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# THE LUTHERAN BEACON

*Let your light shine . . .*



PUBLISHED BY THE SELC DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD JUNE/JULY 2010

## Zion Members Welcome Borievka

by Rev. Luther Bajus



R. Bajus & Maria Pappas  
photo by Teresa Potasiak

Maria Pappas, Treasurer of Cook County (Chicago), invited the members of Zion LC, Norridge, IL, to City Hall. Together, we welcomed to Chicago the musical group, **Borievka**. These dancers and musicians came from Kosice, Slovakia, and were on a brief tour in the US.

Pastor Luther Bajus was welcomed by Treasurer Maria Pappas and invited to offer the Invocation in both Slovak and English. Pastor Bajus included petitions for blessings on our nation and for those who serve in public office.

The program included musicians and dancers dressed in native garb, who performed many traditional dances, much to the enjoyment of all present. Coffee and cake concluded the event.

It was a privilege to meet Maria Pappas and members of her staff, all very gracious and hospitable. It was interesting to note that some of the tracts and brochures used by the Treasurer's Office are also printed in Slovak.

For up-to-the-minute news during the summer, visit our SELC website.

The next issue of *The Lutheran Beacon* will be out in August.

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# CHRISTIAN STEWARDSHIP & THE CURRENT CULTURE

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

## LUTHERAN CHURCHES IN DECLINE

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod has been experiencing a loss in membership for decades. Some congregations are merging. Some, without a resident pastor, have become “preaching stations”. Others have closed. Over the years Sunday worship attendance has been declining. For the most part, the elderly with a few middle-aged attend services.

Where are the young adults? The teenagers? The children?

Some pastors, depressed, blame themselves to the point of burn-out. Church members, frustrated, blame themselves and others. Some of the blame, however, should be redirected. A significant cause for decline can be found elsewhere—in our current culture. There, many are pursuing and being pursued in a rat-race of “isms” neither Biblical nor church oriented.



Pursuit - Painting by T. Soltis

## SOME “ISMS” IN OUR CURRENT CULTURE

**Postmodernism** . . . Rejects all forms of authoritative truth including the absolute authority of the Holy Scriptures. Espouses tolerance without Biblical moral appraisal **Humanistic-Secularism** . . . Morality based on the well-being of an individual and mankind and not on a religious system.

**Pragmatism** . . . Without an absolute authoritative moral compass to gauge direction, “Does it work?” has replaced “Is it right?”

**Individualism** . . . A psychological turn inward expressed in independence and a freedom from commitment and responsibility to others - an “I owe it to myself” mind set.

**Pluralism** . . . A tolerance for a multiple world-view espousing multiple religions and multiple ways to achieve spiritual and temporal gain.

**Relativism** . . . What is deemed important and acceptable is relative to one’s personal point of view or current circumstances.

**Materialism** . . . An all-consuming pursuit of money, possessions and power. Time, energy and resources are often quickly swallowed up leaving people harried, dissatisfied and unfulfilled - sometimes living from day to day.

**Hedonism** . . . Seeks fulfillment or escape from disappointment in a whirlwind of “Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.”

**All these “isms” could be summarized as “Me-ism”  
“Meet my needs on my timetable by my standards”**

## ANTIDOTE FOR THE CURRENT CULTURE

Self-centeredness, the common denominator of our current culture, is as old as sin. Its antidote is a life of Christian stewardship which emphasizes living for God rather than self. 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.**” Christian stewardship is a lifestyle, not a random event. Its promotion should be a priority for every pastor, congregation and individual Christian to offset the “me-ism” of our current culture.

### APPLYING THE ANTIDOTE

Conversion to Christ will enable a person to turn from a worldly cultural lifestyle to one of God-glorifying stewardship. Conversion is the goal of the current synodical effort “**Ablaze & Fan into Flame**”.

The motto of the SELC District is **Show Everyone Life in Christ!** Individual Christians are encouraged to personally witness Christ. A rededication to “**Search the Word - Share the Faith - Fund the Mission**” is imperative. Culture should not

shape the Church. The Church should shape culture for a life of Christian stewardship. When that happens, pews will be filled to overflowing and missions/ministries will thrive in all parts of the world.



