



# The Lutheran Beacon

Let your light shine . . .



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## SELC District Convention

Concordia Seminary (Ann Arbor MI) † June 22nd-25th, 2009



## THE CHANGELESS CHRIST FOR A CHANGING WORLD

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever

[Hebrews 13:8]

# THINKING THRIFTY IS COOL

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

## ***Facing Up to Money Troubles***

Jesus predicted, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) Troubles come in many shapes and sizes. Many are currently in big trouble regarding finances. To blame God or give up on Him is not the thing to do. Remember Job? He experienced a triple crisis:

- (1) Economic Disaster - the loss of wealth in animals and servants. (Job 1:13-15)
- (2) A Family Catastrophe - the tragic death of his children. (Job 1:18-19)
- (3) A Painful Illness. (Job 2:7-8)

How did Job respond? "In all this Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing." (Job 1:22) He said, "Shall we accept good from God and not trouble?" (Job 2:10b) Job bore his burdens by pursuing God in persistent faith. This is what everyone should do in the throes of financial crisis.

### **NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE IF YOU DON'T KNOW IT'S IMPOSSIBLE**

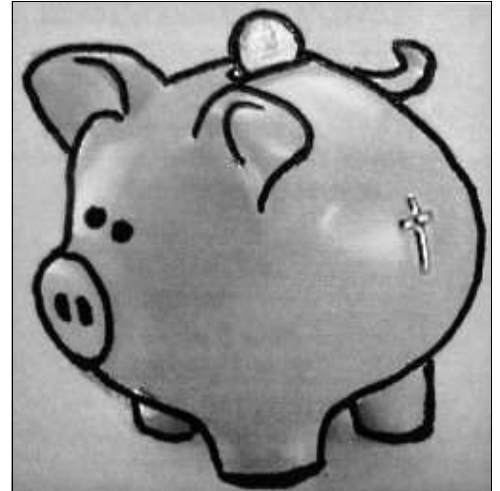
In Matt. 19:26 Jesus said, "With God all things are possible." - including solutions to financial difficulties. Worry is not a solution. It only compounds a crisis. Jesus advises, "Do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?'. . . seek first his kingdom and his righteousness and all these things will be given you as well." (Mt. 6:31 & 33). St. Paul offers some sound advice, "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God." (Phil. 4:6)

### **FRUGALITY & SELF-DENIAL ARE ESSENTIAL FOR FINANCIAL RECOVERY** ***Frugality***

In bad economic times, frugality is a must. Defined, frugality involves exercising thrift, avoiding waste and saving. Webster describes a frugal person as one who "spends only for necessary things and regularly does without luxuries." Not long ago, our consumer bent society seemed to scoff at frugal practices such as shopping at yard sales, keeping a car for 8 to 10 years, clipping coupons, bargain hunting, etc. Recent job and investment losses from the domino-effect

economic meltdown have caused many to review and revise their spending habits. Twenty years ago the US saving rate was 7 to 12%. In 2007, it was 0 to 1%. Many spent all their money and then some. How quickly things have changed! It's back to the piggy bank again.

***It's  
cool  
to be  
thrifty!***



Stuart Hoffman, Chief Economist for PNC Financial, Pittsburgh, PA, recently commented, ***Saving is back in fashion; everyone seems to have a bunch of ways to save money these days.***

### ***Self-denial***

Recently, at breakfast in a restaurant, I heard a waitress say, "We'll never have enough to make ends meet." I asked, "What's enough?" She replied, "Enough to meet necessities." What do you consider necessities?" I asked. "That's a very good question," she replied; "I'm going to talk that one over with my live-in." Millions of consumers are currently evaluating their needs. Because of economic uncertainties, many are cautiously cutting back in their spending. The desire for credit cards has diminished. Instead of paying for services, some are turning to "do-it-yourself" lifestyles. Why buy books or rent movies when you can obtain them free at the public library? Packing a lunch instead of cashing out at a restaurant will stretch dollars. Why buy bottled water when your faucet may be just as good (or in some cases even better)? "What can I deny myself?" is a frugal question that can pay big dividends. Changing spending habits may not be as tough as often imagined. Many have found they don't really need what they thought they couldn't live without.

