



This article is part two of a three-part series of the Vision Statement which was communicated to the people of the Texas District at the area mission rallies held in September throughout the state of Texas.

Challenges for the future

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, president

Texas District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

One of the greatest challenges facing the Missouri Synod as we head into the home stretch of the 20th century and prepare to enter not only a new century, but also a new millennium, is that of accomplishing what, in my opinion, is the most important of the 10 objectives listed in Article III of our Synod's Constitution: Strengthen congregations and their members in giving bold witness by word and deed to the love and work of God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and extend that Gospel witness into all the world."

- There are times when I feel that we as a church body, as a national denomination and as a regional district thereof, seem to be adrift on the changing tides of the world around us, wanting desperately to return to the harbor, there to remain anchored or even moored at the dock, yet knowing deep within our hearts and souls that ships are not made for harbors or docks, but for crossing vast and stormy seas.

As long as we remain adrift, not really knowing, understanding and agreeing on our destination, we will continue to be blown about by the winds of those who say, "Let's go back to the harbor—the seas out here are too rough. I prefer the safety, security and stability of the harbor."

- In so doing, we continue

to pay the price, as a church body, of the loss of the precious cargo of the lives, the souls, the eternal destinies of those in the raging waters of life who see our ship, who wave their flag of distress, only to see the church wave back on its return to the harbor or only to see the church ignore those in the raging waters.

- It is my belief that the reason for the existence of our church is, by God's grace and with His power, to rescue those who without such rescue would be lost and to enable those who are saved to assist in the rescue of others. I've expressed that belief in the words of my vision for the Texas District:

Theme of the Vision

"Touching and winning those who do not know Jesus Christ, enriching and empowering those who do."

This theme embodies four major tasks of the Body of Christ, the Christian Church on earth, expressed in varied terminologies: "caring, discipling, keeping and sending," "evangelizing, assimilating, nurturing and commissioning," "touching, winning, enriching and empowering." Our church, energized by God's Spirit, must be composed of caring congregations which are aggressively seeking, winning, equipping and engaging people for God's kingdom.

- The vision is that of a district which motivates, in-



Rev. Jerry Kieschnick

spires, encourages, empowers and enables LCMS professional church workers, members and congregations in Texas to aggressively, faithfully and effectively communicate the truth of the reality of sin and the magnitude of grace to those outside and inside the fellowship of the church on an on-going basis, intentionally reproducing the process ("touching," "winning," "enriching" and "empowering") by sensitively, caringly, innovatively and responsibly being all that God has created the church to be, that people in greater numbers might be eternally saved.

Describing the Vision

It is my belief that God is creating, right before our very eyes, another Pentecost scenario. In Texas and United States cities, towns, campuses and businesses, citizens of many nations have already gathered. They continue to arrive daily.

- Many already speak the English language. Some do not. Most are strangers and foreigners who miss their homeland and their native people. They long for acceptance, hospitality, friendship, success and love, as do those of us for whom Texas and/or the United States are home.

Through an initial outreach ministry of care and concern, we who comprise

God's church in Texas can touch the lives of the pagan, the pantheist, the Muslim, the narcissist, the atheist, the Buddhist, the backslider, the homeless, the homosexual, the rich and the ragged of all sizes, shapes, colors and creeds.

- Doing so will require not only a change of paradigm, but also a sense of daring, to go where we're reluctant to go, to do what we're hesitant to do, to say what we're afraid to say. "You will receive power..." are words of incredible significance at this point. For only as we receive God's power and allow it to work in our hearts and lives will we be able to realize that touching, winning, enriching and empowering is not "business as usual."

Today, the church is in competition with the commerce of seven-day-a-week shopping centers and malls, with the fatigue of working mothers and single parents, with the "mortgaged to the hilt" lifestyle of "DINKS" (Double Income, No Kids), "Boomers" and "Busters," with the wonderful world of entertainment—videos, movies, cable TV, theme parks, ski slopes and national and international travel.

- For the church to touch, win, enrich and empower significant numbers of people in today's society and world, the church must know the unmet needs of those we are trying to reach and the church must deliberately strategize how to meet those needs in ways that ultimately afford the opportunity to say to the recipients of our care and concern: "We love because God first loved us."

NEWS

Central Texas Lutherans share Reformation joy

Some 600 Lutherans from central Texas churches gathered at the Bell County Exposition Center on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 31, 1993, for a Reformation convocation. It was designed to build up central Texas Lutheran mission and fellowship by sharing Reformation heritage, celebrating individual church histories and mission visions, and exploring important mission fields.

Fifteen churches participated, led by circuit counselors Revs. Al Meissner and Wil Unde. There were 30 booths of congregation's history and ministry.

Special presentations were made on prison ministry, ministry to families, older adult ministry and evangelism. Presenters were Chaplain Emmett Solomon, Betty Register, Marvin Schultz and Rev. Mike Ramming.



CONVOCA-TION—Lutherans from Immanuel, Copperas Cove, attending the Reformation Convocation in Belton illustrated their long, fruitful history with a beautiful model of the "old country church" that is still young in heart and vision.



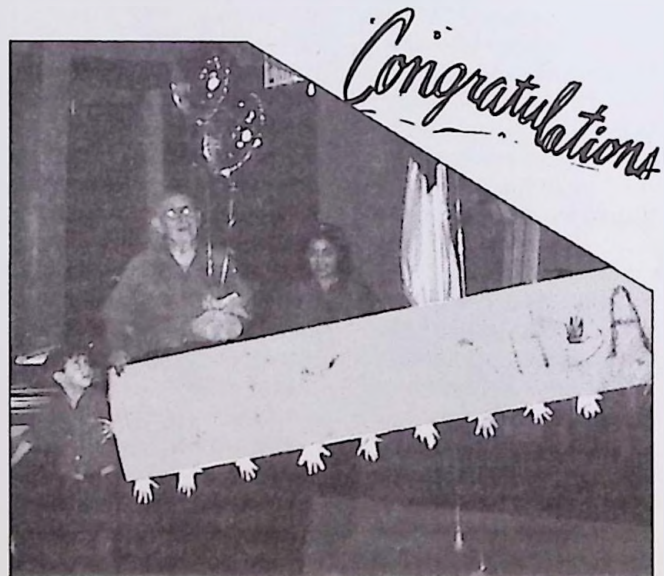
PULLING TOGETHER—Children of St. John Lutheran in Lariat pull an old-fashioned plow guided by member Wilbur Kalbas to turn the soil for beginning of church construction, symbolizing that young and old will work together to give St. John a new facility.

All hands 'fall to' for expansion at Lariat

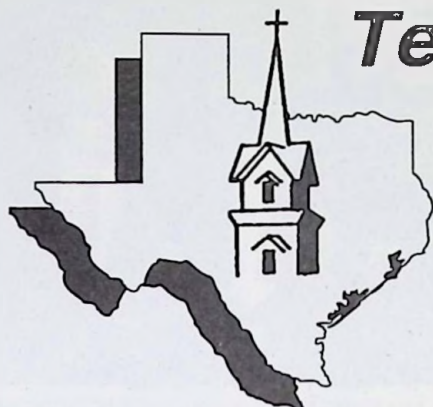
Members of St. John Lutheran Church joined in a ground-breaking ceremony complete with everything from the traditional shovel full of turned earth to the use of an old-fashioned plow to turn the soil under.

With God's blessings and a lot of hard work the greatly expanded educational facilities will serve the whole community with an increased capacity for Sunday school classes, preschool classes, vacation Bible school classes and youth activities.

The work is being done by skilled professionals and members of the congregation, working under the supervision of the contractor. Members (young and old) have already removed brick from the portion of the building where the addition will join the present building. Rev. E. Richard Greenthaner estimates that the building project will cost \$125,000-\$140,000. The more the members are able to do, the less it will cost the project in the long run.



BIG BIRTHDAY—Pastor George W. Price got three birthday parties recently as he turned 82. He was honored at Fishers of Men, Port Isabel, where he was interim pastor two-and-a-half years; at another party at Trinity, Brownsville, where he was interim pastor for one-and-a-half years, and then by children of the day-care center at Trinity, who surprised him at chapel with songs, banners, balloons and a gift.



Texas District Mission News

by Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration



Rev. Ken
Hennings

Corner of Flower Mound church property becomes Garden of Eat'n

"Now the Lord God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there He put the man he had formed. And the Lord God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food.... The Lord

God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it" (Gen. 1:8,9,15 NIV).

In the middle of an old road bed, and in the middle of summer, a group of gardeners and aspiring gardeners from the Lamb of God Lutheran Church, in Flower Mound, Texas, have found a new way of sharing Christ's love with their surrounding communities.

After an initial harvest of what seemed like a ton of asphalt, this garden has yielded roughly 200 pounds of fresh vegetables including squash, okra, assorted peppers, watermelon, black-eyed peas and green beans,



which have been donated to the Christian Community Action (CCA) group for distribution to needy families in the Flower Mound area.

On an idea provided by Senior Pastor Norman Schwolert and followed through by the church's Board for Social Ministry, members Max Miller and Mike Buvinghausen, organized the effort to start the vegetable garden on one-tenth of the church's 10 acres. Gardeners including Connie Crites, John Hillman, Mark Lucas, Regina Reinhard, Sam Ritter and Gary Summers persevered through the long hot, dry summer. To involve the chil-

dren of the congregation in this ministry, the board sponsored a "Name the Garden" contest during the summer vacation Bible school. The winning entry came from Melissa Jewell and Lamb of God's newest ministry has been aptly named "The Garden of Eat'n."

Our heavenly Father con-

tinues to bless the congregation of Lamb of God Lutheran Church with interesting and effective ways of sharing Christ's love with their surrounding communi-

ties, and the fruits of their labors have been greatly appreciated by the recipient families.

The workers in the Garden of Eat'n, along with the rest of the congregation, look forward to continuing to glorify God through this ministry for years to come.

University Lutheran is 40

University Lutheran Church in Austin celebrated its 40th anniversary Nov. 21, 1993. A service of celebration, thanksgiving and reflection was led by Pastor Charles Born, who served as campus pastor at University during 33 years of its grace-filled 40-year history. Pastor Norb Firnhaber said, "Pastor Born carries much memory and history in his keen mind, and we were delighted that Pastor Born and his wife, Jean, could fittingly share this benchmark occasion with us."

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PEER MINISTERS—Christopher Markert and Celeste Duder are peer ministers at University Lutheran Church at UT-Austin. They help broaden outreach and inreach of this campus ministry.

Peer ministers broaden campus outreach at University Lutheran

Two college students in Austin have committed themselves as peer ministers to the campus ministry at University Lutheran at University of Texas.

Pastor Norb Firnhaber said that Celeste Duder, a graduate student at UT, represents concerns of that school's students to the campus ministry. Christopher Markert, a junior at Austin's Concordia Lutheran College, does the same for students on his campus.

The two spend four to six hours a week helping in social ministry, programming, worship planning, contact with international students and telephone and personal contact with new students.

"Celeste and Chris are helping broaden the outreach and inreach of this campus ministry," said Firnhaber.



CONVENTION—The Texas District Convention Planning Committee has been hard at work preparing for the 1994 convention to be held June 23-26 in Galveston. Theme of the convention is "Power to be His Witnesses." Some of the planners, from left, are District President Jerry Kieschnick, Doug Barnett, St. Philip's, Houston; Richard Leslie, Salem, Tomball; and Ralph Hobratschk, Hope, Friendswood.

Texas pastors provide strong support to military bases

Military personnel stationed at bases in Texas are strongly supported by LCMS chaplains and parish pastors of the Texas District.

Some two-score chaplains and pastors are involved. The chaplains contribute full-time worship, spiritual and counseling services at the bases, while a number of parish ministers have been officially designated as contact pastors to supplement services to the troops.

Base assignments in the Texas District are:

Bergstrom Air Force Base, Austin: Rev. William Knippa, Bethany Lutheran, and Rev. James Linderman, Christ Lutheran.

Brooke Army Medical Center, San Antonio: Chaplain David Tessmann.

Brooks Air Force Base, San Antonio: Rev. Ernest Schoenborn, Holy Cross Lutheran.

Carswell Air Force Base, Fort Worth: Rev. Ronald Wagner, Christ Lutheran.

Corpus Christi Naval Air Station: Chaplain Alston Kirk, Rev. Michael W. Birnbaum, Trinity, Corpus Christi.

Dallas Naval Air Station: Rev. Raymond F. Kahle, Faith, Grand Prairie.

Dyess Air Force Base, Abilene: Rev. J. Russell Kinser, Zion Lutheran, Abilene, and Rev. LaVerne Janssen, Our Savior, Abilene.

Fort Hood, Killeen: Chaplain Kenneth Roberts, Chaplain Thomas Waynick, Chaplain Timothy Sowers, Chaplain Richard Graves and Rev. Michael E. Ramming, Grace Lutheran, Killeen.

Fort Sam Houston, San Antonio: Chaplain David Tessmann and Rev. Ernest Schoenborn, Holy Cross Lutheran.

Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo: Rev. Kenneth Holdorf, Trinity Lutheran.

Kelly Air Force Base, San Antonio: Rev. Vernon Bahr, Mount Olive Lutheran. **Kingsville Naval Air Station:**

Rev. John Elser, St. Paul Lutheran.

Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio: Chaplain Paul Sherouse and Rev. Vernon Bahr, Mount Olive Lutheran.

Laughlin Air Force Base, Del Rio: Rev. John Feierabend, Grace Lutheran.

Randolph Air Force Base, San Antonio: Rev. Henry Biar, King of Kings.

Red River Army Depot, Texarkana: Rev. Wayne Braun, First Lutheran.

Sheppard Air Force Base, Wichita Falls: Chaplain Richard Davis and Rev. Thomas V. Handrick, St. Paul Lutheran.

Wilford Hall USAF Medical Center, San Antonio: Rev. Vernon L. Bahr, Mount Olive.



'God Upon the Mountaintops' promises spiritual 'high'

Once again in 1994, the people of Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas are ready to serve you, the children of God. This year's theme is **"God Upon the Mountaintops."** For the next 12 months, we will share with you and all those who use LOMT facilities the great love God gave to us when His Son died upon the cross.

Throughout Scripture, mountains are mentioned many times along with ministry taking place there.

- Take for example Jerusalem on Mount Zion and the great temple there, or Mount Carmel where Elijah showed the Baal prophets just how powerful our God is. Also Golgotha where our Savior died, or Mount Sinai where Moses encounters God and receives the Ten Commandments.



CAMPERS—Young campers receive spiritual uplift from Bible study at Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas facility.

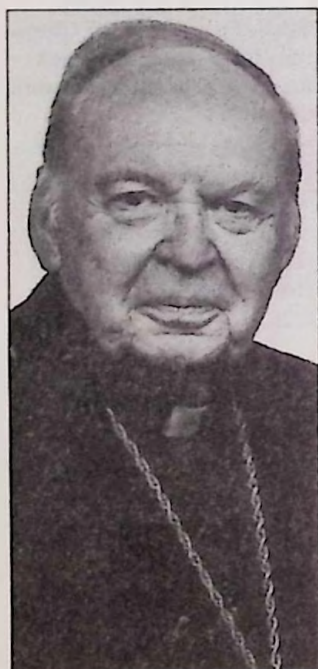
There also are mountaintops and low valley experiences in our own lives. Sometimes we can go for weeks on a spiritual "high," but all of a sudden something happens that may

bring us down. That is when we have to call on the Holy Spirit to lift us back up again. The low points of our lives can drive us crazy if we do not have a strong foundation in Christ.

The poem *"Footprints in the Sand"* comes to mind when you think of those times that Christ has carried us through the low valleys of life. We can rejoice, knowing He will always be there for both mountaintop and low valley experiences.

- Throughout 1994, campers and retreaters will be experiencing firsthand the great love and power of God. They will experience this through Bible studies, devotions, campfires, singing, prayer and their other daily activities.

It is our hope and prayer that through the Holy Spirit every person involved with LOMT will come closer to their Lord and Savior and that they will share His love with everyone they meet.



Dr. Oswald Hoffmann

Lone Star Auction bids on Dr. Hoffmann, gets him

Dr. Oswald C.J. Hoffmann will be the featured speaker at the outdoor worship service at the Annual Camp Lone Star Barbecue and Auction, which will be held this year on Sunday, July 31.

Dr. Hoffmann served as speaker for **"The Lutheran Hour"** from 1955 until his retirement in 1988. He also has appeared on numerous television and radio programs and served as host and narrator for the acclaimed five-hour television mini-series, *"Yeshua,"* which was released in 1984.

He continues to serve as honorary Lutheran Hour speaker, which is sponsored by the International Lutheran Laymen's League and broadcast nationally from St. Louis.

The worship service will begin at 11 a.m. followed by the traditional barbecue dinner

and Texas style auction. Items for bid will include vacation weekends, original art work, hunting trips and much more. Last year's event was attended by more than 700 people and raised more than \$22,000 for the camp and ministry.

Bus parking will be available.

In addition, Hoffmann also will be the speaker at the 1994 LOMT Development Council Awards Banquet which will be held Saturday evening, July 30, in La Grange (more information on this event will be available in the near future).

If you would like more information on these events, call LOMT at (512) 926-4272. (Donations of items for the auction can also be made by calling that number).

See you in July!



Our bright Lutheran kids ...

Carol Theilen and her flute are going abroad! This high school senior is a member of **Gethsemane, Houston**, and has been selected for the American Musical Ambassadors Band, a select concert band of outstanding high school band students across the United States. The group will tour several European countries in July.

Bright kid honors for Jeff Koslan, **Our Savior, Abilene**, who was named to the National Honor Society.

The kids at **Hope, Winnie**, are hitting all the right notes. Jason Broussard, Stephanie Chesson, Buffy Robinson, Alisa Trove and Erick Trove are all members of the high school band that won top rating in district competition. Buffy also got top rating for her twirling solo, and besides that she was inducted into the national honor society.

Bright kid honors at **King of Kings, San Antonio**, go to Shane Eisenbraun who is a National Merit Scholar

semifinalist and was Optimist Club student of the month in October, and to Jason Eisenbraun, selected for membership in the National Honor Society.

Melissa Middleton, a sixth grader at **St. Mark, Houston**, is a nationally ranked tennis player. She recently was invited to attend a United States Tennis Association player development training camp in Florida—all expenses paid.

Bethany Schwartz, **Cross, New Braunfels**, and her brother, Greg, both were ribbon winners for their drawings at the county fair. And 4-H junior division record-book winners in Comal County are Jinny Edwards, first in poultry; Corbee Wunderlich, first in swine; Tara Edwards, first in poultry in pre-junior. All three also won in district competition.

Congratulations to Britt and Scott Villarreal, **St. Mark, Houston**, who achieved the prestigious Eagle Scout award.



THEY'RE A HIT!—These young sluggers are members of Trinity Lutheran, Klein, and were on the Spring-Klein Hurricanes who won the Willie Mays World Series last summer in Georgia. From left are Jonathan Sokol, Guy Humphrey and Joshua Willson.



CHEERS—Anna Schwerdtfeger, Sarah Melssner and Jill Meyer are the cheerleaders for Zion Lutheran School, Walburg. The school has 149 students.

Lutheran High in 45th academic year; 500 now in two schools

The Lutheran High School Association of Houston is celebrating its 45th academic year in 1993-94. Forty-nine students were enrolled in grades nine and 10 when the doors opened in 1949. There now are 2,700 names on the alumni register.

Various events during the school year will celebrate the anniversary. A kick-off dinner was held in September 1993. Homecomings were held in October, and Lutheran High Sundays will be observed in association congregations.

There will be a special service of praise and thanksgiving in April and an alumni reunion picnic in June.

Total enrollment in Lutheran High North and Lutheran High South is now near the 500 mark. Workshops in Christian living are featured in both schools.



Send your news to Bill

Send your photos, stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:

Bill Wagner, Editor
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LIVING THE MISSION

LIVING THE MISSION—Carol Young and Pastor Terry Tieman will lead the three "Living The Mission" workshops to be held in the Texas District.

Mission workshops designed to help you reflect Jesus

by Pat Biar, president
Texas District, LWML

Through baptism, Christians receive the wonderful gift of salvation and the power of the Holy Spirit to live out the mission as Christ commanded: *Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations....*"

Often, however, many Christians feel inadequate when trying to reflect Jesus Christ, the Light of the world, in their everyday lives.

As witnesses for Christ, those who bear His name **SHOULD** make a difference in the lives of people with whom they interact. The goal of "Living The Mission" is to enable and equip participants to make a difference by:

- Living out their baptismal call to be witnesses for Jesus Christ in their personal lives;
- Joining others to help their congregations be a strong mission base in the community.

Emphasis is aimed at discovering new caring and outreach approaches to:

- *New members.*
- *Guests.*
- *Move-ins.*
- *Inquirers.*

Each congregation is encouraged to send at least three people: one man who is a leader in evangelism work or with positive outreach attitudes; one LWML

society leader in evangelism work or with positive outreach attitudes; the pastor or another staff member.

Also encouraged to attend are as many congregational and LWML members as are needed to give support, organize and participate in the back-home activities of outreach.

Trained team leaders for "Living The Mission" events in the Texas District are Rev. Terry Tieman and Carol Young. Tieman is senior pastor at Bethel, Fort Smith, Ark., and is chairman of the Mid-South District Evangelism Committee. He is an active workshop leader. Carol Young, Austin, is

past Texas District LWML vice president for mission projects.

"Living The Mission" events will be held in the Texas District on:

Jan. 22, St. Mark Lutheran, Houston;

Feb. 5, Zion Lutheran, Dallas; and

Feb. 12, Christ Lutheran, Austin.

Each workshop will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Registration is \$15 per person plus lunch. Preregistration is encouraged to plan for ordering of materials. This may be done with Rev. Ray Schkade at the district office at (512) 926-4272, or Pat Biar at (409) 722-7842.

HONORED—David F. Lineberger, shown with his wife, Nancy, was honored Oct. 24, 1993, at Messiah Lutheran, Richardson, on the 25th anniversary of his ministry. He is Messiah's minister of music and administration. He also directs the church's assimilation ministry and seniors' program.



Special district Sundays set

The Board of Directors of the Texas District has approved these dates for special Sundays in 1994:

Feb. 27—Lutheran Hour Sunday.

March 6—Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas Sunday.

April 24—Church Extension Fund Sunday.

May 15—Concordia Lutheran College Sunday.

Sept. 18—Lutheran Television Sunday.

Oct. 2—LWML Sunday

Nov. 6—Lutheran Social Services of the South Sunday.

Jan. 1, 1995—Campus Ministry Sunday.

AAL grants

Three grants from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) have enhanced these Texas District activities:

- \$500 toward expenses for the Lutheran professional workers conference held in October on South Padre Island.

- \$500 to Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas for plumbing in the adult sleeping quarters at Texoma Lutheran Camp.

- \$750 to Hope Lutheran School, Lubbock, for books and other educational materials.

THE LORD ADDED...

TEXAS DISTRICT



AUSTIN—The Lord added 53 new members Sept. 26, 1993, at St. Paul, Austin. Nine were adult confirmands and there was one adult baptism. Fred Neumann is pastor.



PLANO—Lord of Life, Plano, welcomed these 15 new members Sept. 12, 1993. Five were adult confirmands. Ric McMillian is pastor.



HOUSTON—These new members became part of the forever family in September 1993 at Christ Memorial, Houston. J. Mark Kuehnert is pastor.



CROCKETT—Recently 21 new members became part of the fellowship at Grace, Crockett. Pastor is Ron Burkhard.



EDNA—By adult confirmation and affirmation of faith, these new members were received Sept. 5, 1993, at St. Paul, Edna. From left are Emmett and Deborah Gloyna, Jeanie Ludewig and Melissa Knippa. Pastor is Lewis Wunderlich.



RICHARDSON—By confession of faith and transfer, these new members joined the fellowship of Messiah, Richardson, Oct. 24, 1993. Pastor is Victor J. Kollmann.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Six journeys—Concordia of Texas preseminary students

The road to the pastoral ministry is not easy. When a man answers God's call he faces many years of rigorous scholastic preparation, including the study of Greek and Hebrew, the original languages of the Bible. The educational costs alone can seem overwhelming, especially without the prospect of a highly lucrative profession at the completion of the schooling.

What kind of man, from what kind of background, is chosen to overcome these obstacles and devote his life to ministry? What life experiences lead a man to make such a commitment? The following six stories of pre-seminary students at Concordia Lutheran College of Texas may give some insight into these questions, and may even give encouragement to other men contemplating a life of service as a pastor.

• Terry Rawe, a 21-year-old freshman from Arlington, says his decision to prepare for ministry came at a men's retreat at Texoma Lutheran Camp. He had felt himself being led in that direction for several years, but harbored doubts. At the retreat, he asked a pastor, "How do you know if God is calling you?" The answer was, "It's like knowing if you're in love. You don't know how you know, you just know."

It was the answer Terry needed to hear. He says that once he made a commitment, doors started opening for him. Experiences as a camp counselor solidified his decision, and he entered



PREPARING FOR MINISTRY—Six of Concordia's 29 preseminary students are, from left, Andrew Green, James Morrow, Anthony Andino, Terry Rawe, Dana Martin and Lonnie Gonzales.

Concordia in January 1993 as a preseminary student.

• Lonnie Gonzales, a 21-year-old from Houston, knows about the challenges of being a pastor already, because his father is the Rev. Jesus Gonzales, pastor of Peace-Galena Park. Lonnie says he thought about becoming a pastor off and on throughout his life: "I looked at my Dad and saw that he was fulfilled and happy, even though we never had a lot of money."

