



The Lutheran Beacon



Let your light shine . . .

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Published by the SELC District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

January 2019

Haven Happenings

by Diane Leining

The holiday season here at Lutheran Haven has been going on for over a month – along with many events that keep our residents busy!

Our Fellowship Hall is a Voting Precinct, so we held elections here for the Oviedo community near us and our residents. All the folks from the outside always comment on what a nice campus we have and that our residents are all so kind and well informed.

On Veteran's Day we held an event honoring residents and staff members that have served our country. Each Vet received a special certificate and an American Flag pin. One of the Chaplains from VITAS Healthcare gave a wonderful presentation covering all the different wars and branches of service. A lunch was provided and patriotic songs were sung!

We held our first Car Show here at the Haven. We had 35 vintage cars from the 1930's to the 1960's surrounding the Fellowship Hall. Each vehicle was beautifully restored with the proud owners there to answer any questions. We held raffles and gave away door prizes as the residents voted on their favorite car where we presented 1st, 2nd and 3rd trophies to the owners. All monies raised went to the Alzheimer's Association. Food, music and fun made for a wonderful afternoon.

Over 120 residents were thankful to be having dinner together on Thanksgiving Day.

Our wonderful Chef Joe and staff presented a delicious buffet of turkey, ham and all the fixins' in our newly refurbished Fellowship Hall.

To kick off the Christmas season, several residents rode the Haven bus to downtown Orlando to hear and see "The Messiah" given as a gift to the area from the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra and the amazing Messiah Society Choral Choir. A wonderful way to get in the right frame of mind for this Advent season.

The Music Ministry holds a Munch 'n Music event each month and they presented their Christmas program with our own Silver Chimers, Golden Bell Ringers and the Haven Choir. Each group entertained us with several Christmas Carols and special tunes. To keep our Slovak roots alive, Ann Maack, a Haven resident, led everyone in singing Silent Night in Slovak as well as English. Hors d'oeuvres were served and everyone had a bit of Christmas in their hearts as they went home!

We received our Certificate of Occupancy for our new apartment villas **The Landings** and we have new residents scheduled to move in next week. The building is beautiful and is certainly a testament to all the staff – past and present - that worked so hard for the past many years to make this a reality for the Haven. God is Good!!

**As we await the Birth of our Savior,
the Haven residents and staff wish you all
a very Blessed Christmas!**

[SEE PAGE 3 FOR PHOTOS OR ENJOY THEM IN FULL COLOR AT WWW.SELC.LCMS.ORG]

Caretakers of Pastors

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

Pastoral Burn Out

The October, 2018, issue of the Lutheran Witness featured an article written by Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke, a clinical psychologist, former professor and current director for DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel. The article deals with mental health issues of pastors. The following statements are article excerpts:

- ▶ In one 2018 survey of Protestant clergy, 23% of pastors reported dealing with some kind of personal mental illness.
- ▶ Pastoral ministry compounds stressors in many ways other vocations do not.
- ▶ The pastoral office is truly one of few vocations in which a man must master countless competencies. Each and all of these competing expectations can challenge any pastor's resilience.
- ▶ Despite membership declines in all denominations, in some places, the only true measure of the pastor's "success" is congregational size, robbing men of joy even though they have been faithful in their calling.
- ▶ The causes of personal depression, depletion and burnout are legion. Interviews with more than 900 former pastors showed that . . .

- **54% lacked agreement with parishioners over what the role of a pastor is.**
- **41% felt stress because of criticism from the congregation.**
- **55% felt drained by the demands placed on them.**
- **51% felt the demands of laity were unreasonable.**
- **15% felt pressure by lay leaders to leave the ministry.**

Caretakers of Pastors

Dr. Jahnke's article drawing attention to the possible plight of pastors being overwhelmed with ministry burnout, should alert us to the need of congregations being pastoral caretakers. The word "steward" means "caretaker; manager". Congregations should be sensitive to their role as stewards of their pastors. Caring about their pastor's well-being, members should engage measures to prevent burnout.

