Concordia University tackle honored

Concordia University, St. Paul, senior left offensive tackle Tyler Hendrickson (St. Paul, Minn.) placed fifth out of the nine national finalists for the 2011 Gene Upshaw Division II Lineman of the Year award presented by the Manheim Touchdown Club. The winner, offensive tackle Joe Long from Wayne State (Mich.) was the other candidate from NCAA Super Region 3 along with Hendrickson.

The award is presented annually to the top NCAA Division II junior or senior lineman (offense or defense) in the nation as selected by sports information directors at the 154 football-playing DII institutions. It is named in honor of former Texas A&I (now Texas A&M Kingsville) University and Pro Football Hall of Famer Gene Upshaw, a former NFL All-Pro and head of the NFL Players Association for 25-years until his death in 2008.

Hendrickson's fifth-place finish in the voting puts him in elite company on a national scene. He was the fourth-highest vote-getter among offensive linemen and was the third-highest offensive tackle among the voting.

The dominant left tackle, Hendrickson protected his quarterback's blind side each of the last two seasons, allowing four total sacks (2 each season) between his junior and senior campaigns. He finished as the third-leading vote-getter as a junior in Super Region 3 for the Upshaw Award, finishing second in the region this year before a fifth-place spot nationally.

Concordia University senior, Tyler Hendrickson

Minnesota South District Mission Statement

"Developing missional leaders in congregations and schools"

Searching about the open tomb at Beautiful Savior, Plymouth, Minn.

Hunting eggs at Beautiful Savior

by Cindy Dorfe

There was a spark of an idea—a glimmer, really—the sort of thought that captivated our imagination and made us dream wide-eyed with growing excitement at the possibilities. Was there some risk? Sure.

Was there an opportunity to build a connection with people in our community? Definitely! And that happy prospect outweighed any worry we had in launching a new outreach activity.

We are Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church situated in lively, suburban Plymouth, Minnesota. It's home to many families, some churched, some not, and we wanted to create an opportunity to connect with our neighbors and to share the love of God with them. The idea that sparked all the excitement? A Community Easter Egg Hunt.

We embarked on the first hunt, and it was a good learning experience as we focused on inviting our neighbors and friends to a fun, non-threatening church activity. There were games, crafts, costume characters, music, a Gospel message and, of course, an egg hunt.

Our community's positive reaction encouraged us to continue the following year, and now we are approaching our 8th annual hunt.

(Continued on Page G.)

May deadline: March 19

Send information two months in advance for the district portion of *The Lutheran Witness* to **Rev. David Anderson, 15130 Holly Lane N. #2, Plymouth, MN 55446** or email to *pastoranderson@yahoo.com*. Photos may be sent as JPEG attachments.

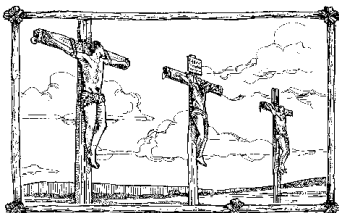
DEADLINE is the third Monday of each month. If you submit photos and wish to have the photos returned to you, please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

COMMENTS/FINANCES

'What kinda church do you belong to, anyway?'

Ash Wednesday is past, which means that we are now in the midst of our Lenten journey once again. I pray that it is a meaningful time for you as you reflect on our Lord's passion and death for sinners.

One of the most meaningful passages of Scripture during this season of the church year is Luke 19:10, which proclaims that, "… the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."



In my daily devotion the other day, I read a story about Tony Campolo who was traveling in an unfamiliar city. Late one night, he wandered into a café where the only other customers were a group of prostitutes. He overheard one of them say that tomorrow was her birthday. So, the next night he came back to the café with a cake and a sign that read, 'Happy Birthday, Agnes.'

