



The Lutheran Beacon

Let your light shine . . .



WWW.SELC.LCMS.ORG

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*Don't
forget to
take God
with you
when you
go on
vacation.*

Making a Difference at the Haven

by Linda Kirk, CEO Lutheran Haven



Lutheran Haven is blessed with individuals who make a difference in their community each and every day. One of those is resident Rev. Harold Storm. Pastor Storm served as a minister and the Director of Woodlands Camp in Montverde, Florida, and continues to serve in a unique way.

At eighty-nine years young, Pastor Storm continues to serve His Lord through the ministry of Rebecca's Garden of Hope, a tutoring and mentoring program for children in high risk communities held at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Orlando.

Pastor Storm believes that he can best contribute to the ministry by feeding the 40 or so children who participate in the program each Wednesday and Saturday. He faithfully provides a nutritious, well- balanced dinner on Wednesday, and a hearty breakfast on Saturdays. Good nutrition is important to the goals of the program which helps children develop skills needed to complete their homework, and enhance skills sets in the areas of reading, grammar and math.

Pastor Storm is just one of many "Havenites" who make a difference in the life of others!

SUMMER STEWARDSHIP

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, SELC Stewardship Director



Summer Worship

Summer is vacation time. Christian stewardship, however, never takes a vacation. It is an ongoing, joyous activity of managing all things for God, God's way, every day. Vacations, however, have a tendency to rob God of the worship due Him. Worshiping in another congregation while on vacation can be refreshing. Beneficial ideas can be acquired for your home church. Inviting newly found vacation friends to participate in daily devotions offers an opportunity to share the Gospel.

Summer Church Support

Some congregations experience a financial summer slump. While members vacation, Sunday attendance and contributions drop. One congregation actually established a "Summer Reserve Fund" to cover monthly bills and commitments. Such measures would be unnecessary if members engaged in Biblical giving which involves:

Proportionate (percentage of income)

Regular (every Sunday)

First-fruit (funding God first)

Biblical giving ensures congregational cash flow stability. Some first-fruit, every Sunday, gives mail a monthly contribution at the beginning of each month to cover the Sundays following. A growing number of Biblical givers are engaging in "electronic giving" where offerings are transferred automatically from bank, credit union, or savings accounts. This can be arranged on a weekly, bimonthly or monthly basis. When worshiping in church, "advance" or "electronic" givers, nevertheless, place a dollar or more into the offering plate to participate in the worship act of contributing.

Summer Teenage Jobs

During the summer months, teens who obtain jobs have an excellent opportunity to practice Christian financial stewardship. Earnings provide opportunities to learn how to wisely spend, save and contribute. Church support should not be overlooked. The principles of proportionate, regular, first-fruit giving should be put into practice. Tithing (10% of income) should be embraced. Once it becomes a lifestyle, it will never be abandoned. The satisfaction of loving God by giving and His response with bountiful blessings are too compelling. Summer jobs also present great opportunities for exercising the Christian stewardship of talents. Wise teenagers seek jobs that in some way will connect with a future profession or occupation. And, as Christian stewards, when they work, they do so willingly, cheerfully, honestly, to the best of their ability.

Summer Relaxation

God never intended anyone to "burn the candle at both ends". God has no pleasure in "workaholic burnouts". He commanded one day in seven to be a day of rest in order to protect people from overwork. Vacations are supposed to be extended times for rest and relaxation. However, a vacation could become a source of stress. Some return from a vacation more worn out than if they stayed at home. Good stewardship involves properly managing a vacation so it ends up a source of relaxation instead of vexation.