# Happening at Lutheran Haven

## Dedicating New Room in the Nursing Home

On the morning of May 7, 2010, before the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees' meeting, The Rev. Dr. Carl H. Krueger, Jr., SELC President, dedicated a new room for the enjoyment of our nursing home residents.

When the nursing home was built in 2005, this area was to be a porch for the residents to enjoy. But due to the afternoon Florida heat, dust etc., it was never really utilized.

Due to a very generous donation in memory of The Rev. Dr. George Loose and in honor of Shirley Loose, his wife, Liz Allison, their niece, started the ball rolling on the conversion from the porch to a wonderful, bright airy space the residents will use for a variety of activities, including Wii challenges.

In addition to the initial gift, the children of the Looses' added generously, as did Mrs. Ila Berglund †, The Lutheran Haven Auxiliary, The Haven Village Shoppe and the Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees.

As the dedication plaque states: *This room is dedicated to the Glory of God and to enrich the lives of our residents.*



LtoR: Anita Rocket (Daughter),  
Shirley Loose, George Loose, Jr. (Son)



## We are touched beyond words . . .

Thanks to all of you who have already responded to Lutheran Haven's Mothers Day appeal. We have been touched and blessed by the response. Remember, just because Mothers Day has passed, it's not too late to honor or remember the special women in your lives!

One of the very special things we've noticed as we've opened the envelopes is the hand-written notes some of you added with your gift. They include the following:

From Edna M. Southward, *Given in memory of my grandmother, Maria Dinda, a member of St. Luke's first congregation.*

From Susan Parbho, *Your letter re songs was like my heritage, and I'm moved to respond to your solicitation! In memory of my sainted Mom, and in honor of our daughter Betsy Graham, who delivered Jack 11/24/09 and made us grandparents.*

From Paul Klump, in memory of Florence Klump, mother.

From Martha Ahrens, in memory of Louise Dahm and Marie Heilmann.

From Mrs. Emma Pella, in memory of Anna Hrvol.

From Leonard & Ruth Shmegelski, in memory of Marge Ontko.

What we have learned through these touching remarks is that we must provide a space for people to include a note, and give them an opportunity to make their gift in memory or honor of someone special! This year, our donors have been creative; they wrote them on the envelope wherever they could squeeze them in! For sure, we will include it in next year's mailing. Also, if you would like us to notify the lovely Christian lady you are honoring, please give us her name and address, and we will send her a card informing her that she has been recognized in this thoughtful way.

## **Build a Tradition of Giving with Your Children and Grandchildren While You Support Ministries!**

by Robin Paris, Gift Planning Counselor, Lutheran Haven Foundation & the SELC District

If you have a desire to establish a legacy of giving for your children and grandchildren, plus support the ministries closest to your heart, then a Family Gift Fund through the LCMS Foundation could be a great financial tool for you.

Through this gift instrument, you can make a lasting impact on ministry and enjoy tax benefits. A Family Gift Fund is your personal ministry fund, identified by the name you select. It provides you the opportunity to recommend the ministries that your fund will benefit as well as the amounts and the timing of your gifts. That means you accomplish your goals, but giving is less complicated because the LCMS Foundation takes care of all the paperwork and reporting, no matter how many different charitable organizations you want to help.

Plus, a family member may be appointed to continue the legacy of giving after the Lord calls you home.

### **One family's example**

Giving to ministries has always been important to Charles and Marion. When the couple told their LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor about their desire to establish a flexible fund that would benefit their favorite ministries, their counselor suggested starting a Family Gift Fund.

Today, it's a Christmas tradition for Charles, Marion and their children to discuss the ministries they want their Family Gift Fund to benefit in the coming year. Charles and Marion provide for their favorite ministries and share their strong stewardship values with their children.

### **Your favorite ministries and charities**

You recommend the ministries you want your Family Gift Fund to benefit. At least 51% of the annual distribution must benefit ministries associated with the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod. These ministries can include any LCMS congregation, school, recognized service organization, Concordia university or seminary. Your Family Gift Fund can also benefit other charitable organizations close to your heart.

### **How do you get started?**

The initial minimum amount to start a Family Gift Fund is \$10,000. Any asset can be used to establish the fund. Your family can add to the fund at any time with a wide variety of gifts and you enjoy the same tax benefits as a direct gift. There are no up-front fees to establish your fund. The only cost that your fund will incur is a monthly contribution of 1/12 of 1% to support the work of the Foundation in counseling and assisting others.

