



# THE LUTHERAN WITNESS™

VOL. 128 NO. 9 SEPTEMBER 2009

## in the **public eye**



Eight Lutherans working in the limelight talk about how their faith informs their work.



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PLANTING  
NEW CHURCHES

20

THE NEW  
CHI MUSEUM

22

HOLD ONTO  
YOUR HATS!

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Providing Missouri Synod laypeople with stories and information that complement congregational life, foster personal growth in faith, and help interpret the contemporary world from a Lutheran Christian perspective.

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Find more information about our church at [lcms.org](http://lcms.org). For up-to-date Synod news, visit the online site of *Reporter*, our sister publication, at [lcms.org/reporter](http://lcms.org/reporter). At our own Web site this month ([lcms.org/witness](http://lcms.org/witness)), we offer Dr. Gene Veith's Classic Witness story, "God at Work" as well as a link to a Facebook photo album celebrating the recent opening of the Concordia Historical Institute Museum at our LCMS International Center in St. Louis.

## TO THE READER

Maybe it's just our growing older, but each year, September seems to arrive more quickly than anticipated. Suddenly, our vacation is a receding memory, the kids are back in school, Labor Day is upon us, and we are left to wonder, "What happened to summer and all the plans I made? Where did the time go?"

One item that occupies much of our time is work. In our cover story this month, eight fellow Lutherans reflect on how their faith informs the work they do. As a complement to that story, we also offer an online "Classic Witness" reprise of Dr. Gene Veith's July 2001 article, "God at Work." As we celebrate Labor Day, both stories are fitting reminders that all of us honor our Creator by the work we do. Our work the past few weeks has been putting this issue together. We hope you enjoy it.

*James H. Heine, Editor*  
The Lutheran Witness

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# A Blessing, Not a Curse

The doctor leaned back in his chair, having completed my wife's ultrasound. "The ultrasound shows that your baby has a heart defect often associated with Down syndrome," he said bluntly.

We had been directed to the fetal-imaging clinic by our obstetrician, but the possibility that there could be something wrong with our unborn child was far from our minds. As we sat in the dimly lit examining room, my wife, Jenny, and I wept.

Over the next several weeks we learned that our child did indeed have Down syndrome, and a serious heart defect known as an atrioventricular septal defect. The two valves that normally separate the heart's upper and lower chambers had formed as one large valve, and the part of the heart that separates the left



**It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him.**

John 9:1-3 ESV

and right sides did not form correctly. Our first reaction as parents was to ask ourselves, "How did this happen?"

We asked our doctor if there was anything we did that might have contributed to our son's Down syndrome.

Perhaps it was some prescription medication we had taken or an undiagnosed genetic problem in one or both of us that had caused his disabilities? The doctor repeatedly assured us there was nothing we had done to cause this; yet, we could not stop believing that it was somehow our fault.

My wife and I had heavy hearts during the three months leading up to the birth. The uncertainty of the future at times was overwhelming. At those times I often turned to God's Word. One morning while working in my office, I read John 9:1-3, "As [Jesus] passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him'" (ESV).

I suddenly realized that what the disciples concluded about the blind man was what my wife and I had assumed also. The disciples believed that this man's handicap was a curse, but Jesus showed them that this one man's curse could be a blessing to many. The Son of God displayed His miraculous work through healing the man born blind. If He could do it for the blind man, He could do it for our child also, and that is exactly what God did!

He showed His miraculous work through the healing of our son. The list of miracles that God performed in our son's life is remarkable. It certainly was a miracle that we found out about our son's heart defect so early in the pregnancy. Joshua was born without complications, and his heart worked well enough for him to come home for a few weeks. When Joshua was three weeks old, God worked

through our surgeon and the staff at the children's hospital to repair his heart. This is perhaps the most impressive miracle that God performed, but there are many others. God blessed me with a caring and supportive congregation who strengthened us during the time when my duties as a father and husband took precedence over all other responsibilities.

Tragic as that diagnosis was, God revealed His glory to us through abundant miracles. The greatest miracle in Joshua's life occurred just two weeks after his birth, when the Holy Spirit called Joshua to be His child through the waters of Holy Baptism. A year later Joshua is a healthy one-year-old who at present does not need any further surgery. Instead of blaming ourselves for our son's unique condition, we celebrate God's gift of healing, for He has displayed His mighty works through our son, Joshua.

**Rev. David Brinkmeyer is pastor  
of First Trinity Lutheran Church, Beatrice, Neb.**



## Too harsh!

I am very disappointed in the “Loud Hosanna” article that ran in the June/July issue of *The Lutheran Witness*. While some of the ideas offered were good (like bringing quiet toys for your child), I felt the article was very harsh. We want to embrace our children in the Lord and teach them at a young age that church is important.

One point that really bothered me dealt with ushers and noisy children. I don’t feel that an usher should ever tell a parent to remove their child from the service. I understand that when a child is being very noisy, others might have trouble hearing. However, God does not value one person above another no matter their age. It should be left to

member, or even a lifelong member who now has young children, would read this article and feel they have to keep their children super quiet or else they are not welcome, or that an usher is going to come and tell them to leave. That kind of attitude can hurt our Gospel message.

Laura Vandercook  
Raymondville, Texas

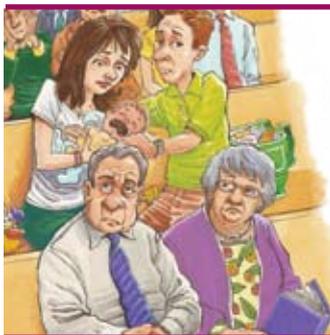
In my opinion, the June/July issue of *The Lutheran Witness* ought to be required reading for all couples in pre-marriage counseling with their pastors—and then again sometime during those blessed months of pregnancy!

I would also urge that Rebekah Curtis’ article, “Hosanna, Loud

on June 18, 1839. On May 1, 1840, which is considered the date on which St. Paul’s was founded, Maria Oetting, third child of Christian and Marie, became the congregation’s first Baptism. Since 1840, all the children of Christian and Marie’s descendants remaining on the homestead, which is still owned and farmed by Oettings today, have been baptized at St. Paul’s. With Layla, that number is now 27. Indeed, we have been blessed.

Sharon Oetting  
Concordia, Mo.

*An early member of St. Paul’s, Concordia, Christian Oetting was one of three men murdered at point-blank range by Confederate guerillas the night of Oct. 5, 1862, after he, Pastor Biltz, and nine other men were taken hostage at a Baptism supper in Concordia, Mo. Three other hostages were shot also but survived.—Ed.*



I don’t feel that an usher should ever tell a parent to remove their child from the service. . . . It should be left to the discretion of the parent when their child should be removed.

Laura Vandercook  
Raymondville, Texas

the discretion of the parent when their child should be removed. If a church really wants to help parents with children feel embraced and wanted, they should provide easy access to things that can help the experience go well. Some churches offer Kiddie Bags that children can use during the service and children’s bulletins that the kids can use during the service and also take home with them. My church offers these things, but my 2-year-old is overwhelmed by them; so I bring one little cloth doll and her blanket.

Churches can even offer a Worship for Wiggles class to help parents see that their children are welcome in the service and to give them ideas on how to get the most out of their worship experience.

I would hate to think that a visitor to our churches or a new

Hosanna,” be inserted in our parishes’ worship bulletins at least once a month.

Rev. R.R. Krueger, Emeritus  
Branson, Mo.

## God’s grace at St. Paul’s

I just read “Uncovering History,” the June/July *Lutheran Witness* article about Rev. Franz Julius Biltz and St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Concordia, Mo. In July, our granddaughter, Layla Denine Oetting, was baptized at St. Paul’s, becoming the sixth consecutive generation of Oettings to be baptized there.

Layla’s great-great-great-great grandparents, Christian and Marie Knigge Oetting, homesteaded land east of Concordia 170 years ago

## Honoring mom

I read the June/July “Honoring My Mother” Family Counselor’s reply with interest. Years ago, I was faced with becoming a caregiver.

I don’t believe that the answer given was what the woman needed. She was already honoring her mom by doing her best care-giving. I think she needed to learn about caregiver groups. Such meetings give one a place to vent, question, cry, laugh, and find some solutions—plus a list of available adult-care places or groups, and perhaps home-care groups. Perhaps her own church has people willing to provide relief, a meal, or other help (a drive around the countryside is great).

I think that once she finds some practical help, she will be able to take that time for herself. Just a few hours are like a real vacation.

Ann Pratt  
San Marcos, Texas

## Second thoughts

There’s something I need to correct about my article about fathers and sons in the June/July issue of *The Lutheran Witness*. The sidebar

at the conclusion gives suggestions for what single mothers can do. The problem is that the suggestions place the responsibility for action with the single mother, but she already has enough responsibility. The responsibility really lies with the extended congregation, neighborhood, and community families to notice the need and act in love for the single mom. In the Old Testament model I refer to in the article, the community takes the initiative to care for the widow and the fatherless. Were I to re-write the sidebar, it would read "What's a Congregation to Do?" rather than "What's a Single Mother to Do?"

*Dr. John W. Oberdeck  
Concordia University Wisconsin  
Mequon, Wis.*

**Read more letters at [lcms.org/witness](http://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](mailto:lutheran.witness@lcms.org). Please include your name, postal address, and telephone number.**



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*Ablaze!*

# Planting New Churches



All Kinds of Churches to Reach All Kinds of People



Rev. Yohannes Mengsteab, LCMS World Mission national director for new mission development, left, visits with Rev. Jeff Mueller, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Honolulu, Hawaii. Since 2003, Good Shepherd has started five congregations that remain active and growing.

When asked for a few examples of recently planted LCMS congregations, Rev. Yohannes Mengsteab, LCMS World Mission national director for new mission development, mentions the following:

- an Arkansas congregation reaching out to people struggling with addictions;
  - a Florida multicultural congregation of African Americans, Caucasians, and Hispanics, among others;
  - members of an Arizona congregation who worship in a school gym and hosted Vacation Bible School in the homes (and garages) of neighbors.
- If these congregations don't sound

like "typical" LCMS congregations, Mengsteab agrees. "It takes all kinds of churches to reach all kinds of people," he says.

As part of *Ablaze!*, LCMS World Mission provides leadership and assistance to help healthy congregations reproduce. One *Ablaze!* goal is to plant 2,000 new congregations in the United States by 2017, the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.



Rev. Greg Bearss

## 'Come with Your Baggage,' says Hot Springs, Arkansas, Church

Today, nearly 200 "covenant" congregations have each pledged to plant up to four daughter congregations by 2017. That's about a third of the 600 congregations Mengsteab eventually hopes will commit to church planting.

In the Synod's early days, a growing congregation worked not only to reach new members but also to plant new churches. More than 150 years later, Mengsteab says, studies show that starting new congregations remains the most effective tool for reaching the unchurched, in the LCMS and other denominations.

"Sixty to seventy percent of a new congregation's members [in denominations across the board] had no previous church connection," Mengsteab says.

As a seminary student, Rev. Marty Strohschein thought starting a new church sounded "romantic." Now as pastor of Living Water Lutheran Church in Buckeye, Ariz.—the young congregation that worships in a gym (see the story that follows)—Strohschein says he's "more realistic." He calls starting a new church "a roller coaster ride, with very intense highs and lows.

"It's hard work, but incredibly rewarding when you reach new families," he says.

To learn more about how your congregation can get involved in church planting, visit [www.lcms.org/?8053](http://www.lcms.org/?8053) or call Mengsteab at 800-248-1930, ext. 1336.

For more about three diverse church plants, read on.

**W**hen Bonnie Johnston went searching for a church where her teenage daughter would feel at ease, she returned to the congregation of her childhood. "But I didn't even feel comfortable," says the 49-year-old single mom and recovering methamphetamine addict. "They didn't know where I had been, and they didn't care."

Then Johnston happened on an old building in the heart of Hot Springs, Ark., that she assumed was being remodeled for a business. She visited the Web site, hoping to find a job. Instead, Johnston discovered information about a young church whose core values on outreach and families sounded appealing.

After taking the church for "a test drive" on a weekly local cable television show, Johnston and her jeans-clad daughter visited LakePointe Lutheran Church. "That was last November, and we haven't missed a Sunday since," Johnston says. "And I can't tell you how many times I've taken groups of teenage girls and some boys who have never been to church before."