Because he sees a growing need for ministry in Hispanic communities, Lonnie is majoring in Mexican American studies. He and his wife, Joy (Finney), spent last summer in Mexico studying language and culture at the University of Guanajuato, an experience that gave him an increased understanding of the spiritual needs of the Mexican people.

• Andrew Green, a 28-year-old from Midwest City, Oklahoma, says, "Taking the first step is the hardest." He felt the call to ministry when he graduated from high school, but allowed the lure of the world and a good sal-

ary as a restaurant manager to change his mind. "Finally I quit making excuses, and now I'm happy," he says.

He names his lifelong pastor, Rev. Gerald Quiram, as his mentor. "He baptized me, confirmed me, and, God willing, he will ordain me," he says.

• Dana Martin, from Merton near San Angelo, more nearly fits the popular stereotype of a preseminary student—he is an 18-year-old freshman, with his heart already set on ministry. Although he remembers considering that direction "always," he didn't make a commitment until the summer before his senior year in high school. He recounts a very personal and "almost mystical" experience at Camp Lone Star, when he felt a clear call.

"I knew my family couldn't afford to send me to Concordia, but the power of prayer got me here," he says.

• If Dana fits the stereotype, Anthony Andino most definitely breaks it. He is a 42-year-old native of Puerto Rico who grew up in a Catholic orphanage in New York

City. He was introduced to the Lutheran faith while serving in the Air Force by a military chaplain.

"I've been pulled in the direction of ministry all my life," he says. "Even though I'm starting late, I have no fears. 'I'm a clean slate, ready to go where He leads.'"

• Two years ago James Morrow—with a wife, two children and a good job as a plant electrician—finally quit thinking of reasons why he couldn't return to college to prepare to be a pastor. With the encouragement of his pastors at Immanuel-Temple (Rev. Steve Henze and Rev. Alan Struckmeyer), he decided to trust God to make things work out. "And sure enough, the Lord has taken care of us," he says.

Now a 34-year-old senior, James commutes daily from his home in Temple, returning in time to pick up his children from school. He will move to St. Louis this summer to enroll in seminary there.

This representative sample of Concordia's preseminary students makes plain



that God calls all sorts of men to His service. Despite their differences, these six do have similarities, obvious from their stories. In addition, all are enthusiastic and multitalented:

Lonnie is active in student government, this year as chairman of the Religious Life Committee.

James was recently inducted into Alpha Chi honor society, reserved for students in the top 10 percent of their classes.

Anthony acted in CLC's production of *Macbeth* and uses his artistic talent to make posters for campus organizations.

Andrew works with the multihandicapped Rosedale School students.

Terry is active with the Concordia Youth Ministry Team.

Dana is a singer and musician.

The six are also similar in their thankfulness to God and His people for providing the financial assistance they all need to pay college costs. None of them would have been able to choose Concordia without the help of scholarships, grants and loans. Fortunately, the funds were there for them. As James Morrow comments, "If it's right, it works out."

For further information about the preseminary program at Concordia of Texas, contact the Admissions Office or call Concordia and ask to speak with a member of the Religion faculty: 1-800-285-4CLC.



UNIVERSITY SYSTEM PRESIDENTS — The Concordia University System Board of Directors, and college presidents, academic officers and student services officers met on the Concordia of Texas campus this fall. Pictured here are the presidents: from left, Dr. John Buuck, Mequon; Dr. Lester Bayer, Austin; Dr. Jullus Jenkins, Selma; Dr. William Meyer, University System president; Dr. Orville Walz, Seward; Dr. James Koerschen, Ann Arbor; Dr. Ralph Schultz, Bronxville; and Dr. Eugene Krentz, River Forest.

Baseball coach receives honor

Concordia Lutheran College baseball coach James Keller has been named 1993 NAIA South Region Coach of the Year. Keller, who has averaged 40 wins per season at Concordia, is one of eight NAIA regional coaches of the year. They were selected in a vote of NAIA baseball coaches. Keller and other region coaches of the year will be placed on the ballot for NAIA National Coach of the Year.



Coach James Keller



LUTHERAN WOMAN OF THE YEAR—The 1993 Lutheran Woman of the Year, Florence Michalk Winkler, was honored by Concordia during its Fall Festival Weekend. President Lester Bayer introduced her during a special chapel service. Nominations forms for the 1994 Woman of the Year will be mailed to LWML societies in March.

The past and the future will meet at Concordia

On Feb. 12 Concordia Lutheran College will host its alumni (the past) and prospective students (the future) for Homecoming and Sneak-a-Peek Day.

Homecoming reunion classes are from years ending in "4" and "9." Special honor classes are 1944, 1969 and 1984. Homecoming activities will begin Feb. 11 and extend through the Homecoming worship on Feb. 13. Included will be class dinners, a family picnic, athletic competition and an after-the-game party.

Sneak-a-Peek will introduce prospective students to CLC students and faculty members. Information on programs of study and financial assistance will also be provided. Parents (especially CLC alumni) are also invited to attend.

For more information, call the Public Relations Office about Homecoming or the Admissions Office about Sneak-a-Peek: 1-800-285-4CLC.

NEWS

Where the people are

Flower Mound, a town 15 miles northwest of Dallas, issued a record-breaking 1,345 single-family residence building permits during the first nine months of 1993.

Awaiting this surge of new residents is Lamb of God Lutheran Church, which relocated to its Flower Mound site from Lewisville.

"The Texas District Mission Board made a decision of vision," said Senior Pastor Norman Schwolert, "when it assisted the relocation of this congregation." He added, "This is a rapidly growing mission field, which presents large challenges to the congregation."

The congregation is attempting to meet the challenge through their youth, education, early childhood and out-



FLOWER MOUND—Lamb of God, Flower Mound, received 69 souls into its fellowship on Reformation Sunday 1993, including seven by adult confirmation and 10 by profession of faith.

reach programs, along with small-group ministry.

Ministry staff includes Rev. Michael Schumacher, minister of family life; Rev. Mark Pepoon, part-time pastoral care and outreach minister; Keith Vieregge, minister of music; and Barbara Lindsay, preschool director. The congregation is calling an early childhood ministry director.

Bible speaks their language

Thanks to generous contributions from individuals, congregations and a Lutheran school, more than \$500 has been given to the Lutheran International Center at the University of Texas, Arlington. AAL gave matching funds.

The center offers six weekly Bible studies. Also, several students are enrolled in adult information classes in area congregations.

Chinese/English Bibles are in high demand as well as other bilingual teaching materials. Goal of the center is to offer friendship to students from 17 nations, that one day they may become friends with God.

About 80 participants attend weekly. For further information call (817) 274-9201.

How to go far

Happy are you if you know how to take small things seriously and large things peacefully, you will go far in life.



SPECIAL BIBLES—Foreign students at the University of Texas-Arlington, display Chinese/English Bibles at the school's Lutheran International Center.

Point Man conference designed to make good men better

St. Paul Lutheran of Fort Worth is sponsoring a conference for Tarrant County men designed to equip them to be a better husband, better dad and a more effective spiritual leader in their home.

Called the Point Man Conference, it will be conducted by Dr. Steve Farrar, author of the best-seller *Point Man—How A Man Can Lead A Family*. Topic samples include masculinity, what it is and why families need it; how to fight the

good fight for your family, raising masculine sons and feminine daughters, and how to spiritually lead your family.

The conference will be held Friday, Feb. 18, from 7 to 9:30 p.m. with registration at 6 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 19, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Site of the conference is the Will Rogers auditorium. Cost is \$35 pre-registered, \$40 at the door. Tom Mueller at St. Paul, (817) 332-2281, can provide information.

Bowie Lutherans plan centennial

St. Peter Lutheran of Bowie will celebrate 100 years of proclaiming the Gospel in 1994.

The first services at Bowie were conducted by Rev. John Schulenberg of Fort Worth in 1893. The congregation was organized in 1894 and a one-room, 14-by-20-foot building was erected by the people, five miles northwest of Bowie.

By 1903, the membership had increased to 72 baptized and 36 communicant members, and Rev. H. B. Wurthmann became the first resident pastor.

The original church became the schoolhouse when a new sanctuary was built in 1919. This building was moved to Bowie in 1949 and remains part of the present facility. Many improvements and additions have been made over the years.

St. Peter now has 171 baptized members and 126 communicants, with more than 20 in youth and adult instruction classes. A new fellowship hall is planned.

Bruce C. Donley is pastor.



LSSS HAVEN—The center's beautiful location on the Guadalupe River helps provide a safe, secure environment for clients.

Young women with personal problems have ally in LSSS

A 20-acre facility near Canyon Lake, Texas, is the site of one of the newest programs offered by Lutheran Social Services of the South. The Canyon Lake Residential Treatment Center opened in October to help young women overcome personal problems.

The facility, overlooking the Guadalupe River, provides a consistent, safe environment for up to 33 clients. Martha

Flores-Winn, managing director, said, "Despite its idyllic setting, Canyon Lake is not going to be a country club. We will be serving severely disturbed kids; kids with lots of problems. Canyon Lake is a place for our

clients to work out those problems."

The Center is designed specifically to meet the needs of female clients who may be wrestling with a

number of issues—post-adoption problems, life skills, even the possibility of being adopted in the future.

Besides regular schooling on the campus, therapy will in-

clude individual and group counseling, as well as family therapy when appropriate. For information about Canyon Lake, call the facility at (210) 964-4390.



LSSS names three recipients for prestigious agency awards

The Board of Directors for Lutheran Social Services of the South has announced recipients of the three prestigious agency awards for next year.

Jim Henderson, a sportscaster with WWL-TV in New Orleans was named Lutheran of the Year. Dr. August Bernthal of Winter Haven, Fla., will be honored with the Edwin A. Trapp Jr. Social Ministry Leadership Award. Edwin A. Grewe, who works with the agency, will receive the Helping Hand Award.

Henderson is a well-known TV journalist. He has worked in the New Orleans market for 15 years and covers the New Orleans Saints football games. He is a member of Hosanna Lutheran Church.

Bernthal has served as pastor of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church since 1950. He has been chairman of the Board of Directors of

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services for five years.

Grewe has been part of Lutheran Social Services in Louisiana since 1953. He has worked at Bethlehem Children's Treatment Center and the administrative office. Since 1984, he has been administrator of Peace Lake Towers, a development for low-income people.

Each of these men will receive his award during the annual dinner Feb. 25 at the Monteleone Hotel in the French Quarter of New Orleans. The reception and dinner will begin at 6 p.m.

For reservations, phone the Austin LSSS office at (512) 459-1000.



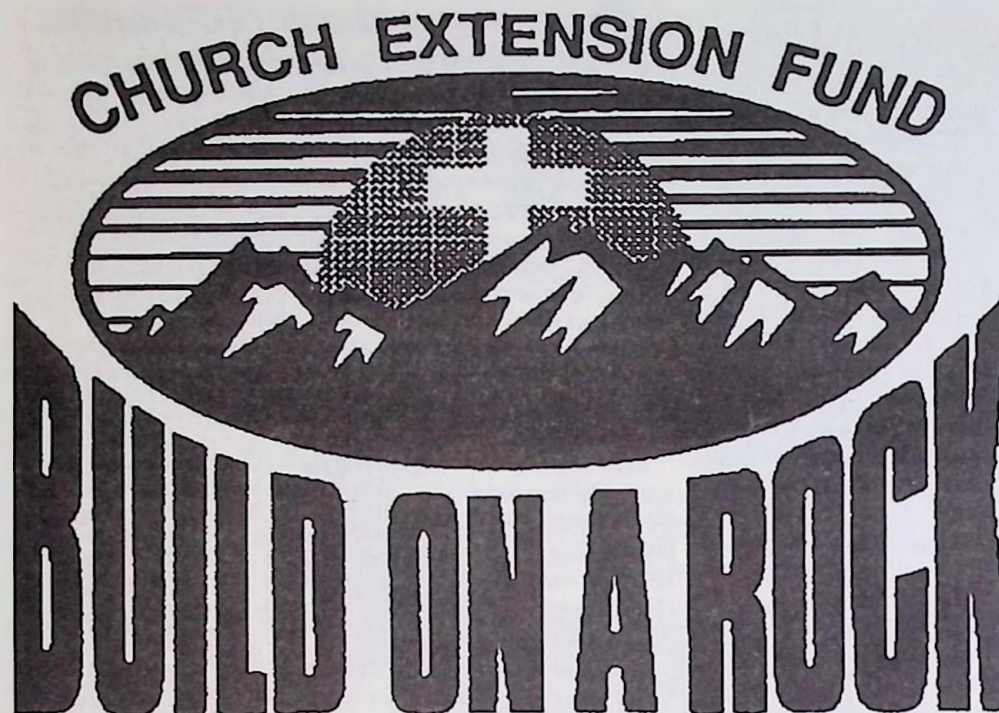
LSSS adds three new staffers

Three new people have joined the staff at Lutheran Social Services of the South.

John Wilson is new administrator for Trinity Lutheran Home in Round Rock, Texas. He brings a great deal of experience to his position including serving as administrator for Buckner Haven Nursing Home in Houston for five years.

Martha Flores-Winn is taking on the challenge of becoming the first administrator for the Canyon Lake Residential Treatment Center. The center, northeast of San Antonio, is designed to help young women with emotional and personal problems.

In Houston, Steve Kelley has become the new development director for Southeast Texas. Steve had been working at the Good Samaritan Campus of Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc. in a similar capacity. He came to LSSS to "help make people more aware of all the agency does for folks in Southeast Texas."



Jesus said to His followers, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Matt. 7:24).

In 1994, the Texas District Church Extension Fund will have as its promotional theme **Build On A Rock**.

The CEF theme in 1993 was *Building Up*. The theme for 1994, **Build On A Rock**, continues with the emphasis of building, with the focus this year on Jesus Christ as our foundation.

When building, it is important to always build upon a strong, immovable foundation. Second, always build for storms; they are inevitable! What you build will be tested. Our Savior, Jesus Christ is the strong, immovable foundation. He is with us in the storms of life,

when we are being tested and tried.

- For 88 years, the Texas District Church Extension Fund has been committed to the task of providing the low-cost funding for Lutheran congregations to build and expand their facilities. Our purpose has been to provide the place and space for God's people to come together and worship and grow in His grace. Your investment in the ministry of the Church Extension Fund will make it possible for new churches to be built in 1994 and beyond.

As we begin this new

year, consider investing, re-investing or giving a gift to the CEF Capital Fund. The Church Extension Fund is a ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Come join us in 1994, **Build On A Rock** by investing in CEF!

For additional information, contact your CEF rep, pastor or the district office:

**Texas District
Church Extension Fund
Bill Siegrist
7900 E. Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
1-800-951-3478
(512) 926-4272**



**Sixth annual
CEF conference
March 4-6
in Austin**

Attention pastors and CEF congregational representatives—mark your calendars. The sixth annual CEF District Conference is coming!

WHERE: Red Lion Hotel, Austin.

WHEN: March 4-6, Friday evening through Sunday noon.

WHO: All CEF reps and their spouses

PURPOSE: To provide specialized training and fellowship for our CEF congregational workers, in order to equip and enable these servant leaders to be more effective in communicating the mission and ministry of the Texas District Church Extension Fund.

EXPENSES: Contact the district office for details. This training conference only occurs once a year. If your congregational leaders change at the beginning of the year or you do not have an active CEF rep, now is the time to take action!

Please contact the district office for registration materials, Roxanne Brooks or Bill Siegrist at 1-800-951-3478.

LISTENERS—Participants in the 1993 CEF conference listen to a presentation on the types of investments offered by the Church Extension Fund.



PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

A graphic illustration of how a church can touch lives was demonstrated as Christ Lutheran, Amarillo, celebrated its 40th anniversary Oct. 17, 1993. During those 40 years of God's word and sacraments, there were 624 baptisms, 648 confirmations, 181 marriages and 79 funerals. Pastor is Robert T. Kuhlmann.

Worshippers Oct. 24, 1993, at First Lutheran, Lufkin, received a red ribbon to wear throughout the following week to indicate they are "drug free," that they do not personally use illegal drugs and urge others not to use them. They joined their fellow citizens of Lufkin in demonstrating their opposition to use of illegal drugs.

Mount Calvary, Houston, dedicated its new church facility Oct. 24, 1993, at a new location. Pastor is Roosevelt Gray Jr. Dr. Simon Bodley Jr., chairman of the Commission on Black Ministry for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, was the preacher.

Good Shepherd, Cedar Park, celebrated 20 years as "One Family Sharing God's Love" Oct. 31, 1993, with a special anniversary service and barbecue. Richard R. Goodwill is pastor.

At Peace, Garland, volunteer meals are provided to congregation members in the event of illness or death of a family member. The program is called "Body

Meals on Spirit Wheels."

Pam Utley was installed Oct. 17, 1993, at Gethsemane, Houston, as minister of Christian development.

Lutheran Brotherhood, a fraternal benefit society, has established a new branch (volunteer service group) named Cedar Branch #8886. The group is open to all Lutheran Brotherhood members in Hays and Comal counties. Members participate in service projects benefiting Lutheran congregations and schools, needy individuals and the community at large.



David

David A. Alkridge, Faith Lutheran, Plano, is a first-year student at Concordia Theological Seminary,

Fort Wayne, Ind. He is enrolled in the master of divinity program, which will qualify him for work in the pastoral ministry.

Brenda Bamsch, Lord of Life, Plano, won first place at the Texas State Fair for "Egg Art." She decorated a round hen's egg (it took a lot of searching to find it) as a baseball, with a 3-D baseball field, bat and glove inside.

Bruce Milbrath, Redeemer, Beaumont, a senior at Texas A&M, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by K-Mart where he interned.



SAN BENITO—A ground-breaking service for its administration wing addition and church renovation was held at St. John, San Benito, Oct. 17, 1993. Participating on behalf of the congregation were, from left, Shannon Galloway, youth; Yvonne Swanson, LWML; Hubert Brueckner, Winter Texans; Glen England, building committee; Tim Weber, congregational vice president; Pastor Marcus Mueller; Herman Lasoya, torchbearer; Royal Meseberg, elders; and Richard Schnack, LLL.

He's a business major.

Rev. Lee Kunkel, former pastor of Bethany, Houston, accepted a call to Resurrection Lutheran in Fredericksburg.

The missions board of Christ the King, Kingwood, offers scholarships to Lutheran High School to teenage members of San Pablo Lutheran, Houston.

Paul Miller, director of fellowship and parish education at Our Savior, Houston, accepted a call as coordinator of Christian education at St. Paul, Lutheran, Waco (Bellmead.)

Rev. Don Loudonback has accepted a call to Bethlehem Lutheran, Brenham (William Penn.) He is former interim pastor of Our Shepherd, Crosby.

Zion Lutheran, Tomball, sponsored a float in the Tomball Christmas parade. Children from the Early Childhood Center and Sun-

day school rode on the float.

A salute for Airman 1st Class Christine Jocis, Crown of Life, San Antonio, who was awarded Airman of the Year, Base Pharmacy Services at Wilford Hall Medical Center, Lackland AFB in San Antonio.

Grant helps Austin homeless

LCMS World Relief has made a \$3,700 domestic grant to Breakfast Ministries of Austin, sponsored by Foundation for the Homeless. Redeemer Lutheran of Austin is a participating congregation whose members provide breakfast, transportation, fellowship and personal facilities during summer months for the homeless.

The program offers breakfast, clothes closet, haircuts, showers, medical referrals, job referrals and sack groceries to an average of 120 persons a week.

Increased demand and volunteer enthusiasm prompted the grant to provide a second breakfast.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOMES AND SERVICES GOOD SAMARITAN CAMPUS

Tony's questioning leads to confirmation

It was Tony's own desire to know God that led to his confirmation Friday, Oct. 15, 1993. A confirmation class was started just for him and the other residents at his Spring, Texas, group home after he asked his social worker why he couldn't take Communion like everyone else at Trinity Lutheran, Klein, his sponsoring congregation.

As a result of Tony's questioning, Steve Fritsch, a Trinity member, went out to the Spring home every Wednesday night to teach confirmation classes.

Fritsch also taped charts explaining Tony's lessons to the back of Tony's door. This allowed Tony to study the message every morning when he got up and periodically throughout the day.

The charts and classes have translated into a very real understanding of faith for Tony.

"Tony was scheduled to go to his sister's church with her the Sunday after his confirmation," explained Rev. Ronald Hampsten, the Good Samaritan Campus chaplain. "But Tony insisted she accompany him to his church for his first Communion."

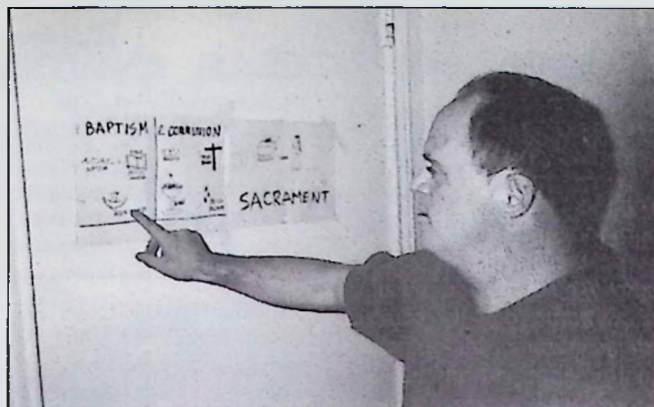


FAMILY DAY—Residents of the Good Samaritan group home enjoy fellowship at the campus' annual Family Day. More than 100 parents and guardians joined residents and staff under the new pavillion for a picnic lunch, followed by a parent/guardian conference with Administrator Joellyn Champagne, who discussed Good Samaritan goals.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Pavilion dedicated: A ribbon-cutting ceremony and dedication were held Saturday, Oct. 30, 1993, to celebrate the completion of the new pavilion at the Good Samaritan Campus. The 40-by-40-foot open air structure, funded by the Good Samaritan Auxiliary, will be ideal for resident activities, according to Administrator Joellyn Champagne.

Cite-free survey: The Good Samaritan group home, Cypress, received a perfect cite-free rating from a November 1993 review by state surveyors, meaning that no deficiencies were cited at the home.



Tony, a resident at Good Samaritan's Spring, Texas, group home, points to a dove symbolizing the Holy Spirit as he explains the sacrament of baptism. Tony used these charts taped to the back of his door as study aids to learn his confirmation lessons, which resulted in his being confirmed Oct. 15, 1993, at the Good Samaritan Campus.

Golfers swing for Good Sam

More than 80 supporters enjoyed a day in the sun Monday, Oct. 4, 1993, golfing to benefit the residents of Bethesda's Good Samaritan group homes at the Third Annual Good Samaritan Charity Golf Tournament.

Golf pro Hal Underwood was available to help golfers improve their swing and KIKK Radio's News Director Chuck Wolf served as the tournament's master of ceremonies.

A corps of more than 20 volunteers helped make the

tournament a success, doing everything from registering golfers to serving food at the informal barbecue dinner and reception at Joy Lutheran Church, Richmond, after the tournament.

"The tournament was very well run," said Wolf. "There were a lot of prizes given away and golfers just had a really good time."

Plans are already being made for next year's tournament, according to A.L. Napolitano, Bethesda's executive director.



Volunteers were important to the success of the Good Samaritan Third Annual Golf Tournament held Oct. 4, 1993. Here, three volunteers prepare to drive the beverage cart around the course to refresh thirsty golfers.



LINCOLN—Paul and Emma Urban were married Thanksgiving Day in 1926. They celebrated their 67th wedding anniversary Nov. 25, 1993. They have been members of St. John's in Lincoln since 1943.

ANNIVERSARIES

Trinity, Navasota: Mr. and Mrs. O.C. Wehring, 60 years, Aug. 8; Herbert and Hilda Hoffmann, 55 years, Aug. 13; Arthur and Lorine Petersen, 50 years, Aug. 24; Robert and Lorine Falke, 53 years, Aug. 24; Otto and Evelyn Mitschke, 51 years, Sept. 5; Albert and Louise Medack, 54 years, Sept. 10; Alfred and Hildegard Krause, 50 years, Sept. 19; Herbert and Alvina Koslan, 51 years, Sept. 20; Elton and Isabella Proske, 55 years, Oct. 10; Herbert and Gertrude Richter, 58 years, Oct. 20; Albert and Hermine Mutschink, 59 years, Oct. 21; Monroe and Gertrude Mersiovsky, 51 years, Oct. 25; Eric and Lorine Artmann, 55 years, Oct. 30.

Immanuel, Giddings: Alton and Marie Patschke, 50 years, Aug. 8; Herbert and Hilda Hoffmann, 55 years, Aug. 13; Arthur and Lorine Petersen, 50 years, Aug. 24; Robert and Lorine Falke, 53 years, Aug. 24; Otto and Evelyn Mitschke, 51 years, Sept. 5; Albert and Louise Medack, 54 years, Sept. 10; Alfred and Hildegard Krause, 50 years, Sept. 19; Herbert and Alvina Koslan, 51 years, Sept. 20; Elton and Isabella Proske, 55 years, Oct. 10; Herbert and Gertrude Richter, 58 years, Oct. 20; Albert and Hermine Mutschink, 59 years, Oct. 21; Monroe and Gertrude Mersiovsky, 51 years, Oct. 25; Eric and Lorine Artmann, 55 years, Oct. 30.

