



# The Lutheran Beacon

Let your light shine . . .

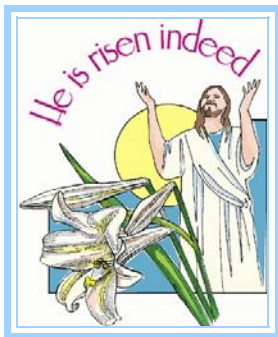


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April 2006



*He died on the cross . . . and rose on the third day . . . so that we might live with Him in eternity.*



*A Blessed  
Easter  
to you!*

## St. Luke's LC (Oviedo FL) installs Graduates of Concordia House of Studies

Jennifer Follett and Jessica Thompson have been installed as called members of the teaching faculty of St. Luke's School. Both Jennifer and Jessica already faithfully serve the school's faculty.

The commissioning event marked their completion of the **Concordia House of Studies** program. During their time with the House of Studies, Jennifer and Jessica participated in course work in biblical studies, the Lutheran Confessions, Christian doctrine, church history, and methods in teaching the Christian faith.

By successfully completing this program they have both earned their Lutheran Teacher's Diplomas and are now rostered church workers in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and eligible to be called.

Jennifer and Jessica will continue to serve as members of the dedicated and talented faculty and staff. Their additional training will bring further blessings to the teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The day was also exciting for the church at large as Jennifer and Jessica are the very first graduates of the Concordia House of Studies to be installed into full time church work. May God continue to bless the Concordia House of Studies and its labor to prepare workers for the harvest.

For more information on the Concordia House of Studies program, please contact: Rev. Wayne W. Wilke, Ph.D., Executive Director at [wwilke@figa-lcms.org](mailto:wwilke@figa-lcms.org).



LtoR: Jennifer Follett, Rev. Schuschke, Jessica Thompson, Dr. Wayne Wilke, Dir. Concordia House of Studies

As we draw closer to the June convention of the SELC District, at the same time we approach the conclusion of the Thank Offering observing the 100th Anniversary of the SELC. We are asking congregations to complete their gift gathering phase. You may bring a final check to the convention, made out to the SELC District, with the annotation, "100th Anniversary" or you may send your final annotated check to Clarence Cook.

Should you desire to have a special offering in the remaining three months, and if you need additional pink envelopes, please contact Rev. Bob Matej at (740) 685-5112 or email: [matejroca@aol.com](mailto:matejroca@aol.com).



# The Stewardship of Time

by Rev. Thomas Soltis, Stewardship Director



William Penn wrote: *I expect to pass through this world but once. Any good, therefore, that I can do, or any kindness that I can show, let me do it now. Let me not neglect it, for I shall not pass this way again.*

“NOW” is the time to get important things done. Tomorrow may be too late to grasp an opportunity or avoid a misfortune. God has allotted a specific amount of time for you. He has given you one earthly life to live. Make the most of it. Be a good steward of your time.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR GETTING PROJECTS DONE ON TIME—AND DONE WELL

1. Prioritize projects.
2. Do one at a time.
3. Set a feasible time slot to get it done.
4. Begin well ahead of a deadline.
5. Work when you are most alert.
6. Exclude interruptions.
7. **PRAY!**

### A SAD SILLY DITTY

Saw something silly -  
 A man looking for time  
 When there wasn't any.  
 Saw something sad -  
 A woman wasting time  
 When that's all she had.

Wasting time robs. Those who “spin their wheels” on the track of time end up “losers”.

Like rocking chairs they go back and forth and get nowhere. The Bible advises the slothful, *Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise.* (Prov. 6:6)

Time is a gift from God. The length of it is irrelevant. What is accomplished in life is.

