Our Mission
The South Wisconsin District empowers life changing ministries of bold, passionate witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our Vision
In a constantly changing world, the South Wisconsin District discovers, celebrates and advances vibrant models for growing discipleship, missional leaders and church worker wholeness.

Our core values
• Discipleship  • Diversity
• Community   • Excellence
• Integrity

Passionate Believers Conference Survey Winners
Congratulations to Tom Jeske from Peace, Neenah! Tom was the winner of the “Like” SWD on Facebook contest.

Congratulations Roberta Hilgendorf, Redeemer, Manitowoc! Roberta was the winner of the completing “Survey” contest.

Both winners received a $50 Amazon Gift Card.

On the cover:
A team of 11 members from Bethlehem, Sun Prairie formed a “bucket brigade”, hoisting five-gallon buckets of hand-mixed concrete up a ladder to be poured into reinforced forms atop the entrance to the church in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic.

Story on page 6.

The Passionate Believers Conference, held this past January at Divine Redeemer, Hartland, was another successful event. It was a nice winter day for the 298 pastors, teachers, and lay leaders who attended.

As one participant commented, “This conference is a precious opportunity for SWD leadership and lay ministry to learn from each other, pray and collaborate.”

We hope to see you next year on Saturday, January 30, 2016 at Divine Redeemer, Hartland. Please watch for updated information throughout the year.

Passionate Believers

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Passionate Believers is a quarterly publication of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod congregations within the South Wisconsin District. It shares stories about our partnership in the Gospel and how we work towards maximizing, magnifying, and multiplying the ministry that is done with and through local congregations. If you would like to submit ideas, stories or news for the next publication, please send them to editor@swd.lcms.org by May 20, 2015.

Congregations receive specified quantities at no cost. An individual subscription sent to your address is $5 per year.
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The Adetibas chat with Pastor Haas (above). (Below) Deb Engel and Sanya Parson discuss the SOS ministry, for which a Siebert grant was given.

The Passionate Believers... confessing Christ
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

On March 1 I had the distinct blessing of preaching at two separate worship services. The first was at the 125th anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sheboygan. The other, later in the afternoon, was at Bethlehem Lutheran Sun Prairie as a church planter is installed; namely, the Rev. Joel Brandt who has accepted a divine call to resurrect the work in Waunakee. The first congregation, Immanuel, was planted by its German ancestors several generations ago. The second, a congregation planted in our generation.

A confessional Lutheran church like our LCMS ought not to be paralyzed by mushy indifference. A confessional Lutheran church cares about people both in the church and out of the church, about their families, about their body and their soul, about their eternal well-being. A confessional Lutheran church is not one that wrings its hands when it sees opportunities. A confessional Lutheran church ought never water down its message for the sake of being more palatable to a self-absorbed, self-motivated culture. The Apostle Paul talks about that obligation in the second chapter of his First Letter to the Corinthians where he writes, “We preach Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and folly to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ [is] the power of God and the wisdom of God.”

We have knelt at the foot of the cross where our Lord bore our sins in His body. We have been to the empty tomb of Easter Sunday. We know his desire to forgive even the worst sinner; you and I. You know what that forgiveness means for you. We have the glimmer of faith in the eyes of others. In the Lutheran Church we proclaim the Christ. We preach the Gospel as no other Christian church. As Lutheran Christians we rejoice in our Lord’s precious Sacraments. We sing the Gospel, and we live it. It is time for us to once again assault the gates of hell with the Gospel as those who have gone before us have. It is our heritage. It is our calling. It is time to sow the seed…and God Himself will grant the increase.

Knowing and believing that, it is time for us in SWD to set our sites on church-planting once again. If we focus only on preserving what we have, we are dying. But our church, our faith, our ministry is not about death and dying. The Gospel message is about life in our Lord Jesus and living for Him. If we truly believe the message we cling to, it is time for us to plant new congregations. That is what gave rise to so many congregations that dot the landscape of South Wisconsin. It is time for us to renew that passion…to revive that zeal…time for us to be who we are…confessional Lutherans. Time for us to be what confessional Lutherans do best, that is to proclaim the message of salvation by grace through faith.

“Confessing Christ for the next generation.” This is our time to plant new congregations. My prayer and my hope is that all of our congregations, our circuits, our pastors will help make this dream a reality. May our Lord have mercy! May our gracious Lord bless us in like manner as we reach out the lost with His Gospel!

God bless!