Trinity, Port Arthur: Norman and Margie Moerbe, 50 years, Jan. 2.

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Jean and Leonard Lambert, 54 years, Nov. 26.

St. Paul, Edna: Virginia and Virgil Koop, 50 years, Sept. 4; Emily and Arnold Chase, 52 years, Oct. 5; Lillian and Marvin Wiede, 54 years, Oct. 27.

Mt. Calvary, La Grange: E.A. and Frieda Lehmann, 53 years, Oct. 6; L.A. and Ruth Williams, 51 years, Oct. 11; Hugo and Clara Matthijetz, 56 years, Oct. 24.

St. Luke, Olney: K.P. and Esther Kunkel, 71 years, Nov. 5; Herbert and Marguerite Koester, 50 years, Nov. 30.

Trinity, Sealy: Herman and Alice Schulke, 52 years, Nov. 1; Arthur and Estella Heintschel, 51 years, Nov. 7; Dennis and Vera Mae Remmert, 55 years, Nov. 20.

St. Paul, Bishop: Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Remmert, 63 years, Nov. 2; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miertschin, 56 years, Nov. 14; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Felder, 53 years, Nov. 24.

St. Mark, Houston: Oscar and LaVonn Schier, 60 years, Nov. 4; Joe and Lillian Brennan, 54 years, Nov. 17.

St. Paul, Edna: Geraldine and Herbert Boening, 56 years, Nov. 4; Erna and Herbert Atzenhoffer, 62 years, Nov. 11; Jewel and Francis Koop, 62 years, Dec. 2.

Cross, New Braunfels: Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kramer, 51 years, Nov. 8; Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Ruhnnow, 57 years, Nov. 26.



HISPANIC SERVICE—After his installation Oct. 10, 1993, as associate pastor of Hispanics at St. Mark, Houston, Richard Schuller led a service with hymns sung in Spanish. From left are Rev. Steve Simon, Rev. Otto Naumann, Schuller and Walter and Jose Plineda. Schuller leads Spanish/English classes once a week, and has 12 Hispanics enrolled in "Lit-Tech," computerized reading program that helps them learn English. The program is offered through St. Mark Lutheran School.

This \$100 makes a difference

Can \$100 really make a difference? The folks at Trinity Lutheran in Riesel think so.

With a \$100 gift, members launched a Senior Center for Riesel. The city donated the meeting room at the new city hall. Senior Ministries of Texas provided the "know how" in cooking the food.

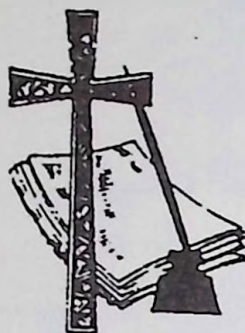
So with a \$100 gift, the Senior Center was born where 65 to 80 seniors meet every Thursday.

Within two months, Meals on Wheels was brought in. Senior transportation provides rides for the elderly to shop, see their doctors—and come to Senior Center events.

It is a community effort, but Trinity's \$100 and encouragement from its pastor, Stephen Linck, gave it the start.



VERNON—A Sunday School Awards Day was held at St. Paul, Vernon, Oct. 10, 1993, honoring students with perfect Sunday school attendance for six months to two years. From left, front, are Tiffany Nash, Lori Nash, Ashley Brown, Andrew Word and Rachel Brown. At left back is Pastor Rusty Leavitt with Sunday School Superintendent Trent Kleschnick.



Happy New Year!

...even if it is a bit belated. Doesn't this greeting have a wonderful ring to it?

"Happy New Year" reminds us of God's blessing that has brought us to another year of grace. And for what reason or purpose? "That you might shine like stars in the universe, holding forth the word of life" is the answer that Paul gave the Philippian Christians (Phil. 2:15-16).

Shining like stars, holding forth the word of life! Isn't that an incredible mission vision for Christians, especially for members of the LWML? Have you ever pictured yourself as a bright shining star, holding forth the word of life?

Gaze with me for a moment into the heaven above, a heaven without stars. What an infinitely black hole, dreadfully dark and mysteriously fearful!

Now, add the stars of a crystal clear night. Notice how the incomparable darkness is transformed into a majestically bejeweled canopy of awe and wonder, of excitement and amazement, inspiring even the saddest and the loneliest people to see something of hope and

of the magnificence of the Creator. Stars, indeed, do make a difference! You and I are called to be God's stars in the darkness of a "crooked and perverse generation. Isn't it exciting that God sees you and me as stars; and that through the energy of Christ in us, we have the potential to light up our world?

In Wichita Falls this summer, June 15-17, there will be a wonderful gathering of God's stars for the 28th convention of the Texas District LWML under the theme "Shine Like Stars." I hope you are planning to be there. It will be a stellar event, one that will help you to grow even brighter in your shining as we study and worship together around this marvelous theme from the book of Philipians.

In the meantime, for this new year of 1994, as we are going to say in Wichita Falls this summer, "shine where you're hung" in your home, your church, your LWML society or wherever you happen to be, let your gospel light shine ... let it shine ... let it shine!

*Rev. Walter Dube
Pastor Counselor
Texas District LWML*

Texan to serve Int'l LWML

We are very happy to report Cathy Haedge, Garland, has been appointed to the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League Program Resources Committee!

Congratulations, Cathy!

AAL grant for convention tote bags

The Texas District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Red River Zone, has been awarded a \$500 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL). The grant was awarded by the Richard Sprock Agency of AAL, Oklahoma City.

The funds will be used to purchase tote bags for participants at the 1994 district convention.

Barbara Kuxhaus, AAL Grant Program manager, says, "This grant was awarded through an AAL program that allows general agencies from across the country to award grants to nonprofit Lutheran organizations and fulfill one of AAL's fraternal goals—to provide assistance to Lutheran congregations and their institutions."

Mite Report

November 1993

1992-94 Goal	\$275,000
Rec'd November (all sources)	12,275
Rec'd to date (all sources)	189,125
Needed for goal	85,874
Sent to Int'l LWML (November)	2,945
Int'l to date	41,754

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, 208 Woodland Ave., Giddings, TX 78942.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.



'Living the Mission'

Be sure to attend Living the Mission. It is an exciting workshop designed to provide training to LWML members and leaders in each congregation.

Presenters will be the Rev. Terry Tieman, pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, Ark., Mid-South District; and Carol Young, Capitol Zone, former third vice president of the Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

See in-depth article on Page H of this issue for more details.



LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, 505 Stonewood Blvd., Roanoke, TX 76262.



News from around the district

Women in St. Paul (WISP), Denton, hosted a reception for M.C. (Mac) McDurmitt on Sunday, Sept. 26, 1993. They celebrated his 95th birthday. Mac and his wife, Pauline, were married in 1933, the same year that McDurmitt was confirmed in the Lutheran Church by the Rev. Oliver Harms. The McDurmitts moved to Denton in 1944 and operated Miller's Grocery until retirement. The McDurmitts have been active members of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Denton, since moving to this area.

...

Leah Faske reports the Ladies Aid of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Giddings, celebrated their 65th anniversary on Sept. 12, 1993, with a potluck supper. They currently have 60 active members who serve the church in a variety of ways. They joined the Lutheran Women's Missionary League in 1948.

In honor of the anniversary, a special thank offering has been given to Immanuel Lutheran Church Building Fund.

...

Post Oak Zone held their fall rally at Holy Cross, Warda. One hundred forty were in attendance. Guest speaker was Mrs. Cathy DeVries of San Antonio. Her topic was "One Spirit—One Faith—One People." Janice Droemer serves the zone as president.

...

Leesa Wells reports that on LWML Sunday, the four societies at Zion, Pasade-

na, gave a Tot Tote to each child at the children's sermon. There were 100 tots receiving totes!

In the two weeks since challenging each child to help support missions, more than \$15 has been contributed! Leesa serves the Texas District LWML as secretary to the president, Pat Biar.

Call to convention

The Texas District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League will meet in convention June 15-17, 1994, in Wichita Falls, Texas.

'Shine Like Stars!'

We are called to gather in Wichita Falls June 15-17 and "Shine like Stars."

The Red River Zone has been joyfully making plans for our visit.

The convention will take place Wednesday, June 15, through Friday, June 17, at the Ramada Inn, Wichita Falls.

The keynote speaker will be Norma Kramin, immediate past vice president for mission inspiration of the Int'l LWML. The opening worship service with the celebration of holy communion will have the Rev. Eugene Gruell as proclaimer!

The Christian Growth Committee is planning a wonderful day of inspiration and motivation for the workshop on the 15th.

Our International LWML Representative will be Iri Skinner, the newly elected vice president for mission inspiration.

Convention registration will be \$28. More information will be given in the next few months about housing registration, Christian growth workshop registration and all the events of this exciting convention!

LWML Scholarship

The Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League will again be presenting a scholarship to a Lutheran woman who is a full-time student or planning to be enrolled full time in an institution of higher learning of or recognized by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in a course of study leading to full-time professional church work in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

To receive an application along with eligibility requirements, please send the form to: Margaret Goodson, 5623 Georgetown Colony Drive, Houston, TX 77084.

Completed applications must be postmarked by **March 31**, to be considered for the 1994 scholarship.



Milton C. McDurmitt (Mac) with great granddaughter Danielle Danford at his 95th birthday celebration at St. Paul, Denton.

Please send a copy of "Eligibility and Requirements of Scholarship Applicants" to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Applications must be returned by **March 31**.

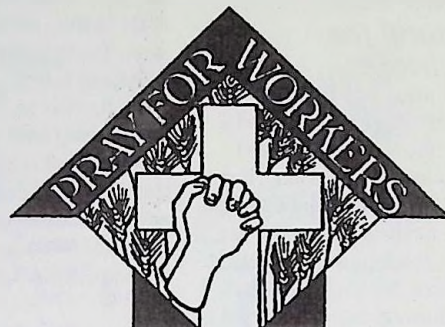
Motivating the laity top on LLL initiatives list

by Gary D. Laneman, president
Lone Star District, LLL

The new initiatives of the International Lutheran Laymen's League provides strategies for the future of **LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**. The most important and critical of these being the first initiative of growing the laity for ministry.



Laneman



MATTHEW 9:37-38

It is with great joy and excitement for LLLers that one of Lone Star's own will now serve **LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES** in this capacity of motivating the laity for service. Dr. Guido Merkens has long supported the league from his home congregation, Concordia, San Antonio.

One of the finest, Spirit-filled district conventions was in 1985 at Concordia. Merkens led the Lone Star District to a new level of God-directed service through this memorable event. Now he will make his abilities and talents available to train the LCMS laity for a life of fulfilling rich service in Kingdom work.

We will hear more about this opportunity being offered to our LCMS congregations at the next district board meeting on Mustang Island at the Port Royal Resort in Port Aransas March 4-6. This will be a family affair with everyone in the district welcome.

Also, Dr. Merkens will be with us at the New Braunfels District Convention, April 30-May 1 and again at the 77th Int'l LLL Convention in Fort Worth, July 24-29.

REGIONAL CONFERENCE

A Region 10 conference was held in Fort Worth Oct. 30, 1993, hosted by the Oklahoma District. Region 10 consists of the Oklahoma and Lone Star districts. On Friday evening the 29th, each district conducted its board meeting.

At the meeting a presentation was given to revitalize congregational representatives and to train new representatives. Joe Collet, director of lay mobilization Int'l LLL staff discussed and presented the Living for Tomorrow ministry plan. Int'l LLL President Don Bennett gave a visionary look ahead on Lutheran Hour Ministries.

After this meeting, the committee which is planning the 1994 Int'l LLL Convention met. Board members were present to have input and to receive information from this committee. John Manfolk is chairman of the 1994 Int'l LLL Convention Committee.

CIRCUIT CONVOCATION

The LLL was requested by Circuit 8 to provide a display of materials for the convocation Oct. 31, 1993, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in McKinney. We were pleased by the interest shown by

those in attendance. Irene and Reinhold Teinert provided the display and information.

SEVEN MINUTES WITH GOD

Trying to squeeze in a little time with God? Duane and Diana Kihne, Austin, Texas, suggest taking seven little minutes each day.

30 seconds—pray to the Lord to prepare heart.

—Give thanks for good night's sleep.

—Thank Him for forgiving your sins.

—Ask to be made aware of His presence.

—Ask for hunger of His word.

—Ask for understanding of His Word.

—Ask for a willing heart.

4 minutes—read a Bible passage.

2-1/2 minutes—prayer, praise, fellowship with God.

—Read or sing hymn.

—End by committing day to God.

Thousands involved in Lutheran Hour Ministry are "Praying for Workers" and invite you to join (from *Focus on Ministry*).

MISSIONARY IN JAMAICA

With the arrival of missionary Rev. Steve Massey in Kingston, the Synod has begun mission work in a new field—Jamaica.

Although "The Lutheran Hour" has been broadcast in Jamaica for some 30 years and has developed a following of listeners, the island has no national Lutheran church.

The mission will be supported financially by a group of Nebraska District congregations, auxiliaries and individuals, known as the Nebraska Lutheran Mission Society. It is a joint venture with the LCMS Board for Mission Services, who is responsible for calling and training a missionary.

The Nebraska Mission Society was formed out of a group of laypeople who visited Lutheran Hour contacts in Jamaica and became committed to the idea of sending a missionary there (from *Focus on Ministry*).



This is the last of a three-part series of the Vision Statement that was communicated to the people of the Texas District at area mission rallies held in September 1993 throughout the state of Texas.

The previous two articles have focused on a vision for the Texas District, which is expressed in the words *"Touching and winning those who do not know Jesus Christ, enriching and empowering those who do."*

Making the vision real

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, president

Texas District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Key Ingredients for Making the Vision a reality:

A. PASTORS WHO ARE carefully recruited, meaningfully educated, strategically trained, equipped and empowered to be spiritual leaders of the church in the 21st century. These will be men who not only understand and accept the confessions of the church but who also are able to communicate and model in relevant fashion the eternal truths of sin and grace to the multidimensional, multicultural people of our state, country and world.

These pastors will not be preoccupied with delivering pastoral ministry but will equip and empower those so gifted by God to deliver pastoral care. They will learn well the art of communication, oral and written, verbal and nonverbal, audio and visual. They will have the gifts and learn the skills of vision-casting, equipping, motivation, inspiration and leadership. They will understand that numbers do make a difference, because each number represents a person whom God has created, a person whom Christ has redeemed, a person whom the Holy Spirit would call, gather, enlighten and sanctify.

B. CHURCH MEMBERS

and leaders who catch and even cast the vision in the local congregation and beyond. Our church has too long been clergy-dominated. The gifts, talents, abilities and experiences of God's people "in the pew" are much too valuable and essential to remain virtually untapped. The pressurized power of the people of God must be ignited if the exponential growth of God's church here on earth is to have even the faintest spark of the hope of explosion.

C. PROFESSIONAL and

nonprofessional educators, teachers and care-givers qualified and empowered to catch the vision, to win and spiritually enrich the lives of people. Our system of education, though costly, has a great potential for assisting in the accomplishment of the mission of the church, if it is purposefully seen and used as a tool for mission outreach and not as an exclusive, elite system of private education. Many forums already exist and many more could be created that would provide the setting for meeting the needs of people in our society which remain currently unaddressed. Child care, day



Rev. Jerry Kieschnick

care, midweek, special needs, social issues, bioethical concerns, family stages, personal health and other relevant life and relational topics cry out for responsible, Biblical, meaningful classes, sessions and groups led and staffed by informed, skilled individuals who can guide, shape, mold and respond to those seeking such services and desiring such experiences. Education cannot be overestimated as a key to the heart and soul of the human being. It dare never be underestimated.

D. CIRCUIT, DISTRICT

and synodical leaders, staff, boards, task forces, committees and commissions who have caught the vision and who understand their role in enabling the vision to become reality. It is absolutely critical that congregations, their members and professional church workers understand that the reason for the existence of the circuit, district and Synod is to assist congregations, individually and collectively, to accomplish the Great Commission. The district and Synod are here to serve, not to be served. Such service will surely look different and be different in the future than in the past and present.

Synodical ministry will

focus more and more on national and world missions, less and less on parish services and administration, much of which will be assumed by the districts of the Synod. District ministry will emerge as mission and ministry enablers, assisting congregations and clusters of congregations to:

- Develop new mission efforts;
- Discover new ministry possibilities;
- Identify resources for mission and ministry;
- Create a local vision and strategy for worldwide mission accomplishment.

SUMMARY

The Texas District has been richly blessed by God with abundant resources and with unlimited opportunities for expanding His kingdom. We step boldly and confidently into the future knowing and understanding that:

—We have and will continue to receive God's power;

—Every Christian has been gifted for ministry;

—We are to be His witnesses at home and abroad;

—His Word will not return unto Him void, but will accomplish what He pleases and will prosper in the cause whereunto He sends it;

—He has given the means to communicate His grace, and they are effective;

—He died for all;

—He would have all to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth;

—He is gathering people

(Continued on next page.)

NEWS

VISION

(Continued from previous page.)

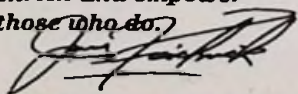
of every nation in our own state and country, right before our very eyes;

—He will provide the opportunities, the message and the people to deliver it.

That's the voyage I envision for this vessel called the LCMS Texas District. It will not be an easy journey, for the waters are deep, the winds are strong and constantly shifting. But our God has promised that we will receive His power to be His witnesses.

We will work and pray for the day when every congregation of the Texas District is a potent force for the Gospel of Jesus Christ, experiencing on a regular basis multiple baptisms of people from every nation under heaven as a result of the clear, faithful and effective communication and implementation of God's eternal truths and facilitating a climate conducive to the continuation of God's people in the apostles' teaching, fellowship, the breaking of bread and prayer. In the process, people will be filled with awe, seeing the wonders and signs of God's presence, resulting in the addition to the Church daily of those who are being saved by the Lord.

That day will surely come as God blesses the labors of our hands, as we respond to the visionary challenge to touch and win those who do not know Jesus Christ and to enrich and empower those who do.




CHARTER MEMBERS—Each year, Our Savior, Centerville, honors its charter anniversary and charter members. Of the 24 charter members who started the congregation 17 years ago, four have died and one is in a nursing home. Fifteen of the remaining 19 reunited in October 1993 for this photo. At top left is Pastor Phil Konz.

Austin retreat for Texas Lutherans For Life

The 1994 Texas Lutherans For Life Spring Retreat will be held March 4-5 at the Ramada Inn North in Austin.

Highlight of the retreat will be a presentation by Dr. Joe McIlhaney on "Safe Sex." Dr. McIlhaney is an OB-GYN in the Austin area, author of several books, a founder of the Medical Institute for Sexual Health, and has been a frequent guest on Dr. James Dobson's radio program, "Focus on the Family." His presentation is designed to clarify the "safe sex" issue as it is presented in the secular media.

Chaplain Richard Eyer of Milwaukee, Wis., will address end-of-life issues and share personal experiences as a hospital chaplain. Other speakers include Cora den-

Harder, mother of quadruplets, and Susan Story who is an adopted daughter with a special experience. Rev. Larry White, Our Savior, Houston, will lead the Saturday morning Bible study.

The retreat begins at 7 p.m., Friday, March 4, and ends Saturday afternoon. Registration is \$20 and includes Saturday lunch. A special registration fee is being offered to students and pastors (includes wife) for \$7.50. For room reservations, call the Ramada Inn North at (512) 837-7372. The flat room rate of \$45 includes a full breakfast.

For registration forms or more information, call Jane Almquist at (713) 855-8525, or Ann Valentine at (817) 666-1479.



TEXANS—These are students and vicars from the Texas District enrolled at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. This was the annual Texas Gathering last fall, attended by District President Jerry Kleschnick and Mission Director Ken Hennings.



Texas District Mission News

by Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration



Rev. Ken
Hennings

CAN-DO PROJECT BENEFITS TEXAS MISSION

Project CAN-DO, the exciting and unique program involving the youth of our congregations in mission work, will be a blessing for mission endeavors of the Texas District. CAN-DO will assist a number of cross-cultural ministries to expand their work beyond what they are able to do now.

CAN-DO PROGRAM

Youth, with the backing of adults, will serve as "pace-setters" in financially supporting specific ministries in Russia, Slovakia and Texas. The concept is to give to Christ the equivalent of at least one can of "pop" per week (50¢ per week; \$26 per year) to support mission outreach. Ten percent of what is raised will be given to local youth groups to help them expand their local ministries, especially through servant events.

RUSSIA and SLOVAKIA

Approximately 64 percent of the funds raised will go to support ministries in Russia

and Slovakia, including scholarship grants for Texas youth to participate in servant events during the summer in these two countries. The youth will be involved in repairing Lutheran churches damaged during the communist reign, visiting orphanages, doing evangelism work among Russian and Slovakian youth and other events, spreading the Gospel, making a difference for Christ.

TEXAS

Work in Texas will receive approximately 16 percent of funds raised to be used in cross-cultural ministries. Scholarships to assist youth to be involved in servant events also is part of this amount. Helping build houses for poor families in

the Rio Grande Valley, assisting in expanding our Hispanic preschool program in Houston, helping with Hispanic VBS programs

and learning how to reach out cross-culturally are a few of the events the youth will experience.

Designated projects for 1994 include assisting Cristo El Salvador Lutheran Church, Del Rio, in its housing project; expanding El Calvario Lutheran Church's (Brownsville) program in reaching young children and youth; assisting San Esteban, San Antonio, with VBS and community playscape; and assisting San Rafael, Mexico, to construct a church and pastor's home.

As monies become available, more projects and servant events will be added.

TEXAS YOUTH

Project CAN-DO is the first of its kind in the Synod. Our youth are on the cutting edge of involving youth, and adults, directly in mission work. Many other districts are watching closely to see the results of our youth's innovative program.

The benefit to the church in the future will far outreach what Project CAN-DO will do in Russia, Slovakia and Texas. This project will directly and indirectly raise up the mission leaders our church needs today and tomorrow as our district and Synod carries out its global mission efforts. This alone is worth the 50¢ per week!

Support your youth and support the mission work in Russia, Slovakia and Texas by being a participant in Project CAN-DO.



THESE KIDS CAN-DO

Glorybound energizes Texans

by Randy Potts and Tom Couser

Project CAN-DO was unveiled in the midst of much excitement at the Texas District Glorybound Youth Gathering in Dallas over Thanksgiving weekend. It was an energizing scene as more than 1,760 youth and adults stood waving small flashlights singing "Carry the Light" of Jesus love to a darkened world.

One youth director said, "An excellent gathering, possibly the best I have ever attended, because *we were sent home with a purpose*. I am excited about Project CAN-DO!"

- The youth showed their CAN-DO spirit when more than \$32,000 in offerings and pledges were committed to Project CAN-DO missions from three pilot congregations and the Glorybound youth and adults!

The Glorybounders participated in activities at mission festival booths, including three Project CAN-DO booths sharing mission outreach needs in Russia, Slovakia and at special Hispanic sites in Texas.

- Special CAN-DO youth guests from Russia, Slovakia and the Texas valley shared at the booths and during the Sunday CAN-DO presentation. The special guests included Anton Lagoutine, Stanislav Pisarski, Lisa Kazachkova, Lena Len and missionary daughter Carrie Frusti from St. Petersburg, Russia; Peter Kolarovsky, Johnny Kerekrety, Danka Kerekrety and Kathy Repkova from Bratislava, Slovakia; Cynthia DaVila, Vicki Villarreal, Paula Lopez and Lori Bachmann from El Calvario, Brownsville, Texas.

- They shared their faith testimonies and taught the Texas youth songs in three languages, "Awesome God" in Slovak and Russian, and "Jesus Loves Me" in Spanish.

The CAN-DO presentation was followed by the closing worship, where several hundred youth and adults made a personal pledge commitment in support of Project CAN-DO missions. This was followed by a time of youth groups gathering in prayer with 85 congregations making a group commitment to take Project CAN-DO back home and seek to implement the mission outreach and servanthood process in 1994!

- CAN-DO congregations will fund youth-adopted district and international missions, as well as launch youth from their own congregation to be directly involved in the same mission fields through "hands-on" servant events.

Dr. Jeffrey Burkhart of Concordia College at St. Paul, Minn., was resource person to the Glorybound gathering. Through both story and drama he shared the Good News of how Christ has broken down walls.

- Jo Miller, a member of Prince of Peace in Carrollton, shared the story of her son. Twice the victim of violent shootings, the events served to break down the walls in his life leading him to Christ.



AT GLORYBOUND—Anton Lagoutine and Stanislav Pisarski from St. Petersburg, Russia, display CAN-DO poster at Texas District's Glorybound.

Dr. Glenn O'Shoney, the Synod's executive director of the Board for Mission Services, was speaker at the closing worship service, challenging the youth to "be the one" to step forth in mission, here in Texas and around the world through Project CAN-DO.

- A highlight of the weekend was the Saturday afternoon airport experience. The youth and their counselors ventured into three of the four airport terminals to share the message of Jesus Christ. The groups sang, did short dramas and puppet shows for holiday weekend travelers. The music group "Lost and Found" daily energized the youth with their unique style of Christian music.

- Glorybound '93 was a record setting event in terms of participation. It also established a new experience for youth ministry through Project CAN-DO.

"I really feel we sent the youth home both excited and equipped to do ministry," reported district Youth Committee Chairman Tom Couser.



ENERGIZERS—A member of the Christian rock group "Lost and Found" has Glorybounders on their feet.



PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

There may be some wheeling and dealing at **Grace Lutheran, Killeen**, if plans work out. Members are considering gathering on Sunday afternoons for bicycle riding together.

* * *

A unique honor has been bestowed on Pat Hickson who teaches German at **Trinity Lutheran School, San Angelo**. She was selected by Alpha Chi National College Honor Scholarship Society to receive an undergraduate scholarship, one of five given nationwide, and the first time a paper in a foreign language (German) has ever won.

* * *

A special service Dec. 5, 1993, marked the 70th anniversary of the founding of **Messiah, Houston**.

Mount Olive, Austin, dedicated its new education building Nov. 21, 1993.

The 50th anniversary of the ordination of Dr. Edward J. Mahnke was celebrated Nov. 28, 1993, at **St. Matthew, Houston**.

* * *

A family of **St. Mark, Houston**, anonymity requested, collected more than \$250, all in rolled pennies, for the LWML scholarship fund at Austin's Concordia Lutheran College. They saved them in two months.

* * *

Congratulations to Betty Frost on her 25th anniversary in the teaching ministry. She has touched the

lives of more than 600 students at **Redeemer Lutheran School, Austin**.

* * *

Michele Ann Dziadik, **Messiah, Houston**, and Karl Agnew Koch, **Grace, Victoria**, have been named to "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." They attend Texas Lutheran College, Seguin.

* * *

Dr. William Knippa, associate pastor of **Bethany Lutheran Church, Austin**, is the speaker on a special program discussing family-related topics heard every Sunday



Knippa

from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. on radio station WOAI (1200 AM) in San Antonio. WOAI is "clear channel" at night and can be heard in 40 states.

* * *

Wheat Ridge Ministries has granted \$45,000 to **Project Can-Do**, a Texas District service and stewardship process that engages high school youth in support of mission projects locally and in Eastern bloc countries.

* * *

In 1962, a small group of folks decided to join together for worship and service. Their first Sunday service was conducted in the chapel of the Forest Park East funeral home on the Gulf Freeway in Hous-



WHAT'S COOKING?—Some 600 bratwursts is what's cooking, presided over by Pastor Tim Rosenthal of **St. John Lutheran, Athens**. The church's annual Oktoberfest raised nearly \$2,000, and has become a popular annual community event. Rosenthal says the Oktoberfest is a valuable tool to increase awareness of the Lutheran presence in Athens.

In November 1993, **Hope Lutheran, Friendswood**, celebrated the 30th anniversary of its founding.

* * *

The **Texas Wendish Heritage Society** at Serbin held its third annual Vogelhochzeit Jan. 23 in Giddings.

Wheat Ridge Ministries of Chicago has named Dr. Edna Aguirre Rehbein to its board of directors. She lives in Round Rock and is academic dean of Concordia College, Austin. She is a member of the Texas District's Hispanic Action Team (HAT).

The Festival Choir of **St. Philip Lutheran, Houston**,

presented Handel's "Christmas Messiah" in December. They were accompanied by the Houston Civic Symphony.

* * *

Rev. Herman Mayer, Bentonville, Ark., was mission speaker Nov. 21,



Mayer

1993, at **Trinity Lutheran, Iowa Park**, where Daniel Canion is pastor. Mayer and his wife were missionaries in the Philippines 15 years, and brought more than 600 artifacts to the service where Trinity members were able to gain hands-on information on the Lutheran Philippine mission.

THE LORD ADDED PASTORS AND PEOPLE



FREDERICKSBURG—It was a historical event Nov. 14, 1993, when Resurrection Lutheran, Fredericksburg, installed its first resident called pastor, Rev. Lee Kunkel. Resurrection was organized in 1989. Participating, from left back, Revs. Rolf Larsen, Tom Petersen, John Frierabend, Patrick Erickson, Eldor Mickan, Harold Schroeter and Hugo Hannusch. From left, front, Revs. John Treude, Albert Loeschman, Paul Tomasovic, Raymond Reich, Kunkel, Bryan Sullivan, Albert Wuensche, Paul Hartfield and Otto Kretzmann.



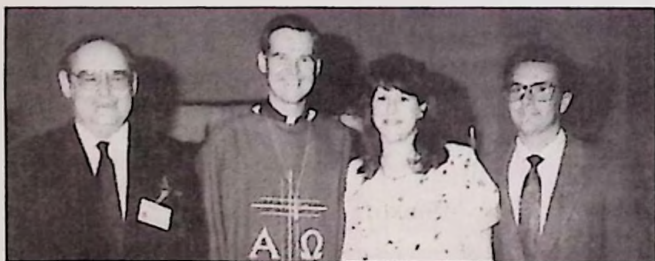
ARLINGTON—Rev. David L. Bahn was installed as pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran, Arlington. Participating, from left back, were Revs. Donald Berg, Paul Johnson, Terry Beltz, David Joeckel, Bahn, Rudy Herbrick, Walt Walser, Ronald Wagner. From left, front, DCE Bill Slegrist, Revs. Blair Clark, Ben Rathgaber, Larry Marhenke, Preston Weatherly and Vicar Richard Robinson.



ROCKPORT—On Reformation Sunday, Oct. 31, 1993, the Lord added four people in age from 15 to 80 to His flock at Peace Lutheran, Rockport, by holy baptism. From left are Jim Dye, Maurine Cahsion, Marly Taylor and Don Dennis. Marly is Maurine's granddaughter. Pastor is Richard T. Nuffer.



WELCOMED—Seven adults were welcomed into the fellowship of Bethel, Dallas, in November 1993 by confirmation, reaffirmation and transfer. Pastors are Donald Berg and Randy Haedge.



RICHARDSON—These new members were received Nov. 14, 1993, at Messiah, Richardson. Victor J. Kollmann is pastor.



CENTERVILLE—In October, Our Savior, Centerville, took in eight new members, four shown here with Pastor Phil Konz, who said, "It is encouraging to congregations in rural areas with stagnant economies to discover that the Lord still blesses with growth without having to forsake one's roots."



AUSTIN—These adult confirmands and transfers received in November 1993 at Redeemer, Austin. David Schroder, far right, is pastor.



DID YOUR SAVINGS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN 1993?

by **Bill Siegrist**
Director of Development
Church Extension Fund

If you were an investor in the Texas District Church Extension Fund in 1993, the following information will answer the question in the headline above. If you were not an investor in CEF in 1993, please consider two possibilities.

First, look over the partial list below of congregations that benefited from low-interest CEF loans. The Texas District CEF is a

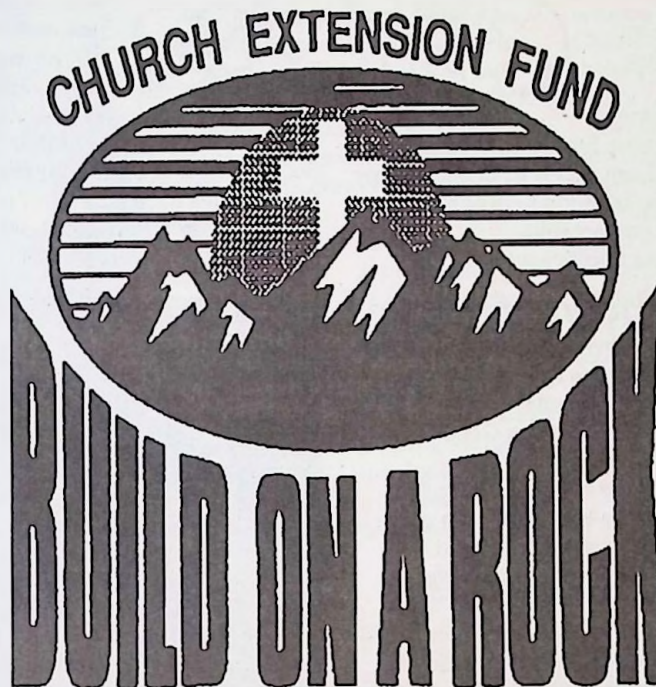


Siegrist

ministry that actively seeks to carry out Christ's Great Commission.

The second possibility involves your personal involvement in this ministry. As you read this list, please consider joining us with your savings and investment dollars in 1994. Our investors trust in how their money is being managed.

We have made commitments to 29 Texas District congregations for more than \$9,200,000 in 1993!



- **Faith, Stephenville**
\$ 75,000
- **Jesus Church of the Deaf, Austin**
\$ 70,000
- **Messiah, Keller**
\$ 408,000
- **Prince of Peace, Amarillo**
\$ 37,875
- **Immanuel, Mercedes**
\$ 19,000
- **Trinity, Tyler**
\$ 360,000
- **Our Savior, Sulphur Springs**
\$ 140,000

Your savings and investment dollars really do make a difference in the Texas District Church Extension Fund. Come join us in 1994 as we seek to serve and build up God's kingdom throughout our district. You can feel confident when your savings are invested in CEF.

For more information about this exciting ministry of our church, please contact your congregational CEF representative, your pastor or the district office.

**Texas District
Church Extension Fund
Bill Siegrist
7900 E. Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
(512) 926-4272
Toll-free 1-800-951-3478**

This is today

Today I will begin with a smile and resolve to be agreeable. I will not criticize. I refuse to waste the valuable time God has given me.

- **Lord of Life, Plano**
\$ 360,000
- **Grace, Arlington**
\$1,400,000
- **St. John, Cypress**
\$ 270,000
- **Messiah, Midlothian**
\$ 100,000
- **Our Savior, Austin**
\$ 707,694
- **Peace, Hewitt**
\$ 165,000

- **Zion, Anderson**
\$ 75,000
- **Grace, San Marcos**
\$ 30,000
- **Prince of Peace Lutheran School, Carrollton**
\$ 100,000
- **Trinity, Brownsville**
\$ 180,000
- **Zion, Dallas**
\$ 950,000
- **First Lutheran, Lufkin**
\$ 70,000
- **King of Kings, San Antonio**
\$ 805,000
- **Peace, Hurst**
\$ 438,000

- **Fishers of Men, Sugarland**
\$350,000
- **St. Luke, Honey Grove**
\$ 40,000
- **Mount Calvary, San Antonio**
\$ 160,000
- **Mount Olive, Houston**
\$ 350,000
- **Grace, Killeen**
\$ 500,000
- **Prince of Peace, Belton**
\$ 200,000
- **Mount Calvary, Houston**
\$ 530,000
- **St. Paul, Plano**
\$ 400,000

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE SOUTH

Would you like something from Russia? How about an orphan child

The Iron Curtain is finally down for Russian children who are looking for a mom and dad to call their own.

Lutheran Social Services of the South is now certified by the government in Moscow to place children from Russian orphanages for adoption. The arrangement follows months of negotiations between an agency representative and the Russian government.

Children currently needing homes range from ages 6 months to 8 years. Many of these children have medical problems ranging from minor to major. All are developmentally delayed because of living in orphanages. Almost all of their problems are correctable.

As part of the agreement, Texas families who hope to

adopt will have to travel to Russia for a period of 10 days to two weeks to complete the adoption and bring the child home.

"This is a wonderful opportunity," said Karalyn Heimlich, director of children's services for LSSS. "Russia has a large number of young children in orphanages who could benefit from a loving, nurturing home. They're unlikely to find a family in their homeland. We in Texas can make a difference."

Lutheran Social Services of the South has placed children from other countries with adoptive families for a quarter of a century. For further information, interested families should contact the Lutheran Social Services office nearest their home.



Kelley joins advancement team

Stephen Kelley is the new LSSS development director for the southeast Texas region. He joins the agency, having worked in a similar capacity with Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services Good Samaritan Campus in Cypress, Texas.



Kelley has a strong background in finance. Previously, he has worked in a brokerage house and for a bank. He and his family are members of Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball.

Kelley

"We're happy to have Steve with us," said David Kahle, vice president for agency advancement. "He is a committed Lutheran who can make more people aware of the thousands of individuals LSSS serves while helping the agency achieve a solid financial base."

To contact Steve, call the Houston office at (713) 521-0110.

Lutheran Brotherhood makes council receptions possible

Without the help of Lutheran Brotherhood, this year's President's Council receptions would not have been possible. Lutheran Brotherhood General Agent Bob Beglau in Austin and Associate General Agents Keith Schmode and D. R. Nelson in Dallas helped offset the expenses of the receptions.

Beglau explained the reason the company underwrote the events. "We are not doing this to advertise our services," he said. "Lutheran Brotherhood is in partnership with important Lutheran agencies such as Lutheran Social Services of the South. We want to make sure that LSSS can carry on its mission of serving the spiritual and physical needs of people in Texas and Louisiana. It's a privilege for us to help out."



LSSS LEADERS—The new executive board will help direct LSSS through 1994. Seated are, from left, Patricia Bokenkamp, Pastor Robert C. Greene, Lorna Anderson. Standing are, from left, Bobby Jacob and W.L. Popejoy.

LSSS board chooses officers

New officers now head Lutheran Social Services of the South Board of Directors. The board officers include Patricia Bokenkamp who will serve as chairperson. W.L. Popejoy will be vice chairman. Lorna Anderson is secretary, and Bobby Jacob will be the treasurer.

Elections took place during the Nov. 19, 1993, meeting of the board in Austin.

LSSS President Rev. Robert C. Green said, "I'm very pleased to be working with these talented men and women. I appreciate them giving their time and vision to help the agency determine policies and priorities during the coming year."



BUILDING UP—
Pastor Mike Ramming, left, and Ted Robinson, capital campaign chairman, cut symbolic cake at Grace, Killeen, building program celebration banquet. Motto of the program is "Build Up The Church."

Grace, Killeen, eyes next century 'The church should always build'

Under the motto of "Build Up the Church" (1 Cor. 14:12), members of Grace Lutheran, located at the front gate of Fort Hood in Killeen, have launched a \$2.2 million expansion.

The congregation has adopted a building master plan that will carry the church and its day school into the next century to meet the needs of growing ministries and to provide the facilities needed to reach the goal of the church's mission: to bring others into a saving relationship with the Lord Jesus.

Multiple phases of the plan will include eight new classrooms, sanctuary expansion, parking lot and mechanical improvements. Also planned are more

educational and meeting space, child-care facilities, gymnasium and kitchen.

Ground will be broken this spring for the first phase at a cost of \$500,000, supported by the Texas District Church Extension Fund and Texas Laborers For Christ. Members have been asked for a three-year pledge of support, over and above regular giving.

Because of its high percentage of military members from Fort Hood, Grace experiences a 20 percent annual turnover in membership. A capital campaign video was produced to tell new families about parish needs and invite their participation.

"I feel the church should always build," said Pastor Mike Ramming, "not just to have beautiful structures to call our own, but rather for the end goal to introduce others to the Lord Jesus."

There's cash in the can

Personnel in the district office in Austin are anything but down in the dumps.

Last year, the break-room vending machine was switched to aluminum cans, and the staff made a commitment to recycle.

Office Manager Lawrence Winkler in November told the staff, "You have recycled 184 pounds or approximately 4,232 cans that you kept out of the landfill dump."

Besides, he said, the soft-drink cans brought \$25 which was given to the Capital Area Food Bank.

ALEMAN—This baby, just baptized, is Kelsi Nicole Melde, with her parents Stephen and Roslyn and sponsors. What makes Kelsi special is that she's a fourth-generation member of St. Paul Lutheran (Aleman), Hamilton. St. Paul's pastor is Francis W. Mennenga.



Sorensen retires

Rev. Thomas A. Sorensen, Holy Cross Lutheran, Dallas, has retired after 35 years in the parish ministry. His first call was to Grace, Brownwood, in 1958, from where he came to Holy Cross in 1962.

Born into a devout family, he has a brother who was a teacher and a sister who was a missionary-nurse in India.

In his 31 years at Holy Cross, Sorensen was known by members as "loving shepherd of the flock." In addition,

he gave priority emphasis to Christian education and established a day school. He was on the board of Lutheran High of Dallas. He led many Stephen Series and adult membership classes, nurtured lay leadership in the Bethel Bible series and Crossways.

He was a circuit counselor and was on the Texas District Board for Social Ministry and Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas.



Sorensen

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

LEAD — Opening the way to the future

Everyone who has ever opened a business or began a farming enterprise knows that start-up costs are considerable. Equipment, buildings, employees—all are necessary expenses if the endeavor is to succeed.

So it was when Concordia Lutheran College of Texas became a four-year institution. Bachelor's level programs necessitated new faculty members and support staff. The anticipated increase in student population required additional and expanded facilities.

The challenges were many but college leaders and the Board of Regents considered the expenditures an investment in the future. The results they anticipated have materialized: an increase in enrollment to more than 700 and a growing respect for Concordia and its programs.

Just as a business may have a long-term debt for its buildings or a farmer for his tractor or barn, so Concordia incurred debt during its expansion. The college began its 1993-94 fiscal year with a long-term debt of almost \$3.75 million amortized over a 10-year period, which is financed through the treasurer's office of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The Concordia Board of Regents has approved a special effort, called LEAD—Loans to Eliminate Accumulated Debt, to accelerate the retirement of this debt and open the way to the future.

The LEAD program will reduce the principal of Concordia's debt through

interest-free loans from friends of the college. The loans will reduce the principal balance financed by the Synod, thereby reducing the interest Concordia must pay. The savings will be rechanneled into increased principal payments, retiring the debt much sooner.

All loans will be on a one-year roll-over basis, with 30-day notice for emergency withdrawal. The synodical treasurer will serve as a source of funds for normal maturity or early withdrawal.

Through LEAD, Concordia's debt can be quickly reduced by eliminating interest payments and applying the funds to debt retirement. What a challenging possibility!

For more information on the LEAD program or to offer loan assistance to Concordia of Texas, call Mike Linebrink or Dr. Ray Martens at the College at 1-800-285-4252.



COACH OF THE YEAR—
Concordia's James Keller

Concordia's Keller is honored

James Keller, coach of the Concordia Stags baseball team, was selected by a vote of his fellow baseball coaches as the 1993 NAIA Diamond Sports-American Baseball Coaches Association Coach of the Year. He was recognized by his peers at the association's national convention in January.

Keller led Concordia to a 40-18 record last season, including the area NAIA

Independent Conference championship. The Stags also defeated Southwest Conference tournament winner Baylor, as well as South West Texas State University during the season.

Keller has coached at Concordia three seasons, leading the Stags to the NAIA playoffs all three years and posting a 118-58 record.

"No one could be more deserving of this honor than James," said Professor Linda Lowery, CLC athletic director. "He has brought a lot of recognition, pride and success to our program."

Attention: Golfers

Football legend Tom Landry has once again pledged to host the Tom Landry Golf Classic to benefit the students of Concordia Lutheran College.

The tournament will be held in San Antonio on a date yet to be determined in late spring or early summer. Watch upcoming issues of this publication for specifics.



CLC VISITORS—Young people from Russia and Slovakia, accompanied by Randy Potts, youth Great Commission director, visited the Concordia campus after attending the Texas Youth Gathering. They encouraged Texas youth to participate in Project CAN-DO, which will support ministry efforts in Russia and surrounding countries.



Concordia holds commencement

Concordia Lutheran College of Texas held a mid-year commencement in December for fall semester graduates, with 29 students completing degrees.

Dr. Glenn O'Shoney, former president of the Texas District, was the speaker. He currently serves as executive director of the Board for Mission Services for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. O'Shoney's son, Joel, was one of the graduates.

Kristi Johnstone of McAllen also spoke, representing the graduating class.

Honor graduates were Gregory Beutel of Benbrook, completing presemenary studies and a major in communication, and Patricia Callaham of Pflugerville, completing a major in communication.



COMMENCEMENT SPEAKERS—Dr. Glenn O'Shoney and Kristi Johnstone



HONOR GRADS—Greg Beutel and Pat Callaham

Getting ready for college?

Because Concordia Lutheran College wants to make a Christ-centered college education available to all—not just to those of high income—the Financial Assistance Office has developed a comprehensive program for students and their families who need help with college costs.

For students planning to enter college next fall, NOW is the time to begin the application process for financial assistance.

Like most colleges, Concordia uses the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in determining financial need. The form may be picked up from high school guidance counselors or college financial assistance offices. Concordia's priority deadline for financial assistance application is April 15.



COLLEGE CHOIR—The Concordia College Choir will tour in March, singing in Beaumont and Houston before traveling to New Orleans and other Louisiana concert sites.

THE LORD ADDED...



SAN ANTONIO—This is the class confirmed Nov. 21, 1993, at Concordia Lutheran in San Antonio. There were 22 adult confirmands and five transfers. Class teacher was Rev. David Kipp. Senior pastor at the confirmation was Dr. Guldo Merkens, who since has left his Concordia pulpit and joined Lutheran Hour Ministries.



BLESSED—The Lord blessed St. John, Hamilton, with the addition of 16 new members recently. Six were received by baptism, five by adult confirmation and five by transfer. The congregation thanks God for a total of 15 adults received by confirmation in 1993. Timothy Carr is pastor.

KLEIN—Trinity Lutheran, Klein, received 56 new members Oct. 31, 1993, of which 18 were by adult confirmation. Also, there were eight baptisms, three of them adult. Russell Hildebrandt is pastor.



WHARTON—St. John, Wharton, recently added 14 new members, six by transfer, five by profession of faith, one by adult confirmation; and there were two child baptisms. William Barry Sharp is pastor.



GIDDINGS—Eight new members joined Immanuel Lutheran, Giddings, Oct. 10, 1993, by baptism and adult confirmation. From left, front, are Amy McDonald, Marc McDonald, Joshua Mansfield, Summer Mansfield. From left, back, Evelene Johnson, Lisa McDonald, Pastor Wilbern Michalk, Katherine Mansfield and Kyle DeVoll.



TRUSTS

A useful way to manage assets

by **Bervin Mirtsching**
Texas District
Planned Giving Counselor

The word "trust" describes one of the great mysteries of Christian estate planning. Many people have heard the word, some people feel they know what a



Mirtsching

trust does and how it works, but most people are a little confused about what a trust is and how it works.

- A trust is simply an arrangement between two parties for the benefit of a third party. For example, if one person transfers a bank account in trust to a second person, and directs that the income from that account be used for the benefit of a third person, a trust arrangement has been made.

A trust is a useful way to manage assets for someone who can't manage them or shouldn't manage them alone. For example, a minor child, a child or adult with disabilities, an incompetent adult, or someone who has little experience in managing funds.

- One very popular form of trust used in Christian estate plans is the Charitable Revocable Living Trust. A Charitable Revocable Living Trust works like this: A couple (or individual) creates a Charitable Revocable Living Trust by transferring their

assets into a trust and naming the Lutheran Foundation trustee. The trust is revocable all during the lives of the couple (or individual).

If one or both owners of the trust become incompetent, the Foundation continues to manage the assets of the trust, for the benefit of that incompetent beneficiary and pays funds to the legal representative of the trustors for their health and welfare. This avoids a guardianship or conservatorship being set up and managed by the courts. It also is a much more private and flexible vehicle to manage assets for this situation.

- When the beneficiary (or beneficiaries) of the trust dies, the Charitable Revocable Living Trust acts as an estate plan and directs where those assets will go, such as to the spouse, family and to the work of the Lord. Any assets actually held in trust will avoid probate (although assets that "pour-over" from the will of the beneficiary into the trust generally do not avoid probate).

Another important type of trust in Christian estate planning is a trust for minor children. This trust is almost always set up in the parent's wills and only comes into being if both parents die. A trustee for minor children trusts will manage those assets for the children's health, maintenance and Christian or other educational needs, including col-

lege education, until the trust terminates.

- In both a Minor's Trust and Charitable Revocable Living Trust, you can provide gifts to your congregation, Texas ministries, synodical/other ministries, Christian education and endowments for Texas ministries at the termination of the trust.

In a Minor's Trust, a distribution to the work of the Lord provides a charitable gift as well as a witness to the children.

- For more information about using trusts and Christian estate planning, call me on our toll free number, 1-800-880-3733, or complete the coupon below and mail it to me.

Church answers language need

For 10 years, St. Andrew Lutheran of Houston has sponsored an "English as a Second Language" school.

Currently, 15 classes are held each Monday and Wednesday morning for 90 students, 54 of them Hispanic, 34 Oriental, one Romanian and one Somalian.

Joann Parker is the original coordinator and now is assisted by Linda Romain and Libby Bissett.

Parker said, "Most of the young women students have children in Spring Branch schools. All of our students feel an urgent need to learn English, hence their attendance at English school."

Along with English, American culture is taught.

Bervin Mirtsching
Planned Giving Counselor
Texas District
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
1-800-880-3733
In Austin: 926-4272

☐ I am interested in more information about trusts and Christian estate planning.

☐ Please contact me to arrange a confidential no-cost and no-obligation visit.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Telephone Number _____

NEWS

A card for the kiddies

At St. Andrew in Houston, parents are encouraged to have their little ones who scribble in church to use the Sunday children's bulletin.

For those who run out of room, the local AAL chapter has provided scribble cards in the pew racks.

It is expected that attendance cards, communion cards and hymnals will benefit.

Third novel for pastor's wife

Linda G. Herring, first grade teacher in Kermit, and wife of Mel Herring, pastor of St. Paul, Monahans, and Zion, Kermit, has had her third novel published.

It is *Yesterday's Tomorrow*, a sequel to *Morning Song*. It was published by Barbour & Company of Ulrichsville, Ohio. Her fourth novel, *Song of Captivity*, will be published in March.

Linda writes Christian romance novels. Zondervan published the first two, which were reissued through Guideposts Book Club. They were *Morning Song* and *Windsong*. Her books present a Christian message and witness interwoven in a romance story, including pain and conflict of a wife and pastor-husband in a Christian congregation.

Educator is honored

Dr. Marvin Platten, an elder at Redeemer Lutheran, Lubbock, was named Charter Member Distinguished Fellow by the Texas Art Education Association Nov. 14, 1993, in Houston. Platten is an associate professor at Texas Tech University.

He has been the recipient of the Amoco Outstanding

Teaching Award, the President's Excellence in Teaching Award, and the Mortar Board and Omicron Delta Kappa Outstanding Faculty



Dr. Marvin Platten—honored by art educators

Award at Texas Tech.

He was named Art Educator of the Year by the National Art Education Association.

Platten and his wife, Marion, were guests of honor at the 1993 Norwegian Emigration Festival in Stavanger, Norway.



THE PAY-OFF—Church council officers and Pastor K.T. DeVries of Mount Calvary, San Antonio, burn the church mortgage at services on Reformation Sunday 1993. The debt was paid four years earlier than anticipated. Now under way is phase one of a building and renovation project to improve and enlarge Mount Calvary facilities.

District prayer ministries encouraged by task force

The Prayer Initiatives Task Force is looking forward to working with congregations and members by helping to develop and encourage prayer ministries in the Texas District.

Some of the group's activity has been outside Texas. In July 1993, Duane and Diana Kiihne, co-chairpersons, presented a workshop on prayer at the Lutheran Laymen's League International Convention in Seattle, Wash. Their presentation was well received and, as a result, the workshop was given again at the Utah-Idaho L.L.L. District Convention in Boise by Jeanette Schaefer.

During November members of the task force attended both the prayer conference in Carrollton by Rev. Brad Hoefs and a prayer seminar in Houston by Peter Wagner. Information from these seminars will be shared in materials to be developed in 1994.

The task force is directed by Rev. Ray Schkade, executive director of parish services.



AMARILLO—Keith Monson, member of Christ Lutheran, Amarillo, is all smiles after completing this new sign recently installed on church property to help keep the community informed about Christ.



Toddler trapped beneath train pulled to safety by Lutheran Explorer Scout

As an Explorer Scout, Dax Morgan, a member of Redeemer Lutheran of Fort Worth, spends a lot of time at the police station pursuing his interest in criminal justice.

He and another Explorer, Darren Clark, had been at the station when they happened upon a train accident.

Under the train was a 2-year-old toddler who had wandered away from his grandmother's house.

Three engines and one freight car had passed over the boy. Incredibly, the youngster suffered only

two cuts on the head and some minor bruises.

Dax and Darren crawled under the car. Not knowing the name of the screaming toddler, the boys tried to calm the frightened youngster by calling out, "Baby, baby."

When the child calmed down some and looked at them, the two Explorer scouts pulled him free.

In January, Dax enrolled in Weatherford College where he will major in criminal justice.



Dax Morgan, with friend, Kodiak

Young people of Texas District collect awesome array of achievements

The kids at Epiphany Lutheran, Pearland, really know how to pull strings! Their puppet team won a bronze medal in puppet skit competition against other teams from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas.

Bright kid honors for Wendy Martens and Roxie Forehand, Zion, Pasadena, who received the Academic Excellence Award from Pasadena High. Roxie also received the American Legion Award.

Derek Koonts, Redeemer, Nacogdoches, took third place in district cross-country running.

Flying high after receiving his Eagle Scout award Nov. 21, 1993, is Keith E. Bowman Jr., Our Savior, Abilene.

Eighth grader Don Beisert, Our Redeemer, Dallas, won two second place ribbons in Lutheran High math contest.

Congratulations to David Gunnell, Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls, for being the honoree at the Optimist Club Youth Appreciation Banquet.

Joyce Meadows, Cross, New Braunfels, was named a semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

The kids at Community Lutheran, San Antonio, have all the moves. In the elementary division of the

city chess tournament, the Community team won first overall. Individual winners were Quinn Lewis, fifth among eighth graders; Sergio Pioto, first among seventh graders; Daniel Hernandez was first; Mario Hernandez, second; Major Davis, third, and Ermio Ramirez, fourth. Checkmate!

Amy Southerland, Immanuel, Temple, was awarded a pin for seven years of perfect Sunday school attendance.

Some young people of Hope, Winnie, are blowing their own horns, but that's OK. They were chosen for all-district band. They are Karri Hoffpauir, Jared Dailey, Kristi Hoffpauir, Tiffani Kroll and Ryan Sommerville. Kristin Chesson made all-region band.

Bright kid honors for David Unger, Redeemer, Odessa, who was inducted into the National Honor Society.

Hamilton youth do 'time'

The junior youth of St. John, Hamilton, got quite an object lesson during Bible study at their meeting Nov. 7, 1993.

All the young people were "arrested" on a warrant signed by a justice of the peace; then they were driven to the old county jail.

At the jail, the youngsters were read their rights by an officer from the sheriff's office and then locked in a jail cell.

The young people said they could look through the building and see the living conditions in the jail.

Released for good behavior, the kids went back to church and resumed their meeting, using as a topic for Bible study the account of Paul and Silas in prison, as found in Acts.

On a lighter note, the evening ended with refreshments and playing games.

I WAS IN PRISON
AND YOU CAME TO
VISIT ME MATTHEW
25:36b



LUTHERAN OUTDOORS MINISTRY OF TEXAS

It is well worth the drive!

Distance can be a major road block for many busy families considering either Camp Lone Star or Texoma Lutheran Camp. Even though these Lutheran camps are in two different parts of Texas, there are many families who live on the fringes of this huge state. Therefore, they are still several hours from either one.

However, many children hours away are still attending Camp Lone Star and Texoma Lutheran Camp every summer. A group of students from McAllen in the Rio Grande Valley, approximately 300 miles from Camp Lone Star in La Grange, have brought a group to the camp consistently for summer sessions.

Gary Spieler, principal at St. Paul Lutheran School in McAllen, shared some of their successful methods.

"The kids go in groups and carpool together. We

Single parent retreat planned

The Annual Single Parent Weekend retreat at Camp Lone Star in La Grange is scheduled for March 25-27. "Come To Me and I Will Give You Rest" is the theme.

This will be a great opportunity to share with your children and other single parents in a relaxed and spiritual environment. There will be programming for parents, for children, and for parents and children together.

For more information contact: Camp Lone Star, 2016 Camp Lone Star Rd., La Grange, TX 78945; (409) 247-4128.

make people aware of who is going and when, pass out flyers and basically put parents in contact with one another," Spieler stated.

Spieler invites calls from individuals and churches who would like thoughts and suggestions on arranging transportation to Lutheran summer camp at either Camp Lone Star or Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro. He can be reached through St. Paul Lutheran Church at (210) 682-2345. Ideas also are available from LOMT by calling (512) 926-4272.

Students take Gospel with them on spring break

by Mary Anne Nebel

"What is the Meaning of Life?" is an exciting student retreat that will take place at Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro during spring break.

Scheduled for Sunday, March 20, through Tuesday, March 22, this three-day spiritual and multicultural workshop will focus on bringing the Gospel to international students through Bible study, personal witness and fellowship with American Lutheran college students and Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastors.

"Hopefully, when international students return to their country, they will take the Christian faith back with them. And as for the Lutheran students, this is a great opportunity to witness and reaffirm the teachings they have received," stated Vera Sweet, director of the Lutheran International Center at the University of Texas at Arlington, who is organizing the event.

The retreat will consist of three different teaching sections based on the Apostles' Creed and led by Lutheran pastors from across the state and nation. Classes will be taught in English and Mandarin Chinese, and groups will use bilingual Bibles.

"This will be a spring break servant event for American students—a great chance to enjoy a new setting while helping other people and serving the Lord by explaining the faith that we hold," said Rev. John Pless,



STUDY HUDDLE—Students and Vera Sweet, far right, director at the International Center at UT-Arlington, participate in an English lesson together. International and American students from Arlington and across the United States will gather during spring break for a special retreat at Texoma.

LCMS campus pastor at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Pless, along with several other pastors from outside Texas, is bringing a number of students from the university to Texoma to help with this unique retreat.

Campfires, horseback riding, nightwalks, treasure hunts, rock climbing and a challenge course are other activities that will be included in this special event.

Texoma Lutheran Camp is on Lake Texoma, a recreation and resort area on the Texas/Oklahoma border, approximately 100 miles north of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex.

Texoma Lutheran Camp is sponsored by Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas, an agency of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

A \$2,500 grant from AAL has been given to help reduce the cost of the retreat and traveling expenses.

All college students, international and American, are invited to attend and help with this exciting event. The cost of the retreat is \$30, which includes food and lodging. The registration deadline is Feb. 28.

For a registration form or more information, call or write Vera Sweet, Lutheran International Center, 311 College, Arlington, TX 76010; (817) 274-9201.



HAMILTON—
Henry and Erna
Elsen, St. John,
Hamilton,
celebrated their
60th wedding
anniversary Nov.
14, 1993.



MANHEIM—
Ben and Lina
Koslan,
Ebenezer
Lutheran,
Manheim,
celebrated
their 60th
wedding
anniversary
Sept. 26. They
were married
at Ebenezer by
Pastor C. W.
Rische in
1933.



No goblins around here

There were no goblins or ghosts to be found at St. Paul Lutheran School in Harlingen on Halloween. As an alternative to the dark overtones of Halloween, St. Paul offered "LutherFest."

It was a public event and included a carnival and an evening meal. The only costume to be seen was worn by Principal Ric Kube, and he was dressed as Martin Luther. The presence of Luther was to help the school's students understand the development of the Reformation.

Said Pastor Dean Von Stroh, "If you were here, you would see the Reformation emphasis, not the Halloween emphasis."



HURST—Kenneth and Florence Broder, Peace Lutheran, Hurst, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Nov. 25, 1993.



ROSEHILL—Walter and Katherine Petrich were married 60 years ago Nov. 18 at Salem Lutheran in Rosehill where they still are members. They have five children.

Blessed

Blessed are the husband and wife who continue to be affectionate, considerate and loving through all the days of their life together.



Anniversaries

The following couples of the Texas District celebrated 50 or more years of marriage before the close of 1993:

Our Redeemer, Longview: Pat and Lyle Streube, 50 years, Nov. 14.
* * *

St. John, Hamilton: Edwin and Leona Fulton, 50 years, Nov. 1.

St. Mark, Houston: Emil and Amanda Laake, 58 years, Dec. 21; Herbert and Lorine Zoch, 50 years, Dec. 26; Arthur and Mamie Lorenz, 52 years, Dec. 27.

St. John, San Benito: Royal and Ferne Meseberg, 50 years, Dec. 9.
* * *

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Lorraine and Glenn D. Carlson, 56 years, Dec. 6.
* * *

Mount Calvary, La Grange: Wilburn and Mary Von Minden, 50 years, Nov. 6; Roland and Elna Bohot, 56 years, Nov. 7; Carl and

Ella Zoch, 59 years, Nov. 18.
* * *

Hope, Austin: Mr. and Mrs. Milton Simon, 60 years, Dec. 23.
* * *

St. Luke, Olney: Albert and Minnie Kieschnick, 57 years, Dec. 6.
* * *

Cross, New Braunfels: Mr. and Mrs. Arlind Blome, 52 years, Dec. 31.
* * *

Ebenezer, Manheim: Pearl and J.B. Koym, 59 years, Oct. 27; Ernest and Bertha Kieschnick, 64 years, Oct. 27.
* * *

St. Paul, Bishop: Mr. and Mrs. David Theis, 52 years, Dec. 28.

St. Paul, Fort Worth: Lorena and George Buschbaum, 51 years, Dec. 12; Ellyn and John Jarvis, 52 years, Jan. 8.

Redeemer, Baytown: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Eixmann, 63 years, Dec. 11.

Send your news to Bill

Send your pictures, stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:

Bill Wagner, editor
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499

'Hour' expands in '93

'Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church'

Significantly more people are hearing "The Lutheran Hour" as 1993 ended, thanks to a successful national expansion plan launched last year. "God has blessed our expansion effort way beyond our original hopes," says Al Admire, who manages the production and placement of "The Lutheran Hour."

Admire reports that the radio program was able to expand broadcast coverage in 24 metropolitan areas, exceeding its original goal of 15. Within these markets, 28 new stations were added to the weekly Lutheran Hour broadcast network.

"Our loyal constituency which has given us such faithful support will be happy to know that we have added as many as 90,400 potential listeners," Admire says. "Our original marketing plan called for reaching 67,680 new listeners, but we were able with the Spirit's blessing to exceed that goal by more than 24 percent."

Increases in the Lutheran Hour listening base were achieved in carefully targeted areas where congregational follow-up resources were available. "We based our plan on

the need to relate program growth to evangelism efforts of local congregations," explains Vi Knickrehm, who works for Lutheran Hour Ministries in program replacement on stations.

"Our growth really is a wonderful gift to congregations in these 24 metropolitan areas," Knickrehm says. "New program coverage is focused in areas where Lutheran congregations can follow-up on listener requests for help. The new stations cover areas where our research identified large numbers of potential Christian and nonChristian listeners, but where 'The Lutheran Hour' currently was not being broadcast."

According to Knickrehm, another notable facet of the expansion effort is related to less than expected costs. "Our cost for expanding into markets and gaining superior program times was half of what was anticipated," she notes. As to why costs weren't as high, she says, "Many stations have real soft spots in their hearts for our ministry, and we also have a very dedicated 'buyer' who helps station managers understand the quality of our programming." (Used by permission.)



**Lutheran Hour
Ministries**

First challenge grant comes from Texas

The first challenge grant—a pledge to match donations up to \$100,000—has been received by Lutheran Hour Ministries from some members of Concordia Lutheran Church, San Antonio, Texas. The donors wish to remain anonymous, but stepped forward in their support after learning about the "Go-tell a NEW generation" ministry campaign.

Fred Bleeker, special assistant to the executive director for Lutheran Hour Ministries, says that challenge grants are being sought to support ministry opportunities nationally and internationally.

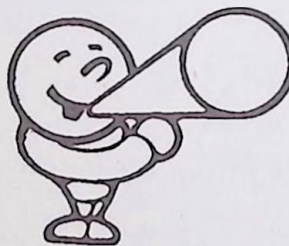
"We are excited about this challenge grant because it will enable us to reach more lost and hurting people for Christ than before," says

Bleeker. "We hope that this grant will be the first of many which will be used to share the Gospel."

Rather than giving directly to Lutheran Hour Ministries, the friends chose to give the donation through Concordia Lutheran Church. Dr. Guido Merkens, pastor, explains that the donors were eager to take part in evangelism efforts for Lutheran Hour Ministries, but wished to do so as an extension of their congregation's ministry.

"The donors are committed to evangelism and are excited about the opportunity to be part of the 'Go-tell a NEW generation' ministry campaign," says Merkens. "We hope this challenge grant will motivate others to participate in the advance of

the Gospel through Lutheran Hour Ministries. (Used by permission.)



Challenge grant support

Recently a special focus letter from Dr. Dale Meyer was sent to friends of Lutheran Hour Ministries, to encourage support of the radio outreach ministry. You may still accept this challenge by sending a contribution identifying that it is in support of this challenge grant.

Important dates

Dr. Guido Merkens will be at the next district board meeting to lead the district in the "Go-tell a NEW generation" ministry campaign. This meeting will be on Mustang Island at the Port Royal Resort in Port Aransas on March 4-6. All district board members, zone officers and especially congregational representatives are encouraged to attend. Your spouse is welcome as this is a family affair.

April 29-May 1 is the 1994 Lone Star District LLL Convention in New Braunfels. The theme is "Pray For Workers."

The 1994 Int'l LLL Convention in Fort Worth will be July 23-27. The theme will be "Proclaim Christ." We ask for your prayers for these important occasions.



The little things we do

Last week, I wrote about a new book being released on St. Valentine's Day, about the same time this article will come to you. *The Andrew Poems* contains expressions of love, a mother's love for her drowned 4-year-old child. She writes in a poignant way of little things that bring both sadness and joy, like finding a long lost mitten and a hand-lettered sign with a backward E, of birds flying over the cemetery and a jar full of tiny shells brought as a gift by a neighbor child.

You also express your love in little things, the little things we call mites. As mission projects chairman, I have seen how these offerings have grown into beautiful and powerful witnesses to Christ's love, even more powerful than a mother's poems.

Since our Houston convention, your mites and accompanying prayers have been touches of encouragement to eight seminary students in their last year at the seminary. Four of those seminarians are now preaching the Gospel from their first pulpits. Read their letters of thanks at the mission projects booth in Wichita Falls next June.

Your mites built a new chain-link fence to provide security for students using the playground at **Grace Lutheran School** in the Oak Cliff area of Dallas.

Fishers of Men Lutheran Church, Port Isabel, miles from other Lutheran churches, continues to meet in its storefront location rented with your mites.

The women there have overwhelmed me with their letters of gratitude, not only for the funds, but for prayers and offers of help. They tell me that the congregation has purchased land for its own building and that the congregation thrives.

Peace, Galena Park, which nurtured several generations of Lutherans in the past, almost died from abandonment brought about by racial changes in the neighborhood. Your mites repaired the fellowship hall and its classrooms and helped encourage the church's revitalization to a model of mixed/Hispanic ministry.

St. Philip Vietnamese Church in Houston now uses a minivan purchased with your mites to transport more Vietnamese people to church classes and services. The van also provides transportation to medical and municipal facilities.

But some projects still await your mighty mites. **Cornerstone Day Care Center** in Houston with its vital ministry to children with AIDS still waits for the funds we voted. **Lutheran Braille Workers**, the **Concordia Birkmann Chapel** windows, the **Lutheran Leadership Educational Materials** all remain unfunded.

Our mites have a dynamic power, fed by prayers and the Holy Spirit. As we contemplate our Savior's ultimate expression of love for us, let's be sure we send our mites along with their Spirit-empowered message.

*Mina Fitting,
Vice President
Texas District LWML
Mission Projects*



Christian Growth Workshop June 15 Wichita Falls

The theme of the upcoming Christian growth workshop is "Empowered by His Love ... to Give!"

There will be a Bible study titled "Empowered to Give," which will begin the morning session and start off the afternoon.

Each woman will have the opportunity to choose two sectionals (one morning/one afternoon) that are planned to provide training for serving. These sectionals are:

1. Personal evangelism;
2. Self-esteem;
3. Effective mentoring, encouraging leadership skills;
4. Ministering to mission/includes a hands-on experience;
5. Exploring avenues of communication;
6. Management of resources/time, talent, treasure;
7. Effective Bible study/personal and group;
8. Service after retirement;
9. The working mom/keeping it in balance.

The hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the following schedule:

- 8:30 Opening devotion
- 8:45 Group Bible study
- 9:45 Break
- 10:00 Sectional of your choice
- 11:30 Box lunch with group interaction
- 1:00 Repeat of morning
- 4:00 Affirming one another in our faith
- 4:45 Closing devotion

Plan now to attend the Christian Growth Workshop in Wichita Falls on June 15.

Begin your district convention experience enjoying the fellowship of LWMLers from all across the Texas District at this special seminar!

LWML

News from around the district

Trinity Lutheran Church, Weatherford, held a celebration of life service for Erna Anna Eubank on Oct. 25, 1993. Erna was a charter member of the LWML at Trinity and was married to Elmer for 55 years. The Texas District extends sympathy to Erna's family.

* * *

A quad-zone retreat was held Sept. 24-25, 1993, at Lake Texoma Lutheran Camp. The women represented the **Dal-North, Metropolitan, Texas Star and Northeast Texas Zones.** Using the theme "Raindrops to Rainbows," they were led in spiritual growth by Rev. Larry Krueger, pastor from St. Paul in Denton and Dal-North Zone counselor; with Shannon Reid, vice president, Dal-North Zone.

AAL donated bright rainbow colored T-shirts for all registrants to wear during the weekend.

* * *

The **Mary-Martha Guild of Trinity** in Livingston recently organized a church and school food collection. The Polk County Food Pantry received the donated items.

* * *

Sandy Hall called the **White Oak Zone** to order Oct. 10, 1993, at Bethlehem, Houston.

Guest speaker was Cynthia Chapa. Title of her program was "Need for Missionary Fields in our Own Congregations." Rev. Laurence

White installed the new officers Judy Murray, vice president; and Karen Schade, secretary.

* * *

Kay Keas, president of the **Texas Star Zone**, called the fall rally to order Oct. 24, 1993.

Texas Star will present a project proposal for the 1994 district convention. It is to benefit the Dallas Retirement Center. Joyce Moench, president of Peace LWML, has been working with Rich Risley of Lutheran Social Services on this proposal.

Guest speaker was Rev. Hiram Orea, missionary-at-large to Hispanic people in the Dallas area. Orea explained how he presents the message of God's love in Christ to the Hispanic community.

Rev. Don Hefta installed new officers Estelle Shirley, vice president; and Linda Hill, treasurer.



Apply now for scholarship

The deadline to apply for the LWML scholarship is March 31. The committee will meet early in April to choose a new recipient.

Send in your application NOW! You may re-apply if you were not chosen previously.

If you need an application form, check the January issue of THE LUTHERAN WITNESS; or speak with your pastor; or write Margaret Goodson, 5623 Georgetown Colony Drive, Houston, TX 77084.

28th Biennial Convention

The 28th Biennial Convention of the Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League will take place June 15-17 in Wichita Falls.

The theme is taken from Phil. 2:15-16, which says in 15b, "in which you shine like stars in the universe." What an exciting theme! Come join with the Red River Zone as we meet and learn more about shining like one of the stars in God's heaven!

Seminary scholarship recipients

The following four men have been selected to receive scholarship grants for the fall 1993 term.

David Byler is a first year student at Concordia, St. Louis. He and his family are members of Evangelist's in Kingsbury. They have one child, and this is a second career.

Bryon Williams is in his first year at Concordia. He and his family are members of Mount Calvary in Houston. He has served as lay minister at Holy Cross in Houston. They have two children.

Robert LeBlanc is a second-year student at Fort Wayne. He and his family are members of St. Paul in

Magnolia. The LeBlancs have three children, and this is a second career for Robert. He had planned to go to Liberia with Lutheran Bible Translators until war broke out.

David Thompson is enrolled at Fort Wayne in his second year. He and his family are members of Resurrection in Spring. They have three children, and this is a second career for David.

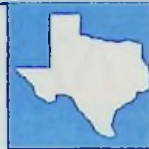
MITE REPORT December 1993

1992-94 Goal	\$275,000
Rec'd December (all sources)	8,578
Rec'd to date (all sources)	197,704
Needed for goal	77,295
Sent to Int'l LWML (December)	2,066
Int'l to date	42,374

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, 208 Woodland Ave., Giddings, TX 78942. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, 505 Stonewood Blvd., Roanoke, TX 76262.



**If not YOU,
who?**

**If not NOW,
when?**

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick
President, Texas District,
The Lutheran Church—
Missouri Synod

It was one of those days of which I am not particularly fond. I was in St. Louis in January, a fact which in itself is a violation of my loosely held personal preference to not go north of Waco between Thanksgiving and Easter. (It's really not quite that bad. I'm just not crazy about traveling in inclement weather.)

AT ANY RATE, while filling the rental car with gasoline just before returning it to the airport at 10 o'clock that evening, I was standing in the zero degree temperature (literally), with wind chill of minus who-knows-what, trying to pump gas from a fuel nozzle which I later discovered had malfunctioned.

I had the foresight on that particular trip to take along an overcoat and a pair of rather cumbersome gloves, all of which were trying to keep my frigid body at least slightly protected from the bitter cold.

About the time I was ready to give up and try another gas station, I looked up and, truthfully, was rather startled by the appearance of a human being not more than two feet away from where I was standing. This human being was a



President Kieschnick woman, carrying what appeared to be a 2- or 3-year-old child. Both of them were heavily bundled in coats, hats and gloves on that cold winter night.

THE WOMAN ASKED for a couple of dollars with which to pay for a bus ride. She didn't say anything else, just a couple of dollars for a bus ride.

At that moment, the thought of trying to take off my gloves in order to reach in my pocket to try to find a couple of dollars, standing out there in the bitter cold, was the last thought I wanted to consider. So, in reflexive response, I said, "*I can't help you right now!*"

My thought was that as soon as I figured out how to pump the quite uncooperative gasoline and take care of my own needs, I would be happy to attend to hers.

However, I know now that my communication was less than precise.

AS A RESULT, after I had moved the car to another pump and successfully completed my chore, I went into the terminal to pay the bill and did not see the woman and her child. I looked outside around all four gasoline pumps, but she was nowhere to be found.

That night the temperature in St. Louis reached two degrees below zero. Since then, I've thought of these two human beings on a number of occasions.

I wonder if the woman was ever able to find someone with a couple of dollars for the bus ride. I wonder if they had to spend the night out in the bitter cold. And with those wonderings, I feel a bit guilty for not doing what I could have done, with relatively little inconvenience and sacrifice.

THAT'S HOW LIFE is, sometimes, isn't it? We may have good intentions but, at the moment, someone else's request for assistance interferes with our own need to first take care of whatever is on our own personal agenda.

"*If not you, who? If not now, when?*" Those sentences say a lot to me, especially as I consider the scenario described above.