Campolo says, *"The door swung open and in came Agnes … never have I seen a person so flabbergasted. Her eyes moistened … and she started to cry. Not knowing what else to do I said, 'What do you say we pray?' Looking back … it seems more than strange for a sociologist to be leading a prayer meeting with a bunch of prostitutes in a cafe! But it felt like the right thing to do. I prayed for Agnes: for her salvation, that her life would be changed. That God would be good to her. When I finished, the man behind the counter said, 'What kinda church do you belong to, anyway?' I replied, 'The kind that throws birthday parties for prostitutes.' He waited a moment and then answered, 'No you do not. There's no church like that. If there was, I'd join!'"*

Reading that story caused me to ask myself, "What kind of church do I belong to? What kind of church do you belong to? Would it throw a birthday party for a prostitute? A drug addict? An alcoholic? A homeless person? A convicted felon? A tattooed biker? A teenager with multiple piercings? If it would throw such a birthday party, would you attend? Why? Why not?

In Luke 15 we read, "Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, 'This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.'" You can almost hear the disgust in their voice when you read those words "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." But "sinners" are precisely the ones whom Jesus came to save. As my daily devotion put it, "He came to find lost people and save them, because He loves to salvage and recycle the hurting, the throw-aways, the left-out, the used-up and the put-down." The Gospels are full of examples of how Jesus reached out to them, to bring them to repentance and to give them new life. As He states in John 10:10, "I have come that they may have life and have it abundantly."

The Rev. Dr. Lane R. Seitz
LCMS Minnesota South District President

Are you willing to be His instrument? Lent is a time of personal and congregational reflection. It is a time to evaluate our witness to the less fortunate in our communities. It is a time to reflect the heart and mind of Jesus to all those around us.

District congregation mission receipts

for the period ending Jan. 31, 2012

For the month ending Jan. 31, 2012

Anticipated amount (8.66% of budget**)	$173,200
Actual receipts	$151,318
Over (under) amount	**($21,882)**

Year-to-date receipts

Anticipated amount (8.66% of budget**)	$173,200
Actual receipts	$151,318
Over (under) anticipated amount	**($21,882)**

Use of mission receipts

50% remitted to Synod (Year-to-Date/YTD)	$75,659
50% for district operations (YTD)	$75,659
Total receipts	**$151,318**

Mission receipts—compared with last year

Mission receipts—YTD 2012	$151,318
Mission receipts—YTD 2011	$155,674
Over (under) last year	**($4,356)**

***Based on average receipts for the past five years*
2012 congregational receipts budgeted at $2,000,000

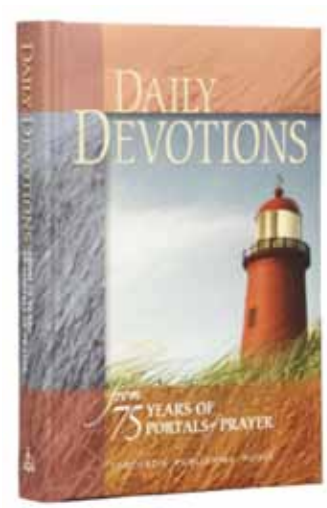
MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT
LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Month of December 2011

New investments	$1,145,759
Withdrawals	$1,102,375
Net increase (decrease)	**($43,384)**

Year-to-date July 1-Dec. 31, 2011

New investments	$6,294,209
Withdrawals	$7,024,648
Net increase (decrease)	**($730,438)**



New book features 365-plus days of devotion

ST. LOUIS—Every day, 900,000 people in 120 countries take five minutes out of their day to open their copy of *Portals of Prayer* and read a quick devotion.

In fact, during the last 75 years the daily devotion has not only been a staple product at Concordia Publishing House (CPH), but it has also become a favorite in households around the world.

"I've used *Portals* for years, as did my parents and grandparents," says customer Gwen Dumas.

"*Portals of Prayer* has become part of my morning devotions and prayer time," says another customer Christine E. Charman. "My mornings would be impossible without [them]."

Since 1937, readers have enjoyed the brief, powerful devotions written by authors including Synod presidents, pastors, professors and laypeople. Each one features a Bible reading, meditation and prayer in an easy-to-read format.

To celebrate the diamond anniversary of *Portals* in Lent 2012, Concordia Publishing House has released a commemorative book called *Daily Devotions*.

Each day of the year features a devotion taken from one of the past 75 years of *Portals*; plus, there are twenty extra "special occasion" devotions included for times such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Transfiguration, etc.

Great for gift giving, this high-quality devotional book features a ribbon book marker and can be purchased at *cph.org* or by calling 800-325-3040.

"It was quite a labor of love for editor Scot Kinnaman," said periodicals marketing manager Bob Sexton. "For each day of the year, [Scot] had to look through each of the 75 years worth of past issues and pick a suitable devotion for the book. That means he had over 27,000 devotions to choose from!"

Kinnaman selected many of the passages based on significant dates in history such as events of World War II, the Challenger disaster, and Sept. 11. This gives *Daily Devotions* a historical feeling.

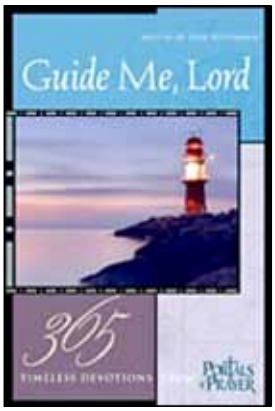
At the bottom of each page is a note that tells the date the devotion originally appeared.

"The wonderful thing about Scripture is that life application shows itself. That's why *Portals'* devotions are timeless," said editor Scot Kinnaman. "That timelessness became obvious as we put the book together. Yes, we updated older texts carefully to match our language today, but the themes and issues are absolutely still relevant."

In fact, what started in 1937 has not only endured but, grown. *Portals of Prayer* is available now around the world and featuring eight different versions (including Spanish, Web, large print and more).

Concordia Publishing House hopes that the commemorative book, like the magazine, will remind people that Christ is the light of the world.

"That is why we chose a lighthouse to put on the front cover," says Kinnaman. "Christ is the beacon calling people to safety; and we hope that *Portals* (as well as this book) can be a place where people can find hope."



Guide Me, Lord *devotional*

This collection of 365 daily devotions is gleaned from the well-known devotional magazine, *Portals of Prayer*. These short meditations cover a variety of themes with each one connecting a common topic with God's presence and power as revealed in His Word.

For those who are mature in their faith, these daily devotions encourage readers in daily meditation on God's Word. This collection provides devotional materials for Lutherans and other Christians that remind them of the strength, freedom and joy we have in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Scripture readings and prayers are included with each of the devotions.

RURAL OUTREACH

Rural ministry midweek outreach

Throughout the year, many congregations work hard to put on successful midweek programs. While many churches run excellent midweek Christian education programs, some congregations have found ways to utilize them in their outreach efforts.

Reaching Rural America for Christ

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission had the chance to visit with some rural churches in Kansas that have recognized the outreach possibilities and have been doing exciting things with their midweek programs. We want to pass these great ideas along to you.

At Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sylvan Grove, Kan., the Rev. Phil Augustine shared that they have an after-school midweek program each Wednesday from 3:45-5:30 p.m. Their theme this year is "Ambassadors for Christ Midweek."

The congregation has partnered with the local school district to bus children to the church door after school each week. He's pleased their numbers have grown to 36 children from grades one to six.

That's pretty impressive considering only eight of those children are members of the church! After the children are served a snack, two teachers go through memory work and lessons. There is a worship time and occasionally they do craft projects that they give to the residents of a local nursing home. A resource they have found useful is *My First Catechism* from Concordia Publishing House (*www.cph.org*).

The Rev. Matt Schneider, Lincoln, Kan., also is very excited about the commitment his dual parish made to run a strong midweek program. He finds that while the parishes are growing through both youth and adult confirmations, this doesn't always translate to growing numbers at worship.

Rather than let this get him down, Pastor Schneider asks how he can use the midweek program to build closer relationships and bring those who are willing to attend on Wednesday nights to church on Sunday mornings.

The congregation began hosting occasional breakfasts on Sunday mornings before the worship service where the children from the midweek program sing. Afterward, they provide a fun activity such as skating for the children.

Kansas District Executive Mark Frith shared that many congregations find it helpful to incorporate a meal into their midweek programs. Some churches are using this mealtime as an opportunity to teach table manners. Providing transportation for participants has proven beneficial as well.

A number of congregations have found it very helpful to focus on strengthening families. Their midweek activities intentionally keep families together.

Consider these great ideas: Have family groups sit together at midweek meals or teach whole families how to conduct family devotions as an activity rather than dividing into groups by age. Think outside the box about what you can do to keep your families together when they are at the church for midweek.

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission supports and encourages rural and small town congregations in engaging their communities and growing together in Christ through Word and Sacrament.

If you have a good idea for outreach or a story you'd like to share with us that we can share it with others, please contact us at 888-463-5127 or *ruralmission@spife.org*. Learn more about us at *www.spife.org* or by calling anytime.

Encouraging rural ministry event with southern neighbor

Rural and Small Town Mission (RSTM) exists to support and encourage congregations in rural and small town settings in their work to engage their communities with the love of Christ. In partnership with the Iowa District East, RSTM invited congregations to join together at St. John Lutheran Church, Waverly, Iowa, on Saturday, Feb. 25, for the Engaging Rural Communities Event.

The event was geared for single and multi-point parishes in rural and small-town settings. Many rural congregations today are concerned about shrinking membership and fewer children and families in worship.

There is no "one size fits all" solution; however, congregational leaders were encouraged to see new opportunities for engaging their communities as they are filled with hope for the future. The Rev. Brian Saunders; the Rev. Dr. Dean Rothchild, Iowa District East; and the Rev. Dr. Lee Hagan, RSTM, assisted each congregation present to go home with some practical approaches on engaging and touching the community with the Gospel.

Each congregation received personalized demographics for their community. These studies are an invaluable resource. For more information, email *ruralmission@spife.org*.

DCE Colloquy Cohort 2012

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, ST. PAUL—Planners currently are sketching out the details to begin DCE Colloquy Cohort #11 in July 2012. The first course begins on July 9 and includes online and on-campus learning. The weeklong, on-campus experience will occur July 16-20. The rest of the program is delivered online.

Lay staff of congregations and Recognized Service Organizations (RSO) who wish to pursue the Director of Christian Education Colloquy program should contact Dr. Stephen Stohlmann, director of colloquy, at *stohlmann@csp.edu* or 651-641-8824 or Kathy Hagen, administrative assistant, at *hagen@csp.edu* or 651-641-8892 for detailed information about the program.

What is colloquy?

The word *colloquy* is Latin for "interview" or "working together." The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) utilizes the colloquy process to certify individuals who seek to be ministers of religion-ordained or ministers of religion-commissioned in Lutheran congregations or in RSOs, but who have not had formal training in a college, university or seminary of the denomination.

Candidates who successfully complete all requirements of the Director of Christian Education (DCE) Colloquy program and who demonstrate mastery of required outcomes are certified as ministers of religion-commissioned. Upon certification, the candidate becomes eligible for a call to serve as a DCE at a calling entity of the LCMS.

Program Objective**:** The primary mission of the Church is to make disciples of every nation by bearing witness to Jesus Christ. The purpose of the Director of Christian Education certification program is to prepare students for professional Word and service ministry as equippers of the Church to carry out God's mission for Christian education. This is an online, accelerated colloquy program for lay workers in congregations or Recognized Service Organizations.

CTS Kantorei releases new sacred music CD

FORT WAYNE, IND. (CTS)—Great Reformer Dr. Martin Luther said, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." The Kantorei of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., now adds to that treasure with their newest release, "He is Risen Indeed! ALLELUIA!"

The CD offers more than an hour of music with 19 selections, including "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" and "Into Thy Keeping." The Kantorei is directed by CTS Kantor Richard C. Resch and the organist is CTS Associate Kantor Kevin J. Hildebrand.

"I think 'He is Risen Indeed! ALLELUIA!' is the Seminary Kantorei at its best. It was a joy for me to produce a CD of the finest singing from Kantorei Easter tours going back to 2004.

"This is listening that is not only for Eastertide, but for the Christian it is good and right for all times. We sincerely hope you will enjoy and be edified," says Kantor Resch.

The CDs may be purchased for $15.95 each through the Concordia Publishing House bookstore on the CTS campus by phone at 260-452-3108. Those wishing to order larger quantities for adjusted prices may do so by contacting the CTS Music Department via email at *annette.aard@ctsfw.edu* or by phone at 260-452-2224.

2012 Grace Place Retreats for LCMS church workers

Grace Place is privileged to announce its 2012 retreat schedule with opportunities to study and experience health and wholeness in an innovative and highly practical manner. Participants will be gathered with 12-15 of their peers and their spouses.

Those attending will be guided through the week by professional and certified LCMS physicians, counselors, financial specialists and musicians. Costs for the experience range from $250 to $350 per person/couple.

- **Grace Place for the Ohio District:** Salt Fork Lodge, Cambridge, Ohio: April 30-May 4.
- **Grace Place for Single Pastors and Teachers:** The Stonebridge Inn, Snowmass Aspen, Colo.: June 18-22.
- **Grace Place for Clergy and Teachers Couples:** The Stonebridge Inn, Snowmass Aspen, Colo.: June 25-29.
- **Grace Place/Camp Arcadia Family Retreat:** Camp Arcadia, Mich.; July 14-21; (Register through Camp Arcadia website).
- **Grace Place for Michigan District:** Boyne Mountain Resort, Mich.: July 23-27.
- **Grace Place for Indiana District:** Swan Lake Resort, Plymouth, Ind.: July 30-Aug. 3.
- **Grace Place/KINDLE Associates Learning Event:** Grand Geneva Resort, Lake Geneva, Wis.: Oct. 22-26.

Visit us for specifics on the above information at *www.graceplaceretreats.org* or call Patti Allen (Borghardt) at 314-842-3077. We hope to see you!

DISTRICT SONSHINE

Mary and Ted Brandt

A birthday party 'to go'

St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Osseo has a long history. The congregation was established in 1865 and has seen many milestones. But one that took place recently may be brand new.

Ted and Mary Brandt, longtime St. Paul's members and Osseo residents, turned 100 years old! Both of them! Ted's 100th birthday was Feb. 12, and Mary will have turned 100 on March 13. "I married a younger woman," jokes Ted.

How to celebrate? Everyone agreed that bringing the beloved couple to church would be too risky, especially in winter. And sending a large contingent of members to the Ambassador Care Center, where they now reside, might be too overwhelming.

Consulting with family, it was decided that a birthday party would be recorded. On Jan. 22, the congregation, choirs and Sunday school videotaped as they sang favorite hymns and sent birthday wishes.

The congregation's videographer, David Glauvitz, edited the tape for DVD, which Ted and Mary watched and can watch again and again at their leisure. It's either a "take-out birthday party" or a "party to go."

The Brandts, both widowed, were brought together by their faithful church attendance and long service to the congregation. They were married Feb. 10, 1983. For many years, they made their home in southeast Osseo, then moved to Steeple Point and recently to the Ambassador.

They received regular visits from Pastor Tyler and other members, and their first question is, "What's going on at St. Paul's?" Both are active students of the Bible and maintain a lively interest in the life of the church that has meant so much to them.

The line in one of the birthday songs prepared for the taping read, "We are blessed to have them among us!" And as good Lutherans say, "This is most certainly true."

Cawthorne awarded Medal of Valor

Senior Police Officer Aaron Cawthorne ('07) helped rescue three young people from a burning SUV and has been awarded the Medal of Valor from the Des Moines, Iowa, Police Department. Cawthorne, a 2007 Concordia University, St. Paul graduate, reacted on instinct last August and was awarded the Medal of Valor on Dec. 14, 2011.

Photo Des Moines, Iowa Police Department.

Shown above, Senior Police Officer Aaron Cawthorne, third from the right.

Weekly e-News *brings you the latest SONshine!*

For many years, people and congregations of the Minnesota South District were kept informed by "The Communicator," a monthly newsletter. Several years ago, "The Communicator" was replaced by a new weekly news format. e-News is published weekly and contains the latest news and information of interest to congregations and people of the district.

Formatted in brief, easy-to-read bites, links to complete information and complete stories also are included.

You are invited to download weekly e-News from the District website (*www.mnsdistrict.org* – click on the e-News icon) or subscribe to the email version by sending a request to Administrative Assistant Debra Connolly, *debra.connolly@mnsdistrict.org*, with "e-News Subscribe" in the subject line of your email.

Prepare/Enrich training

ST. LOUIS—Concordia Seminary will offer a Prepare/Enrich Workshop and Training from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Saturday, March 10, on the seminary campus.