Rev. Dr. John C. Wille
President, South Wisconsin District LCMS
Often when we talk about “church planting,” people immediately think of brick and mortar, or land and buildings. “Where will the new church be?” is an often-asked question. Behind this question is the implication that land, buildings and a preconceived model of church plants are involved. Most often, this is not the case.

What is needed is a deconstruction of the term “church plant” and a reconstruction which understands that there are multiple types and models of “new starts” or “new church reproductions” or “church plantings” or “church multiplications.”

Recently, my partner, Mike Ruhl and I collated some of the lists that are found in various places. We believe that these might be helpful in defining “new church reproduction” and helping to determine a model which best “fits” a given church multiplication situation or context.

Three Types of Church Multiplication

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS) Council of Presidents has identified three types of church multiplication or church planting, each of which is “valid” as a type of new church multiplication.

1. New Church Start. This includes any intentionally organized gathering of individuals who have come together on a regular basis for the purpose of worship and/or study of the Word and is intended to grow into an LCMS rostered congregation. These are the groups recognized as “new starts” listed in the LCMS Lutheran Annual, the official listing of congregations, missions, and rostered workers of the denomination.

   The number of new church starts in our Synod, and also in the South Wisconsin District, has been dwindling for several decades. Here in SWD we were blessed with a...
number of new church starts in the 1990s. More recently, Christ Memorial in Fitchburg planted Community of Life in Oregon (who recently installed new pastor Jim McCoid). With the Lord of the Church guiding and directing our efforts, we pray that SWD can once again be known for new church starts!

2. Satellite Site. These are extensions of a rostered congregation’s Word and Sacrament ministry at a separate site, under the supervision and leadership of that congregation. The site does not intend to become an independently rostered congregation of the Synod. These are listed in a separate category in the statistical portion of the LCMS Lutheran Annual.

There are several recent examples of satellite ministries in South Wisconsin. First Immanuel in Cedarburg, which had helped with planting a new church, Living Word in Jackson, in the 1990s, took on the former Peace Lutheran Church in Saukville as a satellite, renaming it River of Life. Pastor Jeff Mueller of Berea in Milwaukee has started a satellite ministry at the former Nazareth church building, connected to the LUMIN school there. Pastor Jeff Meyer has started several satellite ministries from Christ Memorial in Fitchburg (in East Madison and Verona). Community of Life in Oregon, itself a church plant, has started a ministry called “The Bridge,” led by Pastor Josh Miller, in Madison. Bethlehem in Sun Prairie has also taken over the former church plant in Waunakee as a satellite. Senior Pastor Charlie Brandt hopes this new satellite (under the direction of his son, Rev. Joel Brandt, who was recently installed there) will at some point transition to become an independent congregation.

3. Special Outreach Ministry. This is a new ministry of one or more congregations (e.g., immigrant ministry, coffee house, etc.) which is not intended to be an independently rostered congregation (or does not have the capacity to become self-supporting). This is intended to be an outreach or Gospel-ministry of an existing congregation to reach new people and make new disciples. These are listed in a separate category in the statistical portion of the LCMS Lutheran Annual.

We have been blessed with so many special outreach ministries in SWD. From prison ministry at the House of Correction to Deaf Ministry, campus ministry, international student ministry, and cross-cultural ministries among Asian immigrants, African immigrants, and Hispanics from all over Latin America, God has given us an immense number of opportunities to reach people with the Gospel. We pray that this continues!

As you can see, there is certainly no shortage of types of multiplication, and the number of models within each of these types is staggering! Beyond types and models, though, is the heart of a gracious God who calls his people to creatively, strategically, and passionately reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to anyone and everyone we can. God help our congregations and her pastors and leaders to work together to do this—for Jesus’ sake.

SWD Convention 2015

He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

On June 7–9, 2015, our South Wisconsin District will hold its 54th triennial convention at Concordia University Wisconsin campus in Mequon under the theme, “Walk humbly with our God.”

All current information about the convention is posted on the District website, swd.lcms.org. Please keep our District church workers, congregations, delegates and all participants in this important event in your prayers as they prepare for and execute the business at hand to the glory of God and the spreading of His saving Gospel!
Teamwork in Dominican Republic!

A group of eleven members from Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Sun Prairie, Wis., traveled to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic on Saturday, January 31. They were there for a full week, to continue the work of construction on the Amigos de Cristo, Iglesia Evangelica Luterana Confesional Church that was started in 2011.

