



The Lutheran Beacon

Let your light shine . . .



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Meet The Walkers!

By Andrew Sofranko, Chrmn-Board of Elders, St. Matthew LC, Wilkes-Barre PA

St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Wilkes-Bare has been blessed with the Walker family. During his pastorate here, Pastor Hugh Pillsbury visited the Walkers and discovered this talented family consisting of the parents George and Karen Walker and their three children, Krista, George and Sarah. Their discovered talent was playing the guitar. He decided this talent ought to be shared so he drafted them into playing during the offering one Sunday. They have been at it ever since and the members of the congregation, the beneficiaries.

At the time of their discovery, Krista was fifteen years old, George eleven, and Sarah seven. They are now respectively, twenty-two, nineteen and fifteen. They have been home-schooled by their mother. In May of this year, Krista graduated from Baptist Bible College in Clarks Summit, PA. George will enter BBC in August and eventually plans to enroll in Seminary to study for the ministry. Sarah still continues her studies at home.

Grandfather Ray Washicosky was the one behind the guitar playing by supplying each of them with their first guitars. He played guitar himself and wanted some company. Krista was first to take lessons with a teacher, Wes Stout. George learned from her for the first year, later taking lessons. Sarah followed the same pattern, first learning from her siblings, followed by studying with Wes.



Our congregation has watched them grow up while hearing their singing and playing. Not only have they played during the offertory, but if we are suddenly without an organist, they supply the music for the liturgy. All three of them are active in church work especially VBS, Christmas programs and the choir. They also play at various nursing homes and churches in the area. George has done a fine job leading the adult Bible Study class. They have put their music together on two CD's and as time goes by, there will certainly be others.

Share stories of your church family! Why not submit an article to *The Lutheran Beacon*!

Deadline is the 12th of each month

E-mail articles and photos to gailmail37-beacon@yahoo.com

EVOLUTION VS. CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

The Glorification of God as Creator

Christian Stewardship begins with the premise that God is the Creator and Owner of all things. The responsibility of mankind is to manage His things according to His will for His glory. Christian stewards endeavor to be caring, careful caretakers of themselves and whatever else surrounds them in love for God.

Defined, *Christian stewardship is the free and joyous activity of the child of God and God's family, the Church, in managing all of life and life's resources for God's purposes.*

For a Christian, the glorification of God is the primary purpose of existence. The stewardship of "God-glorification" is all inclusive, involving God pleasing management of oneself, one's possessions, the Church, the environment, personal activities, as well as other people. "Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received." (1 Peter 4:10) "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God." (1 Cor. 10:3)

Nov. 24, 2009 marks the 150th anniversary of Charles Darwin's book, "The Origin of Species" and the Theory of Evolution.

The Theory of Evolution rejects the concept of God as Creator. The theory assumes higher forms of life evolved from lower ones via mutations and natural selection. It proposes change over a long period of time and assumes that life somehow originated and advanced without divine intervention. The theory negates the concept of God as Creator/Owner of all things. Evolutionary stewardship of the world, as a result, ends up humanistic.

Evolution – An Unproven Theory

It should be understood and stressed that evolution is still a theory, a hypothesis which has not been established as scientific fact. Modern science functions on the basis of the "Scientific Method" proposed by the 16th century philosopher, Francis Bacon.

The method, very effective in the pursuit of knowledge and progress, has three parts:

1. **HYPOTHESIS** – A theoretical statement (guess) regarding something in nature.
2. **OBSERVATION** – Testing the hypothesis (theory) through experiments.
3. **CONCLUSION** – Establishing proof for the hypothesis as scientific fact.

To date, the evolutionary hypothesis is still in the realm of observation (stage 2) and has not been established as scientific fact.

Observation Complications

Some scientific observations oppose the theory. For example, a gradual evolutionary progression of life from very simple forms to higher forms is not conclusively found in fossils. Furthermore, genetic mutations have not produced new gene forms that would enable a new race of organisms to evolve. Actually, mutations produce weaker organisms, not stronger ones. Again, "Symbiosis" (the scientific fact that life depends upon life to exist) negates the evolutionary assumption that life evolved over a long period of time. For example, coral, algae and fish on an ocean reef depend on each other to exist. To separate their origin by long periods of time is scientifically unreasonable. The fact of symbiotic dependency for life to exist favors a quick creation—the Biblical six days of Genesis 1 & 2.



CREATION STAR

THE SIX POINTED STAR REPRESENTS THE SIX DAYS OF CREATION. IT IS ALSO KNOWN AS "THE STAR OF DAVID"

Intelligent Design

The magnificent complexity of life and symbiotic relationships point to a master plan. The intricate nature of organic-inorganic things could not occur by evolutionary chance. They were designed intelligently—by God! Evolutionary stewardship proposes the humanistic management of the world "by man for man's sake". Christian stewardship endeavors to manage God's created things "through God for God's sake"!

15th Regular SELC District Convention Report

SELC District

June 22–25, 2009

Concordia Seminary, Ann Arbor, MI

Theme: ***The Changeless Christ for a Changing World***

Hebrews 13:8: Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever

ELECTIONS

President: Rev. Dr. Carl H. Krueger

Age: 61

Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Cudahy WI since 1979

Term elected to: 5th Consecutive Term

First Vice President: Rev. Andrew Dzurovcik, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church,
Clark, NJ since 1989. [Served as 1st VP since 1997.]

