

## “Joy in Serving”

“Joy in Serving” will be the theme for the 37th convention of Iowa District West, meeting at Camp Okoboji June 21-24. Convention delegates and guests will assemble for an opening worship service at 7 p.m. on Sunday, June 21, at Immanuel, Spirit Lake.

Pres. Gerald Kieschnick, President of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, will share the message at the opening service and also bring his report to the convention.

His report will be shared Monday morning, June 22, after District President Paul Sieveking calls the convention to order and shares his report on District ministry during the past triennium. Sieveking completes his third term as District president and is on the convention ballot for a fourth term.

A special feature of this convention will be an opportunity for delegates and guests to put the convention theme, “Joy in Serving” into practice. Several hands-on service projects have been set up, both on the grounds of Camp Okoboji as well as in the local community. It is our prayer that not only will those participating be blessed as they put their faith into practice, but that the community and lives will be impacted by this demonstration of Christian service.

Serving as convention essayist and addressing the convention each day will be Dr. Joel Lehenbauer, Executive Director of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. He will be speaking on the opportunities and challenges facing the Church as it relates to our culture in the 21st century.

Convention delegates will have a busy two and a half days. Each congregation (and dual or triple parish arrangement) has the opportunity to send its pastor and a lay delegate to vote on convention business. Commissioned teachers, directors of Christian education, deaconesses, assistant pastors, and emeriti (retired) workers also have the opportunity to address issues as advisory delegates.

The delegates will elect a Board of Directors; adopt a District budget and worker salary guidelines for 2010-2012; respond to numerous resolutions proposed by the district Board of Directors, circuits, and individual congregations; and hear reports from District committees and ministry partners.

One report that will be shared Monday evening with the convention will be given by Rev. Robert Greene, chairman of the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance (lovingly known as the BRT-FSSG). The task force, appointed in 2005 by

President Kieschnick, has been conducting extensive studies, interviews, and

evaluations with the goal of making a recommendation to the Synodical convention next summer. Their recommendation will propose how Synod’s structure and governance can best serve the mission of our Lord and His Church.

District staff, as well as the staff of Camp Okoboji, have been busy preparing for the special event. Please pray that the convention delegates will have joy in their serving and return to their congregations with great joy and a passion for being about our Lord’s mission of bringing the saving Gospel to all the world!

### Biographical Information on Convention Speakers and Presenters



**Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick** was elected to his third three-year term as president of the 2.45-million-member Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in July 2007, an office in which he has served his Lord and Church since September 2001. His vision for

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is summarized as One Mission – One Message – One People, which he expounds, as follows: “Our One Mission is to seek the lost for Christ by communicating the One Message that Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world as One People united by God’s love in Jesus Christ.”

Just prior to becoming LCMS president, Kieschnick had been president of the Synod’s Texas District for 10 years. He also served that district as a circuit counselor from 1978-81 and as director of public relations from 1977-86. Prior to his Texas District presidency, Kieschnick was director of development of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas from 1986-88 and then served as its executive director from 1988-91.

From 1998 until his election as LCMS president, Kieschnick chaired the LCMS Commission on Theology and Church Relations, and served on the executive committee of the LCMS Council of Presidents.

Born in Houston on January 29, 1943, Kieschnick attended Texas A&M University, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1964. He is a 1970 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, IL, obtained his Master of Divinity degree in 1977

from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN, and received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1996 from Concordia University, Austin, TX.

After his ordination in 1970, Kieschnick served as pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Biloxi, MS, until 1973; pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Beaumont, TX, 1973-81; and mission developer and pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Georgetown, TX, 1981-86.

Dr. Kieschnick and his wife of 43 years, Terry, have two grown children, Andrew Kieschnick and Angela (husband Todd) Keith and two grandchildren, Kolby and Kayla Keith — all of whom live in Texas.



**Dr. Joel Lehenbauer** was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana and was raised in Fort Wayne, St. Louis, and Chicago Heights, Illinois. He attended Valparaiso University (Christ College) from 1976-1978, and graduated from Concordia College, Ann Arbor, Michigan with

a B.A. degree in 1980. In 1984, he received the M. Div. Degree from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Following a year of graduate studies at the seminary, he was ordained into the pastoral ministry in 1985. He served as sole pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Hillsdale, Michigan from 1985 until 1990. In 1991, he was called to serve on the staff of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Since July 2008, Dr. Lehenbauer has served in his current position as the Executive Director of the CTCR.

