



SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD

from the President

***Come, holy Light, guide divine,
Now cause the Word of life to shine.
Teach us to know our God aright
And call Him Father with delight.
From ev'ry error keep us free;
Let none but Christ our master be
That we in living faith abide,
In Him our Lord,
with all our might confide.
Alleluia, Alleluia!***

(LSB # 497, "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord" - St. 2)

Dear Co-Workers in Christ,

One of the duties of parish ministry that always had unique challenges, but which I truly miss, is that of teaching catechism classes. Once our children were confirmed and then, later, left home, teaching seventh and eighth graders helped me to keep informed about the life of a distinctively different generation than my own. It also kept me in tune with some of the struggles the young people – and often, their families – are going through as they develop their own identities, as they relate to their peers and the many pressures that come their way, and, not least of all, as they struggle with how their Christian faith integrates into and guides their lives.

It is, by no means, an easy time of life. It is certainly not a time of life that I would like to live over again. And, yet, it is a time of life that these young people, ages thirteen and fourteen, make some incredible vows. "Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it? *I do, by the grace of God.*"

This year I have had the opportunity to be present in three different congregations on Confirmation Sunday. Three times I have heard the young people state their confession of faith and their confirmation vows. And three times I have breathed the prayer that the same Holy Spirit who began His work in these young people's lives through Baptism will continue to uphold them in faith in Christ throughout their lives, and finally, raise them to stand one day before the throne of the Father and before the Lamb.

"How can we expect young people to make such vows that they will 'suffer all, even death, rather than fall away'?" Undoubtedly, you have heard that question more than a few times. The answer comes in two places. First, "...*by the grace of God*" the young people answer. It is the same grace that wonderfully gave them the new birth in Baptism. But, secondly, they make that answer because they also

have this confidence: *"I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith."*

As we celebrate Pentecost, we praise God the Holy Spirit for the incredible work that He has accomplished and still accomplishes in each of our lives.

A Timely Reprint

At our recent Spring District Pastors' Conference, under the theme "Clearly Communicating the Good News," we discussed the topic of worship. Over the past few Council of Presidents' meetings, that has also been a focus of discussion. The Council intends to produce and distribute a statement on worship that reflects faithfulness to God's Word and the Confessions and that can speak to the current discussions and various understandings in our Synod concerning worship.

At the April COP meeting, Dr. Joel Lehenbauer led us through a thoughtful Bible study on the issue. Interestingly, he made significant reference to Rev. James Waddell's book, [The Struggle to Reclaim the Liturgy in the Lutheran Church](#), and described it as a "must read." He also distributed a copy of a recently translated [Concordia Theological Monthly](#) article from 1934 written by Dr. Ludwig Fuerbringer entitled "The Proper Middle in the Liturgy and Order of the Divine Service." In light of our recent discussions at the Pastors' Conference, Dr. Fuerbringer's article sees quite timely. I have included it in this month's District [Newsletter and encourage you to read.](#)

Issues, Etc. Statements

The discussion in our Synod about the cancellation of the KFUE program, Issues, Etc., is, by no means, finished. As you are undoubtedly aware, official statements from the President of Synod, the Council of Presidents, and Rev. David Strand have been released and are available through the Synod's website, www.lcms.org.

Much has already been written regarding all three statements. However, for a little additional information on the statement by the COP, I intend to include this topic in my next President On Line. I will include a few personal comments and a few words written by another district president.

Lutheran Witness Subscription Information

Speaking of convention action, the matter of our District's blanket subscription to The Lutheran Witness has come up in a number of past conventions. Recently there has been some discussion about that, especially concerning the matter of the cost of subscriptions. Randy Gayken, our District Business Manager, has pulled together the following numbers:

Individual Subscriptions apart from a District plan. No District Supplement insert: \$22 per year.

Blanket Subscriptions for *selected* families of the congregation, but with less than 90% of families. Includes District Supplement Insert: \$17.69 per family per year (basic subscription cost of \$15 plus cost of Supplement).