Today, Johnston, a LakePointe member, coordinates the church's new ministry for adults struggling with addictions and other crises. Daughter Cheyenne, 14, is one of 46 people who received the gift of eternal life at LakePointe's third annual "Baptism Bash," a lakeside service that drew more than 500 July 5. Later that evening, the congregation hosted a community celebration with free barbecue, Christian bands, and fireworks for more than 1,000.

### Seeing a Need

Another Hot Springs congregation, First Lutheran Church, planted LakePointe when members "saw a need they couldn't meet," explains Rev. Greg Bearss, whose first call was to serve as LakePointe's first pastor. Ten families, including some from First Lutheran, helped start the church in 2005. Today, LakePointe worships as many as 600 on Sunday.

Intentionally reaching out to the community and, specifically, "outsiders who do not understand who God is and the love He has for them through Jesus Christ" is LakePointe's focus, says the energetic "Pastor Greg."

He shares what he calls LakePointe's mantra: "If you have struggles, bring them here. We don't care if you have drug problems or addictions, if you're gay or lesbian. Come with your baggage, and let us share our message of love and hope."

Even as LakePointe grows in Hot Springs, the congregation is preparing to plant another church in the nearby college town of Arkadelphia.

At LakePointe's July celebration, Bonnie Johnston served people "who probably hadn't eaten in a day or so. We fed them both ways, including with the Word of God," she says.

To learn more, visit [www.lakepointefamily.com](http://www.lakepointefamily.com).



## In Buckeye, Arizona, Blending Traditional with Contemporary

Rev. Marty Strohschein

**A** new congregation, says Rev. Marty Strohschein, means new opportunities to reach new people.

One example: Living Water Lutheran Church has no building of its own and worships in a school gym. Nevertheless, the young Buckeye, Ariz., congregation hosted Vacation Bible School this summer, inviting children for fun, games, and the Gospel at the homes of two Living Water next-door neighbors.

"We built on already established relationships [in the neighborhood] and took VBS to the families instead of asking them to come to us," explains Strohschein, whose wife, Amanda, and neighbors Deb and Kelly Brown set up activity stations in their living rooms, kitchens, and garages. (The latter proved a most appropriate setting, thanks to this year's VBS theme, "Gadget's Garage," from Concordia Publishing House.)

Twenty-two youngsters took part, including seven children who had no church connection; two have since asked to be baptized.

### A Growing Mission Field

Trinity Lutheran Church, Litchfield Park, planted Living Water in 2007, 22 miles to the west in Buckeye. At the time, the Phoenix bedroom community was booming, a trend that has since stalled with the economic downturn.

Since Living Water Lutheran Church has no building of its own, the young Buckeye congregation hosted Vacation Bible School in the homes (and garages) of two members. Twenty-two youngsters took part, including two who have since asked to be baptized.

Still, the congregation has doubled, drawing a mix of young families, retirees, and adults nearing retirement. About 20 percent of the membership is previously unchurched.

"The mission field here is big and will only get bigger as the economy recovers," notes Lionel Martinez, a former Trinity member who helped start Living Water and now serves as congregation president.

Two Living Water strengths, he says, are the congregation's warm embrace and the pastor's outgoing personality. "Whether you grew up as a Lutheran or are attending a church for the first time as an adult, as I did, we are a welcome place to be," says Martinez, 45. "We make sure that people who come through our doors know we care about them."

The congregation offers a worship style unique in its community—a blend of the liturgy and classic hymns with

contemporary songs. An electronic keyboardist leads the music, accompanied by a bassist, rhythm guitarists, and drummer.

Living Water has been an LCMS chartered congregation only since June. Each Sunday, members set up chairs in a rented facility. The congregation depends on financial assistance from sister LCMS congregations and the Synod.

Yet, the pastor and congregation president already see Living Water as a covenant congregation down the road. "We look forward to the near future when we will also be in a position to bless new and existing churches that can use some help," Martinez says. "Just as the Lord uses people to bless people, He also uses churches to bless other churches."

To learn more, visit Living Water at [www.livingwateraz.org](http://www.livingwateraz.org).

*(continued on page 10)*





# Ablaze!

Members of First Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cedarburg, Wis., help build a house for a family in Guatemala earlier this year. The congregation used \$6,000 from its *Fan into Flame* campaign to enable 15 of its members to take part in the 10-day mission trip. From left are Olimpia Orellana, the future homeowner (her son is in the pit), and First Immanuel members Todd Kringle and Rich Erickson.

## FAN into FLAME Provides Funds for Ablaze! Efforts Near and Far

Church planting is just one facet of the Synod's worldwide evangelism effort known as *Ablaze!* Its goals also include renewing the "mission vision" of 2,000 existing U.S. congregations, increasing the number of career missionaries, expanding support for the church body's 30 partner churches around the globe, and sharing the Gospel with 100 million "unreached" people.

Operating hand-in-hand with the five-year-old *Ablaze!* initiative is *Fan into Flame*, a capital campaign to raise \$100 million for new *Ablaze!*-related ministries.

As of July 30, *Fan into Flame* was halfway to its goal, having raised more than \$50 million in gifts and pledges from more than 7,000 individuals and 850 congregations.

"We thank God for the resources He provides, and we thank each and every donor for these generous gifts," said Dr. William R. Diekelman, LCMS first vice president and *Fan into Flame* spokesman.

*Fan into Flame* funds already are being used by congregations, dis-

tricts, and LCMS World Mission, says Diekelman, "to reach the lost with the Good News of Jesus Christ."

That's the beauty of the campaign, according to Jeffrey A. Craig-Meyer, who oversees the fund-raising as associate executive director of Development Services with LCMS World Mission. Each congregation and district that contributes to *Fan into Flame* receives back a portion of the funds they collect to start new outreach ministries.

With funding from its \$1 million-plus *Fan into Flame* effort, First Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cedarburg, Wis., is training members for outreach, funding adult daycare programs, providing financial assistance so that unchurched families can send their children to the congregation's school, and organizing overseas mission trips.

Since the Southeastern District launched its *Fan into Flame* effort two years ago, it has raised \$5.82 million and used its campaign distributions to start 23 new mission projects, including congregations, urban and Chinese ministries, outreach to

Spanish-speaking people, and an Open Arms childcare center.

Craig-Meyer said he is amazed that, even in the midst of a recession, contributions this year have surpassed those of 2008. And, about a third of the Synod's 35 districts are just starting their *Fan into Flame* campaigns, he noted, so the total amount likely will grow.

Funds received so far are "a tremendous blessing," he said, and have enabled the Synod to place 26 new missionaries, among many other mission-related efforts.

Dr. Thomas R. Zehnder, executive director of LCMS World Mission, said the campaign is "making great impact at the local level, where congregations apply their *Fan into Flame* funds to immediate community outreach."

It is in these local neighborhoods, he said, "that many people are being connected to the love of Christ."

For information about taking part in the campaign, contact your congregation's district office or call the *Fan into Flame* office at 800-977-2017.

—Paula Schlueter Ross

(continued from page 8)



## Sanford, Florida, Congregation Reflects 'a Little Bit of Heaven'



Rev. Chris Bodley, right, helped start Living Water Community Lutheran Church in Sanford, Fla.

Below: Outreach at Living Water is as varied as the mosaic membership. One popular event was a summer sports camp for Sanford youth.

One seed that led to the planting of a multiethnic congregation in central Florida began to grow in a faraway field better known for battles than missions.

"Being in the military, it was very diverse. I had the opportunity to share my faith and disciple many different people," says Rev. Chris Bodley, a former U.S. Navy Reserve chaplain endorsed by the LCMS whose service included a nearly six-month stint with the U.S. Marines in Iraq.

When he returned to the United States, Bodley saw God opening a door "to go in a direction that would reach out to the nations"—specifically, to people of different ethnic backgrounds.

At a church-planting conference in 2006, Bodley, who is black and was serving an African American congregation, met Rev. Jim Timmons, who is white and was preparing to leave a predominantly Caucasian congregation and start a new church. The pair discovered their shared vision for launching a multicultural church and joined forces. Three years later, Living Water Community Lutheran Church in Sanford draws African Americans, Caucasians, and Hispanics, plus people from the Caribbean and Europe.

"You can see a little bit of heaven," says Rev. Yohannes Mengsteab, LCMS World Mission national director for new mission development. "Heaven is all of us included—black, white, and more. If we can have that reflected on this side of heaven, how beautiful it is."

About 70 members worship at Living Water. Congregants favor a contemporary "praise" style, using a PowerPoint presentation instead of hymnals. "To maintain our mission

focus, we state every Sunday: 'We are a kingdom people, with a kingdom purpose, prepared for a kingdom assignment,'" says "Pastor Chris."

Outreach is as varied as the membership. A rock-climbing outing targets young men. Last summer's sports camp provided evening activities for children and dinner for the whole family. English as a Second Language classes are in the works to serve a diverse group of immigrants and refugees.

On a sticky July Saturday, members distributed cold bottles of water, wrapped with Bible verses. They prayed with passers-by who wanted to share concerns.

### Facing Challenges

Like all new congregations, Living Water faces hurdles. In March, economic challenges forced members to move from a roomy warehouse into a smaller strip-mall location. In April, Timmons

left to begin an outreach ministry in the city.

Still, Petra Konig rarely misses Sunday worship. Some of her children and grandchildren, who are multiethnic, join her. Konig grew up in a "traditional Lutheran church" in Germany and attended "a traditional Lutheran church" when she moved to Florida.

Now she enjoys worshipping with people from a variety of cultures at Living Water. "As Christians, we have an obligation to reach out to everyone, regardless of their backgrounds," she says. "When we can come together, worship Christ together, and reach out to our community together, I think that, yes, it must be like heaven."

To learn more, visit [www.lwcc1.org](http://www.lwcc1.org).

**Kim Plummer Krull is an editor-at-large for *The Lutheran Witness* and a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Des Peres, Mo.**



# in the public eye

Eight Lutherans working in the limelight talk about how their faith informs their work.



*Work.* Sometimes it consumes us. Sometimes we find it mundane and boring. At other times, it excites or challenges us.

Regardless of how we feel about the work we do on any particular day, or at any particular part of a day, most of us spend a significant part of our lives in work environments, and it is in those environments that others see us as acquaintances, colleagues, and friends, and yes, as Christians and Lutherans, too. Our co-workers and associates see us at our best, and sometimes our worst, as we try to live out our faith and our calling day by day.

Most of us, by our own admission, follow our vocations in a prescribed arena. By human standards (but perhaps not by God's), our circle of influence seems modest. Others, because of their calling, labor in a larger sphere, including popular culture, public service, and the board room. Often today, these seem places where matters of faith are viewed with skepticism. Yet, as Christians—and Lutherans—we are called to witness “to the hope we have” in everything we do and at every opportunity God gives us, trusting that He will sustain us—even when we are at work.

How do we do this? How does our faith inform our work? We ask that question of eight members of LCMS congregations whose vocations place them in the public eye and who labor under the sometimes unforgiving glare of the limelight. Here is what they told reporter Sandy Wood about their lives, their vocations, and their faith.—*Ed.*

An award-winning reporter and editor whose national and local beats have included politics, religion, and business, Sandy Wood is a member of Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Mo.



### Gerard Arpey

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, AMR Corp. and American Airlines, Inc. Age: 51 Home church: **Peace Lutheran Church, Hurst, Texas**  
Family: Wife **Lisa**; children **Alexandra, James, and Luke**

Eight years ago this month, on a day that changed our nation, American Airlines executive Gerard Arpey was at work when a plane was crashed into the World Trade Center. And then another. A third slammed into the Pentagon. And a fourth fell in rural Pennsylvania.

The events of that day are never far from his thoughts.

“When you lead an organization like American Airlines, sometimes you feel obliged to try and explain, or make sense of, things that are really beyond our comprehension,” says Arpey, who is



“ I think of the story of Joseph, because it’s a great reminder that no matter what happens, God remains sovereign in the affairs of this world.’

now head of the company. “The events of 9/11 certainly fall into that category.

“But . . . I think of the story of Joseph, because it’s a great reminder that no matter what happens, God remains sovereign in the affairs of this world.”