In the time frame from birth to death, God would have us live to His glory by being good stewards of His possessions. Because God is the owner of all things, Christian stewardship involves managing all of life and life's resources to His glory according to His will. This includes every phase of life - Church, family, friends, enemies, work, education, government, recreation, time, treasure, talent, etc., etc. Psalm 96:8 declares: *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name.* I Cor.10:31 advises: *Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it to the glory of God.*

## CRITICAL QUESTIONS

To properly execute the glorification of God through the Christian management of God's possessions, it would be helpful to ask:

**Who am I?**

**Why am I?**

**What can I do well?**

**Where can I do it?**

**When should I do it?**

*The last question enters the realm of time. Don't squander it. Make the most of it by fulfilling yourself for the glorification of God.*



Time is God's gift  
 For which to uplift  
 Holy hands in thanksgiving  
 Give God His rightful due  
 With a love-life of thanks-living  
 Faithfully fulfilling your IOU

## TIME THOUGHTS

- \* To save a lot of time, take a little time ahead of time.
- \* A friend of time is precise.
- \* Time (always on time) never runs fast or slow. Humans do.
- \* Successful time management begins with self management.
- \* Too many priorities are as bad as none if you don't have the time to get them done.
- \* Master time by knowing what and when to begin and where and how to end.
- \* A friend of time is precise.
- \* Procrastination today hurries tomorrow toward a regrettable yesterday.
- \* Prayer time saves time every time.

Reaching the Unchurched in Galloway, NJ  
**A Partnership between the SELC  
 District and Peace Lutheran Church**  
 by Rev. Philip R. Matarazzo

We here at Peace Lutheran Church in Galloway, NJ would like to thank all those in the SELC District for their financial support over the years in supporting our mission church here in New Jersey. The SELC District is truly partners with Peace Lutheran Church in reaching the unchurched in our community.



Just a little over a year and a half ago we stood at 35 members strong. Today the Lord has blessed us with



140 active members. Our Preschool is filled to capacity at 50 children. We are actually experiencing space problems now and hope in a couple of years to be able to build a new sanctuary and expand our Preschool to grade six.

Once again we want to thank the SELC District for its support and partnering with us in proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ all for His glory and for the advancement of His Kingdom.

This is your newsletter . . . Articles & Photos are welcome! Send submissions to:

*The Lutheran Beacon*

c/o Gail Peterson:

1210 Ambra Dr. – Viera, FL 32940-6755

email: [gailmail37-beacon@yahoo.com](mailto:gailmail37-beacon@yahoo.com)

or

c/o Faith Viera Lutheran Church

5550 Faith Dr. – Rockledge, FL 32955-6338

email: [faithviera@bellsouth.net](mailto:faithviera@bellsouth.net)

Please submit articles as separate attachments in whatever program you write in. [e.g. Word Perfect, Word, etc.]

Photos must be submitted as separate attachments [NOT as part of your article].

When sent by snail mail, photos must be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> of the month. If you want them returned please attach a note and send a self-addressed stamped envelope.

**NOTE: THE NEXT ISSUE WILL BE THE FIRST OF OUR SUMMER FORMAT. MAY AND JUNE WILL BE COMBINED (AS WILL JULY AND AUGUST). THE DEADLINE FOR MAY/JUNE IS APRIL 20TH.**

**Harrison reappointed to LCMS World  
 Relief/Human Care leadership**

by Kim Krull

Rev. Matthew Harrison has been appointed by the LCMS Board for Human Care Ministries for another five-year term as executive director of LCMS World Relief/Human Care.

The board recognized Harrison's leadership of the Synod's worldwide arm of mercy since 2001, a period that included the unprecedented challenges of Sept. 11, the Asian tsunami and Hurricane Katrina. During that time the ministry also strengthened non-disaster efforts, including chaplaincy, deaconess ministry, pro-life efforts and HIV/AIDS orphanages.

This has been an amazing five years, said Harrison, who previously served as a parish pastor in Iowa and Indiana. I've seen the absolute worst things the devil, the world and our flesh can throw at us. But I've also had the unbelievable honor and privilege of service to Christ's people as they have responded with unprecedented love and kindness in Jesus' name.

Looking ahead, LCMS World Relief/Human Care initiatives include: continuing to build the first LCMS national disaster network; launching a Mercy Corps for LCMS high school and college youth; and providing Lutheran medical professionals with new volunteer opportunities.

To learn more about LCMS World Relief/Human Care, call 1-800-248-1930, Ext. 1380 or 1381, or visit <http://worldrelief.lcms.org>.