Second Vice President: Rev. Christopher Cahill, Pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church,
Lodi OH since 1989. [Served as 2nd VP since 1997.]

Third Vice President: Rev. Paul M. Hoyer, Mission Developer/Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church,
Lake Mary, FL since 1983.

[Position added by a Convention-passed bylaw change due to the establishment of a 4th SELC Circuit
(Southern Circuit) so that each Circuit would have representation on the District Board of Directors.]

Rev. Dr. Thomas R. Ahlersmeyer, President of Concordia University–Ann Arbor welcomed the SELC and discussed recent blessings and challenges facing the University.

Rev. Dr. William Hoesman, President of the Michigan District and Chairman of the Council of Presidents extended greetings to the SELC.

Rev. Dr. William Diekelman, First Vice President of the LCMS presented 20 proposals by the BRTFSSG, following a video message from President Kieschnick. After presenting these proposals, comments/questions/concerns will be reported to the President in October.

Mr. Ron Scherch, representing LC-MS World Missions, talked of mission opportunities around the world — some now being implemented, thanks to *Ablaze!*

Rev. J. Naveen Nischal, Mission Developer, [Called by Zion, Clark NJ] spoke of the Gospel outreach to the Asian-Indian community.

Rev. David Stechholz, English District President, offered a great history lesson and how the SELC and the English districts are closely paralleled; and challenged the districts to engage in further dialogue to further utilize and share resources where appropriate.

Mr. David Buss from Baton Rouge, LA talked of Katrina's 4th Anniversary and how much work still needs to be done. Over 60,000 homes will be torn down.

Mr. Don Kovac, Executive Director of Lutheran Haven spoke of the growth and progress at Lutheran Haven, Oviedo FL.

Concordia Publishing House presented the gift of *The Basic Lutheran Library* to Hope Lutheran Church, Melbourne, FL, a satellite Congregation of Faith "Viera", Rockledge, FL.

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Resolutions Passed at SELC District Convention

[continued from Page 3]

09-01: SELC Foundation established. Affirmed the Board of Directors action in establishing a foundation. Congregations to make known to members the opportunity to continue to support the work of the Lord through contributions to the Foundation.

09-02: Official remembrance and recognition of Rev. Dr. Jaroslav (Jary) Jan Vajda and his outstanding contributions to the SELC District and to the Church.

09-03: Continue funding the position of Gift Planning Counselor in partnership with Lutheran Haven for three years.

09-04: Commending Robin Paris for her work as Gift Planning Counselor for Lutheran Haven and the SELC District.

09-05: Encourage congregations to continue their commitment to outreach and to use SELC congregational grants in new and creative ministries for the advancement of the Gospel.

09-06: Compliments to Concordia University for the excellent facilities and services provided to the delegates and guests.

09-07: Request of the SELC Board of Directions to reconsider the composition of the SELC Foundation Board.

09-08: Offerings of the 2009 SELC District Convention devoted to the SELC Foundation.

09-09: Added a 3rd Vice President to the SELC so that each circuit is represented in the SELC Presidium.

09-10: Request that the BRTFSSG correct their report on non-geographical district which has been disseminated throughout the Synod and that this correction to be disseminated to all Districts and in all existing media.

09-11: Request to the BRTFSSG to revisit the idea that Synodical/District restructuring to include the consideration of the formation of smaller districts.

09-12: Any redistricting plans considered by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod that would eliminate non-geographical districts abide by the 1969 merger agreement with the SELC; that the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Structure and Governance consult the legal opinion contained in the memo from the SELC District to the previous Taskforce on National/District Relations, dated No. 1, 2000; that the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod abide by the terms of the 1969 merger agreement; specifically, that no decision to eliminate the SELC district be made without the concurrence of that district. Referred to the SELC Board of Directors to investigate and communicate in appropriate ways.

09-13: The SELC District thanks the task force for work to date; strongly encourage the task force to proceed with care, patience, and transparency. The SELC District commits to pray for the task force and pray for a resolution of the structuring issues at LCMS Convention. Pastors and lay delegates to the SELC District Convention encouraged to convey their individual concerns in writing to the task force.

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Six **mission presentations** were made by various congregations of the District including: "Work Week" by Christ the King, Lodi, OH, "Ministry to Muslims and Eastern Asians" by Ascension Lutheran Church, Montreal, Quebec, "Birthing of a Church through Small Group Ministry" by Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL, "Eastern Asian Ministry" by Zion, Clark, NJ, "Avenues of Ministry" by St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL and "Building a Community of Faith", by Faith Lutheran, Viera, FL.

The creation of a **SELC Foundation**, previously proposed by the Board of Directors was presented to the convention for ratification. The Foundation would gather funds from donors for SELC missions and programs. The Foundation was ratified.

