

NORTHWESTERN

July 1994

# LUTHERAN

## Prayers, packages, and millions for missions

p.6



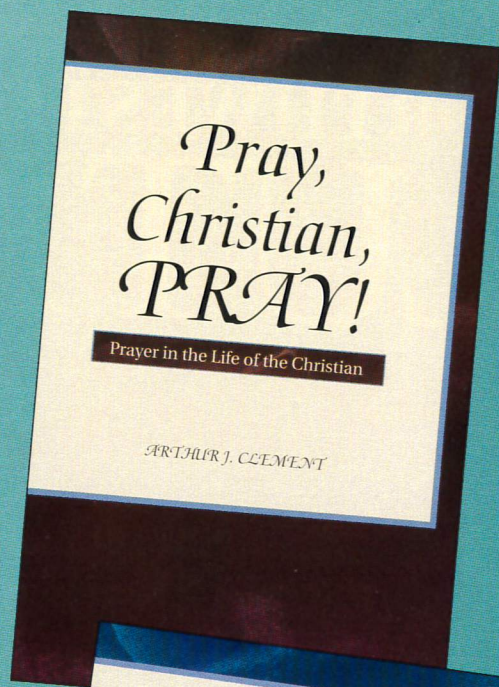
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# PRAYER POWER!

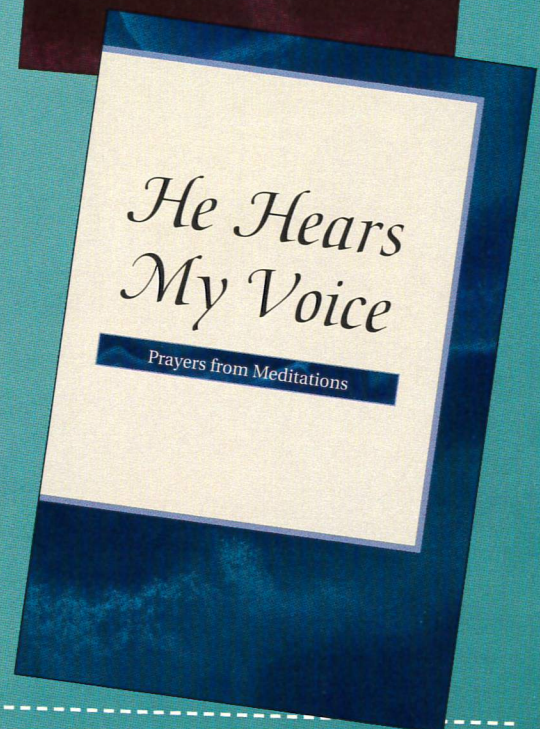
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The ideas we have about what faith is and does are crucial to valid confidence about where we stand with God.

### An invitation, not an order

Well-intended voices that urge, "You gotta have faith," can do more damage than good. "Believe" is made to sound like a rule people must fulfill, hoping to score some points with God.

It is, in fact, destructive to depict faith as an achievement that we are able to perform. Subscribing to such a notion can project us into relying on our own depleted abilities or plummet us into desperation, conscious of our doubting and questioning.

"Believe the good news" is not an order from our Lord. It is an invitation.

### Real faith

Our Lord does not just direct us to have faith; he gives us something to have faith in. It's the good news of what Jesus has accomplished for the guilty to make us fit for the family of God. By this offer he generates real faith.

To say, "I believe God exists" is not faith. Nor is it real faith just to avow a noncommittal "I believe God has the power to take care of things."

Faith that saves is the penitent sinner's heartfelt reliance on saving mercy gained for him or her by the perfect life and willing sacrifice of God's Son as the sinner's substitute.

Such faith rises not from some presumed ability on my part to choose Jesus as my personal Savior, but from God's initiative in reaching out to me in his undeserved grace, offering me forgiveness and new life. It's not a decision for which I can take credit. It came about by his decision to have me as his personal, forgiven friend.

### Cultivating faith

If these points are hazy, well-intended people may



WELS ILLUSTRATION BY LOREN STEELE. USED BY PERMISSION.

## You gotta have faith

by Robert H. Hochmuth

*... and believe the good news.*  
Mark 1:15

we do?" Then he offered them the good news, and through it the Holy Spirit produced faith.

Mark's description of Jesus' preaching corresponds with this point. Prefacing the Savior's exhortation, "... and believe" is his admonition, "Repent." Both sin and salvation need to be clear.

We see both elements in the case of the jailer in Acts 16. Encountering the edge of doom woke him to his spiritual destitution and led him to seek a way of salvation. Then the apostles pointed him to Jesus.

Faith came to the jailer and his whole family, not from an imperative "Believe," but from the offer of unmerited grace and complete forgiveness. Their faith was a response to an offer from God. He makes the same offer to you.



Robert Hochmuth is interim pastor at Good Shepherd, Pleasanton, California.

May the Lord our God be with us  
as he was with our fathers;  
may he never leave us  
nor forsake us. 1 Kings 8:57

# NORTHWESTERN LUTHERAN

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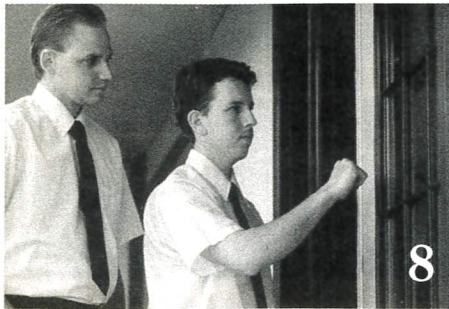
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## BITS & PIECES

- On the cover is Kim Kell, putting together a package to “befriend a missionary,” one of the projects of the Lutheran Women’s Missionary Society. It’s the largest organization in WELS, and it may have raised the most money for missions, but LWMS members don’t brag about themselves. If you ask about their organization, they’ll soon steer the conversation to the missionaries and mission work they support. Read about these Christian women in “Prayers, packages, and millions for missions” on page 6.
- People with special needs include people in prisons, nursing homes, and the military; those away from their home churches; people with physical disabilities; and even ministers. With this issue we begin a series on the programs and resources available from the synod’s special ministries. See “Special Ministries for—and by—special people” on page 10.
- Even if you don’t know them personally, you’ll enjoy seeing the newest WELS ministers, the graduates of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and Dr. Martin Luther College, beginning on page 15. As they begin their ministries, say a prayer for them.

Dorothy Sonntag



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Twenty minutes with two Mormons



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# Prayers, packages, and

Lutheran Women's Missionary Society provides vital support for

**T**hey're a nationwide network of Christian women. They provide vital support for mission work and bring help and hope to missionaries. They're filled with love for the Lord and his people.

They are the members of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society.

## Millions for missions

Organized in 1964 to support mission work, the organization, best known as LWMS, has contributed nearly four million dollars to WELS mission projects. The women fund programs that aren't in the synod's budget, choosing from suggestions made by the home and world mission boards.

The money is divided equally between home and world missions. One fourth is used for projects sponsored by the synod's home and world mission boards, and three fourths are used locally.

Last year, for example, the national group gave nearly \$48,000 to the synod's home and world missions. That means another \$144,000 was used for local projects.

## Prayers and packages

Besides financial support, the women in the 920 congregations with LWMS chapters contribute something even more valuable to missions and missionaries: encouragement and prayers.

"Prayer support is primary," says LWMS president Elaine Otterstatter, of Eagle River, Wis. "Financial support is secondary."



Kim Kell puts together a package to "befriend a missionary," one of the projects of LWMS.

One way the members give that support is through the "befriend a missionary" program. The national board gives the names of one world missionary and three or four home missionaries to each of the 56 circuits that make up LWMS. Circuit members pray for those missionaries and their families.

"It's one of the most wonderful things in the world to know someone's praying for you," said Alan Gumm, a missionary in Gillette, Wyoming.

He noted that "befriend a missionary" brings other rewards, too. One was the package sent by an Elroy, Wisconsin, woman who had learned that Gumm couldn't find Wisconsin cheese and sausage in Wyoming.

Gumm said his family enjoyed the treat, but even

more, he treasures the letters she sends. "I keep them," he said. "I pull them out when I'm down in the dumps. I may not ever meet her on this earth, but I can't wait to meet her in heaven. When I do, I'm going to give her a great big hug."

## Maintaining members

Any woman in a church that holds membership is automatically a member of LWMS. Many active members, however, are middle-aged or older. The national board is working to attract younger women.

That's why they urge circuits to schedule mission rallies for weekends instead of weekdays to accommodate working women, and to provide child care during rallies.

Circuits are also revamping the format for rallies,

# millions for missions

by Dorothy J. Sonntag

## mission work

cutting down on the time spent on the business meeting, and including new items, such as Bible study.

They may also eventually find a replacement for the traditional mission box banks. "My mother filled hers with the money she collected from selling eggs," Elaine Otterstatter observed, "but women don't have egg money today. They have paychecks."

### Encouragement and enthusiasm

Each year LWMS holds a national convention. This year the group meets June 24-26 at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee. It's a weekend of fellowship and fun, mixed with serious discussion about mission work. Besides the national convention,

LWMS circuits hold local mission rallies twice a year.

Women who are active in LWMS know the rewards of membership. "The best thing is the spiritual encouragement," says Sharon Baumann, of Sutton, Neb. "We all have the same goals."

LaVon Schultz, of Normal, Ill., calls it "love for the Lord and warmth for one another."

What Elaine Otterstatter especially

---

*"The conventions—they come together, repenting that they haven't done enough for the Lord and praising God for what he has done. They say, 'God, help us do more.' Then they hug and go home."*

---

Harry Hagedorn,  
home missions administrator

looks forward to is the convention, and "being together with over a thousand other Christian women—it's a spiritual high, a wonderful experience."

"I'm very grateful for the work of LWMS. They're full of encouragement and enthusiasm for the cause of missions," says Harry Hagedorn, administrator for home missions. "And the conventions—they

come together, repenting that they haven't done enough for the Lord and praising God for what he has done. They say, 'God, help us do more.' Then they hug and go home."

### Information and inspiration

Besides the spiritual uplift, Carolyn Wehmeyer, from Altamonte Springs, Fla., noted that LWMS "broadens our horizons. It's easy to just focus on your own congregation. It helps us see how the synod works."

Duane Tomhave, administrator for world missions, believes LWMS members "are often the best source of information about missions" because they know what's going on in mission work and they share the information. "They're excited about missions, and they want to be part of the action," he said. "LWMS is a vital channel for mission information and inspiration."

Sharon Baumann agrees that women want an active role in the church, and she has a suggestion. "There's work for women to do," she said. "Lots of work. Just get involved in LWMS."

*Dorothy Sonntag is assistant editor for Northwestern Lutheran.*



Board members LaVon Schultz and Elaine Otterstatter talk business.



---

# Twenty minutes with



**M**y grandson Mark let them in. I was in our basement family room when the two young Mormons came calling. They were ringing doorbells in Wisconsin, far from their Utah homes and families, because they had volunteered to spread their faith.

Later I told my grandson it was not a good idea to let strangers into the house, but he and I were impressed by these friendly, neatly dressed representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, a.k.a. Mormons.

We talked for about twenty minutes. I mentioned the Mormon giant, Shawn Bradley, who plays center for the Philadelphia Seventy-Sixers. Tuning in to my interest in sports, they invited me to an open house featuring Mormon Darrell Bevell, who quarterbacked the Wisconsin Badgers to a victory in the Rose Bowl.

#### Talking about religion

Most of the time we talked about religion, theirs and mine. I asked if they aspired to be gods. After some prodding they reluctantly acknowledged that they have been taught that godhead could be achieved by them, but they admitted that would take a lot of work and a very long time.

MRS. KEVIN SCHIBEL PHOTOGRAPHY



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# two Mormons

by Reuel J. Schulz

They seemed to agree when I confessed my faith in the Triune God. But when I insisted that we would forever be creatures, on a level lower than the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, one of them suggested that he whom I call God the Father also must have had a father. The gulf between our faiths was becoming clearer and wider.

They asked if I believed in continuing revelation. I replied that their aged president, Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Agriculture under President Eisenhower, would not convince me by claiming that he has a special, personal pipeline to divine truth. What Jesus said is good enough for me: "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31,32).

I tried to tell those earnest, likable young men that their Book of Mormon and the pronouncements of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, or Benson were spiritually deadly doctrines, in no way related to the truth of the gospel Jesus taught.

I probably should not have been surprised by their negative answer to the question I asked them: "If you were to die today, do you know for sure where you'd be?" Their honest "no" was forthright, but it was also distressing.

How could I convince these work-righteous Mormon zealots that their religion is riddled with idolatry, that their aspiration to become gods via good works reeks of polytheism in blatant opposition to the very first commandment: "You shall have no other gods"?

They had come to tell me about their faith. I know

more than enough about that false faith, so I told them my Bible-based Lutheran Christian beliefs. I confessed to them that I am sure of going to heaven, even though I don't deserve to, because Christ Jesus came to save sinners such as me (and them) and washed away our sins in his blood.

## Talking about faith

I pleaded with them not to trust in their good works, such as cheerfully facing slammed front doors on their Mormon mission, or in their squeaky clean, tobacco-, coffee-, drug-, alcohol-free Mormon lifestyle. I urged them to "believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved."

I ached for these likable young men to trust in Jesus. I pray that our

brief encounter bore fruit and they will say what you and I know and confess: "If I died today, heaven is my home, my blessed destination. Eternal life in paradise is God's gift to me through God-given faith in Jesus."

Thanks to the unquestioning hospitality of my grandson, it was easy for those Mormons to enter my house. It's even easier for us to enter and dwell in the house of the Lord forever, thanks to God's gracious hospitality.



For more information on Mormon beliefs read *Speaking the Truth in Love to Mormons* by Mark J. Cares. This 300-page book may be ordered from Northwestern Publishing House by calling toll-free 1-800-662-6600; in the Milwaukee area call 414/475-6600. Phone between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.

*Reuel Schultz is pastor at Woodlawn, West Allis, Wisconsin.*

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*I ached for these likable young men to trust in Jesus.*

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# Special ministries for—and

A soldier's youthful face lights up during mail call. Across the country, an elderly woman, face weathered with years, brightens at the sight of a visitor. Both are unable to get to church, but both are touched by the work of our synod.

The Commission on Special Ministries (CSM) offers services for people not adequately served through regular parish programs—especially those who have special social, emotional, or physical needs or are living away from home.