Financing a Vacation

Proper personal money management should determine the extent and style of a vacation. To abuse credit cards and overspend is a big mistake! A line item in the family budget at the beginning of the year should cover anticipated vacation expenses. Sensible planning helps remove the stress and hassle of unpaid bills.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

www.selc.lcms.org - Personal Stewardship

"Electronic Giving" - "Church Attendance"

"Evangelistic Stewards"

Hold that Thought

by Pastor Ron Meyr

Ever had some thought in your mind that you just can't seem to get rid of? I'm not talking about a wish to have a piece of chocolate cake – I'm talking about something that for year and years keep coming up in your brain. . . a Walter Mitty fantasy about being Billy Graham; always thinking about quitting smoking; that old high school girlfriend whom you keep fantasizing about; an act of revenge against someone who did something to you; constantly scheming what you would do when or if you won the lottery. . . . The months turn into years, and the years into decades of wasting your thoughts on that particular fixation. You keep saying you want to "let it go" "get on with life" "forget about it" – but it just doesn't seem to go away. Some suggestions . . .

I. First: if you can't seem to get rid of it, chances are, you really, really don't want to! It might take a psychologist here, but the truth is, if you really, really want to quit smoking, you will. If you don't, you won't—no matter what patches, tricks, therapy, or substitution method you use. When you want to quit, you will. So. . . if you have gone on for years with these thoughts, you need to figure out why you keep holding on to them. It may be that you have an additive personality; it may be you really enjoy plotting revenge; it might be that you hate your life and think if you just got back together with that old boyfriend then your life would actually turn out the way you planned; you might actually believe that having lots of money and winning the lottery will solve all your problems. But first, realize that if those thoughts are decades-old, you really, really don't want to stop them. You need to figure out why; or else everything else is wasted effort.

II. Second, you need to be sure this isn't like the Apostle Paul's "thorn in the flesh" II Cor. 12. . . . If THAT is the case, consider yourself lucky – at least if you don't act on those thoughts. Look on the bright side: you never have to make stuff up when the moment of silence comes in the confession on Sunday morning. . . . At least you know that you aren't perfect and this may be your burden to return to the Lord with again and again. Maybe you will bear those thoughts all of your life. There are worse things, like acting on them. . . .

III. Thirdly now, if it isn't your cross which you are refusing to pick UP or constantly trying to put DOWN, then you could spend lots of money in therapy, or go to God's Word. Unfortunately, if solutions are free, people tend not to take them – just like paid "Christian counselors" have higher success rates than the local parish pastor, who doesn't charge. I have found that the rate of losing members is in direct proportion to the number of counseling sessions you spend with them. . . . Here are five "practical ways" to combat those thoughts that never go away:

1) Actually tell someone. Confession. Sharing. AA figured this out 80 years ago. God did long before that when He said in Romans: "share with one another, carry other's burdens." This confession to another person is most important, but unfortunately, even the Roman Catholics are losing it. We Lutherans lost it long ago. . . .

2) "Sin is crouching at the door" Gen. 4; James 1. Recognize that if you don't stop the thought right at the beginning, you have lost already. Continuing to play it out will ensure that you have those thoughts another 20 years.

3) Substitute. "Whatever is pure, whatever is noble, whatever is true; think about these things" (Phil 4)– so when the "long thoughts" come, switch to something else. Memorizing bible passages isn't such a bad idea.

4) Get a goal. . . . strive for something else. "Idle hands are the devil's workshop" – lots of truth to that, even if it isn't in the Bible.

5) And, did I say? you need to figure out WHY those recurring thoughts are there: what is behind them? Is it greed, is it vengeance; is it lust; is it dis-satisfaction with your life; is it envy. . . it's bound to be one of the seven deadly sins. . . pride, lust, greed, envy, sloth, gluttony, anger. It is a shame we "lost" this hymn in the "new" hymnal. . .

*There is a fountain filed with blood;
draw from Immanuel's veins;
And sinner washed beneath that flood,
lose all their guilty stains. (lose all their guilty stains)
Ere since by faith I saw the stream,
Thy flowing wounds supply.
Redeeming love has been my theme,
and shall be till I die. (and shall be till I die!)
When this poor lisping, stammering tongue,
lies silent in the grave:
Then in a nobler, sweeter song, I'll sing
Thy power to save (I'll sing Thy power to save!)*

VACATION PLANNING SHOULD INCLUDE GIFT PLANNING AND LEGACY CONCERNS

by Robin Paris, Robin E. Paris, Gift Planning Counselor

Are you one of those people who go back in the house to make sure no water is running, the coffee pot is unplugged, the thermostat is adjusted – and then jiggle the doorknob to make sure you locked the door? Do you suddenly think when you're 100 miles toward your destination (or sitting on a plane waiting to take off), "Did I remember to (you fill in the blank here!)" I'm with you there!