This workshop is designed to help facilitators learn how to use the Prepare/Enrich program with premarital and married couples. It is based on a set of five inventories that examine major relationship issues a couple may experience.

These inventories must be administered by a trained Prepare/Enrich counselor and include four to six feedback sessions in which the counselor facilitates discussion between the couple based on the inventory results. Takeaway materials include the *Comprehensive Counselor Manual*, five inventories for premarital and married couples at all stages of life, and a *Building a Strong Marriage Workbook*.

The workshop will be facilitated by the Rev. Jeffery S. Schubert, executive pastor at Divine Redeemer, Hartland, Wis. He previously served as executive director of district and congregational services at The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's International Center in St. Louis, Mo. He is a certified trainer in Prepare/Enrich and is recognized for his national and international leadership in marriage enrichment.

The fee for the Prepare/Enrich Workshop is $200 (or $180 for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis students). Pre-registration by Feb. 23 is required. Fee is nonrefundable after this date. Lunch is available in the seminary dining hall.

Contact the office of continuing education and parish services at 314-505-7486; *ce@csl.edu*; or visit the seminary's website at *www.csl.edu*.

Seminary blesses completed construction projects

ST. LOUIS—Concordia Seminary's major renovation project titled, "Phase One," has officially been completed. To praise God for the blessing He has bestowed upon Concordia Seminary with these renovations, the seminary formally blessed the use of the completed projects, including The Johann Hinrich Benidt Center, during morning chapel on Tuesday, Jan. 24.

The complex is named The Johann Hinrich Benidt Seminary Center in honor of the Benidt family, who contributed significant funds to the "Place" component of the How Will They Hear? Campaign. "Johann Hinrich Benidt's impact is most clearly seen in the life that he inspired his grandson Charles to lead," commented Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary. "Johann's influence has spread beyond his wildest imaginings, and it will continue to leave its mark on the future of Concordia Seminary, and through its students, upon the church at large. We're proud to name our new world-class kitchen and dining complex in honor of Johann Hinrich Benidt."

For more information, please call 314-505-7379 or email *communications@csl.edu*.

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR, PLYMOUTH, MINN.

(Continued from Page A.)

Initially, most of those who attended had some formal connection to Beautiful Savior. Today, more than 60 percent of the 600-plus attending are non-members from surrounding communities. Many come at the invitation of a Beautiful Savior member but, increasingly, word-of-mouth publicity is drawing in a large number of guests.

There's free, family friendly fun for everyone. Inflatables, face-painting, puppet shows, food and all the rest work together to generate a good-times atmosphere. We have added another aspect to the event that illustrates beautifully why we care about people in our community so much. It's our Easter Journey, and it's designed to tell the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, using a child-appropriate, experiential approach. It is adapted from a variety of sources, including Concordia Publishing House's *Journey to the Cross: An Easter Learning Experience*. Various stations in the journey lead families through the events of Holy Week and incorporate storytelling and meaningful tasks to bring a "real-ness" to Jesus' sacrifice for us.

Participants read Scripture; they hear about the donkey Jesus rode into Jerusalem; they pound nails into wood; and they taste wine vinegar. The journey culminates in visiting the empty tomb and hearing the good news of the resurrection—that Jesus died for our sins and rose triumphantly offering us grace and hope for eternal life.

Guests tell us they've been moved by the Easter Journey, and we humbly give thanks to God for the opportunity to share the Good News of God's redeeming love with them. We stand ready to nurture and encourage all who want to know more about Jesus.

What began as a spark of an idea a few years ago, God has fanned into a glowing flame. Looking ahead, we're still wide-eyed with excitement at the possibilities.

ROSTER CHANGES/LWML NEWS

Roster changes

Accessions and transfers into the district, fourth quarter 2011

REV. DAVID A. DOMANSKI, candidate status, Kansas District to candidate status, MNS District, effective March 17, 2011.

Transfers out of the district, fourth quarter 2011

REV. DAVID W. FECHNER, emeritus status, MNS District, to emeritus status, Pacific Southwest District, effective Oct. 28, 2011.

REV. ADAM D. HARVALA, non-candidate status, MNS District, to non-candidate status, North Dakota District, effective Sept. 1, 2011.