In fact, adds Arpey, a better testament to that than he could ever give “has been given by a woman named Cheryl McGuinness. She lost her husband, Tom McGuinness, who was one of our pilots, . . . on Sept. 11. She wrote a book entitled *Beauty beyond the Ashes: Choosing Hope after Crisis* about her experience and her faith. . . . it is much more meaningful and significant than any of my memories of that day.”

These days, that story of Joseph—hanging in there, keeping the faith—remains particularly nourishing, Arpey says.

“With a deep economic recession, high fuel prices, and very difficult capital markets,” among other factors, “we have our hands full just getting through today. But as we navigate through this tough time, we . . . remain focused on tomorrow, too.”

Arpey says his company has a mission of connecting the world. “It is one of the great blessings of our business that—simply by showing up and doing our jobs—we promote understanding, tolerance, and peace.”

Arpey says he seeks God’s wisdom and grace as he does his job. “I’m always mindful of Prov. 3:6: ‘In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight.’”

Arpey joined American Airlines in 1982, but his professional path really started when he loaded bags during college. “The most important thing I have learned, both professionally and personally in my 50-plus years, is that all of us will face adversity in our lives, and just as the Bible instructs us, the key to overcoming adversity is perseverance,” he says. “Perseverance builds our character, and it is our character that enables us to build hope for ourselves and for those around us.”



**Timothy Goeglein**

Vice President for External Relations, Focus on the Family

Age: **45** Home church: **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexandria, Va.**

Family: Wife **Jenny**; sons **Tim** and **Paul**

Tim Goeglein's favorite Bible passage is the story of the apostle Paul in Athens. Every time he reads about Paul going to the marketplace, to the temples, to the Areopagus, to share the Gospel, he is moved deeply.

It's not hard to see why that passage touches Goeglein so, for he also is carrying a message through a powerful city.

As Vice President for External Relations at Focus on the Family, Goeglein shares the Focus ministry throughout Washington, D.C.

Focus is about helping families, and "Christ is at the center," Goeglein says. ". . . We are about giving voice to the innocent pre-born; to orphan care and adoption; to foster care; to reach out to the thousands of people who come to Focus each week seeking help in hundreds of ways . . . the heart of my job is to go tell the Focus story . . . in a way that is winsome, winning, bold."

Goeglein has spent two decades in government, in the White House of George Bush, in the office of U.S. Senator Dan Coats of Indiana, and in the Gary Bauer presidential bid.

6 My professional motto is two words: Relationships matter. Building relationships is the key. . . . That is how you advance, incrementally, one person—one heart—at a time.'

The capital feeds his love of the energy where politics, policy, press, and people connect. But his real passion is the people part. "My professional motto is two words: Relationships matter," he says. "Building relationships is the key. . . . That is how you advance, incrementally one person—one heart—at a time."

But Washington can be intense and unforgiving. "There is a lot of harshness, needlessly so, in Washington," Goeglein says. "I consciously try to avoid that toxic brew. . . . you bring your faith to every situation, and you pray with the expectation that God will answer according to His will, in His own time."

"My faith guides me every single day in small and large decisions, but mostly evidences itself in how I interact with other people; how I share what Focus is doing; and how I listen—above all, listen—to what other people are conveying to me."

He begins each day in prayer and devotions. "That is the time of the day when I set my compass—or at least try to—and realize how far short I have fallen, and how much I need God's grace and mercy, and the grace and mercy of other people," he says.

That grace has come.

Goeglein says that when he resigned from the Bush administration over plagiarism issues, as he tried to apologize to the president, Bush told him, "Tim, you're forgiven. I've known grace and mercy in my life, and you're forgiven."

Top: Tim Goeglein and his father, Stanley, on Omaha Beach.

Bottom, left to right: John Fuller, vice president, Focus on the Family Audio and New Media Division, Goeglein, Dr. James Dobson.

### Cynthia Lummis

United States Congresswoman Age: Turns **55** this month

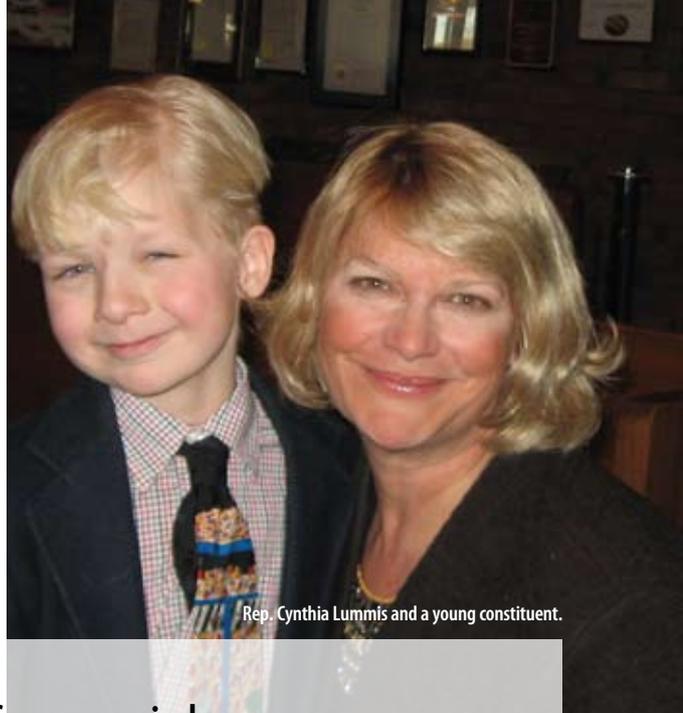
Home church: **Trinity Lutheran Church, Cheyenne, Wyo.**

Family: Husband **Al Wiederspahn**; daughter **Annaliese**

Wyoming's representative in Congress is a lawyer, a cattle rancher, a mother, a politician, a woman deeply influenced by the land and the wildlife and the wide open sky of her native state, and a Lutheran who is so at one with her faith she says it's in her DNA.

Rep. Cynthia Lummis describes her first term on Capitol Hill as "exciting and challenging and hectic."

And on certain days, she says, it's "enormously discouraging because of the amount of money we're spending, debt we're incurring, the deficit we're growing."



Rep. Cynthia Lummis and a young constituent.

6 One of the more surprising things about Congress is how many more opportunities there are to witness, how many people there are who are influenced by their Christian faith, or their Jewish faith.'

Yet, of the three committees she serves on—Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Budget—Lummis says she enjoys the budget committee the most, "probably because I view those issues as so pivotal to America's future right now."

The fact that she is keen on working on the budget crisis comes as a bit of a surprise to her. She's had a focus on natural-resource issues throughout her career—borne of her intrinsic sense of stewardship of God's gifts.

She studied animal science and biology, and later law, at the University of Wyoming. She concentrated on natural-resource and taxation issues during 14 years in the Wyoming House and Senate. She served as interim Director of the Office of State Lands and Investments.

But she also was Wyoming's state treasurer for eight years.

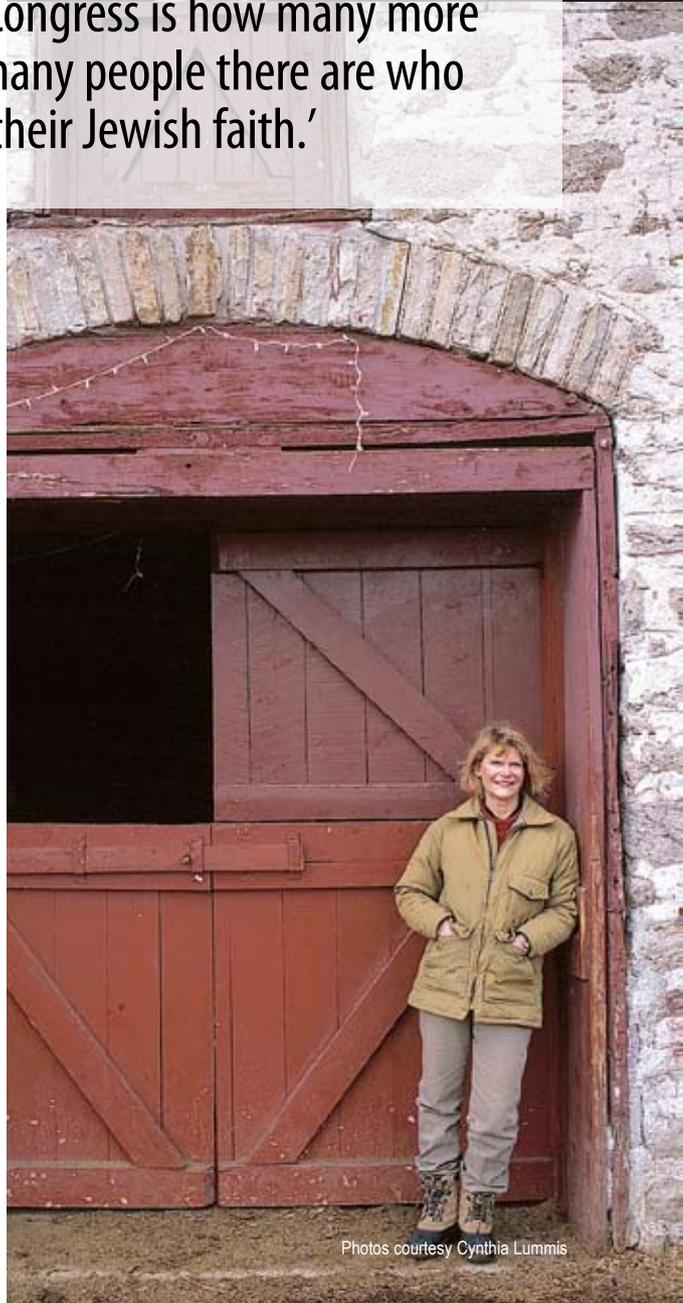
There's something else Lummis hadn't anticipated.

"One of the more surprising things about Congress is how many more opportunities there are to witness, how many people there are who are influenced by their Christian faith, or their Jewish faith," she says.

On weekends, the at-large Republican representative commutes to her ranch near Cheyenne. It's where she grew up, where her faith took root.

"I attended Lutheran school, Lutheran church, and was in a 4-H Club at my Lutheran school," she says. "So, Lutheran values are in my DNA, so much so that I find it hard to objectively evaluate when my decision-making is reflected by my Lutheran values rather than just my human values because they are one and the same."

There are many opportunities to witness that "are almost inadvertent," she says. But ". . . it's important to get comfortable with having conversations about God and faith in situations that may not always be conducive to that."



Photos courtesy Cynthia Lummis

**Erik Paulsen**

United States Congressman Age: **44** Home church: **Victory Lutheran Church, Eden Prairie, Minn.** Family: Wife **Kelly**; daughters **Cassie, Briana, Tayler, and Liesl**

There are a couple of things Erik Paulsen wants you to know about your elected representatives in Washington.

First, they're trying hard.

"Despite what you've heard, I believe nearly all the people in Washington are giving their all to try to do the right thing," he says. "We just don't agree what 'the right thing' is sometimes."

Second, they're asking God for help.

"There are lots of prayer groups and Bible studies that meet each week in the House and Senate," he says. "I draw a lot of strength from attending a weekly prayer breakfast. I think the American people would be very encouraged to know that many of their elected representatives are seeking God's wisdom for the decisions we make."

“Washington can be a lonely, frustrating, and tempting place. . . . I hope God’s people will be praying for fellowship, fulfillment, and character among our leaders.”

It's Rep. Paulsen's first term on Capitol Hill. And, like many of his colleagues in this 111th Congress, the Minnesota Republican has put solving the nation's economic problems on the top of his to-do list.

"My main focus is the economic recovery—everything else we are trying to accomplish . . . depends on a strong American economy," he says.

Paulsen brings 16 years of experience in the business world to the problem. He also served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 1995 to 2008, and was its majority leader from 2003 to 2007.

When the whirlwind workweek in D.C. winds down, Paulsen heads home to his family and his constituents in Minnesota's 3rd Congressional District, which is in the western suburbs of Minneapolis and St. Paul. That's when he does what he calls "the real work"—listening to people, and learning.

To keep grounded in a pace that could unhinge the best, Paulsen tries to set aside time every day "to be quiet, and pray."

He also says he works against the "pride and ego that distorts so many people" by "keeping a sense of humor and being able to laugh at the ironies of life."