Blanket Subscriptions for *all* families of the congregation. Includes District Supplement Insert: \$9.55 per family per year (basic subscription cost of \$7.20 plus cost of Supplement).

In addition to the above, if the current plan changes, there will be added costs to the congregation with the necessity of paying the "use tax" to the State of South Dakota. That cost is currently included in the current blanket subscription cost. Moreover, the congregations will need to be billed directly for additional costs that result from a lower number of subscriptions to pay for the Editor for the Supplement. And finally, if the total number of subscriptions drops below 2,500, the individual subscription cost will also increase significantly.

The current blanket subscription plan really does provide a significant savings over any other plan. And, not least of all, The Lutheran Witness serves an important purpose of keeping all of our families informed of the life and mission that we share as we "walk together" as individuals, congregations, district, and Synod. No other publication does that.

If you would like more specific information regarding rates or other details, please contact Randy Gayken at the District Office – 605-361-1514.

Circuit Realignment Reminder: June 1

A couple of months ago, we distributed the four proposals for circuit realignment that have been prepared by the Ad Hoc Committee for Circuit Realignment. At that time, we shared the request that these initial proposals would be discussed at circuit Winkels and forums, as well as in congregations, along with the request that any comments or further recommendations would be given to the chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee, Rev. John Werner, by June 1. The Committee will then review the feedback it has received and make recommendations to the District Planning Conference in September. From there, recommendations will be made for consideration at the 2009 District Convention.

If you have not yet responded to Rev. Werner, please do so by June 1. His address is: 42654 272nd St., Emery, SD 57332. His e-mail address is: johnwerner@triotel.net.

Thank you for your attention to this.

Blessings, Dear Co-workers, as you continue to serve in Christ's Kingdom!

In Christ,

Pastor Dale L. Sattgast

1 Cor. 2:2

2 For. 3:4-6

2 Tim. 1:8-12

From the Executive Secretary

Reverend David Schwan Schwan

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

Cyber caution!

The growth of the electronic media is all around us—it is in our computers and phones. This has been a source of great opportunity to stay connected. Yet with this growth in connectivity are new opportunities for misuse. The role of the personal computer in such things as online gambling and pornography is well documented. Responsibility for the actions of ones household becomes ever greater. The adults in the household are responsible for the other members of the household, what they view and what they say and put on the web and phones. Whether it is MySpace or their texting, the parents have the legitimate right to know what is happening. This is not a matter of trust, it is a matter of care and love for those we have been given to nurture.

New to our environment is cyberbullying. Unkindness may be more prevalent online because kids no longer need to be the biggest or toughest to be a bully. Online, anyone with a computer or cell phone can make other kids deeply miserable. Parents who have not seen online bullying are often shocked by how crude and mean spirited it can be. Threatening messages can be sent. Since it is the parents who have the cell contract or cable hookup, threatening messages or pornographic phone pictures are their responsibility, both morally, and legally.

It is easier to vent over a computer keyboard, than to someone in person. It is easy to harass someone with a text message than to someone in person. The old saying about "sticks and stones" is not true. Nasty words texted hastily are now a matter of record, legally, and morally. Words typed out in anger allow the anger to build. Giving place to



Caution Advised!!!

anger in our lives, quickly builds, since it is a strong emotion. It is not unusual for e-mails, blogs, unbecoming at best or downright pornographic at worst are easy to obtain, even send to others. Again, there are not only moral considerations, here but very strong legal ramifications. What to do?