### **The LCMS Foundation serves you!**

The Foundation handles all record keeping, disbursement and reporting responsibilities. You receive periodic reports about your fund, including individual records for each gift distribution. Account statements report income earned by the Family Gift Fund and asset values.

The LCMS Foundation is the only Lutheran organization that offers you comprehensive charitable expertise and customized services for your Lifetime Plan for Giving™.

Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can answer your questions and help you establish your own Family Gift Fund or other gift planning tool.

For current rate information or to learn more about how a Family Gift Fund can benefit you and ministry, contact:

Robin E. Paris, Gift Planning Counselor — Lutheran Haven and the SELC District

2041 W. State Road 426, Oviedo FL 32765 — 407-365-5676 e-mail: [rparis@lutheranhaven.org](mailto:rparis@lutheranhaven.org)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE MAIL THIS COUPON TO THE ADDRESS SHOWN ABOVE**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (        ) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

## Happening Around Our SELC District



LtoR: Marc Liese, Pastor Pirn, Pastor Soltis

### Slovak-English Bi-lingual Service

A Bi-lingual Slovak-English Service was held on Saturday, May 1, 2010, at Unity LC, Cleveland, OH. Rev. Thomas Soltis, retired SELC pastor and currently Assisting Pastor of St. Mark LC, Cleveland, served as liturgist/preacher, assisted by Rev. Peeter Pirn, pastor of Unity LC.

Mr. Marc Liese was organist. Hymns, having the same melodies, could be sung in either Slovak or English. Slovak Scripture readings, prayers and sermon, reflecting an Easter theme, were interspersed with English. The bi-lingual service was the first on the part of Unity LC to establish an international profile. Future bi-lingual services are being planned in other languages as well.

**Family of Christ, Tampa FL called Timothy Paul Handrick, to serve as Director of Christian Education.** Mr. Hendrick had been serving as DCE at St. Paul LC, Harlingen TX. He is a 2004 graduate of Concordia University, Austin TX.



**Congratulations to David & Sonya Timmerman,** on the birth of their daughter, Joanna Katheryn; born on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Joanna became a child of God and received the gift of the Holy Spirit on May 8<sup>th</sup>. David serves as Director of Christian Education at Faith"Viera" LC, Rockledge FL. Both

David and Sonya are graduates of Concordia University, Seward NE.

Concordia, St. Louis: *The SELC District received the following new Candidate and Vicars.*

### Candidate

**Zehnder, Zachary** is the son of Rev. Mark Zehnder, Pastor of King of Kings, Omaha. The tentative schedule is for Candidate Zehnder to be Ordained at King of Kings on Sunday July 18<sup>th</sup> and installed at Holy Cross, Lake Mary FL on July 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm, where he will be a "worker Priest" mission planter.

### Vicars from Concordia, St. Louis

**Larsen, Daniel** – to St. Luke's, Oviedo, FL. He is single (but with a fiancée in Hollywood FL).



FrontRow: Dr. William Utech, Daniel Larsen, Dr. Carl Krueger  
BackRow: Brian and Heather Rosenkoetter; Allison & Zachary Zehnder

### Rosenkoetter, Brian

– to Saint John/Saint Mark, Massillon/Steubenville, OH. He is married to Heather and has 2 children: David (6) and Emily (4). Both Brian & Heather have degrees in Electrical Engineering.

### Vicars from Concordia, Ft. Wayne:



Rocco & Janine

**Rocco Mallardi** - to Zion, Clark, NJ. Rocco & Janine have two children: Caleb (1), and "?" due in October. Janine is an LCMS DCE.



Adrienne & Matthew

**Matthew Rasmussen** - to St. John's, Hazleton, PA. He is married to Adrienne.

Please keep in your prayers, **Rev. Don Hayas wife, Ruth Janosik**, as she faces a second heart bypass procedure after a heart catheterization was recently completed. Her first heart bypass was in 2004.



## Happening Around the LC-MS

### **Will you or someone in your congregation be receiving care at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota?**

Trinity Lutheran Church of Rochester offers their TLCare ministry to out of town medical guests.

We strive to serve people in many ways such as prayer support, a homemade meal, a visit from one of our caring members, free parking in our lot, a comfortable place to go between appointments, and more. An apartment (no cost) within walking distance of the Mayo Clinic is also available on a first-come, first-served basis for LCMS congregation members.