## 2009 Centennial Celebration Continues

by Colleen Pohlod

The fourth special service of St. John's (Massillon OH) centennial celebration was held on July 5, 2009. (Two more 100th Anniversary services will be held: Sept. 6, 2009 and Nov. 1, 2009.) We continue with the theme "One In The Spirit: United In Christ And With Each Other". Previous services focused on Baptism, Missions, Confirmation and The Lord's Supper. The emphasis of the July 5th service was Marriage and Family Life, with special attention to the Third Chief Part of Luther's Small Catechism, the Lord's Prayer.

We were blessed to have with us Guest Preacher, Rev. Kenneth Ballas of Parma, Ohio, our SELC District Central Circuit Counselor. Pastor Ballas taught that in the Lord's Prayer, we are invited to seek God as our dear Heavenly Father, and that family through the waters of Holy Baptism. Now, as part of God's family, we are motivated by His love to reach out to those who are not yet part of the flock. Pastor Ballas also led the congregation in a mass Renewal of Vows. Married couples held hands and repeated familiar vows of faithfulness and commitment and asked God's help in blessing their union. A special song of response "Christ, Come and Claim Your Bride", based on Ephesians 5:21-33 was sung by Pastor Telloni and Mr. Rick Sailer (Lou Ann Gotch was to sing, but was ill). The words and music were composed by John L. Telloni; Guitar arrangement by Rick Sailer. A delicious brunch was lovingly provided by the Martha Society.

We rejoice as a congregation to participate in Christ's ministry and bring members of the community together to commemorate this milestone and thank God for allowing us to continue to be of service to Him and His people here in Massillon, Ohio!

The fifth special 100th Anniversary service will be held Sunday, Sept. 6th at 9:30 am, with an emphasis on Christian Education and on the Ten Commandments from Luther's Small Catechism. Guest Preacher will be the Rev. Andrew Brondos of Memphis, TN, former Pastor of St. John's (1958-1969). In addition to the centennial, we will also observe the 20th anniversary of our Christian Preschool. During the service, all teachers and educational staff will be consecrated for service to the Lord for the upcoming academic year. A brunch will be held after the service. All are welcome to attend!



He has welcomed us into His



## Something's missing from the Beacon . . .

# Help Wanted!

## Can you help solve the mystery?!

*The Lutheran Beacon* is a simple way to communicate with our SELC District congregations . . . sharing what's happening in your church. *However, over the past year, only 19 of our 55 congregations have contributed articles and photos.*

Why not become a volunteer newsletter reporter and/or photographer and "cover" events at your church? Many of you are attending or volunteering at church functions already. Talk to your pastor today and offer to share the many exciting and important things going on at your church. We all want to hear what's going on!

**Send submissions to:** Gail Peterson:

email: [gailmail37-beacon@yahoo.com](mailto:gailmail37-beacon@yahoo.com)

Questions? 321-752-5519 or 954-401-8452

**Next deadline is September 12<sup>th</sup>!**

[This issue is one of our two summer issues, covering a two month period]

**Deadline is normally the 12<sup>th</sup> of each month  
for issues from October through May**

Please submit articles as separate attachments in whatever program you write in. [e.g. Word Perfect, Word, etc.—NOT as emails]. Photos must be submitted as separate attachments [preferably in .jpg format].

## Zion Lutheran Church (Norridge IL)

by Rev. Luther Bajus

### Continuing 100 Year Celebration



The Rev. Dr. Robert Kolb, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO, was the guest speaker at Zion, Norridge, IL, Sunday, May 3rd, as Zion continues its celebration of God's grace and goodness for 100 years.

Over the past 100 years, many of the members of Zion have given the Christian witness in word and in life, and we in turn enjoy the blessings of their witness today. As members of the Church, the Lord calls His people to continue in this witness from one generation to the next.

Dr. Kolb addressed the many excuses that we are prone to use in our failure to give the Christian witness to the Gospel of salvation through faith in our Lord Jesus, alone.

These excuses do not hold any validity. "I don't know what to say." "I'm not knowledgeable enough." "I'm afraid of rejection." "My witness will not be accepted."

The Lord has given us His Holy Spirit to empower our witness and bless those who receive our witness. He has given us the privilege of prayer. He has given us His precious Word and Holy Sacraments to nourish faith and provide substance to our witness. The Lord provides all we need.

