

Cross-stitch

Cross-stitch, the network of ELS women's missionary societies, will hold their annual program during Synod Convention on Monday evening. Rachel Kerkow will be speaking on "Texas Mission Adventures: Boots, Bugs and Bless Your Heart." Seminarians Dan Ruiz and Andrew Soule will be providing entertainment for the evening. Dan Ruiz will be leading the devotion.

Cross-stitch will also host an information exchange on Tuesday morning, June 18. The Board of Directors will share information about the purpose of the group and welcomes your ideas for future goals. If you are unable to attend, but have questions or ideas that you would like discussed, please send them to: elsynod@blc.edu

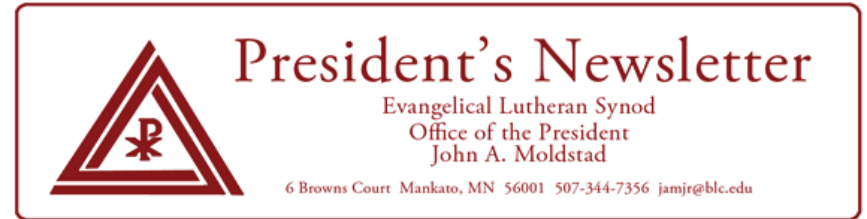
Announcement from the Board for Christian Service

In response to the devastation caused by the recent tornadoes in Oklahoma, the ELS Board for Christian Service has established a "Tornado Relief Fund" under the auspices of the World Needs Fund. Any and all funds received by the synod earmarked for "tornado relief" will be used to help those who have been affected by these storms. Financial donations can be made through the synod web site, evangelicallutheransynod.org or els.name; or, if you prefer, you may send donations by check to: ELS World Needs Fund, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001. Word from the area churches of our sister synod (WELS) is that while no church buildings were affected and there has been no loss of life from those among our fellowship, at least three families have lost their homes and many others are waiting to return home after evacuating to friends' and families' houses. Keep the people affected by this tragedy in your prayers; and any help we can provide will be a timely aid to those in need.

Appointment and Resignation

Rev. Shawn Stafford has been appointed by the Board of Trustees to serve on the synod's Committee on Archives and History. He is replacing Rev. Mark Harstad who has faithfully served on the committee for a number of years. We thank Mark for his service. Rev. Stafford will begin serving after this year's convention.

Rev. Joel Willitz has resigned from serving on the Board of Regents. We thank Joel for his many years of service. He has also been the secretary of the board. The Nominations Committee will need to take this under consideration at our upcoming convention.



June 2013

"Don't give up the ship!" The Navy motto supposedly comes from a comment made exactly 200 years ago. On June 1, 1813, while aboard the Chesapeake, the captain named James Lawrence is said to have uttered these dying words while engaging the British frigate HMS Shannon in a fierce battle. An even more important similar plea can be made today in regard to another "ship." We often speak of the CHURCH as a ship. Even the word "nave" is used architecturally for places where Christians gather around Word and Sacrament. How crucial it is for us and for those of the future generations to "not give up the ship." Our prayer is that God uses each one of us to help others around us stay with the ship – stay with the life-saving message of Christ Jesus crucified and risen from the dead; stay with the spiritual food found at altar and font; stay with the teachings rooted in the eternal charter and logbook of Holy Writ. May God help us as we deal with any troubled waters!

In the work of our gracious and beloved Savior,

John A. Moldstad

Helpers from BLC

Helping out in Moore, Oklahoma, after the tornado: (l to r) Chelsea Dietsche, Jessica Mueller and Polly Browne. Chelsea teaches English and assists in our Chile mission. Jessica is a 2013 graduate of Bethany Lutheran College. Polly is Assistant Professor of Education at our synod's Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota. We thank them for their work! Donations can be made through our Board for Christian Service: Tornado Relief, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001.



