

teach and discuss with a group or congregation. Shipping for the devices is not in the current budget for the Board for World Outreach, so if you would like to help, please contact Rev. Steve Petersen: spp@blc.edu or call 507-344-7852.

Congregational Treasurers

We urge treasurers of our ELS congregations to submit synod offerings toward our 2014 congregation contribution portion of the budget no later than January 10, 2015. Our hope is that we will meet our goal of \$760,000, with any amount over \$725,000 earmarked for the use of developing home missions.

Prayers for Families

Rev. Micah Ernst's mother died on October 20, 2014, at Rockford, Minnesota. Please keep the Ernst family in your prayers.

We ask your prayers also for Rev. Greg and Eloise Sahlstrom. Eloise's mother, Margaret, died on December 12, 2014.

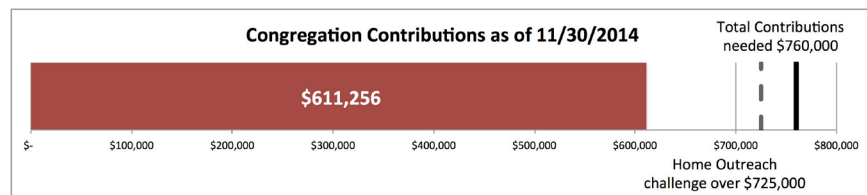
Keep also the Rev. Mark Harstad family in your prayers, as Mark is undergoing the cell transplant procedure.

May God also bless BLC Prof. Ted Manthe's family. His wife Kristin's mother, Lisa Nicholson, 60, passed away on December 15, 2014; a memorial service was held at Peace, North Mankato, Minnesota, on Saturday, December 20, 2014.

Prayers of thanksgiving are offered for Seminarian Matt Behmer and wife Beth at the birth of a healthy daughter, Emmalyn "Emma" Ruth, in early December.

President's schedule

January 7 — Synod Review Committee
January 11 — Preach at Faith, Clara City, MN; call meeting
January 20 — Planning and Coordinating Committee
January 20–21 — Board for Youth Outreach
January 25 — Preach at Divine Mercy, Hudson Oaks, Texas
January 26–28 — Board for Home Outreach Seminar, Leander, Texas
January 30 — Meetings with the CLC in Waukesha, Wisconsin
February 2–3 — Board of Regents
February 3 — Archives Committee
February 9 — Board for LSA
February 10 — Board of Trustees



President's Newsletter



Office of the President

John A. Moldstad

6 Browns Court Mankato, Minnesota 56001
507-344-7356 jamjr@blc.edu

January 2015

Dear Fellow Workers in Christ's Kingdom:

Therefore, be it resolved... A good suggestion for planning our year is to increase the amount of time devoted to reading God's Word. The very first Psalm reminds us of this with the well-known phrase, "... and in his law does he meditate day and night." When Luther translated the Bible into the common language of the German people, he presented this wish: "My object, my hope, in translating the Scriptures, was to check the so prevalent production of new works and so to direct men's study and thoughts more closely to the divine Word. Never will the writings of mortal man in any respect equal the sentences inspired by God." What a privilege to meditate on the Book that gives us life, the Book that gives us forgiveness and righteousness, the Book that tells us we have a Savior who is our loving God, the Book that tells us we have an eternity of bliss and glory through faith in the merits of Him who gave His life and took it up again. Have a reflective and profitable new year in the Name that is above every name!

Blessings in Christ,

John A. Moldstad

New sign of HOPE!

As of December 7, 2014, a new sign appears on Highway 3 on the northwest side of Farmington, Minnesota. A 4.8-acre piece of land has been purchased for the future home of our ELS mission congregation in this southern suburb of Minneapolis served by Rev. Dan Oberer. The congregation has 69 members.



Appointment to Archives

Rev. Michael Muehlenhardt has been temporarily appointed to the Committee for Archives and History, replacing Rev. David Locklair. The position is to be filled by the Board of Trustees at its February 2015 meeting.

