



The Lutheran Beacon

Let your light shine . . .



WWW.SELC.LCMS.ORG

Published by the SELC District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2013

SELC 2013 General Pastoral Conference

9am, Tuesday, October 8 -- 11:30am, Thursday, October 10

Hosted at:

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

6220 Broadview Road

Parma OH 44134

Rooms reserved at:

Sheraton Cleveland Airport Hotel

5300 Riverside Drive

Cleveland OH 44135

216-267-1500

(Call to reserve your room with the SELC District block of rooms.

Reservations must be made by September 16, 2013)

Cost: \$89/night plus required taxes & fees = \$100.57/night (single or double occupancy)

Scheduled:

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
preaching at our Worship Service, Wednesday evening, October 9
plus a time of sharing, along with questions and answers on Thursday, October 10.

Rev. Dr. Robert Bennett, Sr. Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Reese MI

Author: "I Am Not Afraid: Demon Possession and Spiritual Warfare" (CPH)

Adjunct Professor, Missions, Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne

Cuyahoga County Department of Emergency Management

Presentations made on Disaster Preparedness (personal / Church); plus Shelter Operations
Community Emergency Response Teams

Lutheran Emergency Response Team training

Conference Costs:

In an attempt to "equalize" costs:

If staying at the hotel/or Retired Pastor/or Pastor without Call: \$100 per Professional Church Worker

If not staying at the hotel: \$200 per Professional Church Worker

District will reimburse cost of airline ticket, or \$.25/mile for those who drive.

SELC Board of Directors will meet Monday, October 7, 2013 at the Sheraton Hotel

GPC sessions will be held at Holy Trinity, Parma OH on Tuesday, October 8 and Wednesday, October 9

GPC session with Dr. Harrison on Thursday, October 10, will be held at the Sheraton Hotel

WORK . . . THE SPICE OF LIFE

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

Jamestown Colony

On April 26, 1607, three small ships arrived in Virginia and established Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America. Due to swampy conditions and widespread disease, more than 60 of the 104 original settlers died. Workers were desperately needed. Some of the colonists were English gentlemen who refused to work. Others were just plain lazy. Captain John Smith enforced the Biblical principle: "He that will not work shall not eat!" (2 Thess. 3:10) "After that, the situation improved and the settlers worked with more industry, albeit with some punishments as needed."



The Work Ethic

St. Paul encouraged the Thessalonian Christians: "Make it your ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind your own business and to work with your hands, just as we told you, so that your daily life may win the respect of outsiders and so that you will not be dependent on anybody." (1 Thess. 4:11-12) He urged the idle to earn the bread they eat. (2 Thess. 3:12) In a 1905 speech, Eugene V. Debs said: "Workers are the saviors of society, the redeemers of the race." Historians have ascribed the fall of the Roman Empire to the loss of work ethics among the wealthy as well as the populace. A quick route to poverty is lethargy. Proverbs 6:6-11 chastises those lazy and non-productive with this advice: "Go to the ant, you sluggard, consider its ways and be wise!"

Idleness Is Dangerous

Benjamin Franklin wrote: "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." Idle people can easily jeopardize their stability by tumbling into poverty and resultant temptations to sin. Proverbs 30:7-9 includes the prayer: "Give me neither poverty nor riches". Riches can make one proud and self-sufficient to the exclusion of God. Poverty presents temptations to steal. St. Paul admonishes thieves: "He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need." (Eph. 4:28) Many, unable to work and earn a living, end up poor and needy. Those able to work should provide for them.

Work - the Spice of Life

Work can be pleasurable if you accept the task at hand with the determination to do your best. Whatever is worth doing is worth doing right. However, mistakes and failures are bound to occur. When they do, pick up the pieces and psyche yourself to overcome the obstacles. Mental and physical "workouts" can be enjoyable or distasteful depending on one's state of mind. If you like what you're doing and are good at it, work becomes play and the satisfaction of accomplishment will spice up your life with happiness. I remember my father dancing on cabbage with bare feet in a huge barrel while my mother happily sliced away the cabbage heads. They were enjoying themselves. When the sauerkraut was finally done, how satisfying it was to spice up some Slovak "halushky s klobasou" (dumplings with kolbasa) with crispy kraut!

Working for the Lord

Years ago, one of my parishioners was given a fabulous retirement party and gold watch from his employers. For years he cleaned offices for a steel company. I remember him once telling me, "Pastor, when I go to work, I go to work for Jesus. I clean offices for Him." Jesus honored him.

The satisfaction of doing a good job for Jesus will spice up your life with the joy of accomplishment.

Advice for Workers & Employers

Ephesians 6:5-9

> **Workers:** "... obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ ... serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men ..."

> **Employers:** "... masters, treat your slaves in the same way ... do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him."

RELATED RESOURCES

www.selc.lcms.org

Stewardship - Personal Stewardship

Time-Treasure-Talent

Stewards of the Needy

Stewards of the Hungry

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

65th Regular Convention

July 20 - July 19, St. Louis MO

Theme: "Baptized for This Moment!"