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SELC ELECTIONS [continued from page 4]

President - Rev. Dr. Carl H. Krueger Jr. (St. John, Cudahy, WI)

1st Vice President - Rev. Andrew Dzurovcik (Zion, Clark, NJ)

2nd Vice President - Rev. Dr. Christopher Cahill (Christ the King, Lodi, OH)

3rd Vice President - Rev. Paul Hoyer (Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL)

Secretary - Rev. Chris Ongstad (Holy Cross, Alsip, IL)

Treasurer - Robert Lange (Zion, Norridge, IL)

Financial Secretary - Clarence Cook (Faith, Viera, FL)

Pastoral Rep. Bd. of Directors - Rev. John Telloni (St. John, Massillon, OH)

Lay Rep. Bd. of Directors - Richard Martin (Calvary, Parma, OH)

Eastern Circuit Counselor - Rev. Daniel Grams (Holy Trinity, Garfield, NJ)

Central Circuit Counselor - Rev. Kenneth Ballas (Calvary, Parma, OH)

Western Circuit Counselor - Rev. Kevin Bergmann (St. Paul, Whiting, IN)

Southern Circuit Counselor - Rev. Gary Schuschke (St. Lukes, Oviedo, FL)

Mission Bd. Chairman - Rev. Ray Malec (Concordia, Bethlehem, PA)

Mission Bd. Pastoral Rep. - Rev. Steven Lange (Orland Park, IL)

Mission Bd. Lay Rep. - Donna Hubany (Grace, Lakewood, OH)

Lutheran Haven Bd. Eastern Circ. Rep. - Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis (Concordia, Macungie, PA)

Lutheran Haven Bd. Central Circ. Rep. - Rev. George Hansell (Grace, Lakewood, OH)

Lutheran Haven Bd. Western Circ. Rep. - Rev. William Utech (Seminary, St. Louis, MO)

Lutheran Haven Bd. Southern Circ. Rep. - Rev. Wally Arp (St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL)

Lutheran Haven Bd. Lay Rep. - Ardyne Kirn (Resurrection, Crown Point, IN)

Synodical Convention (2010) Delegates

Eastern Circuit Pastoral: Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis

Eastern Circuit Lay: Randy Sadlon (Zion, Clark, NJ)

Eastern Circuit Pastoral Alternate: Rev. John Perling (St. Paul, Greenwich, CT)

Eastern Circuit Lay Alternate: Robert Bergammini (Holy Trinity, Garfield, NJ)

Central Circuit Pastoral: Rev. John Telloni (St. John, Massillon, OH)

Central Circuit Lay: Noel Bartlett (Grace, Lakewood, OH)

Central Circuit Pastoral Alternate: Rev. Jerome Panzgrau (John Huss, Arnold, PA)

Western Circuit Pastoral: Rev. Paul Biber (St. Lucas, St. Louis, MO)

Western Circuit Lay: Ronald Hoehnke (St. John, Cudahy, WI)

Western Circuit Pastoral Alternate: Rev. Steven Lange (Living Word, Orland Park, IL)

Southern Circuit Pastoral: Rev. Gary Schuschke (St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL)

Southern Circuit Lay: George McAllan (Holy Cross, Lake Mary, FL)

Southern Circuit Pastoral Alternate: Rev. Mark Marino (Hope, Viera, FL)

Synodical Nominating Committee (2010 LC-MS Convention) - Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis

Dist. Convention Nominations Comm. - Rev. James Rice - Chair (Redeemer, Manchester, NJ)

Dist. Convention Nom. Comm. - Larry Schultz (Concordia, Macungie, PA)

Dist. Convention Nom. Comm. - Rev. Steven Lange (Living Word, Orland Park, IL)

Dist. Convention Nom. Comm. - Millie Kwiatkowski (Holy Trinity, Parma, OH)

Dist. Convention Nom. Comm. - Richard Challis (St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL)

The following is a letter from Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod:

To: LCMS Council of Presidents

Copy: LCMS Board of Directors

LCMS President's Church Relations Cabinet

ELCA Presiding Bishop Mark Hanson

ELCA Executive of Ecumenical Inter-Religious Relations Donald McCoid

Dear Brothers in Christ:

Grace and peace be with you, from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

As communicated in a previous statement from my office, on Friday, August 21, the Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America voted to open the ministry of the ELCA to gay and lesbian pastors and other professional workers living in "committed relationships." In an earlier action, the assembly approved a resolution that commits the ELCA "to finding ways to allow congregations that choose to do so to recognize, support, and hold publicly accountable life-long, monogamous, same-gender relationships."

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has repeatedly affirmed as its own position the historical understanding of the Christian church that the Bible condemns homosexual behavior as "intrinsically sinful." Such behavior is therefore contrary to the will of the Creator and constitutes sin against the commandments of God (Lev. 18:22, 24, 20:13; 1 Cor. 6:9-20; 1 Tim 1:9-10; and Rom. 1:26, 27).