Rev. Matthew Harrison, executive director, LCMS World Relief/Human Care, has been reappointed to lead the worldwide mercy ministry for another five years. Providing for the physical and spiritual needs of children orphaned by the AIDS epidemic in Kenya, Africa, is one of many ministry efforts.



**CTS, Ft. Wayne: Good Shepherd Institute Launches Electronic Newsletter.**

GSI was established to serve as a theological center of conversation, research, and resources for pastors, congregations, musicians, and other church workers. Check it out at [www.ctsfw.edu](http://www.ctsfw.edu) and select Good Shepherd Institute in the left-hand column. To be added to the electronic mailing list, simply send an email to [HisVoice@ctsfw.edu](mailto:HisVoice@ctsfw.edu).

# Gulf Coast . . . Another Look

by Rev. Bob Matej, EM

Images of the destructive power of nature are etched into our minds. The ravages of Katrina, Rita and Wilma remain. Three primary volunteer camps have been set up in Slidell, La, Biloxi, MS and Metairie, LA. Hundreds of volunteers from the 35 districts of the LC-MS are on site each week cleaning and repairing the damage that remains in the aftermath of the 2005 hurricane season. Some can give only a week, others more. They live in tents, pop-ups, RV's, and whatever as they reach out in Christian love to the surviving households and congregations.

Yet there is an overriding need. The precious love of God in Christ needs to be witnessed both in deeds and in word. Opportunities to tell "His story" abound. But the remaining population doesn't necessarily care what we believe until they believe that we care. The circuit evangelism leaders in our SELC District are making available the gospel tract, "God Cares - We Care" and copies of the Gospel of John. Especially, it is intended that they be used by volunteers during holy week and after the Sunday of the Resurrection. This is not a mass distribution outreach program, rather it is providing a "tool in hand" for the volunteers to share "the hope that is in them". Pray that the Spirit of Truth will prepare ears, minds and hearts of both the volunteers and those who share in their witness. Just about equally divided, 1250 copies of the tract and Gospel portions will be made available to the three camp sites.

Of a more long term nature: how will congregations, worshiping fellowships, and smaller groups of Christians carry on mission and ministry. As we are renovating homes and church buildings, reestablishing Christian day schools, restructuring ministry staffs—it is also time to reach out boldly in new and different ways. This could make an interesting discussion at the upcoming district convention.

## Hurricane Response Climbing

Recap of the SELC congregations participation in the Hurricane Response Offering to date.

Offerings received before Lutheran

Disaster Relief announced . . . . . \$ 7,130.00

Matching Fund Grant (eligible for matching)

Offerings received following Lutheran

Disaster Relief announced . . . . . 19,468.90

Matching Fund Grant Total . . . . . \$26,598.90

**Needed to receive full \$30,000**

**of LDR Matching Grant . . . . . \$ 3,401.10**

Witnessing tracts and Scripture

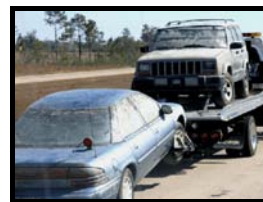
for Work Camp Volunteers . . . . . 1,250.00

What's left for now . . . . . \$ 4,651.10

*Congregations and SELC pastors, please note:*

If your congregation is in possession of Hurricane Response offerings, please direct them to Clarence Cook on a separate check with the memo notation, *Hurricane Response*; if you have not yet determined your support for Hurricane Response, now's the time to do it!

Incidentally, our district is in possession of a list of needs that far exceed the numbers stated above, but we'd like to secure the initial level before we consider additional opportunities. Sister congregations and agencies are in need of our concern, prayers and gifts. Thanks for your ongoing efforts.



Work goes on, as mud-covered cars are towed from the Gulf Coast



Supplies pour into the Gulf Coast but much more help is needed

**Add our website to your list of favorites! <http://selc.lcms.org>**

Visit the site regularly for the latest up-to-the-minute information on what's happening in our SELC District, including full registration materials for both SELC District and LWML conventions.