Elections

For the first time in LCMS history, the Synodical President was elected by direct "popular" vote. Every LCMS Congregation was authorized to nominate candidates for the Office of Synodical President, and then, each Congregation was authorized one Pastoral vote, and one Layperson vote - if these both attended the District Convention in 2012. The three individuals who received the most nominations were:

Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, incumbent
Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller, LCMS 1st Vice-president
Rev. Dr. David Maier, President, Michigan District LCMS

The election took place by secure electronic ballot on June 22. The results were announced on July 6:
Of the votes cast: Dr. Harrison received 66%, Dr. Maier 30%, Dr. Mueller 4%.

Also, for the first time in LCMS history, Synodical Vice-presidents and LCMS Board of Directors were to be selected on the basis of 5 Geographical Regions: 1) Central Region, 2) East-Southeast Region, 3) Great Lakes Region, 4) Great Plains Region, and 5) West-Southwest Region.

This year there were elected 6 Synodical Vice-presidents:

1st VP: Rev. Dr. Herbert Mueller (a full-time position in St. Louis)
2nd VP: Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe (Great Lakes Region)
3rd VP: Rev. Daniel Preus (Central Region)
4th VP: Rev. Dr. Scott Murray (West-Southwest Region)
5th VP: Rev. Nabil Nour (Great Plains Region)
6th VP: Rev. Dr. Robert Kuhn (East-Southeast Region)

Theology and Church Relations

Several Lutheran organizations around the globe have approached the LCMS to request assistance with training pastors and to have Altar and Pulpit Fellowship. The general trend today is to provide assistance in training men to become Pastors within their own ethnic backgrounds and cultures, rather sending Anglo missionaries who first need to learn the culture before they can relate to it. The LCMS has become partners with other national Lutheran Churches around the world. Among the Lutheran groups that were endorsed during the convention proceedings included:

- † Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia - Altar and Pulpit Fellowship
- † Siberian Evangelical Lutheran Church - Altar and Pulpit Fellowship
- † Lutheran Church of Togo - Recognized as an independent partner church
- † Ethiopian Evangelical Church - Engaged in ecumenical discussions
- † Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Encouraged further discussions
- † Evangelical Lutheran Synod - Encouraged further discussions



The Synod's new slate of regional vice-presidents is introduced
LtoR: LCMS President Matthew C. Harrison; First Vice-President Herbert Mueller; Second Vice-President John Wohlrabe; Third Vice-President Daniel Preus; Fourth Vice-President Scott Murray; Fifth Vice President Nabil Nour; and Sixth Vice-President Robert Kuhn



The convention recognized visiting international Lutheran church leaders: Rev. Dr. Robert Bugbee; Rev. Gennadij Khonin; Rev. Amos Boaly; Rev. Samuel S.Y. Navoh; Rev. James Kollie, Archbishop Christian Ekong and Bishop Vsevolod Lytkin. At left is LCMS President Matthew Harrison; at right is Rev. Dr. Al Collver, LCMS Director of Church Relations

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 4]

Specific Ministry Pastor Program

The SMP program is a "distant learning" approach to Seminary education and pastoral training, with men being chosen by their Congregations to serve in their local church, without moving to the Seminary. This program has raised both praise and concern from different parts of Synod. On the convention floor, the Presidents of both Seminaries (St. Louis and Fort Wayne), and members of the Council of District Presidents expressed the importance of the SMP program and their support for this program. All discussions were positive. A resolution to continue and strengthen the program was passed.

Convention Cycle

A resolution to adopt a 4-year Synodical convention cycle was discussed; however, this resolution was defeated, so that the 3-year cycle remains.

Theme Presentations

Four essayists based their presentations on Baptism and the importance of being baptized.

- † Baptized for this Moment
- † Baptized for Witnessing
- † Baptized for Mercy
- † Baptized for Life Together

Highlight on Special Resolutions

- + To begin preparing for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation (2017)
- + To voice concern over the Department of Defense decision to place "women into ground combat roles"
- + To emphasize Biblical Teaching on Sexuality, Marriage and Family
- + To form a taskforce to study how better to serve Professional Church Workers who are "without a Call"
- + To establish a standard for continuing education for LCMS Clergy
- + To adopt general principles for judging viability of Districts

The full texts of all resolutions, the full slate of all those elected to office, and many photos may be seen at www.lcms.org

SELC Delegates to the LCMS Convention

Eastern Circuit:

Rev. John Perling, St. Paul, Greenwich CT
Mr. Larry Schultz, Concordia, Macungie PA

Central Circuit:

Rev. John Telloni, St. John, Massillon OH
Mrs. Millie Kwiatkowski, Holy Trinity, Parma OH

Western Circuit:

Rev. Paul Biber, St. Lucas, St. Louis MO
Mr. Robert Barclay, Pentecost, Racine WI

Southern Circuit:

Rev. Mark Moreno, Hope, Melbourne FL
Ms. Emily Weidner, Holy Cross, Lake Mary FL



1stRow: Millicent Kwiatkowski (Central Circuit Lay); Emily Wiedner (Southern Circuit Lay); Rev.Dr. Al Marcis (SELC President Emeritus); Mrs. Dianne Krueger; Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger (SELC President); Rev.Dr. Paul Maier (3rd VP LCMS); Mrs. Heidi Perling. 2ndRow: Rick Lauer (LCEF Rep); Rev.Dr. Mark Moreno (Southern Circuit Pastoral); Rev. Andrew Dzurowcik (1st VP SELC); Rev. John Telloni (Central Circuit Pastoral); Robert Barclay (Western Circuit Lay); Larry Schultz (Eastern Circuit Lay); Rev. John Perling (Eastern Circuit Pastoral). Missing: Rev. Dr. Paul Biber (Western Circuit Pastoral).

