poynter; son: Paul; daughters: Amanda, Sarah. Funeral: May 1, 2010, Buckley, Ill.

'He Has Lifted Up the Lowly'

In the summer of 2004, the Olympic Games were held in Athens, Greece, for the first time since 1896. In the home of the Olympics, the host country made many references to its pre-Christian past—and to the pre-Christian nature of the original Olympics millennia ago.

But something strange happened on the second day of the games. The television coverage showed athletes performing to nearly empty spectator stands. Whereas the opening ceremony was packed full two days before, on Aug. 15, the stadiums were embarrassingly empty.

One commentator noted that the day was a religious holiday in Greece, and many Greeks were in church or staying away from the games for the day.



Lutherans celebrate Aug. 15 as a festival too. We call it the “Festival of St. Mary, the Mother of our Lord.”

Read Luke 1:39–45. Why does Elizabeth call Mary blessed among women?

Why does Elizabeth say that Mary is the “mother of her Lord”?

In verse 45, what is the reason Elizabeth gives for calling Mary blessed?



Read Luke 1:46–55.

This is known as the “Magnificat,” or “Song of Mary.” How does Mary describe herself in this song?

Who are the proud? Who are the humble? Why does God choose one and not the other?

Read Eph. 2:1–5, 8–10.

Do we have room to be boastful and proud of our accomplishments?

Discuss: How does faith in the Gospel and humility go together?

The Lord speaks to us as well in His Holy Word, the Scriptures. When we believe what God tells us about His love for us in Jesus Christ, we are blessed too.

Read Gal. 4:4–5. What is the word of promise given to us who believe in Jesus, born of a woman?

Of all the women who have ever lived, God chose Mary to bear His eternal Son. What a great honor that must have been!

Mary might have been tempted to let all the praise that Elizabeth showered on her go to her head, to make her prideful.

God chose a woman of great faith to be the mother of His Son, and so chooses us as people who carry Christ in our hearts. We follow the example of Mary in recognizing that before God we are all needy and humble, that our earthly accomplishments and talents are nothing when it comes to God giving us His Son Jesus Christ.

Rev. Christopher D. Hall (pastor@redeemer-enid.com) is the pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Enid, Okla., and third vice-president of the Oklahoma District.





‘Wait. . . Be Strong. . . Take Courage!’

The July 13 election of a man who will serve as the 13th president in the 163-year history of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will bring, in his own words, “tumultuous change” in the LCMS. I pray that as a result of such change many more people will be brought to Christ through our witness to God’s love, grace, mercy, peace, and forgiveness. By means of God’s Word and sacraments, may many more receive the promise of eternal life on account of what Christ has done for our salvation.

I also pray fervently that all who were elected to positions of leadership will be led, guided, and directed by God’s Spirit in the fulfillment of the duties and responsibilities entrusted to their care. And I trust that those who read these words will work together with all who will soon take office to accomplish that vital endeavor, which has eternal consequences.

The LCMS is widely respected for what we believe, teach, and confess while also often suspected of being somewhat schizophrenic in the way we demonstrate our ecclesiastical identity. Sometimes we struggle in determining what direction we really want to go as a national church body.

The Task Force on Synod Harmony describes the LCMS as “A Politicized Culture” in these words: “National and some district conventions have become more politically charged than ever. Political lists have become the norm. The LCMS is becoming a denomination of parties, each seeking to elect its own candidates as leaders. In recent decades, the parties in power are perceived to proceed with a ‘scorched earth’ policy, totally disenfranchising the losing party. Rather than valuing all the voices in the LCMS, the ‘losing’ voices are silenced until they can amass enough votes to gain power and do the same to the other party.”

It is my own sense that the propensity for political propaganda that seems imbedded in our denominational DNA all too often divides our well-trained clergy, dispirits our godly laymen and laywomen, weakens our witness to the world, and leaves us feeling torn and empty.

How I long to hear those who watch us say, “See how they love one another!” How longingly I dream for the LCMS to realize its full potential for national, and even global, biblical, confessional, conservative, evangelical, Christian leadership. I pray that this dream will become

reality in the years ahead and that God’s blessing will be upon our Synod’s new leaders toward the accomplishment of that objective.

The past nine years of my life and service to my Lord and to His Church have been years of opportunity and challenge, difficulty and blessing, victory and defeat, sorrow and joy. But suffice it to say that it has been a humbling privilege and awesome responsibility to represent The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod throughout this country and around the world. And it has been a genuine blessing to work with the Synod’s employees at the International Center these past nine years.

‘It has been a humbling privilege and awesome responsibility to represent The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod throughout this country and around the world.’

Many have expressed love, care, and concern for Terry and for me, asking what lies ahead. At this point we plan to remain in St. Louis, at least for now, while determining the answers to many practical questions regarding our future life and ministry, including what, where, and when.

While disappointed at not being able to continue the work in which I have invested almost every fiber of my being for nearly a decade, I see the closing of one door as opportunity to find what other doors the Lord might be opening. Although I’m old enough to retire, doing so is the farthest thing from my mind.

There is much yet to be accomplished. So I reflect every day on the words of Psalm 27:14: “Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!”

Jerry Kieschnick
John 3:16–17

Lives Transformed through
Christ, in Time . . . for Eternity!
e-mail: president@lcms.org
Web page: www.lcms.org/president