



Montreal Holds Strategic Mission Gathering

by Rev. Charles St-Onge

The first ever "strategic mission" gathering of its kind to discuss the work being done in Montreal, Quebec was held September 12 and 13 at Ascension Lutheran Church.

Dubbed the "Montreal Forum," a nod to the old home of the city's beloved Canadiens hockey team, the meeting included representatives from two church bodies, two LCMS Districts, both French and English-speaking congregations, and the Latin America and the Caribbean mission region of the LCMS. Representatives met to talk about expanding the Gospel's reach in Canada's second largest city, and its largest majority French-speaking city.

Agreement in principle was reached among all participants to seek more missionary help. This would be directed towards increased outreach among the immigrant population around the church, campus ministry and visitation outreach, as well as expanding worship and study opportunities.



A Very Blessed Thanksgiving!

SURRENDER!

By Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director

Self Reliance?

"Self Reliance" or "God Reliance? W. E. Henley in his poem, *Invictus*, wrote: "I am the master of my fate, the captain of my soul." David, the shepherd, would never have made it to Israel's kingship if he embraced that philosophy. God was the Captain of his soul. Self reliance has been propounded by lecturers and books as the highway to success. "Go for it! You can do it!"

But then come the hurdles, chuckholes, dead ends, people problems, reversals, rejections, etc. What then?

Some *Invictus* people burn out like snuffed candles without wick or wax.

Surrender!

Face up to it. You're not God. When life takes a turn in an opposite, disappointing direction, surrender. Trust in God. Accept life's conditions whatever they may be. That doesn't mean to give up, lie down and die. Accept whatever is and make the best of it. Michael Sanger in his book, "The Surrender Experiment", writes: "Do whatever is put in front of you with all your heart and soul without regard for personal results." Life's expectations don't always materialize. When thwarted, surrender to God's will. God may just slam the door in your face regarding your aspirations. But that's OK. Look around to enter another door which He may open which can end up the better one. Surrender! "Let go; let God". He knows what He's doing.

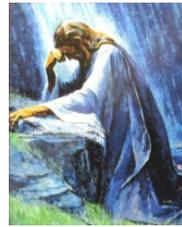
Tranquility thru Prayer

Verse one of Hymn #869 in the Lutheran Service Book beautifully encourages prayer.

With the Lord begin your task;
Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask;
Jesus will perfect it.
Every morn with Jesus rise,
And when day is ended,
In His Name then close your eyes;
Be to Him commended.

When hopes and dreams are shattered on the floor of disaster, heed the words of Jesus: "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest. (Matt. 11:28) Come especially if your life is shattered with sin and needs to be forgiven.

Come when life issues have reached the point of frustrated helplessness. When all humanly possible has been done and you're at your wits end, it's time to pray: "Help! I'm helpless!" There may be times when a loved



one is afflicted with a serious medical issue, mental illness, drug addiction or criminal activity and the situation seems totally hopeless. It's time to pray: "I'm helpless to help the helpless; help the helpless!" Then patiently wait for God's decision with the tranquility of trust.

Unload and calmly continue to do what can be done. Surrender in prayer as Jesus did in Gethsemane.

Don't Be a Fool

Proverbs 28:26 reads: "He who trusts in himself is a fool." Wise up! "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding." (Prov. 3:5) Surrender yourself into the space of God as your Provider and Protector. Live no longer controlled by your personal desires, fears or disappointments. Comfort and the courage to conquer come from reliance on God. Christians in the early Church had their share of troubles and hardships, especially in times of persecution. St Paul encouraged them and us: "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." (Rom. 8:37) With Jesus as the Captain of your ship of life, you will safely reach the harbor of heaven, Redeemed by His blood, He's at your side in the journey through the troubled temporal to the blessed eternal.

Lazy & Overworked Stewards

The primary role of a Christian Steward is to manage God's possessions which include everything. Some are just plain lazy in their management. They should heed the message of Proverbs 6:6: "Go to the ant you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise". Then again, there are those who do too much, even more than God expects. As workaholics, they are busy to the point of neglecting what's really important, such as family, church involvement, social responsibilities, their health and mental stability. Wake up and surrender to God's will, you lazy do-nothings! Slow down, you over-doers! Prioritize!

Calvary (Parma, Oh) Installs Pastor Joel Dieterichs

Pastor Joel Dieterichs was installed at Calvary Lutheran Church in Parma, Ohio on September 21, 2019.

