

The Star of Hope

DECEMBER 2008

WILL YOUR CHRISTMAS BE MERRY THIS YEAR?

A five-year-old girl went out shopping with her grandfather. They had traveled to a Christmas tree farm to cut a live tree for their home. Over and over the little girl told Grandpa that she was going to pick out the perfect tree. After they arrived, Grandpa with his experienced eye led his granddaughter to some great looking trees. Once they were inspected, however, the young girl would say, "Not that one. It's not perfect." After several hours of searching, Grandpa began to grow tired and a little impatient. He finally told her that they had to pick one out even if it is not the perfect tree. She agreed and then remarked, "Maybe we'll find a tree with lights on it next year." This little girl had her idea of what the perfect Christmas tree should be like. It was one with lights on it. Something less than that meant disappointment.

Lots of people approach their Christmas celebration like that. They have their idea of what the perfect Christmas should be like and anything short of that leaves them disappointed. For many getting the perfect gift, having all the kids home Christmas Eve, having the yard and house decorated to the max are essential to having a really great Christmas. When our Christmas celebration is focused upon our own expectations, the Christmas season will feel like a burden rather than a blessing.

No wonder so many are depressed around Christmas time - their expectations for the holidays have not been met. They have no job and have no money for paying the bills let alone buying gifts. They are in the hospital recovering from surgery. There will be an empty chair at the dinner table this year because Dad passed away last March. You fill in the blank.

Isn't that the way most people approach their lives? They are happy and joyous only when their lives are perfect. When our jobs go well, we feel good. When the kids are doing well in school, life is good. When there is more than enough cash in the bank, everything feels fine. When our health is going well, life is good. When these expectations are not met, joy and happiness seem to fly out the window.

We can sympathize can't we? How can someone be happy when they have been laid-off from their job? How can parents be anything but filled with despair when their five-year-old dies from cancer? What reason is there to smile when we are spending our Christmas alone this year? We've lost our job, our health, a loved one. Don't all these things make it impossible to find joy and happiness especially at Christmas time?

They do if our lives are not centered on the Lord. Knowing Jesus, knowing his love and forgiveness turns things around. When we know that he will turn every trial into a blessing, the loss of our job or a loved one, while difficult to endure, can be seen as something good. God's primary concern is not how many gifts we have under the tree or how much money we have in the bank or how big our house is. His concern is our soul.

We have every reason to rejoice when we believe that the baby born in Bethlehem was our Savior. We have every reason to rejoice when we know the peace that comes from knowing that our sins are forgiven through Christ. We have every reason to rejoice when we know that Jesus has given us eternal life. Let your Christmas celebration center on the joy that we have in Jesus. Let your Christmas gift-giving focus on God's great gift of Jesus, your Savior and all the blessings he brings into our lives.

Our lives may not be easy. In fact, they may be downright difficult at times. Yet our lives can be blessed, our Christmas celebration complete, if we know Jesus as our Savior. Only he can make your Christmas a truly merry one.

Pastor Kehren

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ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

**The Gifts Christ Came to Bring
Midweek Advent Series**

Join us each Wednesday evening in Advent for worship at 7:00 PM. Each Wednesday we will focus on three of the "fruits of the Spirit" mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. These fruits are produced in our lives as we are connected to Jesus in faith.

Wednesday, December 3 -- love, joy, peace

Wednesday, December 10 -- faithfulness, gentleness and self-control

Wednesday, December 17 -- patience, kindness, goodness

On the last Wednesday we will have a soup supper at 5:30pm before the worship service.

Children's Christmas Service

"The Trees of Christmas"

On Sunday, December 21, the children of Hope Lutheran School will present the Christmas story in word and song at our 8:00 and 10:30 AM service.

Christmas Eve Service of Lessons and Carols

Wednesday, December 24 at 7:00 PM

Christmas Day Festival Service

Thursday, December 25 at 10:00 AM
(Holy Communion)

New Year's Eve Service

Wednesday, December 31 at 7:00 PM
(Holy Communion)

JUBILEE SUNDAY

On December 14, in the middle of our Advent season, we contemplate God's greatest gift in the manger. December 14 is the Sunday we, together with congregations around our synod, have set aside as Jubilee Sunday, the day to express our thanksgiving by our special offering to eliminate our synod's debt. We will distribute offering envelopes on Sunday, December 7 and you can return the offering envelope on December 14 as offering in addition to your regular offering to Hope. May this month of Jubilee truly be a month of celebration of our full and free forgiveness. May our celebration offering reflect our joy of forgiveness.

