



The Lutheran Beacon

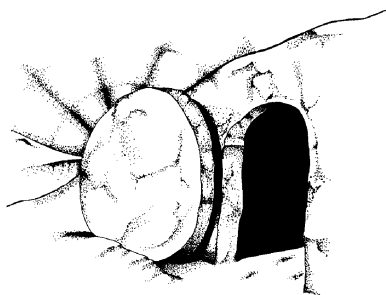
Let your light shine . . .



WWW.SELC.LCMS.ORG

Published by the SELC District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

APRIL 2013



**HE
IS
RISEN,
HE IS
RISEN
INDEED!**

"Who Would Roll the Stone Away?"

Lyrics by Rev. Gary Scharrer to the tune of Cas Radosti
Special thanks to Rev. Jacob Gaugert for his help in editing

With this hymn, the Slovak tune of Cas Radosti (Let Our Gladness Banish Sadness, LSB371) extends beyond Christmas into the Easter season, especially Ascension. All SELC congregations are free to print or project these lyrics. If you have a ccli license, please report its use. Questions? E-mail: belikesalt@yahoo.com.

Early morning, fear was soaring; hearts were beating faster.
Women hurried to the buried body of their Master.
Hope was dead, they believed; Easter news not received.
Who would roll the stone away for these bereaved?
Who would roll the stone away for these bereaved?

Sudden quaking, soldiers shaking-angel pow'r to meet them.
Women braving danger, craving words of life to greet them:
"He's not here! As He said, Christ is ris'n from the dead.
Go and tell the others He has gone ahead.
Go and tell the others He has gone ahead."

High, ascending, skies were rending; Christ was seen departing.
Witness going, Gospel showing, testimonies starting...
Christ has gone up from here; still, we need have no fear:
Jesus sends His Counselor to draw us near.
Jesus sends His Counselor to draw us near.

A Blessed Easter Season to you all!

SELC ADOPTS BALANCED BUDGET POLICY

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC District Stewardship Director

2012 PROJECTED BUDGET DEFICIT - \$150,211
2013 PROJECTED BUDGET SURPLUS - \$2,371
2013 BUDGET REDUCTION - \$118,450 (-16.8%)

For over 20 years, a substantial financial reserve made "deficit spending" possible allowing district budgets to exceed projected receipts. Deficit spending has come to an end. The financial reserve has been depleted to approximately one year's projected expenses which financial integrity suggests as a necessary reserve. The SELC Board of Directors therefore put a halt to deficit spending when establishing the 2013 District budget. The policy of a balanced budget was adopted. This necessitated drastic cuts resulting in a budget reduction of \$118,450 compared to last year. A balanced budget was adopted for the year 2013 with a projected surplus of \$2,371. We are grateful to the Lord for enabling deficit spending in the past by providing us with a substantial reserve which enabled forward movement in missions and ministries. The past momentum can be regenerated if congregations increase their giving for district missions and ministries.

2012 BUDGET		2013 BUDGET	2013 PROJECTED RECEIPTS	
SELC District Missions	\$148,500	\$125,350	Congregational Remittances	\$518,521
LCMS Synodical Missions	209,000	130,000	Lutheran Church Ext. Fund	33,000
Two Seminaries	20,000	13,000	Interest	5,000
Lutheran Haven	63,000	48,000	Adjustment: Synod Convention	26,000
SELC Mission Board	9,000	8,800	Adjustment: Lutheran Witness	8,000
District Programs	44,900	77,500	Total Income	\$590,521
SELC Service Ministries	212,200	185,500	Total Expenses	\$588,150
Total 2012 Budget	\$706,600	\$588,150	2013 Projected Surplus	\$ 2,371
Total 2013 Budget	588,150			
2013 Budget Reduction	\$118,450			

2013 SELC GOAL PERFORMANCE

An increase of +2% was suggested to congregations

11 increased above +2%	27 congregations increased \$16,756	Communicants: 2011 - 12,697
16 increased +2%	4 decreased 8,199	2012 - 12,663
8 remained the same	Net Increase \$ 8,557	Decrease 34
4 decreased		
39 reported goals		
12 did not report	2013 Projected Congregational Goal Receipts - \$518,521	
51 congregations	(Suggested Goals of \$545,453 x .975% Performance = \$518,521)	

Increased congregational financial resources enables increased district financial support.

WAYS TO INCREASE CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES

- 1. Vigorously engage in personal evangelism.** Increased membership enables increased funds.
Resource: www.selc.lcms.org - Congregational Helps: *Evangelistic Stewards*
- 2. Undergo a stewardship program.** Annual member contributions can increase 10% to 25%.
Resources: www.selc.lcms.org - Congregational Helps: *Plus 1% & Consecrated Stewards*

Local Students Spend Day With Award-Winning Authors

submitted by Sherry Abell, St. Luke's School

St. Luke's Lutheran School hosted two award-winning authors for the fifth annual literary festival last week with interactive presentations to students from preschool through eighth grade.