Addressing the ELCA assembly on Saturday, August 22, I responded to their aforementioned actions, stating: "The decisions by this assembly to grant non-celibate homosexual ministers the privilege of serving as rostered leaders in the ELCA and the affirmation of same-gender unions as pleasing to God will undoubtedly cause additional stress and disharmony within the ELCA. It will also negatively affect the relationships between our two church bodies. The current division between our churches threatens to become a chasm. This grieves my heart and the hearts of all in the ELCA, the LCMS, and other Christian church bodies throughout the world who do not see these decisions as compatible with the Word of God, or in agreement with the consensus of 2,000 years of Christian theological affirmation regarding what Scripture teaches about human sexuality. Simply stated, this matter is fundamentally related to significant differences in how we [our two church bodies] understand the authority of Holy Scripture and the interpretation of God's revealed and infallible Word." The "relationships" to which I referred have been addressed by resolutions adopted at the last three LCMS national Synod conventions:

! Resolution 3-21A of the 2001 convention (complete text—page 142, 2001 *Convention Proceedings*) resolved that we cannot consider the ELCA "to be an orthodox Lutheran church body." The same resolution also recognized that "many of our brothers and sisters of the ELCA remain faithful to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ" and resolved "to reach out to them in love and support."

It further resolved that "current cooperative pastoral working arrangements with the ELCA be evaluated by the Praesidium (Synod president and vice-presidents) with the results and recommendations reported to the next synodical convention." The report of the Praesidium in response to this resolution is found in the 2004 convention *Workbook*, beginning on page 79.

! Resolution 3-07 of the 2004 convention (complete text—pp. 131-132, 2004 *Convention Proceedings*), in response to the report of the Praesidium, resolved to "authorize the Praesidium to continue to monitor current concerns and potential directions of the ELCA," and that "the President of the Synod report to the next synodical convention any recommendations concerning changes in joint activity with the ELCA." In my report to the 2007 convention regarding this resolution (2007 convention *Proceedings*, p. 63), I stated that "the Praesidium believes

that the President of the LCMS and the Praesidium need to ‘continue to assess pastoral working relationships with the ELCA’ (2004 Res. 3-07) during the next triennium” and that “at this time there are no recommendations for convention consideration regarding any changes in joint activity with the ELCA.”

I went on to state that “the ELCA continues to demonstrate a vastly different understanding of the authority of Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions than does The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod” and that the reason for continuing theological discussions with the ELCA “is, as articulated in Resolution 3-07, a ‘continuing effort to bear witness to the truth of the Scriptures and the Confessions in the hope that agreement can be reached in those areas where we disagree’.”

! Resolution 1-11 of the 2007 convention (2007 convention *Proceedings*, p. 114) resolved that “the Praesidium continue to assess the LCMS campus ministries and their association with the ELCA and report to the next convention of the Synod (2010) any suggested changes.”

Obviously, no LCMS convention action in response to the actions of this year’s ELCA Churchwide Assembly has yet been taken. In accord with the 2004 convention resolution referenced above, the Praesidium will continue in its monitoring role, confident of the Synod members’ further pledge in that resolution to “commit ourselves as members of the Synod to walk together in supporting the leadership of the President in consultation with the Praesidium of Synod regarding this relationship between conventions.”

Therefore, following consultation with and concurrence from all five Vice-Presidents of the Synod, I’m sharing with you this memo. Pending further action by the Synod in convention, as you approach and engage in joint work with members of the ELCA (such as a social ministry organization, school, campus ministry, chaplaincy, etc.), when matters related to the action of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly arise, please consider and heed the following counsel:

1. Evangelically, yet unequivocally, bear witness to the truth of Holy Scripture regarding homosexual behavior.
2. Indicate, as I did in my remarks to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly, that the action of the ELCA Churchwide Assembly threatens to deepen the division between our church bodies.
3. Communicate that any action taken by the group or organization in which you are participating that is contrary to the position of the LCMS will be taken seriously and will be cause for evaluation of continued LCMS participation in that group or organization.
4. Maintain ministry practices that are in accord with Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions and are consistent with the position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
5. Seek ecclesiastical supervision from the president of the Synod for questions that may arise in case by case situations.

These matters are very serious and need to be handled carefully and evangelically, always endeavoring to speak the truth in love. In the process of so doing, we remain committed to “reach out in love and support” to the “many of our brothers and sisters of the ELCA [who] remain faithful to the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

You are in my prayers, my brothers in Christ, as you faithfully, responsibly, and lovingly carry out the responsibilities of the office to which you have been elected.

Blessings in Christ to all of you!

Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President
The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Luther Leaguers come from all over the Universe to Shine Like Stars!

by Tim Hasko, President SELC Luther League



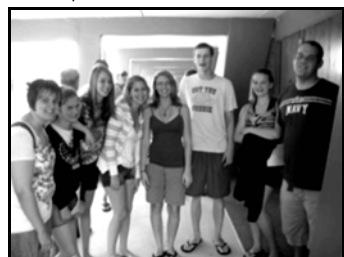
The space shuttle launch on July 15 and the 40th anniversary of the moon landing provided an appropriate backdrop as the youth of the SELC District met in Viera, FL under the theme "SHINE LIKE STARS!".

Pastor Mark Moreno of Hope-Viera led our opening worship which began with the singing of "Earth and All Stars". After some "Ice-Breakers" with our servant event groups, the youth headed down to the beach for a cookout. (Note: although I only intended to dip my toe in the ocean, somehow I became completely submerged in salt water thanks to Ian McGregor from Racine WI and Vicar Peter from Clark NJ.) As the stars were coming out, Pastor Luke Jacob of Racine led our closing devotion on the beach.

