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The Lutheran Beacon

Let your light shine ...



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**In all
ways
acknowledge
the Lord
and He
will direct
thy path.**

Proverbs 3: 6

Mother's Coffee Cake Helps Lutheran Pastors

The LCMS Foundation thanks Alfred Renzelman for his inspiring story

My mother was a good German cook. She loved the Lord and she loved to bake coffee cake. Little did she know that her coffee cake, many years later, would be the source for a LCMS Foundation Trust at Calvary Lutheran Church, Wray, CO. Her trust provides approximately \$1,000 each year to a student studying to become a Lutheran Pastor.

Mother and Dad lived on a farm that was located halfway between the small town of Vernon, CO, and the County Seat at Wray. It was about 8 miles to each town from the Renzelman farmstead. In those early days the town of Vernon had the only Lutheran Church and parsonage in the area.

Ministers riding by horseback or with a team and wagon or buggy often would stop at my parent's halfway place to give their horses a few moments rest. Mother's gratuitous coffee cake, along with a good cup of coffee, was always available. The Lutheran pastors loved this, and Mother loved to serve them.

As my brother Del and I grew up on the farm, Mother was always supportive of our Lutheran Ministers. Never did she have a negative word about them. She prayed for them and continued to bake her coffee cake for them even after a sister congregation was started at Wray in the 1930's that our family joined.

In the late 1980's Mother and Dad both went home to glory. In their modest estate settlement my brother and I remembered the kindness our parents showed toward our Lutheran Pastors. We felt it would be fitting in our parent's memory to leave a Mathilda and Frederick Renzelman Trust Fund wherein the interest would help pay for some of the tuition needs for men from Calvary Lutheran studying to become Lutheran Pastors. If no one at Calvary takes the funds, they are to go to the Northeast Colorado Zone or on to our LCMS Rocky Mountain District Scholarship fund to help someone studying to become a pastor. Presently the Trust is paying about \$1,000 a year. The goal is to build the Trust fund to at least \$100,000. With the Lord's help it can be done!

Mother and dad would be pleased with this memorial and I can hear Dad saying with a smile on his face, "Thanks for the memorial, and by the way, those preachers sure ate a lot of your mother's good coffee cake, but it was some of the best of times."

For more information about setting up a Trust or Scholarship Fund with the Foundation to benefit a Lutheran ministry in your area, call Robin Paris, our SELC District Gift Planning Counselor at 407-365-5676, or email her at rparis@lutheranhaven.org.



Fritz & Mathilda with sons Delwyn & Alfred

District Finances & the Economy

Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

ECONOMIC OBSERVATIONS

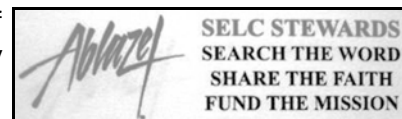


A panel of business leaders meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, on January 12, 2010, indicated, "The darkest days of the recession are over and 2011 should bring improvement." Senior economist of PNC Bank, Robert Dye, stated, "We're seeing increasing signs of recovery and repair of the economy." Other financial observations, however, indicated that small business owners still need help and that the labor force is always among the last segments of the economy to recover. A Federal Reserve survey released January 12, 2011, indicated all parts of the country are showing improvements. Factories produced more, shoppers spent more and companies hired more. Energy production and freight transport volume were stable. Some negatives from the survey indicated that millions of foreclosures are depressing housing markets and that workers lack

bargaining power to win bigger paychecks because of high unemployment at 9.4%. The stock market has been steadily climbing with the Dow Jones Industrials reporting 11,837.93 on January 19, 2011. Financial improvements are also seen in SELC District congregational budget goal commitments for 2011. A net increase of \$5,268 from 27 congregations was reported as of January 16.

Personal Christian Giving

Whatever the economic climate - good or bad - the three Biblical principles of giving still apply . . . **Proportionate** (percentage of income) - **Regular** (every Sunday) - **First-fruit** (giving to God first).



If a Christian happens to be earning less, God still expects a percentage of the reduced income. If personal income should increase, God certainly would be pleased if a Christian's giving increased proportionately. Love for God in thanksgiving for His unconditional love in Christ Jesus is, of course, the motive for generous, cheerful giving.