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members of Hope, November, 2008

It is a busy time for our congregation here at Hope. We have so many things happening with our recent reorganization, Parish Assistance activities along with the normal activities that take place during this busy time of year. I am truly enjoying being part of all of these things along with each of you. All of this activity and change is challenging for a congregation as it is for me personally but I feel it is an honor to serve the Lord in this way and I truly believe that these challenges and opportunities are blessings that He is putting before us.

I want to briefly touch base on the current Parish Assistance activities and share with you how the leaders of our congregation are working toward realizing our vision; as I said we are facing change. Changes are easier for some than others, this is also true for our leadership team. We too have to look at new ways of doing things from our leadership approach to the way we plan and execute projects so

the first thing we are doing is looking at the way we do things. We want to lead the congregation through change not force it. In light of this approach we are dedicating a portion of each Council meeting to discussing strengths, weaknesses and congregational needs with the goal of identifying the best approaches in working with all of you toward achieving our Vision. This is why we asked all of you to participate in the brief survey on November 15th. We don't want to assume that we know how the congregation feels about going through change as that could lead to a lot of misunderstandings. Instead we thought we should ask you, this input from all of you will be helpful to Council as we move ahead. We do want your input so please do not wait to be asked but instead talk to the leaders. We are here to serve the Lord and you and we need your help to do it.

There is a lot of work to do in order to achieve our vision that we have set our sights on and there is a lot of participation that is needed from all of us. I want to thank all of those who have volunteered to serve in Council and Coordinator roles as well as all of the committee participants and I want to encourage the rest of you to look for ways to serve and to be part of realizing our vision. If you are not sure how you can best serve the congregation or if you do not know what the opportunities to serve are, there are a couple of ways to find that information; talk to any Council Member or go to our web-site at www.hlcpenryn.org where all of the job descriptions are available. You will need to request a password to access these documents; the instructions for requesting a password are in the web-site. I strongly encourage each and every member of Hope to visit the site and establish a password. There is a lot of useful information there that will keep you informed.

As I mentioned; it is a very busy time here and we have had a very busy month with the Parish Assistance workshops, the Area Reformation Service, the workday to spruce things up inside and out to name a few. I want to thank all who participated in the coordination and contributed to all of these activities. I especially want to acknowledge that groups and individuals who arranged and prepared the meals as well as the setup and cleanup for all of these events - what a blessing to have these people and the gifts they bring.

That's all I have for this month. I want to end by wishing all of you a Holiday season filled with the Lord and his blessings. I wish you all safe journeys if

you are traveling and joy filled moments with family and friends.

In Christ,
Steve F

GENTLE THOUGHTS FOR TODAY

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have gotten to be really good friends.

SPECIAL DELIVERY

God's word is alive and working and is sharper than a double-edged sword. It cuts all the way into us, where the soul and the spirit are joined, to the center of our joints and bones. And it judges the thoughts and feelings in our hearts. Hebrews 4:12

The Word became a human and lived among us. We saw his glory -- the glory that belongs to the only Son of the Father -- and he was full of grace and truth. John 1:14

The day God came to earth is much more than a sweet tale on which to base a holiday. It is a miracle of dynamic proportions and John tells the wonder of it all. God himself came to live on earth. That is the heart of the Christmas story. The God of the universe made his home here on earth so that people could better understand him, connect with him, and experience his kindness. The Word is God's most intimate and informative communication with those whom he created.

It is interesting that such a pivotal verse about Jesus does not even contain his name. That's because WORD was a powerful symbol in both Greek philosophy & Jewish tradition. The Greeks referred to logos or Word as the creative force that brought the world into being. Everyone at that time understood that referring to Jesus as the Word was the same as calling him the eternal Creator.

If you're going to believe in this eternal Creator, you need to understand who he is. The biggest mistake people make about Jesus is to minimize either his deity or his humanity. In his earthly life, Jesus was both fully God and fully human. John emphasized this point throughout his entire Gospel. Although

both the Old & New Testaments are filled with important verses about Jesus, John 1:14 clearly states who Jesus is & what he wants to impart to you.

