

Joy in Ministry

At the June “Joy in Ministry” banquet and again at the “Joy in Serving” District Convention, Adam Hengeveld, a member of St. Paul, Hartley and a recent graduate of Concordia University, Seward, shared his “thank you” with those who had supported his journey to ministry. Adam recently accepted a call to teach middle school history and religion at Zion Lutheran School in Dallas, Texas. Adam’s literary gifts and faith perspective can also be noted in the June/July issue of *The Lutheran Witness* article “A Prayer for ‘People in the Dump.’” Adam’s story here celebrates the support of his family, his congregation, and the District.

“Going into church work was not always my plan. Like most young people I talked of being a fireman and policeman. After episodes of ‘ER’ I wondered if I could be a doctor. But when it came down to it, I knew I had a passion to be part of the church and in a position to daily share the Gospel of Christ Jesus in full-time ministry. I often thought of being a pastor (toward which many still encourage me). However, in my junior year of high school I realized I could have the best of both worlds—working in full time church work and teaching history. Through my many years of attending and counseling at Camp Okoboji and through the Concordia representatives that I met at District youth gatherings, I became committed to the idea of going to a Concordia to become a Lutheran school teacher.

“My parents were incredibly supportive of my desire to go into church work. Pastor David Ericksen and his wife Kathy were an incredible inspiration, continually offering their prayers and words of encouragement. I have also been blessed with wonderful role models in the church who have shown me what it is to be in ministry and to share the love and joy of Jesus. My mentors at Camp Okoboji, Doug Kading and Lori Gamble, were wonderful examples of Christ-like servant-hood. There have been numerous other incredible pastors, DCEs and lay persons who further inspired me for church work.

“It is well known that an education through a Concordia University is not cheap.

My four years at Concordia-Nebraska totaled \$100,600. That is quite an amount for a student from a hardworking, small-town, middle-class family with no college savings. My admissions counselors emphasized that Iowa District West is one of the best for District support. Over four years I received \$9,800 from the District. What a blessing!

“However, the truly amazing part is what happened with my home church, St. Paul, Hartley. When the congregation heard that another young man and I were planning to go into church work, the congregation voted

to restart a scholarship fund. From St. Paul’s and with the assistance of a generous anonymous donor, I received over \$21,400. Members of my church family at St. Paul’s, Hartley opened their hearts and minds in prayer and they opened their wallets. In addition to the financial support I would receive cards from members and groups in the church with contributions. What a blessing my congregation has been to me!

“Some students graduate from a Concordia with student debts of over \$50,000. Because of the support of my congregation, District, and various scholarship and grants from Concordia, my debt load is a very manageable \$15,600. Praise God and thank you!

“I pray that more youth would see the value in a Christ-centered university education at one of our Concordia universities. In addition to church career training they offer an education for a variety of vocations. They are incredible places to nurture mind and faith. I pray also that congregations would support their youth in attending Camp Okoboji events, District gatherings, national gatherings and other events that introduce them to church work careers. Finally, it is my prayer that every congregation with students studying for full-time ministry would support them as my congregation has supported me, establishing scholarship funds and continually offering words of encouragement.”

This fall forty-five District students are preparing for church work careers at Concordia universities and seminaries. Through



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Church, Des Moines, Iowa, Installed July 26, 2009 by Rev. Bill Van Nostrand at Prince of Peace, Fort Dodge.

- Rev. Nicholas Thackery, Pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Emmetsburg and Peace Lutheran Church, West Bend, Ordained and Installed August 9, 2009 by President Paul Sieveking at St. Paul, Emmetsburg.
- Rev. John Rutz, Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, Hastings and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Oakland, Ordained August 2, 2009 by Rev. Steve Turner at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Livermore, Iowa, Installed August 16, 2009 by President Paul Sieveking at St. John, Hastings.

50th Anniversary

Faith Lutheran Church, Early, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of its founding on Sunday, November 8. They will have a regular service at 10 a.m. that morning. They will then have a catered dinner. At 1 p.m. they will have a special afternoon service. They are planning a Sunday School bell choir, historical account and several numbers by the Community Crooners. The afternoon will conclude with refreshments.

Everyone interested is invited to attend the celebration, especially the afternoon program.

Faith Lutheran was started when a number of members of Immanuel Lutheran, Cook Township, decided to start a congregation in Early. Their first service was held on November 1, 1959 in the Municipal Building auditorium. They met in this venue until their church building was completed in 1962.

2009 Church Secretarial Conference



Church Secretarial Conference

The fall 2009 conference is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 22, 2009 at First English Lutheran Church in Spencer, Iowa. The planning committee is thrilled to announce that Jenny Herrick is our special speaker for the day. Be sure to reserve this date on your calendar.

YES Ministries

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of charge from the District office.

Men's Ministry Makes an impact

"God in My World" is the theme of the November 14, 2009 Men's Ministry Breakfast hosted by Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sioux City. Keynote presenters will be Rich Cohrs who is instrumental in developing the new men's ministry initiatives through Lutheran Hour Ministries and President Paul Sieveking who will share mission insights for our post-modern world.

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the support of endowments, memorials, and gifts from congregations and individual donors, Iowa District West will provide \$130,000 to support their ministry preparation. Gifts to support these and future workers are extremely important and can be directed to "Joy in Ministry" at Iowa District West. District staff and students are also available to tell the story of ministry recruitment and student support.

Mission News

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Winterset and look forward to our ongoing partnership in other ways as we work together for the extension of the Gospel within our communities, throughout the District, and into all the world (IDW Mission Statement)!

Chosen For Service

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these gifts of God were so obvious among the Thessalonians Paul knew they had been chosen by God.

Be assured that He has chosen you, too. This is the greatest comfort and the greatest joy you can know in this life. He has chosen you because He loves you. He has chosen you to be His child and to live with Him now and forever. He has chosen you for service. He has chosen you for works of faith, for labors of love, for endurance inspired by hope.

Thank God... you are chosen!