2011 Goal Performance

A +1% goal increase was suggested for 2011. As of Jan. 15, 2011, 27 out of 52 congregations reported goals. 10 accepted goals above the suggested +1%; 9 increased +1%; 7 remained the same as last year; one decreased. A net increase of \$5,268 was indicated. It is hoped that those still to report will be as generous. Because of the economic climate, only \$547,124 was suggested for 2011 (\$26,364 less than suggested goals for 2010). A rationale of 97.5% rate of performance for goals and remittances suggests projected congregational receipts for 2011 an estimated \$520,000.

2011 Total Anticipated Receipts

Congregational Remittances	\$520,000
Non-budget Receipts	22,200
Investment Income	<u>20,000</u>
Total Projected Receipts	\$562,200

2011 District Budget

Synodical Missions/Ministries	\$206,000
Seminary Support	22,000
Lutheran Haven	63,000
District Missions	108,000
SELC Ablaze Projects	55,200
District Programs	61,200
Ministry of Service	212,200
Misc. Expenses	<u>6,000</u>
Total District Budget	\$733,600
Projected Receipts	<u>562,200</u>
Anticipated Planned Deficit	\$171,400

SELC District Assets

The projected deficit will be met from district assets of **\$856,881.34** (Dec. 31, 2010).

LCMS Synodical Budget

2010-11	\$87,601,646	Projection	\$88,927,979
2009-10	\$81,185,878	Budget	<u>87,601,646</u>
Increase \$	6,415,768	Surplus	\$ 1,326,333



Myra Ricker, Bill Pettis, Jan Pettis, Kay Stanley, Thena Pettey, Jon Pettey

Faith Viera Welcomes Stephen Ministers



Front: Kay Stanley, Darlene Medlin, Myra Ricker, Dick Ricker, Suzanne Nummally
Back: Thena Pettey, Jon Pettey, Jim Stanley, Cheryl Bornemann, Hank Bornemann



Sylvia Henning & Frank Kitchell

Faith Viera in Rockledge, FL had the privilege of welcoming fifteen new and existing Stephen Ministers, commissioned on January 16, 2011 during worship services.

Stephen Ministry is a church-wide program to train lay people to take an active part of ministry and service to others within the congregation and community. Those who need others to come along side of them in times of crisis, in times of transition, and for visitation with homebound and sick.

According to Pastor Meyr, the Stephen Ministry will help expand our level of care and Christian concern for others. While not taking anything away from the pastoral ministry, it will serve to enhance and strengthen the body of Christ for service and acts of love to each other.



Eileen Murre, Bob Murre,
Carol Fairchild, Pastor Meyr

DC March for Life Includes Emporia Lutherans

by Abigail Phillips



Rachel with Deaconess Grace Rao

What would cause 300 Lutherans from all parts of the United States to gather at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. on a cold Monday in January? The answer: The Right to Life March on Washington, D.C.

Joy Plvan Phillips along with her two daughters Abigail (14) and Rachel Elaine (11) were recent participants in this spectacular event. Their leader was Dennis DiMauro, current head of Lutherans for Life, a group of Christians dedicated to ending the abominable practice of abortion. Attending a service of prayer and praise at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Alexandria, VA these Pro-Life Lutherans listened to a powerful sermon preached by guest pastor The Rev. Dr. James Lamb, Executive Director for Lutherans for Life.



Abigail & Rachel

Pastor Lamb delivered the sermon, *Hands that Knit, Arms that Hold*, based on Psalm 139: 13-14 and Mark 10:13-16. He reminded us that we had not gathered together because the children are so precious.. Rather we had gathered because the children are precious to God. Referring to an old piece of tatting from his great grandmother, Pastor Lamb explained that the value of his heirloom came from the hands that made the item. In the same way, each of us is valuable because of the hands that knit us in our mother's womb. "All human life has value because it is created by the hands of God," Lamb said. "All human life has value because of the outstretched arms of Jesus on the Cross." Pastor Lamb chided us to remember that we share in the blame of the deaths of children and elderly when the slaughter of human life goes on and we are quiet. The only thing that will change the course of events and the heart of man is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We have that Good News. We know the peace that passes all understanding. We are the voice of Christ in a world that devalues life. Pastor Lamb encouraged us to be Gospel motivators not screamers. Christ came for the helpless and the hopeless, including those who feel the pain of abortion. We have that message to share!

