

LUTHERAN SPOKESMAN



May We Be Found Faithful Stewards Of The Mysteries Of God!

I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

COLOSSIANS 1:24-29

The opening portion of President Schierenbeck's Report to the 28th Convention

“Let a man so consider us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards that one be found faithful” (1 Cor. 4:1-2).

The theme for this Convention is “Stewards of the Mysteries of God.” When a church body starts talking about stewardship, it often is in reaction to financial stress. We usually think of stewardship and stewardship drives in terms of money. In the Bible a steward is a manager of the household. The Greeks considered learning and discussion and politics the highest purposes in life. So a trusted servant was chosen to run the household and take care of business. This is what Joseph did in the household of Pharaoh. Stewards were required to be faithful in their use of what had been committed to their care.

The Scriptures speak of stewardship in our relation to the things of God. Our essays center around Colossians

1:24-29. Paul speaks of himself as a minister of God “according to the stewardship from God that was given to me from you, to make the Word of God fully known...” (Col. 1:25). In 1 Corinthians 9, Paul writes of his necessity to preach the gospel. “For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What is my reward then? That when I preach the gospel, I may present the gospel of Christ without charge, that I may not abuse my authority in the gospel” (1 Cor. 9:17-18). This same thought is reflected in Peter’s words, “As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone

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At Convention, Pres. Schierenbeck with Pastor Todd Ohlmann and Pastor Jeremiah Issangya of the CLCEA

ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen” (1 Pet. 4:10-11).

God is the owner because God is our Creator and Redeemer. We are stewards or managers of God’s glorious creation. However, the Bible speaks in particular of stewardship in terms of the gospel message of salvation. When the Spirit made us followers of Jesus, calling us by the gospel, enlightening us with His gifts, sanctifying, and keeping us in the true faith, God entrusted to us the mystery of God’s salvation for both Jew and Gentile in Jesus Christ. This is what is sometimes referred to as the priesthood of all believers. God has made each one of us a steward or manager of this glorious gospel message of the forgiveness of sins. Each public servant of the Word has also been made a manager of the mysteries of God in his or her particular calling.

It is necessary that as managers of

what God has entrusted to us, we be found faithful. We will be held accountable for the wise use of what God has entrusted into our care. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 4, his stewardship will not be judged by men or even evaluated by Paul himself. The only evaluation that matters is that final judgment when the Lord comes and reveals the purposes of the heart. “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one’s praise will come from God” (1 Cor. 4:5).

God has entrusted much to us as a confessional Lutheran church body. We have a rich heritage of love for the gospel and a high regard for God’s holy Word. God has blessed us with Immanuel Lutheran College. The Lord has provided for Christian education through our elementary schools. He has opened new fields for the opportunity to proclaim His saving Word. The Holy Spirit has provided pastors and teachers and a fellowship of Jesus’ people united in the Spirit. Jesus’ people support the work He has given them to do with their offerings and prayers. The emphasis in our stewardship of the mysteries of God is not on how much we grow statistically or the buildings we build. The only thing that matter is that we are faithful in our use of what has been entrusted to us.... ♦



At close of Convention, Chaplain David Naumann installs newly elected officers and board members (full report, p. 10ff)

“My Savior Calls for Me”

*I hear the Savior calling!
The gospel comes to me.
My eyes once closed in darkness
Are opened now to see
That I myself was helpless
To live eternally,
But, dying, Christ did save me,
And now He calls for me!•*

It is interesting, isn't it, that often when we humans “get our own,” we aren't too keen on sharing it with anyone else?

A young child receives a new toy, and suddenly his best friend may be seen as a threat to ownership. An adult may earn a little free time from work or some extra cash and may feel reluctant at the thought of having to share either with others.

It is interesting, isn't it, that we are all products of mission work? Someone at some time took the effort to present the gospel of Jesus Christ to us— someone brought us to the Lord. Whether as an infant through baptism (“Go therefore and make disciples...baptizing them...”) or as an adult convert (“teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you— Mt. 28:19-20), our blind eyes were opened! Using His regenerative powers through the Word, the Holy Spirit allowed us to see God's marvelous light. Our lifeless, helpless, degenerate souls were made alive, imbued with power from on high, and transformed into new creations in Christ!

Now that we “have ours,” how willing are we to share it with others? Do we see and hear the Call?

*I hear the Savior calling!
He leads a soul to me,
A soul in bitter anguish,*

*One needing to be free.
The gift I have to offer
Is Christ, my Lord's decree
That all have been forgiven—
My Savior calls for me!*

The need is surely all around us. When we view the world's mass of humanity with souls benighted, do we see what we once were?

The grace of God caused the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts the miracle of faith, but the Word was brought to us by a father or mother, a pastor, teacher, friend, or co-worker—someone who thought the effort to bring us the gospel message was worth it.

Christ gives us daily opportunities to share His love. Pray that we are ready to act when the time comes. Pray that the Lord opens our heart to see the unbelievers of this world as precious blood-bought souls—potential brothers and sisters in the communion of saints!

*I hear the Savior calling!
He gives this charge to me:
To serve the best I'm able,
Whate'er the call may be.
Thus hand in hand with others
Who share the gospel key,
We spread the gospel tidings—
My Savior calls for me!*

I don't believe that any of us as followers of Christ would purposely hinder or keep anyone from the knowledge of our Savior. However, we can so easily fall into traps that do just that—hindering or preventing our witness for Christ.

The “if only” clause is a very convenient trap—if only I had the ability to share the gospel with strangers; if

• Hymn 770, *Worship Supplement 2000*;
Text: (c) John C. Lawrenz—used by permission



In the foyer at ILC, a streaming video allowed Convention delegates to catch up on our on-going gospel work in India and Africa

only I had more money I could do more to support the church's mission efforts; if only I had more time, I could do more. If only...

Here is a quote from a piece of paper I have had taped up in my classrooms for twenty years: "Do what you can, with what you have, where you presently are."— Theodore Roosevelt.

Very scriptural, if you ask me! Do we ever take note that the Lord hasn't chosen only this century or decade, but rather this moment for us to be here? You and I are alive—not just living and breathing, but alive with the power of God, at this moment, to do His will! We are the Church Militant of the moment. This is our time to put in the effort!

Can you teach a Sunday school class or bake for the Vacation Bible School? Could you provide someone a ride to church? Whom can you hold up to the Lord in prayer? Might you ask a church elder or council member how you could be of service to the church? Could you talk up your church and Christian day school at the barbershop, the beauty salon, at work, at the ball-game? Let the Spirit move you!

*I hear the Savior calling!
He changes hearts for me.
From door to door I witness
To share my Savior's plea;
Yet nothing can be added,
No word on bended knee,*

*Beyond the simple gospel—
My Savior calls for me!*

How simple could it be? Jesus gives the call and directive to "Go!" He gives all the tools we need in the Scriptures so that we are "complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:17). He gives us daily opportunities to pray for, support, and actively participate in the spreading of the gospel at home and abroad.

And best of all, He has promised results—perhaps not the results we desire or hope to see, but the results He desires. In fact, many times we may seldom see any earthly results of our scattering the seed, but the Lord promises that His Word "shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it" (Isa. 55:11).

What could possibly be holding us back from sharing this vital news that all the world so desperately needs to hear?

God forbid we ever listen to the "I've got mine, let them get theirs," philosophy. God forbid that poor estimation of our time, talent, and treasure ever holds us back. God forbid that a lack of love for others would prevent our active participation in so many aspects of mission work the Spirit sets before us.

Lord Jesus, You desire us to be actively involved in the spread of Your gospel message. You have promised that Your message will accomplish what You desire. You have given us wisdom from on high through Your Holy Scriptures. Please also give us the desire and ability to freely spread the gospel in every opportunity You provide us. In Your holy Name. Amen.

*I hear the Savior calling!
His call has urgency!
Each moment souls are dying;
Soon comes eternity.
And so, my precious Savior,
This is my humble plea;
Prepare me for my mission
For You are calling me!*

—Teacher David Bernthal
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin



“A wise man will hear and increase learning...” (Proverbs 1:5a)

A Continuing Education

“Students of the Word” — “The Word of the Lord that He would lay on our hearts.”

These two phrases are etched in my mind from the years spent at Immanuel Lutheran College. Those who sat at the feet of Professors Radtke and Gurgel—or who have heard them preach from the pulpit—recognize those phrases; they remind the listener that “back to school” is—in essence—continuing education.

“Students of the Word”

The phrase “students of the Word” leads us to see that, whether we are sitting in the classrooms of ILC or in the Lord’s House, we are nothing more than students, and it is a privilege to be such!

Once we end our classroom days—no matter how far we advanced in school—we remain but kindergarteners when it comes to the Word.

How quickly we deem ourselves sufficient in spiritual matters! Having gone through confirmation class, having spent four years of high school at Immanuel (Eau Claire or Mankato), having gone through Immanuel

Lutheran College and Seminary—I might suppose myself to be very knowledgeable in Scripture; after all, I teach it, read it, study it daily, and over the years the Spirit has given me insights.

Yet the humbling words of the Lord through the apostle Paul ring across the years: “For we know in part” (1 Cor. 13:9). We know so little of the “height and depth” of the riches of God’s love, grace, and mercy. If those heights and depths were revealed to us in full, we would see that we are not even close to being masters of the Word; rather, we remain “students of the Word” in need of daily learning.

“The Word of the Lord that He would lay on our hearts”

We need to have the Word of the Lord “laid on our hearts” daily for the purpose of having that gracious Word of Life abide there actively. As a living, breathing, guiding Word, it builds us up into living stones, showing forth the praises of Him who has marvelously brought us out from everlasting death to everlasting life.



Pastor Rollie Gurgel (author of this article) and Delegate Ken Strumpler from Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Weslaco, Texas; their Convention display welcomed snowbirds to winter/worship with them.

James reminds us that we are not to be “forgetful hearers” but “doers of the Word.” That can only come about when the Word of the Lord is laid on our hearts as the fountain and foundation of our everyday life.

The Word is laid on our hearts (our souls), for that Word feeds the soul, enriches it, nourishes it, and sustains it, so that the roots of faith run deep—and the trunk grows strong to withstand the storms of Satan.

Satan constantly puts our faith and trust to the test with pop quizzes, tests, and exams. As Solomon says in our text, the Word of the Lord needs to be laid on our hearts that as students we apply our hearts and minds to increase our learning, our knowledge, our faith and trust in Him who has conquered all and gives us the victory.

If we are not prepared, the quizzes, tests, and exams we took and take in school result only in poor grades. The quizzes, tests, and exams that the devil sends us may easily result in loss of

faith which—if Jesus is lost—results in everlasting death in hell.

“A wise man will hear”—will hear the Savior speak and have that Word laid firmly on the heart.

“A wise man will hear, and increase learning,” for the wise know they are always students of the Word, and only with the Word are all the fiery darts of the devil quenched.

Most of us have not “gone back to school,” yet in a sense we never left the comforting halls of learning! As long as we are on this Earth we are “in school,” sitting at the Master’s feet as “kindergartners” wrapped up in every Word that falls from our Savior’s lips.

May our gracious God and Lord keep us as we continue our education in Him, until He graduates us from this earthly school to the eternal summer vacation of heavenly rest and peace—we ask this for Jesus’ sake. Amen!

*—Pastor Roland Gurgel
Weslaco, Texas*



As shown with these “before and after” photos, outside renovation of Ingram Hall was on-going during Convention.

Eighth and last in a series—

“Savoring the Spirit-fruit” *Self-Control*

Some years ago a couple left a congregation served by this pastor because, in their judgment, he did not preach enough on “how to live.” That begs the question, “Does a Christian have to be told how to live?”

In view of the Day of the Lord, the judgment, Peter asked his readers to consider “what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness” (2 Pet. 3:11). Martin Franzmann wrote concerning this passage, “The church is to see in the Lord’s delay a summons to a life of sanctified, tense, and vigilant expectancy, a life characterized by growth in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (*Concordia Bible with Notes*, p. 488).

It is surely appropriate and highly important that the child of God, living in the foreign environment of this world, live a life of daily repentance and faith in view of the coming day of the Lord, lest he succumb to the wiles of the devil, who relentlessly seeks to draw him into his net. The devil’s net is baited with all kinds of allurements for the flesh which still clings to us.

Nevertheless, in Galatians 5 the apostle does not give an opening to blame the devil for the sins we commit. He says “the flesh lusts against the Spirit...” (v. 17). In the next verses he speaks of the evils which are contrary to the Christian life and confession, concluding the 21st verse with the warning, “Those who practice such



things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

To what does he attribute the sins of which he spoke? He attributes them to the flesh! They are “works of the flesh.” They are the things that come out of the wicked heart, works which earn “the wages of sin” (Rom. 6:23).

Scripture tells us that the law is not made for the righteous man (1 Tim. 1:9). Inasmuch as he is under the Spirit, the child of God is “not under the law” (Gal. 5:18). On the other hand, inasmuch as he is still in the flesh, he needs the do’s and don’ts of the law.

By the fixed standard of the law which indeed tells the child of God what is good and pleasing in God’s sight, he sees how miserably he has failed, how far short he has fallen of the holiness of God. Given the reality of his sins and sinfulness, the penitent sinner says, “Heavenly Father, for Jesus’ sake, have mercy on me.”

“But pastor, how shall I live?” The answer: “Walk in the Spirit!”

Walk In The Spirit

Walking in the Spirit—manifesting the fruits of the Spirit in contrast to the

works of the flesh—means that Christ’s dying to sin has become a living reality in the heart of the Christ believer. Where Christ is alive in the heart, there are manifested the fruits of the Spirit which are “love, joy, peace, long-suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, [and finally—] self-control.”

In the course of this *Spokesman* series now concluding, we have seen the simple truth that what glorifies God is not a demand of what we are to do; we have seen that what glorifies God is the truth that the Spirit has “gifted” us to be what we are—children of God whose “delight is in the law of the Lord” (Ps. 1:2).

The concluding word in the catalog of gifts of the Spirit is self-control. This word is also translated “temperance.” The lexicon describes “self-control” as the “virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites.”

It is clear to perceptive readers of faith that—except for those who seem to “master our desires or passions” under threat of law, fear of death, or from self-righteousness—in truth it does not lie within people of flesh to do so. To guard against such a misunderstanding, Koehler in his Galatians commentary translates “chastity,” which emphasizes an attitude.

In any case, we will not misunder-

stand if we remember of what it is that we are speaking—the gifts of the Spirit!

Manifesting the fruits of the Spirit is an inevitable result in the lives of those who immerse themselves in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, drawing both strength as well as comfort from the grace of forgiveness. They are not consumed with “How shall I live?”

Instead, in a spirit of “vigilant expectancy” their joy is to live “a life characterized by growth in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.” Theirs is a life not burdened by “how” to live, but rather a life controlled by the reality of who they are in Christ as well as by the expectancy of what, in Christ, they shall be!

Such confidence also is a fruit of the Spirit!

We can think of no better conclusion to this series than the verses of Psalm 1: “Blessed is the man that walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper” (vv. 1-3).

—Pastor Daniel Fleischer
Corpus Christi, Texas



Committee members Pastors Eric Libby and Neal Radichel; teacher Kyle Ochsner



Prof. Ross Roehl (2nd fr. left) huddles with teachers Seth Schaller, Ryan Hammett, Ted Quade

28th CLC Convention Report
June 16-20, 2008
Immanuel Lutheran College
Eau Claire, Wisconsin

“TO HIM Who has brought all participants this week safely to the Convention, and Whom we implore for safe return of pastors, teachers, delegates, and visitors to home and our various fields of labor, we give thanks” (Committee #8, Convention Thanks).

The 28th Convention of the CLC had as its theme “May We Be Found Faithful Stewards of the Mysteries of God!” Throughout the week, the Convention chaplain, communion service speaker, and essayists reminded us of our great privilege to be entrusted with the gospel message of Christ crucified for a fallen world. We were encouraged to make good use of all the Lord’s gifts to us, in His service. The Convention was characterized by hard work, cordial discourse, and unanimity of purpose in carrying out this blessed stewardship together under our Lord’s direction.

Voting members of the Convention include two delegates of each member congregation plus pastors, called male teachers, and professors at Immanuel Lutheran College. A total of 61 pastors, 19 teachers, 12 professors, and 65

lay delegates took part in the work set before us (this includes three pastors, four teachers, and one congregation [Divine Word, Preston, Minn.]) who were received into voting membership.

“TO HIM Who has given gifts to men who have served faithfully in their various calls—board members, officers, and all servants of the convention—we give thanks” (Com. #8).

Each Convention elects men to fill synodical offices and board positions (a list of those elected and appointed can be found elsewhere in this issue).

CLC President John Schierenbeck in his Monday report spoke of the great heritage we have received of love for the gospel and of a high regard for God’s verbally inspired Word. He encouraged the church body to be faithful in its stewardship of Immanuel Lutheran College, where confessionally sound pastors, teachers, and laymen are trained. He urged us to be faithful in our outreach with the gospel both in home and foreign missions. He noted that our CLC members have responded to great financial challenges in the last two years and encouraged the membership to continue this faithful steward-

—This report was produced by Pastor Peter Reim (redacted by the editor), with thanks to Pastor Bruce Naumann for his church bulletin Convention summary, and Prof. Joe Lau, who published the daily “Convention Chronicles.” The full Convention “Proceedings” will be available in the fall of 2008 through the CLC Bookhouse, 501 Grover Rd., Eau Claire, WI 54701. THANK YOU to Pastor Reim for this report!

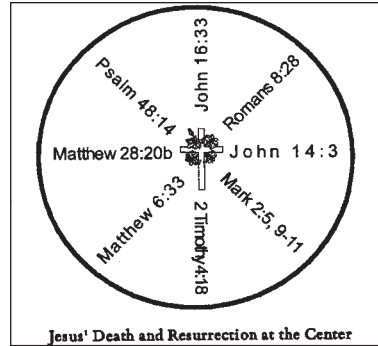
ship. He spoke of the need for renewed commitment to pure doctrine while avoiding the pitfalls of legalism and a mere external subscription to biblical teachings.

“TO HIM Who has moved hearts to give of time and talent— convention organizers, support staff, essayists, chaplains, musicians, ministers of the Convention services, and Messiah Congregation—we give thanks” (Com. #8).

One of the great privileges of participation in a Convention like this is the rich influence of the Word. Three essays were presented which expanded upon the Convention theme.

Pastor James Albrecht addressed the thought: “May We be Found Faithful Stewards —In Making the Word of God Fully Known.” He pointed out that what seems to matter today is not what one believes, but how firmly and passionately one believes it. But the Word of God calls upon us to proclaim the whole counsel of God—and that alone. “Those who make the Word fully known can and should expect opposition, just as Jesus and His followers experienced....In spite of the inevitable suffering, God charges us with the privilege of sharing the entire Word with the entire world” (Convention Chronicles).

Pastor David Schaller called on us to be faithful stewards in “Proclaiming the Glorious Riches of Christ to the Unbelieving World.” “Much of Pastor Schaller’s essay dealt with when and how to ‘bring out of the box’ the treasures of the gospel. We should look for opportunities to address people’s concerns with an appropriate gospel mes-



In his essay, Pastor Schaller illustrated how the riches of the gospel revolve around Christ’s resurrection



Essayist Albrecht
sage” (Conv. Chron.)



Essayist Leinberger

Layman Steve Leinberger presented the concluding essay. He spoke of how faithful stewardship involves “Laboring to Share What God has Given to Us!” Mr. Leinberger related numerous examples of men and women of Scripture who were courageous in sharing God’s Word with others. By example, then, we were encouraged to actively seek the Lord’s guidance in being faithful servants, bringing the saving gospel to others.

Each session opened and closed under the guidance of chaplain David Naumann, who also drew upon the



Chaplain Naumann



Com. 1: President's Message/Education



Com. 2: Immanuel Lutheran College



Com. 3: Missions



Com. 4: Doctrine



Com. 5: Finance



Com. 6: Membership/Constitution



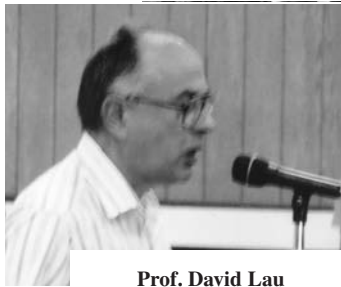
Com. 7: 50th Anniversary/Foundation Bd.



Com. 8: Elections

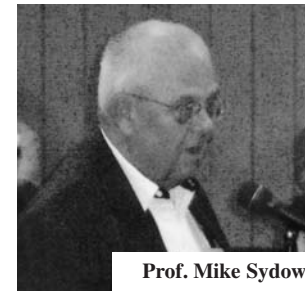


Dr. Gayle Stelter

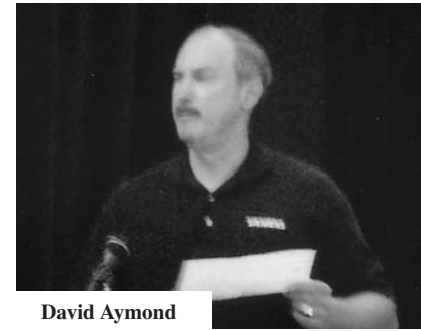


Prof. David Lau

**Above:
Convention Floor
Committees**



Prof. Mike Sydow



David Aymond



Delegates in session—ILC Fieldhouse



Stained Glass Luther Seal — Ingram Hall



Convention Communion Service, Messiah Lutheran Church

New CLC Members: (Top) Pastor Lawrence Bade, Teachers Kyle Ochsner, Chad Seybt, Jeff Karnitz; (Below) Teacher Paul Tiefel, Pastors Neal Radichel, Ed Starkey



Convention Ministers: Pastors David Schaller, Paul Koch, Nathan Pfeiffer, David Naumann, Nathanael Mayhew



Presidium: Pastors Paul Nolting, John Schierenbeck, Mark Bernthal, Wayne Eichstadt



Conference Visitors: Pastors David Reim, Michael Eichstadt, David Schierenbeck, Daniel Fleischer, Michael Roehl



theme of spiritual stewardship—as well as “hats” (crowns, in our case), and “uniforms” (the robe of Christ’s righteousness). These moments of meditation concluded with rousing hymns of praise to the Lord.

A Convention is a fitting time to reflect on fellow servants of the Word who have been called to the Savior’s side. Professor Emeritus Paul Koch conducted a memorial service under the theme “From Here to Eternity in Heaven by God’s Grace” (Pastors Victor Tiefel and Norbert Reim, and teacher Irma Speerschneider were remembered at this time).

A body united in fellowship also values the opportunity to gather at the Lord’s Table. The Communion service was held at Messiah Lutheran Church in its newly completed sanctuary. Pastor Nathanael Mayhew conducted the service, with Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer preaching and Pastor David Schaller serving as organist.

As the Convention begins, most work is done “in committee.” Eight floor committees move off to various

campus locations to review, debate, compose, and refine motions that are brought to the floor.

As the Convention assembles, the initial work done by the floor committees is brought to the Convention for resolution. As the week progresses, time in committee decreases while time on the floor considering and voting on proposals increases.

A summary of Convention results follows:

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN COLLEGE: <> Thanks were expressed to the Lord for the recent graduates, as well as for all the students and for the faithful service of the faculty and staff. <> The past biennium saw the retirement of Professors Ronald Roehl and Michael Sydow, for whose faithful service we give thanks to the Lord. <> The Convention recognized the difficulties experienced because of lower enrollment. We were encouraged to pray for our school and to promote the great benefits of Christian education. We are thankful that the estimated enrollment for the coming year is 137



◀ Committee in session, Pastor Rick Grams speaking



Pastor Nathanael Mayhew (center) addresses his floor committee ▶



In front of an architect's drawing of the new Academic Center, Mrs. Eunice Roehl holds copy of her new book on the history of ILC (with husband Prof. Ron...)

in all departments (up from 120 this year). ◊ Due to fiscal constraints, the Board of Regents has postponed calling a professor to replace retiree Prof. Michael Sydow. ◊ The delegates concurred with the implementation of two years of Spanish in the high school department and a pastoral counseling course in the seminary. ◊ The Student Aid Fund budget was adopted, with total disbursements at \$191,500. ◊ The Board of Trustees has estimated that the Student Aid Fund Endowment will need a balance of \$2 million in order for the SAF to be self-supporting. ◊ The ILC Improvement Fund budget was approved, with projects totaling \$140,000. ◊ 35,000 is earmarked for West Hall to allow it to function as a dorm for college women (downstairs) and men (upstairs).

ILC ACADEMIC CENTER: ◊ The renovation of Ingram Hall will soon be completed at a total cost of \$375,000. ◊ The Convention was presented with a redesigned plan for the new Academic Center. The maximum cost of the building will be \$2.5 million; about \$600,000 is currently on hand. After reviewing the need and considering various scenarios for financing the project, the Convention resolved "That we finance this project immediately following this Convention, and then begin building the

Academic/Administration Center with a goal to break ground in September." A concerted effort on the part of all CLC members to donate to this project will be needed; new loans to the Church Extension Fund will also be critical. We pray that the Lord will move hearts to respond.

MISSIONS: ◊ Thanks to our Lord were expressed for the opportunities He has provided us to share the gospel, both in home and foreign missions. We are also thankful "to our full-time and part-time foreign and domestic missionaries for their dedicated work in our mission fields. We gratefully acknowledge the many people who have volunteered their time, talents, and financial support to help our missionaries through the Mission Helper Program and all other endeavors." ◊ Missionary Koenig related that the CLC works with two sister church bodies in India and seven sister church bodies in Africa. ◊ Missionary Matthew Ude is now working full-time in India, along with Pastor Koenig. ◊ \$5,000 was allocated from MDF funds for urgent medical needs of some India pastors and their immediate families. ◊ A compelling need was recognized for a third full-time foreign missionary. It was resolved that "we pray the Holy Spirit to bless the efforts of Pastor Nathanael Mayhew in his

work as part-time missionary to East Africa, as we eagerly anticipate the calling of a full-time missionary when financially feasible.” ◊ Thanks to the Lord was expressed for the many ways in which our overseas orphans and seminary students are aided through Project KINSHIP. ◊ An encouraging report was received from Pastor Todd Ohlmann on prospects for mission work in Nepal. MDF funds were allocated to translation work, materials, and further visitations to this country. ◊ The Convention welcomed Pastor Jeremiah Issangya, who leads the Church of the Lutheran Confession in East Africa. He gave a report of his work among our fellow believers in Tanzania and Kenya, as well as among the Masai tribesmen. ◊ On the domestic front, it was noted with gratitude that Holy Truth of Ketchikan, Alaska, has become a self-supporting congregation, and that Grace of Fairbanks, Alaska, has been able to continue its ministry without subsidy.

DOCTRINE: At the direction of the 2006 Convention, the subject of the “Scriptural Principles of Male and Female Roles,” and its relation to secular society was studied by area pastoral conferences, as well as by the 2007 CLC General Pastoral Conference. The following was adopted as a correct expression of Scriptural teaching: “Although Scripture applies the male headship principle to the home (Ephesians 5) and to the church (1 Timothy 2), Scripture does not apply the headship principle to the roles of men and women in society. Where God does not establish a principle, consciences ought not be bound.”

FINANCES: “Our Lord’s blessings upon the CLC are shown in many



Trustees Chairman Phil Radichel addresses the delegates

ways. He has given us countless gifts by which we are privileged to do His work. The financial resources that He provides are part of those gifts.” ◊ The Board of Trustees reported that our General Fund will end the fiscal year with a balance of about \$83,000. ◊ CLC “code” salary levels were increased by \$50 per month. A study is continuing which focuses on adjusting salaries based on regional cost-of-living standards. ◊ The Convention resolved to continue the new budgeting process, which provides a predictable level of funding for ILC. ◊ It was decided that no ILC property should be sold at this time, and that the Regents should address instances of encroachment on ILC property. ◊ The Trustees were thanked for their work of managing the various CLC investment funds and for improvements to the Retirement Plan. ◊ A total budget of \$1,636,000.00 was adopted for the next fiscal year.

CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS:

◊ The Convention revised the appeal process, so that disputed matters of excommunication and termination of a call are dealt with separately.

OTHER: The Convention resolved to revise the guidelines for the CLC Foundation Board. ◊ A revised “CLC Statement of Faith and Purpose” was adopted and approved for publication. ◊ Plans were approved which give direction to the CLC 50th Anniversary

ELECTIONS

*Elected or Re-elected at this Convention

CLC Officers

President: Rev. John Schierenbeck*
Vice President: Rev. Mark Bernthal*
Secretary: Rev. Wayne Eichstadt*
Moderator: Rev. Paul D. Nolting*

Board of Missions

Rev. Bruce Naumann (2010)
Mr. Jack Mayhew (2010)
Rev. Todd Ohlmann (2012)*
Mr. Larry Hansen (2012)*

Board of Regents

Rev. Vance Fossum (2010)
Mr. Craig Ryan (2010)
Rev. Theodore Barthels (2012)*
Mr. David Aymond (2012)*

Board of Trustees

Rev. James Sandeen (2010)
Mr. Eugene Lang (2010)
Rev. Michael Roehl (2012)*
Mr. Philip Radichel (2012)*

Board of Education & Publications

Prof. Ross Roehl (2010)
Rev. David Naumann (2010)
Mr. Rick Nelson (2012)*
Teacher David Bernthal (2012)*

APPOINTMENTS

Board of Doctrine: Rev. Mark Bernthal, Melvin Eichstadt, Rev. Daniel Fleischer, Prof. Em. Clifford Kuehne, Rev. David Lau, Rev. David Schierenbeck, Rev. Thomas Schuetze

Foundation Board: Michael Cutler, Tom Lentz, Ty Taylor

Kinship Committee: Rev. Lawrence Bade,

Rev. David Fuerstenau, David Klatt, Jack Mayhew, Rev. Paul Naumann, Jonathan Wiechman

Constitution Committee: Rev. Michael Eichstadt, Joel Kraft, Peter Sydow

Lutheran Spokesman: Editor: Rev. Paul Fleischer; Asst. Editor: Prof. Em. Paul Koch; Business Manager: Benno Sydow (see Staff listing, p. 2)

Journal of Theology: Editor: Prof. Steven Sippert; Asst. Editor: Rev. Elton Hallauer; Business Manager: Benno Sydow; Staff: Pastors Frank Gantt, Norman Greve, Terrel Kesterson, David Lau, Delwyn Mass, Michael Roehl, Paul Tiefel, Prof. John Pfeiffer

Ministry by Mail Editor: Rev. Wayne Eichstadt; Staff: Rev. Michael Eichstadt, Rev. Peter Reim, Rev. Michael Roehl, Rev. David Schaller

Archivist: Rev. David Lau

Statistician: Dr. James Sydow

CLC Auditor: Steven Lentz

CLC Webmaster: Glenn Oster

ILC Building Committee: Jeff Altom, Thomas Beekman, Dean Marzofka, Rev. Michael Roehl, Prof. Jeff Schierenbeck, Lyle Trulin; Advisory: Luther Sieg, Prof. John Pfeiffer

ILC Building Publicity: Rev. Mark Bernthal, Rev. John Hein, Prof. Ross Roehl, Michael Sippert

ILC Facility Expansion Program: Prof. Em. John Lau, Dennis Oster, Luther Sieg, Dr. James Sydow; Advisory: Prof. John Pfeiffer

50th Ann. Celebration Committee: Allen Durham, Rev. Frank Gantt, Rev. David Reim, Rev. Caleb Schaller

Committee, including special worship events, music, and historical works. A year-long Jubilee Thank Offering, beginning in July of 2009, will be dedicated to the ILC SAF Endowment. ◁ A “History of ILC” by Eunice Roehl is now available for pre-orders from the CLC Bookhouse. A new history of the CLC is being written by Pastor (and CLC Archivist) David Lau.

“The Lord has richly blessed the Church of the Lutheran Confession with many gifts, not the least of which

is the fellowship that we enjoy around the Word of God. For this we thank Him and pray that our thanks will continue to manifest itself by steadfast confession of His Word through which we are called, and to which we are committed....May the Lord continue to fill us with love for the Word and with desire to serve Him with gifts and talents as He distributes them, and as they have been abundantly manifest by all servants of this Convention.” (Com. #8) ♦

Our Lord's Supper Sermon

Maybe you've heard the joke that pastors have the greatest job because they work only one day a week—Sunday. I once saw a t-shirt which implied just that. It read, "My six favorite reasons for being a pastor are: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday."

Though we may joke about it, we realize that clergymen who desire to be faithful to their Lord and faithful to the congregations they have been called to serve work more than just one day a week.

Take for instance some of the things your pastor may do just in preparation for the sermon. Hours are spent studying the original language of the sermon text (Hebrew in the Old Testament, Greek in the New Testament) to learn more about the words which the Holy Spirit led that holy writer to use. He looks for the law and the gospel in the verses. He studies the general thoughts of those verses to come up with a sermon theme. Above all, he prays that the Lord would help him to preach His holy Word faithfully. A faithful pastor wants to feed his flock with the nourishing Word of God and not cause spiritual harm through false teaching.

Many of you have probably never had to prepare a sermon for a given Sunday—or have you?

Consider what the Apostle Paul writes about the Lord's Supper or Holy Communion: "As often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death till He comes" (1 Cor. 11:26).

Every time you come to the Lord's Table you are, in effect, preaching a



sermon! Paul says that when you eat the bread and drink the wine in the Lord's Supper you are preaching Jesus Christ and Him crucified for your sins. You are preaching a Good Friday sermon. You are proclaiming that you are a sinner who needed a Savior, and that Jesus is that Savior from sin.

Preparing Ourselves

Just as you expect that your pastor will be fully prepared when he steps into the pulpit on Sunday, so too the Apostle Paul instructs us to prepare ourselves before proclaiming our "Lord's Supper Sermon." "Therefore whoever eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner eats and drinks judgment to himself, not discerning the Lord's body" (1 Cor. 11:27-29).

If a pastor preaches false doctrine, he is doing something spiritually harmful to his listeners. Likewise, if individuals partake of the Lord's Supper in an unworthy manner, they are doing something spiritually harmful to themselves. Rather than reaping the spiritual benefits which Christ gives in this sacred meal (forgiveness, life, and salvation), such people "eat and drink judgment" to themselves

because they do not recognize (discern) what is taking place. They fail to see why Christ's body and blood was given and shed.

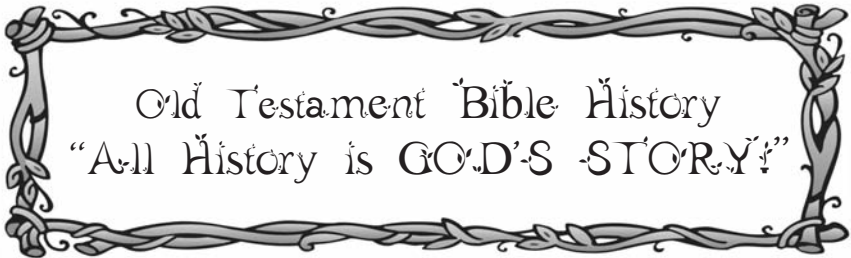
As a pastor prepares for his sermon, the Apostle Paul exhorts communicants to prepare themselves before preaching our "Lord's Supper Sermon." He calls this preparation "examining ourselves."

Our Catechisms do a superb job of assisting in this preparation. With sections such as "Christian Questions," we examine ourselves with questions such

as: Am I a sinner in need of forgiveness? Where alone can this forgiveness be found? What am I receiving in this sacred meal?

God grant that we continue to proclaim our "Lord's Supper Sermon" faithfully through worthy preparation and participation in Holy Communion—until the trumpet sounds on that last, great day when Christ Himself will return to take all believers to be with Him eternally in Paradise!

—Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer
Hecla, South Dakota



No. 4 in Series: Genesis 4

"What Have You Done?"

Genesis chapter four seems hardly worth close attention, but we should be troubled about skimming any portion of the treasures that God has stored in Scripture for our blessing.

Genesis four contains a prime example of what comes from a skimming approach to life and salvation. What Satan did back then he will try with us also—to rob us of our heavenly treasures, and he often starts with getting us to skimp on godliness and true worship.

How did the world's first children feel about God and how did they express their feelings? When "Cain

brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord," the wording implies that Cain felt it was okay to treat God as one might treat a neighbor fallen on hard times—when He comes around for your attention, you ought to give Him a hand-out.

Satan was controlling Cain's heart so thoroughly (1 John 3:11-12) that he felt no warm connection to his Savior-God. Cain just skimmed the surface of everything holy and good, and he felt God should be satisfied with that.