2013 LWML NATIONAL CONVENTION

Submitted by Laura Bergmann, SELC LWML District President



The SELC LWML successfully helped host the 2013 LWML National Convention in Pittsburgh, PA on Thursday, June 27th through Sunday, June 30th. Besides the SELC LWML, the other Host Districts were the Atlantic District, Eastern District, English District, New England District and New Jersey District. The total registration for the Convention included 63 voting members of the Board of Directors, 6 past National Presidents, and 512 delegates, for a voting body of 581. In addition, there were 61 non-voting committee members present, and 2,525 other attendees. The official total attendance at the 2013 Pittsburgh Convention was 3,167.

Our SELC LWML was well represented with a total of 40 people in attendance

at the Convention from our District LWML. Those attending included SELC LWML District President Laura Bergmann, Prayer Chapel Chairman Sharon Roegge, Prayer Chapel Director Verna Jurkovich, Exhibits Director Milly Kwiatkowski, Zone Delegates Cathy Friedman, Martha Moyer and Susan Murcek, Pastoral Counselor Rev. Luke Jacob, Young Woman Representatives Kelly Jansky and Dehlia DeLeon, Heart-to-Heart Sister-Celeste Crawford, and Convention Workers: Berta and Rich Fabrici, Don Roegge, Cheryl Rusiecki, Dianne Krueger, Susan Dzurovcik, Leah Socrates, Kathy Vollrath, Nona Schipull, Ardyne Kirn, Betty Cervantes, Sharron Schademann, Lois Ballas, Rose Soffa, Dale Moyer, Karen Kowalczyk, Courtney Jacob, Patricia Hageman, Linda Listen, Miriam Wilms, Mickey Krnach, Martha McGlynn, Alison Bergmann, Robin Paris, Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger, Jr., Rev. Dr. Kevin Bergmann, Rev. Andrew Dzurovcik, Rev. Kevin McLeod, and Rev. Ken Ballas. As one of the Host District Presidents, Laura Bergmann had several ceremonial duties at the Convention, including pouring Lake Michigan water into the fountain with the five other Host District Presidents to start the Convention fountain flowing. She also joined them in placing their six District banners on the Convention podium at the Thursday evening Opening Worship Service with Communion. At the opening ceremonies on Friday morning, Laura brought greetings from the SELC District to the Convention, and described our District since many people still ask, "What is the SELC?" She explained to the assembly that the SELC stands for showing everyone life in Christ by showing everyone the love of Christ. SELC District President Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger and his wife Dianne were recognized by LWML President Kay Kreklau, as were the other Host District Presidents. All six SELC clergy participated in the Thursday evening Opening Worship Service, and two worked in the Prayer Chapel. SELC workers did a variety of jobs that included serving as ushers, helping with District photos, working in the kitchen, helping with exhibits, directing attendees to events, seating people at dinners, and working in the tech booth on sound and projection. Kathy Vollrath was selected as the Unsung Hero for the SELC District for all her work behind the scenes as a consistent LWML volunteer.

The theme of the Convention was **Quenched! By the Water**, based on John 4 where Jesus talks to the Samaritan woman at Jacob's Well. Donna Pyle, a veteran writer of LWML Bible studies, did a two part discussion of this Bible text. She noted that while most Jews would not journey through Samaria, Jesus



Kelly Jansky, Laura Bergmann, Dehlia DeLeon with the SELC District Banner. Banner made by Ardyne Kirn and Betty Cervantes of Resurrection-Crown Point, IN



SELC District Host President, Laura Bergmann at the Convention fountain.



The Six Host District Presidents

[continued on Page 6]

intentionally went through that area and sought out this flawed woman who was being shunned by the other women in the town because of her immoral behavior. Like Jesus, we all need to be intentional about reaching out to others—we need to focus on “RELATIONSHIPS, NOT REPUTATIONS.” Jesus was concerned about the destination of people’s souls and said, “Come to Me all you who are weary and heavy laden...” He offers His life giving waters that well up to eternal life to the Samaritan woman and also to all of us. Donna pointed out that we cannot wait for lost and hurting people to come to us to get the message of forgiveness. She emphasized that just as the LWML goes out into the world with its mission efforts that we, as individuals are to actively engage the world with our good news of salvation in Christ, and drench everyone in our paths with Jesus.