And there's one more thing he'd like you to know: "Washington can be a lonely, frustrating, and tempting place. . . . I hope God's people will be praying for fellowship, fulfillment, and character among our leaders. . . . the Bible's command in 1 Timothy 2 to pray for all those in authority . . . makes clear that it is the responsibility of the community of faith to pray for leaders. And whenever we are unhappy with what our government does, maybe we should ask, 'Am I praying as I should?'"

### David Reichert

United States Congressman Age: 59 Home church: **Lutheran Church of the Cross, Kent, Wash.** Family: Wife **Julie**; children **Angela, Tabitha, and Daniel**

When Dave Reichert talks about his job, one word comes up a lot: Serve.

The Republican representative is serving his third term for Washington's 8th Congressional District, which is just east of Seattle and stretches south to include Mount Rainier.

But his service began long before his stint in the capital.

He's been intimate with what it means to serve since he hit the streets in 1972 as a member of the King County Sheriff's Office.

"Being a cop, you are very in touch with your community and see so many of the problems that people, children, and families face," he says.



“Being in this role gives an opportunity to show your faith through your actions, and how you live your life as someone in the limelight.”

Reichert's police career brought him national recognition. After being elected sheriff in King County, he headed the Green River Task Force, which cracked the largest serial murder case in U.S. history.

He then put into practice other words he uses often—"Actions speak louder than words"—when he sat down face-to-face with the killer and told him about forgiveness and salvation through Jesus Christ. These days, he's still practicing that.

"Being in this role gives an opportunity to show your faith through your actions, and how you live your life as someone in the limelight," he says. "You also have an opportunity to be around other leaders . . . who may not share the same faith, and it's important to live your faith through the work that you do both in Washington, D.C., and back at home."

Reichert says that nearly four decades in law enforcement and now Congress has taught him to be patient, and that to "serve with a servant's heart is absolutely the way to witness and lead."

He serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, and the Trade, Oversight, and Social Security subcommittees. "I make every decision to the best of my ability and that ability comes from God," he says. "There are so many pressures from every side on each vote, but I try to gain as much knowledge and facts about an issue, and make an informed decision through that information and what I feel is the right thing to do, rather than simply bowing to the pressure from others who work for their own gain. My faith always guides me through."

When his 12-to-18-hour-a-day job isn't commanding him, he spends time with his six grandchildren—going to recitals, football or soccer games, or just hanging out in his backyard.

He has one request for all of you: "I would humbly ask for your prayers, for strength and wisdom and patience for me and all who serve in our government. Please pray especially for our troops."



Photos courtesy David Reichert

### John Shimkus

United States Congressman Age: **51** Home church: **Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Collinsville, Ill.** Family: Wife **Karen**; sons **David, Joshua, and Daniel**

In his job as a congressman, John Shimkus gets asked to sign a lot of photos.

Below his signature he writes: Ephesians 2:8–10.

It's just one way the representative witnesses his faith. "Simply put," he says, "these verses highlight our inability to save ourselves. It is only through God's love for us by the sacrificial death of His Son and also God, Jesus Christ, who defeated death on the cross that we are saved. Our response to this sacrifice is to love others. We show our love through good works."

The Republican is serving his 13th year in Congress. He represents Illinois' 19th Congressional District, which covers rural stretches of the state from the outer suburbs of St. Louis up to part of Springfield.

Shimkus is on the House Energy and Commerce Committee. He also serves on subcommittees on Communications, Technology, and the Internet; Energy and Environment; and Health.

My faith is part of who I am; thus it does have a bearing on how I reach decisions and how I go about my job.

"This year has been quite difficult, as I do not believe the country is moving in an appropriate direction," he says. "But I can step back and know that God is ultimately in charge."

Shimkus says he is never challenged by constituents or fellow members of Congress when he expresses his faith. But the media, he says, is another story. "The media and left-leaning bloggers do not believe that faith has any place in public discourse, and I disagree with that."

Earlier this year, he read from the Bible during a hearing on climate change. "I feel my position on faith and policy is consistent with that of our founding fathers. My faith is part of who I am; thus it does have a bearing on how I reach decisions and how I go about my job," he says.

Shimkus won his first election in 1989 when he became Collinsville (Ill.) Township trustee. The following year, he quit his teaching job at Metro East Lutheran High School in Edwardsville, Ill., to campaign for treasurer of Madison County, which he won. He won his first term as a U.S. representative in 1996.

He also served 28 years with the U.S. Army, including more than five years of active duty.

Defending his political ideology fuels him.

"My belief is in less government, individual responsibility, and lower taxes," Shimkus says. "Defending this approach against those who differ is what I enjoy."

And his way of doing that is a witness to his faith. "We are all called to serve in the position God has placed us," he says. "We must remember that we are all summoned to be not only followers of Christ but witnesses for Christ, wherever and however we can."

**Katie Stam**

Miss America Age: 23 Home church: **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Seymour, Ind.** Family: Mom **Tracy**, Dad **Keith**, brother **Eric**, sisters **Heidi** and **Heather**.

Miss America never dreamed that one perk of her job would be getting closer to God.

But that’s what Katie Stam got.

In the months since Stam’s title changed from Miss Indiana to Miss America, she’s experienced a new depth in her faith.

“I knew I would change a lot; mentally, physically, emotionally. . . . I never knew I was going to grow spiritually, and that has actually been the greatest growth and change,” she says. “I have only become closer to God, completely relying on Him and putting every situation in His hands.”

Stam’s schedule keeps her from attending church. If she’s not working, she’s in an airplane. She changes locations every 18 to 36 hours, works seven days a week, with no days off.

Yet, she says she has been able to dive into the Scriptures more than ever.

When she won the title, her best friend bought her a travel-size Bible, and they study devotions regularly.

Expressing her faith in her job has been both challenging and easy. Challenging, she says, because as Miss America she represents all views, and cannot openly express her faith in public unless asked—for example, to lead a group in prayer.

However, it’s also easy, she says, because “My faith guides my every move every day. I’m constantly thinking about how I can shine God’s love to everyone I meet.”

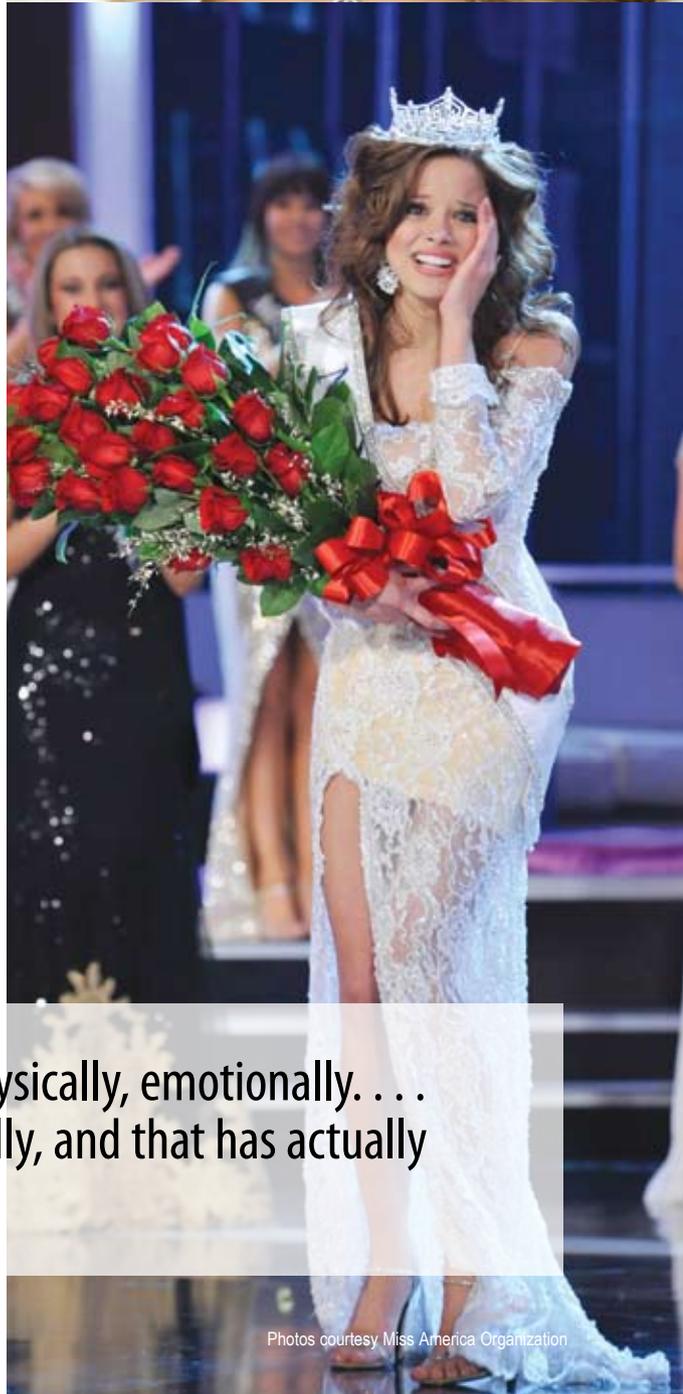
She most enjoys her work with children’s hospitals.

“I’ve been to about a dozen to 15 hospitals across the country, and these kids have completely changed my life,” she says. “I always think that when I am brought to a children’s hospital, I am brought there to offer something to the kids, but I always walk out feeling it’s so unfair because I walk out getting more than they did. I walk out so incredibly humbled, having a sense that even something that we take for granted every day—your health—these kids are fighting for.”

Stam hopes to “bring Miss America back.” She says the organization’s image can be more contemporary and relate to more people.

After her reign, Stam plans to finish her education at the University of Indianapolis. She’s studying communications, with an emphasis in electronic media, and wants to be a TV anchor.

“Always know that we are all soldiers for Christ no matter what we do, no matter what situation or experience,” Stam says. “Always keep God with you and at the top of your priority list.”



“I knew I would change a lot; mentally, physically, emotionally. . . . I never knew I was going to grow spiritually, and that has actually been the greatest growth and change.”



### Edward Van Cise

Flight Director, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Age: **32** Home church: **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Nassau Bay, Texas**

Family: Wife **Amy**; children **Hannah** and **Patrick**

Ed Van Cise got a new job this year that will put him in charge of some pretty important stuff.

As a flight director at NASA, the safety of the men and women who fly into space will be in his hands.

At Mission Control, he'll be in control.

But Van Cise will tell you that a key to his career success has been knowing that he's not in control at all. He's left that up to God.

"God is awesome. God's creation is awesome," he says. "Every time we humans think we have something completely understood, God allows us to find something in His creation that contradicts our knowledge or just outright baffles us. . . . It shows us that God is . . . in complete control—it gives me all the more reason to simply trust in Him.

"When you can put that trust in God," he says, "it makes day-to-day life that much easier. When you can look through the cameras on the International Space Station and see the awesome beauty of the earth, or learn about planets that exist in orbits that just shouldn't be possible, it's that much easier to trust that God will provide for your needs when you're frustrated that Wal-Mart didn't have in stock all the groceries on your list and you're in a hurry to get home to make dinner."

Van Cise was selected to be a flight director in June. It's a

“Every time we humans think we have something completely understood, God allows us to find something in His creation that contradicts our knowledge or just outright baffles us.”



path he's been on since reading about shuttle missions and the Challenger accident in grade school in Michigan. The path led him to study aerospace engineering at the University of Michigan, and then to NASA.

Along the way, people and situations that have influenced him have all been "God placed," he says.

"Listen to God," Van Cise says. "He likely won't come to you directly and tell you what He wants you to do in life (though He just might!). Instead, as in my case, He'll put significant events and people in your life's path that, if you listen and pay attention, can seriously affect or change your life's path."

And if you're so busy you need some help making room for God, He'll help you do that too.

