



Circuit 9 Women's Mission Rally, Luverne, Minnesota.

On October 26, 2013 representatives from our ELS Circuit 9 congregations gathered to support the work of missions. Gifts from the rally totaled over \$7,000 this year and went toward Gift of Life (including Medical Clinic on Wheels - Ukraine) and Cross-stitch projects (listed below). Presenters were Nicholas and Kerry Laper (Gift of Life - Ukraine), Pastor Paul Fries (Board for World Outreach), and Professor Michael Smith (Board for Home Outreach). A meaningful skit was also done to remind us to work together to build up our church and fellow members and remember to support the work of the church.

Cross-stitch Projects for 2013-2014

- \$10,000 for orphanages in India
- \$2,500 for women's scholarships in Peru
- \$5,000 for evangelism efforts through the Board for Home Outreach
- \$2,500 for food assistance for Amazon Lutheran High School
- \$5,000 for English-as-Foreign Language Program in Chile

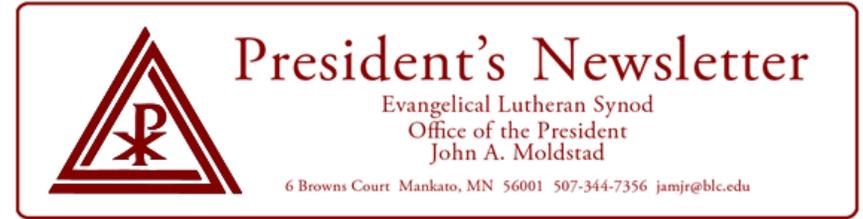
Early Childhood Learning Center

Our sister synod's ministerial college, Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, recently dedicated a new building for the purpose of training preschool teachers and administrators. There are over 400 preschools throughout the Wisconsin Synod. We join in giving thanks to God for this educational facility.



President's Schedule

- October 21-November 1 - Reformation Lectures at BLC
- November 1-2 - Engaging Others With Jesus retreat in Eau Claire, WI
- November 2 - ELS Historical Society
- November 5-6 - Board for Home Outreach
- November 6-7 - Board for World Outreach
- November 6-7 - Presentation at MLC Free Conference, New Ulm, MN
- November 11 - Board of Regents
- November 11 - Synod Review Committee
- November 12 - Board of Trustees
- November 17 - Preach at Abiding Word, Bowling Green, OH
- November 25 - Mission Advancement Project (MAP)
- November 26 - Staff meeting



November 2013

Dear Fellow Workers in Christ's Kingdom:

"O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good!" Reflecting on blessings, where do we start? Gifts from our Lord are beyond number. Oh, we have many challenges; but because of the promises God has provided, centering in the work of His Son, we always have hope. We always can look at the bright side! This is true also for conditions in our congregations and in our synod. Difficulties – yes they are there (we live in a sinful world and we ourselves struggle with our own sins). But we have many blessings to dwell on! Dare we ever forget that we live under the grace of a loving and forgiving Savior? A famous orator once referred to a blind woman who absolutely insisted that the trouble was not with her eyes but was in the absence of light in the room. May God open our eyes in the middle of all the dark moments to see the Light of Christ shining through His Word into the chambers of our hearts. "If God be for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave Him up for us all – how will He not also along with Him graciously give us all things?" (Romans 8:31, 32)

Blessings in Christ,

John A. Moldstad
John A. Moldstad

New Church Formed in Lincoln, Illinois

Grace Lutheran of Lincoln, Illinois, has submitted the proper documents for membership in the ELS, and the application will go before the 2014 convention. Organizing members of the congregation came from a neighboring AFLC church. On Sunday, October 20, 2013, Rev. Dan McQuality was installed as pastor at Grace. Circuit #4 Visitor, Rev. Ed Bryant, performed the rite of installation, Rev. Fred Lams was lector, and President Moldstad preached for the occasion. Two other pastors participating were Rev. Joshua Skogen and Rev. Paul Jenkins (WELS).





ELS Teachers Gather

Our synod's teachers from Minnesota, Wisconsin and Iowa met for an ELS/WELS conference in New Ulm, Minnesota, October 17-18. Please pray for our Evangelical Lutheran Synod teachers and schools. We give thanks to God for their untiring efforts instructing our children in God's Holy Word!

Board for Lutheran Schools of America

Members of the board are: Rev. Jerome Gernander, Prof. Silas Born (liaison with BLC), Mr. Norman Hartigan, Teacher Timothy Thies, Rev. Alex Ring (chm.), Rev. Michael Dale, Mr. Ken Meyer, and Teacher Timothy Schubkegel.



The congregations of our synod operate 21 schools (including preschools).

Hawkish on Bethany!

Birds of the air often are referenced in Scripture to teach us qualities of our Heavenly Father's care and protection. An example of such is Psalm 124, "We have escaped like a bird out of the fowler's snare; the snare has been broken, and we have escaped. Our help is in the name of the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth" (vv. 7-8). Read how students at our Bethany Lutheran College are checking out the birds under Prof. Chad Heins: <http://www.blc.edu/news/2013/10/hawkwatch-looking>

School in India

A new school building is under construction near Hyderabad, located in the village of Gutipalli. It is being built with non-budget donations. It will be open to all children from the village as an evangelism/outreach program.



Circuit 7 Rally

Pictured are five of thirty attendees at the Iowa Women's Mission Rally held at Richland Lutheran Church, Thornton, Iowa. Pictured from left are: Marlys Leiran, Bonnie Younge, Carolyn Ahrens, Dee Frederick, and Cheri Turner. We thank the women's groups throughout our ELS for their support of many non-budget projects in both our world and home missions!



Note from our Giving Counselor

- Between October 1, 2013 and November 30, 2013 Thrivent Financial will
- 1) Give up to 15 million additional dollars to "churches" across the country.
 - 2) Double all choice dollars when they are designated for local congregations during this campaign, or until the \$15,000,000 has been awarded.
 - 3) Online designation will also lead to more choice dollars to allocate for your ministry of choice.

Please note that editable inserts are available from Thrivent's website. – Rev. Basel

Appointment of Committee

The 2013 synod convention directed the president to appoint a special thankoffering committee in connection with the bookend anniversary celebrations in coming years: in 2017 the 500th of the Lutheran Reformation and in 2018 the 100th for the ELS. We are pleased to report that the following have consented to serve: Rev. Timothy Zenda, Mr. David Ewert, Mr. Dan Neumann, Prof. Michael Smith, and Rev. Dan Basel. The committee is asked to bring "recommendations to the 2014 convention regarding the beneficiary(ies) of the thankoffering."

Historical Society DVD

The ELS Historical Society has produced a DVD of this past summer's performance of the play *The Oak Trees Still Stand*. The play, written and directed by seminary student Michael Lilienthal and produced by the Historical Society, presents some of the main points of the election controversy which divided the old Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The play continues through the founding meeting of what we now call the Evangelical Lutheran Synod which took place at Lime Creek, Iowa, in 1918.

The DVD, which includes Prof. Erling Teigen's introductory lecture, is now available for purchase. The cost is \$10.00 at the ELS Ottesen Museum or \$12.50 by mail. Mail orders can be made by contacting Museum Director Becky DeGarmeaux at 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN, 56001.