That's not all. CSM promotes ministry by seniors, people who have much to offer, but are often overlooked.

## Membership conservation

WELS membership conservation helps people locate a church when they move to a new area. Not all WELS members who move need the service—many contact the nearest WELS church themselves. This program is designed for those who don't know where the nearest WELS church is or how to contact one. Alfons Woldt, administrator for CSM remarks, "We need to keep in touch with WELS members on the move. If we don't contact our members who've moved, someone else will."

Pastors have a membership conservation kit with referral cards. When a member moves away, the pastor sends a card to Ruth Eggert, CSM secretary. Ruth identifies the nearest ministry—established or exploratory—and sends the referral to that pastor.

"I often write a person who's really stranded," says Eggert. "Even though the nearest pastor may be 150 miles away, I'll still send his name. I also ask if they want to receive *Northwestern Lutheran*, *Meditations*, and a written sermon."

## Military services

Jacki Schleicher, secretary for CSM, keeps a record of WELS members serving in the military at home and abroad. She sends a packet of *Meditations*, *Northwestern Lutheran*, a complete order of service, hymn, prayers, scripture readings, a written sermon to soldiers. Audio and video cassettes are available on request.

In the US, pastors of established congregations serve as contact pastors for military bases. But they

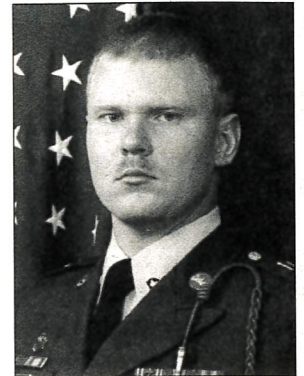
need help. Pastor David Birsching, Tacoma, Washington, has a hard time reaching those on a base. "It's difficult to get where they are unless you have a pass," he observes. He encourages pastors, teachers, and parents to "have your young person contact the pastor in the area. Trying to contact those in the barracks is like calling a dorm.

"It's especially important to keep reaching out to young people, because in the military there is not a lot of encouragement to stay close to the Lord," he adds. "It's not a cool thing to be a Christian."

Pastor Lowell Smith, San Diego, California, works principally with military families. When Navy personnel go to sea, the families stay behind, "and many see the importance of staying involved in the congregation."

In Europe, two full-time chaplains serve those in the military. Chaplains Dan Balge and Dennis Smith hold church services in Germany, Belgium, and England and travel through all of Europe to visit service people and their families.

In May, Army SPC David Himm transferred from



Army SPC David Himm appreciates Special Ministries

## Services for those with special needs

### Featured in this issue:

- Care Committee for Called Workers (CCCW)
- Military Services
- Senior Ministry
- WELS Membership Conservation

- Exceptional Education
- Hearing Impaired
- Visually Handicapped
- Institutional Ministries Committee

For more information on special ministries contact WELS Commission on Special Ministries, 2929 N Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398; 414/256-3240; fax 414/256-3899.

# by—special people by Linda R. Baacke

Mannheim, Germany, to the states. "It was tough getting to a minister or church there. When I was stationed in Carlstedt they held services once a year," he stated. "But I went through a difficult time, and receiving the packet from Special Ministries was very helpful."



OWLS enjoyed a buffet at their '93 convention.

## Senior ministry

The focus of senior ministry is changing. The disbanded Committee on Services to the Aging worked to promote ministry to seniors. Now, the Senior Ministry Committee focuses on ministry with and for seniors.

"One of the greatest untapped treasures in our midst is our seniors," says Woldt.

"Seniors shouldn't just have to sit," adds Schleicher. "We have to use them."

A handbook for WELS parishes offers practical ideas for using seniors in ministry. "Seniors can visit shut-ins, participate in evangelism drives, or help keep up the church—things that need to be done during the week, but that other people don't have the time to do anymore," notes Schleicher.

The Organization of WELS Lutheran Seniors (OWLS) is an independent group which CSM helped start. OWLS members are people 55 and older who take an active role in ministry—emphasis on active. They visit the sick, write to prisoners, and operate phone banks to help canvass for missions. As a result of their phone work, 500 names were added to four congregational mailing lists. After all this—and more—they still find time for recreational activities, such as a trip to the Canadian Rockies and Pacific



Marilyn Bock, Ellen Geiger, and Chris Poetter, faculty members at St. Mark, Watertown, Wis., say their congregation's Care Committee helps their ministry.

Northwest this summer.

## Called worker care committees

The Care Committee for Called Workers (CCCW) helps congregations meet ministers' needs. Woldt comments, "It's not to criticize or 'shape up' ministers, but to encourage them, understand their goals, needs, strengths, weaknesses, and help them find even more joy in their work."

St. Mark, Watertown, Wisconsin, has had a CCCW for ten years. Three men and three women serve for three-year terms. The committee helps staff members find housing, helps maintain fair and equitable salaries, and encourages continuing education. Pastor Donald Sutton admits, "They represent us in what we would feel awkward doing ourselves."

St. Mark's CCCW committee members listen to concerns and let the ministers know that someone cares. Each called worker is assigned a contact person from the committee. Teacher Carol Pagels' former contact person was a public school teacher. "We could relate. She knew what I faced and she understood my concerns," said Pagels.

Another teacher, Gerald Hahn, said, "I came here from a small congregation. Every six months someone there knocked on my door, asking how I was doing, making sure everything was okay. The CCCW here helped restore that feeling, since St. Mark is so large."

Through the varied work of CSM, people of all ages with special circumstances are reaching out and being reached with the gospel message.



Linda Baacke is editorial assistant for Northwestern Lutheran.

MRS. KEVIN SCHEIBEL PHOTOGRAPHY



# Planning a move

by Thomas B. Franzmann

**J**im and Rebecca had an announcement for their children. Jim had received an offer for a new job in a large city in a neighboring state. It was time to discuss the possibility of moving.

Jim felt he was stagnating in his current position. He saw little opportunity for advancement. Worse, he felt bored and unchallenged in his work. At the new company, his salary would be about the same, but with far better prospects to move into more exciting and better paying areas. If he didn't accept

this offer, he feared he might not get any more.

### Concerns and considerations

Rebecca's mind raced. Jim's work was important, she knew, but they needed to consider other things. One was their church. It had not been easy finding a good church, and she wasn't sure they could do it again.

Schools also concerned her. Kevin and Jennifer were in good schools. Jamie would soon enter the same elementary school Jennifer was about finish.

Rebecca thought of her own education. The classes she was attending were more than just a diversion. Could she continue in a new location?

Another consideration was friends. Good friends should not be taken for granted. She knew she had to think more about these things.

### The children's feelings

When they learned they might move, the children all wanted to speak at once. Kevin's reaction was mixed. He liked where they were living. He had some good friends, but some others had come into conflict with his personal values. Moving might be the easiest way to distance himself from them. He had only one year of high school left. The college of his dreams would be at his back door if they moved. Maybe now they could even afford it.

Jennifer also had mixed feelings. Change came hard for her. But she was about to graduate from eighth grade. Most of her friends would be going to different high schools. She would have to get used to new friends whether they moved or not.

Three-year-old Jamie was always ready for adventure. His ties to his family outweighed any other. He would be loved wherever they were. The thought of a move did not disturb him. Today's dessert took higher priority.

The children talked excitedly about being closer to grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Jim and Rebecca listened without offering many comments.

In their devotion after dinner, they prayed for the Lord's guidance. They knew he would not drop a note from the sky, or tap them on the shoulder, but they were confident he would walk with them through the decision process.

### Getting information

They had about a month to make up their minds.

As the days rolled by, they found out more about Jim's new position. The new job virtually guaranteed a real boost for their family economically. They all could think of benefits to that.

Jim and Rebecca met with their pastor. They trusted his judgment and wanted his input. If they moved, he told them, their loss would be deeply felt in their church. But he understood why they might want to move.

He gave them names of several churches of their fellowship near the area where they would live. One church seemed to offer most of what they found in their current church, maybe more. It was larger. It had two pastors. Its youth ministries were more extensive.

It had an elementary school. Their pastor prayed with them, asking the Lord to guide them.

The family planned a trip to visit the new area. Jim wanted to visit the company. Rebecca wanted to look at houses.

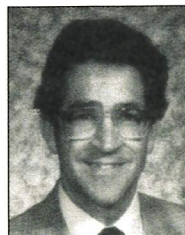
They wanted to attend a church service and Sunday school. They hoped to talk to the principal at the church's school. They wondered if one of the pastors could find time to chat with them about the church. They were concerned about medical care, sports and arts programs for the kids, school for Rebecca.

### Making a decision

By the time they returned from their trip, only a few days would be left before they had to make a decision. They still had work to do: find out about moving costs and the likelihood of finding buyers for their home, and dozens of other matters.

What a blessing their family table was! There they could share their feelings, bounce ideas off one another, offer prayers of thanks and petitions requesting the Lord's help, and turn to his Scriptures to keep things in perspective. After all, their gracious Lord would be with them, holding each of them by the hand, no matter where they lived.

What did the Lord have in store for them? They had grown so much in their present home. What opportunities for growth and service awaited them in the new?



Tom Franzmann is pastor at Our Redeemer, Santa Barbara, California.

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*Work, school, church, friends,  
and family—all are things to  
consider in planning a move.*

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# Confessions of an ex-baseball player

by David H. Birsching

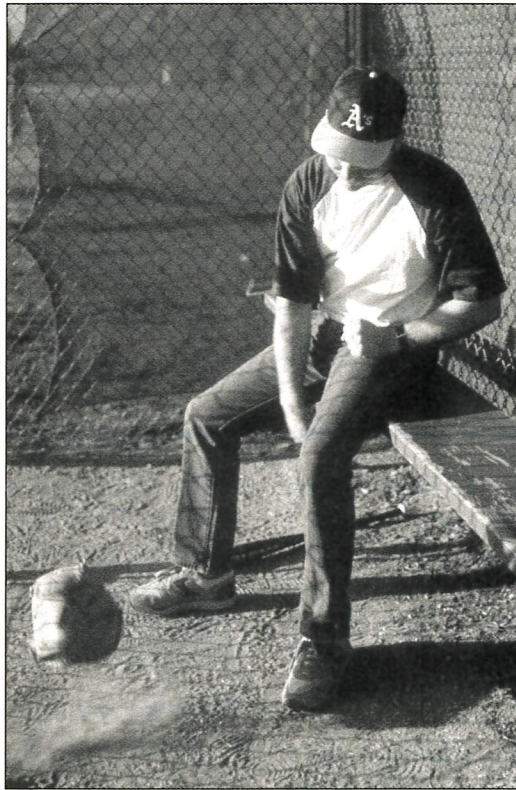
I used to love to play baseball. The smell of spring-time, the crunch of pebbles beneath cleats, the feel of leather, the explosion of the ball off the bat, the bite of the ball in the glove, the long throw just in time, the speed, the danger, the challenge, the adrenaline. Oh, how I loved the game!

The older I became, however, the less I enjoyed playing baseball, and the worse I played. My problem wasn't physical, it was mental. I hated to make errors. I wasn't upset just if I made a lot of errors in a game, but if I made any errors at all.

If I dropped a fly ball, I'd mentally kick myself around the infield. If I botched a ground ball, I'd chew my insides out. Instead of shrugging it off, I'd dwell on my mistakes—not just for the inning or the game, but the entire season. I'd be so angry, so self-accusing, so tense, and so worried that I couldn't relax and concentrate. By dwelling on my errors, I made more. Finally, I killed my joy for playing.

In much the same way, many Christians lose their Christian joy. They dwell on their sins instead of trusting in the Savior. They listen to the devil on the opponents' bench screaming, "Error! Error!" instead of concentrating on the Savior's voice reassuring, "Forgiven! Forgiven!"

They kick themselves around the field of life, con-



MRS. KEVIN SCHEIBEL PHOTOGRAPHY

*Do you focus on  
your errors instead of  
on Christ's forgiveness?  
Take joy in being a Christian.*

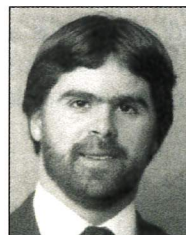
vincing themselves that they are lousy, error-making Christians instead of concentrating on the sacrifice of Christ and relaxing in the forgiveness of God. They chew their insides out because they focus on what they did against Christ, instead of what Christ did for them.

The more they dwell on their sins, the more discouraged they become and the more apt they are to sin again. Meanwhile, their Christian joy fades away.

Yet God's scoreboard holds every reason for sinners to rejoice. "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!" (Romans 5:8,9). Christ's blood has erased every error of ours. The game is

already won; the victory celebration is already scheduled. The final record is well worth our rejoicing.

The next time you find yourself focusing on your errors instead of on Christ's forgiveness, remember the ex-baseball player who lost his pleasure in playing—and take joy in being a Christian.



David Birsching is pastor at St. Paul, Tacoma, Washington.



# Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

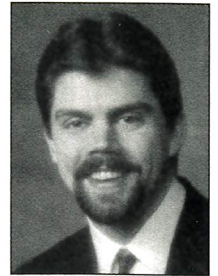
Mequon, Wisconsin

## 1994 GRADUATES

At the Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary graduation service on May 27, 35 graduates received their Master of Divinity degrees.

Call assignments to the pastoral ministry are listed on page 21.

WLS PHOTOS BY LAKESHORE PHOTOGRAPHY



**Matthew R. Arnold**  
Bay City, Mich.



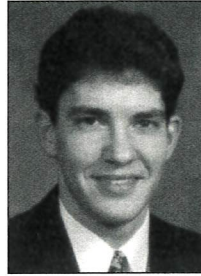
**David P. Bitter**  
Fort Atkinson, Wis.



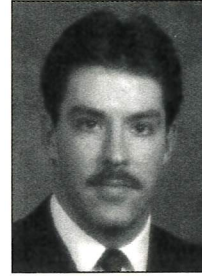
**John G. Bonow II**  
Brown Deer, Wis.



**Michael J. Borgwardt**  
Waukesha, Wis.



**Brett A. Brauer**  
Oakfield, Wis.



**Paul L. Cole**  
Yale, Mich.



**Kevin L. Cortez**  
Franklin, Wis.



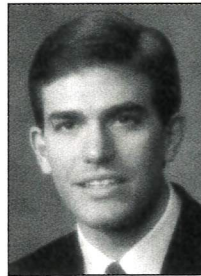
**Todd P. DeNoyer**  
Waukesha, Wis.