SELC District Convention: <http://selc.lcms.org/districtconvention.htm>

LWML District Convention: <http://selc.lcms.org/lwml.htm>



## It's Happening Around Our District



*Please add to your prayer list . . .*

### ***In thanksgiving to God:***

**Grace Morgan Telloni**, grandchild of Rev. John Telloni (St. John, Massillon OH) was born March 8<sup>th</sup> in Akron OH to John M. (Rev. John's son) and Beth Telloni.

**Elijah Paul Biber** was born March 14<sup>th</sup> to Rev. Paul and Becky Biber (Pentecost, Racine, WI).

### ***For protection and healing:***

**Ann Bajus** underwent reconstructive surgery on March 15<sup>th</sup> on her fractured left wrist (broken in a fall on March 2<sup>nd</sup>). BUT, there is also some really good news! Ann has come to the end of her chemo therapies . . . and all seems well!

**John Chomay** (Ascension, Montreal President; former lay member of our Mission Board and Bd. Of Directors) as he continued to undergo therapy for lymphoma of the spleen.

### ***Comfort for the family:***

**Beatrice Elizabeth Veronica Dodd Toth** entered Eternity, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2006.

### ***For laborers in the Vineyard:***

SELC Congregations applying for Vicars: St. John, Cudahy WI; St. Luke's, Oviedo FL; Zion, Clark NJ; St. Mark, Steubenville OH.

Ascension, Montreal Quebec Canada is requesting the placement of a Candidate from Concordia St. Catharines Ontario as Associate Pastor.

SELC Congregations awaiting Call lists: Redeemer, Manchester NJ; St. Lucas, St. Louis MO; Concordia, Youngstown OH (dual parish with St. Mark, Youngstown OH).

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Dr. Martin Luther will ordain and install their new Pastor, Joel Bastidas, on Sat. April 8<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am service. Joel is a colloquy graduate placed at DML by the Council of Presidents.

### ***NOTE — New email address for:***

**Rev. James Douthwaite:** [revjdoc@gmail.com](mailto:revjdoc@gmail.com)

### *A plea from our SELC President:*

LCMS statistical reports were due the end of February. If you haven't done yours yet, please do. I get a list every week from the Purple Palace. For those who have . . . thank you!

**SELC Convention:** Deadline for registrations and nominations is fast approaching. Please make sure that the forms are filled out and checks are sent. The hotel wants to have reservations by April 1<sup>st</sup>, or else reserved rooms may have to be released; and then we cannot guarantee having rooms for the June weekend. Remember that nominations – both the "real" and the "trial" – are also due at the end of March. Don't forget that Congregations need to nominate lay people as Circuit lay delegates to the LCMS national convention. All forms are available on our website!

Tim and Michelle Miller, along with their three children, Ellyn (12), Joel (11) and Sarah (8), returned to the USA from Thailand in June 2005 following 15 years of service there with LCMS World Mission.

They served as part of a church-planting team in Bangkok for most of that time. In July, Tim and Michelle began full-time linguistic studies at the Graduate Institute of Applied Linguistics in Dallas, TX in order to prepare for another aspect of cross-cultural ministry. They are currently "Candidate Members" with Lutheran Bible Translators, and hope to return to Southeast Asia to work with minority people groups in the region.

Right now they are focusing their studies on preparing for service in the Bible translation-related fields of Literacy and Scripture Use.

St. Luke's (Oviedo FL) concludes it's 2005-06 Concert Series on April 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:00pm. Come and enjoy the sounds of the Orlando Philharmonic Orchestra; conductor: Harold Levin. For more info, visit their website at: [www.stlukes-oviedo.org](http://www.stlukes-oviedo.org).



## A Busy Year for our Youth . . . and It's Only Just Beginning

### Western Circuit Youth Ski Trip Sets Records

by Tim Hasko, Pres. Western Circuit Luther League

The Western Circuit Luther League youth ski trip held Feb 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> set two records this year— the largest number of people, and the lowest temperatures!

