

Moving South!

Rev. Kyle Madson, wife Alicia, and family will be traveling to Texas soon. Kyle will be commissioned on May 19 as our synod's home missionary to the Weatherford and Hudson Oaks areas at Abiding Faith (WELS) in Fort Worth, 4:00 p.m. Recently the pastors of our Michigan circuit hosted a farewell for the Madson family. Please keep them in your prayers.



Worship Services Available by Video Streaming

Each Sunday live streaming of the worship services from Peace Lutheran Church in North Mankato, Minnesota, is now being offered through our synod's webpage. Rev. Timothy Hartwig serves as the pastor of Peace. If you would like to connect, please use our regular web address: www.els.name/streaming

Sermons Available Online

A page listing video, audio and print sermons available through our synod churches is now available at: www.els.name/about/sermons If your church is not listed, please send the appropriate link(s) to: pfries@blc.edu.



Plans for Synod Convention, June 16-20

Theme: "Engaging Families With Jesus" (Joshua 24:15)

Synod Sunday preacher: Rev. Rodney Flohr

Wednesday's Communion service preacher: Rev. Doyle Holbird

Essayist: Rev. Donald Moldstad

Chaplain: Rev. Samuel Gullixson

President's Schedule

April 2 - Centennial Committee

April 10-11 - West Coast Pastoral Conference, Lakewood, WA

April 11-12 - Emmaus Conference, Parkland Lutheran, Tacoma, WA

April 14 - preach at Bethany Lutheran, Port Orchard, WA

April 20 - IA Circuit "Engage Others With Jesus" Retreat, Mason City, Iowa

April 23-24 - Great Lakes Pastoral Conference, Concordia, Eau Claire, WI

April 26-27 - Circuit 12 "Engage Others With Jesus" Retreat, Portland, Oregon

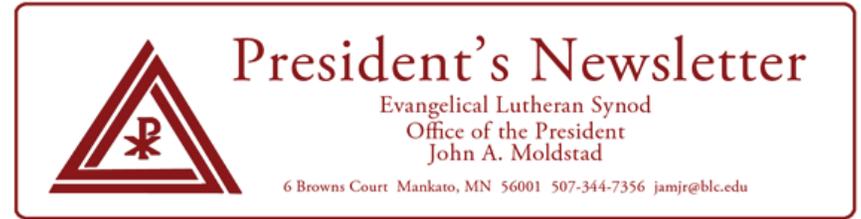
April 28 - preach at Faith Lutheran, Clara City, MN

April 30 - Pre-convention administrative meeting

May 3-4 - Circuit 8 "Engage Others With Jesus" Retreat, Fargo, ND

May 8-9 - Board for Word Outreach

May 9-10 - Board for Home Outreach



April 2013

Dear Fellow Workers in Christ's Kingdom:

Basking in the joy of Easter, we share this sermon gem from the sainted Dr. C. F. W. Walther: "Dear Friends, don't be satisfied with just wondering at the greatness of the Easter gift and with a mere passing joy in it. It really will not benefit you at all to believe only in general that God the Father has already absolved the whole world in the risen Christ if you do not let yourself be brought to the faith that also you personally have been absolved more than 1800 [or about 2000] years ago. Every one of us must learn to say from the heart: I, too, am absolved. The forgiveness of sins is mine. God has declared me free from all my guilt. The little words, 'I,' 'me,' and 'mine' are the words upon which everything depends here. Though you do not want to deny that the Risen One has brought forgiveness from the grave for His unfaithful disciples and even for Peter the denier, yes, for all men, yet your faith also is in vain if in faith you do not add: And, praise God! There is forgiveness also for me!"

In the grace of our Lord Jesus,

John A. Moldstad

New Two-Point Parish

On March 10, 2013, Richland Lutheran of Thornton, Iowa, voted to accept a request from Prince of Peace (WELS) in Mason City, Iowa, to form a dual parish. Rev. David Locklair, the pastor for both congregations, indicates that the transition formally will begin around May 1, 2013. Prince of Peace and Richland will each retain the respective synodical affiliations.