**Darren L. Green**  
Mt. Lake, Minn.



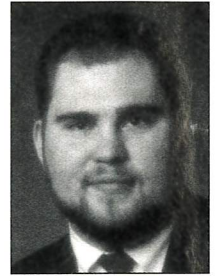
**Jeffrey O. Holtan**  
Hartford, Wis.



**Martin P. Luchterhand**  
Dale, Wis.



**Jeffrey P. Mahnke**  
Cedarburg, Wis.



**Guy M. Marquardt**  
Appleton, Wis.



**M. Scott Martz**  
Great Falls, Mont.



**Kevin R. Mau**  
Cheyenne, Wyo.



**Tony L. McKenzie**  
Burlington, Iowa



**Thomas A. Mielke**  
Kenosha, Wis.



**John M. Moll**  
Milwaukee, Wis.



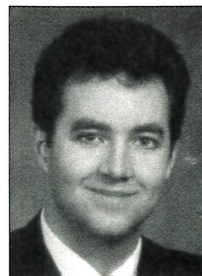
**Seth A. Neyhart**  
Fond du Lac, Wis.



**Wayne C. Oblender**  
Bay City, Mich.



**Scott T. Oelhafen**  
Flint, Mich.



**Michael J. Otterstatter**  
Eagle River, Wis.



**James D. Plocher**  
Marshall, Wis.



**David C. Pries**  
Saginaw, Mich.



**Galen J. Riediger**  
Sacred Heart, Minn.



**John D. Roebke**  
Wrightstown, Wis.



**Daniel R. Schmidt**  
Noblesville, Ind.



**Thomas E. Schroeder**  
Sheboygan, Wis.



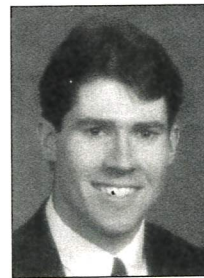
**Karl M. Schultz**  
Wausau, Wis.



**Nathan C. Seiltz**  
Egg Harbor, Wis.



**David P. Silfies**  
East Brunswick, N.J.



**Peter J. Snyder**  
West Allis, Wis.



**Timothy J. Spaude**  
Watertown, Wis.



**Daniel M. Wagenknecht**  
N. Richland Hills, Tx.



**Timothy D. Wempner**  
Troy, Ohio

**Dr. Martin Luther College**  
New Ulm, Minnesota

**1994 GRADUATES**

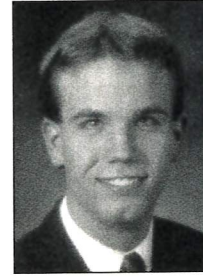
At the Dr. Martin Luther College graduation service on May 14, 91 graduates received their Bachelor of Science in Education degrees. Names preceded by an asterisk (\*) are elementary/secondary education graduates. Call assignments to the teaching ministry are listed on page 22.



**Laura C. Becker**  
Fond du Lac, Wis.



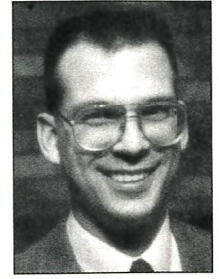
\* **Sarah R. Berg**  
Oronoco, Minn.



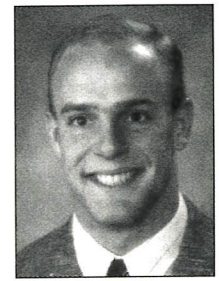
**Nathan M. Bitter**  
Oakfield, Wis.



**Rachel M. Anthony**  
Stevensville, Mich.



\* **Scott L. Anthony**  
New Ulm, Minn.



**Arlin M. Bornschlegl Jr.**  
Waco, Neb.



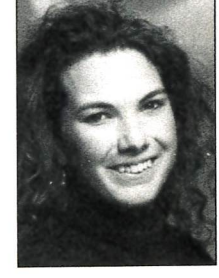
**Julia R. Braun**  
Prairie du Chien, Wis.



**Heather A. Brenn**  
Mequon, Wis.



**Laura J. Buch**  
Tomah, Wis.



**Heidi R. Buege**  
Stevensville, Mich.



\* **Elizabeth D. Caskey**  
Rhineland, Wis.



**Denys C. Casper**  
Colgate, Wis.



**Laura J. Clark**  
San Carlos, Ariz.



**Becky L. Danell**  
Goodhue, Minn.





**Heather K. Diehm**  
Remus, Mich.



**Catherine S. Doletzky**  
Wayne, Mich.



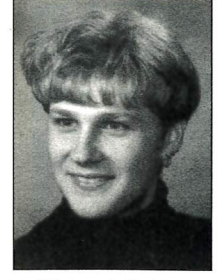
**Denise S. Duncan**  
Monee, Ill.



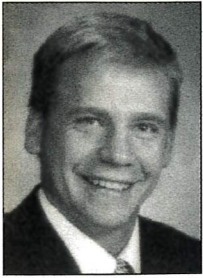
**Caley J. Durfey**  
Bloomington, Ill.



**Robert R. Dusseau**  
Somers, Wis.



**Elaine J. Eckert**  
Franksville, Wis.



**Joel R. Fenske**  
Jackson, Wis.



**Steven W. Gerner**  
Newburg, Wis.



**Kim L. Gnewuch**  
Oconomowoc, Wis.



**Sara A. Goede**  
Hales Corners, Wis.



**Karen H. Goelz**  
Muskego, Wis.



**Stacy L. Gosdeck**  
Adrian, Mich.



**Thomas M. Guentherberg**  
Lake Mills, Wis.



**Bethel C. Hahn**  
White Rock, N. M.



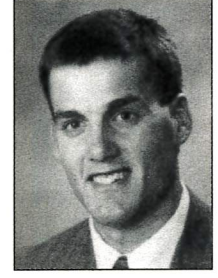
**Jennifer J. Harper**  
Garrison, Minn.



**Rachel L. Hartwig**  
Maribel, Wis.



**Maxine J. Harvey**  
St. John's, Antigua,  
West Indies



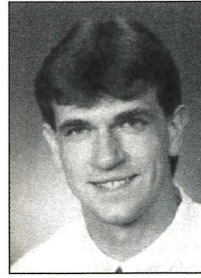
**\* Mark T. Heckendorf**  
Jackson, Wis.



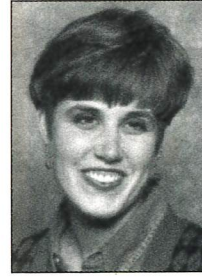
**Amy B. Hennig**  
La Mesa, Calif.



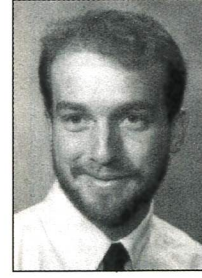
**Molly M. Heyn**  
New Ulm, Minn.,



**Michael J. Hinds**  
Slinger, Wis.



**Stephanie A. Hopf**  
Brookfield, Wis.



**Timothy E. Jackson**  
Eau Claire, Mich.



**Rebecca L. Kallies**  
Manitowoc, Wis.



**Patti A. Kaye**  
Warren, Mich.



**Lisa J. Klindworth**  
Winona, Minn.



**Kristine D. Klug**  
Watertown, Wis.



**Julia A. Knickel**  
West St. Paul, Minn.



**\* Kristi B. Kobleske**  
Prairie du Chien, Wis.



**\* Kristen M. Kusowski**  
Saginaw, Mich.

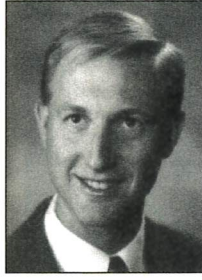
Dr. Martin Luther College graduates continued



**Mark P. Kutz**  
Fort Atkinson, Wis.



**Daniel J. Lippert**  
Oshkosh, Wis.



**\* James F. Mahnke**  
New Ulm, Minn.



**Kathryn M. McClelland**  
Weyauwega, Wis.



**Willette M. McElroy**  
Milwaukee, Wis.



**Randy L. Mensching**  
Marshfield, Wis.



**Amy M. Meyer**  
Milwaukee, Wis.



**Peter J. Micheel**  
New Ulm, Minn.



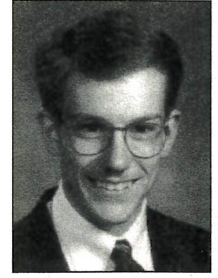
**Alane E. Mindock**  
Sheboygan, Wis.



**Rachel B. Mittelstaedt**  
Largo, Md.



**Jessica J. Neumann**  
Melstone, Mont.



**\* Brent J. Nolte**  
New Ulm, Minn.



**Christine R. Norder**  
Laingsburg, Mich.



**Christiana M. Pasbrig**  
Crete, Ill.



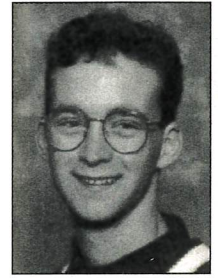
**Nicole L. Patterson**  
New Berlin, Wis.



**Susan R. Peesel**  
Wonewoc, Wis.



**Pamela K. Peper**  
Loganville, Wis.



**Anthony E. Perry**  
Chesaning, Mich.



**Lisa K. Radue**  
Howards Grove, Wis.



**\* Andrew W. Retzlaff**  
Fond du Lac, Wis.



**Sondra J. Retzlaff**  
Fond du Lac, Wis.



**Robin A. Richards**  
Fowlerville, Mich.



**\* James G. Roecker**  
Slinger, Wis.



**\* Kari L. Rosenberg**  
Wauwatosa, Wis.



**June K. Ross**  
Manitowoc, Wis.



**Amy L. Rusert**  
Winona, Minn.



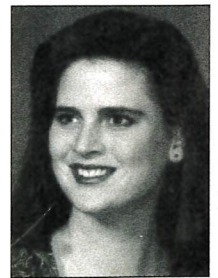
**\* David R. Russ**  
North Fond du Lac,  
Wis.



**\* Gregory L. Schibbelhut**  
New Ulm, Minn.



**Patricia R. Schimmel**  
North Mankato, Minn.



**Catherine E. Schmeling**  
Brookfield, Wis.



**Michelle J. Schmidt**  
Norfolk, Neb.



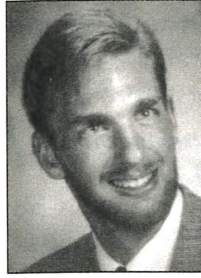
**Carrie M. Schmiede**  
West Bend, Wis.



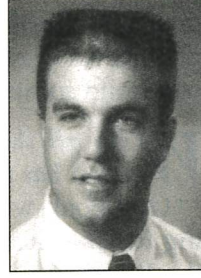
**Heidi L. Schneider**  
Prairie du Chien, Wis.



\* **Jennifer L. Schroer**  
Saginaw, Mich.



**Michael R. Schulz**  
West Bend, Wis.



**Scott J. Scriver**  
Kenosha, Wis.



**Jennifer L. Sell**  
Juneau, Wis.



\* **Wendy I. Stanford**  
Pasadena, Tex.



**Andrea M. Steffen**  
Lamberton, Minn.



**Lisa K. Strangman**  
Onalaska, Wis.



**Deborah A. Struck**  
Round Lake Beach,  
Ill.



**Veronica L. Tesch**  
Watertown, S. Dak.



**Jody K. Tjernagel**  
Cottage Grove, Minn.



\* **Jeffrey R. Uhlenbrauck**  
Appleton, Wis.



**Kim M. VanCalster**  
Green Bay, Wis.



**Dawn C. Waege**  
Mishicot, Wis.



\* **Tonya M. Wolff**  
Westfield, Wis.

## Northwestern College Watertown, Wisconsin



### 1994 GRADUATES

At a commencement service on May 25, the following 46 graduates received Bachelor of Arts degrees from Northwestern College. The two students honored as speakers for the 1994 class in the fields of humanities and religion respectively were Paul Brug and Steven Pagels.

**Arndt, Jonathan**, Menasha, Wis.  
**Brucker, Jason**, Boulder, Col.  
**Brug, Paul**, Mequon, Wis.  
**Butler, Heath**, Bancroft, Mich.  
**Degener, Reed**, Hager City, Wis.  
**Diener, Timothy**, Waupaca, Wis.  
**Ehlers, John**, Watertown, Wis.  
**Finn, William**, Fond du Lac, Wis.  
**Frandle, Andre**, Watertown, Wis.  
**Gehl, Michael**, Hubertus, Wis.  
**Glende, Timothy**, Columbus, Ohio  
**Gorsline, Todd**, Watertown, Wis.  
**Grunewald, Matthew**, Mt. Calvary, Wis.  
**Grzanna, Mark**, Caledonia, Wis.  
**Guse, Matthew**, Marietta, Ga.  
**Hamilton, Aaron**, Decatur, Mich.  
**Hayes, Mark**, Watertown, S.D.  
**Holz, Kent**, Belle Plaine, Minn.  
**Hundley, Kevin**, Milton, Wis.  
**Jackson, Martin**, St. Louis, Mo.  
**Jacobsen, Jesse**, Fairhaven, Mass.  
**Jobs, Jason**, Saukville, Wis.  
**Johnson, Randall**, Menominee, Mich.  
**Kelm, Peter**, Brookfield, Wis.  
**Kober, Michael**, Bay City, Mich.  
**Krenke, Matthew**, Leesburg, Fla.

**Micheel, Jonathan**, Milwaukee, Wis.  
**Mueller, Adam**, Waukesha, Wis.  
**Mund, Scott**, Madison, Wis.  
**Neumann, Thomas**, Beaver Dam, Wis.  
**Neyhart, Steven**, Fond du Lac, Wis.  
**Pagels, Steven**, Johnson Creek, Wis.  
**Prange, Peter**, Janesville, Wis.  
**Roecker, Eric**, Slinger, Wis.  
**Schroeder, Stephen**, Saginaw, Mich.  
**Schuler, Paul**, Vienna, Va.  
**Schulz, Marcus**, Milwaukee, Wis.  
**Skorzewski, James**, Clare, Mich.  
**Stellick, Jeffrey**, Bonneylake, Wash.  
**Tomhave, Douglas**, Brookfield, Wis.  
**Vannieuwenhoven, Charles**, Appleton, Wis.  
**Waldschmidt, Paul**, Fond du Lac, Wis.  
**Wendland, Robert**, Zambia, Africa  
**Zellmer II, Erich**, Watertown, Wis.  
**Zenda, Timothy**, Sycamore, Ill.  
**Zietlow, Jonathan**, Soldotna, Alaska

# Ministerial education

*Administrator Wayne M. Borgwardt answers questions about the synod's Board for Ministerial Education (BME).*

**W**hy was the name changed from worker training to ministerial education?

Ministerial education more accurately describes what we're about. Most people think of worker training as job training for the unemployed. We educate people for the ministry.