On Friday morning, Pastor Perling (Greenwich CT) woke us up with an early morning devotion, after which the youth traveled to eight different servant event sites to do a variety of things including light construction, painting, beach clean-up, sodding a yard, food pantry assistance, and animal service assistance. The SELC Youth truly shined God's love as they worked in the community.



Photo Op with Astronaut Jon McBride



On Friday evening, we were privileged to hear former NASA Astronaut Jon McBride inspire us with his experiences in space (did you know that spacecraft travel at 18,000 mph?). Some of Captain McBride's assignments included lead chase pilot for the maiden voyage of Columbia; and pilot of STS 41-G, which launched from Kennedy Space Center, Florida on October 5, 1984, aboard the Orbiter Challenger.

Dr. Carl Krueger, SELC District President, followed Captain McBride's presentation with a moving devotion in which he challenged us to be passionate witnesses of our faith just like Captain McBride witnessed to us about what he saw in space.

On Saturday morning, Pastor Andy Dzurovcik (Clark NJ) opened with a devotion based on God's promise to Abraham, and of course, we sang "Father Abraham". Then it was off to the Kennedy Space Center where we could see amazing displays of history and technology, along with the launch pad for the space shuttles.

During the business session on Saturday night, Daniel Nieman (Crown Pt IN) was reelected as Vice President; Megan Harris (Norridge IL) was elected Secretary, and Pastor John Perling (Greenwich CT) was elected as Pastoral Advisor. The Luther Leaguers selected Hope-West Viera and Clark NJ-Asian Outreach as the mission projects for the following year. A rousing session of Kangaroo Court raised money for mission plan and scholarship fund.

Sunday morning we traveled to Faith-Viera Lutheran Church for worship led by Pastor Ron Meyr. After lunch we were sent on our way by Pastor Moreno, who reminded us to "...shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life..." (Philippians 2:15-16).

Approximately 90 youth attended the weekend from Greenwich CT; Oviedo, Rockledge & Melbourne FL; Norridge & Orland Park IL; Crown Point and Whiting IN; St. Louis MO; Clark NJ; and Cudahy and Racine WI.



Servant Events fill the days



Upcoming events:

District Youth Gathering July 8-11, 2010: Camp Wartburg, Waterloo IL
National Youth Gathering July 17-21, 2010: We Believe, New Orleans LA

Happening Around the SELC District

Trinity Lutheran in Rochester, Minnesota has a ministry called **TLCare** that offers hospitality to those receiving medical care at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

TLCare now has lodging to offer to LCMS brothers and sisters at no cost. The small apartment is located on the edge of the Mayo campus and is available first come, first served. For more info, please contact Jennifer Jurgensen, tlcjennifer@charterinternet.com or Trinity LC at 507-289-1531.

Faithful Holidays (division of Mayflower Tours, Inc.) are offering value packed tour programs to Oberammergau, Germany to view the Passion Play (which is performed by villagers every 10 years). The Faithful Holidays tour follows the Life of Martin Luther, beginning in Berlin and finishing in Oberammergau with the Passion Play. **SPECIAL OFFER FOR MAY DEPARTURE FROM CHICAGO - COMPANION FLIES FREE!** The Mayflower Tour includes Germany and Austria with an optional tour to Budapest, Hungary. For info, visit the websites: www.faithfulholidays.com and www.mayflowertours.com.

Reminder to **Mission Board and Board of Directors** members: Next meeting will be held October 13-15 at Holy Cross, Alsip IL. Mission Board will meet on the 13th and Board of Director on the 14th & 15th. Accommodation info will be forthcoming. For more info call the church at 708/597-5209 or Pastor Chris Ongstad: 708/560-7106 or 708/363-3367.

Rev. Scott Abel, SELC Mission Developer, Called as Assistant Pastor, St. Luke's Oviedo FL. Accepted.

Mrs. Laura Hall and Mrs. Priscilla Pietz: both graduated Concordia, NE in May 2008.

Both called to teach at St. Luke's, Oviedo FL.

Mrs. Rebecca Anderson: transferred from Eastern District. Called to teach at The Lutheran Academy for Concordia, Bethlehem PA.

Mrs. Erica Martin: graduate of Concordia NE in December 2008. Called to teach at The Lutheran Academy for Concordia, Bethlehem PA.

St. John, Cudahy honors

64 Fire Departments in 9-11 Ceremony

St. John, Cudahy annually has held a public observance of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on the United States, remembering the tragedy, but also honoring some portion of the community's Emergency Response Personnel—those who respond in time of emergency.

This year, St. John chose to honor all the fire departments that responded in aid to fight the Patrick Cudahy meat-packing plant fire of July 5th, 6th & 7th. 64 Fire Departments worked on the largest industrial fire in the history of Wisconsin.

Representatives of all 64 Fire Departments were invited to send representatives to the 9-11 Observance. Rev. Carl Krueger and Rev. Jon Bender led the ceremony which included Scripture and prayer.