1. Talk with your children about the responsibilities that come along with connectedness. Realize that children and adolescents go through stages where they are utterly self-centered and have to learn that other people have feelings.
2. Remember that the message will be read by a real, living human being. Can you say this face to face, or should you even say it?
3. Remember that IMing and MySpace are public. There is no such thing as private space on the Web.
4. Don't spread rumors or prejudice. That includes pictures that are not kind, or were taken secretly.
5. Be careful about humor. In person, a sarcastic remark or comment may be accompanied by laughter which frames the comment. Online, there is no such opportunity for framing comments.
6. Think twice about hitting the send button or key. Impulsive comments or actions can have far-reaching consequences. Teens, and parents as a result, have been charged with harassment for making online threats. Hostile feelings online have no place, especially within the community of the church. The seeming "cute" picture can be interpreted as pornographic as well. Legal authorities go on the basis of what is presented. Context carries little or no weight in these matters.
7. Whatever you do, don't ignore the problem and assume that your child cannot possibly be involved in such things. Sin has a way of creeping into our lives in small steps. Anger or defensiveness on a child's part when you ask to see what they have been texting or e-mailing, or blogging might indicate there is a problem. The development of a secret life is problematic to say the least.
8. If someone in your family is involved in this kind of activity, get help. First, and most important, go to your pastor for spiritual guidance, since at the root of all these situa-

tions, a spiritual problem exists. Second, get counseling to touch the other issues that are involved in these cases.

9. God's blessings as we deal with our day to day connectivity. Our greatest connection is the one our Heavenly Father has brought into our lives through the blood of Jesus Christ.

C A R G O T R A I L E R N E E D E D.....

The Milbank Drop-Off Site for the Orphan Grain Train is looking for a used cargo enclosed trailer 6 feet by 12 feet (or something around this size). Please notify Jeanette Stensland (605) 432-5612 or Marilyn Koepke (605) 886-2387 for any further questions.

Thank you,
Mae Saeger, Publicity Chairman of Orphan Grain Train

CALL INFORMATION

PENDING

Kalb, Jeff, Candidate, CTS, Ft. Wayne, has received a call to Zion-Emmanuel, Waubay-Sisseton, SD 4/2008

Weispfennig, Steven, Candidate, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, has received a call to St. John, Yankton, SD as an Assistant. 4/2008

ACCEPTED

Bicknase, Keith, Good Shepherd, Marshall, MN has accepted the call from Emanuel, Milbank, SD 4/23/2008

DECLINED

Olson, Darren, Zion-St. John, Canistota-Montrose, SD has declined the call from St. John, Wadena, MN 4/24/2008

VACANT PASTORATES/SCHOOLS

Marion-Parker, Bethesda-First English—Sole Pastor
Sisseton-Waubay, Emanuel-Zion—Sole Pastor
Sturgis, Blessed Emmanuel—Sole Pastor
Yankton, St. John's—Assistant Pastor

PASTOR NOUR'S 12 DAYS THE HOLY LAND TOUR....

A true trip of a lifetime can be yours. Travel with Reverend Nabil Nour through the Holy Land. Tour begins September 30 and concludes October 11. For more information please contact Pastor Nour at PO Box 158, Armour, SD 57313 or e-mail at redeemarmour@unitelsd.com or call at 605/724-2489.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE



Recently, I had the wonderful experience of a mission trip to the bustling metropolis of Hong Kong. The Lutheran Church of Hong Kong operates 3 Jr/Sr schools. The team I was with worked at Ma Chong Dueng Hey Memorial College (really a high school). Our goal was twofold: to share Jesus with students and to help them with conversational English. We taught classes that ranged from PE and Home Ec to Bible Knowledge. As we talked with the students and developed relationships, we had countless opportunities to share the good news of Jesus, and the life He came to give. This life is for all people of every tribe and nation. The Lutheran Church of Hong Kong is asking us for 200 teams a year. This is not just a faceless, nameless mission, but one that connects the teams with the students and families to share the



love from Jesus to us. Let me share a bit of an e-mail I received since returning home. "I had Bible class today, first time I read the Bible heartily and I feel touching at the moment. My first Bible is from you and I go to church first time with you and your team. I will read the Bible every day and think of the relationship between God and I." This is not a vacation with a bit of work on the side, but an opportunity to touch the hearts and lives of people half a world away, people who do not know Jesus, people



who are lost without Jesus. Anyone who is interested in the possibility of being on a team, please call me at the District Office.