Helpful Caring Tips

- ▶ Love - The Greek N.T. word for God's love for us is "agapay" which means "to forgive and forget and do good to those who don't deserve it." Yes, pastors are imperfect. Love them anyway. (John 3:34)
- ▶ Pray - Daily pray for your pastor's spiritual, mental and temporal well-being. (Eph. 6:19)
- ▶ Respect - I Tim. 5:17 instructs us to show double honor to those who preach and teach God's Word. In my first parish, Sts. Peter & Paul, Lorain, Ohio, I was humbled to love when elderly Slovak women from Europe kissed my hand after Sunday worship.
- ▶ Comfort & Encourage - "Cheer up pastor; we're here to help you make tomorrow a better day." Comments like this will help uplift a pastor's spirit. Paul was comforted by Justus and others (Col. 4:11)
- ▶ Properly Provide the necessities of life for your pastor. Freed from survival concerns, will enable his full time service to the Lord. (1 Cor. 9:14)
- ▶ Lighten the Load - One congregation gave their pastor every fifth Sunday off.
- ▶ Constructive Criticism - Suggestions made to pastors in love with positive "I messages" will be thankfully received. Negative "you messages" will be counterproductive and depress to disable.
- ▶ Cooperation - One of the N.T. Greek words for a pastor is "episkopos" meaning "overseer". The role involves leadership and oversight to lead parishioners in the work of the Church. A vibrant church is one in which every member is doing something. Members should get behind their pastor or get out of the way.

Handling Pastoral Burnout

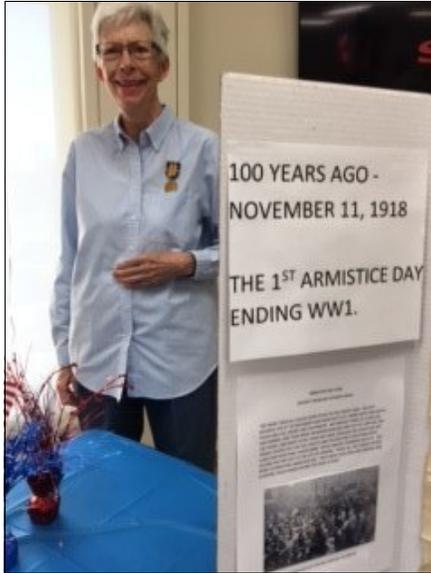
Should symptoms appear, immediate action should be taken. "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Fortunately, there are excellent resources available for pastors and congregations:

- SELC District Ministerial Health - Rev. Dr. Chris Cahill. www.basinandtowel.org
- DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel - www.doxology.us
- Grace Place - www.graceplacewellness.org
- Concordia Plan Services Ministerial Care www.concordiaplans.org/wellness/ministerial-care

RELATED RESOURCE

www.selc.lcms.org - Stewardship Pastoral Helps
"The Pastor as Overseer"

Holiday Happenings at the Haven



Sharon Wolf displays her father's memorabilia from Armistice Day



Allen & Lucille Broekemeier, both Veterans



Munch 'n Music event: Silver Chimers, Golden Bell Ringers, and the Haven Choir entertained



Ann Maack kept our roots alive by leading us in singing Silent Night in Slovak



Remembering the good old days!

[ENJOY THE PHOTOS ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.SELC.LCMS.ORG]

Holiday Baking at St. John's

by Rev. John Telloni



Pictured are the folks at St. John's Lutheran Church of Massillon OH who volunteered to help bake Christmas cookies for the Martha Society's annual Christmas Bake Sale. Martha members along with other women and men of the congregation participate in this fund-raising project. In fact, the Martha's hold two different sales, one in November for nutbread and white bread, and then the December sale of "crescent" cookies (or in Slovak, "rusky" – pronounced, "roushky!") For this particular sale, there were four days of baking since total phone orders amounted to 500 dozen cookies made!

The annual Christmas Bake Sale has been a project of the Martha's for many, many years. All profits from the sale go towards the mission projects of the ladies' group.



Thanksgiving Celebration

Holy Trinity Lutheran, Parma, Ohio

by Rev. Thomas Soltis



On Sunday, Nov. 18th, members gathered for a special thanksgiving service with host pastor, Rev. John Milligan, serving as preacher and Rev. Charles Groth as liturgist. During the service worshipers placed sticker notes with personal thank you items on a poster-type "Thanksgiving Tree". Non-perishable foods and monetary gifts were also donated for the poor and needy.

After worship, every one enjoyed a bountiful Thanksgiving dinner in the church hall. Five SELC pastors were present for the event.



Revs. Thomas Soltis; Kenneth Ballas; Charles Groth; Donald Hayas; John Milligan

BITS & PIECES

Christmas Dreams

submitted by Janet Byers

There is no better way to bring in the Christmas season than through music.

Faith "Viera" Lutheran Church (Rockledge FL) presented the "Christmas Dreams" Cantata on December 7th, 8th and 9th. Throughout time, God has touched his people through dreams and miracles.



In this program, *Christmas Dreams*, we visit those moments in scripture and connect them to our modern journey of faith ... a promising message of Christ's birth, the one who came to save and heal all people. The cantata sang of the glorious message of Christ's birth.



Foros

by Rev. Charles St. Onge

In 2019 Ascension will be asking the SELC District to partner with us intentionally in our expanding mission to the people of Montreal. The Latin America and the Caribbean region of the LCMS have created what we call "Foros" for most of the countries in our area. We hope to do the same for Montreal and Quebec!