Practical people make lists and check them off before departing. Why? So they don't have to endure those moments of panic when they can't remember IF THEY DID IT (Again, you fill in the blank...) or remembered to bring it. (Like the time I left the hanging bag with my makeup and medications on the back of the bathroom door.)

For many people, Peace and Joy comes when important goals are completed. And it's really nice to go on vacation without having the burden of "undone stuff" weighing you down.

But what if the unthinkable happens? Will your family know what to do? Will they have any idea about what kind of funeral service you want? Burial or cremation? Who gets what when the homestead is cleaned out? If you're young parents, who raises your children? Who is the named beneficiary on your life insurance policies? Is it someone from a past life? Is it your parents instead of your spouse or children? Are there any charitable gifts in your will? DO YOU EVEN HAVE A WILL?

These are tough topics to discuss. I recently spoke with a couple in their early 70's who tried to initiate this kind of discussion with their adult children and were told, "We don't want to talk about that—you're too young, and that's just creepy!?" Really?!? Really, it's just WISE!

As your Gift Planning Counselor, I can assist you with those very important discussions. I am not an attorney. I am not a financial planner. But I am a very good listener, and I can help you shape a Lifetime Plan for Giving that blesses your family, gives generously to the ministries you love, and avoids unnecessary taxes.

Wouldn't it be nice to have that important goal checked off this year before you take that big trip? Peace and Joy will follow. As it says in Proverbs 15:22, "Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers, they succeed." I am available to you to listen and advise, to work as a team member with you, your attorney, your family members. The goal: To create the Plan that grants to your family and ministries your BEST gift.

Robin E. Paris, Gift Planning Counselor; rparis@lutheranhaven.org; 407-706-1168

St. John LC (Massillon OH) Celebrates Confirmation and New Members

by Colleen Pohlod



Rachel Sailor, Levi Perrenoud, Grant Minor, and Blaze Davis pause for a photo with Pastor Telloni.

A joyful day at St. John's as four young confirmands re-affirmed their baptism at the altar.

Families (personal and church) and friends celebrated the occasion with a luncheon.



A warm welcome to our newest church family members
Pam Vogt and Nick Moauro





Easter Sunday brings good friends together,
as they continue to grow in the Lord



ED NOTE: WE WISH THE POHLOD FAMILY GODSPEED AS THEY PREPARE TO MOVE FURTHER SOUTH IN OHIO AND WILL BE LEAVING ST. JOHN'S THIS SUMMER. COLLEEN HAS BEEN A FAITHFUL CORRESPONDENT FOR THE CHURCH AND HER MANY PHOTOS AND STORIES WILL BE MISSED.

NEWS AND NOTES ON THE SELC LWML

submitted by Laura Bergmann, SELC LWML District President

WESTERN ZONE SPRING RALLY—The new LWML Society located at Pentecost Lutheran Church in Racine, Wisconsin hosted the SELC District Western Zone Spring Rally on Saturday, May 11th. The theme of the Rally was “Refreshing and Blessing,” based on Philemon 20, “I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ.” The Opening Worship Service with Communion featured our SELC District President, The Rev. Dr. Carl Krueger, Jr., as Preacher, and our SELC District LWML Counselor, The Rev. Luke Jacob as Officiant. The Bible Study on the theme verse was done by the Rev. Matthew Vesey of St. John Lutheran Church-Cudahy, Wisconsin.

A short skit followed that illustrated how easy it is to invite a new person, or a lonely person, out for “A Cup of Coffee.” Many people both inside and outside the church just need someone to talk to, and we can bring Christ to them by listening. The skit was presented by Zone Vice President Sharron Schademann, Zone President Nona Schipull, and LWML District President Laura Bergmann.

