



SOUTH DAKOTA DISTRICT THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD



from the President

Dear Co-workers in Christ Jesus our Savior,

“Gifts”

The word *gift* is used many times and in many ways throughout Scripture. After King David defeated the Moabites, they became servants and brought gifts to him (2 Sam. 8:2). After the LORD miraculously spared King Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem, they brought gifts to the LORD (2 Chron. 32:23). Many passages speak of the gifts that people give.

But people are not the only ones to give gifts. Some of the greatest “gift passages” of the Bible speak of God’s gifts to us. We are all familiar with those great God-given gifts. *“The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord”* (Rom. 3:23). Or again, *“For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast”* (Eph. 2:8-9). God’s grace that shows in the gift of His Son Jesus Christ and in the forgiveness of sins and Spirit’s gift of faith, and the assurance of salvation is the greatest of all of God’s gifts.

The “Chief Article” of our faith, sometimes called the “Material Principle” of what we believe, teach and confess is entirely centered on that gift. *“It is also taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that we receive the forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ’s sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for His sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us...”* (Augsburg Confession, Article IV.)

In order to bring this gift of God’s grace along with its accompanying forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God, God has provided His holy Word and the Sacraments as instruments or means by which the Holy Spirit is given and through which the Holy Spirit produces faith. Along with these means of grace, God has also provided another gift, the ministry of teaching the Gospel and administering the Sacraments. And with that, God provides those who teach and administer. *“And His gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangel-*

ists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ...”
Ephesians 4:11-12

It was my privilege this past month to attend and participate in the Call Day Service and the Service of Assignment of Vicars at each of our Synodical Seminaries. The men who were assigned and placed are gifts of God to His Church. The Apostle Paul certainly reflects that when he writes: *“How are men to call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in Him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without a preacher? And how can men preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who preach good news!’”* (Rom. 14-15).

Incidentally, this was the first time I have attended one of the services since the day of my own vicarage assignment and Call Day. I remember the joy and the anticipation I experienced. I saw the same joy and anticipation on the faces of all those men who were preparing to go out, called by the Lord through His churches, to begin the incredible privilege and responsibility of sharing the saving gifts of God with the people of God. Gifts to share gifts!

These are the gifts that God has given this year to the congregations and people of the South Dakota District:

Candidate Eugene Haug (FW) – Pastor of St. John’s Lutheran, Wagner and Trinity Lutheran, Fairfax.

Candidate Joshua Jones (SL) – Assistant Pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran, Rapid City.

Candidate David Knefelkamp (SL) – Pastor of First English Lutheran, Aurora and Zion Lutheran, White.

Candidate Christopher Lockie (SL) – Assistant Pastor of Zion Lutheran, Rapid City.

Seminarian Keith Witte (FW) – Vicar, Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Brookings.

Seminarian Matthew Priem (SL) – Vicar, St. John’s Lutheran, Yankton.

There were also a number of men from our South Dakota

District who were placed as pastors or received assignments as vicars in other districts:

Candidate Korey Aker, Rapid City (SL) – St. Paul Lutheran in Paducah, KY.

Candidate Dean Bertsch, Aberdeen (FW) – St. Paul Lutheran in Birnamwood, WI.

Candidate Marty Porter, Corona (FW) – Zion Lutheran in Sauk Centre, MN.

Candidate Jose Rodriguez, Sioux Falls (SL) – St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Liberty, MO.

Candidate Eric VanScharrel, Huron (SL) – Christ the Redeemer Lutheran in Tulsa, OK.

Seminarian Jacob Bobby, Spearfish (SL) – Vicar, St. Paul's Lutheran, Haven, KS.

Seminarian Lucas Edwards, Spearfish (SL) – Vicar, Immanuel Lutheran, Parkers Prairie, MN.

Seminarian Nathan Fuehrer, Huron (FW) – Vicar, St. Paul's Lutheran, Saskatoon, SK.

Seminarian Jeffrey Kalb, Hartford (FW) – Vicar, Immanuel/Christ Lutheran, Neligh/Elgin, NE.

Seminarian Eric Kolonich, Black Hawk (SL) – Vicar, St. Paul's Lutheran, New Hartford, CT.

Give thanks always for God's greatest gifts of His Son, His grace, His Word and Sacraments. But remember, also, to give thanks for those He has given as pastors and teachers, and especially these days, these new gifts that are being given to the church.