The project goal was to build cement block walls and complete the church so that it can be furnished inside without risk of theft or damage when not in use. We partnered with MOST Ministries and the preparation began six weeks before leaving. From them we received packing lists, hydration and tool lists and a request for two wheelchairs to be used in the mission’s group home.

On Sunday morning we began our day with Sunday school, helping the 34 children learn to become fishers of men (how appropriate). We then were led in worship by Rev. Willy Gaspar, the first Dominican Lutheran pastor who is a graduate of Concordia Seminary in Buenos Aires, Argentina. We even sang hymns in Spanish, a cultural first for many on the team.

The heavy work began on Monday, our third day on site. It involved breaking a portion of the concrete floors of the church so that we could dig a trench and pour concrete footings. This was all done with hand tools with very few mechanical tools on site. We were fortunate that the demolition work was done in the shade as the ladies on our team were outside in the hot sun sanding and painting chairs that will be used in the church when completed. Despite the heat, sweat, muscle aches and blisters, the work went very smoothly as the project plan was clearly conveyed to the group. Everyone
worked so well in harmony, taking breaks to hydrate and switching tasks routinely to prevent fatigue.

We were served three delicious meals each day prepared by women of the church. While we did have some American cuisine, most of the dishes consisted of local Dominican cuisine, and our group loved them.

The next three days consisted mainly of mixing concrete by hand and placing roughly 1,200 cement blocks in place. We worked closely with a four-man construction team that taught us the Dominican way of doing things. But their main focus was on forms for a concrete overhang on the entrance of the church depicting an open Bible (see photo, left). They were highly motivated to get this poured before we left! We mixed the concrete on the ground, shoveled into five gallon buckets and passed them up a ladder to be poured onto the rebar reinforced forms. We called ourselves the “bucket brigade” and poured ourselves into the construction of the Bible awning (see cover photo).

We were joined by several missionaries and church members who worked with our team mixing concrete and building walls. The missionaries helped with the communication as our group wasn’t fluent in Spanish. The outpouring of love by the local people was felt throughout the trip. We were most fortunate on our last full day to travel to Santiago to see more of God’s mission at work as we toured a preschool that has doubled in size in two years and is outgrowing its current building. We toured the seminary where men are preparing to preach the Word of God in their home country, and we visited a school and rehabilitation group home. We also walked on the new land recently purchased that will be the home of a new church and school.

Each day of our trip began and ended in devotion. It was a great way to share with each other everything that we were experiencing during this journey.

So why did we go? To make a difference—whether we are putting up cinder block walls in the Dominican Republic or planting a church in our own neighborhood. We are all called as Christians to join in God’s mission in the world. That is why God gave us His Great Commission! God is going about saving all his elect, according to His plan, and that plan includes involving us in that mission. I hope that, in some way, our group’s experience in the Dominican Republic encourages you to continue to pray for our LCMS mission work throughout the world, to continue to support mission efforts financially and to go and serve the Lord on a mission for the first time. In any case, we’re so thankful for the love and support we received from our church, MOST Ministries, family and friends. It’s my heartfelt hope that Jesus was glorified in our trip; we are blessed to be a blessing.

Tuck pointing put the finishing touch on about 1,200 cement blocks put into place with hand-mixed concrete.

The construction project included some demolition work that will add a doorway to the women’s bathroom so they don’t need to enter through a common doorway shared with the men.
St. Paul students join Food for the Poor

Early in January, Dr. John Buuck, former president of Concordia University Wisconsin, preached at St. Paul, Grafton about an organization he is part of—Food For the Poor, Inc. Food For the Poor feeds hundreds of thousands of people every day in 17 countries throughout the Caribbean and Latin America. Inspired by Dr. Buuck’s message and learning more about the difficulties that students their age are dealing with in this area of the world, students at St. Paul felt like they could help make a difference.

Each month students at St. Paul get behind a school-wide service project through the collection of chapel offerings. The students wanted to do something a bit different with Food For the Poor. A goal of sponsoring 20 children and feeding them for an entire year along with providing a water pump for four villages was set. The middle school students felt the goal was lofty and that they needed to come up with some creative ideas to help meet it. They decided that for four weeks, each class would sponsor a two-day bake sale to help raise funds. Fifth through eighth grades were each assigned a week and students and parents from those classes brought in baked goods to sell to the other school classes at 50 cents per item. A total of $700 was collected from the bake sales which added to the chapel offerings. The students were able to greatly surpass their goal—sponsoring 35 children for a year and providing four water pumps.