Friday’s business sessions culminated with the selection of the 2013-2015 Mission Grants. From thirty possibilities, the delegates chose the following Mission Grants:

1. Training K-9 Comfort Dogs for LCMS Chaplains- \$30,000
2. Lutheran Children’s Books for Southeast Asia- \$72,000
3. Training Indigenous Pastors and Deaconesses-Concordia Seminary-Ft. Wayne-\$100,000
4. Rebuilding Nord Est Haiti Lutheran School- \$100,000
5. Jesus Our Savior Lutheran School-Winnebago Tribe, Nebraska- \$58,553
6. I CAN-Serving At-Risk Children with Learning Needs- \$99,000
7. Bible Story Books in Sign Language and Written Text- \$100,000
8. Native American Outreach Training Center, Fairbanks, Alaska- \$95,000
9. Strengthening and Expanding Campus Ministry- \$100,000
10. Worship For Shut Ins- \$80,000
11. Preparing Leaders for a Diverse World-Concordia College-Selma, Alabama- \$50,000
12. Voice of Care Ministry to the Developmentally Challenged- \$50,600
13. Christ Centered Tutoring through Rebecca’s Garden of Hope- \$100,000
14. Student Scholarships for MOST Ministries Mission Trips- \$20,000
15. Building Homes and Hope in Haiti- \$100,000
16. Support for Lutheran Public Radio- \$40,000
17. Christian Education Support for Children-India- \$85,000
18. Mission Outreach at St. Paul Community Lutheran Church, Pontiac, Michigan- \$65,559

The total Mission Goal for the 2013-2015 Biennium was set at \$1,830,000.



District Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Luke Jacob, listens to Convention business

Speakers at the Convention included Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor, the Convention Proclaimer, Rev. Will and Patricia Main from the Haskell Indian Reservation, Keynote Speaker Dr. LuJuana Butts, LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, Dominican Republic Missionary Rev. Ted Krey, LWML National President Kay Kreklau, and Lutheran World Relief Director Rev. Dr. John Nunes. Humorist Elaine Bickel served as the Convention Interrupter, periodically bringing bits of humor to the Convention. Mia Koehne provided musical entertainment on Saturday evening.

Over 1,000 people participated in the Pledge Walk. Since the planned outside route was “Drenched by rain waters,” the Pledge Walk was held inside the David L. Lawrence Convention Center, and raised \$69,392.60 for mites. An offering for Hurricane Sandy relief totaled \$28,838.22.



Heart to Heart Sister Celeste Crawford is pinned by Laura Bergmann. Celeste is a member of Dr. Martin Luther in Chicago

[continued on page 7]

On Saturday, the election of Officers took place. The new Vice President of Christian Life is Eden Keefe. The new Vice President of Communication is Nancy Bopenhagen, the new Vice President of Gospel Outreach is Shelley Moeller. The new Recording Secretary is Joy Dougherty, and the new Junior Pastoral Counselor is the Rev. Dr. Robert M. Roegner. Rae Ann Spitzenberger, Sharon Goertzen, Jennifer Huecker, Leslie Jaseph, and Carli Zygowicz were elected to the Nominating Committee.

On Sunday morning, over 21,000 items were dedicated as the ingathering of Gifts from the Heart to be distributed throughout the Pittsburgh area. Rev. Dr. Victor Belton was the Proclaimer at the Sunday Worship

Service. He spoke poignantly about how the deaths of his parents had affected him, and concluded from his personal struggles that he would bless the Lord at all times, and continually praise God. He ended by singing, "I've Got a River of Life Springing Up in Me."



The workers in the 2013 Coalition of 6 Host Districts, including the SELC District - in their work uniforms-teal and maroon scarves with yellow shirts and black pants or skirts

Photos Courtesy of the LWML

*This is the final two-month summer issue of The Lutheran Beacon
The next issue (October) will return us to monthly publication*

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

email: gailpete37@yahoo.com

Questions? 321-752-5519

**Deadline for the October issue
is September 12th**

Please submit articles as separate attachments in whatever program you write in. [e.g. Word Perfect, Word, etc. - NOT as an email]

Photos should be submitted as separate attachments in your e-mail [.jpg format and NOT incorporated into your copy]. Photos may be attached to the same email as your written copy.

What's happening at your church next month?

Rev. Luther Bajus Observes 60th Anniversary

Following the Divine Worship on June 9, the chairman of Zion Congregation, Norridge, IL, Douglas Schipull, called on the chairman of the Board of Elders, John Mark, to read a Proclamation. The Proclamation stated that on this Sunday, the congregation was recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the Ordination of Pastor Luther John Bajus into the Office of the Holy Ministry. With the reading of the Proclamation, an Anniversary Gift was presented to Pastor. Then an invitation was extended to family and friends to come to a nearby banquet hall to continue the celebration.



Dr. Douglas Schipull made a presentation to Pastor

This whole event was a complete surprise to Pastor. When family members, including son, Luther and his family, and Debi and other family members and friends arrived, it was a total surprise. No one had even given a hint of this celebratory recognition.