In the fellowship hour following the service, Dr. Kolb addressed the members on the topic of "Post Soviet Europe," a subject with which he is very well acquainted because of his travel and work in Europe.



Saturday, May 2nd, the Western Zone of the LWML benefitted from the presence of Dr. Kolb as he led the women of the SELC District in an inspiring witness workshop. At this same workshop, the Rev. Kevin Bergmann, Whiting, IN. was the guest preacher for the morning Communion Worship. The Zion Women's Guild and Faithful Hearts and Hands hosted the rally, serving a delicious luncheon to all who were present.

Dr. Robert Kolb was truly God's blessing to Zion and to the Western Zone of the LWML

### Forever in the Hands of the Holy Spirit

Zion Congregation, Norridge, IL, continued her 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Services with a Confirmation Reunion Service, June 14<sup>th</sup>. All those confirmed in Zion were invited to attend. Within the service, confirmed members had the opportunity to review and renew the vows made on their Confirmation day.

The guest preacher was the Rev. William Geis, spiritual son of Zion, and currently pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, LaGrange, IL.



In keeping with the theme, "Forever In God's Hands," Pastor Geis chose as his text, "The Spirit and the Bride say come....." The Holy Spirit whispers to us "Come to Jesus." The Spirit beckons "Come to church." We are God's family. The Holy Spirit uses Word and Sacraments to give us life . . . spiritual life, new life in Christ for living, living with the assurance of eternal life.

Prior to the Worship Service, Monica Geis, daughter of Pastor and Sandi Geis, provided pre-service music on the violin, and on occasion accompanied by her mother. She accompanied the organ on the sermon hymn and offered a concerto during the fellowship hour.

It was during the fellowship hour that Pastor Geis reminisced about growing up in Zion, especially his activities as a member of the Luther League Youth Group.

During the fellowship hour, it was noted the Anni Prus and Lydia Schmidt are two whom the Lord has blessed with the most years. Paul Hudak was recognized as one of the oldest members confirmed in Zion in 1935. Louis Ziak followed with his confirmation in 1936.

As each year was announced, class members were asked to arise and, if known, they were to share their confirmation verse with the group. Lorelei Hagen and Milan Bagel did so without hesitation. By all means, others knew their verse but did not recite it.

A fellowship luncheon was provided by the congregation, and hosted by the Faithful Hearts and Hands women's LWML group.

## HAPPENING AROUND OUR DISTRICT

**Rev. Jon Bender** was installed as Senior Pastor of St. John, Cudahy on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Bender served St. John as Vicar and, upon graduation, was called to return as Assistant Pastor. He has served faithfully for the last 5 years. Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger, Pastor for 30 years & Pres. of the SELC District, officiated at the Installation Service. Until his retirement from the Parish, Rev. Krueger will serve as assisting Pastor.

On July 6, 2009 - A fire at the world-headquarters of the Cudahy Meat-packing Corporation caused the evacuation of a one-mile square area of Cudahy, including St. John Lutheran Church and Child Development Center. Because of toxic fumes, and the fear of a possible explosion of Ammonia gas used for refrigeration, a state of emergency was declared and police officers went door-to-door to alert residents of the Cudahy Mayor's evacuation order.

Pastors Bender and Krueger initiated a phone-chain of St. John members to check on their safety, offer rides to shelters or a safe-haven. Pastor Krueger's home, in Cudahy but outside the evacuation zone, served as one of those safe-havens.

The fire necessitated the involvement of 32 fire units, and over 200 fire-fighters, even as the blaze continued for nearly 30 hours. No lives were lost due to the fire that destroyed approximately half of the Cudahy Meat-packing facilities.

July 5, 2009 - Pastor Carl Krueger took part in the 7th Annual Milwaukee County "Operation Freedom" ceremonies that offered free entrance to the Milwaukee County Zoo, along with free food and drink, to all Veterans and their families. 16,000 individuals received wrist-bands that opened all of the Zoo's facilities and activities.

Operation Freedom is a program begun by County Superintendent, Scott Walker, funded by private and corporate donations for all Active Duty, Guard and Reserve Military personnel, as well as all persons who had served in any branch of the military.