REV. DR. MICHAEL A. IANNELLI JR., sole pastor, Shepherd of the Grove, Maple Grove, to administrative pastor, Our Savior, St. Charles, Mo., effective Nov. 9, 2011.

Changes within the district, fourth quarter 2011

REV. ARMAND J. BOEHME, associate pastor, Trinity, Northfield, to intentional interim at Trinity, Faribault, installed Oct. 2, 2011, by Rev. Dr. Larry Griffin.

REV. DENNIS M. DREWS, sole pastor, Redemption, Bloomington, to emeritus status, effective Nov. 1, 2011.

REV. KENNETH K. HARSTE, associate pastor, Family of Christ, Ham Lake, to Church Planter, MNS District, installed Dec. 4, 2011, by Rev. Dr. Lane R. Seitz.

REV. WILLIAM H. KIRMSSE, emeritus status to sole pastor, St. Peter, Watertown, effective April 10, 2007.

REV. DAVID E. RADTKE, non-candidate status, resigned from the LCMS roster, effective Dec. 30, 2011.

REV. DEAN H. RUDLOFF, sole pastor, Trinity, Medford, to emeritus status, effective Oct. 1, 2011.

REV. TODD D. STOCKER, non-candidate status to campus chaplain, Concordia University, St. Paul, installed Aug. 25, 2011, by Rev. Thomas K. Ries.

Congregational changes, fourth quarter 2011

EVANGELICAL MEKANE YESUS CHURCH FELLOWSHIP IN MINNESOTA, became a member congregation of the LCMS; effective Sept. 26, 2010.

Commissioned ministers accession and transfers into district, fourth quarter, 2011

RUTH DRUM, (TX), candidate status on Nov. 1, 2011.

CANDIDATE DEACONESS KRISTINE HANSON, (FW'11), to Christ Ev. Lutheran, Eagan, on Oct. 16, 2011, by Rev. Donald Schmiege.

Changes within the district

ANDREW BOLL, Cannon Valley Lutheran High School, Morristown, to candidate status on Nov. 1, 2011.

DANIEL KUBALL, King of Kings, Roseville, to Rochester Central Lutheran, Rochester, on Oct. 16, 2011.

Transfers to other districts

CONNIE SOUZA, emeritus, to California-Nevada-Hawaii District, on Oct. 31, 2011.

WILLIAM SOUZA, emeritus, to California-Nevada-Hawaii District, on Oct. 31, 2011.

Removed/resigned from Synod roster

LESA CLARKSON, Concordia University, St. Paul, resigned Dec. 16, 2011.

MARTIN MACK JR., Rochester Central Lutheran, Rochester, to emeritus on Sept. 1, 2011.

24th Biennial Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Convention

The Minnesota South District LWML Convention will take place June 22-24 at Verizon Wireless Center, Mankato, Minn. The theme is *Extreme YOU Makeover*.

You will have several opportunities to stay active at the convention and to contribute toward the 2012-14 mite goal at the same time. Lace up your walking shoes for a riverfront pledge walk early Sunday morning.

Wear your convention shirt and be a witness for Christ in the Mankato community as you walk. In the event of rain, the walk will take place indoors. If walking isn't your speed, consider rocking for mites in between convention sessions.

Gifts from the Heart Ingathering

Convention-goers may bring items for the Gifts from the Heart Ingathering. See the Spring *Women on a Mission* (WOM), the Minnesota South District LWML website (*www.mnslwml.org*) Human Care link or the February *Lutheran Witness* for more information.

Additionally, birthday-cake kits may be prepared and distributed in your local communities prior to the convention. Birthday-cake kits should include the following items:

- Cake mix
- Candles
- Frosting
- Decorations and/or letters
- Christian message for adult or child – i.e. bookmark, *Mustard Seed*, activity page like those used in church.
- Optional – napkins, plates, cups, other items to decorate the cake.

Place all items inside a disposable cake pan covered with the lid.

First Timers Luncheon

Those attending their first LWML convention this summer should sign up for the First Timers Luncheon. Questions can be directed to Joy Anderson at 952-440-5262 or *servantresourcesvp@mnslwml.org*.