I Peter 3:8 says: Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. “Service projects like these help our students to not only understand our purpose as a school but to also live out that mission,” shared Principal Michael Yurk. “God calls us to serve others, to share the bounty that He has blessed us with and to do it with grace and humbleness. As a staff, we couldn’t be prouder of our students for coming up with a unique way to reach out, serve others and put these words into action. Our society needs to prepare the next generation of servant leaders, and this is what we are striving for at St. Paul”

At Christ the Life Lutheran Church in Waukesha, Wis., wild things are happening. The church sits on over 20 acres of land that had once been a farm until the 1940s. Since then, much of the property has returned to a natural state. Most of the property sat unused while the church and preschool used a few acres. In the summer of 2013, one of the preschool’s teachers (Scott Boris) observed at a nature preschool in Glendale, Wis., and he wanted to create a nature classroom/playground at Christ the Life. Many weekends were spent hacking and whacking weeds, vines, trees, barbwire (200+ feet, some dating back to the 1880s), fallen timber, and old farm debris. The area was mowed over the summer of 2014 and over 500 feet of fencing was installed.

When the preschool staff returned in the fall, they found a secret garden had been created.

The school now studies the animals that live in the area using two game cameras. Over Labor Day weekend, 2014, something very special happened. After a rain collected on a tray that had once held corn (the raccoons ate it), a Great Horned Owl appeared on the camera getting a drink. They stopped putting out food and switched to a bowl of water. Once or twice a week, a male and/or a female owl would appear in videos getting a drink. More discoveries lead them to find their roost tree on the property. Some of the students even got to see the owl on a nature walk in December.

They were eager to see some snow so that they could track the animals on the property. Later in early March they made some maple syrup. If you would like to see their latest discoveries, check out the preschool Facebook page. Look for Christ the Life Lutheran preschool.
Lutheran Schools Week activities in our District, Jan. 25-31

Baptized into His Name at St. John, Berlin

St. John Lutheran Church in Berlin, Wis., was the setting for a dual Baptism during the chapel service of the recent Lutheran Schools Week! Pastor Bryan Lundquist baptized Paris Winter Prahl, a fifth grader, and her brother, London Christopher Prahl, a second grader. Mrs. Charlotte Fritsch, St. John’s first and second grade teacher, served as sponsor along with another parent from the school, Mrs. Brenda Oppor.

Mrs. Fritsch has taught both Paris and now London. “We talk about baptism every day in our Religion lessons,” Mrs. Fritsch said. “In speaking with their father, Justin, and with Pastor Lundquist, we thought that doing their baptism during a chapel service was very appropriate and an excellent witness to other students who aren’t yet baptized.”

The Lutheran Schools Week theme, “Mercy Forever,” was perfect for this event. The entire school celebrated with a baptism cake and a few gifts. When London was asked if he felt different after being baptized, he said, “Yes! I just know that my sins are forgiven!” Thank you Holy Spirit!

“Project Linus” at St. Paul, Janesville

For Lutheran Schools Week this year, Ruth Ann Schultz’s first grade class at St. Paul, Janesville made blankets with their parents and grandparents for Project Linus. The children hand delivered them to an area hospital the following week. They brought 25 blankets to Beloit Memorial Hospital. The blankets were funded by a community action grant from Thrivent Financial. The children are pictured (right) with their completed blankets.

Special activities at Racine Lutheran High School

Racine Lutheran High School celebrated Lutheran Schools Week January 25-31 with many special activities. These included thematic dress-up days, student and staff appreciation days, a faculty-versus-student basketball game, a cupcake eating contest, and an all-school ice-cream-float party.

The Lutheran grade schools joined the high school students for weekly Chapel, presented by the RLHS National Honor Society. Students enjoyed a musical performance by the renowned Christian band Perry and the Poorboys.

Racine Lutheran’s Sophia Drager trains for leadership

The South Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod recently selected Racine Lutheran High School junior Sophia Drager to represent her district and congregation at the Council of Lutheran Youth Fellowship Representatives. This annual meeting took place March 12-15 in St. Louis.

Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) is the youth organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. This Christian denomination has more than 2.2 million members with 6,000 congregations in the United States and Canada, as well as partner churches around the world.

Drager represented the young people of her district and congregation, helping develop a vision for youth ministry through LYF. In addition, she learned to host leadership-training sessions for her peers through a module titled “Teen Stand Strong Training.”

