

Anniversary Offering Update

Our Anniversary Offering Committee continues to encourage all our congregations and their members to support the Anniversary Offering. You and your congregation can help by doing one or more of the following:

1. Have two weeks (or more) dedicated emphasis on support of the offering.
2. Post regular updates and the progress of the offering.
3. Plan for a budget item in your church's budget in support of the offering.
4. Invite a special speaker (perhaps the Evangelism-Missions Counselor or a home missionary).
5. As you use the Bible Study, *Proclaiming God's Truth*, promote missions when you reach the section on missions.
6. Finally, make use of all materials available on the offering website <els.org/offering>.

Most of all, thank you for your prayerful and faithful support! By God's grace, it is your efforts and your prayerful support of our missionaries that win the day.



Transfer

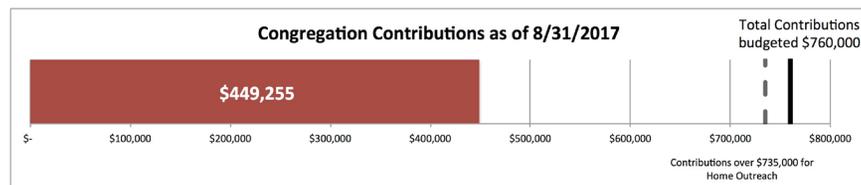
Since Pastor Greg Sahlstrom has accepted a call to serve the WELS congregation of Beautiful Savior Lutheran in West Des Moines, Iowa, he was transferred to the WELS clergy roster on September 26, 2017.

Preaching Station

The Rev. James Ruppel has informed us that a group of members of Grace Lutheran Church, Redmond, Oregon, still continue to meet in the location of Bend, Oregon. For more information, we urge any who may be interested to contact Pastor Ruppel at 509-899-5018.

Upcoming Events

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| October 2-3 – Board for Education | November 2-3 – Board for Home Outreach |
| October 3 – Board for Youth Outreach | November 6-7 – ELS Board of Regents |
| October 4-6 – General Pastoral Conference | November 7 – Board of Trustees |
| October 8 – Tenth anniversary of Hope (Farmington, MN) | November 8-9 – Board for World Outreach |
| October 24 – Synod Review Committee | November 15 – Synod Review Committee |
| October 26-27 – Reformation Lectures | |



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President's Newsletter



Office of the President

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October 2017

Dear Fellow Workers in Christ's Kingdom:

How can we mark well the Reformation celebration? This is on the minds Lutheran parishioners gathering for special worship services this month. First of all, we can acknowledge with thanksgiving the *magnitude* of the gifts we have received through the life of Dr. Martin Luther. About 150 years ago, one Luther scholar mused: "The blessings of which the Reformation was the cause, abide; we feel them in our homes, in the Church, in the State; they are interwoven with the life of our life. Once feeling them, we know that this would be no world to live in without them" (C.P. Krauth). Certainly, today we can say the same. The doctrine of justification by grace through faith in Christ, highlighted by Luther, is overriding and indispensable for our personal lives, for our families, for our local congregations, for our synod, and is what prompts all of our mission efforts! The Bible put into the language of the people and into the hands of the people cannot be underestimated! The blessing of having the Bible truths set forth in simple catechetical language is a treasure that still guides both young and old alike! The emphasis on the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper far transcends any mere preference for ceremonies; here in these rites Christ intimately presents to souls personally His gracious forgiveness of sins! And Luther's constant stand on the Word of God alone, transcending the voice of worldly reason, remains a legacy we cannot do without! Yes, we are grateful for the *magnitude* of these Reformation blessings. But secondly, are we not then moved to see how these treasures should be *secured* for ourselves and future generations *at any cost*? Can we through teaching, through example, through prayer, through our offerings, and through any influence we may have in our stations in life have some small impact on preserving this large dowry from the Lutheran Reformation? May God help us do so for the glory of His holy name!



Blessings in Christ,

John A. Moldstad
John A. Moldstad

Hurricane Impact

In the past several weeks, two hurricanes had major impact on the mainland United States:

Hurricane Harvey wreaked havoc on south Texas in late August. Our ELS churches were not affected, but the homes of several members of WELS congregations experienced flooding or damage.