We welcome Pastor Joel Dieterichs
and his family
to the SELC District



Rev. Joel Dieterichs & Deacon Jim Hurst



Concordia Publishing House Anniversary

President Vinovskis attended the Worship Service and Celebration for Concordia Publishing House as it celebrated its 150th Anniversary.



President Vinovskis with Bruce Kintz, Pres. & CEO of Concordia Publishing House at CPH headquarters

What's Happening at the Haven!

by Diane Leining

The Block Captains and the Zone Captains were ready, all the residents had batteries, food and enough water to sink a battleship waiting on Hurricane Dorian to visit us. The staff had their air mattresses here to spend the night to take care of our residents. We waited and waited and waited... But thank the Lord, he never made it our way. It was a good dress rehearsal for the real thing though!

A group of residents went to the Titanic Exhibition and saw and touched actual relics from the boat itself. We each received a Passport with the name of actual passengers on the boat. We had a wonderful guide that walked us through what it must have been like on that fateful day. At the end of the tour, you found out if you survived. Very well done and interesting.

Our 7th Annual Health & Wellness Fair brought many different vendors and organizations to our Fellowship Hall to let our residents know what the latest equipment and services were available in the world of wellness. On that day, our Haven Home Healthcare gave out almost 100 Senior Flu Shots to our folks. A healthy day!

Our highlight of the month... For seven (7) days 26 Haven residents, five (5) people from the area, staff member Lori Baker and I took a charter bus trip to see the Ark Encounter, the Creation Museum, both in Kentucky, the Newport Aquarium in Cincinnati, rode a riverboat down the Ohio River and toured the E. Tennessee Historical Museum. We left on a Sunday morning and came back on Saturday afternoon. It was an awesome week!! The Ark is amazing, I can't express how huge it is, inside and out. The Creation Museum was a true testament to the beginning of mankind and everything else. All the other attractions were better than we figured they would be. We stayed in nice hotels, we ate so much food, prayed together, sang on the bus and celebrated two (2) birthdays during that week. Everyone got along, there were no real problems and all of us bonded closer than we already were. I think everyone would recommend seeing this wonder! As we approached the Fellowship Hall, a group of awesome residents were there to welcome us all home!!

**We bond everyday here at the Haven...new residents and old!!
It's still the best place to be!!**

Health Fair



Newport Aquarium



Ark Encounter



Prayers Are Requested!

Rev. Dr. Norman E. Nagel - Professor emeritus at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and an esteemed Lutheran theologian and beloved pastor, entered eternal rest in Christ Jesus Oct. 8, 2019. He was 94 years old. The Funeral took place on October 15th in the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus at Concordia. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Priscilla "Betsy" Nagel (nee Newman); three children, Richard (Norma) Nagel, Christopher (Mollie) Nagel and Matthew (Kristi) Nagel; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

The Aunt of St. Luke's Vicar Hayden Lucas died recently. Please keep Hayden, Rebekah, and their family in your prayers.

Please pray for Pastor David Maier and his family as his father, **Dr. Walter A. Maier**, is in hospice care. Please pray for God's guidance for Dr. Maier and his family as they are with him for his last earthly journey.

Looking for a Volunteer – The SELC District is looking for a layperson volunteer to serve as a Synod Reconciler. If someone in your congregation has the gifts and skills to fill this need, please contact the SELC District office at pgsmith@ptd.net or selc.lcms@gmail.com with any recommendations or if you have any questions or need more information

Florida Mission Group in Accident in Honduras

Please pray for **Pastor Brian Roberts of St. Luke's in Oviedo, FL. Pastor Roberts and the mission team, including his wife, Ruth**, are in Honduras for their Foro meeting with the Lutheran Church. Their bus was in a head-on collision with a truck yesterday near La Paz, and miraculously was spared a terrible roll-over accident.



Two of the team (Micah Steiner and Tom Fenstermacher) were taken to the hospital for x-rays. From what we were told, there was one broken bone and many with severe bruises. Please pray for their continued protection and healing. Praise God that no lives were lost. Both the bus driver and truck driver survived.

Free! Special Offer!

Zion Lutheran Church in Clark, NJ has 3 pews in their fellowship hall and are offering them to people in the SELC District. If you are interested in the pews, please contact Daniel Lyman: dan.lyman123@gmail.com for more info.



The Lutheran Beacon

This is your newsletter . . .