Dr. Lehenbauer received his Master of Sacred Theology degree (S.T.M.) from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in May of 1991, and earned the Doctor of Philosophy degree (Ph.D.) from Concordia Seminary in November of 2004. He is a frequent speaker at church worker conferences and other church gatherings and a contributor to a wide variety of synodical publications.

He and his wife, Hope, live in Union, Missouri and have four grown children: Rachel, Anna, Adam, and Naomi.

**Rev. Robert C. Greene** currently serves as the chairman of the President's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance. Prior to accepting this position, Greene served the Synod in a number of leadership positions.

A 1963 graduate of Concordia Seminary, Springfield, Greene served as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Hoxie, Kan., and Grace Lutheran Church, Hill City, Kan. (1963-67); Zion Lutheran Church, Chanute, Kan. (1967-69); and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hutchison, Kan. (1969-74).

Greene went on to serve as chief executive officer of Lutheran Senior Services, Omaha (1974-1981) and as chief executive officer of Lutheran Senior Services of the South, Austin, Texas (1981-1998). Also, he served as interim president, Concordia University Texas (2001-2002) and interim pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Dallas, Texas (2003-2004).

In addition, Greene has held many church office and board positions and been active in his home communities.

Greene and his wife, Donna, who have three children and four grandchildren, are members of Zion Lutheran Church, Walberg, Texas.

## Placement 2009



**ST. LOUIS, Mo.**—On April 22, calls to serve as pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) were issued to 122 students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, during a worship service in The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus. These students join more than 12,000 who have been prepared to serve as pastors, missionaries and chaplains during the 170 years of Concordia Seminary's existence.

In a separate service held earlier that day, 98 students received assignments to serve as vicars, and two students have assignments pending. Vicarage is a one-year internship that students preparing to serve in the pastoral ministry must complete.

Concordia Seminary also celebrated the presentation of seven deaconess students who were assigned internships, and four deaconess candidates who were assigned calls.

Iowa District West received the following new pastors and vicars from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

## Pastors

Durand, Edward – Pastor, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fort Dodge.

Fernandez, James – Assoc. Pastor, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ankeny.

Jurchen, Peter – Assoc. Pastor, Hope Lutheran Church, Des Moines.

Robarge, Philip – Assoc. Pastor, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Urbandale.

## Vicars

Cundiff, Quintin – Trinity Lutheran Church, Des Moines.

Kaiser, Seth – Trinity Lutheran Church, Glenwood.

A complete listing of the calls and vicarages issued is available on the Seminary's Web site at [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu).

**FORT WAYNE, Ind.**—This year's Vicarage/Deaconess Internship Assignment Service took place on April 20. The preacher for this service was Rev. William R. Diekelman, the First Vice President of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The Candidate Call Service took place on April 21, at 7:00 p.m. The Reverend Kenneth M. Hennings, President of the Texas district, was the preacher for this service.

Iowa District West received the following new pastors and vicars from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne.

## Pastors

Nicholas Thackery - St. Paul, Emmetsburg and Peace, West Bend.

John Rutz - St. John, Hastings and St. Paul, Oakland.

Glenn Hansen - Trinity, Odebolt.

## Vicar:

Gregory Volbrecht - Trinity, Marcus

The complete list of vicarage placements and candidate calls is available on the seminary's website at [www.ctsfw.edu](http://www.ctsfw.edu).

## Seminary Workshop in Iowa District West

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is pleased to announce its summer 2009 series of workshops for pastors, professional church workers and interested laypersons. Eight workshops, covering a wide variety of subjects, are offered nationwide, and are taught by members of the Concordia Seminary faculty.

"Together With All Creatures" will be offered by Dr. Charles Arand, July 27-29, at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, West Des Moines, Iowa. Arand is professor of systematic theology at Concordia Seminary.

14 Recent cosmological and ecological narratives of our place and purpose within

the world have been urged as alternatives to the Christian "human-centered" story of dominion and alienation. These new stories are offered as more credible frameworks for making sense of the world because they describe the interconnectedness of all things and cultivate the values necessary for a sustainable environmental ethic. We will explore the meaning of the Christian narrative of creation for proclaiming the creedal Gospel, as well as for understanding our place and purpose on God's Blue Planet.