Please join us in prayer for the courage to know how and where to share the Good News of peace and forgiveness and life in Jesus Christ. More information to come about this work in early 2019.

To learn more, see:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4pS9206gW48>

Are You Ready for the Youth Ski Trip?

by Tim Hasko



Get your hats, gloves, and scarves ready!

The SELC Western Circuit youth ski trip is scheduled for Presidents' Day Weekend, Feb. 16th & 17th, 2019.

We will travel to Wilmot Mountain in Wilmot, WI for daytime skiing, snow-boarding, and tubing. After the fun on the slopes, we'll travel to Pentecost Lutheran Church in Racine, WI for a lock-in to be led by a Youth Ministry Team from Concordia University WI. Come join the adventure! Registration packets will be available soon. In the meantime, if you have questions contact Tim Hasko at (262) 497-0496.



Quotable Quotes

by Rev. Thomas Soltis

- ◆Change is a constant cosmic, terrestrial, human phenomenon. Adapt or else!
- ◆Setting goals and pursuing their fulfillment produces a passion for a life worth living.
- ◆If your outgo exceeds your income, your upkeep will be your downfall.

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

Send to: gailpete37@yahoo.com

DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE IS JANUARY 12TH

Living by Faith Each New Year and Day of Grace

by Pastor Ken Ballas, EM

With countless members of our SELC District among those already familiar with retired missionary David Schneider's Gospel-centered devotional book, *Arrows of Light*, this story due in part to the author's ongoing courageous battle with ALS as well as the burden of needed record-keeping associated with the original modestly priced sales of his self-published book, earlier this year the decision was made to "close the business" and "spend it all" for yet one more printing. [Profits were always plowed back into additional printings in the more than a decade since *Arrows* first saw the light of day in 2005 with 3000+ copies now in use in several continents], By mutual consent (and no longer for sale), half of the 2018 printing has been graciously given to the undersigned for free distribution to seriously interested individuals, congregations, Lutheran high schools or other institutions of higher learning with the other half (providing that our blessed ascended Lord not return first) to be set aside mainly as a parting gift to those attending David's eventual funeral.

Through his beautifully honest written legacy, the author has on several occasions not only spoken with sobering realism of his [and our] mortality; even more convincingly he bears witness to our sin-and-death-conquering victorious Lord in whose Name we, too, have been baptized into our Brother-Savior's sinless death and liberating resurrection from death and grave. It is in this spirit that missionary Schneider has set aside a quantity of books as a sign of his undying faith in God's Scriptural promises because of Jesus Christ who especially in His resurrection has more than one kind of healing.

Because only our loving and living Lord knows precisely how such a leap of faith will also result in raising sufficient funds either for yet another

printing or as a tangible token of "non-taxable" support for the Schneider family, this prayer for guidance in living each new year and day of grace.

Spirit of our incarnate Brother-Savior Jesus Christ, thank You for Your inspiration and promised proper interpretation of Your Holy Scriptures as well as needed guidance in making God-pleasing/people-helping application of the written Word of God (2 Peter 1:20-21; 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

As blood-bought forgiven children of God who know and hold to these blessed truths, we confess that we have not always "taken the next step" – that of "translating into our daily lives" sound biblical teaching especially with regard to sharing the Good News of sins forgiven and blessed assurance of Your gift of eternal life also to those around us.

Blessed Lord, do not allow us to falter in doing Your will in the days and weeks You have allotted each of us. Living as we are at a time when people of all ages read little or no wholesome literature including an alarming number of nominal Christians who seldom, if ever, read their home Bibles, help us realize that part of the reason for such inconsistency is our lack of personal contact with Your faith-strengthening, life-giving Word between weekends including books like *Arrows of Light*.

Lord Jesus, you know the thoughts that we are prayerfully considering regarding judicious distribution of this veritable treasure trove of proven blessings in Pastor Schneider's book. Correct us should we be pursuing dubious paths of action. Keep us open to suggestions of other fellow-believers for whom the furtherance of the Gospel also remains paramount throughout our earthly Christian pilgrimages together.

In the Name of Him who alone perfectly fulfilled the redemptive resolution of His (and again our) Heavenly Father. Thank You, Jesus! Amen!

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- Copland's *El Salon Mexico*

and other memorable compositions by these icons of American music!



OCB Images courtesy of Oviedo Photo Club



FREE ADMISSION to St. Luke's Concert Series 2018-19 is made possible by the generous donations of individuals and corporate sponsors, as well as support provided by Seminole Cultural Arts Council, Inc.

ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ~ 2021 SR 426 ~ OVIEDO, FL 32765

Visit: slcs.org/concert-series to be added to our Ebase and receive program updates during the 2018-19 season.