At Racine Lutheran, Drager stands out by serving as President of the Student Council, a Student Ambassador and a member of the National Honor Society. She also performs with the handbells ensemble, jazz band and concert band.
I grew up on a farm in northern Illinois and each year, around the first of March, discussions around the kitchen table started to focus on planting. There was a lot to talk about—things like waiting for the frost to go out of the ground, preparing the soil so that the newly planted seeds would prosper, and then the actual planting process. All of these steps were important, but there was one step of the process over which we had very little control. It was called weather—it dealt with the amount of moisture that our land would receive, as well as the temperature of the ground and air around our plantings. That was the hardest part—we had no control over when it rained or the temperature throughout the growing season.

Fast forward in my life about thirty years when I accepted a call to Wisconsin from Iowa. One of the main duties of my call was to help plant a church. I had served two rural churches, both of which had agriculture as the main occupation of the majority of the members. I was used to being around talk of farming—preparing soil and planting. I also knew that some of those things were out of my control.

Planting a church, as we look in the Bible, also has some important steps. Some of these steps are things that we can control, while others are completely out of our control. This is often a difficult thing for us to understand, because most of us, as human beings, like to be in control of things with well laid out plans. But, like the farmer, there are some things over which we have no control.

The Apostle Paul is the best known church planter in the New Testament, starting a number of churches on the northeast side of the Mediterranean Sea.

- Using the book of Acts, name the churches that Paul planted. (Begin scanning the Book of Acts at chapter 13.)

The first step of Paul’s church planting process was just getting there. And getting there for Paul meant finding something that he could find in common with the people.
For that reason, whenever Paul arrived in a new area, in most cases he would begin meeting with people that would understand a little bit of what he was talking about. He wanted to have something in common with the people.

- Where did Paul often begin gathering people together to hear him? (See Acts 13:14; 14:1, 17:2, 17:10, 17:17, 18:4, and 19:8.)

- Why would he start there?

The second step of Paul’s process was finding an audience that would understand some of the things that he was talking about. That continues to be important for us today. We need to have something in common with the people that we wish to become part of our Christian family.

Paul soon realized that there were many other people that also needed to hear about Jesus. In many cases after speaking to people that were from the same background as Paul, he began to reach out to others. In the Book of Acts this was one of the first steps that caused some dissension among the early Christians. In the immediate time after the Ascension of Christ, most of the early followers and part of the church plants were Jewish people.

- When the church started to move outside of the Jewish people, there was another group of people that Paul and Peter started to share the good news of Jesus with—what was the name of this group of people? (See Acts 13:46-48.)

- Who does this name refer to?

The third step of church planting is moving outside of our immediate circle of friends and family. What moves us to do that? Why would we want to move outside of our own comfort zone? For the Apostle Paul, this was driven by his understanding that everyone was in need of the message that he was sharing.

- Read Romans 3:10-18. According to this, who is in need of a Savior?

- Read Romans 3:21-26. As Paul writes these words, what is it about them that drives us to, at a minimum, share our faith with others, and finally to think about planting a church?

As I started, I shared that in the planting process, there is one thing that farmers leave in God’s hands—the weather. In church planting, there is also something that, after we have done everything that we can do, we leave in God’s hands.

- In 1 Corinthians 3:5-9, it talks about this final part of the church planting process. Who makes it grow?

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Spring Retreat for 55 & Up
May 13, 2015
Cedar Valley Retreat Center in West Bend

“Blessed are the peacemakers”

Join us for a day of spiritual enrichment, a delightful lunch, and fellowship at our Spring Retreat for 55 & Up at beautiful Cedar Valley Retreat Center! Our main speakers for the day will be Rev. Dr. Richard Thompson (Blessed are the Peacemakers) and Karen Lippert (Uniquely you!).

If you come on Tuesday evening you will also share in a visit from Officer Charles Lightoller, survivor of the Titanic (played by David Wiedenkeller).

For more information, please call Peg Raabe at 414-464-8100, ext. 11. Registration deadline is May 4.
Beautiful Savior’s K-9 Comfort Dog, Lila, helps “open” the memory of a patient

Highlands Health Center in East Mequon, Wisconsin has a special Memory Care unit. Recently, Lila, an LCC K-9 Comfort Dog at Beautiful Savior (Mequon, WI) and her handler, Joyce, visited with several residents there, then headed toward a back corner where a lady sat motionless in a wheelchair. A gentleman visitor was with her. “Mary” (not her real name) was slumped over in her chair, eyes closed, head down-turned. The gentleman said that she really was conscious, but just didn’t care to respond. He also said that dogs had always been an important part of her life, but for many months now, Mary had retreated into “another world.”

Lila rested her chin on Mary’s knee, the gentleman took Mary’s seemingly lifeless hand in his and slowly stroked Lila’s neck. Before too long, her hand started to tremble a little, and then she began to blink her eyes. When she looked down and saw Lila staring up at her, she struggled slightly to sit in a more upright position. They visited for quite some time, silently connecting.

After meeting and greeting everyone in the room, our team turned to leave, but then noticed that Mary’s visitor was wheeling her over toward Lila for “just a few more minutes.” Mary, now with her eyes wide open, had begun softly speaking, most words we couldn’t understand except one...“dog”. Then Mary began to pet Lila on her own, all the while softly whispering. Staff members in the Memory Care unit were called over to see what was happening. To paraphrase Joyce, “was there any doubt that someone is guiding this ministry...using K-9 talents to His glory?”

125 year anniversary for St. John, Port Washington

The members of St. John Lutheran Church, Port Washington Wis. are excited to be celebrating the 125th anniversary of the founding of their congregation and of bringing the saving Gospel to Port Washington and the surrounding area. The year started with a New Year’s Eve dinner in a beautifully decorated fellowship hall followed by a special worship service of thanksgiving and praise. The evening climaxed with games, memories as they looked through historic pictures and documents, and a champagne toast.

On mission Sunday, Feb. 15, they hosted Rev. Peter Kelm, District Missions Executive, who informed them of the many and varied mission projects sponsored by the District. St. John’s mission committee prepared a time line and informational display about all the mission projects the congregation has participated in. To God be the glory.

In March the LWML ladies hosted a Spring Hat Social to which all the ladies in the congregation were invited and encouraged to bring guests. Their annual May banquet which is open to all members and guests will have Lutheran Church Charities comfort dogs and their handlers as honored guests.

June 27 is the date for the catered anniversary dinner to which all members and former members and pastors will be invited. Tours of our current facilities will be given. The four ordained sons of the congregation will also be asked to be involved in services.

Funds are being collected for purchasing an electronic sign to be erected at the church entrance on County Highway LL. It will be used to alert people to our location, to advise of coming events and to proclaim the Gospel of our Lord and Savior.

Several events are still in the planning stages as we wish to make this a yearlong celebration. Our theme is “Reverence in Worship, Excellence in Education, Fun in Fellowship.” We say along with the prophet Samuel, “Thus far has the Lord helped us,” I Sam. 7:12.

Pastor Peckman to retire

On June 14, 2015 Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa will be honoring the Rev. Dr. Paul H. Peckman at a retirement dinner to be held at Davian’s Banquet Center on Silver Spring Drive at 12 noon. For further information call the church office at 414 476-0735. Reservations required.
Rev. Joel Brandt installed at Bethlehem, Wales

Rev. Joel T. Brandt was installed as pastor of Waunakee Mission on Sunday, March 1, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie, Wis.

Rev. Steven Scharnell ordained at St. Paul

On December 6, 2014, Rev. Steven Scharnell was ordained and installed as Associate Pastor at St. Paul, Oconomowoc. Scharnell graduated from Concordia, St. Louis through the SMP (Specific Ministry Pastor) program. He will serve St. Paul’s congregation with Rev. Lance O’Donnell, their Senior Pastor and mentor to Steve.

Rev. Moses Thao ordained at Redeemer, Manitowoc

Rev. Moses Thao (front and center), was ordained and installed as Associate Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Manitowoc on Sunday, January 25. Moses graduated from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in the Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) program. He serves there with Rev. Zachary DeArmond and Rev. Scott Hirssig. Pastor Thao will focus his ministry to the Hmong community in Manitowoc.

Rev. Ben Adetiba ordained at Bethany, Milw.

The Ordination service for Rev. Ben Adetiba was celebrated on March 22. He was also installed on that day as Associate Pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Milwaukee. He serves the urban community there with Rev. Christian Ikanih. Adetiba is a recent graduate of the Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT) program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Rev. Tim Sallach ordained at Zion, Burnett

On Sunday March 8, the Ordination of Specific Ministry Pastor, Timothy L. Sallach (center), took place at Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Burnett, WI, upon the retirement of Pastor Steve Thomas. Presiding was SWD President John Wille. Pastor Sallach, a long time member of Zion, came through a program which raises up lay members to take seminary training to become pastors. Pastor Sallach entered the SMP program upon the death of his father, Pastor Emeritus Wilbert Sallach, who served many years at Holy Ghost Lutheran Church, Milwaukee and Faith Lutheran Church in Germantown.
Around the District

What do we know? ... Can we be sure?