**W**hat is the purpose of amalgamating our two ministerial colleges and the two Wisconsin prep schools?

We need to maintain the system while changing the structure. Our system—preparing ministers for the church from secondary school to college to seminary—is unique among church bodies. But now the



Board for Ministerial Education staff: Ruth Rogahn, Linda Baacke, Wayne Borgwardt.

structure has changed from six schools to four. Frankly, we had too much space for the number of students now and in the years to come.

**W**ill there be savings?

Yes, there will be. But especially, amalgamation is better stewardship of whatever money our synod budgets for ministerial education.

**W**hat do you see as the biggest benefit of amalgamation?

Opportunities. We have a chance to accomplish things together, particularly on the college level. I especially like to think we're going to come out ahead in relationships. Future ministers, although serving in different ministries, share many of the same goals. Bonding now expands to include all students preparing for complementary ministries.

**W**hat is the most difficult hurdle in amalgamating the schools?

Practicing what the name of our church body implies. Synod means walking together. That's under-

standably difficult in this case because we face heartfelt issues not determined by doctrine. Not everybody reaches the same conclusions. And those who do, don't reach them at the same time.

No question, we are sad when we leave behind some things we cherish. Sometimes circumstances say, "you've got to change." Then you sift out what's core, take that along, and with regret leave some of those prized, yet peripheral, experiences behind. And then you build some new ones. That can be exciting.

**W**ith all the changes coming from amalgamation, what has not changed?

Our goal, what's central, is not changed—preparing for the church faithful followers of Christ, loyal to the Word and eager to share the gospel.

**W**hat, besides amalgamation, is happening in BME?

All kinds of good, exciting things are going on.

- **Staff ministry.** Preparing a minister who is neither pastor nor teacher. These involve family ministry, evangelism, music, deaconess, and administration.

- **Foreign language program.** German and Spanish will be offered in the college teacher track. A task force is studying the growing need for graduates' multi-cultural understanding while also reviewing the importance of the foreign language program in pastor education. It is evaluating current programs across the system.

- **Early childhood education.** We're trying to squeeze that one in. Budgets are tight, but congregations want it so we're looking for ways to get it in.

- **Regional training centers.** A committee is looking at regions in our country which could be served by a school that combines the purposes of prep and area Lutheran high schools.

- **Attention to student financial assistance.** Students face increasing financial hurdles. Increased student debt isn't the answer. Finding part-time jobs isn't either. Increased financial aid is.

**W**hat question haven't you been asked lately?

"Is ministerial education really important?" I heard that 4-5 years ago, but I don't hear that now. We recognize that ministerial education helps retain our God-given heritage while being a vital part of outreach—preparing ministers to share the gospel.

Do you have questions about the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod—how it functions, how decisions are made and carried out? Please send your questions to *OPEN DOORS*, Northwestern Lutheran, 2929 N Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398.

## Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary call assignments

The Conference of Presidents met May 16-17 at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wis., to assign calls into the pastoral ministry to 1994 graduates. The assignments include graduates from previous years.

**Arndt, Steven J.**, Waco, Neb., to St. Paul, Oconto Falls, Wis.  
**Arnold, Matthew R.**, Bay City, Mich., to Northwestern Lutheran College, Watertown, Wis.  
**Bitter, David P.**, Fort Atkinson, Wis., to Martin Luther Preparatory School, Prairie du Chien, Wis.  
**Borgwardt, Michael J.**, Waukesha, Wis., to Northwestern Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.  
**Brauer, Brett A.**, Oakfield, Wis., to assistant to president, Western Wisconsin district.  
**Cole, Paul L.**, Yale, Mich., to Martin Luther Preparatory School, Prairie du Chien, Wis.  
**Cortez, Kevin L.**, Franklin, Wis., to Good Shepherd, Midland/Our Redeemer, San Angelo, Tex.  
**DeNoyer, Todd P.**, Waukesha Wis., to Good Shepherd, Deltona, Fla.  
**Green, Darren L.**, Mt. Lake, Minn., to mission, Novosibirsk, Russia.  
**Jensen, Michael T.**, Green Bay, Wis., to Our Savior, East Brunswick, N.J.  
**Kuske, Timothy P.**, Prairie du Chien, Wis., to St. James, North Branch, Mich.  
**Luchterhand, Martin P.**, Dale, Wis., to Ascension, Mitchell, S. Dak.

**Mahnke, Jeffrey P.**, Cedarburg, Wis., to Nebraska Lutheran High School, Waco, Neb.  
**Malchow, Philip D.**, Novosibirsk, Russia, to Gethsemane, Milwaukee, Wis.  
**Marquardt, Guy M.**, Appleton, Wis., to mission, Porto Alegre, Brazil, South America.  
**Mau, Kevin R.**, Cheyenne, Wyo. to exploratory, Killeen, Tex.  
**McKenzie, Tony L.**, Burlington, Iowa, to assistant to president, Northern Wisconsin district.  
**Mielke, Thomas A.**, Kenosha, Wis., to assistant to president, Arizona-California district.  
**Oblender, Wayne C.**, Bay City, Mich., to mission, Novosibirsk, Russia.  
**Oelhafen, Scott T.**, Flint, Mich., to Trinity, Waukesha, Wis.  
**Otterstatter, Michael J.**, Eagle River, Wis., to Mt. Olive, Tulsa, Okla.  
**Plocher, James D.**, Marshall, Wis., to Our Savior, Burlington, Iowa.  
**Pries, David C.**, Saginaw, Mich., to Beautiful Savior, Fayetteville, N. C.  
**Riediger, Galen J.**, Sacred Heart, Minn., to Bethany, Gibsonia, Penn.  
**Roebke, John D.**, Wrightstown, Wis., to mission, Sofia, Bulgaria  
**Schmidt, Daniel R.**, Noblesville, Ind., to St. Paul, Menomonie, Wis.  
**Schroeder, Thomas E.**, Sheboygan, Wis., to West LHS, Hopkins, Minn.  
**Schultz, Karl M.**, Wausau, Wis., to St. Peter, Darwin, Minn.  
**Seiltz, Nathan C.**, Egg Harbor, Wis., to Nebraska LHS, Waco, Neb.  
**Snyder, Peter J.**, West Allis, Wis., to Prince of Peace, Howell, Mich.  
**Spaude, Timothy J.**, Watertown, Wis., to Cross of Christ, Universal City, Tex.

**Voigt, Daniel R.**, Watertown, Wis., to exploratory, NE Dallas County, Tex.  
**Wagenknecht, Daniel M.**, North Richland Hills, Tex., to Good Shepherd, Vallejo, Calif.  
**Wempner, Timothy D.**, Troy, Ohio, to exploratory, Southwest Atlanta, Ga.  
**Wessel, Keith C.**, Saginaw, Mich., to assistant to president, South Atlantic district.  
**Westenberg, Douglas M.**, Watertown, Wis., to Immanuel, Hadar, Neb.  
**Westra, Kevin P.**, Prairie du Chien, Wis., to Trinity, Wayland, Mich.

The following have been reassigned to their present field of labor:

**Bode, Steven D.**, Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.  
**Borgwardt, Daniel L.**, Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.  
**Fisher, Kenneth J.**, Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.  
**Getka, James J.**, Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.  
**Glaeske, Aaron H.**, Martin Luther Preparatory School, Prairie du Chien, Wis.  
**Huebner, Paul P.**, assistant to president, Michigan district.  
**Qualmann, John D.**, assistant to president, Nebraska district.  
**Rosenbaum, Glenn T.**, assistant to president, Minnesota district.  
**Schaser, Erich K.**, Northwestern College, Watertown, Wis.  
**Schewe, Mark H.**, Northwestern Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.  
**Sievert, Phillip D.**, Northwestern Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.

## From preschool to college, Lutheran education is thriving

In 1983 WELS elementary schools (LES) ran 57 preschools with an enrollment of 772 children. Ten years later the numbers had risen to 182 preschools and 2,726 children. In addition, 30 congregations without elementary schools run preschools for another 637 children, not including day care centers at some churches.

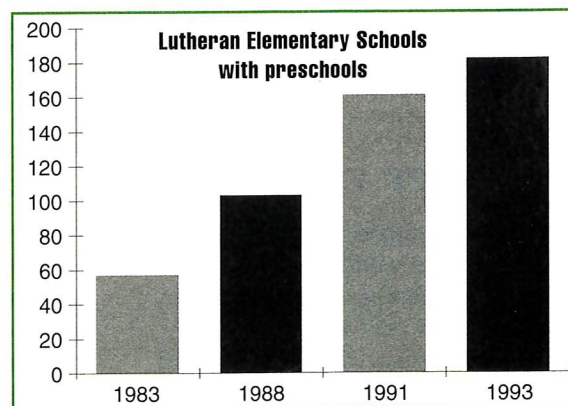
Besides preschools, WELS congregations operate 364 elementary schools and 20 area high schools (in addition to three synodical preparatory schools). In grades kindergarten through

eight, 1838 teachers educate 31,714 students. Last year 3052 students graduated, with 1193 (39 percent) going on to area Lutheran high schools and 185 (6 percent) to synod prep schools.

In area high schools, 344 teachers teach 4760 students. Of the 922 who grad-

uated last year, 81 attended Doctor Martin Luther College (teacher and staff ministry education); 11, Northwestern College (pastoral training); and 58, Wisconsin Lutheran College.

WELS preschools		
YEAR	LUTHERAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS (LES) WITH PRESCHOOLS	ENROLLMENT
1983	57	772
1988	103	1524
1991	161	2462
1993	182 + 30 without LES	2726 + 637



## Dr. Martin Luther College call assignments

The Conference of Presidents met May 12-13 at Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn., to issue calls into the teaching ministry to 1994 graduates. The assignments include graduates from other years also.

- Anthony, Scott**, New Ulm, Minn., to Christ, West Salem, Wis.
- Berg, Sarah**, Oronoco, Minn., to Michigan LHS, St. Joseph, Mich.
- Bitter, Nathan**, Oakfield, Wis., to Gloria Dei, Belmont, Calif.
- Bornschlegl, Arlin Jr.**, Waco, Neb., to mission, Novosibirsk, Russia.
- Bronh, Gretchen**, South Haven, Mich., to Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.
- Braun, Julia**, Prairie du Chien, Wis., to Zion, Valentine, Neb.
- Brenn, Heather**, Mequon, Wis., to St. John, Montello, Wis.
- Buboltz, James Jr.**, Fairfax, Minn., to Nebraska LHS, Waco, Neb.
- Buch, Laura**, Tomah, Wis., to Mt. Olive, Bay City, Mich.
- Buege, Heidi**, Stevensville, Mich., to Immanuel, LaCrosse, Wis.
- Clark, Laura**, San Carlos, Ariz., to St. John, Newburg, Wis.
- Carson, Teresa**, Bentonville, Ark., to Holton, Holton, Mich. (ELS).
- Caskey, Elizabeth**, Rhinelander, Wis., to St. John, Two Rivers, Wis.
- Cross, Julia**, Rochester, Minn., to St. John, Newark, Del.
- Duncan, Denise**, Monee, Ill., to Waucousta, Campbellsport, Wis.
- Dusseau, Robert**, Somer, Wis., to mission, Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Eckert, Elaine**, Franksville, Wis., to Salem, Owosso, Mich.
- Frailing, Mark**, Milwaukee, Wis., to St. Peter, Schofield, Wis.
- Gabert, Kathryn**, Canby, Ore., to Northland LHS, Wausau, Wis.
- Gemer, Steven**, Newburg, Wis., to Shepherd of the Mountains, Reno, Nev.
- Goelz, Karen**, Muskego, Wis., to St. Paul, Green Bay, Wis.
- Gosdeck, Stacy**, Adrian, Mich., to Martin Luther Preparatory School, Prairie du Chien, Wis.
- Gostchock, Scott**, Milwaukee, Wis., to Sola Scriptura, Decatur, Ga.
- Guenterberg, Thomas**, Lake Mills, Wis., to Emanuel-Redeemer, Yale, Mich.
- Harper, Jennifer**, Harrison, Wis., to Martin Luther, Plzen-Slovan, Czech Republic.
- Hartwig Rachel**, Maribel, Wis., to St. Paul, Cudahy, Wis.
- Harvey, Maxine**, Antigua, West Indies, to Zion, Torrance, Calif.
- Heckendorf, Mark**, Jackson, Wis., to St. Paul, Plymouth, Neb.
- Hennig, Amy**, LaMesa, Calif., to St. Matthew, Niles, Ill.
- Hopf, Stephanie**, Brookfield, Wis., to Sts. Peter and Paul, Hopkins, Mich.
- Kallies, Rebecca**, Manitowoc, Wis., to St. Peter, Ft. Collins, Col.
- Klindworth, Lisa**, Winona, Minn., to Abiding Word, Houston, Tex.
- Knickel, Julie**, West St. Paul, Minn., to St. John, Stanton, Neb.
- Kobleske, Kristi**, Prairie du Chien, Wis., to Nebraska LHS, Waco, Neb.
- Kuckhahn, Laura**, Gibbon, Minn., to Martin Luther Preparatory School, Prairie du Chien, Wis.
- Kusowski, Kristen**, Saginaw, Mich., to King of Kings, Garden Grove, Calif.
- Lippert, Daniel**, Oshkosh, Wis., to Redeemer, Tucson, Ariz.
- Mahnke, James**, New Ulm, Minn., to Grace, LaCrosse, Wis.
- Mensching, Randy**, Marshfield, Wis., to Northwestern Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.
- Meyer, Amy**, Milwaukee, Wis., to Gloria Dei, Belmont, Calif.
- Micheel, Peter**, New Ulm, Minn., to Christ, Grand Island, Neb.
- Mindock, Alane**, Sheboygan, Wis., to Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.
- Mittelstaedt, Rachel**, Largo, Md., to Peace, Green Lake, Wis.
- Nakamoto, Naoko**, Shimodate, Japan, to Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls, Wis.
- Neumann, Jessica**, Melstone, Mont., to Beautiful Savior, Cincinnati, Ohio.
- Noite, Brent**, New Ulm, Minn., to Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson, Wis.
- Norder, Christine**, Laingsburg, Mich., to Good Shepherd, Omaha, Neb.
- Patterson, Nicole**, New Berlin, Wis., to Emanuel-Redeemer, Yale, Mich.
- Paulsen, Kelly**, New Ulm, Minn., to St. Andrew, Milwaukee, Wis.
- Perry, Anthony**, Chesaning, Mich., to East Fork, Whiteriver, Ariz.
- Pettenger, Kathryn**, Tawas City, Mich., to Northwestern Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.
- Radue, Lisa**, Howards Grove, Wis., to Trinity, Nicollet, Minn.
- Retzlaff, Andrew**, Fond du Lac, Wis., to Good Shepherd, Burnsville, Minn.
- Retzlaff, Sondra**, Fond du Lac, Wis., to Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Saginaw, Mich.
- Roecker, James**, Slinger, Wis., to Immanuel, Manitowoc, Wis.
- Rosenberg, Kari**, Wauwatosa, Wis., to St. Lucas, Kewaskum, Wis.
- Russ, David**, North Fond du Lac, Wis., to Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School, New Ulm, Minn.
- Rust, David**, New Ulm, Minn., to St. Paul, Menomonie, Wis.
- Schachtschneider, Susan**, Kewaskum, Wis., to Buffalo Lutheran, Cochrane, Wis.
- Schalow, Steven**, Marshfield, Wis., to Holy Trinity, Wyoming, Mich.
- Schibbelhut, Gregory**, New Ulm, Minn., to Nebraska LHS, Waco, Neb.
- Schimmel, Patricia**, North Mankato, Minn., to Trinity, Belle Plaine, Minn.
- Schmidt, Michelle**, Norfolk, Neb., to Divine Grace, Lake Orion, Mich.
- Schmiege, Carrie**, West Bend, Wis., to Bethany, Fort Atkinson, Wis.
- Schroer, Jennifer**, Saginaw, Mich., to St. Croix LHS, West St. Paul, Minn.
- Schultz, Deborah**, West St. Paul, Minn., to St. Mark, Mankato, Minn.
- Schultz, Julie**, Fond du Lac, Wis., to Calvary, Thiensville, Wis.
- Schulz, Michael**, West Bend, Wis., to Emanuel First, Lansing, Mich.
- Scriver, Scott**, Kenosha, Wis., to Grace, Waukesha, Wis.
- Sielaff, Andrew**, Fort Wayne, Ind., to Memorial, Williamston, Mich.
- Stoltz, David**, New Ulm, Minn., to St. Peter, Milwaukee, Wis.
- Strangman, Lisa**, Onalaska, Wis., to St. John, Waterloo, Wis.
- Tesch, Veronica**, Watertown, S. Dak., to St. Paul, Cannon Falls, Minn.
- Tjernagel, Jody**, Cottage Grove, Minn., to New Salem, Sebawaing, Mich.
- Waege, Lance**, Mishicot, Wis., to Trinity, Marshfield, Wis.
- Yarbrough, Kristine**, Santa Clarita, Calif., to Shepherd, Albuquerque, N.M.