In contrast, "Abel also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of their fat," selecting a choice animal from his

own flock (not from the family co-op) to put before the Lord. God would have his best, not a cull or a skinny runt. Abel was concerned that God should not come in second-best.

True religion and acceptable to God comes from a heart that knows God, loves Him, and honors Him as He deserves.

Cain, on the other hand, had no place for Jesus in his heart because he had already given his soul over to envy, jealousy, love of self, and ultimately to Satan. With such an attitude of heart, it is a gracious wonder that God did not just give up on Cain and deliver him to Satan. But (glory be to Jesus!) God pursued Cain and confronted him for his attitude: “If you are doing well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin lies at the door.”

God saw at the doorway of Cain’s heart SIN crouching like a monster from hell. So, in love for Cain God (in effect) warned: “You had better gain control over your heart, for if you let envy or hatred or jealousy or anger get their teeth into you, you’re a goner! That’s the way Satan works! Give him an inch and he’ll take a mile!”

The Apostle James explains how this works: “One is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin when it is full-grown, brings forth death” (Jms. 1:14-15). Cain’s desires were like eggs incubating in his heart, and those eggs were ready to hatch into sins of word and deed.

The next report of his progress bears the sorry news “that Cain rose against Abel his brother and killed him.” Envy conceived hatred, which then incubated deceit and treachery,

hatching into enough anger to commit murder!

“Create in me a clean heart...”

When God graciously confronted Cain—“What have you done?”—Cain maintained a defensive stony silence. That question should ring like a fire alarm in our ears and hearts when we sin. “What have you done?” requires an honest answer, and skimming one’s way out of sin without repenting is doing devilish damage to oneself!

That is why the Spirit trains us to begin each day with the petition, “Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me” and to go to sleep with the prayer, “Forgive me, Lord, for Thy dear Son, the ill that I this day have done.”

The Triune God, ever gracious and ever loving, placed a load of difficulties upon Cain to jolt him to his senses and make him see that SIN was his worst nightmare. God actually gave Cain more protection than Cain had given his brother and protected him from being murdered, because death would shut down his time of grace. God Father, Son, and Spirit actively pursued Cain to bring him to repentance that Cain might be salvaged for eternal life.

Take it to heart, dear reader! It is hard to oppose God, and life at cross purposes to God will produce both a miserable existence on Earth and an even more wretched existence in hell. There is a terrible ending in store for the hardened sinner; let us make no mistake about it! God on His part is not willing that any should perish but come back to Him who can give life and give it freely. God sends His Holy Spirit to admonish, to coax, to urge,

and to convince us that Jesus is our Champion over sin and Satan, our Refuge in every need.

Fill in your name, dear friend, as the precious soul whom Jesus has sought and for whom He paid all penalties! Jesus is your claim to heaven, too. And because your soul is precious, you ought heed the warning God gave Cain: the predator knows where you live, is crouching just around the corner, and is snuffling at the entrance to your heart. Will you venture to go about your daily chores and recreations without Jesus? You and I don't stand a chance! Over Satan only a champion of heroic proportions can prevail. Take Jesus as your Companion with you every waking moment and

don't wander through a day, following your own devices!

When God asks, "What have you done?", we respond, "I have sinned in thought, word, and deed—therefore I flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Now may God our Father, who raised Jesus from the dead and has accepted His penalty as payment for all our sins, dwell in us richly with all power and grace, that we may daily repent, fight the good fight of faith, and remain forever safe with Jesus.

Praise be to Jesus! Amen!

—Paul R. Koch
Eau Claire, Wisconsin



Eugene Rutz

December 29, 1942–July 19, 2008

Eugene Harold Rutz was born on Dec. 29, 1942, in Lemmon, S.Dak., to Rev. Helmuth and his wife, Rhoda (nee Gerth) Rutz. He was baptized on Jan. 20, 1943. In the spring of 1956, Gene was confirmed at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Jamestown, N.Dak., by his father.

Gene attended high school at Northwestern Lutheran Academy in Mobridge, S.Dak., and graduated in 1960. He graduated from Immanuel Lutheran College, Mankato, Minn., in 1963 and from Immanuel Lutheran Seminary, Eau Claire, Wis., in 1966. During several summers of his college years, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service as a firefighter in Missoula, Mont.

In 1964, Gene met Patricia Sydow at



ILC in Eau Claire. During that year his training for the ministry included several months of service as a vicar at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cheyenne, Wyo. The Lord brought Gene and Pat together in holy matrimony on Aug. 28, 1965, at Our Savior's Lutheran Church in Jamestown. The service was officiated by both fathers (Revs. Helmuth Rutz and Gilbert Sydow). The Lord blessed them with two daughters and one son, Tammy (Jeff) Trippler of Indianapolis, Ind.; David

(Dee) Rutz of Katy, Texas; and Heidi (Jim) Weaver of Yorba Linda, Calif. They were also blessed with eight grandchildren.

Gene is survived by his wife; by his children and grandchildren; by his brothers and sisters, Gerald (Jane) Rutz and Barb (Bob) Ruegge of Cheyenne, Wyo.; Delbert (Pat) Rutz of Balaton, Minn.; Nadine (Ron) Hatlewick of Leola, S.Dak.; and by many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents.

Gene served the Lord as pastor of several congregations from 1966 to 1984: Holy Trinity in Missoula, Mont.; St. Peter's in Stambaugh, Mich.; and Bethel Lutheran in Spring, Texas.

He was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in the mid-'80s. He began driving bus for the Houston transit system in 1984, retiring in November of 2005 after being diagnosed with ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). In August 2007, Gene and Pat moved to Indianapolis to

be closer to their oldest daughter.

Gene enjoyed get-togethers with family and friends, his church family, and working and playing on the computer. He will be remembered for his wit, attention to detail, dry sense of humor, and especially his love for his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Gene endured his disease patiently, trusting in the Lord's gracious, good will. The Lord in His mercy delivered his soul from this world of tears and suffering to his home with Him in heaven on Saturday, July 19, 2008. Memorial services were held at 2:00 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church in Eau Claire on Friday, July 25, 2008.

Family and friends are thankful for Gene's influence in their lives and thank all who have supported their family all these years.

Memorial contributions may be made to Immanuel Lutheran College (ILC) Building Fund—Gene Rutz, 501 Grover Road, Eau Claire, WI 54701-7199.