Articles & Photos are welcome!

Send to:

gailpete37@yahoo.com

Gail Peterson, Ed.

**DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER ISSUE
IS NOVEMBER 12TH**

Pastoral Reflections on Law and Gospel

by Pastor Ken Ballas, EM

Our ascended Lord's apostle Paul advised young pastor Timothy: "Study to show yourself approved, a workman who needs not be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). With good reason, Lutheran pastors continue to read C. F. W. Walther's Proper Distinction between Law and Gospel years after their ordination into Christ's Gospel ministry.

Recurring tendencies to misapply or confuse God's Law and Gospel, however, do not only happen among pastors or theologians. Consider overhearing a parent reprimanding a young child, "Jesus won't love you when you act like that!" No Christian (lay person or clergy) likely thinks or says anything like that standing beneath Jesus' Good Friday cross, would they? Sadly, we may do that or worse as these unfortunately still all too often remain the ways of forgiven sinners this side of heaven.

Sadly, not every Christian family experience "a blessed death" of a believing loved one accompanied by a beautiful profession of faith. It may even happen on occasion that a beloved family member (afflicted perhaps with advancing dementia) from whose lips rarely, if ever, were heard a profane word suddenly begins to curse or swear. Small wonder families are nearly devastated by such unsettling occurrences! What, if anything, does one say in such situations? How does one pray? Or perhaps attempt to sing?

In addition to the fact that our salvation fortunately does not depend on what we may be doing at the moment we die (yet another example of "works-righteousness" that is completely devoid of Christ's necessary death on Calvary's cross), we can and should be most thankful that we belong to a church body which continues to value highly purity doctrine and sound biblical teaching.

Calling to mind Dr. Walther's final thesis of allowing the Gospel to predominate in one's preaching or teaching, making "having the finer points of one's theology straight" a subliminal prerequisite for salvation is perhaps one of the most subtle ploys of the devil regarding common confusion between God's Law and Gospel. The Good News is that by the powerful guidance of the Holy Spirit who ever leads us blood-bought members of Christ's Church into all truth, all is well, spiritually speaking, after all!

As Luther early on struggled to understand properly the meaning of the "righteousness of God" in the Psalms

and St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans, so we, too, become deeply involved with this same pan-biblical concept in St. Matthew's Gospel, e.g., regarding the substitutionary obedience of "a Third Son" who alone perfectly "does the will" of His (and our) Heavenly Father (Matthew 3:15; 5:6, 10 and 20; 6:33; 21:28-32; cf, also John 6:40; Acts 13:38-41; 2 Corinthians 5:21 and 10:5).

In considering the so-called "third use of the Law" (as a rule for holy living), we should not ignore the sinless "active obedience" of our Brother-Savior, Jesus Christ, who though severely tempted, ever remained the needed innocently spotless sacrificial Lamb of God!

In the following ancient prayer, St. Richard of Chichester beautifully encapsulates what (this side of heaven) otherwise likely remains the elusive art of consistently distinguishing between Law and Gospel:

Thanks be to you,
our Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits
which you have given us,
for all the pains and insults
which you have borne for us.
Most merciful Redeemer,
Friend and Brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly, day by day,
Amen

As John chapters 14-16 repeatedly remind us, relying on the Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth especially the truth of knowing and believing in our sinless Brother-Savior Jesus Christ as the One Sure Way to the Father and eternal life as well as the only proper motivation for living a God-pleasing, people-helping Christian life. Thankfully, the same indwelling Spirit of Christ also makes possible the proper distinction between God's holy Law and saving Gospel of forgiveness.

I wish to thank our Calvary, Parma, OH Pastor Joel Dieterichs, newest pastor in our beloved SELC District, for bringing to mind during a recent pre-Reformation sermon on the "4th Sola," (Solus Christus) the fact that we likely won't even notice when things are going well, spiritually speaking, in our personal lives as baptized believing children of our Heavenly Father!

Planting Churches

Congregations of believers gathered around the Word and Sacraments for salvation, worship, and witness--is the biblical, tried and true means by which Christ's Kingdom grows. The Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod was founded and grew in part through a vigorous focus on planting congregations among European immigrants and indigenous North Americans.