## Pioneer camp celebrates anniversary

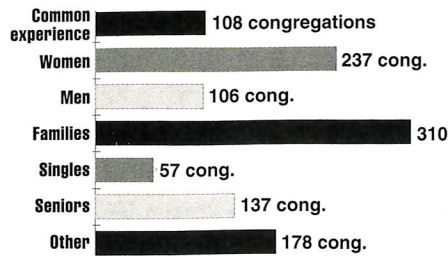
Lutheran Pioneers in southeast Wisconsin will celebrate 20 years at Pine Ridge Campground during an annual family campout Aug. 5-7. A service of thanksgiving is scheduled for Aug. 6.

The Pioneers purchased the land for the campground near Waldo, Wis., in 1974. Although the campground is used primarily for Pioneer camping, it is available to all WELS organizations and members.

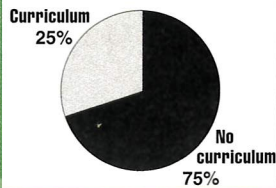
Among the improvements they have made over the years, the Pioneers have planted over 10,000 trees, created an artificial lake, and erected a number of buildings. Duane Vanselow is the camp director.

## 1994 WELS Adult Bible Study Survey (780 pastors responding)

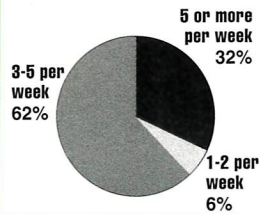
We provide Bible study opportunities for the following specific groups of adults.



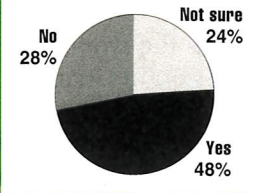
We have a planned Bible study curriculum through which we plan to take most or all of our members:



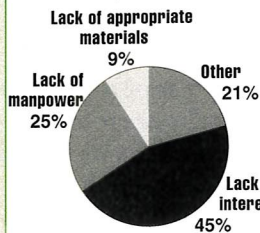
How many total planned Bible study sessions meet each week in your congregation?



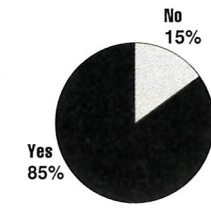
Do you think adding more Bible studies per week would bring more people into Bible study?



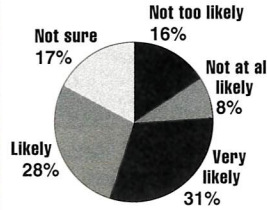
The greatest obstacle to getting more people into Bible study is:



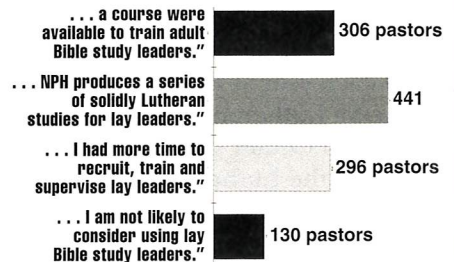
Have lay people led Bible studies of any kind in your congregation recently?



How likely are you to encourage the option of lay-led Bible studies in the future?



"I would consider using lay Bible study leaders in the future if (check as many as apply):"



## Surveys show adult Bible study opportunities

Group Bible study for every adult—that is a goal every church would like to achieve. To provide help toward that end, the Commission on Adult Discipleship surveyed 1080 WELS pastors, with 780 (72 percent) responding.

The survey, released April 20, 1994, reveals that churches provide a variety of Bible study opportunities for adults. Ninety-four percent of WELS congregations conduct three or more sessions per week. The studies often target specific

groups: families (310 congregations), women (237), seniors (137), men (105), singles (57), and others. One congregation in four has a planned Bible study curriculum through which it plans to take most or all of its members.

The major obstacle to getting more people into Bible study is "lack of interest" (45 percent). However, 25 percent also cite "lack of manpower" as an obstacle, and 48 percent feel that adding more Bible studies per week would bring

more people to Bible study sessions.

In addressing the manpower issue, 85 percent have had some lay-led Bible studies, and 59 percent are likely to encourage the option of lay-led study in the future. Four hundred forty-one pastors (57 percent) would like to see Northwestern Publishing House produce a series of "solidly Lutheran studies for lay leaders." Another 130 (17 percent) are "not likely to use lay Bible study leaders" in the future.

## Workshops offer open forum, hymnfest, and a look at new music

Attention will focus on *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal* for much of the agenda at a weekend of music workshops July 15-16 at Calvary, Thiensville, Wis. The Commission on Worship is sponsoring Friday's workshop. "The public is invited," said chairman Victor Prange, "and Calvary is air conditioned."

An open forum will offer a

chance for questions and suggestions about the new WELS hymnal at Friday's workshop, which begins at 1:00 p.m. Besides the forum, Friday's session will include two services from *Christian Worship*.

A hymnfest that evening at 7:15, also at Calvary, will provide opportunity for singing hymns from *Christian Worship*.

Northwestern Publishing House is conducting Saturday's session. It will include a demonstration of a computer software program for *Christian Worship* and will introduce new choral, organ, and handbell music.

Those interested in attending Saturday's music reading session can contact Sue Rebers, 414/475-6600, ext. 163.

## Committee works behind the scenes for medical mission

WELS members may know about the dedicated nurses in the synod's medical mission in Central Africa. They probably know less about the dedicated women on this side of the Atlantic who make sure that mission continues.

Since 1961, 36 nurses have cared for over 60,000 patients each year at the Mwembezhi Lutheran Rural Health Center in Zambia and the Lutheran Mobile Clinic in Malawi.

Recruiting those nurses, providing training and medical supplies, and promoting the mission are among the tasks of the Central Africa Medical Mission Committee.

Another responsibility of the committee is raising funds. The medical mission's annual expenditure totals about \$200,000, all from gifts. No synodical funds are budgeted for the medical mission. The committee works with over 140 women nationwide who encourage



Members of the Central Africa Medical Mission Committee make sure overseas mission work continues. They are (back) Heidi Meyer, Sue Zuberbier, Charlotte Rosenthal; (front) Kathie Wendland, Irene Brug, Bea Punke.

support from congregations. School groups and interested individuals also provide gifts. Although the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society contributes generously, the medical mission is not a direct part of LWMS.

"A lot of people don't know how much work is done on this side of the ocean," said Irene Brug, who chairs the committee. Other mem-

bers are Bea Punke, Sue Zuberbier, Char Rosenthal, Kathie Wendland, and Heidi Meyer. Dr. Jerome Brooks is medical advisor.

Retired missionary Ernst H. Wendland, formerly of Africa, praised the committee members. "They serve here at home, with little fanfare or recognition," he said. "But they supply the logistics for a branch of our gospel ministry in Central Africa. Young and old receive medical care, pregnant women receive special attention, little

babies are weighed each week to combat malnutrition, programs are arranged to fight against AIDS, primary health care is brought to the villages—all this is done in the spirit of Christ."

For information about the Central Africa Medical Mission, contact Irene Brug, 11757 N Seminary Drive, Mequon WI 53092; 414/242-0967.

### Touch of laughter

Northwestern College students helped the Chicago Cubs this season by getting their goat.

In 1945 gatekeepers turned a fan away from a World Series game when he wanted to bring in a goat. He vowed the Cubs would never get into the Series again until they let in a goat. The team hasn't been in the World Series since.

To help the Cubs, who started this season with a 12-game losing streak at home, a Chicago radio station put out a call for a goat. Northwestern's students came to the res-

cue. Forty-six of them arrived at Wrigley Field on May 4 with a goat owned by Northwestern Preparatory School professor Ronald Hahm.

Cubs all-time great Ernie Banks personally escorted the goat, Gerhardt, into the stadium, and the Cubs won the game.

Gerhardt has returned to Watertown, but may be needed again. The Cubs are still in last place.

Contributions are welcome. Please send them to *LAUGHTER*, Northwestern Lutheran, 2929 N Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398.



Ernie Banks (second from left) and Northwestern College students escort Gerhardt into Wrigley field.



## California

**Property swap . . . Grace, Yorba Linda**, has agreed to a property exchange with the city, which wants Grace's land for its recreation program. The congregation will move to a two-acre site overlooking a large housing development and is making plans for a new church building.

**Hmong mission work . . . St. Peter, Clovis**, is reaching out to the Hmong in the Fresno/Clovis area with the help of Emanuel, St. Paul, Minn., a congregation experienced in working with the Hmong. Fresno and St. Paul have the largest number of Hmong in the US.

**Contest winners . . . Hilary Schroeder, Samantha Elliott, and Daniel Degner**, students at **Our Redeemer, Santa Barbara**, took first place in a county-wide drug awareness poster contest with over 3000 entries. "What makes this truly amazing," says principal Andy Plocher, "is that Our Redeemer had only 15 students at the time." Their teacher, **Susan Degner**, received one of four teachers' awards.



Daniel Degner



Samantha Elliott



Hilary Schroeder



Susan Degner

**California Lutheran High School . . .** Modular classrooms, an office building, and a dormitory have been moved to the site in Wildomar,

between San Diego and Riverside.

**Ascension, Escondido**, invited WELS eighth graders from all of southern California to a volleyball tournament with CLHS students to encourage the eighth graders to attend CLHS. Eighteen eighth graders and 25 CLHS students participated.

**Dedications . . . Risen Savior, Chula Vista; Green Valley, Henderson, Nev.; and Summerlin, Las Vegas, Nev.**, recently dedicated new churches. Summerlin is the only Protestant congregation in its area.

—*Hermann K. John*

## Michigan District

**International students . . .** Ten of the 62 seniors who graduated from Michigan Lutheran Seminary are international students representing eight countries: Canada, Colombia, Germany, Grenada, India, Japan, Republic of China, St. Lucia, and Taiwan. Only two are the children of missionaries.

**MLHS growth . . .** Michigan LHS, St. Joseph, added a twelfth teacher because of increased enrollment. The school also added girls' softball.

**Anniversaries . . .** On March 21 MLS celebrated the 25th anniversaries in ministry of **Robert Schroer, Terrance Vasold, and William Zeiger**.

—*James L. Langebartels*

## Northern Wisconsin District

**Sixty-five years at the organ . . .** St. Peter, Mishicot, honored **Alice Zell** for 65 years as organist, all at St. Peter.

**Anniversaries . . .** St. John-St. Peter, Cleveland, Wis., celebrated 25 years in ministry of **Pastor Henry F. Koch**. Founder's Day Weekend was the first of four weekend events marking the 50th anniversary of **Bethany, Manitowoc**.

—*Jan C. Eggert*

## Southeastern Wisconsin District

**Historic church celebrates . . .** **Grace, Milwaukee**, celebrated its 145th anniversary May 15. Its first pastor, John Muehlhaeuser, and two others came together at Grace in 1849 to form the "First German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin." The congregation's historic downtown landmark building, constructed a few years later, recently was spared demolition when the planners of a new Milwaukee Brewers baseball stadium chose an alternate site.