Using Social Media

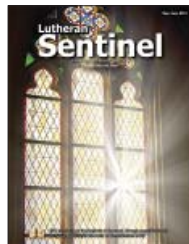
On Tuesday evening of the ELS Convention (June 18), Jeff Hendrix will present, "Follow Me: How to use social media to support orthodox teaching and practices (without subverting them)." This presentation is open to all and we encourage as many pastors, delegates and friends as possible to attend! Jeff currently works as Social Media Director at Radio Mankato. He is a 2010 graduate of Bethany Lutheran College, a 2012 graduate of Ball State University (M.A. in Telecommunications/Digital Storytelling) and will begin his second year at Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary this Fall. Come and learn how you and your congregation can better use social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.).

Thrivent Grant Received

Our synod has received the final block grant from Thrivent for a total of \$40,000. The grant will be dispersed as follows: \$20,000. for synod centennial offering, \$15,000. for mission exploration- Texas, \$5,000 for parish consulting. We are thankful to Thrivent for this gift.

Check It Out!

The June issue of our Lutheran Sentinel contains information on our upcoming ELS convention (June 16-20). This year's theme is "Engaging Families With Jesus." You can read it online at: www.els.name/lis



Installation at Mason City, Iowa

On May 5, 2013, Rev. David Locklair was installed as pastor of Prince of Peace (WELS) in Mason City, Iowa. Pastor Locklair also serves Richland Lutheran in Thornton, Iowa.



Pictured are (left to right): Rev. Chris Christenson of First Evangelical Lutheran Church (WELS - La Crescent, Minnesota), who performed the rite of installation; Rev. Erich Hoeft of the neighboring Northwood parish; Pastor Locklair; and Rev. Wayne Halvorson, ELS Circuit 7 Visitor.

Ordinations scheduled

Candidate of Theology Jesse DeDeyne will be ordained and installed as pastor of Messiah Lutheran, Omro, Wisconsin, on June 23, 2013, at 4 PM. Candidate of Theology Benjamin Wiechmann will be ordained and installed as pastor at King of Grace, Golden Valley, Minnesota, on June 23, 2013, at 3:00 PM. Please pray for these young men and their families.

Texas Commissioning

On May 19, 2013, a special commissioning service was held for our newest ELS exploratory home mission. Rev. Kyle Madson has been commissioned to do work in the Weatherford/Hudson Oaks, Texas, area. A WELS congregation in Fort Worth (Abiding Faith) hosted the worship service. Rev. Christian Eisenbeis, a graduate of our Bethany Seminary, who serves as a pastor at Grace (WELS) in Norman, Oklahoma, preached the sermon. Prof. Michael Smith, chairman of the Board for Home Outreach, performed the rite of commissioning.



Pictured above:

Back Row L-R: Rev. John Hering (WELS), Rev. Wayne Fischer (WELS), Rev. Bradley Kerkow, Rev. John Koelpin (WELS), Rev. Nathanael Bourman (WELS), Rev. William Gabb (WELS). Front Row L-R: Rev. Christian Eisenbeis (WELS), Rev. Mark Gefaller (WELS), Rev. Kyle Madson, Prof. Michael K. Smith, Rev. John Vieths (WELS), Rev. Micah Ernst (ELS Visitor for Circuit 10).

Fraternal Meeting in Australia

Leaders of two congregations in Australia met April 20, 2013. The host congregation, St. Paul's, Maryborough, Queensland, is served by Rev. Peter Prange (left in photo). The guests were from Our Redeemer in Kallangur, Queensland. Our Redeemer was formerly served by Rev. Andrew Burmeister, now serving Our Savior Lutheran Church (ELS), Lakeland, Florida. Recently Rev. Daniel Finn of Pilgrim Lutheran Church (ELS), Waterloo, Iowa, accepted the Call to Kallangur. He will be installed this summer. The Our Redeemer congregation invited ELS World Outreach Administrator, Rev. Steven Petersen, to visit during the annual field visit to the ELS mission in Seoul, Korea. Next to Rev. Prange (Pastoral President of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia), is Rev. David Meyer, who served ELS congregations before moving to Australia with his family and joining Our Redeemer. We are thankful for the fellowship these congregations enjoy!

