



The Lutheran Beacon



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LCMS District Updates May 2019

In their most recent meeting, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Council of Presidents voted unanimously to affirm that the LCMS Board of Directors and LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison acted honorably and with integrity in the sale of properties in Hong Kong. The resolution states:

“Given the past false and derogatory claims, which are violations of the Eighth Commandment, on the issues of property in Hong Kong, the Council of Presidents affirms that the LCMS Board of Directors and President Harrison have acted honorably and with integrity in the matter of the handling of properties in Hong Kong. Click the link below to view the FAQ section.”

<https://files.lcms.org/wl/?id=JAKyEVzyzNv7vvDGSo2cavazuws4oljM>



ST. LOUIS, May 3, 2019 — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis rejoices with the 116 students who learned of first call placements as pastors and deaconesses, and assignments as vicars and deaconess interns during Call Day services May 1. Calls were issued to 49 pastoral students and one diaconal student during a special worship service at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus on campus. These students join more than 12,500 who have been prepared to serve as pastors, missionaries, deaconesses and chaplains in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) during the Seminary’s existence. Two pastoral students have calls or placements pending. Sixty-three vicars and three deaconess interns received their assignments at a 3 p.m. worship service.

“It is a great time to be the church and it is a great time to be getting into the ministry,” Seminary President Dr. Dale A. Meyer told the students. “As you go on, remember your Seminary. We have for you, a heart.”

The complete lists of calls, and vicarage and deaconess internship assignments can be found on the Seminary’s Call Day website.



LCMS SELC District Calls, Vicar, Deaconess Intern Announced

The LCMS- SELC District received the following new pastors, vicar and deaconess intern from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis:

Pastors:

Jacob Baumann: The Cross Family, Central Florida, FL

Mark Crossman: The Cross Family, Central Florida, FL

Vicar:

Hayden Lukas: St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL

Deaconess intern:

Rebekah Lukas: St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, Oviedo, FL



Coming soon...a new look for our SELC District

The Uplifting Joy of Fellowship

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

Fellowship

The N.T. Greek word for fellowship is “koinonia”. Defined, it involves sharing - receiving something from someone and giving something to someone.

“Agapay (love) Feasts” in the early Christian Church involved sharing food after worship services. The poor especially appreciated a weekly meal provided by those who could afford to bring food. After the meal, Holy Communion was celebrated where Christ shared His body and blood.

Back in the late fifties, Sts. Peter & Paul, Lorain, OH, joined other Lutheran Churches in the area to purchase a lake and wooded area. Sand was hauled in to create a beautiful beach. Picnic tables were placed in the wooded area. For a modest annual fee, Lutheran families could enjoy fellowship with one another. The park was named, “Koinonia Park”, and still exists today.

Jesus, the Perfect Servant

Sharing involves serving. Sinful human pride stands in the way of serving others. There is a tendency in our sinful nature to want to be “top dog” with others catering to our every whimper. This frailty arose among the disciples. “A dispute arose among them as to which of them was considered to be the greatest.” (Luke 22:24) Jesus drove a nail into their coffin of selfish pride. He told them they were not to be like kings demanding the service of others. “You are not to be like that”, He said (Luke 22:26). Then He reminded them of His servitude. “I am among you as one who serves.” (Luke 22:27)

Remember Maundy Thursday? Jesus washed His disciple’s feet, a task normally performed by the lowest household servant. (John 13) Jesus shared His life all the way to the cross where he served as our Redeemer.

Congregational Fellowship

Lutherans are really good at pot-luck dinners, somewhat reminiscent of the early Church Agapay Feasts. The fellowship extends beyond filling stomachs to lively conversations where joys and griefs, successes and failures, troubles and worries, fulfilling events, hopes and dreams, etc. are shared. Bonding takes place building friendly relationships, especially spiritual ones when the Christian faith is shared. Guests are exposed to love and faith.

Togetherness Is Uplifting

In the old days, quilting parties brought women together. Barn-raising joined men for a common cause. There’s a special joy doing things together in behalf of others. Years ago, the ladies of Holy Trinity, Parma, OH, made quilts for Lutheran World Relief for the needy in third world countries. As they worked together to warm the bodies of others, they warmed their own hearts with the uplifting joy of sharing.