During the banquet, numerous organizational leaders were called upon to toast Pastor. These included Laura Bergmann, President of the SELC LWML; the Rev. Roger Gallup from Project Hope; Nancy Gizel representing the Youth; Marlee Johns, President of the Zion Women's Guild; and Chris Hresil representing the Slovaks from DML, Chicago, and the United Lutheran Society.

The congratulatory message from our SELC District President, the Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger, was read by Ardyne Kirn, member of the Lutheran Haven Board of Directors. Dr. Douglas Schipull, President of Zion Congregation, presented Pastor with a booklet of congratulatory messages.

Entertainment followed the dinner. Lydia Zuehsow offered a violin solo, as did Emilie Stoller and Jaimee Stoller on the piano. Virginia Mulik, accompanied by Nona Schipull, sang "My Favorite Things," from the "Sound of Music," with words as sung by Julie Andrews on her 69th birthday. The Stoller family, consisting of Negatwa, Kumulachew, Jaimee, Emilie and Roger, offered a humorous rendering of "Skipping Radio Commercials."



In his closing remarks, Pastor Bajus expressed his gratitude to the congregation and to all who had come to praise and thank the Lord for Pastor's 60 years of service to the Lord and His Church. All glory be given to the Lord. He is the one who called me into the ministry and enabled me to be faithful. Pastor thanked the Lord for the two congregations he served as pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Lakefield, MN and presently Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Norridge IL.

The Rev. Arthur Constien, who began our banquet with prayer, concluded it as we sang the Doxology. The closing exhortation was "Go and serve the Lord," and all responded, "Thanks be to God!"

Pastor's concluding thought: "Wow! Thank you, Lord. What a joy it's been to serve You and God's people for 60 years. Only You, Lord, have made that possible. I will remember all of you, who have celebrated this day of joy and thanksgiving, with me, in person or through letter and cards. I will remember this special day of celebration as long as I live. Thank you. In Christ, I love you."



Family: Granddaughter Kory Bajus, Pastor, Debi Pelger, Luther Bajus II and his wife, Kay Bajus

The SELC “Lived Loved” at 2013 National Youth Gathering!

By Rev. Mark Moreno



Six churches from the SELC went to San Antonio, Texas in July to join with 25,000 other LCMS youth and youth leaders! Each day had a morning and an evening mass event with powerful speakers, engaging music and awesome Bible study! We filled the Alamodome!

In between those mass events, we had plenty to do at the San Antonio convention center. There was a concourse set up with district booths, various LCMS and para church ministries, games, challenges, and even a zip line! We also had plenty of sectionals where we could hear about specific topics from great DCEs, pastors and other church professionals! Of course, there were plenty of bands that rocked it out! Throw in the Skit Guys, Bob Lenz, and President Harrison and you have a great time!

The churches that participated were St. Paul in Greenwich; Hope in Melbourne; St. Luke in Oviedo; Calvary in Parma; Pentecost in Racine and St. John in Emporia. We had over 100 SELC folks between those churches and were able to get together for the picture below, run the booth together, and came really close to eating together! (25,000 people make it kinda hard to get a table for 100) We look forward to taking this amazing experience and bringing the experience to our churches!

Seen on a church sign . . .



*Read the Bible – It’s User Friendly
Plus, We Offer Tech Support here on Sunday*

The other day, I forgot the 80% Principle

by Pastor Ron Meyr

Although I made it up about 25 years ago, it still works . . . when I remember it!

Rather than get upset when I (or the church) helps someone with rent, food, etc. and then find out they misused it – I remember a rule I set up long ago . . . "In Matt. 25, our Lord told us to help others . . . and, 20% of the time, we may be taken advantage of, but I'm not going to quit helping the 80% just because it gets abused sometimes."

It is an interesting rule, and over the years I found out . . . it works! I assume that at least 80% of the time, people are operating from unselfish motives. Yes, it happens that maybe 20% of the time, people are inconsiderate, unkind, greedy, etc. (many times it is because I have been like that first) – but by and large, 80% of the time, they are pretty good and I am not going to destroy a relationship just because "sometimes" they aren't perfect or 20% of the people take advantage of us.

Perhaps it would not be bad to also remember that rule when dealing with our church and members. At least 80% of the members are probably operating from purely unselfish motives. Yes, you will get a few "bad apples" every once in awhile, but by and large, these people of God are pretty good. It wouldn't be a bad idea to give them the benefit of the doubt . . .

Hmm . . . the 80% rule. You know, it might work with your husband or wife; or your brother and sister; or your neighbor. Do you expect perfection? Are you like many of those who write in to Dear Abby . . . "I have a wonderful wife, she is so kind and loving, etc. etc., **but** there is just this one thing that bugs me . . . Should I get divorced?" Huh? You're missing the 80% Principle, I think (you might be missing the 95% principle also!)

The 80% Principle works for personal finances also . . . 10% (at least) automatically is returned to the Lord from which it came. 10% (at least) goes for savings and the future. 80% is left for what we need. So . . . rather than make purchases on the basis of "how much can we afford?" you make them on the 80% principle . . . if the bank says we can "afford" a \$100,000 house, we buy an \$80,000 house. [My wife doesn't necessarily like this rule, but it works.] Of course, if you get laid off or have unusual emergencies, rules must sometimes be broken!