For
**BIKE
LIFE**

**MARK
YOUR
CALENDARS!!**

Saturday

September 13th

For More Information,
please contact Reverend
Nabil Nour at (605) 724-
2489 or redemarmour@unitelsd.com

A NOTE FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES

It seems every time I write, I can say, it has been a while. Every time I write, I can also say thank you, because you continue your generosity, in your prayers, financial support, and encouragement. Thank you.

First with some personal news, Lori and I are expecting a baby in August! We are quite excited about that, as are our boys. Children are an heritage from the Lord, one of God's greatest blessings. Pray for Lori, of course she is tired, but everything seems to be going well.

Our Lenten and Easter season went well. We had soup suppers during Lent, and culminated with an Easter service that included 3 baptisms. The Lenten services were well attended as were the Easter services.

Our church in Rosebud has a few new people coming, I hope to get them to join officially. In Parmelee, I have several that have been coming regular and have joined the church. Our worship services there are a little more informal, but quite enjoyable. We also have a food bank there, associated with the "Community Food Banks of South Dakota" based in Sioux Falls. We get some grant money from FEMA, to provide food. The last 2 Sunday's of the month we pass out small boxes of food to those who come to worship.

I also have some help for the next few months. Kristy Ring, the wife of Marc Ring. She is a Deaconess student, and he is a Seminarian, from Norris. They were recently married, and are living at Norris until next school year. So the District LWML, together with our LCMS congregation at Valentine, NE, are providing support for her to work with me. She will be

helping with Bible Schools, and all kinds of other things while she is here. Marc will be preaching for me on occasion when I am gone. Pray for them both.

I don't have many stories today, although I am sure there were many. Thank you again for all you do for us, and for our Lord Jesus in the place where you live.

In Christ,

Reverend Andrew Utecht

SABBATICAL GRANTS FOR PASTORS

Lilly Endowment: National Clergy Renewal Program

The National Clergy Renewal Program, an initiative of the Lilly Endowment, provides support to Christian congregations throughout the country whose pastors wish to take time for reflection and renewal. The program provides grants to congregations whose pastors and parishioners, working together, produce compelling plans for an extended sabbatical time for the minister and a complementary set of activities for congregational renewal. In 2008, the program anticipates awarding as many as 120 grants of up to \$45,000 each. Christian congregations whose ordained pastors have a master of divinity degree from an accredited theological school are eligible to apply. The application deadline is May 14, 2008. Requests for proposals may be downloaded from the website listed here. <http://www.clergyrenewal.org>

HAPPENINGS IN CIRCUIT J

Our Redeemer, Sioux Falls—Help earn money for their Guatemala Mission Team by eating out!! By dining at the Pizza Ranch (Sioux Falls location only) on Mondays, May 5 and 26. 10% of the net will be donated to Our Redeemer's Team.

Faith, Sioux Falls—POWER for the Course Golf Tournament, June 8. An opportunity to get out and do some golfing while raising money for the Faith Lutheran Youth to support a Servant Event Trip. For more details, please contact Jessica Grams at (605) 332-3401 or jessicagrams_881@yahoo.com.

Faith, Sioux Falls—Supper & a Great Speaker!! June 8th join Faith for supper off the grille and dessert and listen to Micah Parker—Micah was a Mass Event speaker at the 2007 LCMS National Youth Gathering. Micah will be sharing a talk entitled Mighty Warriors. Again, for more information contact Jessica Grams at the number and e-mail listed above.

June Newsletter

Deadline—May 26

HOW DO YOU SET UP A STEWARDSHIP TEAM?