Even rummage sales have value when they provide a community with the opportunity to purchase quality materials at a reasonable price. The value is extended when unsold leftovers are given to the poor via crises centers and the profits used for missions and other worthwhile charity projects. One church made it a rule that fellowship projects should not be used to shore up the congregational budget. That should be done via “pocket-to-plate” contributions. The tithe (10% of income) is suggested.

Youth on the Move

In the March, 2019, issue of the Lutheran Witness, Joshua Kittleman, Prof. of Family Life at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI, writes about the joy of youth engaged in serving: “Say the words, youth ministry, and people usually conjure up images of fun and games, lock-ins and roller skating parties, pepperoni pizza and Mountain Dew. They’re not entirely wrong - but they’re not entirely right, either.”

He then points out the joy of students working alongside one another through service projects and mission trips. He states, “Young people are hungry for a chance to put their faith into practice ... service projects show them they have a vital role to play in the Church.”

Serving Has Therapeutic Value

People with emotional problems are sometimes encouraged to engage in service oriented projects. Doing things for others helps them escape from the irritating tensions within themselves. While experiencing the joy of uplifting others, they are uplifted themselves.

RELATED RESOURCES

www.selc.lcms.org

Personal Stewardship - Community

“Stewards of the Hungry”

“Stewards of the Needy”

What's Happening at the Haven!

by Diane Leining

Our Spring Flea Market for 2019 has come and gone!! Our residents are starting to work on the Fall Flea Market which will be held on October 26th. All year long they sort, fix, wash, measure, price items and pack everything up for storage until the next market. We begin getting donations from the Oviedo community on the day of the Flea Market. The week before is a site to behold. Operations brings the items to their proper areas on pallets and truck loads. Residents then begin the process of neatly displaying everything to make it easy for our customers to find that perfect treasure. Our proceeds from this past Flea Market came to over \$23,000 and every dime goes to our medical facilities here at the Haven for items that are needed or things to help our residents enjoy a fuller life. There are other charitable organizations that are contacted to come and take the items that are not sold. Recycling at its best!!

The week after the Flea Market is a little quieter at the Haven. People are resting up and getting ready to resume their very busy lifestyle.

After Lent, we resumed our Wednesday Community Night Dinners in the Landings Dining Room and then after dinner, there is a Bible Study in the Fellowship hall facilitated by St. Luke's Lutheran Church Pastors. The meal is set at a special price and is always delicious, thanks to our Chef Joe and his team. The short stroll to the Bible Study helps get everyone focused to learn more about our Lord.

During the middle of April we celebrate National Healthcare Volunteer Week, recognizing our resident's efforts in making the Haven a wonderful place to live. Every single day there are so many ways in which these selfless folks help others! The staff of the Haven would not be able to do half the things we do without them. So, to show our appreciation, we held a scrumptious seafood luncheon including clams, scallops, mussels and shrimp, along with chicken and several interesting salads and desserts (thanks to Chef Joe again) for approximately 130 residents. Several of our staff members helped serve. We played a few games with residents challenging each other, which were hilarious, gave away prizes and gift cards for various area establishments and flower centerpieces. Everyone went home with a small token of our appreciation and love. A good time was had by all!!



As we start to get ready for the "dog days of summer", we are thankful for the many blessings that are so evident here at the Haven. As Memorial Day approaches, we want to thank all of our Lutheran Haven Veterans and all veterans for their efforts to keep us free and to be One Nation Under God!

BITS & PIECES

News from Zion (Norridge, IL)

by Doug and Nona Schipull

Greetings in the Name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

It is with great joy and thanksgiving to our Heavenly Father that the members of Zion Lutheran Church announce that the Rev. Jeremy Heilman of Kirkland, Illinois, has accepted Zion's Divine Call to serve as their pastor.

The installation service for Rev. Heilman will be held on Saturday, June 8, 2019, at Zion at 10:30 a.m.

LCMS Clergy are invited to participate in the processional, the laying on of hands, and the recessional. Please bring your robe and red stole.

A reception/luncheon will be held in Rev. Heilman's honor at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday at the Allegra Banquet, 5035 North River Road, Schiller Park, IL.