Sharing words of appreciation for the dedication of firefighters included Cudahy's Mayor Ryan McCue and Fire Chief Dan Mayer of Cudahy, the Milwaukee County Executive (Scott Walker) and Milwaukee County Sheriff (David Clark). Also participating were the Honor Guard of the 128th Air Refueling Wing,

St. John Day Care children who gave "thank you" pictures for each of the firefighters present at the ceremony. St. John also purchased specially prepared coffee mugs for the more than 500 firefighters who helped battle the Patrick Cudahy fire.

The Alumni phase of the ***How Shall They Hear Campaign*** has come to a close and a district count shows that ***84% of the SELC District St. Louis Graduates participated in the campaign with a gift. That is the highest district by a long ways!!!*** The nearest was Michigan at 79% and Missouri at 71% then it drops way down, but we had 117 gifts and 84% participation.

VISIT THE SELC WEBSITE FOR UP-TO-THE-MINUTE NEWS AND INFO! www.selc.lcms.org.

Grace Lutheran Fills the Summer With Outreach

by Rev. George R. Hansell, Jr.



The Grace Crusade

For the fifth year in a row, a big, white tent graced the front lawn of Grace Lutheran in Lakewood, OH for the annual evangelistic outreach known as **The Grace Crusade**. This year's crusade theme was "The Tale of Three Trees." The crusade was held June 16th-18th. Crusade week began with an outdoor service on Sunday, June 14th with Pastor George Hansell preaching on the topic "Trees Tell the Tale," based on the Old Testament lesson for the day found in Ezekiel 17:22-24.



Pastor George Hansell

A church picnic was held immediately after the service.

The three trees of the theme represented the three crosses on Mt. Calvary. On the first evening, Pastor Hansell spoke about the cross upon which the penitent thief hung. The message focused on being connected to Jesus and bearing fruit. Pastor Mike Hageman of Zion LC in Cleveland spoke on the second night of the crusade, focusing on the impenitent thief, the violation of the Law of God, and being cut off from Christ. On the third night, Pastor Hansell preached on the center cross and Jesus Christ being the very Tree of Life. Approximately 225 people attended the three nights of the crusade.



The crusade featured the congregation's own singer-songwriter Randy Grega, as well as Grace's children's choir. On the second night of the crusade, a festival choir consisting of Grace's Adult Choir and the choirs of Holy Cross/Cleveland and Gethsemane/Lakewood singing a medley of hymns entitled "Majesty."

The Grace Crusade is planned and supervised under the auspices of the congregation's Vision/Evangelism Board. The board will be spending the next several months evaluating the impact of the crusade and looking for ways to improve the outreach potential of this ministry.

Youth Sports Camp

Grace Lutheran is constantly looking for new ways to reach out into the community. In the past during the summer, the congregation offered traditional one-week Vacation Bible School programs. This year, the congregation tried something different. Over a three-week period for two days each week, Grace offered a Sports Camp for children ages 5 through 10.

In order to attract attention to the Sports Camp, the Sports Camp coordinators held a registration day with a very special guest on hand: the Cleveland Indians mascot known as Slider.

The three sports that were offered were basketball, soccer, and volleyball. Before each session, Pastor Hansell offered a devotion revolving around a sports theme. Many volunteers from the congregation offered their services as coaches and support staff.



Such a good time was had by all involved that the congregation is planning to offer the Sports Camp again during the summer of 2010.

Children's VBS Offerings Go for Teaching Tools in India

by Anna Bocklage



Preschool class enjoys crafts



Lower Grade Class participates in Bible Challenge activities



Upper grades learned new songs during music time

The sanctuary of Saint John's (Emporia, Virginia) was transformed into G.A.D.G.E.T's GARAGE for Vacation Bible School during the week of July 12th.

Children from the congregation along with neighborhood youth enjoyed getting to know Gizmo the robot and learned that God's Always Doing Great Exciting Things! Kids explored the wonders of God's world, His indescribable love in Christ, and His unshakable Word in the Bible. They



participated in hearing Bible stories, singing great songs, making awesome crafts, playing energetic games, eating creative snacks, and even more. As part of VBS, those involved shared God's blessings with other children through the Teaching Tools for India Mission Project. A 'mini mission lesson' each day introduced all of the participants to the culture of India and how the children there learn about Jesus in the Lutheran schools. They heard about the need for computers and other technology to help students in India learn English and that students with disabilities need specialized equipment to learn skills to live a full life. The group also learned that many of the school buildings were in dire need of improvement. The boys' and girls' offerings totaled over \$130 and offerings from the closing program on July 17th raised the total donation to LCMS World Relief for the India Mission Project to \$225.

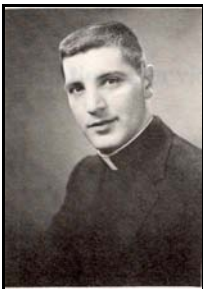


VBSers learn about Indian culture

At the closing program the children were excited to share what they had learned with their families and friends. The weeklong activities ended with a cookout and softball game where everyone had a wonderful time!

Double Celebration

by Tim Hasko



1959 Ordination

On June 14, Pentecost LC in Racine WI celebrated two very special occasions: the 50th Anniversary of Pastor Milan and Elaine Babel, and the 50th Anniversary of Pastor Babel's ordination to the ministry.