**Anniversaries . . . Mrs. Sandra Yehl and Pastor Ralph Scharf** of Good Shepherd, West Allis, **Pastor Ray Ziebell** of Calvary, Milwaukee, and **Mr. Gary Heiman** of Redemption, Milwaukee, celebrated their 25th anniversaries in public ministry. St. Matthew, Niles, Ill., honored **Mrs. Sylvia Engel** for 40 years of Christian service as organist. **Jordan, West Allis**, is celebrating its centennial throughout 1994.

—*George A. Ferch*

## Western Wisconsin District

**New buildings . . . Good Shepherd, Beaver Dam**, dedicated new education and fellowship facilities April 24. **St. Paul, Mauston**, broke ground for a new church building April 17.

**Anniversaries. . .** St. John, Watertown, celebrated the 25th anniversary in ministry of **Ronald Gross** on June 12. He has taught at St. John since 1974. St. Mark, Watertown, hosted a celebration June 19 for 40 years in ministry for **Pastor Richard Mueller**. **St. Paul, Hillsboro**, celebrated its centennial April 24. **Peace, Hayward, Wis.**, celebrated its tenth anniversary May 22.

—*Elton C. Stroh*

## Obituaries

### Robert E. Arndt 1945-1994

Robert Emanuel Arndt was born Jan. 14, 1945, in Milwaukee, Wis. He died April 16, 1994, in Milwaukee.

A graduate of the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee, he taught for 26 years at Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Milwaukee.

He is survived by his wife, Helen; his parents, Emanuel and Ruth; a brother, Richard (Julie) and a sister, Kathleen (Tom) Marten.

### Adolph F. Fehlauer 1908-1994

Adolph F. Fehlauer was born Dec. 31, 1908, in Vergas, Minn. He died April 24, 1994, in Brookfield, Wis.

A 1930 graduate of Dr. Martin

Luther College, he taught in Helenville, Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, and Appleton, Wis., before becoming assistant executive secretary and then executive secretary of the WELS Board for Parish Education. He retired in 1976.

He is survived by his wife, Gertrude; daughter, Carol Ryan; sons Fred and David; a sister, Eleanor Church; ten grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

## Book notes

**B**e Prepared for Christ's Coming: **Seven Sermons for Advent and Christmas based on Galatians 5:22,23** by *Thomas H. Hilliard*. *Northwestern Publishing House*. 46 pages, soft-cover, \$3.99 plus \$3.35 for postage and

*handling, stock no. 15N0556.*

What do Advent and the fruit of the Spirit have to do with one another? Pastor Thomas Hilliard has drawn the two together nicely in this collection of seven sermons for Advent and Christmas.

In each sermon, the author shows how a fruit has blossomed

with Christ's coming and how that fruit might grow in us. Pastors and lay people alike should find the series edifying.

—Gary P. Baumler

This item may be ordered from Northwestern Publishing House by calling toll-free 1-800-662-6022. In the Milwaukee area call 414/475-6600. Phone weekdays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

## European pastors and missionaries meet in Plzen, Czech Republic

Lutheran pastors and missionaries throughout Europe met in Plzen, Czech Republic, April 19-21 for a regional meeting of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference (CELC), a group of thirteen Lutheran bodies that includes WELS.

During the meeting, participants reacted to a provisional CELC constitution. According to Pastor Johannes Wilde, St. Johannes Gemeinde Evangelical Lutheran Free Church, Germany, the constitution is a powerful testimony concerning biblical teachings. "This is a constitution that we may use to show the world we share a common confession," Wilde said, "and to also show how we would like to work together."

The 41 participants also discussed a number of papers presented at CELC's constituting convention in Oberwesel, Germany, last year. Paper topics addressed issues relating to fellowship, forgiveness, and the Bible as God's inspired, inerrant word.

"I've heard the papers twice now and I think they're excellent," said missionary John J. Sullivan, Novosibirsk, Russia. "The fact that the authors of the papers come from countries including Sweden, Germany, Zambia, and the US is a strong testimony that the members of CELC, people from all over the world, speak with one voice. This is very encouraging for our conference because it shows CELC is united in confession."

Discussion of the papers also

encouraged debates on issues particularly relevant to missionary congregations, such as whether the rite of confirmation is necessary for adults who are getting baptized.

"Since there are so few of us in Sweden and Norway, we need to meet with our brothers and sisters in Christ to be strengthened and to get inspiration for our work," Pastor Christer Hugo, Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Goteborg, Sweden, said. "When we come together we can share our troubles, rejoice in our joys, and, of course, exchange ideas. We feel inspired."

The next European regional conference is tentatively scheduled for May 2-4, 1995 in Uppsala, Sweden.

—Wendy L. Greenfield

## Legislation makes it harder to protest abortion

Congress has passed legislation aimed at curbing violence and harassment at women's health clinics.

Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances (FACES) bill was spurred by a series of violent acts during abortion protests last year, including the murder of a doctor in Florida and the wounding of another in Kansas.

The law allows for heavy fines and prison sentences for demonstrators found guilty of a variety of acts, including some traditional, nonviolent means of protest such as sit-ins and chaining protesters to doors to block access. The new law is expected to be signed by President Clinton.

"We've had clergy called with death threats, church services disrupted and synagogues vandalized," said Ann Thompson Cook, executive director of the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Rights. "The First Amendment is not a license to harass and intimidate people you don't agree with."

But Jay Sekulow, chief counsel of the American Center for Law and Justice, said the measure will crush the free-speech rights of abortion opponents.

"There are already laws on the books protecting people from violent acts," Sekulow said of the problem of violence directed toward clinics. "This legislation isn't needed."

The bill makes it a federal crime to attack or blockade patients or staff members at clinics offering abortion services.

## Weekly church attendance constant

Weekly worship in churches or synagogues has been one of the most constant factors in American religious life over the years, with about four adults in 10 attending at least once during a typical week.

Although Gallup has reported this figure for many years, it is also one of the survey findings questioned most often—usually by people who think it may be too high. This time, therefore, Gallup took steps to verify the results

with a more stringently worded question. They asked one group of respondents to tell whether they, personally, had attended church or synagogue in the last seven days and to name the church or synagogue attended. The results did not change.

Those most likely to report they attended church last week are people 65 and older, who live in a small town or rural area of the South or Midwest, 53 percent of whom are black.

## Families instill charitable giving

Eighty-one percent of American parents try to instill charitable giving in their children, and nearly 70 percent of people surveyed said they give more money or about the same amount to churches and charities compared to their parents at their ages, according to a recent Louis Harris poll for Lutheran

Brotherhood. Twenty-four percent of respondents said they tithe (give 10 percent or more of their annual family incomes) to their churches. Among those who tithe to their churches, more are in the \$25,000 to \$50,000 income bracket than those with higher incomes or lower incomes.

## Religious news begs attention in secular press

In an age of uncertainty and chaos, the search for meaning has taken on new urgency and journalists who ignore this reality are missing one of the most important stories of the century. So said television producer and commentator Bill Moyers at the 60th anniversary of Religious News Service on April 29.

In a speech critical of the often crude vagaries of a market-driven consumer culture, Moyers said nearly every other human endeavor—politics, sports, sex, cooking, or war—"is the subject of continuing coverage by the media . . . to the

point of saturation."

"For broadcast executives," he said, "news of the soul is no news at all."

As if in response, one day later, members of the Religion Newswriters Association were told at their annual meeting that America's religion reporters are riding a crest of recognition. As awareness of the importance of religion increases, religion news—once consigned to the "ghetto" of the church page—is now getting a little more respect, according to the report.

## London's church membership is falling down

The City of London has 36 churches that hold 130 services each working week. Almost all have fewer than ten in attendance. Only 2.4 percent

of adults now attend Church of England services on Sunday (*Context*, 5/1/94).

## Teens have few religious role models

A Gallup poll taken in the fall of 1993 reveals the following:

- The pope is in a statistical tie with movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger as a role model for teens.
- Basketball player Charles Barkley, who has gone on record as saying he does not want to be a role model for young people, and President Bill Clinton both outpoll Billy Graham.
- Television evangelist Pat Robertson lags behind Ross Perot and Supreme Court Justice

Clarence Thomas as a role model.

Pope John Paul II gets positive ratings from 75 percent of teen Catholics, compared to 59 percent of Protestants. Graham is rated positively by 38 percent of Protestant teens and by 25 percent of Catholics. For Robertson, 25 percent Protestants give positive grades, compared to 23 percent of Catholics.

News reported in this section is derived from Religious News Service, Ecumenical Press Service, Evangelical Press Service, and Lutheran World Information.

## Americans concerned about population growth

According to a poll released in April, Americans generally view world population growth as a problem and support US efforts to slow the increasing of earth's inhabitants. Nearly half of those surveyed—48 percent—rated population growth as a "very serious" problem. That ranks the issue on a par with the spread of nuclear weapons and above threats to the world's environment but somewhat below disease and hunger in other countries.

Frequent churchgoers, however, are less likely to support specific population control policies such as legal abortion and family planning programs than others, the poll shows.

## YOUR QUESTION, PLEASE

by John F. Brug

*I attend a mission congregation. Sometimes the pastor can't get a substitute, so a layman conducts the service. This works well, but I get a little disturbed when the layman reads, "As a called servant of the Word . . . I forgive you all your sins." Should we have an alternate reading for the layman to use?*

In *The Lutheran Hymnal* the pastor announced, "By virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word . . . I forgive you." This statement could give the impression that only an ordained pastor can announce the forgiveness of sins, as authorized by Jesus. The ministry of the keys, however, was given to the whole

church, and any believer may assure penitent sinners that their sins are forgiven. To prevent this misunderstanding, the reference to ordination was eliminated from *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*.

The reference to a called servant remains, because although any believer may exercise the ministry of the keys privately, no one may exercise this ministry publicly without a call from the church. A vicar, teacher, or layman who leads the service in the pastor's absence has a call from the congregation to do so. This is a limited call, but it is a call nevertheless. He may, therefore, read this section of the liturgy without violating any doc-

*A layman who leads the service in the pastor's absence has a call from the congregation to do so. This is a limited call, but it is a call nevertheless.*

trinal principle.

Such a practice, however, could easily cause confusion, since many people understand "called servant

of the Word" as another name for "pastor." This confusion could be avoided by having the lay leader omit the words "called servant of the Word."

A better solution would be to explain to the congregation the sense in which the lay leader is called. His call is restricted. He does not assume responsibility for all the duties of the ministry.

Although this call may be rather informal, to avoid confusion it should be recorded by the voters' assembly and publicly announced. If this is carefully explained, the congregation will understand that the lay leader is a "called servant of the Word" for the purpose of conducting the service in the pastor's absence.

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***When were the angels created? Job 38:6,7 says the angels shouted for joy when God laid the earth's foundation.***

The Bible does not say when the angels were created, but it must have been within the six days of creation, since only God existed when he began creation, and he created no new things after the sixth day.

Bible scholars have suggested three possible times for the creation of angels: on day one with light; on day four along with the sun, moon, and stars, the visible "hosts of heaven," or on day six with humans. These are all plausible guesses, but there is no scriptural proof for any one of them.

Literally translated, Job 38:6,7 says "the morning stars sang together and the sons of God shouted for joy" when God laid earth's cornerstone. The NIV may be correct when it interprets the name "sons of God" as angels, but this may be a figurative name for

stars since it is parallel to the term "morning stars." On the other hand, it is possible that "morning stars" is a name for angels. Most likely, however, this passage says that both the stars and the angels

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*Bible scholars have suggested three possible times for the creation of angels.*

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were present when God laid the earth's foundation.

Some scholars have quoted these verses as proof that angels were created on day one, and therefore were present when the world's foundation was laid on day two. However, since Job 38 mentions both stars and angels as being present when the earth's foundations were laid, it does not seem to be distinguishing the days of creation. It is treating the days of creation as a whole. It is simply saying that the angels and the stars, unlike Job, were present at the time of creation.

This leaves us where we began: we cannot specify on which day God created the angels.

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***When were Satan and his followers cast out of heaven? In 1 Kings 22:20-22 it sounds as if the evil angels are still in heaven.***

Satan and his evil angels were thrown into hell immediately after they rebelled against God. They did not maintain their place in heaven (2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6).

Although he is now a resident of hell, Satan and his angels can

still attack Christians on the earth (1 Peter 5:8, Revelation 12:13, Matthew 8:28-32).

In addition to 1 Kings, Job 1 and 2 and Zechariah 3 picture Satan as appearing before God in heaven. These passages show that Satan must serve God. God uses even Satan's evil schemes to serve his own good purposes of judging unbelievers and testing and strengthening his saints. God restricts and limits Satan's activities so that they will serve the ultimate good of his people.

Before Jesus' death and resurrection, Satan could with some degree of plausibility claim that all sinners belong in hell with him. When Jesus died and rose from the dead, the payment for sin that allows redeemed sinners to live in heaven was put on open display. Jesus displayed this victory over Satan during his descent into hell (Colossians 2:15). Scripture also describes this victory of Christ as a fall of Satan from heaven (Luke 10:18, John 12:31, Revelation 12:7-10).

Satan was cast down from heaven and lost the blessings of living there immediately after he fell into sin. He was also "cast down" when Christ died and rose from the dead, for Jesus forever destroyed Satan's ability to accuse God's people of sin. Passages like 2 Peter 3 speak of the first casting down of Satan. Passages like Revelation 12:7-10 speak of the second casting down of Satan.

Send your questions to *QUESTIONS*, Northwestern Lutheran, 2929 N Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398. Questions of general interest are preferred and will be answered only through this column.



*John Brug teaches theology and Old Testament at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Mequon, Wisconsin.*

## NOTICES

**The deadline for submitting notices is six weeks before publication date.**

### CALL FOR NOMINATIONS Administrator for Commission on Adult Discipleship

A call for additional nominations has been authorized for the vacant office of administrator for the Commission on Adult Discipleship. Responsibilities include: work with the Board for Parish Services to promote adult spiritual growth and stewardship in our congregations; write, edit, and produce materials for adult education; budget for and administer the office; train and encourage district coordinators. Nominees should have theological training and maturity, knowledge and experience in parish adult education (e.g. Bible class, adult instruction, family ministry, stewardship training) relational skills, and demonstrated ability in planning, leadership, and communication. Nominations and pertinent information should be submitted by July 31 to BPS secretary Pastor Allen Zahn, 7315 E 75 St, Indianapolis IN 46256.