For further information or to let us know how we can serve you, please contact Jennifer at [jen@trinitylutheranchurch.org](mailto:jen@trinitylutheranchurch.org) (507-292-0439) or Pastor Otte at [pastorotte@trinitylutheranchurch.org](mailto:pastorotte@trinitylutheranchurch.org) (507-289-1531).

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### **Do you serve, or would you like to serve, Spanish-speaking people in your community with the Gospel?**

### **Are you planning a mission trip to Central or South America?**

If so, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) has a free resource that will soon be available to you: the Spanish edition of the Holy Bible, bound with Luther's Small Catechism.

To pre-order copies, visit the LHF website at [www.LHFmissions.org/Spanish Bible Poll](http://www.LHFmissions.org/Spanish_Bible_Poll), where you can also take a poll to help LHF decide how many copies of the Bible/catechism to print, in what version, in hardcover or soft cover. LHF's materials are provided at no charge to those who need them.

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**See what's new at JCPlayZone from Lutheran Hour Ministries** . . . a great website for kids! Check out the "12 Apostles Quiz" and matching games like "Bible Baffle" and "Fill in the Blanks." Also new is "The Power of Prayer", a fun animated video that illustrates how God provides for us and invites us to come to Him in prayer. Enjoy "Lepardy," "Dino Drop," "Bramble Ramble," and the "BeeAttitudes" coloring book. To find out more, visit [www.jcplayzone.com](http://www.jcplayzone.com).

**Concordia College-NY** is proud to announce that their Baccalaureate Program in Nursing has received full accreditation by the Collegiate Commission on Nursing Education (CCNE).

The Program received the longest term of accreditation possible for a new program—5 years. Concordia College-NY is one of the first programs in the nation to achieve this level of accreditation during its first 15 months of operation.

For information, contact Dr. Susan Apold, Dean of Nursing at 914-337-9300, x2256 or e-mail her at [susan.apold@concordia-ny.edu](mailto:susan.apold@concordia-ny.edu).

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### **Apple of His Eye Mission Society**

The call to the church is to make disciples of all nations, including The Lost Sheep of the House of Israel. Most Christians today have Jewish friends and acquaintances through work, school and even inter-marriage. Sadly, the majority are stymied in sharing their faith.

Our role as a mission society is to help your congregation go and grow in their personal witness so that others will come to faith in Jesus as Messiah. Since 1996, we have a positive track record in fulfilling that role as a **Recognized Service Organization** of the LC-MS. We are here to serve YOU! For information on scheduling a speaker at your church and a look at our newsletter, visit us at [steve.cohen@appleofhiseye.org](mailto:steve.cohen@appleofhiseye.org).

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### **Concordia, Ft. Wayne:**

**Summer 2010 Organist Workshops.** Church organists of all abilities will have the opportunity to improve their skills during workshops offered this summer at CTS. The workshops are for organists who are already playing, whether they are experienced veterans or new organists recently drafted into helping in their parish. Workshops being offered this year are:

Beginning Improvisation—June 14–18, 2010

Organist Primer—June 21–25, 2010

Level I—July 12–16, 2010

For complete workshop descriptions, instructor information and to register online please go to [www.ctsfw.edu/organist](http://www.ctsfw.edu/organist). For additional information, please e-mail [OrganWorkshops@ctsfw.edu](mailto:OrganWorkshops@ctsfw.edu) or phone 260-452-2224.

# LWML Human Care

by Nona Schipull, SELC District Human Care Chairman

Each of us is precious in God's sight—including YOU! I usually write about ideas to care for others, but this time I am copying some thoughts from the Indiana District LWML News on caring for yourself. Summer is usually a time of relaxation and renewal. Here is their month by month plan for summer.

**June**—Change one of your regular eating habits to make more healthy choices: cut back on fast food; lessen the amount of caffeine you drink; or periodically give up desserts.

**July**—Focus on relaxation this month. Enjoy a cup of coffee on the deck in the morning. Put your feet up and relax while you read the paper. Plan a simple getaway to refresh and rejuvenate.

**August**—Keep your commitment to develop a healthy lifestyle even in the heat of summer by taking your daily walk early in the morning when the air is cooler.