Dr. Carl Krueger presented the message *Let's Build Something Together* at the 9:00 a.m. worship service, which included renewal of vows. An open house followed later that afternoon at Concordia Lutheran School.

Pastor Milan and Elaine Babel were married on June 6th, 1959 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Collinsville, IL. Pastor Babel was ordained later that month on June 21st.

The Babels met while Pastor was a seminary student and Elaine was a student at Lutheran Hospital School of Nursing in St. Louis. Pastor Babel served as a vicar and first resident pastor of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Barrie, Ontario Canada. He went on to serve Sts. Peter and Paul in Central City, PA and St. Mark in Steubenville, OH before coming to Pentecost, Racine WI in 1970. Elaine worked at Racine Medical Clinic as an RN for 34 years.

The Babels have two children, David of Delafield WI, and Cheryl Lynn (Mike) Wilkinson of Racine; and four grandchildren: Mark and Matthew Babel, and Andrea and Alyssa Wilkinson.

We thank the Lord for the blessing of Pastor and Elaine Babel!



Yesterday

2009–11 Grants Selected

The following mission grants were chosen for the 2009–11 biennium:

1. Defray the Cost of Shipping Quilts by Lutheran World Relief	\$80,000
2. Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Food Bank Relocation	\$50,000
3. The Carpenter's Hands – Youth Refurbish Homes in Florida	\$26,000
4. Psalm 69:14 Project – Emergency Disaster Aid in Texas, Oklahoma, & Louisiana	\$50,000
5. Digitize Classes for Specific Ministry Pastor Program – Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne	\$36,000
6. 10 Chapels, Transportation, and Pastoral Training in Tanzania	\$88,000
7. Body and Soul Care for Children in India	\$50,000
8. LCMS Prison Ministry Provides Devotional Materials	\$50,000
9. Lutheran Braille Workers Provide English Braille Bibles – Africa	\$100,000
10. Kyrgyzstan Locals Trained for Evangelism	\$100,000
11. The Hope Center for Refugees and Immigrants – Ohio	\$90,000
12. Human Care and Pastoral Ministries Developed in Latvia and Lithuania	\$87,500
13. Mission Support to Disabled Children – Dominican Republic	\$50,000
14. Native Leadership Scholarships for Students Enrolled in Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT)	\$100,000
15. Humanitarian Care Outreach in Kazakhstan	\$90,000
16. International Student Ministry Provides Bibles and Christ-Oriented Resources	\$30,000
17. Earthquake Relief Aid and Church Plants in Peru	\$100,000
18. Light of Christ Chinese Lutheran Mission – St. Louis	\$75,000
19. Humanitarian Aid Opens Mission Field in North Korea	\$87,482*

* partially funded

The officers and delegates chose a mission goal for 2009-2011 of \$1,825,000 which is an increase of \$125,000. Of that amount \$1,277,500 goes for the grants with \$547,500 going for in-reach. Also the following were elected for four year terms to their offices: Patti Ross, Vice President of Christian Life; Linda Arnold, Vice President of Communication; Marilyn McClure, Vice President of Gospel Outreach; Rev. Kristopher Whitby, Pastoral Counselor; Dianne Diekmann, Chairman, Lois Ford, Pam Kercher, Melody Rosenwinkel and Marcia Wittenburg, Nominating Committee.

President Jan Wendorf continues to remind us to be “In the Word, Of the Word and Walking with our Lord”. For more information, go to www.lwml.org.



by Sharon Roegge

100th Anniversary at St. John LC, Massillon, OH

by Colleen Pohlod



Pastors Brondos & Telloni

The focus of our fifth special anniversary service on Sept. 6th was on Christian Education and the First Chief Part of Luther's Small Catechism, The Ten Commandments. An additional special feature of this celebration was the observance of the 20th anniversary of our Christian Preschool. The Guest Preacher was Rev. Andrew Brondos, former Pastor at St. John's from 1958–1969. Rev. Brondos' wife, Elizabeth formerly served as church organist. Pastor Brondos' sermon entitled *The Beginning of Wisdom*, was based on Proverbs 9:10.



Mr. Mike Hako greets
Guest Preacher
Rev. Andrew Brondos

Installation of teachers and staff in all areas of our Christian educational program also took place during the worship service. After the service, the Martha Society provided the main dish for our annual church picnic. A brief program was held after the picnic with congregational president Marty Pohlod serving as emcee. The first student enrolled in St. John Preschool when it opened its doors 20 years ago was Pastor Telloni's oldest daughter, Maria. Several members of Pastor Brondos' extended family from other states, including siblings, also attended the service and picnic. Some current members of St. John's had the opportunity to reminisce with Pastor Brondos of his days here at St. John's a half century ago. What a blessing to have so many of our earliest members still with us to further encourage us in the faith!

In honor of St. John's 100th anniversary, the Martha Society has published a new cookbook which is now available. Many recipes were collected, including some Slovak recipes and Slovak traditions. If you're interested in purchasing a cookbook, contact the church office (330-837-4645). Cost is \$9 each, plus \$2 for S+H. These would make great gifts for Christmas, birthdays, anytime!