Let's face it, it is difficult for us to talk about Stewardship. It's biblical. There are over 600 references to how we use money in the Bible, and there are countless other passages regarding the use of our time and our talents, etc. that the Bible also mentions. In short, Stewardship is about living the Christian Life in response to the gifts God has given you. In other words it falls under the 3rd use of the Law. It's our guide in how to live out our lives of faith. Unfortunately, just like all other areas of faith, Stewardship has to be taught. When it's not taught, God's people, sinful as we are, have a tendency to think we're doing just fine. One of the things I share with people is that any time we feel we're doing enough, warning flags should be going on inside of us. Anytime we're giving enough, serving enough, etc. we find ourselves starting to use the same logic as the Pharisees.

One of the questions I've been asked most often by Pastors is "We know we need to talk more about Stewardship, but we don't know where to start. How do we get a Stewardship program together?" In the last newsletter I mentioned one resource for helping with Stewardship called Consecration Sunday, but if you don't have a team willing to put it together, it like everything else call fall flat. The best case is to find a committed lay person who is concerned about financial matters. Maybe even the guy who is always grumbling about how we don't have enough money. Engage that person and ask them to consider looking into different Stewardship resources. You can give my name and church phone number to ask for resources or you could have them contact Reverend Schwan at the District Office. Both of us would be happy to assist people in this area.

Second, let me encourage CONGREGATIONS TO LOOK AT PURCHASING THE Congregational Stewardship Workbook 2000 from Synod. Once upon a time they were almost \$100. Currently, you can get them for as low as \$60 at the DCS Store. A link is included from the LCMS website: <http://www.lcms.org/ca/dcs/dcsstore/default.asp>. This binder is a bit intimidating because of its size. However, it does break down into a number of smaller workbooks to provide information from everything to organizing a Stewardship committee to budgeting to educating about Stewardship. You will find no other resource that provides as much bang for the buck. In addition, Reverend Schwan has several copies at the District Office he is willing to give to the first congregations to request them.

Stewardship is an exciting way to see God's people at work, living the lives that God has created, Christ has redeemed, and the Holy spirit has sanctified. If I can be of any service to you or your congregation as you help them learn that joy and excitement, please give me a call at Resurrection Lutheran Church: (605) 361-6631 or drop me an e-mail at Revascher@msn.com.

SEMINARY OFFERS NATIONWIDE SUMMER WORKSHOPS

Concordia Seminary is pleased to announce its summer 2008 series of workshops for pastors, professional church workers and interested lay persons. Eleven workshops, covering a wide variety of subjects, are offered nationwide.

The cost for each summer workshop is \$125. Payment is due 21 days prior to the beginning of each workshop, and workshops have a minimum required enrollment. Housing and meal information may be obtained from the host pastor.

To register or receive further information, contact the Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services, Concordia Seminary 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; (314) 505-7486; ce@csl.edu.

- "Why Some and Not Others? The Canon of the New Testament in Historical and Theological Perspective," June 10-12, Waverly, IA, by Professor Jeffrey Kloha, assistant professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary.
- "Journey with Jonah," July 7-9, Phoenix, AZ by Dr. R. Reed Lessing, associate professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary.
- "Righteousness and the Righteous Life: Galatians, James and Justification." July 14-16, Wichita
- "James: The Apostle of Faith and Works," July 14-16, Cedar Crest, NM, by Dr. Louis Brighton, professor emeritus at Concordia Seminary.
- Restore the Roar: Amos," July 21-23, West Fargo, ND, by Dr. R. Reed Lessing, associate professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary.
- "Practicing Ambidexterity," July 21-23, West Des Moines, IA, by Dr. Joel Biermann, assistant professor of systematic theology at Concordia Seminary
- "God's Blue Planet," August 11-13, Seymour, IN, by Dr. Charles P. Arand, professor of systematic theology at Concordia Seminary.
- "Practicing Ambidexterity," August 11-13, Bloomington, IL, by Dr. Joel Biermann, Assistant professor of systematic theology at Concordia Seminary
- Consult the Concordia's website for more information.

“BECOME A SEED PLANTER AND CHANGE LIVES!”

