

Coming Soon

We are making preparations for live video streaming worship services on our synod's webpage. Peace Lutheran in North Mankato, Minnesota, graciously has purchased equipment that will enable this to occur. Wait for further details.

Pastoral resignation

Rev. Greg Haugen has resigned his call at Messiah Lutheran in Omro, Wisconsin, effective January 27, 2013. Rev. Carlton Sielaff is serving the vacancy.

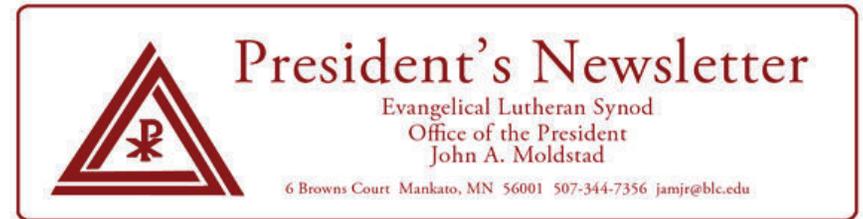
Prayers

Matthew Smith, infant son of Rev. Glenn and Maria Smith, died at his home after severe heart complications, on February 28, 2013. Matthew's funeral was on Monday, March 4, at Redeemer Lutheran in New Hampton, Iowa. We pray that God comforts the family with the knowledge that through his baptismal grace Matthew now enjoys life everlasting in the heavenly home prepared for him by his dear Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Pastor Jay Webber of Scottsdale, Arizona, has informed us that Harmon C. Anderson, a member of Redeemer Lutheran Church who had been residing in Flower Mound, Texas, for the past few years, passed away there on February 17 at the age of 92. He is survived by his widow Laufey, and by several children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. Pastor Webber writes: "Harmon attended a WELS church in Flower Mound, but he had retained his membership at Scottsdale, because he wanted to stay 'connected' to the Evangelical Lutheran Synod. He was an eager supporter of the world mission efforts of the ELS. (He formerly served on the ELS Board for World Missions.) At his and his family's request, memorial donations may be made to ELS World Missions, 6 Browns Court, Mankato, MN 56001." "And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Blessed indeed,' says the Spirit, 'that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!'" (Revelation 14:13, ESV)

President's schedule

March 5 - Committee for Communication (Conference call)
March 7 - preach for chapel at Bethany Lutheran College
March 7-8 - Board for Lutheran Schools of America at Golden Valley, MN
March 18-19 - Doctrine Committee
March 21 - Staff meeting
April 2 - Centennial Committee
April 10-11 - West Coast Pastoral Conference at Lakewood, WA
April 11-12 - Essay presentation at Emmaus Conference, Tacoma, WA
April 20 - Iowa "Engage Others With Jesus" Retreat, Mason City, IA
April 23-24 - Great Lakes Pastoral Conference, Concordia, Eau Claire, WI



March 2013

Dear Fellow Workers in Christ's Kingdom:

This month the religious and secular worlds are focusing attention on the historic election of a new pope. The Roman Catholic Church claims over a billion members worldwide and has as one of its distinguishing marks obeisance to the one who occupies the papacy as "the vicar of Christ" on earth. Among many unique teachings of the Roman Church is that of a standing decree stating this particular denomination is to be identified in and of itself as the one and only Holy Christian Church (Unam Sanctam, 1302). What an opportunity we have as Lutherans to proclaim precisely what the Bible says on this subject. Our synod's We Believe, Teach, and Confess reminds us of the true description we have in Scripture (Ephesians 4:4-6, Luke 17:20, etc.) pertaining to the Church: "We confess that there is one holy Christian Church which consists of all those who from the heart truly believe in Christ as Savior and Lord... We believe that the Church is to be found wherever the Word of God and the Sacraments are in use. The Church of Jesus Christ is not to be equated with any particular denomination or church body..."

In this same month when we celebrate the Lord of the Church's rising from the dead may we acknowledge with gratitude and joy how people – fellow sinners like you and me – are brought into the Church through the Spirit's working of faith. We pray that God blesses our work in proclaiming the good news of salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone.