### REQUEST FOR NAMES Gift Planning Counselor

On behalf of the Conference of Presidents, the Commission on Communication for Financial Support requests the names of WELS members (pastors, teachers, laymen) to fill a vacancy on the gift planning staff. Nominees should be mature Christians who understand the scriptural principles of stewardship, are committed to furthering the spread of the gospel, can work with groups and individuals, and are willing to travel. Training in Christian estate planning and tax-wise gifting will be provided. Please submit names by July 31 to Pastor Daniel Malchow, WELS, 2929 N Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398. For a detailed position description, call 414/771-6119.

### REQUEST FOR NAMES Director of Capital Funding Services

The Conference of Presidents invites applications or nominations for Director of Capital Funding Services. The director will work with congregations that seek to raise funds for capital expansion. The position will be self-funding, supported by fees from congregations that use the service. Please submit names by July 31 to Pastor Robert Zink, S68 W14329 Gaulke Ct, Muskego WI 53150.

### REQUEST FOR COLLOQUY

Mr. Rao Dasari has requested a colloquy for the purpose of entering the pastoral ministry of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Please address correspondence relative to this request to the president of the Minnesota District, Pastor Larry Cross, 4520 19th Ave NW, Rochester MN 55901.

### WORSHIP WORKSHOP AND HYMNFEST

You're invited to a worship workshop and hymnfest **July 15** at Calvary, Thiensville, Wis., sponsored by the WELS Commission on Worship.

**1:00 p.m.:** Services from *Christian Worship*. Open forum: questions and suggestions about the new hymnal.

**7:15 p.m.:** Hymnfest with organ, other instruments, choirs. Festival settings for hymns from *Christian Worship*.

(Don't worry about the heat—Calvary is air conditioned.)

### CHURCH LIBRARIANS

WECLO, the organization of church librarians, will meet at St. Matthew, Oconomowoc, Wis., Sept. 17. Registration at 9 a.m. Workshop topics: Starting a church library. Contact WECLO, 2929 N Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398; 414/256-3222.

### PREACHER NEEDED

Southern California congregation needs someone to conduct services Aug. 11 and 14. Housing will be provided. Thousand Oaks is an ideal place from which to visit LA, an hour from Hollywood, and two hours from Disneyland. Contact Charles Found, 805/492-8943.

### CHANGE IN TIME OF SERVICE

**MONTROSE, COLORADO**—St. John. Service 10:30 a.m. June, July, August.

### NOMINATIONS

#### Michigan Lutheran Seminary

The following have been nominated for president of Michigan Lutheran Seminary:

Daniel Balge	Mainz, Germany
Peter Berg	Plymouth, Mich.
Mark Bitter	The Woodlands, Tex.
David Bode	Delano, Minn.
Kenneth Bode	Westminster, Col.
Joel Fredrich	El Paso, Tex.
William Gabb	Watertown, Wis.
John Guse	Watertown, Wis.
Dennis Hayes	Marietta, Ga.
Roy Hefti	Watertown, S.D.
Philip Hirsch	Bangor, Wis.
David Huebner	Watertown, Wis.
James Huebner	South St. Paul, Minn.
Mark Jeske	Wauwatosa, Wis.
Thomas Jeske	Milwaukee, Wis.
Paul Kelm	Littleton, Col.
Roger Kobleske	Brookfield, Wis.
Daniel Koelpin	Prairie du Chien, Wis.
Steven Korh	Waukesha, Wis.
James Korhals	Bay City, Mich.
Arnold Kunde	Watertown, Wis.
Wayne Laitinen	Morenci, Ill.
Jon Mahnke	Oklahoma City, Okla.
Marcus Manthey	San Jose, Cal.
Bruce McKenney	Saginaw, Mich.
Ronald Muetzel	Manitowoc, Wis.
Thomas Nass	Bay City, Mich.
Paul Naumann	Milwaukee, Wis.
Jason Nelson	Riga, Mich.
Herbert Prah	Lake Mills, Wis.
Paul Prange	Eau Claire, Wis.
Don Scheuerlein	Saginaw, Mich.
Lynn Schroeder	Thiensville, Wis.
Mark Schroeder	Saginaw, Mich.
Roger Schultz	Watertown, Wis.
Raymond Schumacher	Milwaukee, Wis.
Jeffrey Seelow	Oriando Fla.
Robert Sievert	Cornell, Wis.
Donald Sutton	Milwaukee, Wis.
David Voss	Watertown, Wis.
Verne Voss	Williamston, Mich.
James Westendorf	Minneapolis, Minn.
David Williams	Mequon, Wis.
James Witt	Flagstaff, Ariz.
Michael Woltd	St. Louis, Mo.
Mark Zarling	New Ulm, Minn.
William Zeiger	Fort Atkinson, Wis.
Edward Zell	Saginaw, Mich.
	Ann Arbor, Mich.

Please send correspondence regarding these nominees no later than July 20 to the secretary, Mr. Jerold Meier, 2777 Hardin Street, Saginaw MI 48602.

### CHANGES IN MINISTRY

The following instructors at Martin Luther and Northwestern Preparatory Schools have accepted calls to Luther Preparatory School, Watertown, Wis.:

<b>Behnke, Robert H.</b>	<b>Kirk, Daniel B.</b>
<b>Bock, Robert A.</b>	<b>Kobleske, Roger W.</b>
<b>Bode, Randy P.</b>	<b>Krueger, Robert H.</b>
<b>Dahlberg, Leland A.</b>	<b>Kuerth, Robert L.</b>
<b>Ehlke, Steven W.</b>	<b>Lindloff, Thomas D.</b>
<b>Gregorius, Justin T.</b>	<b>Moldenhauer, Martin A.</b>
<b>Hirsch, Eldon C.</b>	<b>Schewe, Harold A.</b>
<b>Huebner, Robert J.</b>	<b>Schneider, James A.</b>
<b>Kaiser, Harold A.</b>	<b>Sims, Snowden G.</b>
<b>Kiecker, Peter E.</b>	<b>Thrams, James A.</b>

#### PASTORS:

**Baldauf, Paul R.**, from Prince of Peace, Howell, Mich., to Grace, Oronoco, Minn.  
**Bovee, Jeffrey A.**, from St. Paul, Menomonie, Wis., to St. John, New Ulm, Minn.  
**Brassow, William R.**, from Cross of Christ, Universal City, Tex., to St. Paul, Saginaw, Mich.  
**Buchholz, Jon D.**, from Trinity, Waukesha, Wis., to Holy Trinity/Evergreen LHS, Kent, Wash.  
**Cherney, Kenneth A.**, from Orthodox Lutheran Church, Brazil, to exploratory, Mandeville, La.  
**Feuerstahler, Michael T.**, from Shepherd of the Hills, Inver Grove Heights, Minn., to St. Mark, Brown Deer, Wis.  
**Hochmuth, Robert H.**, from St. Andrew, Sacramento, Calif., to Good Shepherd, Pleasanton, Calif.  
**Klatt, Dennis C.**, from St. Peter, Darwin, Minn., to Holy Trinity, New Hope, Minn.  
**Krohn, Jud A.**, from Immanuel, Hadar, Neb., to Zion, Bristol, Wis.

**Lawrenz, John C.**, from Dr. Martin Luther College, to Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minn.  
**Quandt, Michael J.**, from West LHS, Hopkins, Minn., to Prince of Peace, Salt Lake City, Utah.  
**Rockhoff, David A.**, from Trinity, Wayland, Mich., to St. Paul, Norfolk, Neb.  
**Rockhoff, Roger W.**, from St. Paul, Honolulu, Hawaii, to Northdale, Tampa Fla.  
**Rosenow, Carl R.**, from Holy Trinity, Kent, Wash., to retirement.  
**Schuerman, William J.**, from Prince of Peace, Columbus, Oh., to Faith, Kokomo, Ind.  
**Winters, Richard A.**, from Faith, Prior Lake, Minn., to Salem, Escanaba, Mich.

#### TEACHERS:

**Adickes, Penny A.**, to Grace, St. Joseph, Mich.  
**Bakken, Richard E.**, from Illinois LHS, Crete, Ill., to St. Paul, Tomah, Wis.  
**Bartholomew, Tod W.**, from St. John, Westland, Mich., to Huron Valley LHS, Westland, Mich.  
**Brandt, James A.**, from Living Word, Mission Viejo, Calif., to Crete, Crete, Ill.  
**Conradt, Marjean**, to Buffalo, Cochrane, Wis.  
**Dick, Susan M.**, from Immanuel, Manitowoc, Wis., to retirement.  
**Dorn, Jeffrey O.**, from Christ-St. John, West Salem, Wis., to Bethany, Kenosha, Wis.  
**Gartner, Kimberly S.**, from Emanuel-Redeemer, Yale, Mich., to Beautiful Savior, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
**Granberg, Stephen A.**, from Pilgrim, Minneapolis, Minn., to Apostles, San Jose, Cal.  
**Groth, Lynn A.**, to Beautiful Savior, Milwaukee, Wis.  
**Herman, Laura A.**, from St. Peter-St. Paul, Hopkins, Mich., to Peace, Hartford, Wis.  
**Hopp, Amy M.**, from Mt. Olive, Bay City, Mich., to St. John, Lewiston, Minn.  
**Jahns, Todd M.**, to Kettle Moraine LHS, Jackson, Wis.  
**Jensen, Vicki L.**, from Gloria Dei, Belmont, Calif., to Lincoln Heights, Des Moines, Iowa.  
**Krowas, Carol J.**, to Trinity-St. Luke, Watertown, Wis.  
**Melso, John M.**, from Immanuel, Fort Worth, Tex., to St. Paul, Beverly Hills, Fla.  
**Moldenhauer, Erika L.**, to St. Lucas, Kewaskum, Wis.  
**Nass, Paul J.**, to Wisconsin, Racine, Wis.  
**Pabst, Magdalene A.**, from Redeemer, Fond du Lac, Wis., to retirement.  
**Ramstach, Joanna H.**, to Mt. Calvary, Waukesha, Wis.  
**Remmele, Bonita F.**, to St. Paul, Tomah, Wis.  
**Rhode, Steven J.**, from Reformation, San Diego, Calif., to St. Paul, Tomah, Wis.  
**Ruege, Paul T.**, from Wisconsin LHS, Milwaukee, Wis., to retirement.  
**Schaeewe, Peter J.**, from Peace, Hartford, Wis., to St. John, Watertown, Wis.  
**Schroeder, James H.**, to West LHS, Hopkins, Minn.  
**Sellnow, Lynn M.**, to St. Paul, Brownsville, Wis.  
**Spiaser, Jeffrey F.**, from Nebraska LHS, Waco, Neb., to Illinois LHS, Crete, Ill.  
**Stubalt, Dayna M.**, to Apostles, San Jose, Calif.  
**Tegen, Kathryn**, to St. Paul, Round Lake, Ill.  
**Thomas, Margaret E.**, from Gloria Dei, Belmont, Cal., to St. Mark, Lincoln, Neb.  
**Vetter, Gordon E.**, from St. John, Redwood Falls, Minn., to Emanuel, New London, Wis.  
**Winkel, Jonathan W.**, from Riverview, Appleton, Wis., to Calvary, Thiensville, Wis.

### ANNIVERSARIES

**DAKOTA-MONTANA DISTRICT**—Mobridge, S. Dak. (75). July 10, 1995. Early motel reservations essential. Contact Zion, Mobridge; 605/845-3704 or 605/845-2702.  
**PINE RIDGE CAMPGROUND**—Waldo, Wis. (20). August 5-7. Contact Duane Vanselow, 3910 W Puetz Rd, Franklin WI 53130; 414/421-0387.

### ITEMS AVAILABLE

**COMMUNION TRAY**—silver, with individual cups. Bob Olsen, 805/943-1372.  
**ORGAN**—Lowrey electronic. Two manuals, 20 pedals. M. LaBine, 414/657-0792.  
**PARAMENTS**—white brocade. Pastor Alan Horn, Mazeppa MN; 507/843-5302.

### ITEMS NEEDED

**TRACTS**—Donation of the set of 11 tracts issued by the Conference of Presidents in 1954, subtitled "Continuing in His Word." The set of multicolored tracts, 4 1/4" x 6 3/4", included titles such as "Lutheran Bodies in the USA," "1938-1953," "Scouting," "Prayer Fellowship," and "The Chaplaincy Question." Send to DMLC Library, 1884 College Heights, New Ulm MN 56063-3300.

## Caning and the left hand of God

For weeks in April and May, Americans were regaled with shallow talk about whether Michael Faye should be flogged with six strokes from a rattan cane for an act of vandalism in Singapore. Even the president weighed in vociferously against the caning.

The deeper question involved in that issue has to do with what Martin Luther referred to as “the left hand of God.” God ordained government to maintain order in the secular world. The tool God provided for that purpose is what students of government have historically called the natural law. Luther called that God’s left hand.

About the time the debate about Faye’s caning was at its peak, the *New York Times* (4/11/94) ran an op-ed article, “Order and Liberty—East and West.” The author, Fareed Zakaria, interviewed Lee Kuan Yew, who served as Singapore’s prime minister for 31 years until his retirement in 1990. Yew is credited with taking his country from poverty to prosperity in one generation. His observations about order and liberty provide an insightful commentary on how God’s left hand functions in accomplishing his divine purpose in society.

When asked whether he viewed the US as a model for other countries, Yew said he found both attractive and unattractive features in America. He cited examples of things he found totally unacceptable: guns, drugs, violent crime, vagrancy, vulgarity in public. “In the East,” he said, “the main object is to have a well-ordered society so that everyone can have maximum enjoyment of his freedoms.” By contrast he noted that in the US, “The expansion of the right of the individual to behave or misbehave as he pleases has come at the expense of orderly society.”

When Zakaria asked Yew what, in his view, went wrong in the US, he said, “It has a lot to do with the erosion of the moral underpinnings of a society and the diminution of personal responsibility.”

Then in a remarkable statement he went on to say, “Certain basics about human nature do not change. Man needs a certain moral sense of right and wrong. There is such a thing called evil, and it is not the result of being a victim of society. You are just an evil man, prone to do evil things, and you have to be stopped from doing them.”

I don’t know whether Yew ever read Romans 13, but his words certainly reflect what Paul says about human nature and the function of civil governments.

When Yew was asked whether there is an “Asian model” for political development, he replied, “The fundamental difference between Western concepts of society and government and East Asian concepts is that Eastern societies believe that the individual exists in the context of his family. . . . The government does not try to provide for a person what the family best provides.” He noted that breaking away from tested norms can have serious repercussions. America today is evidence of that. “And the tested norm,” Yew concluded, “is the family unit. It is the building brick of society.”