Recently Reverend David Schwan and I met together at Oscar’s Coffee Shop in Sioux Falls to talk over a latte. While our lattes were being prepared we chatted with the two ladies behind the counter. When one of them handed us our coffee I handed her a copy of GOD’S WORD of Love. I said, “I have a gift for you. It’s about God’s love for you in Jesus.” With a big smile on her face she took the little booklet and said, “Well, thank you!” That was all I said...and the seed of God’s Word was planted. I don’t know what will become of that seed. However, I do know the Lord wants to use the seed of His Word to change her life!

At our Spring Pastor’s Conference Michael Hackbardt, the Executive Director of the God’s Word to the Nations Bible Society, encouraged us to become “seed planters.” The urgent need is for us to plant the seed of God’s Word in clear, natural English. Pastors and their wives received a copy of three outreach tools to use as seed planters: GOD’S WORD: Real Hope, GOD’S WORD of Encouragement, and GOD’S WORD of Love. If you look at these three outreach tools you will notice, as I did, what awesome “seeds” they are. Each day the Holy Spirit will give us many opportunities to plant this seed in people’s lives wherever we go.

Would you like to be a seed planter and change lives? You can become an Outreach Partner with God’s Word to the Nations (GWN) Mission Society. Visit their web site: www.godsword.org today and click on “Become a Seed Planter and Change Lives.” Or for more information about becoming an Outreach Partner to receive “seed” every month, call their staff toll free at 1-877-GODSWORD (1-877-463-7967). You can also purchase “seed” in “case prices” for the outreach in your congregation. Look forward to receiving more information soon about this excellent opportunity to plant the seed of God’s Word that changes lives.

Reverend Christopher Boehnke

Chairman, Outreach Program Area



Reverend Bill Paepke as he mourns the passing of his mother, Thelma Radke. Thelma was called home to the Lord April 29. Her funeral was held Saturday, May 3 at St. John’s Lutheran in Groton. Pastor Paepke serves as Senior Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Rapid City.

Our sympathy also to Reverend Wesley Hafner and his family as they mourn the passing of his father who was called home to the Lord on April 16th. The funeral was held April 21st. Pastor Hafner serves Trinity Lutheran Church in Mansfield, SD.

HELPING A SOLDIER HELP SOME KIDS



The members of St. John’s Lutheran Church and Sunday School, Yankton, SD recently collected over 300 lbs of school supplies for a needy nursery/preschool in Kabul, Afghanistan. A member of the church, MAJ Joshua Hirsch is currently assigned there as an advisor to the

Afghan Army. Shown in the picture with MAJ Hirsch (back right) is SGM Cooper along with the kids displaying a portion of their supplies.

NATIONAL LCMS WORSHIP CONFERENCE

REGISTRATION OPEN....Registration for this summer’s Institute on Liturgy, Preaching, and Church Music, July 22-25, 2008 at Concordia, Seward is available online at: <http://worship.lcms.org/2008> Institute.

Like the 2002 and 2005 conferences, this summer’s Institute is designed for pastors, musicians, others who regularly plan and lead worship, as well as interested lay people. A team of over 60 lecturers, clinicians, preachers, organists, and choir directors will join forces to:

- Bring pastors and musicians together toward the common goal of proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ Word and song.
- Build and strengthen a network of pastors and musicians who can learn from each other about God’s great gifts of Word and music.
- Stretch the skills and “comfort levels” of both pastors and musicians in their callings of preaching and leading God’s people in song.

Feedback from past conferences included:

- “This was the most organized and inspirational conference I’ve ever attended, and I have typically attended several a year for the past 20 years!”
- “Thank you for all your hard work. As a Lutheran school teacher and pastor’s wife, I have attended many conferences over the years. This one was the best, both in terms of organization and content.”
- “This is so needed within our Synod. Let’s not forget about all of our beginners and self-taught church musicians.”

This summer’s conference will be a wonderful time for all who attend. Make your plans now, and register online while there is still space available.