Pastor Dale L. Sattgast

- 1 Corinthians 2:22
- 1 Corinthians 3:4-6
- 2 Timothy 1:8-14




A TWO-IN-ONE OPPORTUNITY ON THE THIRD (June 3rd)!

On Sunday, June 3, at Faith Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation members in and around Sioux Falls have the opportunity to eat and learn together. From 11:30 a.m.—1:00 p.m. on June 3, the District Church Worker Education Debt Assistance Committee (CWEDA) is sponsoring a **German Sausage Dinner to benefit the CWEDA assistance fund**. This fund helps eligible District church workers to pay off their burdensome education debt (last year's applicants averaged \$36,500 in such debt). The Sausage Dinner, served by the Ministry Action Team from Zion, Sioux Falls, features the award-winning German sausage from the Delmont Blue Bird Locker. A free-will offering is asked for the meal. You won't want to miss it!

First, the eating, then the learning! After the Sausage Dinner, the Planning Committee for **Lutheran High School of Sioux Falls** will host an **Information Meeting**, beginning at 1:30 p.m. You will get up-to-date information on plans for the school and action steps on how your congregation can be a part of this exciting ministry to young people. Childcare will be provided for the meeting.

Please call the Faith church office to sign up for the sausage dinner and to register your children for the childcare (332-3401). Faith Lutheran Church is located at 601 North Cliff Avenue in Sioux Falls.

In Loving Memory



OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS....to Rochelle Redhage and her family as they mourn the death of her father who was called home April 24, 2007 and will be buried in Sheboygan Falls, Wisconsin. Rochelle Redhage is the wife of Reverend Lloyd Redhage who serves our congregations in Andover and Ferney, SD. Our prayers also to Pastor Daniel Redhage and his family and to Rebecca Idt and her family, as they mourn their grandfather's passing. Pastor Daniel Redhage serves our congregations at Centerville-Hurley and Rebecca is the wife of Reverend Brian Idt, Assistant Pastor of St. Paul-St. John's Lutheran Churches in Aberdeen.

From the Executive Secretary

Reverend David Schwan

MAY IS A GOOD MONTH TO.....

God bless you richly as we wind our way from the open tomb to the Mount of Ascension and the fire of Pentecost this month. What a rich treasure trove we have to proclaim in our Savior Jesus Christ.

It is never the wrong time to talk about stewardship. May is a good time to talk about the stewardship of the earth as agriculture gets in high gear with the planting of crops. Stewardship of life and vocation can be emphasized as we go through another round of graduations. One might also note to members that when they are absent because of vacation, they are not on vacation from their opportunities to give at church. Money should be set aside that would be given at the Sunday service they miss. They can then bring that, plus the present Sunday's gift then together when they return.

May is also a good time to call the prospective confirmation class and parents together to look ahead to the fall. Do this early to get them thinking ahead to what confirmation will be all about in the fall. It will also give teachers of confirmation classes time to take into account any learning disabilities and contemplate what it will take to reach everyone, be they strong or weak students.

For those that struggle with Sunday School in the summer due to reduced class sizes, why not just work with a VBS model that enables a different format for Sunday mornings? The one-room schoolhouse of yesteryear served a very fine purpose and accomplished much in the way of multi grade education. It can still do that today.

May is also a good time to plan with your congregational leadership for some sort of summer get together. You cannot do too much relationship building among people who work together, especially on important and meaningful jobs.

Finally, always remember, "The Urgent Can Easily Overwhelm the Important!" Cogitate on the ramifications and permutations of that statement to see what it means for you, your congregation, your family,

Yours in Christ,

Reverend David Schwan, Executive Secretary

GOOD NEWS in Arabic

GOOD NEWS is a journal, illustrated with great art, that, for over ten years now, has been used to teach the Word of God. Pastors, teachers and evangelists worldwide are using *GOOD NEWS* to do what Jesus has told His followers to do, "Go therefore....teaching them" (Matthew 28:19-20). *GOOD NEWS* is not intended for the theological professor or scholar. Instead, our goal is to provide materials that will teach the true doctrine of God's Word in a simple, yet compelling way, for the "man on the street." With the Holy Spirit's guidance, our prayer is that as men and women read this journal, God's gospel message will work in their hearts and lives, and that they will find the Gospel to be relevant in their daily lives. With the Lord's blessing, we have exciting news this Spring. An **Arabic** translation of the "Justification" issue of *GOOD NEWS* has been prepared and is ready to mail to churches, pastors, and missionaries around the world. Especially here in the USA and Canada, those who work among recent Arab immigrants tell us they have longed for a resource like this.