Our final and climactic 100th Anniversary service will be held on Sunday, November 1st (All-Saints Day) at 4:00 pm, followed by a catered banquet in the Fellowship Hall. An afternoon service will allow Pastors and sister congregation members to join us in the celebration of our centennial. Guest Preacher will be the Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger of Cudahy, WI, our SELC District President. Reservations will be required for the banquet. Cost: \$12 (adults), \$6.00 (age 12 & under), ages 2 & under are free. All are welcome!



Several visiting pastors and their spouses
LtoR: P. Andrew & Elizabeth Brondos, P. Albert & Sylvia Marcis,
P. John & Anita Telloni, P. Mark Luecke,
P. Kenneth & Lois Ballas, P. Don & Ruth Hayas

Human Care—LWML

by Nona Schipull, SELC District Human Care Chairman

John 9 tells the story of when Jesus healed the man who was blind from birth. As the hymn says, "I was blind, but now I see." Although not completely blind, many people in the world need eyeglasses to see well.

LWML President Jan Wendorf has challenged each district to go on a mission trip. The Northern Illinois District is taking up her challenge with an eyeglass mission trip to Juarez, Mexico, from Oct. 24-31. Men and women are encouraged to join the team. Training will be provided. Then, daily clinics will be held to test vision and distribute eyeglasses to those who need them. Depending on the number of team members, a team can serve 100 to 300 people each day of the clinic. Then the local church is given the patients' names so they can follow up and help these people to "see" the most important person they will ever meet—Jesus Christ, their Savior.

If you are interested in joining the team, donating eyeglasses, or getting information to form your own eyeglass mission team, contact Jan Gerzevske at jgerz@netzero.com or 630-294-5014.

PRAYER: *Open their eyes, Lord, that they may see Jesus. Bless the people who go on this trip and the people that they meet. Help all of us to spread the Gospel wherever we go. In the name of Jesus, our Savior. Amen.*

Wednesday School at St. Paul

by Laura Dianis

Wednesday is the new Sunday at St. Paul Lutheran Church, (Greenwich CT) says Rev. John Perling, Pastor of the congregation. We realized that there is a great need in our community for fellowship time with our youth, and Wednesday afternoon is a perfect time slot.

The Christian Education program at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Byram meets every Wednesday afternoon during the school year, and continues right up to Vacation Bible School.

The children gather in the Fellowship Hall for a snack. Students then have Music time where the children get to learn age-appropriate worship songs before breaking into small groups.

When in their individual groups, students have time to hear Bible stories and work on craft projects. A special part of the afternoon is at 5:00pm when the children have a 45-minute karate lesson, or can get some of their school work done with the help of adult tutors. Children also have time to work on outreach projects, such as making valentine cards for veterans or decorating care packages for people in need.

At 5:45pm, families share in a family style supper and then participate in a 15-minute worship celebration before Adult Bible Study begins at 7:30pm. The program has open enrollment for preschool through high school.



Saving for the Future

by Robin Paris, SELC Gift Planning Counselor

Mark and Linda have saved all their lives. However, since they retired, and especially lately, they have done everything they can to save. They have installed more energy-efficient light bulbs and purchased new energy saving appliances. They plan so they can combine trips and errands, and even use email instead of regular mail. But one decision they made has saved them a lot more!



Recently Mark and Linda decided to fund a charitable gift annuity with the LCMS Foundation. When they saw all the benefits, it was an easy choice. The gift annuity pays them a fixed payment for as long as either lives. The rate is attractive and will never change. In addition they received an income tax deduction when they made the gift. And since they funded it by transferring the ownership of appreciated stock to the Foundation, they also received significant capital gains tax advantages.

Now Mark and Linda will enjoy receiving a check every three months for the rest of their lives. And after a lifetime of payments to them, any remaining funds go directly to support their favorite LCMS ministry, their home church and school. Mark and Linda saw the savings – and all the benefits that kept coming their way.

You can learn more about the benefits of a gift annuity by contacting Robin Paris, our SELC Gift Planning Counselor, at 407-365-5676, or email her at rparis@lutheranhaven.org. She is at your service, for the sake of the Kingdom. Why not let her assist you in uncovering the plan for giving that God placed in your heart at your baptism? The benefits will be eternal!

Family of Christ (Massillon OH) Holds Kids Fun Fair

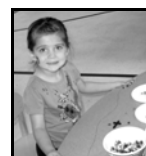
by Charlotte Miller

Family of Christ LC and Child Care Center sponsored a Kids Fun Fair on July 18th.

For the hungry—there was a food stand and bake sale. For the bargain hunter—a flea market. However, the most fun was had by those who played the carnival games, bounced in the bounce houses, or participated in crafts or face painting.

The Fair was rounded out by Jackson Police Department providing fingerprinting and Jobs & Family Services with an information table.

The day was enjoyed by the entire community; parent, child, and volunteer alike. It was truly a day of faith, fun and friendship! If you would like more info about the Fun Fair, please contact Charlotte at 330-832-2821.



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two 'Lire Or-
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**Concertmaster
Tamas Kocsis**

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- **Jamie Strefeler, Oboe**
- **Colleen Blagov and Sandra del Cid, Flutes**



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