Jesus' humanity enabled him to relate to your human problems, while his divinity gave him the power to help you overcome them.

Let us all joyously celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior - Jesus Christ.
May God's grace & peace be with you always.

HOPE SCHOOL NEWS

Christmas Caroling at Sierra Hills

On Tuesday, December 16, the students of Hope will be bringing the Christmas message through song to the residents of Sierra Hills Care Center in Roseville. We will be starting at 10:00 AM. If you have friends or relatives there, please come and join us for this wonderful event.

Day Before Thanksgiving Parade

On Wednesday, November 26, students of Hope represented our school and our Savior by walking and riding in the annual Loomis Day Before Thanksgiving Parade. Students held signs telling what they are thankful for and sang the song "Give Thanks." Thank you to all of you who assisted in making this event possible. We certainly have countless blessings to be thankful for here at Hope - most of all Jesus, our Savior! Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever!

AZ-CA District Teacher's Conference

Two faculty members attended this year's AZ/CA District Teachers Conference in Anaheim on November 6-7. The first presentation was given by Mr. Rick Loewen entitled "Spiritual Resiliency," which emphasized a called worker's need for strong physical, emotional, and spiritual health. The second presentation was given by Pastor Ross Else on "Strength for Weary Workers." Both presenters did an excellent job of building us up

using God's Word and giving us practical points to ponder. As always it was wonderful to mutually encourage and join in worship with the many other teachers in our district. What a privilege it is to see how Hope Lutheran School fits as a small part of our great commission to "go and make disciples of all nations!"

Children's Christmas Service

This year's children's Christmas service will be the morning of December 21st, at 8:00 and 10:30 AM. "The Trees of Christmas" is a 5-part service that focuses on some of the trees that God used to bring about our salvation. The service also speaks to the rich symbolism in the Christmas tree itself. The students will be practicing hard all month and look forward to proclaiming the birth of our Savior to you!

IT HAPPENED IN DECEMBER...

4 December 1983 - The first worship service was conducted in the Worship Education Fellowship building. Hope Congregation had come to its home. Pastor Curia conducted the service. In the subsequent years, the facility has expanded to include the Parsonage, the Sanctuary and the School, as well as that original WEF building.

HOPE FOOD CLOSET

All food donations are given to Betty Newell's Hope Food Closet. Please help by purchasing the designated items for the month.

Leave your purchases on the counter on the East side of the kitchen. Thank you for your outreach to the community.

December: Soup and Cereal

L W M S

LWMS NEWS

Several Befriend a Mission names are available. World Mission Assignment is Reginald C. Riesop a native American teacher in Lakeside AZ. He will

have a birthday on December 9. Let's all send him a BIRTHDAY CARD!!!!

The address is: 255 Deer Run Road, Lakeside, AZ 85929-6923

There are two Home Mission Assignments; Timothy J. Satorius, pastor of Grace Ev. Lutheran Church in Falls Church, VA. Rev. Satorius is married with four children, three boys and one girl.

Geoffrey Cortright is the Pastor of Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church in Red Deer, Alberta Canada. He is married with no children - "not yet" he says.

Remember them in your daily prayers. There is much information about both of these Home Mission Assignments. Please contact Mary Ann who will be more than happy to give you all the information.

The 2009 LWMS Convention will be held in Denver at the Sheraton Denver Hotel on June 25-28, 2009. I believe the theme will be "Mission with an Altitude". The Rocky Mountain Circuit will host this convention.

Submitted - Reporter

WOMEN OF HOPE

CHURCH CHRISTMAS TREE

Come and join us on Saturday, December 13 at 9:00 AM to set up and decorate the Christmas Tree in the sanctuary. We need a few stronger young people to set up the tree and climb the ladder to decorate the top. Young or old, you are welcome. Come and help us decorate the Christmas Tree for the celebration of Jesus' birth!

TOGETHER



News from the WELS

November 2008
Website: www.wels.net

November 3, 2008

BWM RESPONDS TO OPPORTUNITIES From the office of President Mark Schroeder

The Board for World Missions (BWM) continually discusses and plans how best to use the resources available for foreign mission work. The BWM has often stated that these decisions should be made for "strategic" rather than for financial reasons. In other words, the board is always looking for ways to get the gospel to as many people as possible. It also strives to plant mission churches that will be able to flourish independently after WELS missionaries leave. Sometimes this approach requires shifting missionary manpower and funding from one field to another—not because the funding for World Missions has been reduced, but because the opportunities in one field may appear to be more abundant than in another. Certainly, all of these decisions involve the prayerful use of sanctified human judgment.