Dr. Gregory P. Schulz, published author and philosophy professor at Concordia University Wisconsin presented on Epistemology (the study of our method of acquiring knowledge) titled, “What do we know? How do we know it? Can we be sure?”

About 60 attended the presentation which took place in MSOE’s Alumni Partnership Center, on March 10. Dr. Schulz’s aim was to engage the audience examining authoritative claims made outside one’s field of expertise. He introduced the lecture with an article from Marcia Angell, a famous American medical physician, who advocates euthanasia in accord with the patient’s wishes. Dr. Schulz argued that while Angell speaks with presumed authority on this topic, her field of expertise does not include this subject. Dr. Schulz examined Angell’s shortcomings in defining what suffering is and her assumption of what happens when one dies. What happens after death is not a subject science or medicine is qualified to speak to. He continued to bring focus to the questions at hand, “What do we know? How do we know it? Can we be sure?” During the discussion Dr. Schulz also witnessed the crucified and risen Christ.

Jonathon Enderle, an MSOE sophomore studying mechanical engineering, reflected on the presentation, “I thought that there were several tough questions from the crowd but these really just allowed Dr. Schulz to shine. He handled all the questions very respectfully and thoroughly; the Q&A was my favorite part of the night. I am glad to have an advocate such as Dr. Schulz on the side of the LCMS.”

Professor Ficken added “To God be the glory! It was so wonderful to see the results of all the planning, organization, and effort... put into the event.” Currently, LCMS-U meets on MSOE campus monthly for Bible study. They are studying the Augsburg Confessions side-by-side with Scripture.

Tee Up For LuWiSoMo May 12

Golf Outing & Ministry Partner Builder is set for Tuesday, May 12, at The Meadows of Sixmile Creek, Waunakee. A foursome is $400, including greens fees, cart, dinner and two drink tickets each. Registration opens at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at noon. Registration deadline is April 24. For more information contact Dan Freiburger, 608-849-8687 or dan@freiburger.us.

CU-W hosts Luther Heritage Germany Tour

Here is your chance to experience the life of Martin Luther during the 500 year anniversary of the Reformation along with seeing the sights of Germany. Travel with Rev. Dr. Timothy Maschke of Concordia University Wisconsin along with a local travel guide as they share their expertise in this once in lifetime experience. This ten-day trip ($8,095 including airfare) will take place Tuesday, May 17 through Thursday, May 26, 2016, with an option of a three-day extension. Attached you will find a brochure with the detailed itinerary and a registration form. The commitment deadline is December 1, 2015 so airfare can booked. Contact Rev. Dr. Maschke at Timothy.Maschke@cuw.edu or call him at 262-243-4252 or Tempo Travel at 414-774-1080.

Lutherland Tour 2016

Pastor Aaron Koch of Mt. Zion, Greenfield, will be leading a tour of Germany and Salzburg, Austria Sept. 3-18, 2016. This customized tour includes almost all of the Luther sites you would want to see, from Wittenberg to Worms to the Wartburg, plus the scenic beauty of the “Romantic Road” and the alpine beauty of southern Germany and Austria. Take advantage of this unique opportunity to study and enjoy our Lutheran heritage. For more information, contact pastor.koch@gmail.com or visit mountzion.360unite.com/lutherland-tour-2016.

Blessed Savior, 15250 W. Cleveland Avenue, New Berlin, 53151, is hosting “Rock of Ages” Classic Car Show on Saturday, May 30, 2015 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone welcome - car owners and spectators. Proceeds to benefit New Berlin Food Pantry. Non-perishable food items also being collected that day.

Go to Blessed Savior’s website www.blessedsaviorw.org and click “Classic Car Show – May 2015” link on front page under “News and Events” for more information, or call the church office at 262-786-6465.

Upcoming events...

April
12 Teaching the Faith Workshop, Living Word, Jackson
20-22 Spring Pastors Conference, Holiday Inn, Manitowoc
25 Disaster Awareness for congregations workshop, St. John, Glendale
27 Teaching the Faith Workshop, Grace, Menomonee Falls

May
3 Teaching the Faith Workshop, Peace, New Berlin
13 Spring Retreat for 55 & Up, Cedar Valley Center

June
7-9 District Convention, Concordia University Wisconsin
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Celebrating...

Send us names of people who will observe a noteworthy July, August or September birthday (90, 95, 100 or above) or wedding anniversary (50, 55, 60, 65 or above). Deadline is May 20, 2015. E-mail them to editor@swd.lcms.org, or mail to Passionate Believers, 8100 W. Capitol Dr., Milwaukee, WI 53222.

Birthdays
April
1 Wally Kueger, 95, Messiah, Ripon
2 Ruth Olson, 90, Our Redeemer, Delavan
14 Ella McCaully, 90, Messiah, Ripon
14 Elma Oberla, 95, Our Redeemer, Delavan
14 Louis Gauger, 90, St. John’s, West Bend
18 Esther Paape-Schedler, 100, Mt. Olive, Milwaukee
24 Arno Korth, 98, Brookfield Lutheran, Brookfield
27 Don Daum, 90, Trinity, Oshkosh
27 Romelda Wunsch, 90, Grace, Haven

May
10 Edward Schiefelbein, 90, Beautiful Savior, Mequon
13 Albert Walls, 90, Messiah, Ripon
17 Robert Slyfield, 100, St. John, Glendale
20 Dina Burgstede, 90, Our Redeemer, Delavan
20 Inez Ustruck, 90, St. John’s, West Bend
26 George Pfeifer, 90, Trinity, Town Wilson

June
3 Helen Fuge, 95, St. John’s, West Bend
11 Evelyn Koene, 95, Trinity, Town Wilson
25 Catherine Wisch, 100, St. John, Glendale
27 Gerladine Ganzel, 90, Trinity, Oshkosh
27 Gertie Korth, 95, Brookfield Lutheran, Brookfield

Wedding Anniversaries
February
13 Roger & Shirley Bender, 55, Grace, Haven

April
3 Alfred & Kathleen Lautenschlaeger, 50, Zion, New Holstein
23 Glenn & Elinor Zahn, 60, St. John, Mayville
23 Kenneth & Susan Suchan, 50, Zion, New Holstein
24 William & Betty Homuth, 60, St. John’s, West Bend
24 Edward & Marlene Jaquet, 55, Trinity, Oshkosh

May
1 Fred & Sandra McIver, 50, Pella, Waupun
7 Gary & Ruth Galow, 55, Trinity, Oshkosh
8 Jim & Florence Behnke, 50, St. Bartholomew, Brillion
8 Robert & Joy Schneider, 50, Our Redeemer, Delavan
10 Victor & Doris Krahn, 68, St. Stephen, Batavia
14 Daniel & Rosemarie Daley, 55, Beautiful Savior, Mequon
15 Edward & Ruth Schiefelbein, 67, Beautiful Savior, Mequon
15 Armand & Joyce Miller, 50, St. John’s, West Bend
18 Norm & Linda Miller, 69, Messiah, Ripon
20 Clem & Helen Hoelzel, 65, Pella, Waupun
21 Glenn & Deloris Hildebrandt, 60, Our Redeemer, Delevan
13 Albert Walls, 90, Messiah, Ripon
17 Robert Slyfield, 100, St. John, Glendale
20 Dina Burgstede, 90, Our Redeemer, Delavan
20 Inez Ustruck, 90, St. John’s, West Bend
26 George Pfeifer, 90, Trinity, Town Wilson

June
4 Carl & Myrtle Boedecker, 55, Living Christ, Madison
4 Lowell & Patricia Johnson, 55, St. John’s, West Bend
4 Oliver & Beverly Hinz, 55, St. Stephen, Batavia
5 Eugene & Mary Biegler, 50, St. John’s, West Bend
7 Win & Melva Riemer, 68, St. Bartholomew, Brillion
11 Barnard & Carol Oppermann, 60, Pella, Waupun
13 Marvin & Ellen Feldt, 68, Trinity, Beloit
19 Clem & Darleen Lyckberg, 67, Living Christ, Madison
19 Karl & Myrtle Rosso, 67, Trinity, Town Wilson
19 Ralph & Lorraine Bjerke, 67, Beautiful Savior, Mequon
19 Gerald & Chris Edwards, 50, Our Redeemer, Delavan
19 Don & Joan Breitzmann, 50, St. Stephen, Batavia
20 Jack & Barbara Dyer, 67, Beautiful Savior, Mequon
22 Laurel & Alice Kramer, 69, Pella Waupun
24 Howard & Harriet Heinke, 66, St. Bartholomew, Brillion
25 Lloyd & Lorraine Wunsch, 60, Grace, Haven
26 LeRoy & Lois Evans, 67, Our Redeemer, Delevan
26 Lyle & Jayne Hull, 50, Pella, Waupun
26 John & Marilyn Meyer, 50, Pella, Waupun