Please R.S.V.P. to Zion for the reception with the number of attendees by June 1st via:

Text to cell # 1-224-301-7107, or

Email to: zion.lutheran1963@gmail.com

Holy Cross (Alsip, IL) Pastor Installation

Holy Cross in Alsip is pleased to announce that Rev. Daniel Murray has accepted our call to serve as the next Pastor of Holy Cross. Pastor Murray will be installed at our church on Saturday May 18, 2019 at 11:00 AM followed by a reception in our Fellowship Hall. If you are able to attend and would like to participate please respond by Friday May 10 by email to secretary@hc-lc.org or call Thomas Griffin, Church Elder at 708-597-5209.

LWML News

by Nona Schipull

*National LWML President Patti Ross announced at the end of March that we have met the Mites goal of \$2,075,000. All the Mission Grants selected by the delegates at the 2017 convention will be fully paid. **This goal was a record high for LWML.***

At the SELC District level of LWML, we have received enough Mites from our societies to pay the third Mission Grant which was selected by the delegates at our District Convention last May at Zion (Norridge). **St. Paul (Whiting, IN)**, was sent a check for \$3,000 to fulfill their request for new outdoor signs for the front and side doors of the church. The signs will include English and Spanish. We pray God will bless their mission to their community. The other Mission Grants that were paid earlier are **Salam Christian Fellowship (Lombard, IL)**, for Arabic Bibles (\$2,000) and **Lutheran Heritage Foundation in Michigan** for printing Spanish Bibles with Luther's Small Catechism and Children's Bible Story books (\$2,000).

***This summer, June 20-23, is the National LWML Convention in Mobile, AL.** The theme is "In Praise to the Lord!" Each of our 3 zones is sending a delegate. Delegates will be voting on the new officers and the new Mission Grants which our mites will fund.*



Summer is here - well, in most parts of the country it's finally arrived. This is the first of two combined issues covering June & July

This is your newsletter . . . Articles & Photos are welcome!

The Lutheran Beacon - Gail Peterson

email: gailpete37@yahoo.com

DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE

IS JULY 12TH



Change is inevitable in our fast-moving world.
Here's a peek at our new SELC logo.
More communication changes coming soon!

A Rare and Unforgettable Moment

(A minuscule example of God's creative genius as reflected in the First Article of the Creed)

by Pastor Ken Ballas, EM

Part I

Picture the scene as I was privileged to be able to be out and about for what some would describe as a “nature walk” on a perfectly beautiful June 2007 morning along the northern edge of Mill Stream Run Reservation in Cleveland's Metro Parks renowned Emerald Necklace.

After pausing to observe a small flock of Cedar Waxwings gorging themselves on ripening honeysuckle berries, I turned down a well-defined trail along an electric power line easement. With the morning sun fully at my back and having proceeded but a few paces, a flurry of activity in a small dead tree but a few yards ahead stopped me in my tracks.

Expecting perhaps only to find a member of the flycatcher family on one of the exposed branches, I initially saw instead several Robins including some recently fledged spotted juveniles. The ideal light conditions quickly alerted me to the realization that these familiar members of the thrush family were not alone. A female Baltimore Oriole, Gray Catbirds, Black-Capped Chickadees, and female Cardinal busily engaged feeding a ravenously hungry young Brown-Headed Cowbird nearly the size of its foster-parent were all also present on the leafless branches of that single tree!

Following the Cardinal's every move, the “baby” Cowbird hopped from branch to branch as additional avian species flew in and out of the already beautifully bedecked tree some perching only inches away from birds of an entirely different kind. Almost unnoticed during these proceedings was the presence of a tiny female Ruby-Throated Hummingbird perched at the very tip of one of the dead branches as a brilliantly plumaged male “hummer” whizzed by moments later.

Meanwhile, far overhead, a soaring Red-Tailed Hawk could be seen being harassed by a much smaller songbird. Upon closer inspection the hawk's “tormentor” proved to be a male Oriole – possibly the heroic mate of the slightly less colorful female member of the blackbird family perched less than a stone's throw away from where I remained standing transfixed.

Although this particular North American hawk species is much less of a threat to birds than is the case with certain other raptors, I couldn't help but wonder if at least some of the occupants of that heavily populated tree before me might have conceivably felt more secure on their exposed perches than had they might have been in seeking cover from which they would no longer have a clear line of vision of the proceedings far above them.

Subsequent visits to this same spot resulted in often finding this very same tree a popular roosting place for a variety of bird species with or without the presence of some bird of prey soaring overhead. Such were some of this observer's occasional muddled musings that late spring day and since).

[TO BE CONTINUED IN AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE]