

The Star of Hope

AUGUST 2009

CAN WE FIND HAPPINESS?

FROM THE PASTOR

*“Happy the people the Lord has chosen to be his own”
(Psalm refrain from Christian Worship:
A Lutheran Hymnal, page 80)*

We need to begin by asking, “What do we mean by happiness?” For a child, happiness might mean getting Christmas presents every morning and cake and ice cream for every meal. After a few days, though, it would stop being fun. Many adults think that money will make them happy. But we have seen many rich people who are unhappy and even depressed. Others might think that drugs and alcohol make them happy. But the “high” soon wears off. Finding happiness in the things and people of this world is an exercise in frustration.

The Bible uses the word “blessed” to describe happiness. The blessings of God give us true happiness. The most important of God’s blessings is Jesus, whom he sent into this world. Jesus took the blame for everything we ever did wrong. That’s why he died on the cross – not because he did anything wrong, but because we did. Jesus has paid for our sins, and that means we are saved from God’s judgment of eternal death by believing in him. That makes us happy. Jesus blesses us with salvation.

No matter how long we live, we are all destined to die. But when Jesus rose from the dead on Easter morning, he broke the hold of death. Even though we will one day die, by trusting in Jesus we have the sure hope that we will also come back to life and live forever in heaven. That makes us happy. Jesus blesses us with eternal life.

God even uses the tough times in life for our good – to teach us more about his love and strengthen our trust in him. No matter how tough life is for us, no matter how much pain we endure, no matter how poor we are, no one and nothing can take away what Jesus did for us. Our sins are forgiven by God, and through faith

in Jesus eternal life in heaven is waiting for us. That makes us happy. Sometimes we smile through tears, but we can still smile.

Can God help us find happiness? He has already given it to us through Jesus.

-- Pastor Kehren

B-B-Q / ICE CREAM SOCIAL

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR SUNDAY, AUGUST 30, 2009.

(Due to a conflict, the date had to be changed.)

Everyone is invited to attend this fun filled event. Please sign up to bring a salad. Hamburgers, Hot Dogs and Ice Cream will be provided.

This is a fund raiser event for the purchase of computers for the school. Donations up to \$510.00 will be matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Check the weekly bulletin for more details.

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.

August: Rice, Beans, Macaroni & Cheese

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CHURCH COUNCIL

Hope Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Sunday - 7-12-09

In the absence of the President of the Congregation - Secretary Bill Burgess - presiding - called the meeting to order at 12:15 P.M. Pastor Kehren opened the meeting with prayer and a brief bible study on "Character of Christian Leaders".

Nine (9) congregational members present as follows:

Pastor	Pastor Kehren
Principal	Mr. Paul Leifer
Secretary	Bill Burgess
Treasurer	Del Schnuelle
Vision Coordinator	Judith Bushman
Elder Ministry Leader	Ron Weinreich
Family Nurture Ministry Leader	Mike Thurein
School Ministry Leader	Jimmy Boyce
Support Ministry Leader	Dr. Ross Heyn

Minutes of Sunday - 6-14-09 - Voters Meeting read and approved as written.

Today's agenda approved with the addition of three items under new business.

REPORTS:

Vision Coordinator -Judith Bushman reports that a written report was filed with Pastor Stroh back in May as per his request on our vision implementation progress. Each ministry leader was interviewed individually prior to submitting this report. Pastor Stroh was pleased and satisfied with our progress so far. Ministry Leaders are focusing on their level of priorities. Overall consensus at this time is that the building teams and promoting of teamwork is the weakest area of leadership. The Ministry Leaders are committed to meeting with their coordinators regularly to work and iron out any difficulties that may arise. It is generally agreed that the council meetings are effective and efficient, greatly improved over our previous monthly voters meetings. There are some areas that need some improving so work can be accomplished before the meetings and we do not have to spend time rehashing things. Generally the right people are making decisions - especially coordinators under the ministry level in their area of expertise with ministry leader's approval. At this

CHURCH SIGNS – ENGLAND

Down in the mouth?
Come in for a faith lift.

time, communication among leaders and between leaders and others is adequate.

In the planning area - ministry leaders feel that they are focused and committed to our vision - if anything, one leader felt that progress was moving slower than desired. Different types of consistency in developing action plans may vary some from each ministry level, but in general they are all very similar and working as planned and desired. As to our structure area - we are almost into seven months and we still have no permanent ministry leaders for Outreach Ministry and Worship Ministry. Most of the coordinator positions under these ministry levels have been filled, but they desperately need a ministry leader. Leaders are providing verbal feedback and expressing appreciation for all the assistance and help given them - especially the monthly prayer request for our visions for the future here at Hope Lutheran Church and School.

Pastor -Pastor Kehren reported to the council on various items of note and concern. July is the final month for "Year of Jubilee" offerings for SYNOD debt reductions; however, offerings are welcomed and encouraged at any time. Time and talent forms keep coming in and Mike Rausch - Member Ministry Director - has received forty plus so far. Please turn them in if you are still holding. This info will be compiled and copies will be available to all of the leaders of the church. We had sixty six (66) students in VBS this year. There are several prospects for students in our school and this info is being evaluated and assembled and the various ministry areas concerned will be following up. Again, this year the Heyn's have graciously offered their cabin at Donnor Lake for the Men's Retreat on the 28th & 29th of August. We will need some volunteers to help organize this upcoming event.

School of Outreach - Hope Lutheran is hosting a School of Outreach seminar on September 18-20. This weekend seminar is intended to provide new directions and motivation for congregations to equip and enable them to reach out with the gospel with many strategies. Several WELS congregations will be participating and we will need volunteers to help make this effort a success.

Principal - Mr. Leifer reports that they are processing the information obtained from VBS as noted above and will be following up. Some of our mailings in the future may be the individual post card type.

Elder Ministry - Ron Weinreich reporting - no meeting - no report.

Family Nurture Ministry - Mike Thurein reporting - the "Pioneers" will be starting up again with their next meeting scheduled for 9-12-09 at 14:30 hours. They have several prospective new members from the info from VBS.

Adult Nurture Ministry -Pastor Bartelt - no report.

Tom Bolla - Called Worker Care Coordinator submitted a written report for the council. All of the called workers here at Hope Lutheran Church and School have been contacted and all are content with their current calls - satisfied with the compensation, housing and vacation provided for them - and enjoy the spiritual and fellowship blessings of our congregation. The called workers did have some questions and concerns - copies of these concerns were given to the membership of the council to read and study and action or recommendations required will be forthcoming in the very near future.

Outreach Ministry - No report.

School Ministry - Jimmy Boyce reporting. Another Parents Nite Out has been scheduled for Friday -17th of July - 5:30 P.M. until 9:00 P.M. Hopefully we can continue this event each month on a regular basis. The school is presently looking into acquiring the services of a consulting firm from WELS Parish Schools to help in the revitalization of our school in the future. Other items of note -the formation of a Pre-K Task Force or committee and a Building Feasibility Committee. This is something that will be discussed and forthcoming in the near future and recommendations made to the President of the Congregation for his designation and forming of any task force or committee members required with the approval of the church council.

Support Ministry -Dr. Ross Heyn reporting. Dr. Heyn reports that a new church tape recorder has been ordered to replace the old one. The first stage of the parking lot repaving has been completed and the second phase (seal coat - striping & handicap signs to be installed) will be done on Thursday - 7-23-09.

Anyone needing to gain access to the church compound is requested to park on Hope Way on that day. All costs for this project have been covered. Repairs to be made on the riding mower and it will be

back in service shortly. A new riding mower list will be forthcoming with additional personnel added to same. Work continues on the Called Workers residence patio area and should be complete within the month.

The church compound lawn irrigation system has had many problems in the past (let's face it folks - it's old). A very special thank you to Nancy Leman and Linda Truempler for checking all of this out and installing new valves - sections of the lines and pop-ups and insulated covers. Nancy - Linda and others will also check out the entire drip system and make repairs as required and necessary.

Financial Secretary - Dan Behnke - reports that the offering envelopes for calendar year 2010 have been ordered at a \$100.00 cost less than in previous years. All offerings are now being transferred to computer spreadsheets for this year.

Future plans and/or projects - Replacement of the planter boxes in the patio area - stone block being considered. Redoing border areas around school playground area. All outdoor lighting - replace with energy efficiency lighting (hopefully this early Fall). The heating and air systems were evaluated and free maintenance will be done.

Worship Ministry - No report.

Treasurer - Del Schnuelle reporting. The checking account balance ended at \$70,120.07 an increase of \$14,880.68 from the previous month. Mortgage balance - \$118,456.14. Total income exceeds total expense by \$7,902.05. Church income exceeds the prior year by \$8,947.97 and school income exceeds prior year by \$19,794.69. The General Fund presently reflects a deficit balance of \$2,473.03 as compared to a deficit balance at the beginning of the fiscal year of \$10,394.31. There are copies of the complete breakdown of the Treasurer's report located in the Fellowship Hall.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES:

Motion - seconded - approved
Accept into membership - Milda Gibbons - transfer from St. Pauls First Lutheran - N. Hollywood

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

A. Candidates for Outreach & Worship Ministry Leaders. Gentlemen - please prayerfully consider volunteering and accepting one of these positions.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Elimination of Kindergarten tuition for school year 2009-2010. Motion - seconded - approved.

B. WELS Consulting services for the school. Discussed - no decision - deferred for later date discussion.

C. Forming of Pre-K Task Force & Building Feasibility Committee. Discussed - no decision - school ministry to present names for various committees to President of congregation to appoint same as per his prerogative with advise and consent of council.

D. Individual Tuition Adjustment - discussed - no decision.

E. With adult supervision - allow minors to mow with riding mower. Motion - second - approved.

F. Financial Audit of Treasurer's books. Acting President Burgess appointed a committee to do same at the earliest convenience and report to council upon completion. Members - Phil Heideman - Judith Bushman - Del Schnuelle.

NEXT MEETING:

A. Church Council - Sunday - 8-9-09 - 12:15 P.M.
B. Open Forum - To be set by President at earliest

There being no further business to come before the council the meeting was adjourned with prayer by Pastor at 2:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted in Christ,
Bill Burgess
Secretary

**THE MESSAGE AND MISSION
OF THE CHURCH**

Part 1 – (Part 2 will be printed in September)
The church is to proclaim the message of forgiveness in Christ, which produces reconciliation with God. This is called EVANGELISM. Evangelism happens publicly and personally when people encounter the love and truth of Jesus.

When a person responds to the call of Christ, both Scripture and Christian experience indicate that new birth takes place. "IF ANYONE IS IN CHRIST, THE

NEW CREATION HAS COME: THE OLD HAS GONE, THE NEW IS HERE!". (2 Cor..5:17). The word CONVERSION denotes the reality of sins forgiven and reconciliation with God in the life of the new Christian. The death of Jesus on the cross ended our enmity with God, restoring the possibility of a right relationship with him. "HE RESCUED US FROM THE DOMINION OF DARKNESS AND BROUGHT US INTO THE KINGDOM OF THE SON HE LOVES, IN WHOM WE HAVE REDEMPTION, THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS" (Col..1:13-14). Forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God can only take place at the invitation of God himself. The saving response is to say YES to God through faith in Christ. A primary task of the church is to proclaim this good news.

God has historically used both public proclamation and intimate conversation to communicate the message of Jesus to people. "How, then can they call on the one they have not believed in? And, how can they believe in the one whom they have not heard? And, how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And, how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING THE GOOD NEWS!" - (Romans - 10:14-15). Each church must discover the best way to bring this good news to their community and culture.

RESURRECTION: Hearts of stone becoming hearts of flesh.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION:

CROSS: Forgiveness of sins and reconciliation with God

GRAVE: Breaking the bondage of sin and Satan

EVANGELISM MINISTRY

PENTECOST: The new community of God's people living out the gospel

ASCENSION: "JESUS AS LORD" - showing compassion, mercy and justice to people

TRUE COMMUNITY: LOVE

CHURCH SIGNS – ENGLAND

As you pass this little church, be sure to plan a visit,
so when at last you're carried in,
God won't ask "Who is it?"

VISION DOCUMENT PRAYER REQUESTS AUGUST

We are now proceeding with the implementation phase of Parish Assistance. Please join in praying for the leaders and congregation as God leads us in accomplishing the works of service before us.

Pray that...

Col 3:23 Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men.

- God will lead and bless us in carrying out the tasks in the Vision Document
- God will direct two people to fill the need for a Worship Ministry Leader and Outreach Ministry Leader
- Coordinators without Leaders are not discouraged
- members and support the Bar-B-Q / Ice Cream Social on August 30th benefiting the school computer fund
- procedure completed to turn new members from care of the Outreach Ministry to Member Care Committee
- families and members help with preparations for school opening
- more members complete Spiritual Gift Discovery and the Time and Talent Survey (only 40 completed)
- organizing member gifts to Ministry areas goes smoothly
- planning and helpers prepared for starting Pioneers on Sept 12
- planning and helpers for the School of Outreach Seminar Sept 18-20

Give Glory and thanks to God...

John 17:4 I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.

- for the 6 adults and 3 children new members
- for the 66 VBS students, many were non-members
- for VBS families inquiring about our school
- for potential new Pioneer members from VBS
- ability to offer no tuition for this year's Kindergarten class

HOPE SCHOOL NEWS

Free Kindergarten Tuition for 2009-2010

Hope Lutheran School will offer free Kindergarten tuition for the upcoming 2009-2010 school year. We know these are difficult economic times for many families; we want to help those parents keep their children connected with their Savior. Hope is also making an investment in our school in order to form a larger Kindergarten class so that our school can grow in future years.

Kindergarten hours are Mon-Fri from 8:15 AM-12:00PM. Optional extended care is available until 5:30 PM for a fee. If you know the parents of any Kindergarteners, share this wonderful opportunity. Principal Leifer has more information: 916-652-0459 or principalleifer@sbcglobal.net. Keep our school—and our school staff and children—in your prayers as we train young minds for life and prepare young hearts for eternity.

Registration Night/School Cleaning Day

The school year is right around the corner, but we've got a few important jobs before the year begins. For all school parents, **Registration Night** will be held on **August 17 at 7:00 PM**. For all members of the congregation, **School Cleaning Day** will be held on **August 23 at 12:00 PM**. Please mark this date on your calendars and help beautify our grounds before the new school year. Thank you for your continued support of our ministry!

School Service Opportunities

In an effort to keep in better contact with some of our prospects as well as provide a service to the families of the community, we would like to host our Parents Night Out on a monthly basis, the third Friday each month from 5:30-9:00. In order for this to be possible we need a larger pool of volunteers. Each parents night out is a fun night with Bible lesson, crafts, dinner, games, and a movie for kids up through age 12.

We also want to make our school accessible for students with working parents by offering before, kindergarten extended, and after school care. We currently have a need for a kindergarten extended care supervisor M-F from 1:00-3:30 and an after school care supervisor on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30-5:30. These are paid positions and may not be needed for the full duration each school day. If you can help our school out with any of the above service opportunities, please email principalleifer@sbcglobal.net or call the school office 916-652-0459.

Wish List

Projector Mounts for Ceiling
Document Cameras
SMART Board Interactive Whiteboard w/ cart
Newer Computers for Classrooms
New Desks

YOUNG AT HEART

The August meeting of the Young at Heart on August 18th will feature a Bar-B-Que. Please bring a salad or dessert to share and a freewill offering to cover the cost of the hamburgers. Hosts Jan Doyon, Judy Weinreich and Marilyn Thomas are sure to make this a memorable event.

Future events – please watch the Star and bulletin for more information:

The Young at Heart group plans to attend the festivities at Apple Hill again this year.

We are also considering attending the King Tut exhibition in San Francisco with the upper grades class. (grades 5-8) Anyone wishing to be included, please see Bill Burgess or Jerry Petrie. A date has not yet been selected.

CHURCH SIGNS – ENGLAND

Let us help you study for your final exams.

CARING AND SHARING

Doris Blank, a former member of Hope, is recovering from knee replacement surgery. She and her husband, Bud, reside in Boise, Idaho near their two daughters Debbie and Susie.

Please keep her in your prayers for a full and successful recovery. In case you would like to communicate with them, their address is:

BUD & DORIS BLANK
2684 ARGENTINA LANE
BOISE ID
83704



Born on Wednesday - July 15th at 1:56 P.M. Central Standard Time to Rachel (Stegner) and Nathaniel Timmermann - Clara Lorraine Timmermann - 7 pounds 15 ounces. Mom & baby daughter are both doing very well. She was baptized by her Dad - Vicar Nathaniel Timmermann - Sunday - July 19th at 9:30 A.M (CST) at Messiah Lutheran Church - Green Bay, Wisconsin and brought into God's family. (www.messiah-wels.org)

Vicar Timmermann is preaching Sunday - July 26th at Messiah Lutheran Church in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Vicar Nathaniel and Rachel Timmermann and daughter will be leaving the Green Bay area on Tuesday - August 4th for Nathaniel to finish his last year at Seminary.

(Proud Uncles, Ron Siffring and Bill Burgess, have pictures!)

Rachel and Nathaniel's addresses are as follows:

Before August 1st:

Rachel & Nathaniel Timmermann
562 Huron Rd. Apt. 21
Green Bay, WI 54311

After August 1st:

Rachel & Nathaniel Timmermann
Luther Haven
8949 N. 97th St
Milwaukee WI 53224

NEW MEMBER

Kathy Oswald
13865 Meadow View Drive
Grass Valley, CA 95945
(650)-862-1421
E-mail: kathy.oswald@att.net

NEW ADDRESS

Milda Gibbons
Montclair Villa
5602 Montclair Circle
Rocklin, CA 95677
Phone: 916-415-1274

SHUT INS

Please remember our shut-in members with your prayers, cards, visits and calls.

Kay Buchan	916-435-8449
Milda Gibbons	916-415-1274
Donna Gillam	916-782-6116
Reggie Hartmann	916-791-5458
Karen Kelly	916-344-8066
Lorraine McLaughlin	916-789-9363
Fred Meinert	916-725- 8721
Bonnie Pauley	916-344-8066
Ruth Snyder	916-485-3342
Chris Urman	916-783-1086

IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please remember to keep our shut-in members in your prayers, also.

Paula Boyce – Knee replacement Surgery Recovery
Sylvia Irwin – Relief from Pain (shingles)
Jean Petrie – Back Surgery Recovery

CHURCH SIGNS – ENGLAND

Happy Easter to our Christian friends
Happy Passover to our Jewish friends
To our atheist friends...Good Luck

REMEMBER THESE

As our nation faces many uncertainties on the international scene, include these special ones and their families in your daily prayers.

Pray for all our young men and women serving our country and going into danger that we might preserve our Freedom. And pray for wisdom for our leaders.

Daniel Duff USMC - Quantico, Virginia

Grandson of Glaphry Duff

Scott Duff USMC – Iraq

Grandson of Glaphry Duff

Seth Dux USMC – Camp Pendleton, CA

Grandson of Glaphry Duff

Jessica Granlund US Navy – Bremerton, WA

Daughter of Charlene Granlund

Chris & Laurie Holdsworth USAF – Eielson Air

Force Base, AK Son-in-law & Daughter of Pat Belcher

Robert Sherman USAF – Florida

Nephew of Gary Smith

Eric Stegner US Army – Okinawa – Member

Son of John & DeAnne Stegner

Michelle Walker US Army – Iraq

Granddaughter of Glaphry Duff

Remember those away at school also:

Benjamin Duff – UCSD – LaJolla, CA

Grandson of Glaphry Duff

Hanna Duff – UCSC – Santa Cruz

Granddaughter of Glaphry Duff

Christina Henderson – Oregon State University –

Corvallis, OR Granddaughter of Pat Belcher

Nick Henderson – Concordia University – Portland,

OR Grandson of Pat Belcher

Andrea Varnum – MLC – New Ulm

Granddaughter of Glaphry Duff

THANK YOU, THANK YOU

I would like to thank everyone who prayed and sent cards during my sister, Sandy Asher's, illness and recent death. Your caring was a comfort to both of us.

In Christ,
Judy Weinreich

REMEMBRANCES OF HOPE

Birthdays:

Kathy Bustabade	8-2
Sue Roberti	8-2
Bill LaPlante	8-3
Elijah Leifer	8-4-2006
Judy Cortiana	8-10
Dan Behnke	8-11
Ted Heyn	8-12
Hilmer (Tiny) Krause	8-13
Bill Burgess	8-16
Don Tews	8-17
Kathy Copley	8-18
Tom Bolla	8-20
Lillie Sexton	8-25
Ben Bodding	8-26
JoAnn Daley	8-26
David Green	8-28

Anniversaries:

Vicki & Jim Johnson	8-2-86
Mike & Gloria Thurein	8-8-87
Ross & Carol Heyn	8-10-91
Jarrold & Rebecca Faljean	8-11-90
Lisa & Ryan Howard	8-11-01
Rueben & Sherrill Linker	8-20-83
Tim & Marion Weisker	8-21-98
Tom & Janet Bolla	8-23-86
Jerry & Jean Petrie	8-27-54

L W M S

More than 1,000 people attended the 46th annual convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society in Denver, Colo., from June 25-28. Attendees heard missionaries describe the outreach that WELS is supporting both here in North America and around the world.

A highlight of the convention was the choir concert performed by members of Peace in Jesus, Boise, Idaho, which is a mission to the Vietnamese community in Boise. Peace in Jesus was this year's Lutheran Women's Missionary Society (LWMS) kids c.a.r.e. project. Lutheran elementary school students, Sunday school students, congregations, and individuals from across the synod joined together to donate more than \$36,800 to support Vietnamese outreach in Boise.

This convention also marked the end of Lynnette Hupman's term as LWMS president. During her two-year term, Hupman has been impressed by WELS mission workers and those who support them. "They just inspired me to want to do more to keep our congregations' focus on the commission our Lord gave us," she says.

New president Paula Danekas shares Hupman's commitment to missions: "I look forward to encouraging women to use their time and talents to accomplish the mission of the synod—to reach everyone with the saving message of salvation."

The LWMS, which began meeting in 1958, continues to be a strong supporter of WELS missions. Women in 916 WELS congregations join together to combine their mission offerings, time, and talents to serve WELS missions. This year the LWMS distributed more than \$342,000 to WELS missions.

The attendees enjoyed mission presentations from:

- Pastor Jim Fleming ~ Farmington, New Mexico
- Pastor Dan Kramer, Peace in Jesus, Boise, Idaho
- Pastor Harold Hagedorn and Pastor Dan Koelpin, Mission Updates, WELS Boards for Home and World Missions
- Pastor John Lawrenz, Asia Lutheran Seminary, Hong Kong
- Pastor Paul Bienenbender, Denver, Colorado

The newly elected members of the LWMS Board of Directors are as follows:

President-elect – Jackie Heib, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Strongsville, Ohio

Treasurer – Rosalie Pederson, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Willmar, MN

Spiritual Growth – Mission Awareness Coordinator – Alaine Sonnenberg, St. John Lutheran Church, Colfax, WI

Pastoral Advisor – Rev. Jeffrey Mahnke, St. Peter Lutheran Church, Schofield, WI

Mission Offering Projects Selected:

- Home Mission Project #HM-2008-11: - Summer Student Assistants - \$37,119.87
- World Mission Project #WM-2008-19: - Partners in Apache Learning - \$37,119.88

At the business meeting, two minor wording changes in the by-laws were approved, also increasing annual congregational membership dues to \$75 was approved.

TOGETHER



News from the WELS

July 2009
Website: www.wels.net

July 6, 2009

ENCOURAGEMENT OFFERED FOR CMO From the office of President Mark Schroeder

With the synod convention just three weeks away, we want to encourage congregations as they struggle to fulfill their commitments to support our collective ministry through their Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO). The Synodical Council has crafted its proposed budget options based in a large part on those commitments. If actual offerings from congregations fall short, the synod's budget will need to be reduced even further than the painful reductions already outlined in the proposed budget options. We pray that congregations and their leaders will keep this situation before their members so that additional reductions will not need to be made later in the year.

Amid the disheartening word of ministry cutbacks, there is some encouraging news—CMO has shown improvement. At the end of May, CMO since January were 7.5 percent (\$580,000) less than in the same period a year earlier, but by the end of June, CMO improved so that now offerings for the year are only 3.6 percent (\$337,000) lower than the previous year. While we realize the recent improvement does not represent a trend, we can be very thankful that God has enabled congregations to achieve this in these difficult economic times.

The Schwan Foundation has indicated that it may need to reduce its financial support for the synod even beyond the reductions previously announced. However, under the SC's budget proposal, the Schwan gift is not to be placed in the 2009-10 operating budget, but rather in a new Financial Stability Fund. That means the additional reductions will not have an impact until the second year of the biennium, which begins in July of 2010. This delayed impact will provide valuable time—either for careful planning to address the shortfall or for the economic situation to improve and make additional reductions unnecessary.

Graduates assigned

Of the 12 graduates from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary who did not receive an assignment in May, we can report that seven have now been assigned to congregations, either in permanent or one-year calls. Twenty-two graduates of Martin Luther College were not assigned; 18 of those are still waiting for assignment.

We pray that all of these willing and trained workers will be able to be assigned in the coming months.

Status of workers whose positions were eliminated

As of the end of June, there are 11 pastor-trained and nine teacher-trained synodical workers whose positions were eliminated. Of those, three are currently holding calls. Please keep these faithful workers and their families in your prayers, asking God to care for them in this difficult time and, in his wisdom and time, to call them to new fields of service.

While it's encouraging that the number of workers without calls is lower than what was expected (due to the acceptance of other calls or alternate plans in mission fields), the total is likely to increase once the synod convention adopts a final budget.

WELS convention Web site

The synod convention will be held in Saginaw, Michigan, later this month. You are invited to visit the convention Web site to learn more about the people who will serve as delegates and the issues that they will be discussing. You can access the site at www.wels.net/convention.
Serving in Christ,

Mark Schroeder

July 10, 2009

SC FINANCIAL UPDATE

A special message from President Mark Schroeder

The Synodical Council (SC) has decided not to make any changes to its budget proposal submitted for the synod convention's consideration at the end of the month. The decision follows teleconferences held by the SC's Finance Committee on July 2 and by the full council on Thursday night to discuss concerns that a

shortfall in Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO) and a further reduction in the grant from the Schwan Foundation could require deeper cuts in ministry than those already required by the proposed budget.

In early June, the SC learned of two developments that appeared to be cause for genuine concern about the support forecast for 2009-11, on which the proposed budget is built. Through May, CMO were 7.5 percent less than they had been a year earlier and significantly below what congregations had committed. CMO for May had shown a marked improvement from the month earlier, but they were still falling short of subscriptions and what is planned for in the first six months of the next biennium. In addition to the CMO performance, the Schwan Foundation informed us that the 2010 grant would be about \$800,000 less than what was previously expected.

By the time that the Finance Committee met on July 2, we received the good news that CMO had again improved in June. As of the end of June, they were only trailing those of the previous year by 3.6 percent. The committee also learned that this improved CMO performance, along with the balancing strategies adopted earlier by the SC, should enable us to end 2008-09 with a balanced budget.

The Finance Committee addressed two main questions: Can we assume that, by the end of the year, congregations will submit CMO at levels that are at or near what was committed? How does the decrease in Schwan support affect the budget that has been proposed for the next two years?

The Finance Committee agreed that we should have confidence that congregations will be able to meet their CMO commitments by the end of the year, in spite of the difficult economic times. If congregations do that, it means that no additional reductions would be required in the first year of the recommended budget. In regard to the reduced Schwan grant, the Finance Committee recognized that the new Financial Stabilization Fund (FSF) will delay any impact of this reduction to the second year of the biennium. The design of the FSF will provide time—either for carefully planned additional reductions, or for this shortfall to be covered by gifts from other sources (bequests, gifts from individuals, or increased CMO).

The full SC received the report of the Finance Committee and arrived at the following decisions:

1. The SC will not make any changes to the proposed budget already submitted for the convention's consideration.
2. The convention will be informed of the clear need for 2009 CMO performance to be at or very near to what was committed, otherwise additional reductions will need to be made by the SC in early fall. Reductions would be made in consultation with all areas of ministry.
3. The convention will be informed that the reduction in the Schwan gift has the potential to require additional reductions in the second year of the biennium, but that this shortfall could possibly be covered by increased support from other sources.

It should be noted that the Conference of Presidents has been informed of these developments and has expressed its support for the decision to expect congregations to meet—or come close to meeting—their CMO commitments.

Much of our attention and discussion in recent months has been focused on financial matters. We dare not allow these financial challenges—and the planning they require—to distract us from keeping our eyes of faith focused on our Savior and on the mission he has given us to do. May God move us to plan wisely, to consider the costs, and then to move forward in faith and trust. I ask that you join the SC in praying for God's blessing on our efforts, and that you continue to keep your congregation informed about these important matters in the weeks ahead.

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder

July 20, 2009

COUNTING OUR BLESSINGS AT CONVENTION TIME

From the office of President Mark Schroeder

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America is preparing for its church-wide assembly (similar to our synod convention) in August. Compare the business to be considered by the ELCA assembly with the matters that WELS will address. You will see immediately the stark differences in doctrine and

priorities between these two church bodies that share the name Lutheran—but little else.

The assembly will be asked to consider a recommendation that the ELCA should advocate for a change in U.S. immigration policies and should call for a suspension of immigration raids until the reforms are in place. The assembly will adopt resolutions dealing with the Israel-Palestine issue and calling for implementation of an effort called, "Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land." A "Report and Recommendation on Ministry Policies" will ask the assembly to consider a process to change ministry policies to make it possible for Lutherans who are in "publicly accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gendered relationships" to serve as ELCA associates in ministry, deaconesses, diaconal ministers, and ordained ministers. It will discuss the renewal of the ELCA's commitment to confront racism and to review factors that limit people of color from "the fullness of leadership in this church." Other topics on the agenda include environmental issues and disaster relief.

As I look at the list, I see topics dealing with social issues, political conflicts, and cultural developments. But I see little on the agenda that reflects the work of a church that calls itself Lutheran.

Contrast those agenda topics with what your representatives will be doing in Saginaw, Mich., next week. Certainly we will address practical matters such as finance and budgets. But all of those discussions will revolve around how we can best use God's resources to carry out our mission of preserving and proclaiming God's truth. We will hear reports of the gospel ministry that has been carried out during the past two years and approve the plans that have been made, under God, to continue that work. We will be talking about the need for well-trained pastors and teachers and the importance of recruitment. We will be talking about ways to improve the spiritual life and health of our congregations and the importance of Christian education for all ages. We will be striving to maintain an aggressive program of missions and outreach in the face of financial challenges. We will do all of this, focusing not on temporal but on spiritual and eternal issues.

Our synod is not perfect. But it is a synod that God has blessed richly. By his grace it remains a synod that is committed to the truth of God's Word in all we believe and do. I encourage all members of our

synod to remember our upcoming convention in their prayers. Thank God for those blessings. Ask him to guide us and to keep us focused on the work he has given us to do. And pray for a renewed sense of joy and commitment as we carry out our mission.

Serving in Christ,
Mark Schroeder

Also in this Issue...

Synod convention begins on July 27

Final plans are in place for WELS' 60th Biennial Convention, which will be held at Michigan Lutheran Seminary (MLS) in Saginaw, Mich., from July 27-31, under the theme "Christ's Love, Our Calling."

Rev. John H. Boggs, dean of students at MLS and the school's convention coordinator, says: "We are excited to welcome the almost 400 delegates from around the world who will be spending a week in the place we call 'home.' Despite the challenges before our school and synod, it is indeed a blessing to be able to come together in worship, work, and fellowship with one another."

Delegates have many important decisions that they will wrestle with during the five-day convention, including adopting a balanced synod budget for 2009-11. About \$8 million needs to be cut from the current budget due in large part to decreased giving from foundations, individuals, and congregations in the midst of the current financial climate.

Delegates will also weigh in on the recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Commission, established by the 2007 synod convention to address current challenges and to offer suggestions for improving the way that WELS carries out its mission.

WELS members can watch the convention live online at www.wels.net/convention. Each night a special convention issue of "Together" will be sent to all subscribers, which will summarize the convention's actions that day. This special issue of "Together" will include a video wrap-up of the day's events, along with articles and photos. A complete summary of the week, along with explanations of how the delegates' decisions will affect WELS' ministry, will be presented in "Together" the week following convention, in time to be included in worship folders for Aug. 9.

"Our goal is to provide comprehensive, accurate information in a timely manner," says Joel Hochmuth, WELS director of communications. "We realize how vitally important the decisions made at convention are to members across the synod."

Year of Jubilee ends with convention

The Year of Jubilee offering, authorized by the 2007 synod convention to eliminate or reduce the synod's \$22.4 million dollar debt, concludes at next week's synod convention in Saginaw, Mich.

To date, more than \$3.9 million has been gathered from 722 congregations and more than 2,700 individuals. In all, 56 percent of congregations synod-wide have participated.

The Year of Jubilee offering combined with regularly scheduled debt payments have reduced the debt to about \$14.6 million as of the end of June. Under the budget proposal before delegates, the offerings will allow deferral of debt payment and accrual of interest for one year—and allow the debt to be re-amortized over ten years, reducing annual debt payments from \$2.7 million to \$1.6 million.

"May all of us go to God's throne and thank him for using the message of Jubilee—'Now is the day of the Lord's favor'—to compel these congregations and donors to assist with reducing WELS indebtedness," says Rev. Dave Liggett, director of the Ministry of Christian Giving.

While the formal Year of Jubilee offering is coming to an end, donors can continue to designate gifts toward debt elimination.

Mexican church in convention welcomes two new congregations

The Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mexico, one of WELS' sister synods, welcomed two new congregations into membership at its 18th annual convention, held July 16-19 at Cristo Resucitado (Resurrected Christ), Mexico City.

The congregations—El Buen Pastor (Good Shepherd), Altar, Sonora, and Cordero de Dios (Lamb of God), Sásabe, Sonora—both began through Mission to the Children, a WELS-affiliated humanitarian aid group that has been delivering food and basic essentials to villages in Sonora for 20 years and currently is served by a WELS missionary.

"It is great to see the congregations develop," says Missionary Michael Hartman. "This helps to give some permanence to the working going on in Sonora by Mission to the Children. Whenever foreigners come in as missionaries, it is really just a temporary effect that they will have on a community unless they get national leadership involved."

To get that national leadership, the national church body called two home missionaries to the state of Sonora to work with the new congregations as well as other preaching stations. These men—Alejandro Sánchez and Carlos Rosales—will spend the next few years working with the WELS missionary in Sonora.

The 20 delegates passed the church's annual budget and grew in the Word through a variety of presentations.

"It was a very positive convention," says Hartman. "I was particularly pleased to see the Mexican church taking on more and more of the fiscal responsibility for their pastors."

In January, three missionaries and seven national pastors will be serving 670 baptized members in 10 congregations and 20 missions and preaching stations.

Rally teens make a difference

The 2009 WELS International Youth Rally brought together more than 1,000 WELS teens from across the United States and seven foreign countries. The rally, which was held July 8-11 at Iowa State University in Ames, Iowa, included time for worship, education, fellowship, recreation, and service projects.

The community service projects completed by the teens included painting playground equipment, weeding flowerbeds in parks, and spending time with nursing home residents. KCCI, a television station in Des Moines, Iowa, featured a news story about the 500 teens who trimmed lilac bushes at the Ewing Park Lilac Arboretum.

Rev. Richard Warnecke, a coordinator of these service projects for rally attendees, says, "It is good to see Christians serving their Lord in love outside of the church and church grounds. Service projects teach Christianity as a lifestyle. Christianity is serving

God and each other. It is a way of life. The hope is that when the teens return home that they will look for opportunities in their own communities to express their love for God in service."

Dr. Joel Nelson, administrator of WELS Commission on Youth Discipleship, which coordinates WELS' biennial international youth rally, says, "The youth rally is an opportunity to communicate to WELS youth from all over the world that their faith life can be taken to the next level by the power of the Spirit."

ELDER ASSIGNMENTS

The Elder Last Name Assignments are as follows:

- **A – G** Ron Weinreich
- **H – O** Dick Riedel
- **P – Y** Phil Heideman

Please note these are for reference only. We are here to help anyone regardless of our assigned alphabetical letters.

STAR OF HOPE	
Editor:	Judy Cortiana
Publishers:	Jan Doyon Willa Krause Ritva Makikahma Patti Siffring
Banner Page:	Pastor Kehren
Reporters:	All y'all

TAHOE TUNES

Our Tahoe Trip

To the tune of "Home On the Range."
By: Amy

O, give me a lake,
Where we shiver and shake,
Where the parent's faces are burned.
Where we dig big holes,
And no, we're not moles,
And we had a great bunch of fun.
O, we had some laughs,
And we walked on many a path,
Where there was dew,
Were the water was blue,
O Lake Tahoe we love you.

SERVING OUR LORD

ALTAR GUILD

Paula Boyce, Willa Krause & Judy Weinreich

CHURCH CLEANING LIST

8-01 Ed & Peggy Johnson
 8-08 Jimmy & Lisa Boyce
 8-15 Mike & Linda Lane
 8-22 Brett Petrie & Sunae Hough
 8-29 Kalevi & Ritva Makikahma

If you can't clean your week, please trade with someone or call Mike & Laura Murphy at 916-771-9935 to clean for you, they only charge \$30.00. Be sure to give them enough notice.

FLOWER LIST

8-2 Paul & Nancy Leifer
 8-9 Judy Cortiana
 8-16 Betty Newell
 8-23 Tom & Janet Bolla
 8-30 Judy Cortiana

GREETERS

	Early	Late
10-07	Karen Hughes	NEED
10-14	Karen Hughes	NEED
10-21	Karen Hughes	NEED
10-28	Karen Hughes	NEED

LAWN MOWING LIST

	Riding Mower	& Lawn Mower
8-01	None	J & J Behnke
8-08	Paul Leifer	Ross Heyn
8-15	None	Dick Riedel
8-22	Ron Weinreich	Steve Fogarty
8-29	None	Ted Heyn

Any questions about keys or mowers?
 Call Ross Heyn at 663-9694

OFFERING COUNTERS

8-2 Bill Burgess & Ron Siffring
 8-9 Linda Truempier & Marilyn Thomas
 8-16 Pat Belcher & Judy Cortiana
 8-23 Linda Truempier & Marilyn Thomas
 8-30 Ben & Sandee Bodding

ORGANISTS

8-2 Tina Smith
 8-9 Tina Smith
 8-16 Kristine Krug
 8-23 Jane Sullivan
 8-30 Kristine Krug

USHERS

Early Service: Kalevi Makikahma and Gary Smith
 Late Service: Bill Muslin and Dick Riedel

INFORMATION / CONTACT PERSON

Please notify Judy Cortiana if a correction needs to be made or if your area needs to be added.

INFORMATION	CONTACT PERSON / LOCATION
Altar Guild	Paula Boyce paulanorm@gmail.com
Bulletin Information \Inserts	Phil Heideman 916-645-8286 flies@sbcglobal.net
Christian Periodicals: Meditations, Forward, Star of Hope, etc	Narthex counter
Church Directory	Gary Smith (916)315-0695 or garysmith123@yahoo.com
E-mail Notification Coordinator	Judy Cortiana 916-988-6363 jacortiana@juno.com
Greeting Cards	Rack in Fellowship Hall Betty Newell
Hope Church Treasurer's Report	Del Schnuelle Rack in Hall - Fellowship Hall
Hope School Matching Funds: Thrivent	Folder on counter in Narthex
Lutheran Pioneers	Mike Thurein 916-435-0957 gmthurein@sbcglobal.net
Master Calendar	Judy Cortiana Fellowship Hall Bulletin Board
Mission Boxes	Mary Ann Frank, LWMS Reporter Pat Belcher, Treasurer Folder on counter in Narthex
Prayer Chain	Mary Ann Frank 530-885-5809
Service Tape	Sue Roberti 916-652-9850
Star of Hope Articles	Judy Cortiana Mail Slot under counter, jacortiana@juno.com or call 916 988-6363
Trustee Work Projects	Dr. Ross Heyn 916-663-9694 rossheyndds@att.net
Back issues of Meditations	Judith Bushman Box in Fellowship Hall (for WELS Prison Ministry)
High School Youth Group	Ross & Carol Heyn (916) 663-9694 cjheyn@juno.com

CHURCH SIGNS – ENGLAND

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