Most importantly, find JOY in the Lord! ***I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. Psalm 9:2***

## SELC District Report for the 2010 LCMS Convention

"The Changeless Christ . . . for a Changing World!" was the theme of the 2009 SELC District Convention. The need for the Changeless Christ is evident to all who are already believers; and believers know that the changing world desperately needs the security and the hope that only the Changeless Christ can provide. It is the desire of the SELC to be faithful to the Changeless Christ, and to do whatever we can to bring Him to the changing world.

Many resist changing anything, because, for the most part, change is uncomfortable. One of the most difficult things to change is "assumptions". The SELC has not had the word "Slovak" in our name since 1950 – but we are still called the "Slovak" District. Most of our Congregations have as little to do with Slovak, as any other LCMS Congregation has to do with German.

Among the assumption statements of the BRTFSSG PowerPoint presentation to all the LCMS District Conventions (including the SELC) was: "Number 11: Consider Future District Configuration. Current Problem or Deficiency: Districts without "critical mass" or geographical proximity (in the case of non-geographic districts) lack the resources to provide congregations with the most effective and efficient support."

The SELC, for the first 70 years of our existence, was a separately incorporated Synod, and an equal partner with the LCMS in the Synodical Conference (during its existence); and now in 2010, the SELC celebrates 108 years of continuing ministry, serving the needs of our Congregations, while not owning or renting a building or office; having no full-time employees or staff; not paying any full salaries or

benefits; all clergy officers continue to serve as parish Pastors, and all lay officers are volunteers. 2010 also marks the 83rd anniversary of the continuing SELC District Youth Organization known as the Luther League, annually sponsoring both Circuit Gatherings and District Conventions, with all officers being elected by the Youth in Convention. The SELC also oversees a Lutheran independent living retirement community, assisted living and nursing home facility known as the Lutheran Haven in Oviedo FL, established in 1948. How is the "critical mass" of the SELC deficient?

And look at the 2008 statistics from the 2010 Lutheran Annual: The SELC ranked #1 out of all 35 Districts in percentage of growth. It ranked # 8 (note the numbering is printed in reverse order) for "average in per confirmed member" giving to Synod. The SELC, the "smallest" of the LCMS Districts, provided more un-designated dollars to Synod than the Atlantic, New England, New Jersey, Eastern, Southern, Montana, and the Wyoming Districts. Plus, the SELC annually provides separate un-designated support to both Seminaries in the amount of 10% of our committed Synodical pledge. In the recent alumni fund-raiser by Concordia-St.L., the SELC was #1 in percentage of alumni who provided support gifts or pledges.

The SELC District fosters cooperation and mutual respect among our Professional Church Workers and our Congregations. We encourage, and are dedicated to reaching out with the Law and the Gospel to be used by our Lord to reach the lost. The SELC continues to "stand for": **Showing Everyone Life in Christ by Showing Everyone the Love of Christ!**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### **SELC Luther League Convention**

July 9-11, St. Lucas, St. Louis MO

### **LCMS National Convention**

July 9-17, Houston TX

### **LCMS National Youth Gathering**

July 16-18, New Orleans, LA

### **Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees**

August 19-20, Oviedo FL

### **Council of Presidents**

September 10-14, St. Louis MO

### **Installation of Synodical Officers elected at the July LCMS Convention**

September 11, St. Louis MO

### **SELC General Pastoral Conference**

October 11-13, hosted by Zion, Clark NJ

### **SELC Mission Board**

October 13-14, Clark NJ

### **SELC Board of Directors**

October 14-15, Clark NJ

### **Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees**

November 2-3, Oviedo FL

### **Council of Presidents**

November 15-18

### **Lutheran Church Extension Fund Annual Meeting**

November 19-21

***NOTE: Our SUMMER Beacon schedule continues.***

***August & September will be combined.***

***This is your newsletter . . . Articles & Photos are welcome! Send submissions to:***

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

Cell Phone: 954-401-8452

Submit as separate attachments in the program you write in [e.g. Word Perfect, Word, etc.]

Photos must be submitted as separate attachments [preferably .jpg format – not integrated into your article.]

DEADLINE — ISSUE

**July 12<sup>th</sup> — August/September**

**September 12<sup>th</sup> — October**

**October 12<sup>th</sup> — November**

**November 12<sup>th</sup> — December**