Fortunately, there is one who is 100% = and that is our Lord.

100% of the time = He loves us.

100% = He ALWAYS forgives us.

100% = He has a perfect record when it comes to being with us in His Word and Sacrament.

P.S. 80% of the time, you even might have a half-way decent sermon.

SELC District "Luther League" Youth Gathering

Theme: "8"

Motto: "I am making everything new!"

(taken from Rev. 21:5)

by Tim Hasko



Last summer, the SELC Western Circuit youth visited the Creation Museum on the way to the district "Luther League" Youth Gathering in Ohio. The first devotion last summer focused on "Let there be Light". This summer, the district youth continued that theme by focusing on the number "8", the number of "new creation". The theme verse for the gathering was taken from Rev. 21:5, "I am making everything new!" But what does the number "8" have to do with making everything new? The pastors and vicars of our

district would answer that very question as we journeyed throughout the weekend.



Props used during opening worship
to illustrate days of creation

Pastor Luke Jacob (Racine WI) began by reviewing the days of Creation in the book of Genesis. Man was created on the 6th day, and God rested on the 7th day. But where does the number "8" come in? Consider that Jesus was crucified on the 6th day, rested in the tomb on the 7th day, and rose on the 8th day. Vicar Nathan Neugebauer (Clark NJ) told us about the covenant of circumcision that God made with Abraham, and which all Jewish boys underwent on the 8th day after birth. Vicar Magdiel Fajardo (Whiting IN) reminded us about Noah and the flood, in which 8 people were saved and repopulated the earth -- a kind of new creation -- and how this relates to our baptism. Pastor Jacob Gaugert (Chicago IL) talked about the circumcision and naming of Jesus, 8 days after His birth, and how we receive the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in our baptism.

Our special guest speaker and internet sensation from worldvieweverlasting.com, Rev. Jonathan Fisk of Naperville IL, took us for a deeper dive into significant numbers in the Bible, and used the baptismal font at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, which has a 6-sided base, below three pillars, which support the 8 sided font to illustrate new creation. The base represents satan, being crushed by God (three pillars – Trinity), leading to our new creation in baptism. (Note: many traditional baptismal fonts are 8-sided.) During Sunday morning worship, Pastor Luther Bajus (Norridge IL) reinforced what we learned during the weekend, also pointing out that Pentecost is the first day of the 8th week after Easter. He also emphasized that in our theme verse, God is saying He is making all things new, not making all new things. The word for "new" in the verse does not refer to something new in time, but rather taking something that exists and renewing it, making it new, just like God does for us.

Youth from Illinois, Indiana, Missouri, New Jersey, and Wisconsin attended the district "Luther League" youth gathering. The youth were able to take part in sightseeing activities including a trip up the Hancock Tower on Friday morning, and a trip to Navy Pier on Saturday night. Youth also got to know each other better through "icebreakers" and a scavenger hunt around the Concordia University Chicago campus which involved taking pictures of their teams in various locations or performing various tasks, such as an album cover or best campus statue impersonation. And no convention would be complete without Kangaroo Court, which raised over \$250 for the Mission Plan and Scholarship Fund. Scholarships were awarded to two youth: Joe Frost and Jonah Balla, both from Clark NJ.

We left the weekend with new friends, with new knowledge, and renewed in Christ.

"He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!' Then he said, 'Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.'" Rev. 21:5



DON'T LOSE TRACK OF THIS YEAR'S OPPORTUNITY!

by Robin Paris, Gift Planning Counselor

Around the first of the year, there was a great deal of flurry and excitement about the signing of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012. Among other things, it resurrected the use of IRA funds (particularly your RMD) as rollover gifts. In other words, instead of having to bear the tax burden on funds the government required you to withdraw, you could direct the funds to a ministry. There is no tax deduction, but the funds simply are removed from your income stream. The law allows you to use the gift to satisfy the IRS's requirement for you to withdraw your Required Minimum Distribution. You can gift part or all of the distribution; in fact, you can gift up to \$100,000. Who knows what Congress will do with this at the end of 2013?

If you are over age 70 ½, you can take advantage of this opportunity by directing the holder of your IRA account to send your gift directly to the ministry you choose. It can go to your home church or to any LCMS ministry, including Disaster Relief which has an urgent need for funds following the recent devastating tornados.

If you are like many individuals, your IRA has increased in value over the years, and the RMD causes you to have more income than you need. The IRA rollover gift is a simple and easy way to provide for your favorite ministry or charity while not increasing your taxable income. Simply contact your custodian and request that an amount be transferred to the ministry closest to your heart. They receive a significant gift, you avoid any unnecessary tax, and you satisfy your RMD requirement for the year.

Contact Gift Planning Counselor Robin Paris today to make a gift from your IRA. She can provide you with a request form to send to your account custodian to prompt the gift. She'll also be able to answer any questions you have about this special kind of gift. Don't let this opportunity slip between your fingers! Call Robin at 407-706-1168, or email her at rparis@lutheranhaven.org.

Congratulations are in order!!