Pastor Krueger served as Chaplain for the 128th Air Refueling Wing, WI Air National Guard, Milwaukee WI from 1984 - 2004, retiring at the rank of Lt. Col. In 2002, Pastor Krueger was appointed as Milwaukee County Veterans' Service Commissioner by County Superintendent, Scott Walker.

The ceremonies included an address by the WI Superintendent of Military Affairs, two Color Guards, patriotic music, and the invocation and benediction offered by Pastor Krueger.

### **Lutheran Haven Foundation and Gift Planning Counselor Robin Paris hosted the first ever "Founders of '48 Society" Celebration Luncheon on May 27<sup>th</sup>.**

Held in conjunction with the meeting of Lutheran Haven's Board of Trustees, the luncheon honored those who have included Lutheran Haven in their will or estate plan. Chef

Scott Dickinson outdid himself, serving the fifty attendees a delectable lunch.

Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger, SELC District President, opened the event with a kitchen demonstration, showing visually how each attendee was a "funnel person" instead of a "sieve" (Call Robin Paris for an explanation!) and asking the Lord's blessing. Board President Susan Hanas introduced Board members and our special guest, President Gerhard Michael from the Florida/Georgia District.

Following lunch, our guest speaker, Janie Krohn, a writer and speaker from Yankton, SD, shared an encouraging, touching and personal message about what it means to be a torch bearer.



Each attendee received a lapel pin that illustrated the concept of "Transferring the Blessing" to the next generation.



Spectacular floral centerpieces created by our own Donna Dwyer were awarded to one attendee at each table.

Rev. Dr. William Utech closed the event with Scripture, prayer, and the singing of the Doxology.





by Sharon Roegge  
SELC District President

## **Close to 3,300 people attended the 33<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in Portland, Oregon June 25-28. The near 600 delegates and officers elected new officers, adopted a \$1.825 million mission grant goal, selected 19 of the 28 grants to be paid, and "Looked to the Hills...Where God Reigns".**

The grants are off to a good start with the 1<sup>st</sup> convention offering of over \$38,000 going to the mites, plus an additional \$300 from our Saturday night entertainment group *"The Pride of Portland"*. I will include the new mission grants and officers in the next issue of *The Lutheran Beacon*.

During the convention's opening worship service, Rev. Dr. Warren Schumacher, in his sermon, spoke about God's reign and the rain garden on the rooftop of the Oregon Convention Center that captures nine acres of falling water. "God does rain on us abundantly, but here it is usually softly, slowly, and tenderly . . . Turn your umbrella upside down and catch the blessings."

LWML President Jan Wendorf of Grafton, Wisconsin, challenged the attendees to make a commitment to be "In the Word, honoring a daily appointment with the Father and His Word; Of the Word, made over by the Holy Spirit, forgiven and restored; Walking with the Lord, totally confident of Christ's presence in serving and living."

Bible study leader Dr. Mary Hilgendorf encouraged participants to look at women of the Bible with new eyes. She talked of Naomi and Ruth and Deborah and gave three interpretations of why they did what they did.

In her keynote address, Ruth N. Koch invited convention attendees to join her on a virtual hike up the "Mountain of Change". She illustrated the importance of trying something new to welcome all women into the LWML.

The convention also featured processions with banners from all 40 LWML districts and the flags of 38 of 50 countries where the LCMS has missionaries; activities for children and youth; a "Mission in Motion" pledge walk and exercise; inspiration from speaker Heidi Floyd, of the Vera Bradley Foundation for Breast Cancer; presentation by Lutheran missionaries; and performances by singer Lauren Randall and the Pride of Portland. We also heard from Rev. Dr. Thomas Zehnder, Executive Director of LCMS World Mission, who stated "The LWML has a profound understanding of God's mission to the world, LWML women have hearts for missions to share the Gospel of Jesus...God bless you as we work together for Jesus' mission".

The processional of district presidents with their banners has always been a highlight of the convention for me, and I was honored to have been able to represent our district carrying our banner. I was delighted to have Faith Dzurovcik as our Young Woman Representative process with me. Nona Schipull designed the banner and the women from Zion (Norridge, IL) made the banner. Thank you all!