The cost for the workshop is \$125. Registration and payment is due July 6, and a minimum enrollment is required in order for the workshop to be held. Housing and meal information is available by contacting Rev. Thomas Ogilvie, the host pastor at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, West Des Moines, Iowa, at 515-225-1623; [tom@sotv-wdm.org](mailto:tom@sotv-wdm.org).

To register or for more information, contact the Office of Continuing Education and Parish Services, Concordia Seminary, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7486; [ce@csl.edu](mailto:ce@csl.edu).

## Installation



*Pastor Daryl Tompkins (center).*

St. John Lutheran Church in Clarinda welcomed and installed Pastor Daryl Tompkins on Sunday, March 29, 2009 at 2:00 PM. A reception was held in the fellowship hall immediately following the service. Area pastors in attendance were Rev. Jerome Wagoner, Circuit Counselor and Vacancy Pastor, Rev. Donald Craig, Rev. Leon Hodges, Rev. Norman Friedmeyer, Rev. Nathan Dudley, and Rev. Larry Boye.

Pastor Tompkins graduated from Concordia Seminary in 1997. He was ordained and installed in July 1997 at Zion Lutheran, Wessington Springs, South Dakota, and served three parishes there until 2002 when he was called to Zion Lutheran Church, Chamberlain, South Dakota. Pastor Tompkins loves golfing, reading, pool, swimming, and watching Nebraska win football games.

Pastor Tompkins and his wife, Trudi, were married on the grounds of Doane College, Crete, Nebraska in April of 1977. They have two sons, Trevor and Eric. Trevor and his wife, Angela, reside in Sturgis, South Dakota and Eric and Amber just recently moved to Carroll, Iowa.

Trudi is a Registered Nurse, graduating from Brian Memorial Hospital in 1975 and has been practicing in the area of Renal Dialysis for 30 years. She enjoys walking, reading, crocheting, golfing, and pretty much anything outdoors.

### Drake Campus Peer Ministers



District Mission Executive Rev. Mark Gerken recently installed the peer ministers for the Drake campus ministry at Trinity Lutheran, Des Moines. Pictured above are Rev. Gerken, along with Vicar Brian Lee, Rob Fornoff (Chair of Campus Board), and the 7 peer ministers, all students at Drake.

### Christ Lutheran Enhances Worship

At the end of March, Christ Lutheran Church in Remsen dedicated the PowerPoint equipment which had recently been installed in the sanctuary. Beginning that Sunday and for every worship service since then, the entire service has been projected onto the screen at the front of the sanctuary. This includes hymns, liturgy, scripture readings, creed, prayers, etc. The service remains traditional, but it is presented in a modern medium.

Everyone has commented how easy it is to see, including older members with limited eyesight. Children and youth are also drawn to participate. Singing is stronger as everyone is looking up instead of down into hymnals. New members and visitors benefit as they don't struggle to find hymns or liturgy in the hymnal. An unexpected benefit is being able to easily join in on hymns after communing as we don't have to guess which verse we're on.



The idea for enhancing worship in this way was hatched following the Sunday morning worship service at Camp Okobojo last June, at the conclusion of our congregation's annual Family Camp, which includes members of all ages. An older member commented how easy it was to see the screens they use, and many members also noticed how engaged the children were. We had used PowerPoint in the Parish Hall for our Advent services, too.

As members become more comfortable with this medium, we will eventually stop producing bulletins, which will save time and expense, and show our stewardship toward the environment.

The equipment was paid for with memorials and other gifts directed specifically toward this project. The installation was done by skilled members of the congregation.

It is exciting to think how this can be used as an evangelism tool as we seek to share the gospel of Jesus Christ with everyone in our community.

Pastor Dennis Martens  
Christ Lutheran Church

### 100th Anniversary



*St. Paul Lutheran Church, Schaller*

The 100th Anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Schaller, Iowa, will be celebrated on June 28, 2009. Pastor Gale Rabe will preach at the 10 a.m. service. A short program will be held in the afternoon with time for sharing memories. All former members and friends are invited to attend. A noon meal will be served with a free will offering. For more details call the church office at 712-275-4299.