In its recent meeting, the BWM considered new opportunities such as those in Asia, as well as factors "on the ground" in several existing mission fields. The board made a decision to reallocate some of their resources. Support for mission work in Bulgaria and Albania will be reduced; two missionary positions in Latin America (a missionary in the Dominican Republic and one of the positions in the Latin American Traveling Theological Educators team) will also be vacated. The financial resources that had been allocated for these areas have been reallocated to other promising mission efforts in eastern and southern Asia. In addition, the BWM will continue to work with people in the reduced fields to help them adjust to the new circumstances and to make sure that the spiritual needs of our fellow Christians continue to be met.

If you have any questions about the plans and decisions of the Board for World Missions, please contact BWM Administrator Dan Koelpin at dan.koelpin@sab.wels.net or 414-256-3233.

Election day encouragement

Unless you have been living in a cave somewhere, you might have noticed that we are about to hold an election in our country. Across the United States on Tuesday, citizens will be choosing people to represent them at all levels of government.

We recognize the special blessings that we have in this country, highest among them the freedom to worship God and proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ without restriction or limitation. As Christians, we also recognize the responsibilities we have to exercise our citizenship and to participate in the process of choosing those who will lead and represent us.

We often pray for godly leaders and good government. We recognize how a society benefits when the government faithfully carries out its responsibilities to protect the lives and promote the well-being of its citizens. As we recognize and pray for those blessings, it's important for all of us to participate in choosing those leaders by voting. This Tuesday, please take the time to cast your vote.

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder

Also in this Issue...

Members step up to support Year of Jubilee

Individual members of WELS congregations are stepping up to support the Year of Jubilee, a special offering authorized by the 2007 synod convention to eliminate the synod's \$22.4 million debt.

Expanding women's ministry

After gathering ideas and input from people across the synod, the Women's Ministry Committee, part of WELS Commission on Adult Discipleship, met Oct. 22 to begin coordinating projects that encourage and equip women to use their God-given talents for service. Nineteen new women joined the existing five committee members to help carry out these initiatives.

Online resources strengthen ministry

In an effort to increase awareness about online learning opportunities for called workers, congregational leaders, and laypeople, WELS is celebrating National Distance Learning Week Nov. 10-14. Congregations are encouraged to discover and take advantage of resources and courses covering a variety of topics from parenting to technology. "We live in a world where continuing education, both formal and informal, is necessary to keep abreast of a rapidly changing educational paradigm," says Dr. Jim Grunwald, WELS director of distance learning. "Online learning can bring quality educational opportunities and doctrinally sound resources directly into schools, congregations, and homes, and allows WELS to be of greater service to [people] that simply could not be served with traditional face-to-face methods of education due to location and local responsibilities."

Resources include tutorials and support for congregations utilizing the church management software, Shepherd's Staff, and the synod's Web hosting solution, FinalWeb. Called workers and lay people can explore online learning opportunities—

including graduate studies—at Martin Luther College. WELS also offers several online Bible study courses including "Explore the Bible," a sixteen-lesson Bible information class; a study of the book of John; and a topical Q&A.

Parents and Sunday school teachers will benefit from mini-courses designed for them. Says one user, "Just yesterday I discovered the WELS.net University courses for Sunday School teachers. What an amazing and complete resource! Kudos to all who put that together. Keep up the great work!"

To view available online resources and learning opportunities, visit www.wels.net/jump/ndlw

November 10, 2008

A NEW CHALLENGE, THE SAME PROMISES FROM A GRACIOUS GOD

A special message from President Mark Schroeder

The recent economic difficulties in our country have begun to have a direct impact on our synod, particularly as the budget planning for the next two years begins. These new developments are serious, and we are making immediate changes to our current and future ministry plans. But we also trust in our unyielding God.

First some background. Just four months ago, we were celebrating God's blessing of a budget surplus, thanks in large part to the generous support of our congregations following the last synod convention. Still, from the time budget planning began, we knew that it would be a challenge to incorporate the \$2.6 million added by the convention on an ongoing basis, and that support from congregations and individuals would need to increase to this level and grow from there. We knew that it would be a challenge for our congregations to do this, but we believed that it would be possible.

Recently, however, we learned of two developments that will make an already challenging situation even more difficult. Because of the recent downturn in the stock market and the related economic problems, expected major financial support for the synod from two sources will be significantly reduced.

One situation involves large gifts from an individual donor. Two years ago, the donor expressed his intent to provide \$3 million per year for the following five years. He has already provided that gift for the last fiscal year and is committed to making the second

installment for this year. The five-year commitment was based on the value of stock owned by the individual. In the last months, the value of the stock has plummeted and the donor has informed us, much to his regret that he will not at this time be able to forward next year's installment of the intended gift. He has expressed his sincere desire to forward this gift, as he had originally intended, when market conditions enable him to do so. For the immediate future, however, this is a source of financial support that we can no longer include in our planning.

We also learned on Thursday, Nov. 6, that the same market conditions have affected the Schwan Foundation. The foundation is providing \$8 million for our synod's mission and ministry programs this calendar year. The foundation informed us that the grant to the synod in the next year will be significantly reduced. We will find out in December the exact extent of that reduction.

After more than a year of very positive financial news and amazing blessings, we are now confronted by a new set of challenges. It's likely that the two circumstances described above will reduce our anticipated financial support by about \$4 million. This is in addition to the convention-directed budgetary increase of \$2.6 million that needed to be included in our planning. While this is a serious shortfall, we can also say that the total impact of this news is not fully known at this time for a number of reasons: we do not know the exact amount of the reduction in support; we do not know what benefits we will realize from the Year of Jubilee offering; and we will not have complete information on Congregation Mission Offerings for the next year until late January.

Regardless of what the final situation proves to be in terms of financial support, we are confident that with last year's budget surplus and the following steps we can achieve a balanced budget for this fiscal year.

- First, we pray and trust. We were facing huge financial challenges in the summer of 2007. We prayed and we trusted, and God graciously blessed us. We can and should do nothing different as we face this new challenge.
- In the remaining six months of the current budget, every area of ministry will be asked to economize and reduce expenditures. This directive will ask that all activities be reviewed, including existing ministry programs and travel

and meetings, and that only absolutely necessary activities be carried out.

- With only a few vital exceptions, current vacancies in called and hired positions will not be filled and no new positions will be added.
- Looking ahead to the next biennium: Areas of ministry have already submitted budget estimates for their programs, but the areas of ministry will be asked to revisit those decisions and to consider how they might significantly alter ministry programs and reduce planned expenditures. As they consider reducing or eliminating programs and positions, they will be asked to keep in mind the priorities established by the last convention and reduce or defer spending in those areas of lower priority. The areas of ministry will also be asked to consider a greater use of the special funds that they have on hand to maintain or transition ministry programs.
- The results of the Year of Jubilee offering will have a large impact on the challenge before us and could prove very helpful in meeting it. If the Year of Jubilee succeeds in eliminating our synod's \$22.4 million capital debt, the \$2.7 million now used for debt service will nearly offset the loss of the major gift. All congregations are encouraged to redouble their efforts in highlighting the importance of the Jubilee offering.
- The impact of this current challenge will also be affected by the Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) committed for next year. Most congregations will be determining those commitments in November, December, or January. We realize that congregations will also face challenges because of the current economy, but a significant increase in CMO will be vital in enabling us to avoid severe reductions in our synodical mission and ministry efforts.
- Our financial staff is compiling a growing list of measures that can be considered as ways to reduce expenditures or as ways of utilizing other resources available to us. That list, along with additional alternatives, will be presented to the Synodical Council for discussion at its meeting on Nov. 14-15. A final budget will not be adopted until February, after we learn the

results of the Year of Jubilee Offering and the Congregation Mission Offering commitments for the coming calendar year.

In his love and wisdom, God has seen fit to place another serious challenge before us. But, as he has so clearly demonstrated in the past, he promises to bless us even in circumstances that seem difficult and troublesome. It is not a time for panic or frustration. Rather, we look to God in confident faith. We return to the foot of the cross to see his faithful love demonstrated. And we commit ourselves to work together, united in our mission, to continue to carry out the work that God has given us.