A delicious lunch was followed by a short Business Meeting at which one of our Young Woman Reps, Dehlia DeLeon, was introduced to the group. Racine Society President Susan Murcek was presented Racine’s New Society Certificate.

District President Dr. Carl Krueger told the Zone about many exciting things that are happening in the SELC District. The District has ten students currently studying at the Seminary, or through the Specific Ministry Program, and three Colloquy students. Jacob’s Well Lutheran Church of St. Louis, Missouri, is a new congregation joining the District. One of our Specific Ministry Program students, Chun Lin, of our District church in Montreal, is doing internet ministry, and is averaging a million hits per month on his website. God is truly at work in the SELC District.

SELC LWML District President Laura Bergmann gave an update on the upcoming LWML National Convention at the meeting. She thanked the Zone for supporting the Convention by making beaded bookmarks. Our Zone has made over 1,000 bookmarks for the Convention. Laura also stressed that LWML members are still urged to attend the Convention, and to work at the Convention. The next Western Zone Rally, will be held in the fall at St. Paul Lutheran Church-Whiting, Indiana, probably in October.

After the Business Meeting, Rally attendees made Cards of Encouragement for cancer patients receiving support from Phil’s Friends of Addison, Illinois. The cards were decorated with stickers, Bible verses, and humorous cartoons, and were signed by their creators. This cancer care ministry received \$100,000.00 in a National LWML Mission Grant for 2011-2013, paid for in part from our mites.

Rev. Luther Bajus dedicated the Ingathering for the Lutheran Haven at the Closing Devotion.

Upcoming 2013 LWML National Convention

The SELC LWML currently has 42 people registered to attend the upcoming LWML National Convention in Pittsburgh on June 27-30. This number includes our delegates and alternates, two Young Woman Representatives, a new Heart to Heart Sister, District Pastoral Counselor, and Convention volunteers. This is a 300% increase in attendance over the last National Convention, and we are excited that so many volunteers from our District will be in Pittsburgh participating in worship and Bible studies, doing Servant Activities, listening to Mission speakers, and selecting Mission Grants for the next Biennium. They will also be raising funds for mites by participating in the Pledge Walk.

Those attending the Convention will also be able to enjoy exploring Pittsburgh before and after the Convention. Those attending are reminded to bring their own cloth tote bags, as well as extra copies of their Medical Release Forms.

During early June, Laura Bergmann will be sending out a series of emails to those who have registered with more detailed instructions on the Convention. **MORE WORKERS ARE STILL NEEDED!** It’s not too late to register. See the Winter Issue of the LWML Quarterly for copies of the registration materials, or register online at the LWML website, www.lwml.org.

If you cannot attend, please pray for those attending that they may have safe travel, and that they may be “Quenched! By the Waters,” the living waters that Jesus provides. The Convention will be streamed online on the LWML website, so if you cannot go, please participate by watching the Convention online.

Anyone with questions on the Convention may email SELC LWML District President Laura Bergmann at lwmlaurabergmann@sbcglobal.net.

SELC District "Luther League" Youth Gathering

July 18 – 21

Concordia University Chicago, IL

Tentative Theme: "8"

Tentative Motto: "I am making everything new!" (taken from Rev. 21:5)

What does the number "8" have to do with making everything new? Come to Chicago and find out! The youth groups of Racine, WI and Whiting IN are teaming up to host this year's district "Luther League" youth gathering.

Come for fun, fellowship, and learning about God with teenagers from around our district. Tentative excursions to the Hancock Tower and Navy Pier are planned (schedule still being finalized and subject to change). Questions? Contact Tim Hasko 262.497.0496.



Last year's SELC District Youth Gathering left us with many fond memories . . . let's make many more

HONK IF YOU LOVE JESUS . . . TEXT IF YOU WANT TO MEET HIM

another meyr-ism . . .

LIFE IS A BEACH

It isn't hard to spot the tourists from Michigan who have never been at the beach . . . they are the ones who come with their Wal-Mart plastic bag and instantly begin picking up everything which looks like a shell and hoarding it in their plastic remembrance container. Of course, it fills up quickly.