Two authors presented: Leslie Helakoski, Michigan-based author and illustrator of 8 books including the Florida Honor Book award nominated "Woolbur" and Wendelin Van Draanen, author of more than 30 books, including "Flipped," now a major motion picture directed by Rob Reiner.

The authors showed students the process of how an idea becomes a story complete with illustrations and then crafted into the finished product. "Without ever leaving our school media center, the faculty and students of St. Luke's are truly blessed to meet and interact with renowned illustrators and authors in an up close and personal way," said Susan Hanas, Superintendent of St. Luke's Lutheran School. "What an opportunity to make a memory and inspire the next generation of writers and illustrators!"

This year, the festival also welcomed students from two nearby schools. The S.P.L.A.S.H. Literacy Festival Committee (St. Luke's Promotes Literacy At School and Home) comprised of St. Luke's School parents, begins organizing and selecting the authors for the festival months in advance to ensure the best experience for the students.

Providing for Our Children's Future

submitted by Robin Paris, Gift Planning Counselor



Daniel and Maggie worked for many years building up their nest egg for retirement. While they felt their savings and investments would cover their own needs, they wanted to make sure that their three children were provided for in the future. One afternoon, a gift planner from our charity met with them to thank them for their faithful gifts each year. The conversation turned to the couple's long-term planning goals.

Maggie: "We wanted to continue making annual gifts to charity. Yet at the same time, I was concerned about sacrificing our children's inheritance."

Daniel: "Our stock portfolio had appreciated significantly over the years. I wanted to pass these gains on to my family without paying a lot in gift or estate tax."

The gift planner told them about a way in which they could achieve their personal and charitable goals through a charitable lead trust. The trust would pay income to charity for a number of years. Then the full trust value, plus any growth, would go to their children. The plan would allow them to pass on substantial wealth to their family at little cost or no gift tax at all. It would also reduce the size of their estate in addition to helping charity further its work.

Maggie: I could see how this plan would be very helpful if the trust was funded with our stock. Each of our children would receive one third of the trust assets in the future. At the same time, we would continue to make gifts to charity each year.

Daniel: I also thought the plan was a good one. It would give our children time to learn how to save and invest their future inheritance. So we setup a charitable lead trust plan that would begin paying charity income each year. The prospect of helping our children succeed in the future while providing for our favorite charitable cause made us pleased with our decision.

For more information on planning for your future, contact Robin Paris, Gift Planning Counselor, LCMS Foundation & the SELC District: rparis@lutheranhaven.org or call her at 407-687-7196.

GOD HAS THE FINAL WORD IN THE RESURRECTION OF HIS SON!

by Pastor Ken Ballas, em.

As a follow-up to earlier discussions regarding who was ultimately responsible for the death of God's Christ [GOD HIMSELF], even Gospel-centered forgiven sinners, are at times inclined to elevate our obvious need for a Brother-Savior or Redeemer from sin and guilt above God's own overwhelming desire to set us free from bondage and the inevitable alternative of everlasting death and condemnation (1 Timothy 2:3-6).

Amazingly (and yet not surprisingly!), Scriptural teaching of the love of God for sin-sick humanity always "trumps our sin problem" no matter how blatantly rebellious human disobedience manifests itself as on Good Friday God decisively "hit a home run" in our behalf as in one fell swoop He found the only Way to redeem our fallen world and at the same time destroy the works of the devil (1 John 3:8b).

Though the sobering sacrifice of Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross should remind us baptized believers daily that the Father loved us even more than His only Son, the events surrounding Easter assure us that God also loved His Son by raising Him from the dead!

Faithful Gospel proclamation of the resurrection of Jesus not from a chair or from a bed but **from the dead** [Greek "deads"] as well as regular participation in the Supper of our once-for-all-time crucified and now ever-living Lord and Savior are designed to further assure forgiven believers this side of heaven that is we who end up being the "ultimate winners" as recipients of the completely unmerited grace of our perfectly just and loving God – a blessed thought neatly summarized already in the Old Testament by the familiar worshipful response to the promised enduring goodness of our God by the psalmists who wrote,

"O GIVE THANKS UNTO THE **LORD**, FOR **HE** IS GOOD
BECAUSE HIS **MERCY** ENDURES **FOREVER!**"

(Psalm 106:1&107:1; Psalm 136)

. . . another meyr-ism

LIFE IS A BEACH

It isn't hard to spot the tourists from Michigan who have never been to the beach. . . . they are the ones who come with their Wal-Mart plastic bag and instantly begin picking up everything which looks like a shell and dropping it into their plastic remembrance container. Of course, it fills up quickly. And then they need to throw some of the broken pieces out in order to put in decent shells. Then they start sorting and collecting only those which are perfect. Then it is only a special kind of shell.