P. William Utech, former SELC Pastor, is blessing P. John Henry and the SELC missions.

On September 23-27, Pastor John Henry, SELC Board Member, attended the Center for US Missions "Power Week," hosted by St. Michael Luther Church in Bloomington, Minnesota. The programming included two of the Center's signature church planting training modules, "Churches Planting Churches" and "Church Planting Essentials." These teach the principles and practices for planting new congregations from established mother-churches, that the Word of the Lord may grow. Pastor Henry attended as a representative of the SELC, and he is now certified to teach these trainings myself. He is working to find means to give the training he received a wider reception within the SELC.

Dr. Dale A Meyer to Retire —Dr. Meyer, of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis' Board of Regents, Seminary President announced his decision to retire, effective June 30, 2020. During Meyer's tenure, the Seminary's long-term debt has been eliminated and the Seminary's endowment has quadrupled. He led the Seminary's Generations: The Campaign for Concordia Seminary from 2012-18, which raised more than \$200 million and provided for a transformation of the Seminary's library into a state-of-the-art learning center. He was at the helm of the Seminary's previous campaign, How Will They Hear? from 2005-10, which raised \$80 million. At present, Meyer is leading the Generations 20/20 Campaign, which has a \$66 million goal — all for the sake of the church and the Gospel.

Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, president of the LCMS, said, "Each of the extraordinary men called to serve as president of Concordia Seminary leaves an enduring legacy. Dr. Meyer's tenure has been marked by a tremendous and successful effort to place the institution on firm financial foundations, while preparing the physical plant to endure the generations ahead. The curriculum review accomplished during Dr. Meyer's tenure aimed at providing the best possible training for future pastors facing the eternal task of proclaiming the Gospel, but in these postmodern times. We thank Dale for the tireless service to Christ and His Gospel at Concordia Seminary. The institution is poised for a healthy and seamless transition to future blessings. Pray the Lord of the harvest send workers."

SELC Convention

Please mark your calendars for the 2021 SELC Convention.

It will be held from April 15-18, 2021 in St. Louis.

More details will be sent as they become available.

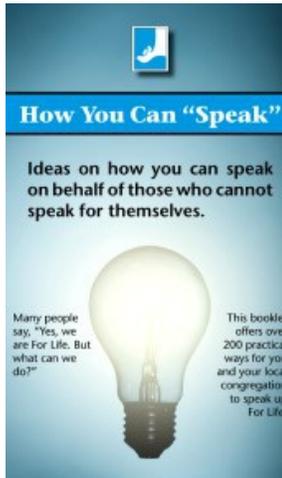
How You Can “Speak”

The Lord be with you, Gospel-motivated voice!

Submitted by Ziggy Rein

Did you know that Lutherans For Life speaks hope and joy in more than one language?

We share truth AND we show love. We declare the Heavenly Father’s truth in courageous conversations, and we also demonstrate our Savior’s love with acts of compassion. The sanctity of life sounds magnificent in dozens of different dialects and accents! So you can organize events and recruit volunteers—or something else. You can sidewalk counsel outside the clinic—but you don’t have to. You may talk politics and contact lawmakers—but there are other ways as well.



Maybe the Lord God is inviting you to another approach. Our message means more than memorizing arguments, mounting soap boxes, listing statistics, reciting textbooks, and having answers. (Although each of these methods has its own useful place!) Telling how God creates, redeems, and calls each member of our race as His own precious treasure forever—no matter what age, appearance, or ability—takes all kinds of approaches and methods.

Gratitude, not guilt, motivates our Gospel voices. Excitement inspires us, not anxiety. We rejoice that you have unique vocations. Our Almighty Maker has given you distinct skills, experiences, and interests. He places you in relationships and roles that suit you better than any other. He makes you a missionary wherever you may go and in whatever you like to do.

This booklet offers examples accumulated over forty years from all fifty states. Since 1979, we’ve listened to suggestions and learned from mistakes. We’ve brainstormed, we’ve observed, we’ve undertaken, we’ve refined. And we’ve identified a variety of effective—and enjoyable!—opportunities to proclaim the sanctity of all human life. In these pages, you’ll find ideas for finding and lending your voice in the church and through worship, with children and families, encouraging others and advocating throughout communities, making displays, raising funds, reaching legislators, and much more.

As you do, rest assured you are planting seeds that will change hearts, heal hurts, save lives, serve neighbors, and glorify our good and gracious God!

Rev. Michael W. Salemink
Executive Director, Lutherans For Life

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For ordering and/or downloading **How You Can Speak** go to:
<https://www.lutheransforlife.org/article/how-you-can-speak/>