The service included Holy Communion from the church's pastor Rev. Christopher Esget. At noon the banner reading "Lutherans for Life" was waving over the heads of the 10,000+ people at the National Mall who had turned out to express their passionate support of life. After several short speeches made by Pro-Life Congress members the men, women, and children who stood for the rights of the unborn were on the march. Our representative Lutherans ended the God-pleasing event before the Senate building as Pastor Esget closed with a prayer followed by the group speaking the Lord's Prayer together.

This is the call that brought thousands of people together in one very special place, for one very special reason . . . Life!



Abigail, Rachel & Joy Phillips

2011 Planning Ideas

From Around the LC-MS Synod

Ablaze! in Slovakia

GEO missionary Ryan Volkman, who serves the Lord in Slovakia, shares about a recent opportunity to share his faith with teenagers at a camp.

"Fellow GEO missionaries A.J. Davis, Elliot Derricks and I were invited to a winter camp hosted by the youth group from the Zilina congregation. The theme of the camp was *The Way Back Home*. Using this theme, we explored during our devotional time that heaven is our real home, and because we have been kicked out of paradise due to our sins, Jesus Christ has given us a way back. One of our small group discussions focused on Baptism and how this Sacrament welcomes us back into the family of God. We opened up this theme many different ways: during evening devotional time, morning small group time, seminars, films, music and discussion and fellowship among the youth.

"I am so amazed by the depth of understanding some of these youth have at such a young age. To have a young teenage girl step up and lead a devotion with a group that is mostly older than her and to speak so clearly about faith in Christ brings me such hope! Already they are growing into such strong leaders in the Church and in their community. It is my hope to always be there to encourage them in their lives and ministries. I walked away from this camp feeling very refreshed and ready to continue serving God's people in Slovakia for my remaining time here."

Ablaze! In Arkansas

LCMS World Mission celebrates with Messiah Lutheran Church in Pea Ridge, Ark., upon the dedication of their new church building on Dec. 11, 2010. More than 150 people in the community attended this special celebration! Through the Fan into Flame campaign in the Mid-South District, new church plants are receiving financial assistance to expand their outreach to the community.

Did you know?

Did you know that January/February is a great time to start planning a short-term mission trip for this summer?

LCMS World Mission has many opportunities. Visit www.lcmsworldmission.org/searchopps to find a complete list!

Grace Place Lutheran Wellness Ministries Announces 2011 Retreat Schedule

Grace Place Lutheran Wellness Ministries is announcing the 2011 retreat schedule and encouraging you to consider one of these Wellness Retreats this year.

Check these special dates and locations:

1. **Grace Place for Single Lutheran Church Workers: Garden of the God's, Colorado Springs, CO June 6-10, 2011.** Leaders: John Eckrich, M.D., Grace Place CEO; Dr. Mary Jacob, R.N., Lutheran Counseling Centers of Florida; E. Gomez, LCMS Finances.

2. **Grace Place in the Rockies for Couples: The Stonebridge Inn, Snowmass at Aspen, CO June 27-July 1, 2011.** Leaders: John Eckrich, M.D., Grace Place CEO; Rev. Dr. Dave and Kathy Ludwig, psychologist, pastor, humorist; E. Gomez, LCMS Finances

3. **Grace Place at Heartwood for Pastors and Teacher: Trego, Wisconsin, July 11-15, 2011.** Leaders: Drs. Eckrich and Ludwig and financial educational director from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

4. **Grace Place at Mackinac Island: Michigan District sponsors and invites all LCMS pastors and teachers. Mission Point Resort, Mackinac Island, MI. August 1-5, 2011.** Leaders: Dr. Eckrich, Rev. Drs. Dave Ludwig and Bryan Salminen; Financial Ed-E. Gomez CPS, LCMS.

All Retreats will begin at 2:30 p.m. on Monday and end promptly by 12 noon on Friday. Cost is \$395 per couple, and \$395 per person for the special single's retreat in the Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs.

Retreats are focused on preventative health . . . keeping healthy church workers healthy . . . and will cover topics emphasizing physical, emotional, relational, spiritual, fiscal and church community health and wellness. Days include much time devoted to devotion and worship and also allowing daily afternoon free time for renewal and refreshment.

Please check the Grace Place website for additional retreat offerings for specific LCMS Districts: www.graceplaceretreats.org or call Annette Woehlke at 314-842-3077.

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Gathering of the Armies (Lohengrin)
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For more information, visit stlukes-oviedo.org (click on Concert Series logo)

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