I'm not sure how long it will last, but at least for the time being, after my experience in St. Louis, I'm a bit more sensitive to the importance of "*seizing the moment*"—to grab those opportunities to help someone in need, to speak a word of love and hope to someone who needs those precious commodities, or to meet the challenge of providing financial support to any of the many ministries of the church that are stifled by lack of money and manpower. "*If not you, who? If not now, when?*"

TERRY AND I are faced with these kinds of opportunities and challenges liter-



ally every day of our lives. I know the same is true of you. These are the important ministries and missions in the Texas District and in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Church Extension Fund, Concordia Lutheran College in Austin, the two LCMS seminaries, the other colleges and universities of our Synod, Lutheran Social Services of the South, the Lutheran Foundation of Texas, Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas, the International Lutheran Laymen's League, the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League, the 100-plus elementary schools and Lutheran high schools in the Texas District, the Houston Lutheran Chorale, Lutheran Bible Translators, the Lutheran Braille Association, Bethesda Lutheran Home Good Samaritan Campus in Cypress, Texas, Laborers For Christ, LCMS World Relief, Wheat Ridge Ministries and last, but really first, the mission and ministry of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin, the place we call our church home.

All of these are extremely important ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the Texas District and beyond, all of which Terry and I support in our

(Continued on next page.)

NEWS

WHO? WHEN?

(Continued from previous page.)

prayers and many of which we support with our financial gifts.

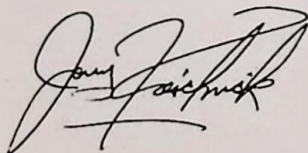
Truthfully, the needs of all these entities weigh heavily on my mind. Sometimes I think it's just not possible to continue to provide support for all of them. After all, we are only two human beings. Our resources are limited.

YET, THE TRUTH is, we have been and continue to be truly blessed, in many ways. I find that to be true of most of the members of the congregations of the Texas District. As I travel across the length and breadth of this state, I encounter many, many people who are incredibly blessed in every way.

It would be a travesty for these important ministries of our church to fail in their mission for lack of funding, for the dollars have been amply provided by the bounty of our heavenly Father's hand.

What remains is the question of whether you and I will step up to the challenge, reach into our pockets or purses, pull out those checkbooks and provide the significant assistance required by all of these important ministries of the church.

"If not you, who? If not now, when?"




HURST—This is the choir of Peace Lutheran, Hurst, which traveled to Germany to share worship experiences in German Lutheran churches.

A ringing success in Germany

It rang a bell with the adult handbell choir of Peace Lutheran Church in Hurst. What it was, was a magazine article revealing that Germany has only a few handbell choirs and are anxious to hear other choirs ring.

Soli Deo Gloria, the handbell choir at Peace, had taken a few weekend performance trips. But Germany?

Why not, the group decided, and started fund-raising activities. Some singers wanted to go, too, so a small vocal choir was formed.

The Peace ringers wrote to several pastors in Germany, working out visit details with a Lutheran church in Darmstadt, south of Frankfurt. This church is in fellowship with the Missouri Synod.

It was standing room only at the first service, with worship in both English and German. "It was exciting," said one Peace ringer, "to think the order of worship was much the same as our home church was using that day, and we actually worshiped as a body in Christ."

A small brass ensemble from the German congregation played "The Star-Spangled Banner." It was July 4. And German Lutherans took the group to family farms and homes to share their culture and love.

In other towns and Lutheran churches the group was well received as the ringers/singers shared the type of music they prepare weekly for worship. Most handbell music was hymn arrangements. The singers presented one set of spirituals that proved popular.



ZION—These are some of the 30 new members received on two successive Sundays at Zion, Dallas. From left are Beth Brink; Patti Sue, Rachel and Trevor Young; and Sandy Nelermann. Next are Lena, Phan and Willy Hang, former Cambodians baptized into the Christian faith. At right is Senior Pastor Robert C. Preece.

Epiphany marks 10th anniversary

Members of Epiphany Lutheran Church, Jersey Village (Houston), celebrated with joy and thanksgiving their 10th anniversary Jan. 9 with the appropriately titled theme "Celebrate the Birthday of a Star."

This date marked 10 years as a chartered congregation and 11 years since Epiphany's first worship service.

A special worship service was conducted at both services as former Associate Pastor Joel Kettner returned to bring the message of "Celebrating a Decade of Servanthood."

A barbecue dinner was served at noon to more than 500 people.

Pastor Bill Johnson, Associate Pastor Ed Keiper and former Associate Pastor Joel Kettner shared lighter moments from their ministry at Epiphany as well as their hopes and dreams for Epiphany's future.

In the decade since it was chartered, Epiphany's membership has grown to more than 800 members.



Texas District Mission News

by Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration



Rev. Ken
Hennings

Beautiful Savior Lutherans bring living Gospel to 'the zone'

"Summertime and the livin' is easy"? Or is it? Ask parents and children who live through urban city summers, set in the confines of an apartment setting in a multicultural, low-income area filled with increasing street violence and crime. You quickly learn that the livin' is **not** easy; that children playing outdoors run the risk of being beaten or shot. And, increasingly, many are spending their extra time pursuing gang activities.

- This picture is a sharp contrast to times past when young people were free to devote time to activities they enjoyed, including baseball, bicycle rides and swimming.

But in May 1993 in Houston, in the back room of the police "storefront" station across from Aldine High School and Stovall Junior High School, a diverse group of people came together to discuss "summer."

Some were members of the Houston Police Force, Harris County Gang Task Force and Children's Protective Services. But, also attending were people representing state officials, social institutions and Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church.

- In early 1993 the congregation of Beautiful Savior set the goal of bringing a living Gospel into its community. In answer to members' prayers for direction, God led them to become a part of a community team to "go into the zone," as the blighted neighborhood is known.

The goal of the summer program was to provide structured activities, relevant speakers, love and a safe environment. The program followed the "youth house model" established by Sylvia Bolling, founder of Aldine Youth, and was started in two of seven apartment complexes this past summer.

Apartment complex owners were contacted to provide on-site space for activities. Volunteers from various agencies carried out the program, using donated materials and without any funding. The program was so successful that it was continued last fall, providing classes for parents during the day and homework help for children in the afternoons.

- The program is dedicated to showing children and parents that someone cares, that they all have worth and that there is an alternative to crime and violence.

Permission has already been obtained to have "on-site" vacation Bible school and to begin a Bible study when the trust factor has been established. The goal is to establish "youth houses" in all seven apartment complexes.

- If you are looking for a community ministry to gain church members, then this program is **not** for you. However, if you want to live your faith and do something to reveal your love and concern for others, then **this is one way to do it.**

For people to turn from violence they must know of the worth of human life as created and redeemed by our Triune God. They must know they are loved, and they must know that we, the church, really care.

NOTE: Even though Beautiful Savior is not a financially assisted congregation of the district, their example of outreach to the community is what the Mission Board encourages in all congregations.



YOUTH

CAN-DO

Youth become mission servants

More than 450 youth and adults are expected to participate in Project CAN-DO Mission Servant Events this summer, personally linking them with sites where their CAN-DO mission dollars are making a difference for Christ.

The CAN-DO youth and adults will expand ministries at sites in Russia, Slovakia, Mexico and right here in Texas at churches in Brownsville, San Antonio, Del Rio, Texoma and Houston. One youth or adult representative from each CAN-DO congregation will be given the opportunity to travel to the mission field in Russia or Slovakia to experience hands-on ministry in an international setting.

Project CAN-DO is providing a one-half scholarship for one representative from each CAN-DO congregation to participate in expanding the mission field through an international Mission Servant Event.

The deadline is **March 15** for returning the CAN-DO scholarship applications to the district office.

Many additional CAN-DO youth and adults will participate in the mission outreach servant projects at the six sites in Texas.

Mission servant brochures detailing all the information are available through the CAN-DO office at the Texas District.

We are excited about the linking of Texas District youth and adults in the financial support and the hands-on mission outreach ministry in Texas, Russia and Slovakia. We can do all things through Christ who gives us strength.

Our bright kids ...

Congratulations to those guys at **Hope, Austin**, who muscled their way to a place on the all-district football team. They are James Howard and Allen Mueller. In addition, they were named to the all-district academic team (A-average), along with Matthew Moss. Brains and brawn, right? All are active in Hope's youth programs.

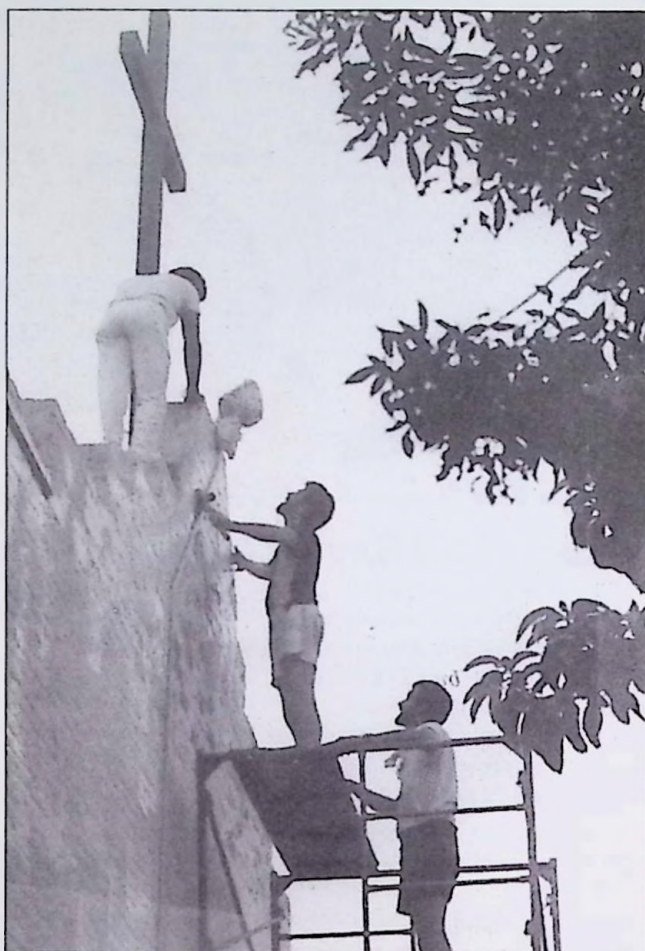
David Beran, **Trinity, Waco**, helped his high school band perform at the State Fair of Texas where it won a superior rating. The band also won first in the regional Bands of America contest at Rice University. David, a senior, plays the

baritone horn.

John Schomberg, **St. Philip, Houston**, was named all-district first team offensive lineman. He's a senior.

Bright kid honors for Danny Cadra, **Grace, Midland**, who made second chair in the all-region band.

More bright kid honors for Jeremy Janssen and Brandon Treadway, **Our Savior, Abilene**, who received the U.S. National Mathematics Award. Nominated by their teachers, each received a certificate. Their pictures were published in the Achievement Academy's awards book.



HOMEFRONT—We CAN-DO right here in Texas by expanding our ethnic ministries in places like Brownsville, where young people in this photo are helping restore a church.

Randy Wiltshire, **Peace, Hewitt**, was honored as the outstanding representative from Lorena High during Youth Appreciation Week by the Northwest Optimist Club of Waco.

Congratulations to Joshua Key, **Redeemer, Odessa**, who was selected for the All-City Junior High Band.

Shandi Schrader, **Holy Cross, Nederland**, a high school senior, was named a National Merit Finalist.

Among the gaggle of outstanding kids at **St. Mark, Houston**, are Brian Rochow, all-district in football as a kicker; Melanie Gebhard, all-district in volleyball and Nathan Bohls, a Commended Student in the National Merit Scholarship program. That means Nathan is among the top 5 percent of more than a million participants nationwide.

Mandy Love and Danny Melder, **Faith, Lampasas**, were inducted into the National Honor Society.



Who benefits from CEF investments? Your fellow Texas Lutherans

by Bill Siegrist
Director of Development
Church Extension Fund

Church Extension Fund Sunday will be celebrated April 24 throughout the Texas District. The purpose of CEF Sunday is to encourage new investors to participate in this vital ministry of our district.

Our theme, **Build On A Rock**, is based on Matt. 7:24: *"Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine*

and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."



Siegrist Who will benefit from your investments on CEF Sunday?

The following congregations will certainly benefit from your investments on CEF Sunday:

Austin, Mount Olive—new education building, parking lot and site work;

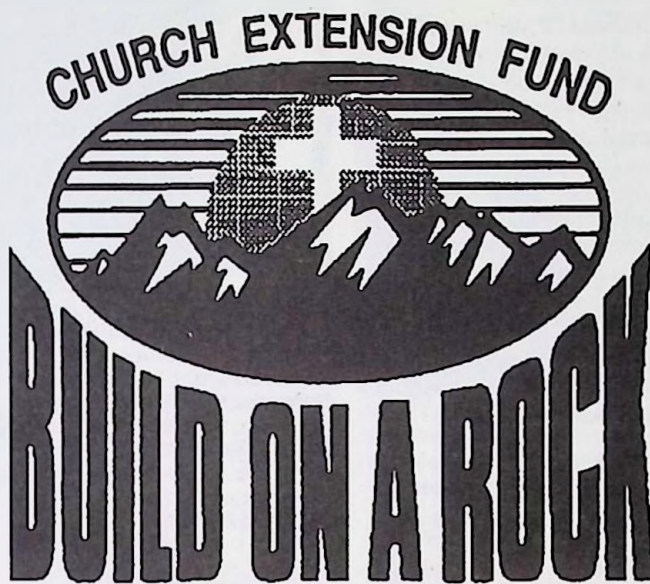
Houston, Mount Olive—relocation and new worship and education facilities;

Honey Grove, St. Luke—new worship facility;

Waxahachie, Christ the King—new fellowship building, educational space and kitchen;

Pearland, Epiphany—first unit, multipurpose worship facility;

Sugarland, Fishers of Men—first unit, multipurpose worship facility;



April 24 is Church Extension Fund Sunday

Plano, Lord of Life—new worship facility;

Anderson, Zion—new educational building

Tyler, Trinity—new education building and gymnasium;

San Antonio, Mount Calvary—extensive remodeling;

Brownsville, Trinity—expansion of day school program facilities;

Killeen, Grace—new school classrooms and remodeled sanctuary.

North, south, east, west and even central Texas are

benefiting from low-interest loans from the Church Extension Fund. The 12 congregations listed above are a sample of what is happening throughout Texas.

Dick Hansen, our CEF director of building and construction, is working with each of these congregations and another 20 in various stages of building in 1994!

What are the benefits of investing in CEF?

1. The investor becomes a partner in this ministry.
2. Your investments help build and extend the king-

dom of God.

3. For more than 87 years, CEF has offered investors security, stability and a favorable rate of return on their investments, without a "thin dime's" worth of principal or interest being lost!

4. Easy to invest, easy to withdraw; with prompt, courteous service.

- If your congregation has a CEF loan, your investment will help it maintain its low interest rate.

- If your congregation is self-supporting, your investment may help it receive an attractive rebate at the end of 1994.

Most important, when you invest in church extension, you make possible a church, a school, a baptism, a confirmation—the Gospel proclaimed!

- Let others know what will happen CEF Sunday, April 24. Come join the ministry by "Supporting the Mission Through Investments."

For more information, contact your CEF congregational representative, your pastor or Bill Siegrist at the district office at 1-800-951-3478.

**Texas District
Church Extension Fund
Bill Siegrist
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
(512) 926-4272
Toll-free
1-800-951-3478**

St Philip, Houston, dedicates its new family life center

A family life center for members of **St. Philip, Houston**, was dedicated Feb. 20. Preacher for the dedication service was District President Jerry Kieschnick. Pastor Doug Barnett said of the 26,000-



Barnett

square-foot facility, "My prayer and excitement for this building is that it truly be used to bring many more from

our community into the gracious kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ."

On Nov. 18, Pastor Eugene Heckmann, **Gethsemane, Houston**, preached his 1,000th sermon for the Thursday afternoon devotion at a local nursing facility. Gethsemane has sponsored these devotions on a weekly basis for 23 years.

The *Midland Reporter-Telegram* published a special section last fall on

"The Best of Midland." Named the city's best grocery cashier was Maylene Hilbun, **Grace, Midland**.

A ringing congratulation to Shirley and John Goeke, Ann Turner, Kayla Walshak and Arlene Wendt who have given more than 10 years of dedicated service to the handbell choir of **Redeemer, Austin**.

Dr. Alvin Barry, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, was guest

PEOPLE. PLACES. & EVENTS

speaker at the Reformation Festival Service at **Trinity, Waco**. The



Barry

liturgy was based in part on Martin Luther's German mass of 1526. Special music, instrumentalists and choirs from LCMS sister congregations were part of the service.



CHINA BIBLES—Randy Rehmann, center, president of **Bethany Lutheran Congregation of Austin**, presents a \$20,000 check to Dr. Glenn O'Shoney, right, executive director of **The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Board for Mission Services**, to help purchase another printing press for Bibles in mainland China. From left are **Bethany Pastor Walter Harms**; **Sandy Nolan**, director of outreach and growth at **Bethany**; **Rehmann**; **Bethany Pastor William Knippa**; and **O'Shoney**. The money is a tithe from a recent bequest received at **Bethany**.

trees, billboards, trains and skater figurines that move by under-surface magnets.

The Texas District Board of Directors has affirmed the appointment of Dr. Michael Stelmachowicz to the **Texas District Recruitment Committee** and Eleanor Nelson to the **Board of Lutheran Social Services of the South**.

Amy Biar, **Holy Cross, Nederland**, graduated *cum laude* from Texas A&M University Dec. 17 with a bachelor of arts degree in Spanish.

Rev. Daniel Georg, Marcus, Iowa, was installed Feb. 20 as pastor of **Messiah, Houston**.

St. Paul, Harlingen, dedicated a new organ Jan. 9.

Grace, Midland, offers wireless hearing aids to hearing-impaired worshippers at their services.



ROWLETT—The Rowlett Chamber of Commerce chose, as its December Business of the Month, **Crown of Life Lutheran Church of Rowlett**. Here Chamber President Ron Clinton congratulates Pastor Mel Symmank and the Luncheon Bunch of **Crown of Life**, which prepares chamber meals.



Camps set confirmation retreats

Space is still available at the annual spring retreats for preconfirmation youth at Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro and Camp Lone Star in La Grange.

Texoma's "Jubilation" Retreat will be held on the weekend of April 22-24 at the camp.

Camp Lone Star's "Lifequest" weekend will take place on May 20-22 at that facility.

Both retreats are great opportunities for confirmands to enjoy fellowship with kids from other churches, have fun in the outdoors, study the Bible and share in the faith.

Each retreat begins at 8 p.m. on Friday and ends at 1 p.m. on Sunday. The registration fee is \$54 per person and includes two nights' lodging, five meals, materials and activities. All church groups must have an adult participant.

For more information, contact your church office or call Texoma Lutheran Camp at (903) 786-3121 or Camp Lone Star at (409) 247-4128.



ASSET—The Bethlehem Meeting Center is just one of many blessings Texoma Camp has been given during its first 15 years in the Lord's service.

Prime Time Lutherans retreat set at Lone Star

Individuals and couples who are retired, semi-retired or maybe "just plain tired" are invited to attend the annual Prime Time Lutherans (PTL) retreat Monday, April 11, through Wednesday, April 13, at Camp Lone Star in La Grange.

This event will include many fun and fellowship activities for all, including Bible study, devotions, sing-alongs and "42."

The registration fees are \$99 per person (for one or two people in a room), \$89 (for three or four people per room) and \$79 for (five or six people per room—upper bunks will be used). All program costs and meals are included.

A \$25 deposit is due by March 30. To register or for more information, call Camp Lone Star at (409) 247-4128.

Texoma is 15; worship, barbecue set May 7

Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas (LOMT) and Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro will celebrate their 15th anniversary in the Lord's service Saturday, May 7, with a worship service and annual barbecue.

Texoma Camp was founded in 1979 when LOMT (Then known as Texas Outdoors Ministry) acquired the 600-acre site from another organization.

At first, Texoma's ministry was limited to summer camp and related activities.

During the past 15 years, the Lord has blessed the camp and its ministry has grown to include:

- Year-round Christ-centered outdoor programs, serving thousands of people of all ages.
- A full-time professional outdoor ministry staff.
- The Bethlehem Meeting Center, which can accommodate groups of up to 90 people.
- Nazareth Unit #1, which provides motel-type housing (construction on Nazareth Unit #2 is currently under way).
- A team challenge or "ropes" course.
- An outdoor and environmental education course for elementary schools and church groups.

(NOTE: A five-minute video on the new retreat facilities at the camp is available and can be obtained by calling 1-800-926-5968.)

★ Celebration activities will begin at noon with congregational challenge events (ring toss, dart throw, etc.), a trap shooting contest, the "Texoma Regatta" boat race and other events.

Folks can also go boating, hiking, etc., at the camp.

★ In addition, the second annual "silent" auction to benefit Texoma Camp and LOMT will be held at the Bethlehem Center.

Items available for bidding are expected to include bed-and-breakfast accommodations, handicrafts, dinners and many retail products and services.

To donate items for the auction, call Keith Lund at Texoma at (903) 786-3121.

★ The annual barbecue will begin at 5 p.m., followed by an outdoor evening worship service. A sing-along and music fest in the camp dining hall will conclude the evening.

"The Texoma barbecue is an outstanding time to come celebrate Texoma's 15th anniversary. See the camp, and learn more about this beautiful site," said Keith Lund, Texoma camp director.

There is no charge to attend, but a free-will offering will be accepted.

★ For more information, call Texoma Camp at (903) 786-3121.

Come, join the celebration!

THE LORD ADDED...

GETHSEMANE—These new members were received Dec. 5, 1993, at Gethsemane, Houston. The 16 adults were the most adults confirmed at one time in the church's 40-year history. Three adults and seven children were baptized in the same service. In all, 34 new members were received—a glorious day at Gethsemane!



BEAUMONT—These are 22 of the 23 people received into membership Dec. 19, 1993, at Redeemer, Beaumont. Two months earlier, 13 had been added by transfer, profession of faith and baptism. One in this photo came by adult baptism/confirmation, two by adult confirmation, six child/youth baptisms, seven by reaffirmation or profession of faith and seven by transfer. Center is Pastor Robert Myers.



HOUSTON—These new members were received by confirmation and transfer to Bethany, Houston, just before Christmas. Rev. Erwin Metz is interim pastor.



SULPHUR SPRINGS—Recently received into membership at Our Savior, Sulphur Springs, are, from left, Elsie Law, by reaffirmation of faith; and Charles and Laura Durrenberger, by confirmation; and their son, Gary Durrenberger. Pastor is Bruce Drees.

GRANBURY—The Lord blessed Our Savior, Granbury, with 22 new members Dec. 12, 1993. With them is Pastor Mark Rossington.



AND
ADDED...

TEXAS DISTRICT



PRAISE THE LORD—Our Savior Lutheran of Austin praises the Lord for 47 new members who joined the congregational family Nov. 21, 1993. Twenty-seven came by transfer, 12 through adult instruction and eight by baptism, both adult and child. Pastor, center, is Gordon Albers.



RICHARDSON—Received at Messiah, Richardson, by transfer and confirmation were these two new members shown with Pastor Victor Kollmann.



DALLAS—Our Redeemer, Dallas, welcomed these new members into fellowship Dec. 5, 1993. They came through transfer, adult confirmation and profession of faith. Charles Houska and Jason Rensner are pastors.



WALBURG—Sixteen new members were added at Zion, Walburg, last October. They are Dick, June and Heather Hall; Sean McElhanon; Lance Horton; Laurie Gordy; Steve and Verona Gutowski; Alma Johnson; Phillip Cole; Milton and Marjorie Arldt; Ronnie, Kathy and Brannon Pitts; and Byrl and Verna Tyson. Johanna Johnson is not pictured.



IN HOUSTON—These adult members joined Christ Memorial, Houston, Dec. 5, 1993. Pastor J. Mark Kuehnert is at center right.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOMES AND SERVICES GOOD SAMARITAN CAMPUS

Napolitano receives honorary doctorate

An honorary doctor of letters degree (Litt.D.) was awarded to Alexander L. Napolitano, executive director of Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, at the Dec. 18, 1993, graduation ceremony of Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon.

The degree recognizes Napolitano's leadership in the health care field and his service as head of one of the largest Lutheran ministries to mentally retarded people.

Napolitano has been executive director of Bethesda since February 1975. A board member of the Wisconsin Association of Nursing Homes and M&I Bank of Watertown, he is a certified health care executive and has served on the President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

Before serving with Bethesda, Napolitano was administrator of High Ridge Hospitals, a 655-bed county institutional complex in Racine, Wis. He also was assistant hospital administrator of Milwaukee County Mental Health Center, a sanitarium with the Englewood, N.J., Department of Health and a member of the U.S. Air Force.

Under Napolitano's leadership, Bethesda has grown from the Watertown campus and two local group homes to 38 facilities in 10 states, including the Good Samaritan Campus.

"Dr. Napolitano's tenure at Bethesda has been an exciting time for Good Samaritan," said Joellyn Champagne, Good Samaritan Campus administrator. "Under his guidance, we

have renovated our facility and added five group homes in the Houston area."

In addition, Bethesda has become known for its national Christian resource center (toll-free answers to nationwide questions on mental retardation resources and services), electronic media (which produces professional and religious training tapes, along with monthly cable TV program "Focus on Mental Retardation") and outreach services (publications, workshops, counseling, scholarships and awards).

Other accomplishments during Napolitano's administration are:

- Construction of the \$4.2 million Olson building, the \$2.5 million Chapel of the Good Shepherd and the printshop on the Watertown campus;
- Construction of six intermediate care facilities in Illinois, including the 45-bed Aurora campus;
- Acquisition of Faith Village in Olathe, Kan., and construction of the John Brunn Memorial Activities Center there;
- Remodeling of most of Bethesda's Watertown campus buildings and expansion of Camp Matz;
- Beginning of respite care and day services;
- Regionalization of the Bethesda board member selection process to provide national input;
- Sending a physical therapist to the New Guinea mission field to work at a school for mentally retarded people for two years;
- Testifying at a Congressional hearing on Medicaid



Dr. A.L. Napolitano

funding for people with mental retardation; and

- Establishment of the Bethesda Foundation.

A graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck, N.J. (bachelor's degree in business administration) and George Washington University, Washington, D.C. (M.B.A. in health care administration), Napolitano is a member of the American Association on Mental Retardation, the American College of Health Care Executives, Voice of the Retarded and Association of Lutheran Development Executives.

He also has served on the Watertown Park Commission, the Public Relations Committee of Watertown Memorial Hospital, the Racine County Health Association Board, the Racine Citizens Task Force, and the Racine County Mental Health Authority Study Committee.

Napolitano and his wife, Virginia, live in Watertown and are members of Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church, Hartland. They are the parents of two adult sons, Keith and Scott.

JEWELLED—Sherry enjoys threading beads on a string to make her own jewelry at Good Samaritan.

Summit kickoff held at Good Samaritan

A cookout at the Good Samaritan Campus Jan. 8 prepared guests for the upcoming Lutheran Night at the Summit March 5, when the Houston Rockets will battle the Los Angeles Clippers.

The cookout was held in honor of the King's Choir, a boys' choir from St. Mark Lutheran Church, Houston, that will sing the national anthem at the game.

"We wanted to recognize the choir members for their talents and their willingness to sing for Lutheran nights at the Summit and the Dome," said Joellyn Champagne, Good Samaritan administrator. "Their performances always start the games off right."

A portion of the ticket sales from the March 5 game will benefit the Good Samaritan residents, all of whom are mentally retarded.

For tickets, call the Good Samaritan public affairs office at (713) 351-4911.





PREPARING—Dalton and Deanne Noack are members of Cross of Christ Lutheran in DeSoto, Texas. They began courses in the winter quarter at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., for a ministry in Ghana, Africa. They are sponsored by the Board for Missions Services of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Ministry serves winter Texans

Eunice and John Fritz began their ministry in 1950 in North Dakota near the Canadian border.

Now, they are in ministry in Texas, near the Mexican border.

Fritz, pastor emeritus of Christ Memorial Lutheran in Houston and for the past year visitation pastor and preacher at St. Philip, Houston, on a part-time basis, has taken the position of serving as part-time assistant to Rev. George Price of Trinity, Brownsville.

Fritz is serving in Port Isabel, preaching and conducting communion services at a store-front mission started by Trinity, called "Fishers of Men Lutheran Church."

Normally, there is one service per Sunday with 20 to 40 attending. But come January when ice, snow and freezing temperatures seize mid-America, a host of winter Texans invades South Padre Island and the Port Isabel area.

Fishers of Men attendance then rises to 200 and two services are provided.

The Fritzes plan to remain on the border until after Easter.

Tell him

Tell your pastor about new people in the community. Unless you keep him posted about newcomers, he may miss them.



CAMPUS MISSION—These are some of the pastors from 53 Dallas and Fort Worth congregations who meet with students at the Lutheran International Center for lunch at the University of Texas in Arlington. Some of the center's staff also is shown.

Metroplex pastors bolster mission work at UT-Arlington

Pastors from 53 churches in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex participate in the mission work at the Lutheran International Center at the University of Texas in Arlington.

This Missouri Synod

campus ministry serves the university community of 23,000 students and more than 10,000 faculty and staff members.

The Texas District owns the center's freestanding building on the north perimeter of the campus. Mission contributions and special offerings supply the center with its operating budget.

According to Director Vera Sweet, students come from more than 50 nations, some of them closed to Christian teachings. Most of them are from Taiwan and mainland China.

Programs at the center include English classes, cooking, conversation partners, friendship families, field trips, Bible studies and worship in area congregations.

Goal of the center, according to Sweet, "is that one day everyone will become friends with Christ."



STUDENTS CONFIRMED—These six students at University Lutheran Church in Austin were confirmed into the Lutheran Church at Advent worship Dec. 5, 1993. From left, are Campus Pastor Norb Firnhaber, Rachel Harlrs, Michelle Weber, Jessica Davey, Deana Holmes, Erin Starry and Larry Grockl.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Endowment—A gift to the future

If someone unexpectedly gave you \$100,000, what would you do? You could spend it right away, perhaps clearing up debts and allowing yourself some luxury items. Or you could provide a net of security for yourself and your family by investing all or part of the money.

In 17 years (at 6 percent interest) your \$100,000 would earn \$102,000, and you would still have the original \$100,000. If you reinvested part of the interest each year, you could increase your principal and earn even more interest.

Colleges also need a security net. An endowment—a fund stipulating that only the income, but not the principal, may be spent—provides stability in good times and bad.

Normal fluctuations in student enrollment and donor giving to annual support don't affect colleges with adequate endowments. Even shaky economic times can be weathered with the help of endowment funds.

Recognizing the importance of endowments, Concordia Lutheran College of Texas included a goal of \$7.5 million for scholarship endowment and \$1 million for faculty endowment in its \$12.5 million **Who Will Lead Us?** Diamond Jubilee Campaign—and that was just a minimum target figure!

"An endowment is the best gift you can give to the future of Christian higher education," says Mike Linebrink, **Who Will Lead Us?** campaign director. "An endowment gift this year will benefit students not only

next year, but also countless years following, as long as the education system of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod exists. Bricks and mortar wear out and annual support is expended on necessary day-to-day expenses. But an endowment lasts, for all practical purposes, forever. It establishes a pact between generations, a promise for the future."

To discuss establishing an endowment at Concordia of Texas, call Mike Linebrink or Dr. Ray F. Martens at the Concordia Development Office at (512) 452-7661.

When you establish a scholarship endowment, you can be very specific about the kinds of students who will receive it, if you so desire. For example, you can stipulate major, home congregation, home county—most any specification you desire. The endowment agreement between you and the college is binding, ensuring that your wishes are followed in years to come.

For interest funds to be distributed, the endowment principal must be at least \$5,000. An endowment of \$50,000 will allow one student per year to attend Concordia at a cost equal to that at a state-supported institution.

If you believe in the endowment concept for your Concordia of Texas, but do not currently have the liquid assets necessary to establish a fund, you may contribute to the Diamond Jubilee General Endowment or the Diamond Jubilee Church Work Endowment. Generations of students will benefit from your generosity.



THANKS—Field Day Coordinator Suzanne Socha Mueller accepts a check from Walt Smith of Lutheran Brotherhood. LB cosponsors Field Day, providing especially for the award ribbons.

Concordia receives IMPACT gift

Concordia Lutheran College of Texas recently received \$1,420 from Lutheran Brotherhood's IMPACT program, Inviting Member Participation in Aiding Lutheran Colleges and Theological Seminaries.

The latest payment covers 16 gifts Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the fourth quarter of 1993.

The IMPACT program matches Lutheran brotherhood members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 a year to Lutheran institutions of higher education nationwide. Since the beginning of the IMPACT matching gift program, Concordia has received \$64,123 in IMPACT funds.

Lutheran Brotherhood is a fraternal benefit society that provides insurance and other financial and fraternal benefits to nearly 1 million members.

Martens returns to CLC

President Emeritus Dr. Ray F. Martens has returned to Concordia after a short

sabbatical leave. As he indicated when he resigned from the presidency last year, he will concentrate on development efforts, to fulfill some of the promises of his administration. He was Concordia's president from 1973 to 1993.

If you can't come to Field Day

Students who can't attend Concordia's Field Day '94 on April 22 can participate by entering the writing competition. The contest is open to young people in grades 6, 7 and 8.

This year's writing topic is "Winning" or "Winners." Students may submit essays, short stories, biographies or poems. Call the Public Relations Office at (512) 452-7661 to receive contest guidelines. All entries must be received at Concordia by April 15.

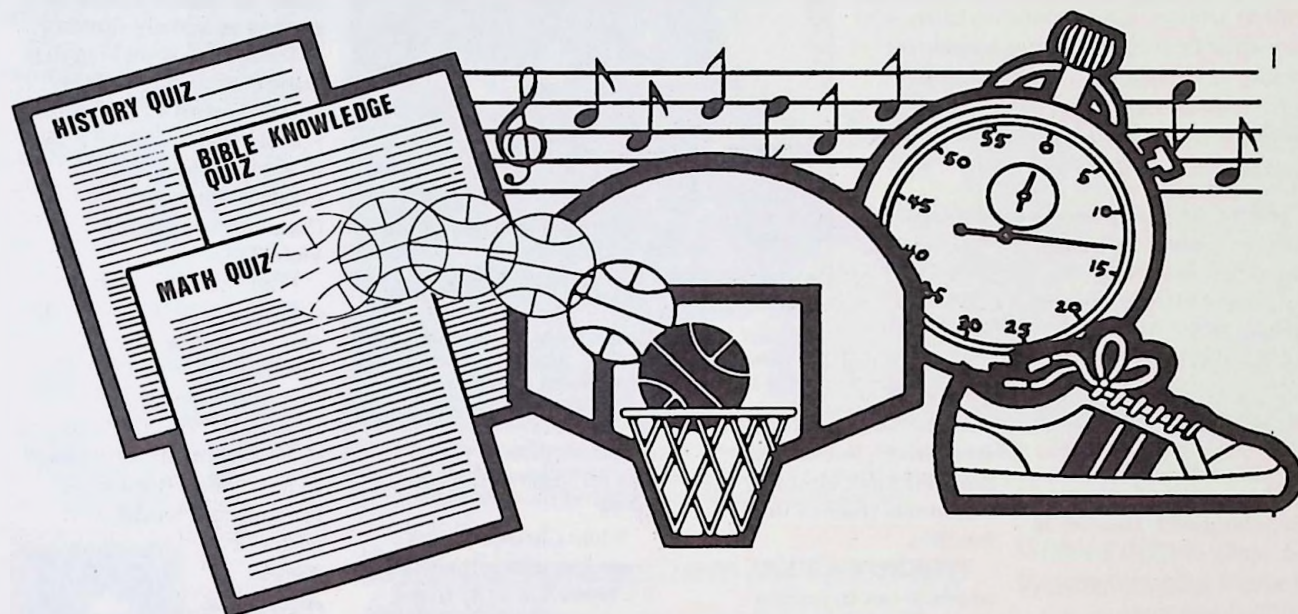
Lutheran schools with eligible grades have received complete Field Day packets. Youth groups and individual Lutheran young people also are invited to participate. Call to receive a Field Day packet.

CONCORDIA

TEXAS DISTRICT



CONCORDIA FIELD DAY



Academics

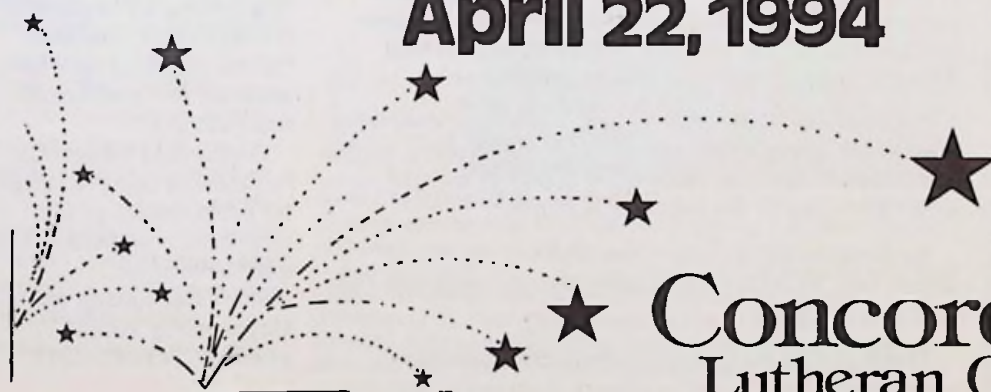
Fine Arts

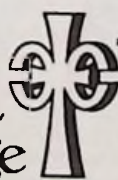
Athletics

COMPETITION

for students in grades 6,7 and 8

April 22, 1994



Concordia 
Lutheran College
Austin, Texas

LSSS in Dallas helps families with Christmas

Imagine that you are part of a working family which has sold everything to give your recently deceased child a proper burial in Dallas. It's Christmas time, and your other two children have nothing—no food, no presents—only a small plastic tree to celebrate the holidays. One more thing—the mother is expecting twins.

THIS IS NOT fiction. It's the facts about one Dallas family that faced a bleak Christmas in 1993. For them and for seven other families, the holiday became a joyous celebration, thanks to the help of Lutheran Social Services' Dallas area office.

LSSS served as a coordinator by connecting area churches and the Lutheran High School with families in need. Many of these families had sought help with other charities to no avail.

It was a different story with LSSS. Even though Christmas was less than a

week away, volunteers donated food, clothing, even Christmas trees to the families.

"THERE'S A REAL need to reach out to people during the holidays," said Dallas Area Director Linda Hair. "In fact, the need is so

great, we plan to expand this program in the coming years."

While Christmas may seem like a long time away, it's never too early to get involved in this ministry. To help the Dallas area office, phone (214) 620-0581.

Cards make their Christmas

Thank you. To all who responded to our Christmas letter by sending the enclosed card back to the residents of our health care centers, we at Lutheran Social Services of the South say, "Thanks."

The cards that wished men and women at our health care centers "the joy and peace of our Lord at Christmas and throughout the new year" did just that. Each card brought joy and peace to our clients' hearts.

Your response was tremendous. Some of you even went beyond our request. One agency supporter wrote us saying, "Here is the Christmas card you sent, plus 12 more of my own." The spirit of the season was with her.

We began sending cards to our facilities two weeks before Dec. 25. As the day approached, we made sure each card was delivered.

Thank you for making Christmas 1993 a holiday to remember at LSSS.



BETTER YULE—Dallas families were helped last Christmas by LSSS, working in conjunction with area churches and schools.

Longtime LSSS staffer head of Copperfield

For more than a decade, Dianne Pfiel showed her care and concern for the clients at Trinity Lutheran Home in Shiner, Texas, by serving as activity director.

Today, she is making that same commitment to the people served by Lutheran Social Services of the South in her new position as resident manager of Copperfield Village in Victoria.

Pfiel was named to the position by Rich Risley, vice president of residential services, after an extensive search for the perfect candidate. "Her track record speaks for itself," explained Risley. "She's dedicated, reliable, and works well with our clients. After all, at any LSSS residence, it's the welfare of the people we help that comes first."



Pfiel

Pfiel's response to her initial weeks on the job reflect Risley's confidence. "It's exciting to be working at Copperfield," she said. "All the residents here have made me feel comfortable and welcome."

Copperfield Village still has some openings available for people looking for a retirement community at an affordable price.

For information on Copperfield Village, phone (512) 575-3978.



THANKS—Your Christmas cards helped Health Care Center residents enjoy the holiday season.



The pastor was paid—sometimes

A taste of "the good old days" is being discovered at St. John Lutheran in San Benito as the congregation is delving into old records as part of its 75th anniversary in 1994.

The voters minutes of Aug. 8, 1920, show the congregation compared several plans to build a church and adopted one that called for a parsonage—with a chapel. The minutes add "but as nearly as could be figured out, the building would cost about \$4,000 without plumbing."

They asked the Church Extension Board for the money and got \$3,000. The building went up anyway, and in November 1920, services were begun in English and German alternately.

In June 1921, the minutes reveal that "a committee was instructed to see how much lumber was left at the church/parsonage and to figure a bill on a wash house and a cow shed for the reverend with the lumber left over."

In 1919, the congregation received a total of \$321.51 in receipts. Expenses were only \$100.40 so it must have been a very good year, financially.

Records reveal the pastor's salary in 1920 seemed to vary from month to month. Usually \$10 a month is noted in the treasurer's book, although a few months show \$25, and some, no salary at all. It seems that individual members assumed responsibility for the pastor's salary each month.



ADDITION—This is Christ the King Lutheran in Waxahachie with its new educational wing.



DEDICATED—Dedication services Dec. 19, 1993 at Christ the King Lutheran in Waxahachie were led by Pastor Norman Finke, left, and Dr. David Joeckel, right, second vice president of the Texas District. A dedication choir also participated.

This congregation all fired up

Members of St. Paul, San Antonio, hauled their used Christmas trees to a nearby ranch, piled them up and set them on fire.

Epiphany devotions were held around the fire which burned down to just the right size to roast wieners and marshmallows.



40TH CELEBRATION—Participating in the 40th anniversary worship service Nov. 21, 1993, at University Lutheran Church in Austin were, from left, Rev. Charles Born who served University for 33 years; Esther Frank, wife of the church's first campus minister, Rev. Edmund Frank; David Koenig, principal of St. Paul Lutheran School in Austin and campus ministry representative to the Board of Mission Administration; and Rev. Norb Firnhaber, current campus pastor for the church that serves the University of Texas.

Celebration in Waxahachie

A festival of dedication and 25th anniversary celebration were held Dec. 19, 1993, at Christ the King Lutheran Church of Waxahachie.

Dedicated was a new educational wing that covers 4,600 square feet and contains six classrooms, restroom, storage area, kitchen and fellowship area.

The narthex of the church also has been remodeled, new carpet installed and restrooms redone.

Officers at the service were Rev. Norman Finke, pastor, and Dr. David Joeckel, second vice president of the LCMS Texas District.

Charter members present were Frieda DeMoss, Tim DeMoss, Lois Hacker, Kathy Aday and JoAnn Thompson.

CELEBRATIONS



WINCHESTER—Clara and Eldor Zoch, members of St. Michael Lutheran, Winchester, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Oct. 1, 1993.



56 YEARS—Henry and Ruby Bruns, members of Pilgrim Lutheran, Houston, celebrated 56 years of marriage Jan. 15. He's 82, she is 73.

Send your news to Bill

Send your photos, stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:

Bill Wagner, editor
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499



The following Lutheran couples of the Texas District celebrated wedding anniversaries of 50 years or more late in 1993 or early 1994:

Our Redeemer, Dallas:
Bernice and Gus Melde, 51 years, Jan. 16.

Trinity, Tyler: Mr. and Mrs. S.E. Garrard, 55 years, Nov. 1.

Grace, Rockdale:
Charles, Sr. and Ruby Rackel, 59 years, Nov. 28.

Trinity, Sealy: L.C. and Lorine Jander, 52 years, Dec. 4; William and Dolores Hildebrandt, 65 years, Dec. 12; Herbert and Mabel Schroeter, 59 years, Dec. 16.

Trinity, San Angelo:
Robert and Frances Theis, 53 years, Dec. 20; Fred and Ruth Mahler, 52 years, Dec. 22.

St. Mark, Houston:
Eddie and Alma Lehmann, 52 years, Jan. 11; John IV and Helen Tedens, 55 years, Jan. 18.

St. Matthew, Westfield:
G.B. and Selma Barnett, 53 years, Jan. 18.

Trinity, San Angelo:
Albert and Irene Wuensche, 53 years, Jan. 1; J.C. and Marian Davis, 51 years, Jan. 30.



PIECE OF THE ROOF—Immanuel Lutheran Congregation of Mercedes recently replaced its tile roof, put up in 1926. Some of the old tiles were salvaged and painted, then auctioned off, raising more than \$2,000 for the new roof. Holding old memory-laden tiles are, from left, Maxine Kelsey, Herb Vogel, Ruth Neuhaus and Loretta Ellers.

Church celebrates 70 years, still enjoying some firsts

It was a celebration of 70 years of Messiah Lutheran Church on Dec. 5 in Houston, but there were some "firsts" also.

Attending the anniversary celebration was Mrs. Gus Hillegeist, one of only two surviving spouses of charter members. With her was her son, Gus Jr., who was the first child baptized at the newly organized Messiah of 1923.

Other "firsts" included Mary Stoppel Schoessow, who was in the first junior confirmation class, and Sam Hall, surviving spouse of the first couple married in Messiah's first church building.

There were 21 children present of six of Messiah's "first" (charter) members. They included:

Children of A.J. Froehlich: Marvin Froelich, Arline Herbrich and Dorothy Martin.

Children of A.T. Froehlich: Thelma Janke, Gladys Kahanek, Opal Scott, Josephine Lem, Alva Lee

Nelson, A.T. Froehlich Jr., Shirley Milton and Gilbert Froelich Sr.

Children of C.E. Froehlich: Mildred Hood, Donald Froehlich and Lawrence Froehlich.

Child of Gus Hillegeist: Gus Hillegeist Jr.

Children of Herman Knigge: Norma Lockey, Mabel Knigge and Ruby Knigge.

Children of William Woelfel: Ruby Fisher, Albert Woelfel and Clarice Holcomb.

Older adults to meet in April

The ALOA (Association of Lutheran Older Adults) "Ventures in Learning" seminar will be held from April 18 to 22 at Camp Lone Star.

Study topics include "Sharing Christ Naturally," "God Upon the Mountain Tops" and "Leadership." The cost for this weeklong event is \$215 per person. Registration forms and more information are available by calling the camp at (409) 247-4128.



Walther League reunion in May

The Walther League is history. But many former Walther Leaguers aren't.

The Lone Star District of the International Walther League was organized 75 years ago. To celebrate the spirit and legacy of the league, former leaguers will gather May 13-15 at Camp Lone Star in La Grange for a reunion.

Highlights of the diamond anniversary celebration feature recognition of Walther League leaders including district officers, zone officers, counselors and committee chairmen. All leaguers will be asked to list their former leadership positions when they register.

Pictorial highlights of the league will be on display. Each leaguer is asked to bring additional photographs or memorabilia for display and conversation.

Highlights at the Friday night to Sunday noon event also include special devotions, fellowship, singing of favorite league songs, an inspirational address and entertainment by the Oak Wilt Boys.

Overnight facilities are available at the camp or at nearby La Grange.

Reservations may be sent to Walther League Reunion, 15618 Seattle, Houston, TX 77040-3026.



GIDDINGS—The oldest member of Immanuel Lutheran in Giddings is August Schubert who celebrated his 98th birthday Nov. 26 last year. Pictured with him are the next four generations of his family: from left, daughter Irene Wiesenhutter, member of St. Paul, Serbin; her daughter, Louise Grimm; Louise's son, Matthew Grimm. In front of Schubert is Matthew Grimm Jr., all members of Immanuel, Giddings.



LA GRANGE—John and Julia Hentschel were married Feb. 2, 1932, at Mount Calvary Lutheran in La Grange. Now, 62 years later, they still are members there.



GIDDINGS—Herbert and Ruth Teinert, Immanuel Lutheran in Giddings, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary Jan. 8.



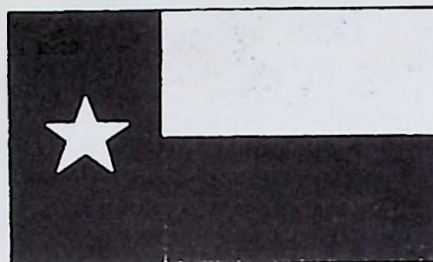
CONFIRMED—Five adults were confirmed and welcomed into the family of faith at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Houston, Dec. 19, 1993. From left are Todd Baker, Bernice Metzler, Ronald Logan, Cynthia Hill and Bryan Hill. Interim Pastor Frank was the officiant.

NEW DISCIPLES—Crown of Life, San Antonio, celebrated the baptisms of two new disciples recently. At left is Suthasinee Jang Plangpraweatu, and at right is Rungta Phorjal. They are cousins, originally from Thailand. Pastor is Mark Barz.





Your Foundation in Texas



Lutheran Foundation poised to embrace 'the Spirit in Texas'

by Glenn Pittsford, Executive Director
Lutheran Foundation of Texas

My friend and colleague, Dr. Keith Loomans, mentioned the phrase "*The Spirit In Texas*" at a recent Texas district staff meeting. The Holy Spirit and the church are indeed alive and active in our district.

- Demographically, Texas is a major growth state. We are now surpassing New York state in total population. Many businesses are relocating to Texas or expanding, taking advantage of the favorable business climate in our state.

The church is also expanding in Texas. We



Glenn Pittsford

continue to serve a growing number of Texans as they worship and honor their Lord.

- We are blessed to have our own Foundation. Through the Foundation, Lutherans in Texas are building an endowment which will help ensure that the

work of the church in the Texas District and beyond will continue far into the future.

Contact the Foundation for basic information on Christian estate planning or for help in accomplishing your particular plan.



1-800-880-3733
926-4272 (Austin)



Please send information on how to serve my Lord through Christian estate planning while also benefiting my family.

MAIL TO: Lutheran Foundation of Texas
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499

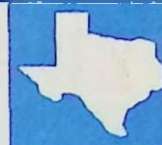
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Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Work Telephone _____

Home Telephone _____



MATTHEW 9:37-38

District LLLers to convene

The Lone Star District LLL will hold its 51st district convention on April 29, 30 and May 1 in historic New Braunfels. Cross Lutheran Church, where Rev. Raymond Reich is pastor, will host the convention.

Pray for Workers is the theme of the convention.

More workers are needed to continue and increase efforts to spread God's Word. With prayer and the Holy Spirit, many will come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

It is because Christ came to save all mankind that the work of the LLL is worthy of your support. The LLL's Lutheran Hour Ministries is one of your congregation's outreach media to *Bring Christ to the Nations — and the Nations to the Church.*

Come, be a part of this exciting ministry.