Knowing your work and your connections as district mission executives and staff, we wanted you to know that this first Arabic issue is now available. Are there congregations and ministries in your district that could make use of this resource for teaching the Christian faith? Those interested can receive a free copy by calling *GOOD NEWS* at 1-800-778-1132 or emailing at info@good-news.net. Ask for the Arabic issue #18.

OUTREACH LEADERSHIP

INSTITUTE 2007

Revitalizing People and the Church for Outreach

July 12-14, 2007

**Concordia University,
St. Paul, Minnesota**

A training event for church leaders who have a heart for evangelism and outreach

- Lay ministers and volunteers
- Directors of Christian Outreach
- Directors of Christian Education
- Lutheran school and early childhood teachers and administrators
- Deaconesses
- Pastors
- Active church members

Please call the District Office (361-1514) for more information and registration materials.

A NOTE FROM YOUR MISSIONARIES

Greeting from all of us here in Rosebud. What a blessed season is Easter, as we remember what our Lord has done for us. We give thanks to all of you for the support both financially and prayerfully you give for us. We thank you also for the opportunity you give us to share that Easter message here.

We have had a great month here. We had baptisms 4 weeks in a row, baptizing a total of 8 children. All connected to the church, but some through aunts and the like who have encouraged their families to get their kids baptized. It has been quite fun. It is not too often that we see baptisms 4 weeks in a row.

Of course that has helped attendance. For those 4 weeks, and one following where we celebrated a birthday, we had over 50 people each week. Sometimes more. That makes worship fun too. The message of Jesus Christ is touching more and more people here.

The same has been true in Parmelee, there we have been getting 10-20 people each week, some are kids but there are also adults that come regularly. So we praise God for all that, and the opportunity to share Jesus Christ with them.

My confirmation class in Parmelee continues to go also. Pretty soon we will have gone through the catechism. Last night I teased the kids that they were here because they had to be, but they assured me that they wanted to be there. Of course I needed to provide the snacks.

Once again for the summer I am getting a summer vicar. I am getting the same man from the seminary that came last year. The congregation in Valentine Nebraska is paying for him to be here and help with Bible School, and to preach and things when I am on vacation. It is also a great experience for him, as he gets to share Jesus in a cross cultural setting.

I have told you about one of my friends in prison who wants to become a pastor. He wrote me the other day and said "I was reading Galatians, and it seems like that book describes the entire Lutheran faith. Well maybe not all of it, but most of it." He may make a pastor yet.

Once again we wish each of you a blessed Easter, please continue your prayers and financial support for us. May the Lord bless the mission work that you do in the place he has placed you!

In Christ,

Reverend Andrew Utecht, Lori and boys

Pending

Fehlauer, Donald, MAL, Ft. Atkinson, WI has received the call from Mt. Calvary, Huron, SD as Senior Pastor 5/1/2007

Haug, Eugene, Candidate, Ft. Wayne Seminary has received the call from St. John-Trinity, Wagner-Fairfax 4/24/2007

Jones, Joshua, Candidate, St. Louis Seminary has received the call from Bethlehem, Rapid City as Assistant 4/25/2007

Knefelkamp, David, Candidate, St. Louis Seminary has received the call from First English-Zion, Aurora-White 4/25/2007

Lockie, Christopher, Candidate, St. Louis Seminary has received the call from Zion, Rapid City, as Assistant 4/26/2007

Pinn, Jon, Teacher, Sioux Falls Lutheran School, Sioux Falls, SD has received a call from Messiah Lutheran Church and School, Longmont, CO—Grades 5/6 4/20/2007

Accepted

None

Declined

None

Vacant Pastorates/Schools

Aurora-White, First English-Zion

Huron, Mt. Calvary—Senior Pastor

Murdo-Draper, Messiah-St. Paul—Sole Pastor

Rapid City, Zion—Assistant

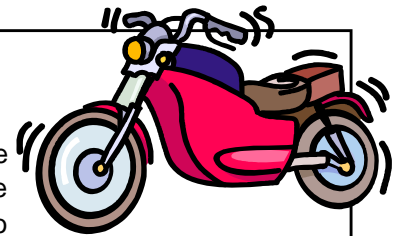
Sioux Falls, Zion—Senior Pastor

Sturgis, Blessed Emmanuel—Sole Pastor

MEDA Meets CWEDA

Wouldn't it be nice to raise money for a worthy cause while enjoying what you like to do? That's what MEDA does.