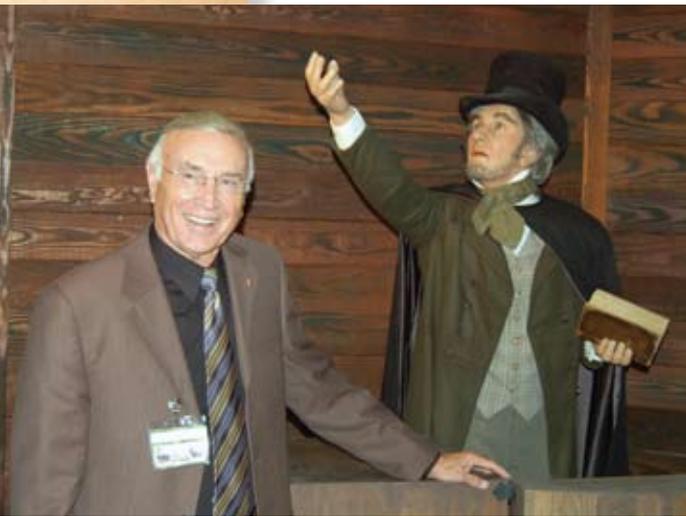
Before he was selected as flight director, Van Cise had about 40 people working for him, and he had just started a two-year Bible-study class that required 100 percent attendance and hours of work each week. He could have dropped out, but he asked God to help him make room for Him.

He was able to be successful at both work and the Bible class.

"Trust God," Van Cise says. "He knows what He's doing."



# The New CHI MUSEUM



*The pure Gospel of Christ,  
Rediscovered by Luther and his fellow confessors,  
Carried across oceans, cultures, and generations  
By emigrants, missionaries, and ministers,  
Today touching the farthest reaches of the earth.  
May it touch your heart also.  
Amen.*

Offering a succinct description of content and purpose, this message greets visitors to the new Concordia Historical Institute Museum at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis.

The museum is a celebration of the diverse gifts the Lord gives and employs to build the part of His church called The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, according to Rev. Marvin Huggins, interim director of Concordia Historical Institute (CHI). He says the people featured in the exhibits are examples of how God has used their diverse gifts for conveying the Gospel of salvation in Jesus Christ.

In his chapel message before the first viewing by LCMS employees, Huggins noted the “spiritual gifts” message of 1 Cor. 12:4–31. That passage is one of two cited by the founders in 1847—and still a part of the Constitution today—as a reason for forming The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod: “Our Lord’s will that the diversity of gifts should be for the common profit.” (The other passage is Acts 15:1–31: “the example of the apostolic church.”)

“The museum presents those gifts, shows how those gifts have been used, and how God’s purpose has been accomplished through them,” Huggins says. “They serve as inspiration and guidance as



we use our diverse gifts in continuing to carry on the mission and serve that common purpose.”

Dedicated July 26, the museum, on the second floor of the International Center, is now open to the public.

Beginning with Martin Luther and the Reformation, the museum features five sections tracing the origin and development of the LCMS. A section on German immigration to America reflects early efforts to send missionaries and pastors from Germany, especially to immigrants in the Midwest. Another section focuses on the formation and growth of the Synod in the mid-19th century under the leadership of Dr. C.F.W. Walther and others. A fourth area deals with mission efforts, first among Native Americans and extending to African Americans and to foreign mission fields. A fifth section emphasizes 20th- and 21st-century growth in education, use of media, human care, and auxiliaries such as the Lutheran Laymen’s League and Lutheran Women’s Missionary League.

More than narrative, the museum seeks to give a flavor of the periods of history, with a reproduction of the Castle Church door where Luther posted his 95 theses, supplemented with 16th-century books written by the Reformer. In another section, a life-size figure, speaking in a German accent, delivers a Gospel message against the backdrop of a wharf and steamer trunks.

Pages from journals, letters, and hymnody reflect 19th-century growth that included orphanages, colleges, and publications. Visitors can see the carriage and piano used by Walther, who became the first LCMS president. Another exhibit includes a life-size figure of Dr. Walter A. Maier in his KFUE studio with audio excerpts from his “Lutheran Hour” sermons. A world map allows visitors to trace mission expansion, and a video describes the philosophy of outreach through missions and human care.

The result of nearly five years of planning, including a year of construction, the museum is “an excellent display of the historical materials,” says Larry Lumpe, president of the CHI Board of Governors. “I feel very strongly that the history is important, that we know about the people who came to

this country and how they viewed the church as an opportunity to stay true to God’s Word.”

Lumpe expressed appreciation to donors whose gifts funded the design and construction of the museum.

Founded in 1927, CHI has amassed some 2.5 million documents pertaining to Lutheran history in the United States. Housed in its building on the Concordia Seminary campus in St. Louis, the archives include some 7,500 artifacts. The new museum will allow the institute to expand its archival space and to continue hosting thematic exhibits at its seminary facility.

“Our staff has done an excellent job of getting into the archives and finding things—the discovery in some cases—of items that were there,” Lumpe says. “Now is the time to show them. The Lord has given us that time.”

While CHI gathers materials and assists researchers, Huggins observes that the institute wants to be proactive in presenting the Synod’s history and heritage. “We look to the past to praise God for what He has done through His Gospel, but also to move on with our mission today in the same light,” he says.

“It has always been my dream that we can use this for curricula for our Lutheran schools,” Lumpe says. The institute will explore curricula possibilities with Concordia Publishing House and the Schools Department of LCMS District and Congregational Services, including ways to make educational resources available via the Internet.

Hours at the museum are 8:15 to 3:30 weekdays, except holidays. Admission is free, and while volunteers will greet visitors, tours are self-guided. Groups are welcome and are encouraged to inform CHI of their plans by calling 314-505-7900. CHI also operates the Saxon Lutheran Memorial in Frohna, Mo., which includes historic buildings and exhibits reflecting the life of mid-19th century Saxon immigration from Germany.

Roland Lovstad is a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Perryville, Mo., and an editor-at-large for *The Lutheran Witness*.

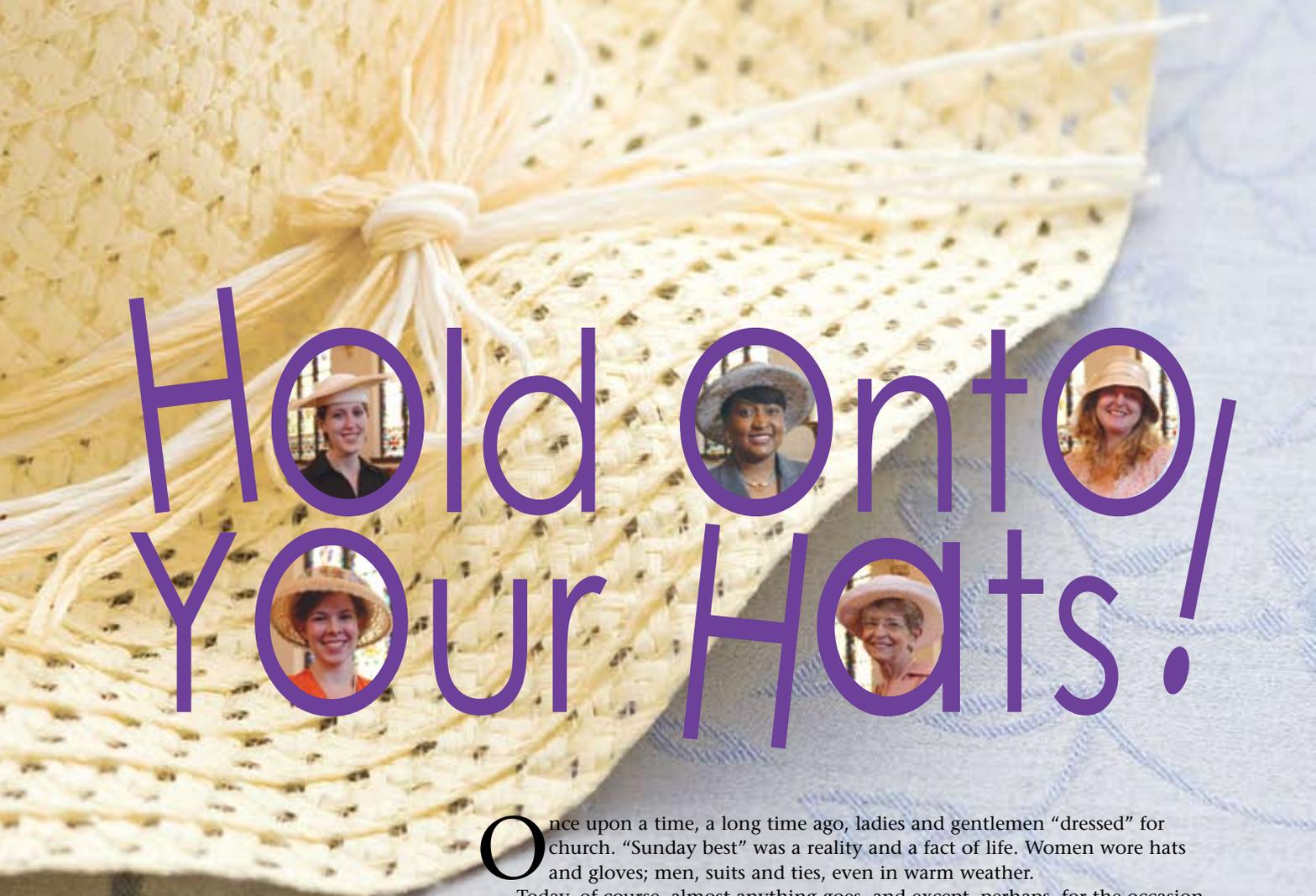


Top: Dr. William R. Diekelman, second from left, LCMS first vice president, and Rev. Marvin Huggins, center, CHI interim director, cut the ribbon at the opening of the new CHI museum at the LCMS International Center. Also, from left to right: Dr. James Kalthoff, former president of the LCMS Missouri District and vice president, CHI Board of Governors; Dr. Bruce Kintz, president and CEO, Concordia Publishing House; Larry Lumpe, president, CHI Board of Governors; Phyllis and Richard Duesenberg; and Werner Krause.

Below: Dr. James Kalthoff and Dr. and Mrs. Donald Miesner inspect some of the displays at the new CHI museum.

Right: Part of the ‘Luther and the Reformation’ display at the CHI museum.





# Hold Onto Your Hats!

Inspired by a musical,  
a group of Indiana  
women revive a  
tradition.

Once upon a time, a long time ago, ladies and gentlemen “dressed” for church. “Sunday best” was a reality and a fact of life. Women wore hats and gloves; men, suits and ties, even in warm weather.

Today, of course, almost anything goes, and except, perhaps, for the occasional grandmother, in most congregations women’s hats have all but disappeared, just as they have in much of our wider culture.

However, in at least one Indiana LCMS congregation, wearing hats to church isn’t just for grandmothers—or great-grandmothers—any more. While a small Lutheran church tucked into a corner of Fort Wayne may not be a Paris fashion-house runway, women there are determined to keep the tradition of wearing hats alive.

This year, from Easter Sunday to Mother’s Day, they pulled their grandmothers’ hat boxes from the attic or off closet shelves, or scoured Nordstrom’s, Macy’s, and other stores, including re-sell-it shops and vintage-clothing stores, for just the right hat.

On Easter Sunday at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, nearly 40 women donned feathered and beribboned hats for Sunday service. While the enjoyment was tangible, and the smiles in the congregation universal, the occasion didn’t just happen. It was the result of careful planning.

Nearly six months earlier, Redeemer member Nancy Osburn had seen Regina Taylor’s Gospel musical “Crowns,” which “celebrates African-American women and the tradition of wearing hats,” she explains. Critiquing the musical with fellow church member Roberta Ridley, “our conversation afterwards morphed into challenging each other to wear Easter hats,” Osburn says.

So the word was out, and the challenge began. Talk of wearing hats spread throughout Redeemer, especially among the roughly 20 women who gather socially each month for hospitality and fellowship. Osburn broached the idea with the group, fondly self-labeled “the Bunkettes” for their favorite parlor game, bunko.

“The enthusiasm was immediate,” Osburn recalls.

As the months wore on, “we kept the idea alive, and as Easter got closer, we began to ask each other, ‘Do you have your hat yet?’” she explains.

Thanks to the online networking Web site Facebook, the women encouraged

and reminded each other—and fellow members more skeptical about the endeavor—to find a hat, even up until the day before Easter.

Osburn says the congregation was not disappointed. Those attending Redeemer on Easter Sunday witnessed an array of colorful hats. “I’ve always been a bit scared of wearing hats,” admits Jane Casey, who found her vintage, cream-colored pillbox hat on eBay, “but I wanted to. Knowing that the other ladies were wearing them gave me the guts to do it. Now I want to wear one every week.”