90 youth braved the below zero wind chills for fun, fellowship, devotions, games, and skiing. The weekend kicked off with opening worship led by Pentecost – Racine's "Praise Band" and ended with a devotion by "Team Harvest", a youth ministry team from Concordia University, River Forest, IL. In between was filled with "get-to-know you" games at St. John Lutheran Church in Cudahy WI; skiing at Little Switzerland in Slinger WI; and a lock-in at Pentecost Lutheran Church in Racine WI.

Sunday morning worship featured Racine Lutheran High's concert band. Youth from Alsip IL; Crown Pt. IN; Cudahy WI; Norridge IL; Racine WI; St. Louis MO; and Whiting IN attended, and are all looking forward to seeing everyone again the District Youth Gathering July 13 -16 in River Forest, IL!

### Eastern Circuit Retreat–Camp Bernie–Feb '06

by Michele Behling, Raritan, NJ

Over Presidents' Day weekend, 43 youth came together for another fun-filled weekend at Camp Bernie. Representatives came from Zion (Clark), St. Paul (Raritan), Peace (Galloway), St. John (Hazleton), Holy Trinity (Garfield), and St. Paul (Greenwich). Two new pastors came to the retreat: Pastor John Perling from Greenwich and Pastor Grams from Garfield. This year's theme was "Numbers" or more specifically numbers found in the Bible. It was surprising to find out that numbers played such a crucial part in the Bible with examples found in Genesis to Revelations.

The weekend kicked off with a tradition done every year–Banner Making. This is a great activity because it is an icebreaker and is a lot of fun. Each group had a verse in Revelations describing the seven stars and deeds and with that information, made a banner explaining the verse visually. It was a lot of fun and the banners turned out great.

On Saturday morning, we engaged in another annual tradition–Skits. Each group received a story again dealing with numbers and had to act it out. This was each person's chance to be creative and funny, and some skits turned out more entertaining than others. Some of the themes of the skits were Tribal Survivor, Charlie's Angels, and Babylonian Idol. Overall, all the skits were great and were fun to watch and participate in. After dinner we held our annual Luther League East Board Meeting where upcoming events were discussed and elections took place.

Please congratulate and welcome the new members to the Eastern Circuit Executive Board- Janelle Hawkes (VP), Kelly Ferguson (Treas), and Pastor John Perling (Pastoral Advisor). The other members of the Eastern Circuit Executive Board are Michele Behling (Pres.) and Joseph McKenney (Sec.).

Saturday evening, we played a crowd favorite–Family Feud. Throughout the weekend, everyone filled out a mock survey with questions dealing with Numbers (for example, name one of the twelve Christmas gifts). When it came time to play, it was fun to see what others had put down as answers, including some whacky ones. The final activity for the day was Kangaroo Court with the Honorable Pastor Andy Dzurovcik presiding. Some of the fines ranged from snoring to throwing shoes out the window to doing too many handstands in one night. All proceeds will be split between the SELC Luther League District Mission and Scholarship Funds.

The following morning concluded with another round of skits, which were just as entertaining as the ones from the previous day. Before anyone realized it, it was time to say goodbye and head home to the real world. Overall, it was a great, exciting weekend with lots of fun activities.

Next year the Luther League Eastern Circuit Winter Retreat will be held the same weekend, Presidents' Day Weekend. If you would like more information about activities in the Eastern Circuit, please contact Michele Behling at [dolphinmlb13@aol.com](mailto:dolphinmlb13@aol.com) or Pastor John Perling at [pastorperling@optonline.net](mailto:pastorperling@optonline.net).

### 2006 SELC District Luther League Youth Gathering

***BUILDING ON THE ROCK!*** (Matt. 7:25)

*Early Registration Fee if paid by May 1<sup>st</sup>: \$125*  
(Registrations materials should be arriving shortly and will be available on the SELC website.)

Site: Concordia University–River Forest, IL  
July 13—16, 2006

***Hosted by Zion Lutheran Church, Norridge IL***

Fellowship with over a hundred youth from all around the country!

Awesome Bible studies, new friends, exciting speakers, servant events.

(Former, mature, and retired leaguers: consider making a donation to offset expenses for the youth! Can your Thrivent branches help to cover servant event expenses?)