ELS, WELS and LCMS Informal Meetings

Eighteen representatives from the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and our Evangelical Lutheran Synod met December 9–10, 2014, in Winter Park, Florida. The third series of informal meetings focused on the doctrine and practice of church fellowship. A distinction is made between *informal* and *formal* meetings. *Informal* simply indicates there are conversations to dispel caricatures, to better understand each other's positions, and provide opportunities for encouraging toward a confessional Lutheran practice. *Formal* would imply among other things work by joint commissions on a common document to be drafted toward a presumed full restoration of fellowship. The informal meetings with the LCMS are helpful but not intended to suggest a restoration of fellowship between the former Synodical Conference bodies is imminent.

Formal Meetings with the CLC

Representatives from the Church of the Lutheran Confession, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod and the ELS plan to meet in Waukesha, Wisconsin, on January 30, 2015. Doctrine Committee members, Rev. Gaylin Schmeling and Rev. Erling Teigen, together with Pres. J. Moldstad, will be serving as the representatives from the ELS. In 1990 work was begun on a joint statement on church fellowship where considerable agreement had been reached by the three church bodies, but did not lead to further steps toward restoration of fellowship for various reasons.

Installation in Weston, Ohio

On December 7, 2014, Rev. Mark Rogers was installed as pastor of Grace, Weston, Ohio. Rev. Paul Schneider (circuit visitor) preached the sermon and performed the rite of installation.



U. V. Koren Sermons

Now all in English for the first time!

Ulrik V. Koren (1826–1910) was a beloved pastor and church leader for the Norwegian Synod, the first Norwegian pastor to live west of the Mississippi. His sermons are a wonderful Sunday devotional with clear application of Law and Gospel in a timeless way. He guided the Synod through difficult controversies, and helped establish relationships with the Wisconsin Synod and Missouri Synod, as well as helping to found colleges and academies throughout the Midwest. The translator of these volumes (first is completed) is Prof. Mark DeGarmeaux of our Bethany Lutheran College. To purchase a copy, contact our BLC Bookstore: 1- 800-944-1722.

Worldview Seminar

On February 6 & 7, 2015, a seminar featuring 5 speakers is planned at Faith Lutheran, San Antonio, Texas. To learn more about this event, see <http://flc-sa.org/biblical-worldview-conference>

Installation in Thornton, Iowa

On December 7, 2014, Rev. Robert Harting was installed as pastor of Richland (Thornton, Iowa) and Prince of Peace (Mason City, Iowa, WELS) at the Thornton church. Rev. Martin Hoesch preached the sermon, Rev. Wayne Halvorson served as liturgist, and Pres. Moldstad performed the installation rite. Rev. Michael Sheppard, the circuit pastor for WELS, brought greetings to the joint parish following the service.



Installation at New Hampton, Iowa

Rev. Jesse Dedyne was installed as pastor of Redeemer, New Hampton, Iowa and Trinity, Calmar, Iowa, on December 14, 2014. The installation occurred at the Redeemer congregation. Rev. James Kassera preached the sermon, and Rev. Wayne Halvorson (circuit visitor) performed the rite of installation.



Parade in Green Bay

On Saturday, December 6, Christ the King Lutheran in Green Bay, Wisconsin, entered a float in the 2014 annual Howard-Suamico Christmas Parade. The float was entitled "Tuning in to God's Plan of Salvation." Members walked along with the float handing out candy to the kids and Christmas outreach postcards to the adults. In all about 800 cards were distributed promoting the worship times for the church's Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. The float received the 2014 Optimists' Award, which, in all the years of the church's participation in the parade, is the first time Christ the King has received any kind of award.



New Technology for Mission Fields

With the assistance of WELS Multilanguage Publications, the ELS Board for World Outreach is sending "Proclaimers" to several of our mission fields. These unique devices are able to play recordings of the New Testament in native languages and are powered by battery, solar power or a hand crank, making them invaluable tools in environments without electricity or with unreliable power. Proclaimers with recordings in Spanish, Quechua, and Shawi have been sent to Peru and devices with recordings in Hindi and Telegu will soon arrive in India. Pastors and evangelists can bring the lightweight device on long trips, play a section of Scripture, then