“I loved seeing how every woman expressed her individual sense of style through a common medium,” says Bethany Casey, Jane’s daughter. “Each hat really seemed to fit the personality of the wearer.”

But finding the perfect hat isn’t as easy as it seems, Bethany explains. “I waited until the last minute to find my hat. I love that it is vintage (it was sold originally by Wolf and Dessauer, a Fort Wayne department store, in the late 1940s or early 1950s). I added my own scarf to freshen it up.”

Others found hats at modern department stores. Alissa Ulmer found hers, just in the nick of time, at Macy’s. Lauren Braaten tried on several hats at T.J. Maxx before deciding on both a hat and new Easter outfit. “I decided to pick a hat that I loved and then build my Easter outfit around it,” she

says. “After trying on a few brightly colored ones, I chose a bisque-colored floppy hat that I knew I would wear again.”

When he heard about the hat project, Fort Wayne photographer and graphic artist Steve Blakey imagined a colorful Easter Sunday photo

opportunity. He made a mental note to bring a camera to church.

“Just a few Easter hats. No big deal,” I thought,” says Blakey, an elder at Redeemer. “But when I found the actual number of participants was close to 40, I started getting nervous, and I was a bit overwhelmed.”

Osburn says Blakey’s pictures mark the beginning of a trend at Redeemer, one that the women continued on Mother’s Day and plan to expand this fall.

“I think hats will begin showing up more often,” Osburn says. “We found out that wearing hats is fun.”

And with all this talk of fashion and finery, what do Redeemer’s men have to say? “It was great fun

having all the hats in church. I suppose it could have been distracting, but it wasn’t,” says Rev. David Petersen, pastor of Redeemer. “The women simply looked elegant and were obviously bursting with joy. I expect it will become a tradition, and I am glad for it.”

Adriane Dorr is a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Ind.



**On Easter Sunday at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, nearly 40 women donned feathered and beribboned hats for Sunday service. While the enjoyment was tangible, and the smiles in the congregation universal, the occasion didn’t just happen. It was the result of careful planning.**



*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

REV. ROBERT A. REINERT III, Cheyenne, Wyo., resigned from the Ministers of Religion—Ordained roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is, therefore, no longer eligible for a call.—Rev. Richard O. Boche, President, LCMS Wyoming District.

REV. STEVEN G. SIEGEL was removed from the Ministers of Religion—Ordained roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is, therefore, no longer eligible for a call.—Rev. Ray G. Mirly, President, LCMS Missouri District.

REV. MICHAEL J. HYLTON, West Salem, Wis., resigned from the Ministers of Religion—Ordained roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (Bylaw 2.11), effective June 18, 2009.—Rev. John C. Wille, President, LCMS South Wisconsin District.

REV. STEVEN WICHTENDAHL, Guthrie Center, Iowa, was appointed circuit counselor of the Adair Circuit, replacing REV. TED WEISHAUP. REV. BRIAN LICHT, Carroll, Iowa, was appointed circuit counselor of the Carroll Circuit, replacing REV. PATRICK SPARLING, who has moved out of the district. REV. MARK BALDWIN, Ankeny, Iowa, was appointed circuit counselor of the Des Moines East Circuit, replacing REV. JOHN SCHONKAES. REV. DAVID DAHLKE, West

Des Moines, Iowa, was appointed circuit counselor of the Des Moines West Circuit, replacing REV. CURTIS FOREMAN. REV. DAVID DAUMER, Orange City, Iowa, was appointed circuit counselor of the Le Mars Circuit, replacing REV. DUANE MIESNER. REV. KENNETH SCHMIDT, Sioux City, Iowa, was appointed circuit counselor of the Sioux City Circuit, replacing REV. RUSS SENSTAD. REV. PAUL EGGER, Galva, Iowa, was appointed circuit counselor of the Storm Lake Circuit, replacing REV. STEVEN SCHULZ.—Rev. Paul G. Sieveking, President, LCMS Iowa District West.

REV. MICHAEL CHUNG, Palisades Park, N.J., who was on suspended status, was removed from the Ministers of Religion—Ordained roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He is, therefore, no longer eligible for a call. KOREAN CHURCH OF NEW HOPE, Palisades Park, N.J., which was on suspended status, was removed from the Congregational roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The removals were effective July 20, 2009, by the action of the bishop and district president of the LCMS English District, since no hearing panel was requested within the 15-day period (Bylaws 2.13.4 and 2.14).—Dr. David P. Stechholz, President, LCMS English District.

## Official Notices— Colloquies

RAYMOND W. BOECHE, Lincoln, Neb., has completed all requirements of the Pastoral Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is, therefore, eligible to receive a call.—Dr. William R. Diekelman, Chairman, Colloquy Committee, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.

KELLY FINK, Pontiac, Mich.; MICHELLE FISCHER, Marysville, Calif.; HEIDI SUE MUMM,

Grand Island, N.Y.; SUSAN NASH, Wykoff, Minn.; JONATHAN SWETT, Oak Lawn, Ill.; RHONDA FEINBERG, Houston, Texas; SUSAN BARLOW, Des Moines, Iowa; JOEL REPP, Everett, Wash.; PEGGY SIEMS, Roselle, Ill.; and PAMELA WEIMER, Bel Air, Md., have submitted their applications for the Teacher Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through CUenet. JOEL STOLTENOW, Lincoln, Neb., has submitted his application for the Teacher Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod through Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn. Correspondence regarding their applications should be directed within four weeks after publication of this notice to Dr. William R. Diekelman, Chairman, Colloquy Committee, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.

ANDREW SIELAFF, Phoenix, Ariz.; DOLORES C. FURREY, Gilbert, Ariz.; and TRACY CRITES, Fontana, Calif., have completed all requirements of the Teacher Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and are, therefore, eligible to receive a call.—Dr. Becky Peters, Director, Colloquy Program, Concordia University, Irvine, 1530 Concordia West, Irvine, CA 92612-3203.

ELIA PETERSON, Arlington, Minn.; TESSA BRASHER, Paragould, Ark.; and ALEX RAMERTH, N. Mankato, Minn., have completed the Director of Christian Education Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and are, therefore, eligible to receive a call.—Dr. Stephen C. Stohlmann, Director of Colloquy, Concordia University, St. Paul, 275 Syndicate St. N., St. Paul, MN 55104.

CONNIE BICKEL, Kirkwood, Mo., has completed all requirements of the Teacher Colloquy Program of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and is, therefore, eligible to receive a call.—Brian L. Friedrich, President and CEO, Concordia University Nebraska, 800 N. Columbia Ave., Seward, NE 68434-1599.

## Official Notices— Requests for Reinstatement

ROBERT H. BELL, Gambrills, Md., and DANIEL C. MACK, Aliso Viejo, Calif., have applied for reinstatement to the Ministers of Religion—Ordained roster of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. JULIA A. BURGESS, Gilbert, Ariz.; BONNIE FINKE, Winona, Minn.; FAITH MCKINNEY, Irvine, Calif.; RODNEY P. GOEHMANN, Cedarville, Mich.; LISA A. LENZ, Marquette, Neb.; DIANNE MARTI, Loretto, Minn.; and KIM D. PREUSS, Steepleville, Ill., 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 Oct. 5.—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., Sept. 20 for the November issue). Send notices to karen.higgins@lcms.org.—Ed.*

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 position: **Director of Admissions.**

**Concordia University Texas, Austin, Texas**, seeks to fill the following positions: **Dean of Students; Education faculty, Regional Graduate Program coordinator in Houston, Texas.**

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., Sept. 20 for the November issue). Send notices to karen.higgins@lcms.org.—Ed.*

**Good Shepherd, Goleta, Calif.**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary Sept. 11–13, with the theme "50 Years in God's Word and Grace, Moving Forward in Faith." Inspirational entertainer Dennis Agajanian will be the featured dinner speaker. Sunday services will feature current and former pastors. Visit [www.gslcms.org](http://www.gslcms.org) for more information.

**Trinity, Freistatt, Mo.**, will celebrate its 135th anniversary at the 10 a.m. service on Sept. 13, with a dinner to follow. The theme will be "Moving Forward, Building on a Proud Past." Mid-South District President Ken Lampe, son of the congregation, will be guest preacher. Contact the church office at 417-235-7300.

**Messiah, Ripon, Wis.**, will celebrate its 40th anniversary at a special 10:15 a.m. service Sept. 13, with a meal to follow. Rev. John Wille, South Wisconsin District president, will be guest pastor. Contact the church office at 920-748-3882 or [messiahlc@yahoo.com](mailto:messiahlc@yahoo.com).

**Holy Cross, Prior Lake, Minn.**, will celebrate its 20th anniversary at the 10 a.m. worship service Sept. 20. Rev. Peter Meier will be guest speaker. A catered dinner will be served at noon, with a program to follow at 1 p.m. Reservations for the meal are encouraged. Contact the church office at 952-445-1779.

**King of Kings, Renton, Wash.**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary at the 8:15 and 11 a.m. worship services on Sept. 20, with Pastor James Koehler to preach. A potluck will be served after the 11 a.m. service, and a celebration program will begin at 2 p.m.

**Immanuel, Riverside, Calif.**, will celebrate its 100th anniversary throughout 2009. On Sept. 27, all living past elders and congregational presidents will be honored. On Oct. 17, a "church history" dinner will be served. On Nov. 15, a commemorative service will be held, with Dr. Bob Scudieri, former LCMS associate executive director for Missions for North America, as preacher. Additional remarks will be given by LCMS Pacific Southwest District President Larry Stoterau.

**St. Michael, (Wolcottville) Akron, N.Y.**, will celebrate its 150th anniversary at a 3 p.m. worship service on Sept. 27, with guest preacher Rev. Chris Wicher, newly elected Eastern District president. At 6 p.m., a formal dinner will be served. Contact the church office at 716-542-2886.

**Immanuel, Oklahoma City, Okla.**, will celebrate its 75th anniversary at a 3 p.m. special service on Sept. 27, with guest preacher Dr. Wallace Schulz. A congregational dinner will follow the 10:30 a.m. service, with activities throughout the afternoon. Contact the church office at 405-525-5793 or [immanuelokc@sbcglobal.net](mailto:immanuelokc@sbcglobal.net).

**St. Paul, Miami, Fla.**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 3–4 with a golf tournament, barbeque, Sunday divine service, and banquet. Rev. Ronald Schuette, former pastor of 27 years, will take part in the events along with current pastor Rev. Alan Sielk. For more information, visit [www.stpaulutheranmiami.org](http://www.stpaulutheranmiami.org).

**Redeemer Lutheran Church and School, Wayzata, Minn.**, will celebrate its 75th anniversary Oct. 4 with celebration worship services, followed by a community picnic with games and music. Former pastor Rev. Gerhard Bode, currently serving Peace Lutheran, Hutchinson, Minn., will deliver the sermon. Everyone is welcome to celebrate with us. Contact Tim or Kris at 952-475-2550.

**Holy Cross, Cypress, Calif.**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary at a 9:30 a.m. blended service Oct. 4. Past pastors from Holy Cross will be present. An anniversary dinner will be served on the evening of Oct. 3 at Holiday Inn in Buena Park. Contact the church office at 714-527-7225 or visit [holycrosscypress.org](http://holycrosscypress.org).

**St. John's, West Bend, Wis.**, will conclude its year-long 150th anniversary celebration with a community worship service and dinner at 11 a.m., Oct. 4, at the Washington County Fair Park Pavilion. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, president of the LCMS, will be the guest speaker. Contact the church office at 262-334-4901 or visit [stjohnwestbend.org](http://stjohnwestbend.org).

**Zion, Town of Center, Evansville, Wis.**, will celebrate its 125th anniversary at the 10 a.m. worship service Oct. 4, followed by a catered meal and program. Contact 608-876-6638 or 608-876-6808 by Sept. 15.

**Zion, Terra Bella, Calif.**, will celebrate its 100th anniversary at the 10:30 a.m. worship service Oct. 4. A dinner and program will follow. Dr. Wallace Schulz will be guest speaker at the 2:30 p.m. mission festival. Contact the church office at 559-535-4952.