"What is your life?" James says, "It is a mist . . ." What are you filling your bag with? And are you forgetting to enjoy the ocean breeze? Did you fail to see the sunrise because you were busy filling up your disposable bag?

"Poiema"

(Workmanship)

by Tim Hasko

Psalm 139:13-14 "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

Under the theme "Poiema", 55 Luther Leaguers from Racine WI, Whiting IN, St. Louis MO, Norridge IL, Cudahy WI, and Concordia University WI got together for some frigid fun Feb. 16th & 17th for their annual ski trip. "Poiema" is a Greek word which means "workmanship", and it is also where our modern word "poetry" comes from.

After a day of skiing, snowboarding, and tubing at Wilmot Mountain, the youth headed back to Pentecost Lutheran Church in Racine for dinner, worship & Bible study, and a lock-in.

As always, the Western Circuit youth were especially "generous" in Kangaroo Court, including a certain pastor from St. Louis who was fined for whining about how late Kangaroo Court was, and a certain youth from Racine who used bad pick-up lines (case in point: "Do you work for NASA?").

Sunday morning worship was closed with a rousing round of "God be with You till We Meet Again" and then the CUW Youth Ministry Team sent us on our way with a closing devotion.

We thank God for another wonderful time of fun and fellowship, and for the leadership of our circuit pastors and vicars and our CUW YMIN team!



YOUR SELC LWML NEWS AND NOTES

submitted by Laura Bergmann, SELC LWML District President

1. Congratulations to Deaconess Dehlia DeLeon and Kelly Jansky, who have been chosen to be the two SELC District LWML Young Woman Representatives to the 2013 LWML National Convention in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. As Young Woman Representatives, they will have the honor of marching in with the District President and the District banner when the Convention is in session on Friday morning. They will also carry flags on Saturday morning when the LWML mission outreach to the world is feted. They will help out with Servant Activities on Thursday morning, and with the neighborhood block party on Friday evening. These young women will sit with the delegates and observe as votes are taken for national offices and mission grants. They are being treated to a variety of luncheons and dinners where they will have the chance to meet and talk with major speakers at the Convention. There will be a special pinning ceremony for the YWRs during the SELC Caucus. It is hoped that they will grow in their relationship with God, and in their knowledge of LWML. Please pray for them. Congratulations again, Dehlia and Kelly.
2. Congratulations also go to Celeste Crawford of Dr. Martin Luther-Chicago. She has been chosen as the first ever SELC District LWML Heart to Heart Sister. An LWML Heart to Heart Sister must have a heart that wants to include women of all ethnicities in LWML. Celeste will be going to Convention a day early to receive Heart to Heart Sister training. Then she will attend the entire Pittsburgh Convention, and participate in special Heart to Heart activities at the Convention as well as regular Convention activities. She will be at the Heart to Heart Sisters luncheon, and walk in the Heart to Heart Sisters procession, God willing. Please pray for her as she grows spiritually and in the LWML community. Congratulations again, Celeste.
3. EVERYONE ATTENDING THE PITTSBURGH CONVENTION NEEDS TO FILL OUT A MEDICAL RELEASE FORM AND SEND IT IN TO THE REGISTRATION ADDRESS.
4. SELC PARTICIPANTS WHO ARE SERVING AS WORKER VOLUNTEERS SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT THEY PURCHASE THE WORKER T SHIRT FOR \$2.00. The deadline for purchase is May 1, 2013. Convention workers have a dress code. They are not allowed to wear jeans, shorts or denim in any color. The dress for each day is as follows:
 - a. Thursday: Yellow shirt, black pants, collar-scarf with brick red fabric closest to neckline.
 - b. Friday: Yellow shirt, black pants, collar-scarf with teal fabric closest to neckline.
 - c. Saturday: Yellow shirt, black pants, collar- scarf with brick red fabric closest to neckline.
 - d. Sunday: Yellow shirt, black pants, collar- scarf with teal fabric closest to neckline.

When you arrive for your work assignment on Thursday through Sunday, go to Worker Room #323 on the third level of the David L. Lawrence Convention Center to check in. Please arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the start of your shift.