Australia Church Issues Call

Our Redeemer of Kallangur, Queensland, Australia, recently extended a pastoral call to Rev. Dan Finn of Waterloo, Iowa. Please keep Dan in your prayers as he deliberates. The vacancy is created by Rev. Andrew Burmeister's returning to the U.S. to serve as pastor of Our Savior, Lakeland, Florida.

College and Seminary Dates

Graduation at our Bethany Lutheran College is Friday, May 17, 10:30 AM. For the seminary, this year's graduation service and call service will be at the same time: Wednesday, May 15, 7:00 PM.

Special Day of Baptisms for Family

The Morin family had a special day in March. Pictured here are: Jasmine (oldest girl who is holding her brother Benjamin), Dillon, Amy, Anthony and Chloe. Jasmine is enrolled in adult class, together with her parents. The five youngest were baptized on March 10, 2013, at King of Grace Lutheran in Golden Valley, Minnesota.



Opening Devotion Time

Pastor Rod Flohr of King of Grace in Golden Valley, Minnesota, spoke to the students on Friday, March 8, 2013, regarding the greatest gift God has given us – salvation by faith in Jesus Christ. The school has been in operation since 1979 and boasts an enrollment of 164 in K-8. In addition, 54 children participate in the preschool program. Mr. Allen Labitsky serves as the principal for the King of Grace school.



Our Lombard, Illinois, church recently posted this on its sign in order “to remind us all that the real solution to the sin of our land is repentance and faith, as Jeremiah proclaimed, ‘If at any time I declare concerning a nation or kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it’ (Jeremiah 18:7-8, ESV).”

Emmaus Conference 2013

A free conference featuring three synod presidents is scheduled for April 11-12, 2013, at our ELS congregation in Tacoma, Washington. This year Pres. Moldstad will be the presenter and speak on the topic: “Grace Before, In and For All Time: The Election Controversy with application to inter-church dialogue.” Registration for the conference may be made at: www.theemmausconference.org

Volunteer Opportunities

The following note is an invitation from WELS Kingdom Workers to volunteer for certain projects this year. BLC graduate Laura Harstad serves as International Volunteer Coordinator. She writes: “Hello! I wanted to share some volunteer opportunities with you. We are looking for teams of volunteers to help in over 30 locations in the U.S. This would be a great way for the churches to get a youth group involved or for college students and adults to volunteer. Families can even get involved together, and younger children would simply participate in the event. High school students need a chaperone. The cost for each volunteer is only \$250 regardless of where they will be traveling, and they will be staying with host families. There are a lot of exciting opportunities, and I’m hoping you can help me find some volunteers <http://www.kingdomworkers.com/volunteer/lay-worker-opportunities/> At the bottom of this website, you can print a pdf of all of the opportunities as well – this is updated whenever the website is updated. If you have anyone interested in teaching English in Mexico – that is something I also need a lot of volunteers for. Pastors who are interested in learning more about the process for volunteering or who would like to request volunteers to help with an outreach project in 2014 may contact me.

Thank you!” - Laura Harstad 262-955-4643 www.facebook.com/welskingdomworkers

Stained glass window Faith Lutheran Church, East Jordan, Michigan

Much theology is packed into a sanctuary window at Faith, located in northern Michigan. Among the themes set forth: the Trinity; creation, redemption and sanctification; and, in three panels at the bottom, the Means of Grace.



Pastor Jeff Londgren serves the three-point parish that includes E.Jordan, Rogers City and Hillman, Michigan.

Texas Members Gather

Pastor Brad Kerkow of our synod's mission, Hope Lutheran, Cedar Park/Leander, Texas, says, “We had a wonderful Good Friday ‘Service of the Cross of Christ.’ God provided nice weather - a little windy and cloudy but 72 degrees. We started at 7:30 and by 8 PM it was dark. Forty-four were in attendance.”