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*For over 65 years, the LWML has focused on affirming each woman's relationship with Christ, encouraging and equipping women to live out their lives in active mission ministries and to support global missions.*

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A Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, *My Mommy looked back once while she was driving, he announced triumphantly, and she turned into a telephone pole!*



## Human Care--LWML

by Nona Schipull, SELC District Human Care Chairman

Jesus told his disciples, *Let the little children come to me . . .* (Mark 10:14), *and he took the children in his arms, put his hands on them and blessed them.* (Mark 10:16, NIV) Following Jesus' example, we love children. As a new school year begins, children usually have a school supplies list. It is exciting to get all those new things, but the list may present a problem for families with limited funds. Perhaps your group can collect school supplies. Most items are very cheap in August—sometimes for just a few cents. Last year, I purchased boxes of crayons, pocket folders, and rulers at one store for just one penny each. Commonly needed items are looseleaf paper, spiral notebooks, folders,

crayons, and LOTS of PENCILS. Book bags are also needed. Some places to contact to give your donations are:

1. Homeless shelters
2. Shelters for battered women
3. Food pantries
4. Local schools--talk to the principal or the social worker
5. Lutheran schools

God bless you in your human care activities. Pray for the children and their families. *Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did it for me.* (Matt. 25:40, NIV)

If you have Human Care ideas to share, please contact me at my new email address [nd.schipull@gmail.com](mailto:nd.schipull@gmail.com).

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### SELC-LWML Central Zone Fall Rally

Sts. Peter & Paul Lutheran Church  
1500 Lincoln Blvd. \* Lorain, Ohio 44055-3137

**September 26, 2009**

THEME: **Angels Watching Over Me**

THEME VERSE: *The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear him . . .* (Psalm 34:7 NIV)

SPEAKER: Sandra Zikursh – Christmas Memories

Bible Study on Angels: Rev. Jeffrey Harter (Pastoral Counselor CZ)

Gifts From the Heart: Food collection (non-perishable items) for Lorain area or monetary donations to the Luther League Scholarship Fund.

Please contact Sts. Peter & Paul (440-233-5166) to place reservations.

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### SELC-LWML Western Zone Fall Rally

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Whiting, Indiana

**October 3, 2009**

Registration will begin at 8:30am. Rally will end at approximately 3:00pm.



the family of **Martha McGlin**, our SELC LWML Western Zone Treasurer. Martha was translated into glory on June 7<sup>th</sup> and was given a Christian burial on June 11<sup>th</sup> at Holy Cross in Alsip, IL, the Rev.

Chris Ongstad presiding. Martha was a faithful Christian and LWML participant. She served as Zone Treasurer for a number of years and was a delegate from the Western Zone to a National LWML Convention.



An unanswered prayer?

The pastor's 5 year old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head for a moment before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.

*Well, Honey, he began - proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages. I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon.*

*How come He doesn't answer it?* She asked.



2009-10  
Season  
Preview

# ST. LUKE'S CONCERT SERIES

## Concert Calendar 2009-2010

Save these DATES now! Visit [www.stlukes-oviedo.org](http://www.stlukes-oviedo.org) for more program details as each concert approaches or to request that info and reminders be sent directly to your Inbox.

### September, 2009

Brass Band of Central FL  
Saturday/ September 19  
Matinee: 2:00pm  
Evening: 7:00pm



### October, 2009

Orlando Philharmonic  
Saturday/October 24  
7:00pm

### November, 2009

UCF Symphony  
Saturday/November 14  
7:00pm

16th season!



### December, 2009

*Holiday Concerts*  
Brass Band of Central FL  
Friday/Dec. 4- 7:00 pm  
Saturday/December 5  
Matinee: 2:00pm  
Evening: 7:00pm

### January, 2010

Orlando Concert Band  
Saturday/January 16  
7:00pm

Watch for  
more  
program  
details  
in weeks  
to come!

### February, 2010

UCF Symphony  
Saturday/February 13  
*Masterworks* ~ 6:00pm  
Concert ~ 7:00pm

### March, 2010

Concordia /Chicago  
Wind Symphony  
Saturday/March 6  
7:00pm  
+ + + + +  
Lutheran Cantata Choir  
Sunday/March 21  
3:00pm



### April, 2010

Orlando Philharmonic  
Saturday/April 24  
7:00pm

FREE Admission to all performances.  
The Concert Series is a gift to the community  
from ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2021 W. SR 426 (Aloma), Oviedo, FL 32765