SELC Adult Confirmations

Rate High on LC-MS Lists

Family of Christ in Tampa FL - Rev. David Haara made the top list for "Congregations Reporting the Most Adult Confirmations in 2011."

Peace in Galloway NJ - Rev. Philip McClelland and **Family of Christ** reported high on the list for "Congregations Reporting Best Ratio of Membership to Adult Confirmations."

Zion (Norridge IL) Celebrates Confirmation

by Rev. Luther Bajus



Members of the Zion, Norridge, IL, Jr. Confirmation Class Of 2013,
pictured with Pastor Luther Bajus;
l to r: Jaimee Stoller, Steven Ondrla, and Edward Dymitrowicz.

In addition to their Confirmation certificate with their favorite Bible passage, the youth were given the choice between an LSB Hymnal or a Youth Bible as a gift from the congregation. The LWML gave a red stole to each Confirmant with their first name and their favorite Bible passage reference indicated on their stole. Thrivent also presented each one with a metal wall cross.

In his sermon, Pastor emphasized the importance of "faithfulness" with regard to their relationship to their Lord, based on Revelation 2:10: *Be faithful to the point of death and I will give you the crown of life.*

Luncheon and Graduation Program Honors New "Graduates."

St. John LC & Preschool (Massillon OH) held its annual Preschool/Kindergarten Spring Program, including a well-attended luncheon.



Pastor Telloni welcomed about 250 parents and children with opening devotion. Each class sang songs and were presented with certificates by Mrs. Shawn Buttrill, Director & PK/Kind teacher. The Kindergarten class was presented with diplomas. Other staff members were Mrs. Kim Yankle (3 & 4 yr. Olds); Mrs. Patti Pownell (4s); Mrs. Olivia Warchime (PK/K Asst.). Total enrollment for the academic year was 41 children.



“Blessed Be the Holy Trinity and the Undivided Unity!”

by Pastor Ken Ballas, EM)

Biblical mysteries like the Sacraments or the doctrine of the Holy Trinity are not meant to be something “spooky” or “scary” but rather blessings from our loving Lord intended for the everlasting comfort of His redeemed covenant people.

Regarding the Trinity, a common charge that we Christians worship not one but three separate Gods is based in part on the Hebrew “Shema” in Deuteronomy 6:4: “Hear, O Israel, the Lord your God is one” which, taken by itself, indeed appears to leave no room for any kind of Trinitarian teaching.

Based on the abundant revelation of Himself also from the New Testament Scriptures, central to historic Christianity's creedal statements of faith, our God reveals Himself to us as Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 1:3-14; 1 Peter 1:1-12).

Well-intended attempts to clarify the mystery of our worshiping one God in three distinct persons, for example, by referring to the three parts of an egg (yolk, white and shell) unfortunately all fall woefully short of explaining adequately what is largely unnecessary for us to try to explain.

It is not for us to “prove” this or any other teaching of Holy Scripture. Our God is not Triune because we say so but rather because He is and forever remains who He says He is as He reveals Himself to us in the inspired writings of both testaments. For us merely to speculate on what we think rather than prayerfully ponder the mystery of the Trinity is to misuse what the Scriptures themselves tell us of the person and work of each individual person of the God-Head all three of which work in perfect harmony for our eternal well-being as members of His one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

It is an over-simplification, for example, to give the impression that only God the Father was involved in Creation (see Genesis 1:2; Psalm 104:30; John 1:2; Colossians 1:16; Hebrews 1:2). Similarly, we do God (and ourselves) a disservice by thinking of each person as only one-third of the God-head or of regarding any one person of the Trinity as being more important than another.

Trinitarian heresies, ancient or modern, are intimately related to Christological false teaching as, in sharing the historic baptismal faith, it is essential that we give unending emphasis to pondering the unique relationship between the divine and human natures in the Second Person of the Trinity as both the Father and the Holy Spirit are involved in the mystery of the incarnation of the Son (Luke 1:35; John 3:16; Romans 5:8; 8:3; Galatians 4:4-7; Philippians 2:5-11; 1 Peter 1:18-21). Our Brother-Savior Jesus Christ took upon Himself human flesh, first of all, in order to keep for us the Law of God before obediently and innocently also paying the punishment for the world's law-breaking before also being exalted to the right hand of the Father. Christ lived for us before also dying and rising again!

Our primary mission (without which we are unable to carry out our Lord's Great Commissions!) is that we faithfully engage in corporate worship of the Trinity in person and the unity in substance of majesty co-equal. One of our seminary professors used to remind his students that whenever Christians confess their faith together in one the Church's three ecumenical creeds (the same thing happens when we commune together!) we are in reality “poking one another in the ribs with the Gospel” helping one another realize, “He (or she) believes what I believe; we are not alone to do the Father's will on earth!

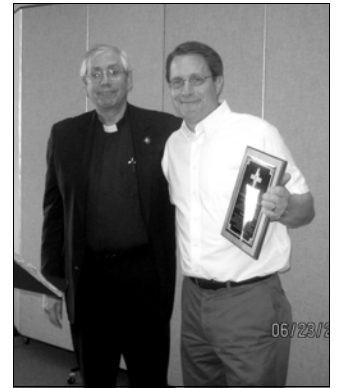
That being so, we join together in crying out, GLORY BE to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and shall continue to be forever and ever! Amen!