(Motorcyclists Eradicating Debt Alliance) is a small group of motorcycle enthusiasts, amongst them Reverend Randy Sturzenbecher and Reverend David Schwan, that ride to raise money for worthy causes. This year's ride is 1500 miles in 36 hours scheduled for May 17 and 18. One hundred percent of the money raised will be donated to CWEDA (Church Worker Educational Debt Assistance). If you would like to make a donation or join the ride contact Reverend Randy Sturzenbecher at divineshepherd@midconetwork.com.



Porcupine Mission Report

Palm Sunday/Easter Celebration

April 1, 2007

Sunday, March 25th we had a very important final Lenten message about Sin, Satan and our Gracious who loved us so much, that He had His one and only Son suffer and die for our sins. The text was Ephesians 6:10-18 THE FULL



ARMOUR OF GOD! The service ended with each person receiving a nail, and small piece of paper to write their name in red reminding us of Jesus' Blood. Then we each hammered the nail through the piece of paper to a large wooden cross with a red heart. This was

done to remind us that Christ died not only for our sins but for sins of the whole world.

Our Palm Sunday/Easter service April 1, 2007 not only fell on April fools day but also during a full moon. We did not give this much thought until we were visiting with a friend from the reservation and she told us about terrible things that happen during Lent. Then we knew that Satan would be working hard to prevent God's message of salvation and Jesus' victory over death from being taught that day. Reverend Utecht had a prayer before anyone arrived.

It seemed like many who came were irritated and picking fights with others and some even left. The word was taught and the gospel was told to all who were there. It was a very strong message for the 30+ who stayed and took part in the service. Each person received a palm branch to take home followed by a short filmstrip of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem. After a short review of the crucifixion, a Resurrection film strip was shown. One young girl who had only been coming for three Sundays, when she saw the empty tomb, said "I can't believe my eyes! I just can't believe my eyes! He is alive!" How wonderful it is when these little ones get the message. The Holy Spirit is truly at work!



Reverend Utecht has used the theme of flowers to present the Resurrection message. Each was given a package of bright flower seeds to remind us that our burial is like planting a seed, and our resurrection into Heaven will be our great changing into a flower, a beautiful new creation to live forever with Christ Jesus. The text was John 14:19 and we were

invited to say with Reverend Utecht, "BECAUSE I LIVE, YE SHALL LIVE ALSO!" He had us repeat it several times as he explained how Jesus said these words and how Jesus never told a lie.

At the end of the service each person brought up a colorful flower and attached it to the same cross that held all the nails and names from the week before. This also reminded us of His resurrection and how we too shall one day be resurrected and live with Him forever.

Jesus said, I am the Resurrection and the Life.

After the church service Larry Belitz led the children around the church waving their palm branches and saying Hosanna! Hosanna! Then we watched the 30 minute NEST animated version of the Resurrection. The children were very interested and one 6



year old girl who had

been coming to our church and Sunday school since she was two years old, was surprised and amazed that Jesus never sinned or in her words, did anything bad but still yet He had to die for all the bad stuff we do. It's good when God lets us hear comments to strengthen us and encourage us

A meal was prepared and served by Doris Belitz and Donna Utecht. The extras are always sent home with the people as is the Indian custom.

HE IS RISEN. HE IS RISEN INDEED!

By Jeff and Diane Falin

Mission Team: Reverend and Donna Utecht, Larry and Doris Belitz, Jeff and Diane Falin, and Al and Sarah Sutton and children



thESource

...the “new” thESource with lots of new features, enhancements and great resources has been launched. Check it out at www.youthsource.com



Supported in part by a church wide grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation, thESource for Youth Ministry, an online resource managed by LCMS Youth Ministry released a new look and function in late March 2007. The site update celebrates three years of thE-Source providing Lutheran resources for those at work in congregational youth ministry settings.