**Immanuel, Wichita, Kan.**, will celebrate its 100th anniversary at 7 p.m., Oct. 10, with a sacred music concert and a 10 a.m. divine service Oct. 11. A 3 p.m. Reformation service will be held Oct. 25.

Guest pastors will be in attendance at each service. Contact the church office at [ilcoffice@909smarket.kscocmail.com](mailto:ilcoffice@909smarket.kscocmail.com) or call 316-264-0639.

**Salem, Afton, Mo.**, will celebrate its 100th anniversary at the 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m. services Oct. 11, with Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, president of the LCMS, as guest preacher. A centennial celebration luncheon will be served at the Royale Orleans Banquet Center. Contact the church office at 314-352-4454.

**St. John, Wykoff, Minn.**, will celebrate its 135th anniversary at the 9 a.m. service Oct. 11. Rev. Peter Meier will preach, and Rev. Peter Sestak will preside. A meal, displays, and a 1:30 p.m. music fest will follow. Contact the church office at 507-352-2296 or e-mail [revpjs@yahoo.com](mailto:revpjs@yahoo.com).

**Eternal Shepherd, Seneca, S.C.**, will celebrate its 25th anniversary following the 10:30 a.m. worship service Oct. 11 in the fellowship hall, which will be decorated in a German theme. Pastor David Hammer will conduct the service. A potluck will be served at noon. Contact the church office at 864-882-3209.

**Trinity, Tinley Park, Ill.**, will celebrate its 150th anniversary at the 8, 9:30, and 11 a.m. worship services Oct. 18. Rev. Kenneth Klaus, Lutheran Hour speaker, will officiate. Dinner and entertainment will be held from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Select Convention Center. Contact Donna Beran at 708-532-9108 or visit [www.tlcs.org](http://www.tlcs.org).

**St. Paul, Phoenix, Ariz.**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary at 2 p.m., Oct. 18, followed by a meal in the church hall. Former members are invited to share in the celebration. Send photos and memories to [www.stpaulutheran-az.com](mailto:www.stpaulutheran-az.com). Call 623-846-2228.

**Community of Christ at Memorial, Bremerton, Wash.**, will celebrate its 70th anniversary Oct. 25. Scheduled services are at 8:15 and 11 a.m. A 3 p.m. festival service is scheduled, with a dinner reception to follow. Visit [memorialbremerton.org](http://memorialbremerton.org).

**Luther Memorial, Blackwood, N.J.**, will celebrate its 50th anniversary at a 10 a.m. special service Nov. 1, followed by a brunch. District President William Klettke will be guest preacher. Contact the church office at 856-227-2209 or [luthermemorial1@verizon.net](mailto:luthermemorial1@verizon.net).

**Our Redeemer, Houston, Texas**, will celebrate its 60th anniversary at the 11 a.m. worship service Nov. 15. Rev. Michael Fickenschner, father of Rev. George W. Fickenschner and founding father of Our Redeemer, will be guest speaker. A reception of praise and thanksgiving will follow the service.

## 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

**AUSTERMANN, HAROLD W.**; Dec. 2, 1943, Sheboygan, Wis., to June 27, 2009, Waupaca, Wis.; son of Harold and Gertrude (Seefeld) Austermann; graduated St. Louis, 1970. Served 1970–1971, 1972–1999, 2000–2007. Ministries/parishes: Columbus, Ohio; Boaz, Richland Center, Montello, Neshkro, Westfield, Wis.; interment: July 3, 2009, Milwaukee, Wis.

**BICKEL, KURT ARTHUR**; Dec. 30, 1926, Bay City, Mich., to April 4, 2009, Fort Wayne, Ind.; son of Rev. Frederick and Lydia (Hetzner) Bickel; graduated St. Louis, 1953. Served 1953–1992. Ministries/parishes: Grand Prairie, Sexsmith, Alberta, Canada; Prince Albert, Yorkton, Saskatchewan, Canada; Ohio District circuit counselor: 1978–1988; retired 1992. Survivors: Betty (Eifert) Bickel; son: Grant; daughters: Karen Neundorff, JoAnn Zieroth, Laura Cavendish, Theresa

## Maintaining Perspective



**Earlier this summer, the news was filled with stories about the deaths of Farrah Fawcett and Michael Jackson. The international attention this generated was astounding, even for a former Jackson fan like me! I have compassion for the loved ones of these celebrities, but I wonder how we can help our children keep such tragedies in proper perspective, given other pressing issues of our time such as poverty, war, and a troubled economy.**

Regardless of how you feel about these celebrities, one cannot deny the impact their lives and deaths have had on our nation—even on the world. Grief on this level is a phenomenon not only in the entertainment industry, but in the worlds of business and politics as well. I recall the shock I felt on a personal level—and the coverage worldwide—at the death of President Kennedy in 1963. Families grew up watching him nightly on the evening news. His causes were our causes. Not everyone voted for him, but citizens as a whole grieved his loss.

Similarly, millions loved, listened to and, in some cases, idolized Fawcett and Jackson for their creativity and ability to entertain. They and others who have attained star status helped provide for many a helpful diversion from

life's stresses. But, as you suggest in your question, the stardom we afford celebrities is a double-edged sword.

How do we affirm their positive impact and still maintain a biblical perspective on the value of each human being—and our joint responsibility to meet the needs of the human community at large in very troubled times? National and global economies are in chaos, millions live on the street, threats of terror and an increase in crime are evident, and the specter of illness and death is always close by. The death of well-known individuals is an opportunity to identify and draw attention to the serious causes these “stars” might have adopted. For example, Fawcett helped millions who are living with cancer by sharing her own story in a nationally televised documentary. We can model for our children ways to appreciate entertainers' contributions without making them larger than life.

We all are children of God, and the redemption made possible by Jesus' sacrifice is available to all, regardless of status. This is the message that shapes our priorities, our prayer for every person, and the hope that guides our life.

**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](mailto: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.**

## NOTICES

Garvis. Funeral: April 8, 2009, Convoy, Ohio; interment: April 8, 2009, Harrison Township, Ohio.

**ECKHARDT, EUGENE L.**; May 21, 1925, Scottsbluff, Neb., to April 12, 2009, Champaign, Ill.; son of Rev. Ernest and Clara (Neuwerk) Eckhardt; graduated St. Louis, 1950. Served 1950–1995. Ministries/parishes: Fort Benton, Mont.; Wagner, S.D.; Linn, Topeka, Kan.; Champaign, Ill.; retired 1995. Survivors: Arlette (Schurman) Eckhardt; sons: Timothy, Jon, Martin, Paul; daughters: Judy Petering, JoAnne Carmichael, Jeanette, Frances Forgione. Funeral: April 17, 2009, Champaign, Ill.; interment: April 17, 2009, Urbana, Ill.

**GRESE, EVERETT GUSTAV**; Sept. 26, 1917, Collinsville, Ill., to May 12, 2009, Peoria, Ill.; son of William and Alma (Nicol) Grese; graduated St. Louis, 1942. Served 1942–1982. Ministries/parishes: North Little Rock, Ark.; Memphis, Chattanooga, Tenn.; Maplewood, St. Louis, Mo.; Litchfield, Ill.; retired 1982. Preceded in death by his first wife, Vera (Richter) Grese, and his second wife, Jane (Oster) Grese. Survivors: sons: William, Robert, Richard, Timothy; daughters: Ruth Fleming, Mary Anders, Judy Schomburg, Vivian Lieske, Lois Conner, Carol Hinz, Rebecca Isaacs. Funeral and interment: May 18, 2009, Peoria, Ill.

**HAERTEL, ROBERT N.**; March 15, 1924, Fairmont, Minn., to June 7, 2009, Louisville, Ky.; son of Emmaus and Mathilde (Nolte) Haertel; graduated St. Louis, 1949. Served 1949–1994. Ministries/parishes: Deer River, Minn.; Louisville, Ky.; Southern Pines, N.C.; retired 1994. Survivors: Sigrid (Kraft) Haertel; sons: Gilbert, Timothy; daughter: Marion. Memorial service: June 14, 2009, Louisville, Ky.; cremation.

**HINZ, ALFRED J.**; Nov. 1, 1916, Omaha, Neb., to May 5, 2009, Laurel, Neb.; son of Alfred and Amalie (Fricke) Hinz; graduated St. Louis, 1944. Served 1944–1981. Ministries/parishes: Bridgeport, Martinsburg, Neb.; Milpitas, Calif.; retired 1981. Preceded in death by his wife, Eleanor (Roland) Hinz. Memorial service and interment: May 9, 2009, Martinsburg, Neb.

**JUERGENSEN, EUGENE WILLIAM**; April 16, 1928, Sagerton, Texas, to April 18, 2009, Billings, Mont.; son of Carl and Lydia (Wulf) Juergensen; graduated St. Louis, 1953. Served 1953–1992. Ministries/parishes: Roundup, Stanford, Denton, Mont.; Ogden, Iowa; Salida, Lafayette, Colo.; Coffeyville, Liberal, Hiawatha, Kan.; Pilger, Neb.; Kingfisher, Okla.; Oklahoma District circuit counselor: 1990–1991; retired 1992. Survivors: Dorothy (Gassner) Juergensen; son: Rev. Stephen; daughters: Rebecca Kaeding, Sharon Miller. Funeral and interment: April 21, 2009, Billings, Mont.

**RAEBEL, ROGER EARL**; March 9, 1929, Montevideo, Minn., to May 26, 2009, New Ulm, Minn.; son of George and Bertha (Groscoast) Raebel; graduated St. Louis, 1954. Served 1954–1994. Ministries/parishes: Dow City, Buck Grove, Iowa; Amenia, Grandin, N.D.; El Dorado, Kan.; Red Lake Falls, Minn.; retired 1994. Survivors: Phyllis (Luebken) Raebel; sons: David, Rev. Jared, Stephen; daughter: Cynthia Namanny. Funeral: May 30, 2009, New Ulm, Minn.; interment: May 30, 2009, Granite Falls, Minn.

**RIMBACH, JAMES ALLEN**; Aug. 29, 1939, Portland, Ore., to July 3, 2009, Long View, Wash.; son of Rev. Raymond and Viola (Gaebler) Rimbach; graduated St. Louis, 1965. Served 1970–1989, 1992–2006. Ministries/parishes: Baltimore, Md.; Pullman, Wash.; Hong Kong; Waukegan, Ill.; retired 2006. Preceded in death by his wife, Phyllis (Kroeger) Rimbach. Memorial service: Aug. 15, 2009, Tacoma, Wash.; cremation.

**ST. PIERRE, RUPERT A.**; Jan. 18, 1933, Decatur, Ill., to May 10, 2009, Fairhope, Ala.; son of Gerald and Helen (Shannon) St. Pierre; graduated Springfield, 1960. Served 1960–1998. Ministries/parishes: Enterprise, Florala, Fairhope, Ala.; Wheeler, Ill.; Farmington Hills, Mich.; Irvine, Calif.; Sun City West, Ariz.; Southern District circuit counselor: 1963–1964; retired 1998. Survivors: Thelma (Dizney) St. Pierre;

## An Errant Quest

A badly bruised knight returned to the castle of his lord after a long and arduous quest. He was a mess. His armor was dented, his helmet askew, his face scarred, and his lance broken. His horse limped, and the knight himself listed slightly in the saddle.

His lord saw him coming and rushed out to meet him. "What hath befallen thee, Sir Knight? Who hath done this?" he called.

Straightening himself as best as he could, the knight replied: "O Sire, I have been laboring dutifully in thy service, pillaging all thine enemies to the west."

"To the west," cried the astonished nobleman. "I have not a single enemy to the west!"

"Oh," said the knight. After a long pause, he continued, "Well, thou hast now."