In the grace of our Lord Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John A. Moldstad". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

John A. Moldstad

Letter from the President

On March 4, 2013, a letter was mailed to all pastors of our synod asking that information be shared with our congregations in regard to serious financial challenges facing our church body. Our hope is that the letter would be read in every one of our 130 congregations and that each member would be moved to pray for the Lord's blessings as we together move forward with mission work in his saving name. If you would like to access the letter, you may do so on our synod webpage: www.els.name/www.els.name/download/lettertosynod.pdf

Seminary Graduation and Call Service

Wednesday, May 15, 2013, will be the day for observing both Seminary Graduation and Call Service. The special worship service will take place in the Bethany College Trinity Chapel (Mankato, MN) at 7:00 p.m. with the Rev. Paul Welke (St. Matthew, Winona [WELS]) preaching, Pres. Gaylin Schmelting as liturgist, and the Rev. Dr. J. Kincaid Smith representing the Board of Regents.

“Engage Others With Jesus” Retreat #3

The location for the third of eight scheduled synod-wide retreats was the Quality Inn & Suites in Fitchburg, Wisconsin. The retreat served pastors and members from our congregations in Indiana, Illinois and southern Wisconsin (Circuits 4 and 5). Our Board for Home Outreach has been pleased with the reception of the “vocation evangelism” presentation throughout the synod and continues to receive valuable feedback from participants as they are urged to bring ideas back to their respective congregations.



From the Giving Counselor’s Desk:

Fact: Only about 50% of Thrivent Choice Dollars are ever allocated

Fact: The greatest beneficiary of Choice Dollars are local congregations.

Note that March 31, 2013 is the deadline for allocating 2012 Thrivent Choice Dollars to your ministry of choice. You can allocate your Choice dollars to your congregation, to Bethany College or Bethany Lutheran Theological Seminary, Thoughts of Faith or Mission Advancement Project. Regardless of your choice of ministry, if you qualify for Choice Dollars, please do allocate them by going online to www.Thrivent.com or by calling 1-800-847-4836 and saying “Thrivent Choice” when asked “How can I help you?” An operator will help you very quickly. When you are done, know that you have done a very good thing and it hasn’t cost you anything except a few minutes of your time. Thank you for doing so...

Remember, you can call the ELS Giving Counselor anytime at 1-507-469-9656 for assistance. He loves to help you give “free money” to your ministry of choice.

– D. Basel

Chilean Church Election

We congratulate and wish God’s blessings to the men elected on February 23, 2013, to the national board of the Chilean church: (l to r) Victor Henriquez from San Bernardo, secretary; Nelson Fuentes from Linares, multifunctional delegate; Mario Gálvez from La Cisterna, president; Missionary Erickson; Guillermo Ruz from Puente Alto, multifunctional delegate; Ariel Arriagada from Linares, treasurer. A letter of greeting from the ELS president was read to the members of the Chilean church. We pray for the work of our Chilean brothers and sisters in Christ. We also ask God to continue to bless our American workers in that country, Rev. Timothy and Ellen Erickson and Chelsea Dietsche.

Remember the Reports

Reports for the 2013 Synod Convention are due by April 1. The reports should be given to the synod’s secretary, the Rev. Craig Ferkenstad.

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

Scriptural Lutheran Church of rural Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is served by Rev. Mark Rogers since the fall of 2011. Pastor Rogers is doing well following his successful recovery from a quintuple bypass heart surgery one year ago. Scriptural was organized in 1969 when several families withdrew their membership from a local congregation because of doctrinal differences. In 1990 the congregation officially joined the ELS. On February 24, 2013, Pres. Moldstad preached at Scriptural and also gave a presentation to all the members on the work we are doing together in our synod. The church building is located in a very tranquil setting, several miles to the north of the city.



97 candles!

Some of the members of the Cape Girardeau congregation gathered for a party at the house of Mr. Lewis Dunne on February 23. Lewis’ 97th birthday was February 25, 2013.



Register for the Summer Youth Convention in Florida

<http://www.evangelicallutheransynod.org/2013-lya-convention>

Exploratory Mission Call Accepted

The Board for Home Outreach reports that Rev. Kyle Madson has accepted the call to serve as missionary to a new exploratory mission in the Hudson Oaks/Weatherford, Texas, area. Please keep him, his wife Alicia and family in your prayers.