Yew understands natural law. Leaders in the West question whether there is such a thing as natural law, and we are experiencing the dire consequences all over America. Perhaps Yew could reteach Americans some of the fundamental truths our founding fathers employed to make America a great nation—if we aren’t too proud to listen and to learn, or too busy criticizing other countries for the way they discipline vandals.

Joel C. Gerlach



Joel Gerlach is pastor at St. John, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

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*God ordained government to maintain order in the secular world.*

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# The two sons

Matthew 21:28-32

by Mark E. Braun

In a way, Jesus' parables of judgment sound like tales he'd told before. But now, on Tuesday before he died, they grew more urgent in the retelling. One parable he told was of the father who sent his sons to work in the vineyard.

Like the story of the lost son, this father also had two sons. Like the prodigal and his older brother, each promised one thing but did something else. "Son, go and work today," their father said. The first son replied, "I will not," but later changed his mind and went. "I will, sir," said his second son, but then he didn't go.

## Which son was Israel?

"Which of the two did what his father wanted?" Jesus asked, a question almost too obvious to answer. But his point wasn't so plain, or so easy to take.

In all the world, Israel saw itself as the son who told God, "I will do your will." A rabbinic tradition had it that on the fiftieth day after Israel left Egypt, God offered his covenant at Sinai to all the nations on earth. Moabites said no because God forbade adultery; Esau's descendants wouldn't submit to a law against killing; Edomites protested that stealing had always been part of their life. Only Israel (the tradition goes) promised to obey.

Jews at Jesus' time were convinced they'd made that choice themselves, and Jerusalem's religious leaders epitomized the notion of special privilege. Sadly, they couldn't see that God chose them, for no reason but grace. Like the son who said yes but never went, they'd vowed to obey but had broken their promise.

How could Jesus say that? He challenged them on the authority of John the Baptizer's preaching "Where did it come from? Was it from heaven or from men?" If they said from men, they risked the crowd's wrath; but if they said from heaven, why had they rejected him? "John came to you to show you the way of righteousness," Jesus explained, "and you did not believe

*Though we sing "Amazing Grace"  
at every turn, do we grouse  
when crooks and sluts and  
rotten sons get in for free?*

him." His stern lifestyle and his vigorous preaching were a call to repentance, but the Pharisees and those schooled in the law spurned God's will for them. They wouldn't accept God on his terms, especially not on the basis of forgiveness and repentance.

But others in Israel by their words and actions had said, "I will not do my Father's will." John's preaching, however, changed their hearts. He laid bare their sin, then pointed them to God's Lamb who takes sin away. They agreed that God's way was right, and John baptized them for the forgiveness of sins.

Even this sunny display of compassion failed to move Israel's leaders. "I tell you the truth," Jesus warned them, "the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you"—if they entered at all.

## Which son are you?

Though we sing "Amazing Grace" at every turn, "that saved a wretch like me," do we grouse nonetheless that grace comes too easy? Do we complain how crooks and sluts and rotten sons get in for free, while the kingdom thumbs its nose at "really good people"? Yes, God loves you, we say, and Jesus died for you, but you've still got to clean up your act before we'll have anything to do with you.

"I will distrust myself," St. Augustine said to God, "and I will trust in you." The second son turned Augustine's prayer around: "I will trust myself, and I will distrust you."

When this brief season of grace is ended, which son will you be?

*Next: The tenants.*



Mark Braun teaches  
at Wisconsin Lutheran College, Milwaukee.



**WELS teachers can help learning disabled**

"The Right Answer" [April] reminds us of the wonderful blessings many of us enjoy as our children receive the one thing needful on a daily basis in our WELS schools. We know little of the history of the young man in the article, and in some cases perhaps a public school can better meet the needs of some students, but we would be wise not to assume that special needs students can get better help at a school equipped to handle students with learning problems.

Parents and teachers should be aware that special education in a public school cannot fix a learning disability. Our WELS teachers are highly trained, skilled educators who can modify materials and instruction to meet the need of the vast majority of learning disabled students.

In James' case, his parents certainly knew their son's needs best.

*Daryl B. Hanneman  
Cedar Rapids, Iowa*

**Quoting Scripture**

It is best to quote Scripture when attempting to state what it clearly teaches. Pastor Beckmann does that in his editorial [May] by quoting the apostle Paul's words on the subject of homosexuality. He writes, "Paul called homosexuality 'an indecent act . . . a perversion . . . and a symptom of a depraved mind.'" On the other hand, he also writes, "The apostle Paul . . . speaks quite clearly about the role of women in the church: that as they serve the Lord, they are not to be in positions of authority over men," without quoting the Scriptures which state the same. Since there are those whose understanding of Scripture does not lead them to the same conclusion, it would have been best for Pastor Beckmann to quote the clear statements of Scripture on this subject as well.

*David Luetke  
Onalaska, Wisconsin*

Pastor Beckmann replies:

*The writer has a point. The reference is 1 Timothy 2:11-14.*

**Sharing NL didn't work**

My wife and I were receiving your issues regularly through our church, until we decided to share issues with my in-laws, to save costs. I believe they enjoy it as much as we do, because we have not seen an issue since we went into this agreement. Can't say that I blame them either, because I have kept every issue I have ever received in the past, and still have them today. The articles are great for reference and sharing with others, and can be read over and over again. Thank you for a great, inspirational magazine!

*Craig Donaldson  
Vanier, Ontario, Canada*

P.S. Please find enclosed a cheque for a year subscription.

**Welcoming visitors**

My wife and I recently returned from Florida. It was our privilege to visit a number of churches.

At one church, the pastor asked visitors to introduce themselves. After the service, several members spoke to us because they had friends from our home town.

At two other churches, the only person who spoke to us was the pastor, and that really leaves a cold, unpleasant feeling.

At another church, the ushers had big, friendly smiles and shook hands with every adult and child as we left the pews. Then one of the church members met us in the hall to invite us to have coffee and rolls with the members.

I suggest that we all make a better effort to welcome visitors to our churches. From personal experience, I know it can be done.

*Floyd A. Feusse  
Saginaw, Michigan*

In the interest of conciseness, letters are subject to editing. Full name, address and daytime phone number should accompany each letter. Names will be withheld only under unusual circumstances. Letters cannot be acknowledged, nor can all letters be used. Address your letters to READERS FORUM, Northwestern Lutheran, 2929 N Mayfair Road, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398; fax 414/256-3899.

**Don't keep this magazine! Give it away.**

Encouraged by someone's story of faith? Uplifted by a Bible study? Inspired by a devotional thought? Share *Northwestern Lutheran* with a family member, friend, co-worker—or a stranger.

Write or call to let us know how (and if you want, why) you shared your copy. We'll replace it free. Contact *Northwestern Lutheran*, WELS, 2929 N Mayfair Rd, Milwaukee WI 53222-4398; 414/256-3232.

**August '94**

- 1. Nehemiah 12
- 2. Neh. 13
- 3. Psalm 90
- 4. Ps. 91
- 5. Ps. 92, 93
- 6. Ps. 94
- 7. Ps. 95, 96
- 8. Ps. 97, 98
- 9. Ps. 99, 100
- 10. Ps. 101
- 11. Ps. 102
- 12. Ps. 103
- 13. Ps. 104
- 14. Ps. 105
- 15. Ps. 106:1-33
- 16. Ps. 106:34-48
- 17. Haggai 1
- 18. Hag. 2
- 19. Zechariah 1, 2
- 20. Zech. 3, 4
- 21. Zech. 5, 6
- 22. Zech. 7
- 23. Zech. 8
- 24. Zech. 9, 10
- 25. Zech. 11
- 26. Zech. 12, 13
- 27. Zech. 14
- 28. Malachi 1:1—2:9
- 29. Mal. 2:10—3:6
- 30. Mal. 3:7—4:6
- 31. James 1:1-18

One of the marks of God's people is their love for his Word. Many have said, "I will start at Genesis and read the Bible through to the end." But the project is soon abandoned. These proposed readings—5 to 10 minutes each day—will take you through the entire Bible systematically and with variety. The next month's readings will appear in the next issue.

THROUGH MY BIBLE IN THREE YEARS

## Memories are made

**D**o you remember when “Do you remember . . . ?” was an invitation to fond memories? Now the question might just as easily signal an attempt at psycho-therapeutic mind control.

Perhaps you noted the case of Cardinal Bernardin of Chicago. After sexual abuse charges against him were broadcast all over the nation, his accuser suddenly withdrew them. He wasn't sure they were “real” memories.

Maybe, too, you saw the PrimeTime Live TV program on January 7, 1994, about the bizarre trend in psychotherapy where adult children, after several sessions of therapy, angrily confront their parents with charges of sexual abuse that allegedly occurred decades earlier. The practice has led to many false accusations and a blurring of the distinction between imagined and real abuse.

No one is immune. This writing is prompted by the case of two dedicated WELS parents whose 35-year-old son, after several sessions of therapy, “discovered” memories that they sexually abused him decades earlier. He offered no corroborating evidence, nor did any of the couple's other five children.

The devastating impact of such an accusation is best told in the father's own words:

We have lost a son, a son we fed, clothed, educated, and brought up over a period of many years. We have had our lives turned upside down, and live under considerable stress, stress due to three sources: the injustice of being falsely accused; the psychological effect of having a child who is the object of love reciprocate with hate; and the feelings of having nurtured and given to a human being who turns on us with vengeance and spite.

Can therapists plant such false memories? The father reports:

Professor Elizabeth Loftus of the University of Washington, a memory expert, has conducted experiments in which adults came to believe fabricated memories—for example, a false memory of being lost in a shopping mall when a child. As Dr. Loftus concludes, “False memories are more prevalent than we think and have become a major problem. False memories are a lot easier to implant than most people realize.”

We have lessons to learn from this:

- The church cannot take people out of the world. The evils swirling about society create ill winds for church people also. However, we know that these matters, too, work out for good to those who love God.

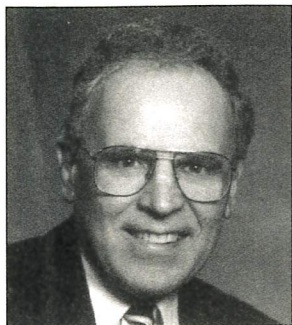
- We Christians need to reserve judgment when charges and countercharges are leveled. Sexual abuse is unacceptable; so is false accusation. When sin becomes obvious on either side, we need to condemn the sin and work to counter it in the spirit of forgiveness in Christ.

- When we feel the need for psycho (“soul”) therapy, we should go first to those who have been trained to minister to the soul, to our pastors. When trained psychologists or psychiatrists are needed, we should check their credentials and favor Christian professionals.

- When it comes to remembering, we do well to emulate the psalmist: “I will remember the deeds of the LORD; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago” (77:11).

Remember, what you remember can have a profound effect on your life and on others.

*Gary S. Baumbler*



*Bizarre trends in psychotherapy have blurred the distinction between imagined and real abuse.*

**How do you** determine the size of your offerings to God? How much will you **give** to your church? Many church members wrestle with these questions every year.

What we give **to the Lord** is a choice that each of us makes. We make that decision on the basis of what we learn from **His Word**. Our gifts are always given to God, many times by way of our local congregation. We give because of what He has **first** given us.

Parish Stewardship Services is a comprehensive service which speaks candidly about **joyful** giving out of God's grace.

**Offered** by WELS Commission on Adult Discipleship, and founded on Scripture, this program is not fund-raising.

PSS is hands-on member education in financial **planning** for themselves and for their congregation. Trained district representatives and a full-time **stewardship** counselor work in the local **congregation** for a period of two to four weeks (depending on the size of the congregation).

Nearly 200 WELS congregations have benefited from these services in the past, and now the services have been expanded.

This **gospel-oriented** program still has some openings for Fall, 1994. **You**, too, can **“Excel in the Grace of Giving!”** Call WELS Adult Discipleship office, **414/256-3278**.



# When summer keeps its promise

by Paul O. Wendland

I remember when summer used to keep its promise. The days stretched out endlessly under a clear blue sky. I had no “promises to keep or miles to go before I sleep.” Free from school, I could spend my days as I wished, and had no obligations, no earthly reason to look at my watch. I had all the time in the world to read, to relax, to reflect.

## Lost summers

Funny thing is, even as an adult I still somehow have this notion that summer should be different. From September to May, I run around like Alice in Wonderland’s White Rabbit. Always late for that important date. “Ah, but when summer comes,” I tell myself, “it’ll be different. I’ll have time to read. Time for the family. Time to do whatever.”

It never happens. Summer turns out to be as hexed and vexed, as hurried and harassed as the rest of the year. Lately I begin to wonder: “Why is there this impulse in man (or perhaps just in me) to fit 25 hours into a 24 hour day? Is it that summer doesn’t know how to keep its promises anymore? Or have I just forgotten how to keep my promises this summer?”

## Newfound rest

There is a beautiful concept of “rest” in the Scripture. It begins in the beginning of time and continues right on through to this world’s winding up as described in Revelation. It’s there in the Sabbath day of heaven and earth, when God rested from his labor.

It’s there in the rest for the land in the year of Jubilee. It’s there in the rest David won for his people from their enemies. It’s there in the rest that belongs to those who die in the Lord. It’s there in Jesus, who promises rest to all the weary.

This promised rest has nothing to do with doing nothing. It has everything to do with sweet freedom from pain and fear, dread and duty, toil and trouble—freedom from all the present plagues upon the children of Adam. It starts with the forgiveness of sins and the restoration of our relationship with God. It ends in the perfect city whose gates are never closed, where death and sorrow and pain are not even memories.

That’s a promise I know God will keep. It will be better than all the summers I used to have. It is a rest which remains for me now, whenever I turn to my Lord Jesus, and find in him an end to the clamorous longings of my soul.

And when I find my true rest there—in God’s promises to me—I, in turn, will be set free to keep a

few promises of my own. Not to rush around as if it all came down on me. Not to get caught up in the trivial, so that what is important passes me by. To live in God’s rest and know there’s no rush. There’s time enough, and to spare.



MRS. KEVIN SCHEIBEL PHOTOGRAPHY

*I remember when summer  
used to keep its promise.  
Free from school, I could  
spend my days as I wished.*



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