St. John's (Massillon OH) Bids Farewell to the Pohlod Family

by Rev. John Telfoni



A farewell luncheon was held in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, June 23rd, for the Pohlod family, as they prepare to move to the Columbus, Ohio, area. Well over 70 people attended the meal, which consisted of chicken and sloppy joes and numerous covered side dishes brought in by members. The event was sponsored by the Board of Directors in honor of the 10 years of faithful service by Marty Pohlod as President of the congregation (the longest tenure of any president by anyone's recollection at St. John's). Laurie Houston, Mickey Krnach, and Rosemary Sedjo were in charge of the meal.



Pastor Telfoni presided over a brief ceremony consisting of a plaque presented to Marty, with the congregation's logo and a word of gratitude and appreciation to the Lord for his faithful service on the Board of Directors and as congregational President, and a Rite of Farewell and Godspeed to the Pohlod's – Marty and Colleen and their sons Daniel, Andrew, and Peter.

Marty also spoke a word of thanks on behalf of his family, reviewing the blessings he



experienced in his tenure in office through the years, gave a brief summary of the family's moving plans, and offered his encouragement to his brothers and sisters in Christ to continue to carry out the Gospel ministry of Christ here and in the community, recognizing that the future is hopeful because of God's promises of guidance and grace.

Pastor Telfoni spoke on behalf of the congregation and wished all of the members of the Pohlod family God's richest blessings in their new home. He urged them to take some of St. John's hospitality and love, which Marty himself had earlier mentioned, and share it with their new neighbors and friends. He also reminded all present that Christians never say "Goodbye,"

but rather "God be with you 'til we meet again." He also indicated that believers will often talk about a blessed reunion in heaven someday with all the saints, and he told the Pohlod's, "May our reunions even on this side of heaven be many!"

With Marty's office being re-located to the Columbus area, it was practical for his family to pull up their roots in New Philadelphia and move closer to his place of work. However, before looking for a new house, the family in January undertook to find a new church home before searching for a new house. In this way they would live near their new spiritual home. In the near future, the Pohlod's will be transferring to Hope Lutheran Church (LC-MS) in Sunbury, Rev. Robert Riggs, pastor, and moving into their new house in nearby Galena. **(Pastor's Note: How refreshing to witness a Christian family placing a new spiritual home as a priority in a move to a new area!)**

We wish the Pohlod's many blessings in their new home. They will all be missed. Both Marty and Colleen were active in many different areas of church life, as many of you know. Both were members of the Vision Team and Catechism teachers. Colleen was our chief photographer and submitted many photos and articles to *The Lutheran eacon*. And was active in many other areas of church life. We thank our luncheon chairpersons and all others who helped to make this special gathering a very rewarding experience.

ST. LUKE'S CONCERT SERIES 2013-14

Previews for the 20th anniversary season

Saturday, September 14: TWO SHOWS!

Matinee: 2 pm, Evening: 7 pm



Brass Band of Central Florida
Out of this World!

Chad Shoopman, Conductor

Saturday, October 19 at 7 pm



Orlando Philharmonic
Orchestra
Genius of Georges Bizet

Christopher Wilkins, Conductor
Rimma Bergeron-Langlois, Violin

Saturday, November 23 at 7 pm

UCF Symphony Orchestra
Melody Rules!

Laszlo Marosi, Conductor

Open dress rehearsal:
Friday, November 22nd - 6 pm



HOLIDAY CONCERT: Three Performances!

Friday, December 6th at 7 pm and
Saturday, December 7th
Matinee: 2 pm, Evening: 7 pm

Brass Band of Central Florida

Chad Shoopman, Conductor



Saturday, January 25 at 7 pm



Orlando Concert Band
America, the Beautiful

Jon Territo, Conductor

Open dress rehearsal:
Friday, January 24 - 7pm

Saturday, Feb. 22: UCF Symphony Orchestra

Masterworks (Dialogue: Juan Trigos, Guest Composer) at 6 pm
and Orchestra Concert at 7 pm



Music Knows No Borders!
Laszlo Marosi, Conductor

Open dress rehearsal:
Friday, February 21 - 6 pm

Sunday, March 30 at 3 pm

Lutheran Cantata Choir & Chamber Ensemble

Come to the Water

Joseph Kemper,
Conductor



Saturday, April 26 at 7 pm

Orlando Philharmonic
Orchestra

Italian Symphony

Guest Conductor,
Albert-George Schram



St. Luke's Concert Series 2013-14 is made possible by the generous donations of individuals and corporate sponsors, as well as support provided by Seminole Cultural Arts Council, Inc.

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ 2021 SR 426 ~ OVIEDO, FL 32765

Visit: stlukes-oviedo.org/concert-series to be added to our Ebase and receive program updates during the 2013-14 season.



Photos courtesy of Oviedo Photo Club.