“There are literally hundreds, if not thousands, of online publications available for youth workers. We are not trying to recreate the wheel, but contribute a distinctly Lutheran spin to the larger youth ministry conversation taking place throughout the church,” shares Gretchen Jameson, Associate Director for LCMS Youth Ministry and managing editor for thESource.

“Each month, thESource takes on an issue significant for youth workers. Sometimes we focus on program and youth-specific concerns, other months we focus on youth theory, youth worker training, and articles designed to nurture and equip the leader.” Jameson shares that each month’s theme is also complemented by a four-part Bible study for use in congregational youth and church leadership settings.

The “new” Source allows users to create user profiles, easily store favorite articles, and communicate in forum conversation with other Lutheran youth workers. “We even provide our own Lutheran youth worker version of a social networking software,” says Jameson. “We call it My Flannel Board. It’s a fun way for youth workers across the LCMS to network and communicate.”

Additionally, the new site includes an archive that can be viewed and searched by topic or favorite author. Dozens of articles, Bible studies, resources, and tools are available for download and access.

“We are also emerging with new content,” shares Jameson. “With the help of two youth worker consultation groups, we have tailored thESource to better serve the emerging needs of youth professionals and volunteers in the LCMS and look forward to communicating timely, Jesus-centered resources with our audience.”

thESource for Youth Ministry is a free resource of the LCMS Youth Ministry Office and can be accessed online at www.youthsource.com.

From the Brynestads

It’s often enough we feel under the microscope when we home school our children, but can you imagine what it must be like for those of us who home school gifted or special needs children? It is often looked upon as criminal or neglectful to educate your gifted or special needs child at home. Don’t you want the best for them? How can you possibly be equipped to meet the unique needs of your child in the home? What kind of special training do you have to meet the needs of these children?

Rest assured, there are many families successfully home schooling these children. More often than not these children need the one-on-one, close interaction to challenge and focus them in a manner offered through home education.

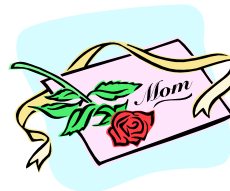
As with all decisions, prayerfully consider what is best for your child, their needs and your family.

The next issue of Feed my Lambs will focus on the various styles and approaches of home education. Some of the most common are the traditional, classical and unschooling route. Because of the wonderful dynamics of differing families, not one way is the best way or the way to home education. It often takes several years to find which style works best for you.

As such, we’d like to hear from you. Your input would be most appreciated, especially for new families or families who are struggling. Let us know your journey, what worked for you, some of the advantages, disadvantages, things you’d do over if only you’d known.

Please feel free to email us your submission to Jn2115.FML@gmail.com or newsletter@fml-hs.com. We look forward to hearing from you.



Taken from “Feed My Lambs” ; Lutheran Home Educators’ Newsletter; Winter 2007 — Volume 15, Number 1



Mother’s Day Facts (from the U.S. Census Bureau)

The driving force behind Mother’s Day is reported to be Anna Jarvis, who started observances in West Virginia and Pennsylvania in 1908. Congress designated the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day in 1914.

- 80.5 million mothers in the U.S.
- 4.1 million mothers gave birth in 2005; about 414,000 were teens and 111,000 were older than 40
- Average age of women when they gave birth for the first time: 25.2
- July was the most popular month in which to have a baby; Tuesday was the most popular day; Jacob and Emily were the most popular names
- 10.4 million moms are single, living with children younger than 18

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 President Sattgast at Grace, Deadwood	7	8	9 ← Missions Meeting, St. Louis, MO →	10	11	12
13 	14	15	16	17	18 ← Floor Committee Meetings, St. Louis →	19
20 ← Floor Committee Meetings, St. Louis →	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Congregational Homecoming-Faith, Pierre celebrates 75th Anniversary Chester Celebrates their 100th Anniversary	28 District Office Closed 	29	30	31	<h1>May 2007</h1>	

June Newsletter
Deadline—May 24

UPCOMING DATES TO NOTE:

- June 21—24, 2007 National LWML Convention—Sioux Falls, SD
- July 14-19, 2007 Synodical Convention, Houston, TX
- July 28—August 1, 2007 National Youth Gathering—Orlando, FL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<h1>June 2007</h1>					1
						2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 ← Board of Directors, Sioux Falls →	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 ←	25	26	27	28	29	30
			Camp Minneboji Week			→