5. PHOTOS—The SELC District photo will be taken on the same day as the SELC District Caucus. It is important for all SELC Convention attendees to be at these two events. Please see the first issue of the Convention newspaper for times and locations. There will also be a Host Committee photo, and recognition of all workers on Sunday morning, June 30, 2013. The time and place will be announced. Please be present for these activities also.
6. REGISTERED WORKERS AND ATTENDEES—The SELC District has added 4 additional volunteer workers to its group. They are Mickey Krnach, Martha McGlynn, Alison Bergmann and Rev. John Telloni. The new total of volunteer workers is 32. 4 additional women are on the Host Committee along with 2 Young Women Representatives, 1 Heart to Heart Sister and 3 delegates, for a total to date of 42. Our goal is at least 50.

WE STILL NEED MORE VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WORK AT THE CONVENTION.

HAPPENING AROUND THE SELC DISTRICT

Redeemer Celebrates New Pastor

On March 3rd, 2013, Pastor Philip Matarazzo was installed as the pastor of Redeemer LC in



Rev. John Perling; Rev. Waldemar Vinovskis;
Rev. Carl Krueger; Pattie Matarazzo; Rev. Philip Matarazzo; Rev. Matthew
Gonzalez; Rev. Andrew Dzurovcik

Manchester NJ.

After a twenty month vacancy, the Lord in His wisdom, installed Pastor Phil. The church was packed with wonderful members who helped keep the church going during the vacancy. A wonderful reception took place afterwards. Pastor Phil is working hard on visitations and outreach to the community. Everyone is encouraged and looking forward to revival in the ministry at Redeemer. May the Lord richly bless Pastor Phil and Patty and all the people of Redeemer. God bless the LCMS and the SELC District.

Lost . . .

Lutheran Haven Needs Your Help!

by Donna Dwyer, Foundation Coordinator

Wanted! Lutheran Haven Christmas Seals from the years 1960 and 1976.

If anyone happens to have stamps (even a single stamp) from either of those years, they would love to have them. Mail or scan them to: Donna Dwyer, Foundation Coordinator; Lutheran Haven Inc. 2041 W. State Road 426; Oviedo, FL 32765; 407-365-5676; or email her at ddwyer@lutheranhaven.org.

SELC CALENDAR

[subject to change]

April

16 Placement Committee, St. Louis MO
25, 26 Placement Committee, Fort Wayne IN
27-30 Council of Presidents, Fort Wayne IN
29 Vicarage Assignment Service, Fort Wayne IN
30 Call Service, Fort Wayne IN

May

1 Call Service, St. Louis MO
6-8 Central Circuit Pastoral Conference, Calvary, Parma OH
8-10 SELC Board of Directors, Calvary, Parma OH
13-15 Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees, Oviedo FL
17-20 LCMS Convention Committees, St. Louis MO

June

27-30 International LWML Convention, Pittsburgh OH

July

1-5 LCMS Youth Gathering, San Antonio TX
18, 19 LCMS Convention Committees, St. Louis MO
19-25 LCMS Convention, St. Louis MO

August

21-23 Lutheran Haven Board of Trustees, Oviedo FL

This is your newsletter . . . Articles & Photos are welcome!

The Lutheran Beacon - Gail Peterson

email: gailpete37@yahoo.com

Please *submit articles* as *separate attachments* in the program you use. [e.g. Word Perfect, Word, etc.], NOT part of your e-mail.

Photos must be submitted as *separate attachments* [NOT as part of your article-.JPEG format preferred.] You *may* send multiple photos in one email.

**DEADLINE FOR THE MAY ISSUE
IS APRIL 12TH**

For those who plan ahead ... summer is coming.

June & July will publish as one issue and

August & September will publish as one issue.

Your May issue will show the summer deadlines.

ST. LUKE'S CONCERT SERIES 2012-13

Free Admission!

Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra

**Saturday
April 20
7pm**



Maestro
Christopher
Wilkins

The spotlight shines on Philharmonic musicians in a kaleidoscopic mix of solo repertoire. Concertos include a Bach masterpiece, a favorite double concerto of Stamitz, and the samba-infused sounds of a dazzling new trombone concerto.



Jeff Thomas



Alexander
Stevens



Jamie
Strefeler



Rimma
Bergeron
Langlois



Mauricio
Cespedes

The Philharmonic Virtuosos!

Photos of OPO musicians, courtesy of Venture Photography in Winter Park, FL



ORLANDO PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
Christopher Wilkins, Music Director



A gift to the community from ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 2021 W. SR 426 Oviedo, FL 32765

St. Luke's Concert Series 2012-13 is made possible by the generous donations of individuals and corporate sponsors, as well as support provided by Seminole Cultural Arts Council, Inc.

Visit: stlukes-oviedo.org/concert-series to be added to our Ebase and receive program updates during the 2012-13 season.