Then they need to throw some of the broken pieces out in order to put in decent shells. Then they start sorting and collecting only those which are perfect. Then it is only a special kind of shell. "What is your life?" James says, "It is a mist. . ." What are you filling your bag with? And are you forgetting to enjoy the ocean breeze? Did you fail to see the sunrise because you were busy filling up your disposable bag?

Summer is here - well, in most parts of the country it's finally arrived.

This is the first of two combined issues covering June & July.

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

The Lutheran Beacon - Gail Peterson

email: gailpete37@yahoo.com

Please *submit articles* as separate attachments in the program you write in. [e.g. Word Perfect, Word, etc.], NOT as part of your e-mail.

Photos must be submitted as separate attachments [NOT as part of your article--JPEG format preferred.] You may send multiple photos in one email.

**DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST/SEPTEMBER ISSUE
IS JULY 12TH**

**For up-to-the-minute news
visit the SELC website**

www.selc.lcms.org

News from Around Our District

Calls

Rev. Paul Biber, Pastor of St. Lucas, St. Louis MO, received the Call from Bethlehem, West Dundee IL. Returned the Call.

Rev. Dr. William Utech, Professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis MO, received the Call from Our Savior, Nashville TN. No decision at this time.

Placed by the Council of Presidents

Mr. John Henry, Candidate from Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne IN, placed at St. Paul, Whiting IN. Ordination and Installation date not yet set.



Rev. Kevin McLeod (pastor of Resurrection LC, Malvern OH), Laura Henry, John Henry III, Pres. Carl Krueger, Calli Franson (held by Pres. Krueger), Jon Franson, Leo Franson (son), Bethany Franson, Chloe Franson (daughter)

Vicars assigned by the Council of Presidents

Jon Franson, from Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne IN, assigned to Zion, Clark NJ.

Brennen Woell, from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis MO, assigned to St. Luke's, Oviedo FL.

Former SELC Vicars Placed as Candidates

Eric Rapp, served as Vicar at St. John, Massillon OH and St. Mark, Steubenville OH, supervisor, Rev. John Telloni, was placed as Pastor of a dual Parish: St. Paul, and Zion in Green Isle MN.

Chris Weber, served as Vicar at St. Luke's, Oviedo FL, supervisor, Rev. Wally Arp, was placed as Associate Pastor at Redeemer, Fredericksburg VA

Travis Lauderbach, served as Vicar at Zion, Clark NJ, supervisor, Rev. Andy Dzurovcik, was placed at Prince of Peace, Mesquite NV.



Congratulations to **Brandes and Kristy Todd** (who serve as our volunteer publicity "committee" for the SELC Lutheran Church Extension Fund) were blessed with the gift of a daughter, Caylee Ann, born in March and Baptized May 5 at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Lodi OH.

FAN INTO FLAME

The LCMS "FAN INTO FLAME", an outreach/evangelism fund raising campaign, is no longer in operation through the LCMS.

For individuals or Congregations who may have "pledged" gift funds to "FAN INTO FLAME", and who may still be interested in fulfilling their pledge, or who want to support evangelism and outreach with a special gift, would be wise simply to send your pledge or gift directly to the SELC District Financial Secretary (Mr. Larry Schultz, 1566 Bushkill Center Road, Bath PA, 18014) to ensure that your money is being used for the FAN INTO FLAME projects that were originally shared with the donors.

SELC CALENDAR

[subject to change]

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| June 27-30 | International LWML Convention, Pittsburgh PA |
| July 1-5 | LCMS Youth Gathering, San Antonio TX |
| 18-21 | SELC Luther League Convention, Concordia University, Chicago IL |
| 18-19 | LCMS Convention Committees, St. Louis MO |
| 19-25 | LCMS Convention, St. Louis MO |

Congratulations to our LWML. The LWML has exceeded its 2011-2013 Biennial mite goal of \$1,825,000. The actual amount collected was over \$9,000 more - \$1,834,26.67 God Has blessed the LWML and now all the mission grants chosen in Peoria can be fully funded. Thanks for your help and support!