A NEW LOOK FOR AN ORIGINAL CLC CHURCH*

On Sunday, April 27, 2008, the members of Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Watertown, S.Dak.—along with brethren from sister congregation Zion Evangelical Lutheran in Hidewood Township (Estelline), S.Dak., as well as visitors from other Midwest CLC congregations—met to dedicate the building addition recently completed.

The new addition includes a fellowship area and kitchen, pastor's office,

handicapped bathrooms, and two schoolrooms.

The dedication service marked the conclusion of a two-year building project, completed largely by congregational members. The congregation 'got its feet wet' by first building up the church's east entrance, adding a car ramp which allows worshippers to enter the building at the church level.

The east entrance improvement was well-received and served to build excitement for the planned addition.

After discussing a number of different options over a number of years,

*Trinity Lutheran Church was a charter CLC congregation; it officially organized on Tuesday, August 4, 1959



Additions to Trinity Church—a new entry and car ramp to the east, followed by a sizeable fellowship hall off to the west

Trinity congregation decided on April 23, 2006, to move forward. With the Lord’s blessing a single level addition was constructed to the west of the existing church sanctuary. A number of roadblocks appeared along the way, yet these helped to remind us of the words of the Lord: “...Unless the LORD builds the house, they labor in vain who build it; unless the LORD guards the city, the watchman stays awake in vain” (Ps. 127:1).

Two years and four days later the fully completed building was dedicated to the service of the Lord and to His glory. Pastor Andrew Schaller spoke to the assembly of members and visitors on the basis of Romans 3:23-24, encouraging them with the words “...As we move forward today, let us do so humbly, looking to the Lord for guidance. Having completed the project and having dismissed the building committee with thanks, we turn to Him who has blessed our efforts, seeking further blessing from His Word. In the Word of God before us this morning, we are reminded of what we can and cannot do...”.

“...God help us that we do not forget what God has done for us. He has made us His children through faith in Christ Jesus. He has given us His Word and Sacrament and keeps us in faith through them. When we open our eyes

and look upon the Lord Jesus, we will again praise Him for His amazing love...”

“...God help us that we not forget what He has done for us here, either. We could glorify ourselves for the building next door. We could swell with pride at what we have done. Instead, let us pray today that this building always serves to glorify God. Let it be to us yet another example of God’s grace.”

“We can make plans...but we can’t carry them out without God’s blessing. We can sin against one another, but we can’t forgive from the heart without Christ. We can attempt to make up for our sin, but we can only be right with God through the gift of faith in Christ. To God alone the glory! Amen.”

—Submitted by
Pastor Andrew Schaller

Announcements

From the ILC Regents

At the June 2008 meeting of the Call Committee for CLC Educational Institutions Professor John Pfeiffer was re-elected to the office of president of Immanuel Lutheran College. We invite the prayers of our CLC brethren that God will grant Professor Pfeiffer every grace and blessing, enabling him to serve Immanuel Lutheran College to the glory of our Savior, the furthering of His kingdom, and the welfare of our students, faculty, and staff.

—Pastor Vance Fossum, Chairman

Ordination/Installation

In accord with our usage and order, Immanuel Lutheran Seminary graduate Michael Gurath, who was called as Vacancy Pastor by Faith Lutheran Church, Markesan, Wisconsin, was ordained into the ministry and installed on Sunday, July 6, 2008, by Pastor Michael Schierenbeck.

—Reporting: Pastor John Schierenbeck,
President of the CLC

West Central Pastoral Conference Mapleton, North Dakota September 9-11, 2008

Agenda:

1. What may we say Scripturally of the state of the soul upon the death of the Christian—Pastor James Sandeen
2. My Hand on the Plow—Examination/ Application of Luke 9:62 (Full time ministering in the smaller setting)—Pastor Matthew Gurath
3. Outline for open discussion regarding CLC students attending non-CLC religious schools—Pastor Michael Roehl
4. A Study of New Testament Designations for Clergy (*episkopos, presbyteros*, etc.)—Pastor Andrew Schaller
5. A Review of the Application of the Fellowship Principle to the Role of Organist, Accompanist, Soloist in a Wedding Ceremony—Pastor John Klatt
6. A Timely Review of Prayer Fellowship With Scriptural Sedes—Pastor Nathan Pfeiffer
7. Life and Times of an Old Testament Prophet—Pastor Eric Libby
8. The Value of a Spouse Working at Home—Pastor James Naumann
9. Is there a spiritual aspect to Eastern therapeutic practices (yoga, acupuncture)—Pastor Frank Gantt
10. Continued Series on Controversies from Bente's *Historical Introduction to the Book of Concord*—Pastor Peter Reim
11. New Testament Exegesis: Romans 10:14ff—Pastor Mark Gurath
12. Old Testament Exegesis: Malachi 2:13ff—Pastor Timothy Wheaton

Communion Service Speaker: Pastor Paul Fleischer

Chaplain: Pastor George Dummann

—Pastor Frank Gantt, Secretary

Send Change of Address to :
Lutheran Spokesman
2750 North Oxford Street
Roseville, MN 55113

Great Lakes Pastoral Conference
Immanuel Lutheran College
September 23-25, 2008

Agenda:

- Practical Suggestions for Encouraging Young People to Prepare for the Public Ministry—Professor Steven Sippert
- A Study of Offerings and Stewardship as Presented in Malachi—Pastor David Naumann
- Exegetical Study of Psalm 51—Professor John Pfeiffer
- Exegetical Study of Romans 3:1ff—Pastor David Baker
- Jesus' Teaching and Preaching Methods—Pastor Mark Gullerud
- Church History: The Period following Luther's Stay at the Wartburg—Pastor Thomas Schuetze
- What is the Sin in "Sinning against Conscience"?—Pastor Mark Bernthal
- Continuation of the Exegetical Study of 1 Corinthians 8-10 as it relates to "Buying Goods and Services from the Heterodox"—Professor John Ude
- Children's Sermons—Pastor Michael Wilke
- Book Review of CPH's recent Translation of the Book of Concord—Pastor Michael Eichstadt.

Communion Service Speaker: Pastor Edward Starkey

Chaplain: Pastor Joel Fleischer

—Pastor Mark Gullerud, Chairman

Cover: Matt Schaser