**George Kottwitz**  
Trinity Lutheran Church  
Edwardsville, Ill.

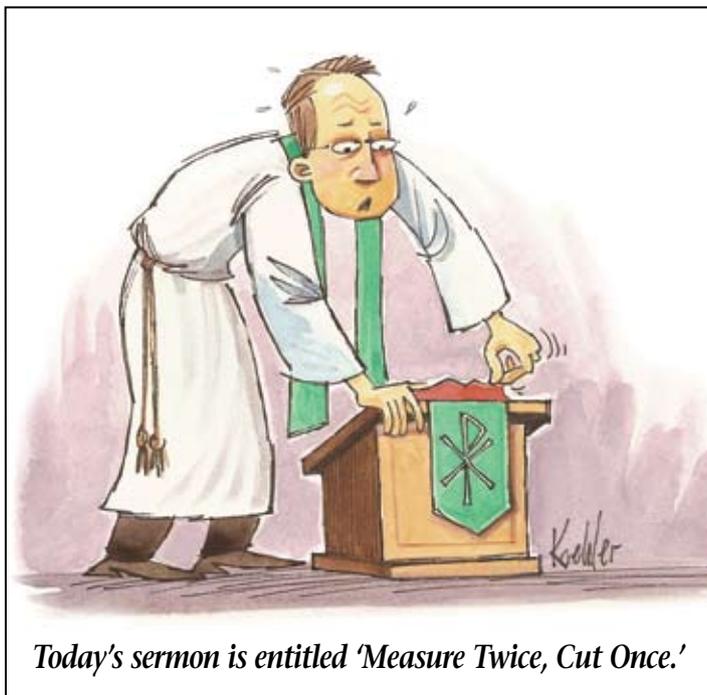
## A Stitch Times Two!

At brunch after Sunday worship, a mother asked Sandra, her young daughter, what she thought the pastor's sermon was about. "Don't be scared, Mommy, you'll get your quilt," Sandra replied without hesitation.

Momentarily confused, Mom asked again. "Are you sure, Sandy?"

"Yes, Mommy," Sandra stated firmly. "Pastor said your comforter was coming."

**John Krus**  
St. Louis, Mo.



*Today's sermon is entitled 'Measure Twice, Cut Once.'*

Following a recent Wednesday worship, one of my members approached me. "How was your circuit pastors quilting meeting on Monday?" she asked.

Noting my puzzlement, she showed me the typo from our bulletin. It combined a quilting announcement and a note announcing our circuit pastors meeting simply to read: *QUILTING PASTORS.*

**Rev. Dean Pfeffer**  
Hope Lutheran Church  
Plant City, Fla.

sons: Paul, Mark, Michael; daughter: Ann Bosch.

Funeral and interment: May 13, 2009, Fairhope, Ala.

**SOHN, PAUL HENRY**; June 5, 1918, Columbia, Pa., to June 19, 2009, Des Moines, Iowa; son of Rev. John and Anna (Ebert) Sohn; graduated St. Louis, 1943. Served 1943–1983. Ministries/parishes: Hamilton, Mont.; Pierre, S.D.; Paullina, Algona, Iowa; retired 1983. Preceded in death by his first wife, Evelyn (Wegner) Sohn, and his second wife, Lucille (Timm-Koester) Sohn. Survivors: sons: Paul Sohn, James Sohn, David Sohn, John Koester, Paul Koester; daughters: Loretta Katt, Kathleen Breidert, Julie Garner, Leila Webb. Funeral: June 25, 2009, Ankeny, Iowa; interment: June 25, 2009, Algona, Iowa.

**WOMER, WILLIAM B.**; Dec. 8, 1937, Pittsburgh, Pa., to July 5, 2009, Clarkesville, Ga.; son of William and Ida Womer; colloquy 1982. Served 1982–1988, 1991–2006. Ministries/parishes: Eureka Springs, Ark.; Gainesville, Ga.; retired 2006. Survivors: Frances Womer; son: Mark. Funeral: July 11, 2009, Toccoa, Ga.; interment: July 11, 2009, Gainesville, Ga.

### COMMISSIONED

**GRONEWOLD, WILBUR E.**; Oct. 16, 1927, Buckley, Ill., to April 4, 2009, Chicago Heights, Ill.; son of Elme and Emilie (Zabel) Gronewold; graduated

River Forest, 1949. Served 1954–1992. Schools/ministries: Crete, Park Forest, Chebanse, Beecher, Ill.; retired 1992. Survivors: Geraldine (LaFee) Gronewold; sons: David, Gerald; daughters: Janet Etzel, Debra Nelson. Memorial service: April 8, 2009, Beecher, Ill.; interment: April 8, 2009, Buckley, Ill.

**HEIDER, LOUIS H.**; June 5, 1914, Byron, Neb., to June 8, 2009, Omaha, Neb.; son of William and Alma (Heidbrink) Heider; graduated Seward, 1935. Served 1975–1979. School/ministry: Seward, Neb.; retired 1979. Survivors: Vera (Eckhardt) Heider; sons: Dale, Roger, Arlen; daughters: Jean Orth, Sylvia Kyle. Memorial service: June 12, 2009, Omaha, Neb.

**HERKA, CATHERINE M. (REIN)**; Jan. 30, 1961, Milwaukee, Wis., to June 2, 2009, Milwaukee, Wis.; daughter of George and Frieda Rein; graduated Mequon, 1986. Served 1986–2006. Schools/ministries: Hermiston, Ore.; Aurora, Ind.; Milwaukee, Wis. Preceded in death by her husband, Patrick Rosati. Survivors: Todd Herka; daughter: Frances. Funeral: June 4, 2009, Milwaukee, Wis.

**HINK, PAUL H.**; Sept. 24, 1931, to May 20, 2009, Euclid, Ohio; graduated River Forest, 1961. Served 1981–1995. School/ministry: Cleveland, Ohio; retired 1995. Survivors: Donna (Conrad) Hink; son:

Tom; daughter: Ellen Jones. Funeral: May 23, 2009, Cleveland, Ohio; interment: May 23, 2009, South Euclid, Ohio.

**LANGDON, ARTHUR R.**; Aug. 1, 1945, Wildwood, N.J., to May 15, 2009, Mountain View, Calif.; son of Arthur and Dolly (Linkogel) Langdon; graduated Seward, 1968. Served 1968–2002. Schools/ministries: Sheboygan, Wis.; Tacoma, Wash.; retired 2002. Survivors: Victoria (Penry) Langdon; sons: Eric, Robert Suffecool; daughter: Autumn Zimmerman. Funeral: Aug. 30, 2009, Mountain View, Calif.; interment: Aug. 15, 2009, Mount Rainier, Wash.

**LORENZ, EVELYN MARIE (FETRIDGE)**; Oct. 17, 1926, Chicago, Ill., to June 10, 2008, Hillsboro, Ore.; daughter of Matthew and Evelyn (Schalk) Petridge; graduated River Forest, 1947. Schools/ministries: Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; Detroit, Mich.; Portland, Ore. Survivors: Donald Lorenz; sons: Jonathan, Daniel, James, Andrew; daughter: Karen Bethke. Funeral: June 28, 2008, Hillsboro, Ore.; cremation.

# Getting Less in **the Land of Plenty**

**I**magine it is 1840. Like many others, you have escaped a famine or a revolution in Europe. You and your family are now immigrants in New York, and you live in a cramped apartment. The summer is hot, the city is dirty, and it stinks from overcrowding. You are working 12-hour days in a factory, and you still do not make enough money to put a decent meal on the table for your family.

One day you find a flyer advertising a place called the “West,” where the land is so fertile that all a person has to do is throw seeds on the ground and crops will grow abundantly. You tell your family to pack their belongings, and you start your journey. But soon you find that the way is tough. You cross wide rivers, traverse muddy trails, and face a hostile land.

Ever since the Fall, life has been hard. Each generation has faced the challenges of its time. Today, workers are being laid off and retirees are losing their savings. It seems like we are getting less in this land of plenty. So how do we get through these tough times?

Before we answer that question, let’s look at how we maybe got here in the first place. A friend, who is a bank president, wrote about our troubles in a local newsletter: “This financial crisis is what happens when unrealistic expectations of perpetual prosperity meet unrestrained corporate greed.”

Read 1 Tim. 6:6–10. From this verse, would you say our current economic problems come from sin? If so, what sin?

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The story of Achan is the story of one man’s sin and how it harmed an entire nation. Read Joshua 7. What did Achan do, and what were the consequences?

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Because God saw all of the people of Israel as one, when one person sinned, that sin hurt all the people.

We are a wealthy nation, but with wealth comes responsibility. What does 1 Tim. 6:17–19 have to say about how the rich are to act? What is the life that Paul is instructing Timothy to have?

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Read Luke 12:13–21. *Fool* is a strong word. Why does God call a person who trusts in money a fool?

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Now read Luke 12:22–34. On what are we to focus, and what comfort can we gain from Jesus’ words?

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A few years ago, I visited a museum display about the Oregon Trail. There were many accounts of going through rough mountain passes and wagons breaking down as wheels jarred against sharp rocks. In their diaries, some pioneers complained about the hardships; others took it all in stride.

Read 2 Cor. 11:24–28. What situations did St. Paul face?

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Now read Phil. 4:10–13. What does Paul say he has learned?

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We can take Paul’s words for our own. With St. Paul we can answer this question with confidence: How does my union with Christ help me get through this tough time?

**Rev. Thomas E. Engel is pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Louisville, Ky.**





## Mission–Minded ‘Missourians’

I cannot help but thank God for blessing us with so many individuals who love the Lord Jesus and who are passionately committed to the proclamation of the Gospel in ways that are unique to each of these organizations.

**L**ook to the Hills . . . God Reigns.”  
“Share His Story.”  
“One Mission . . . One Message . . . One People.”

Under these themes, three important groups of mission-minded LCMS women and men gathered this summer to celebrate, worship, and conduct some business with the aim of reaching more people with the Good News about Jesus.

It was a pleasure and a privilege for my dear wife, Terry, and me to visit these three conventions: the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League in Portland, Ore.; the International Lutheran Laymen’s League in Greensboro, N.C.; and the National Lutheran Hispanic Convention in Orlando.

In last month’s column, I reflected on this year’s 35 LCMS district conventions. Let me now share a little about these three groups and their conventions.

The **Lutheran Women’s Missionary League** ([www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)) is the Synod’s official women’s auxiliary and is well known for its “mission heart”—the thousands of volunteers who every day seek to make a difference in the lives of others by sharing the Gospel throughout the world. The league’s stated purpose is “to inform, encourage, and inspire women to be actively involved in supporting mission outreach.”

And support mission outreach they do! At this year’s LWML convention (“Look to the Hills . . . God Reigns”), June 25–28, the delegates adopted a goal of raising \$1.825 million for mission work over the next two years. It is the largest goal yet for the LWML and will provide grants to fund 19 mission projects worldwide.

The **International Lutheran Laymen’s League** ([www.lhm.org](http://www.lhm.org)) began when 12 men met in 1917 to help the Synod pay off a debt that had been incurred by the church body. Over the years, the league developed a media ministry in North America and around the world to carry out its mission: “Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church.” Due to the popularity of its flagship radio program, “The Lutheran Hour,” the league identifies its media outreach as Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM).

At this year’s international convention (“Share His Story”), July 16–19, league members heard reports about expansion of The Lutheran Hour; the launch of the LHM Men’s NetWork to help men’s groups in congregations; production of new episodes of its “Woman to Woman” radio program; and continuing support for ministry centers in more than 30 countries.

The **National Lutheran Hispanic Convention** is the successor to the former Hispanic Conference. One of the important purposes of this gathering, which partners with the National Lutheran Hispanic Mission Society ([www.hispanicmissions.org](http://www.hispanicmissions.org)) to organize the convention, is to provide a way for the LCMS Hispanic community to articulate the joys, concerns, and needs of the community to the Synod’s leadership.

This year, more than 200 people gathered for the National Lutheran Hispanic Convention (“One Mission . . . One Message . . . One People”), July 21–24. Those at the convention focused on their Christian unity by coming together in worship and fellowship as they lifted up the mission of Jesus Christ, particularly among Hispanic people in the United States.

As I reflect on these three conventions, I cannot help but thank God for blessing us with so many individuals who love the Lord Jesus and who are passionately committed to the proclamation of the Gospel in ways that are unique to each of these organizations. Each one contributes greatly to the cause of Christ in our nation and world.

I am grateful to our Lord for all who are involved in these and the many other organizations, societies, groups, and other ministries in our Synod that seek the expansion of God’s kingdom. If you are one of them, thank you. And if you are not, I respectfully encourage you to consider personal involvement in a mission-focused endeavor such as these. What a blessing they are to our beloved Synod!

God bless you and your witness as you share His Good News with others!

**Jerry Kieschnick**  
John 3:16–17

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