Serving n Christ,
Mark Schroeder

Note: Look for further updates of the financial situation in next Monday's edition of "Together" following the Synodical Council meeting.

November 17, 2008

SC, COP ADDRESS CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

From the office of President Mark Schroeder

Two important meetings took place last week as WELS leadership groups discussed the mission and ministry of our synod.

On Thursday, the Conference of Presidents (COP) and the Synodical Council (SC) met in a rare joint session. The joint meeting was intended to provide a forum in which these two leadership groups could discuss their respective responsibilities and to improve communication and mutual support.

The two major issues on the agenda were the Ad Hoc Commission's recommendations, which will be submitted to the 2009 synod convention in July, and the planning for the synod's program of ministry in light of the recent global economic downturn and its impact on financial support of WELS' operating budget. (For details, please see the special Nov. 10 edition of "Together.")

Ad Hoc Commission Chairman Joel Voss provided an overview of the commission's recommendations, along with the rationale for various recommendations. The joint discussion provided the members of the SC and the COP with valuable insight into the views of the respective groups.

The Synodical Council has the responsibility of formulating and proposing the synod's budget to the convention; the Conference of Presidents has the responsibility of encouraging congregations and individuals to support the budget with their offerings. These two different functions are closely related and interdependent. The joint discussion presented an opportunity for both groups to work together in the budget process as it moves forward in the coming months.

The joint meeting was seen as valuable by both groups; it's likely that similar joint meetings will take place on an annual basis.

On Friday and Saturday, the Synodical Council held its regularly scheduled meeting. Following are some of the most noteworthy actions:

- The SC accepted a recommendation from the Compensation Committee that the synod salary schedule for called workers provide for an increase of one percent to the base salary in each of the next two years, plus it bumped up the cap on salary increases from 30 to 31 years of service. When experience increments are included, the overall average salary increase for workers with less than 31 years of experience will be approximately 2.25 percent, roughly equivalent to the rate of inflation. (The original planning had provided an average increase of 3.5 percent—because of economic conditions, the actual increase was less than planned.)
- The SC received a report from Chief Financial Officer Todd Poppe that the operating surplus in 2007-08 would be utilized to achieve a balanced budget for the current year. Cost-cutting efforts by all areas of ministry will also help to ensure that the 2008-09 budget remains balanced.
- All areas of ministry have submitted initial ministry plans and budget requests to the SC as the budgeting process begins. In view of the recent financial news, the SC has asked all areas of ministry to revisit their plans and to identify strategies for reducing their funding requests.
- The SC provided responses to all areas of the Ad Hoc Commission report and recommendations. Reaction to most recommendations was favorable; in a few

instances, the SC has forwarded questions or suggestions to the Ad Hoc Commission as the final report is being prepared.

The Synodical Council has begun to address the challenges created by the recent financial news. Many options are being considered and some steps have been taken already. The SC is committed to doing all it can to enable the synod to carry out its mission and ministry priorities in keeping with convention resolutions and the financial resources that God provides. The SC realizes that many decisions will hinge on things that we do not know at this time. For example, the results of the Year of Jubilee effort and the Congregation Mission Offering commitments will not be fully known until sometime in January. Until those details are clear, the SC will continue to explore all options and consider a variety of strategies to address the challenges before us. Please keep both the SC and the COP in your prayers as our leadership groups wrestle with some difficult decisions. Above all, join them in continuing to trust in the promises of our gracious God as he prepares to bless us in ways that we do not yet know.

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder

Also in this Issue...

WELS members safe in midst of wildfires

Although wildfires continue to rage in Southern California, WELS members in Yorba Linda are safe after fires passed through the surrounding area this past weekend.

New BME administrator called

WELS Board for Ministerial Education (BME) met today and called Rev. David Wenzel, professor at Fox Valley Lutheran High School, Appleton, Wis., to be the new BME administrator.

Forum to share ministry blessings

To help WELS congregations reach more people with the gospel, the Board for Parish Services is hosting a national leadership forum. Leaders from 30 congregations across the country that have been blessed with significant growth in worship attendance over the past ten years are meeting in Milwaukee, Wis., Nov. 16-18 to discuss ministry trends, identify opportunities and challenges, and share ideas.

For more on these stories go to www.wels.net