Hurricane Irma caused devastation throughout the state of Florida in September. The ELS church in Naples sheltered several families during the storm; the Kissimmee church lost some shingles; the church sign was destroyed in Sebring; the church in Vero Beach also lost shingles and had some leakage in the office. Together with WELS, we are thankful that all of our church facilities in Florida were spared major structural damage. However, the home of Pastor Charles Keeler (Winter Haven, Florida) was damaged, including much of the roofing, some interior ceilings, and major water damage. The home was uninhabitable for some time, and the Keelers stayed with members and friends.

Together you already have donated nearly \$20,000 to the ELS for hurricane relief. Thank you for these generous gifts! Please continue to keep the people of these areas in your prayers.

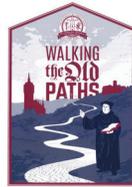


Synod Centennial

The synod's Committee on Worship has provided a service to be used for regional hymn festivals in this Reformation anniversary year. These regional hymn festivals follow a different service than that of the festival held during convention. Make plans to attend one in your area! Contact your pastor or the host church for more information.

Locations are:

Western Koshkonong (Cottage Grove, Wisconsin)	September 17
Peace (Jefferson City, Missouri)	October 1
Trinity (Brewster, Massachusetts)	October 8, 3:00 p.m.
Christ the King (Green Bay, Wisconsin)	October 8
Pinewood (Burlington, Massachusetts)	October 21
Scarville (Scarville, Iowa)	October 22, 4:00 p.m.
St. Luke (Mt. Vernon, Washington)	October 22, 4:00 p.m.
Resurrection (Winter Haven, Florida)	October 29
Grace (Hobart, Indiana)	October 29
Jerico (New Hampton, Iowa)	October 29, 3:00 p.m.
King of Grace (Golden Valley, Minnesota)	October 29, 9:30 a.m.
Mt. Olive (Mankato, Minnesota)	October 29
Oak Park (Oklee, Minnesota)	October 29, 4:00 p.m.
Faith (Carthage, Missouri)	October 29
Abiding Word (Bowling Green, Ohio)	October 29, 4:00 p.m.



Commemorative Shirts at Okauchee!

Our Lutheran elementary school at Holy Trinity in Okauchee, Wisconsin, has adopted our synod's centennial theme for the school year of 2017-2018. The "Proclaim the Wonders God Has Done" seal depicts both the Lutheran five hundredth celebration as well as our upcoming ELS centennial. Holy Trinity School has been operating since 1975.



The Bjarne Wollan Teigen Reformation Lectures 2017

Bethany Lutheran College and Theological Seminary announce the Bjarne Wollan Teigen Reformation Lectures, which will take place at Bethany Lutheran College, October 26-27, 2017, beginning at 10:30 a.m.

Theme: **Luther's Three Treatises: The Reformation Platform**

1. To the Christian Nobility of the German Nation—Prof. Erling Teigen
2. The Babylonian Captivity of the Church—Dr. Erik Herrmann
3. The Freedom of a Christian—Rev. James Langebartels

Online registration available at <<https://www.blc.edu/reformation-lectures>>

Lutheran Art Exhibition

During the months of October and November, the Art Department at Bethany Lutheran College is hosting a Lutheran Art Exhibition called Reformation 2017. The exhibition can be viewed in the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center and includes works by faculty members of BLC, faculty of the WELS colleges of Wisconsin Lutheran College (WLC) and Martin Luther College (MLC), and by alumni from both BLC and WLC.

On Thursday, October 26, there will be a gallery talk and reception at 7:00 pm. The gallery talk will focus on Luther, Vocation, and the Arts. All are welcome to attend.

World Outreach Update

South Korea: The focus at our mission in Seoul is on education. Canaan Language Academy continues English training, and Seoul Lutheran Theological Institute offers weekend and two-week long intensive courses of pastoral training. Another venture for the mission is the exploration of a new site for Gospel outreach in the northwest corner of Seoul.

Progress in Leander

The building project of a new sanctuary at Hope Lutheran in Leander, Texas, continues to move forward. The congregation started as an exploratory mission in 2011. The date for the dedication of the church building has not yet been set.