CONVENTION HIGHLIGHTS

- Friday—registration begins at 2 p.m. with fellowship in the evening.
- Saturday—business sessions, women's and children's events, with child care available at the church.
- Saturday night—Dr. Dale A. Meyer will be the featured speaker at the banquet.
- Sunday—worship

service and Bible class will feature Meyer as speaker and leader.

All these events will be at the New Braunfels Wurst Halle.

Registration and motel reservation information will come to you in a special mailing. This information also will be sent to each district congregation. You also may ask your pastor or church secretary for information.

Cochairmen for the convention are J.R.



Dr. Dale A. Meyer



Eric Fiissel



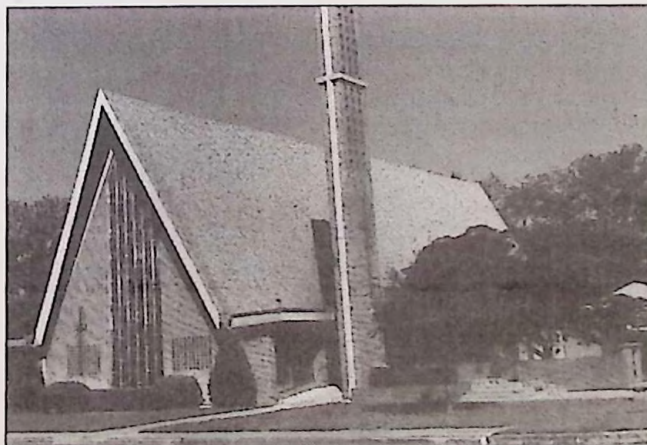
Dr. Guido Merkens

McDowell at (210) 899-3135 and Kenneth Johnson, who can be reached at Cross Lutheran Church, 169 S. Hickory St., New Braunfels, TX 78130.

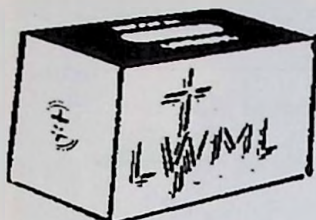
Last year Cross Lutheran Church celebrated 65 years of service to the Lord and now is proud to host and invite you to the 1994 Lone Star District Convention.

The convention will feature the following:

- Dr. Dale A. Meyer, Lutheran Hour speaker, will give us information about the activities of the LLL's Lutheran Hour Ministries.
- Eric Fiissel recently was elected vice president of the Int'l LLL. He will represent the LLL office of St. Louis. Fiissel is a member of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Regina (Canada). Before this, Fiissel served a four-year term as secretary. He also was governor of Region 15, chairman of the LLL Development Committee and a member of the Media and International Ministries Committee and Policy Study Committee.
- Dr. Guido Merkens, who recently joined the LLL staff in St. Louis, currently serves as executive counselor for "Go ... Tell a NEW Generation." Merkens will present practical suggestions on how the laity can assist their pastor and congregation in serving the Lord.
- Steve Maraudeau, an attorney and a member of Concordia Lutheran Church, San Antonio, will serve as chairman of the National Volunteer Committee of the "Go ... Tell a NEW Generation."



Cross Lutheran Church, New Braunfels, Texas



Ministry with mites

Ask any member of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League "what are mites?" and you will get a quick response!

Mites are ministry to our neighbors. Some of these neighbors live in our town, city or state. Some of them live on the other side of the world. Regardless of where this "neighbor" lives, LWMLers save their small change daily to help extend the Kingdom.

What a privilege! With a prayer and a nickel each day dropped in our mite box, we "minister to the people of the world."

These coins, when added together with all the coins from our sisters, do mighty things!

This biennium we have paid \$100,500 on the 1992-94 projects. We still have \$42,000 outstanding. Please see the detailed mite report in this issue.

How is your society doing on its goal of 5 cents per member per day? Right now the Texas District still has a number of projects to fund. With only a few months to go this biennium, our time is running short! We have made a commitment to help missions and services that might go unpaid.

Beginning today, pray that our 1992-94 goal is reached. Encourage your society to rededicate to our current mission effort.

Convention host needed for 1998

A host is needed for the 1998 district convention.

The delegates to the Wichita Falls convention will choose a location for the 1998 district convention.

Why not make your area that place?

Zones, why not join another zone to host a convention? Together, you and a neighboring zone could choose a hotel/convention center that is convenient to both of you.

Contact our district president for details and a bid application form. Write Pat Biar, 1104 30th St., Nederland, 77627.

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, 505 Stonewood Blvd., Roanoke, TX 76262.

LWML

scholarships

It is not too late to send for an application and the "Eligibility and Requirements of Scholarship" forms.

Any Lutheran woman who is a full-time student or planning to be enrolled full time in a synodical college or university in a course of

study leading to full-time professional church work in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod may apply.

To receive the application and eligibility requirements,

send the form to Margaret Goodson, 5623 Georgetown Colony Drive, Houston, TX 77084.

1992-94 Mission Projects update January 1994

1992-94 District Goal	\$275,000
Received January	14,445
Received to date	212,321
Still needed	62,678

	Paid	Balance
1. Seminary Student Scholarships	24,000	—
2. Lutheran Braille Workers	—	15,000
3. Cornerstone House Day Care Center, Houston	—	10,000
4. Family Caring Center, McAllen	10,000	—
5. Asian Bus Ministry	15,000	—
6. Fishers of Men Lutheran Church, Port Isabel	10,000	—
7. Good Samaritan Dormitory Remodeling, Houston	10,000	—
8. Lutheran Leadership Education Materials	—	10,000
9. Fellowship Building Repair, Peace, Galena Park	12,000	—
10. Birkmann Chapel, Concordia College	7,000	—
11. School Playground Security, Grace, Dallas	4,500	—
	92,500	\$35,000
1990-92 Valley Hispanic Ministries	15,000	—
Mission Projects Goal		\$127,500
Paid to date		107,500
Sent to Int'l LWML January		2,812
Sent to Int'l LWML to date		46,632

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, 208 Woodland Ave., Giddings, TX 78942. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.

Send a copy of "Eligibility and Requirements of Scholarship Applicants" to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Applications must be returned by **March 31**.



Christian Growth Workshop Registration Form

Empowered By His Love...To Give!
TX Dist. 1994 LWML Christian Growth Workshop
June 15, 1994
Activities Center - Wichita Falls, Texas

Please Print Clearly

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Home Phone: _____
 Work Phone: _____
 Church Name: _____
 Church City: _____

Registration Fee: \$22.00 (includes lunch)
Registration Deadline: May 15
Late Registration Fee: \$27.00
Make Payable To: TX Dist. LWML 1994
 Christian Growth Workshop
Mail To: Shannon Reid, Registrar
 2726 Hackberry
 Garland, TX 75042
No Refunds After June 1, 1994

Number five (5) choices in order of preference:

- _____ Making God's Mission Our Mission - *Brillinger/Weiser*
- _____ Uniquely You
 -- Accepting One's Self as a Child of God -
Bruncke/Turnipseed
- _____ Sister to Sister
 -- Effective Mentoring, Encouraging Leadership
 Skills - *DeVries/Biar*
- _____ Basic Budget Education
 -- Management of Time, Talent and Treasure -
Dubel/Hurta
- _____ "Having It All" Syndrome
 -- Stress Relief and Balancing of Family and Job -
Kuhlmann
- _____ Effective Bible Study
 -- Personal and Group - *Rohdel/Franke*
- _____ Reach Out and Tell
 -- Personal Evangelism - *Royuk/Fiting*
- _____ Service After Retirement - *Skinner*
- _____ Ways of Communicating
 -- Writing Newsletters, Bible Studies, and Devotions -
Young/Hughes

Empowered by His love—to give

Every day the mailbox overflows with advertisements proclaiming "you are a winner!" "You have been chosen!" What if one day you received notification that read "YOU are the one!" God has chosen YOU for a special purpose in His kingdom.

Would you say, "Wow! When do I start?" or would you cringe and wonder why God had chosen you?

Come join your sisters in Christ at Wichita Falls June 15 for the 1994 Christian



Growth Workshop as we learn that God has chosen us for His purpose, and we are "EMPOWERED BY HIS LOVE ... TO GIVE."

The day is designed to help each participant become aware of her special talents and spiritual gifts, and also be encouraged to use those gifts and talents to the glory of the Triune God.

Intensive Bible study will be the foundation for the workshop. It will be led by the Rev. Kim DeVries, pastor, Mount Calvary, San Antonio.

DeVries is a former Texas District LWML Counselor

and is loved by all who have had the opportunity to know him! He will bring encouragement and challenge! Don't miss it!

Varied interest sessions throughout the day will offer encouragement and inspiration to each of us as well as explore the myriad ways that LWML can be one avenue in which to use our talents and gifts. There will be something for everyone!

Choose five sessions. You will be assigned to two sessions, based on availability.

(Continued on next page.)

(Continued from Page U.)

All session speakers, with the exception of the pastoral counselors, are active LWML women, just like you. When asked to share their talents, they responded with "Yes." A powerful witness of commitment and trust in the Lord's guidance!

Concordia Lutheran College Communications Department will again be taping the sessions and will have copies available for purchase on site. This should make choosing just two sessions to attend much easier.

Registration for the workshop will be \$22 and will include lunch. There will be fun and surprises during lunch, with enough time left for enjoying the company of friends both old and new.

All requests for financial assistance to fund this workshop were regrettably

denied. But we rejoice that the past two Christian growth workshops have been partially funded by Lutheran Brotherhood or Aid Association for Lutherans. We pray that future workshops will receive assistance.

For additional information, look for posters sent to all Texas District congregations in February.

The Christian Growth Committee asks each of you to join them in daily prayer that Christ be the leader of this workshop and all that we do be to honor and glorify Him!

See you there!

*Christian Growth
Committee members:*

Iris Franke, Chairman

Ruth Lemire

Shannon Reid

Jean Wottrich

Rev. David Rohde, district counselor



Annual LWR drive

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall in Dallas is the location for the annual Lutheran World Relief Drive. Deliver your

collected items from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 4-8 at 7611 Park Lane, Dallas 75225; (214) 368-1371.

Especially needed this year are quilts/blankets, men's and children's clothing, health and school kits and soap. Clothes for women will not be accepted, with the exception of women's sweaters.

All items should be clean and in good condition. Send NO WINTER CLOTHING.

Reduce shipping charges by contacting other Lutheran churches in your area and establish a collection point for the freight line. Check with your freight company, they may ship your charity boxes at NO charge.

If you have any questions, contact Katherine Boone, 175 Easton Road, Dallas, 75281; (214) 348-0479.

RAMADA HOTEL WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

ROOM RESERVATION REQUEST LWML Texas District Convention June 15-17, 1994

NAME _____	HOME PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____	WORK PHONE _____
CITY _____	STATE _____ ZIP _____
DATE OF ARRIVAL _____	NUMBER OF NIGHTS _____
TOTAL NUMBER OF ROOMS _____	TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS _____
PREFERRED ACCOMMODATIONS:	_____ King Double (\$62.00)
	_____ Double-Double (\$65.00)
SPECIAL REQUESTS: _____	

MAIL ROOM RESERVATION REQUEST WITH CONVENTION REGISTRATION TO:
LWML '94 Convention, Ardis Jensen, 1111 W. Louisa, Iowa Park, TX 76367



Norma Kramin convention speaker

We are indeed blessed to have as our district convention speaker Norma Kramin from Venice, Fla.

Norma has served her Savior through the LWML for many years. She is the immediate past vice president for mission inspiration of the Int'l LWML. She has served on numerous committees for the International LWML as well as a presenter of interest session for an international convention.

Norma was a member of the Assembly of Leaders 1992 and has been coordinator for publishing *You Are Special* and *A Light That Endures*.

She has served her district, zone and local Christian growth committee both as assistant chairman and chairman.

She has served her society and zone in various committees and Bible study leader.

She has cowritten the LWML Prayer Service in 1981 and the Mustard Seed "And When You Pray." She wrote "The Witness of One" for the fall 1983 issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*.

She serves her congregation as a member of the Board of Education, superintendent of Sunday school,

Skinner to represent Int'l LWML

Iri Skinner, vice president for mission inspiration of the International LWML will attend the Texas District convention in Wichita Falls.

Iri lives in New Orleans and is a member of the Louisiana-Mississippi District.

She is a graduate of

VBS teacher and Bible study leader.

Her favorite Bible verse is Jer. 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Since completing 10 years on the international level, she writes, "I have truly been blessed and changed since my involvement with the LWML. I have learned many valuable lessons which have enabled me to be more the person God created me to be. I have come to know His plans are best."

Norma currently works for her husband of 34 years, Howard Kramin, a retired pastor.

They have three daughters and one son with two grandchildren.

She is excited to have the opportunity to be with the Texas District in convention! She says, "Texans are known for their wonderful hospitality, and I have experienced it personally."

Norma attended both the Houston Int'l LWML convention and the one in Fort Worth. "It is a privilege to be with you in Wichita Falls. I'm looking forward to Texas hospitality!"

Texans look forward to welcoming Norma!

Loyola University, New Orleans, and has served as both a teacher and principal in Lutheran schools for 20 years. She is a trained church organist and choir director.

We look forward to welcoming her to the Texas District Convention!

Rev. Eugene Gruell convention proclaimer

Rev. Eugene Gruell, retired pastor, will serve as proclaimer for the opening communion service in Wichita Falls.

Rev. Gruell "retired" in 1986 but continues to be active in his ministry.

He served as director for the Texas District Board of Missions and has served as a missionary to Cuba. He organized the Commissioned Lay Ministry Program.

Gruell and his wife, Esther, have five children. The family lives on Lake Travis in Austin.

It is with much love that the Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League welcomes Pastor Gruell to Wichita Falls.



*Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League
28th Biennial Convention - Wichita Falls
June 15 - 17, 1994*

'Shine like stars'

Have you ever thought YOU could "shine like a star"? Our convention theme this year is taken from Phil. 2:15-16. It says, "So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life — in order that I may boast in the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing."

The convention committee chose this text so we might have the opportunity to learn how to let Christ shine through our lives each day, regardless of our circumstances.

**Lutheran Women's
Missionary League
Texas District
Convention
June 15-17
Wichita Falls,
Texas**

The days will be filled with spiritual growth, fellowship and family activities.

The Red River Zone invites you to come, grow in the faith, meet new friends and get reacquainted with past convention friends, join in the excitement as we choose new projects for the 1994-96 biennium and elect new officers to lead us.

Rev. Eugene Gruell will serve as proclaimer. Norma Kramin will be the convention speaker. And Iri Skinner will represent the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League Executive Board.

The Christian growth seminar will teach us to be "empowered by His love ... to give".

Don't miss it!

LWML

Mission service ingathering

At every convention, the LWML has an ingathering to benefit local people. In this way they will know we are Christians by our love.

The ingathering for the 1994 convention will benefit two local agencies. The Maternity Cottage and First Step, a shelter for battered women and children.

Each woman attending is asked to bring one of the items listed below:

1. twin-size quilt

2. large package disposable diapers (any size)

3. kit for newborns

- 2 undershirts
- 2 gowns or footed sleepers
- 2 receiving blankets
- 1 sweater
- 1 towel
- 2 wash cloths
- 1 baby soap/wash
- 1 package wipes

4. kit for homeless

- hand towel
- face cloth
- soap (any size)
- shampoo (any size)
- deodorant (any size)
- toothbrush
- toothpaste
- comb
- brush

Put kit items in a Ziploc freezer bag and wrap quilts in plastic to keep clean.

Please enclose a Christian tract or message of love and hope with items.

CONVENTION GUEST REGISTRATION

28th BIENNIAL CONVENTION

TEXAS DISTRICT

LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE

JUNE 15-17, 1994 -- WICHITA FALLS, TEXAS

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Please observe deadlines noted below.
- 2) Complete form in full where applicable. **PLEASE PRINT.**
- 3) Mail with fee to Convention Registrar: LWML '94 Convention, Ardis Jensen, 1111 W. Louisa, Iowa Park, TX 76367
- 4) Make checks payable to "TEXAS DISTRICT LWML 1994 CONVENTION"

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

HOME PHONE _____ WORK PHONE _____

SOCIETY _____ CHURCH _____

CHURCH CITY _____ ZONE _____

REGISTRATION FEES:

	No.	Fee	Total
Early Registration (postmarked by May 15)	_____	@ \$28.00	_____
Registration (after May 15 and on site)	_____	@ \$33.00	_____
One Day Attendance: Thurs. _____ Fri. _____	_____	@ \$20.00	_____
(NOTE: Register Family Members only if they will attend sessions.)			
Spouse Registration (name): _____	_____	@ \$20.00	_____
Dependent Children (16 & over) (names): _____	_____	@ \$20.00	_____
Lunch (Thursday noon)	_____	@ \$ 9.50	_____
Banquet (Thursday evening)	_____	@ \$22.00	_____

TOTAL REMITTANCE

A letter of confirmation will be mailed to all who register prior to June 6, 1994.
No refunds after June 1, 1994.

PLEASE PROVIDE INFORMATION BELOW:

Convention Choir: Yes _____ No _____

Special Assistance required: deaf signer _____ wheelchair _____ other _____

Transportation: Car _____ Air _____ Charter Bus _____ Bus _____ Shuttle Bus from DFW _____

Arrival Date: _____ Time _____ Departure Date: _____ Time _____

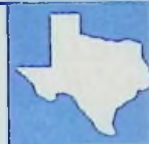
CHILD CARE WILL BE PROVIDED FOR CHILDREN 5 AND UNDER. Number of Children needing Child Care: _____ (Ages of Children -- _____, _____, _____)

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES will be planned if enough are interested. Fees will depend upon number of participants. Please indicate your interest:

Spouse Activities (Golf Tournament): Yes _____ No _____

Children's Activities (6 and older): Yes _____ No _____ (Ages -- _____, _____, _____)

(NOTE: This information must be received by **May 1** for consideration.)



'Render unto Caesar ... and unto God ...'

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, president

Texas District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

April is an eventful month in my life. It is the birth month of my wife Terry (the 10th), my mother Elda (also the 10th), our daughter Angie (the 6th) and Terry's mother, Dorothy Roos (the 15th). Add to these joyful occasions the more painful experience associated with April 15 and the month is indeed eventful!

Actually, as dreadful as April 15 is for many people, that annual date of reconciliation with the Internal Revenue Service is cause for pause to reflect upon the privileges we Americans continue to enjoy.

WHILE IT'S TRUE that many Americans have ongoing concerns about the economy, their own physical safety and national health care, it's also true that we as a nation enjoy a standard of living, a degree of comfort and a level of security unknown to many in the rest of the world.

For these national blessings we pay a price—taxes of various kinds and amounts. And while most of us do our fair share of complaining and begrudgingly part with significant sums of our paychecks or other income sources, the truth is that there is no free lunch. The freedom and pleasures we enjoy have price tags. And we, through our taxes, are the purchasers.

DO WE ALWAYS get what we pay for? Probably not. Do we wish there were more efficiencies, fewer administrative costs and thus more real and meaningful services received by those who pay the tab? Absolutely! Would we like to

trade places with citizens of other countries who have even higher taxation, unbelievable inflation and indescribable corruption? Not me!

So, even though our system of taxation and benefits received therefrom may be far from perfect, it is our responsibility, our duty and our privilege to pay taxes and to live in this country as beneficiaries of the government enacted by the people and for the people.

OBVIOUSLY, our Lord Himself knew everything there was to know about the corruption of the Roman government of His day. Kickbacks, embezzlement, unfairly exacting whatever taxes the traffic would bear—these and other atrocities were standard operating procedure.

And yet, when approached by an individual whose agenda was clearly entrapment of Jesus, He responded to the question, "Is it lawful to pay taxes?" by asking for a Roman coin. After identifying the likeness on the face of the coin, Jesus said, "*Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's.*"

Have you ever stopped to



President Kieschnick

think about the importance of that statement? Is there any comparison in your mind between Caesar (the government) and God? I hope all of us would agree that our almighty God—Author and Finisher of our faith, Creator, Redeemer, Sanctifier, Giver of Eternal Life to all who accept this free gift of God's grace, through faith—is of infinitely greater value and significance than the federal, state or local governments of our land.

BUT WHEN IT comes to rendering unto Caesar and unto God, the minimum level of our mandated contribution to Caesar is 15 percent, with a maximum of 39.6 percent, while the average voluntary contribution to all church and charitable endeavors by American people is 2 percent of annual income. This is probably not exactly what Jesus had in mind.

While we cannot point to a specific passage of Scripture in which Jesus commands the tithe, nevertheless, the giving of 10 percent of one's income plus additional special offerings was

a practice commanded by God in the Old Testament and generally accepted by God's Old Testament people.

AS PEOPLE OF the New Testament, our giving is not to be done out of a sense of duty, but in joyful thanksgiving for the immeasurable blessings God has poured out upon us, for "*God loves a cheerful giver*" (2 Cor. 9:7).

A wise man once gave this advice: "Of your income, give the Lord 10 percent; give yourself (through savings and investments) another 10 percent; and spend or use the rest with a spirit of joy and thanksgiving." That is sage advice!

But acting on that advice, especially if your current practice is far from the above recommendation, is not always an easy step to take. I encourage you to go to the Lord in prayer, ask His blessing upon your decision and for His strength in your life to trust His promise: "*Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse ... test Me in this and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it*" (Mal. 3:10).

GOD'S BLESSINGS to you, my brothers and sisters in Christ, as you "render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's and unto God the things that are God's."

"The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few" (Matt. 9:27).

Recruiting students for ministry: whose job is it? How about yours?

by Dr. M.J. Stelmachowicz

The humorous story is told about a man whose house was being surrounded by flood waters but who refused to leave and said, "I pray to God and He will take care of me and rescue me."

THE NEXT DAY the waters reached the first floor of the house and a rescue boat offered him a ride to safety. But he still refused, expressing his faith in God's protection.

A day later the waters had risen above the second floor and the man now perched on the roof still declined to board a rescue helicopter hovering above. The next day the helicopter returned to find the house completely covered by water and the man gone!

UPON HIS arrival in heaven, the man asked God, "Didn't you hear my prayer? Why didn't you rescue me?" Whereupon God replied, "I heard and answered your prayer. I sent you a boat and a helicopter. Why didn't you accept the help I sent?"

The point of this story is simply that God often chooses to work through a variety of means. The Scriptures teach clearly that God works His will through people. We are privileged to be His instruments, or tools, through which He accom-

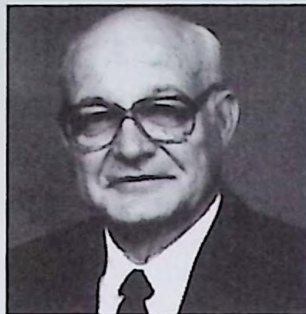
plishes His purposes. The apostle Paul even refers to Christian people as "co-workers together with God."

OFTEN WE LAMENT the fact that there are not more pastors and teachers and other full-time church workers. We wonder why God does not provide more church workers and call them into His service.

We may even pray for more men to enter our seminaries and for more men and women to enroll in our colleges and universities to pre-

pare for service as Christian educators. But are we willing to take one more step and involve ourselves personally as God's instruments or messengers to deliver His call for workers?

Most of us who are privileged to serve as pastors or teachers in the church can usually point to one or two people who personally took the time to "recruit" us for service in the full-time ministry. We are grateful to them for taking time to talk to us and invite us to consider preparing and studying for full-time service to the church.



Dr. Stelmachowicz

HOW MANY young (or older) people have you talked to personally and privately during the past year about possibly becoming preachers or teachers in the church? God can work His will through you and through your words of witness and invitation. But we should not sit back, do nothing and expect God miraculously to supply the need even as the foolish man did in the flood story.

Even Jesus personally re-

About the author

Dr. M. J. Stelmachowicz recently retired to Austin, Texas, after 42 years of service in The LCMS as teacher, pastor, professor, college president and executive in higher education. He urges all of us to "**get involved**" and become God's instruments for the recruitment of church workers. He currently serves on the Recruitment Committee of the Texas District.

tion to study for the ministry, I frankly did not pay much attention, or even take it seriously. In fact, I **laughed** at the prospect of becoming a clergyman. But after the third or fourth conversation, I began soberly to reflect on the possibility and began to pray about it. God did the rest.

One word of caution: Do not invite everybody to become pastors or teachers. We need many more laypeople in the church than we need professional clergy or teachers. Not everyone has the aptitude or skill needed for ministry even though they may be talented and gifted for service in other positions. Choose your candidates carefully. Talk to them personally, prayerfully and persistently. God will do the rest.

Advertise

Doing church work without advertising is like winking at a girl in the dark: You know what you are doing, but nobody else does.

WE NEED, however, to be persistent in our invitations. The first time I was approached with the sugges-

Recruitment is NOT a bad word

cruited His disciples. He invited them one by one and some of them, following His example, told and invited others. We need to follow their example today of one-on-one conversations and invitations to people we believe are well-suited for full-time ministry. We also need to buttress our invitation with fervent prayer to God to bless our efforts and to move the hearts of those to whom we speak if it is His will that they are to become church workers.



Texas District Mission News

by Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration



Rev. Ken
Hennings

Boerne mission receives 44 on one Sunday

God is blessing the ministry of Messiah Lutheran Church in Boerne. On Jan. 20, 44 people were received

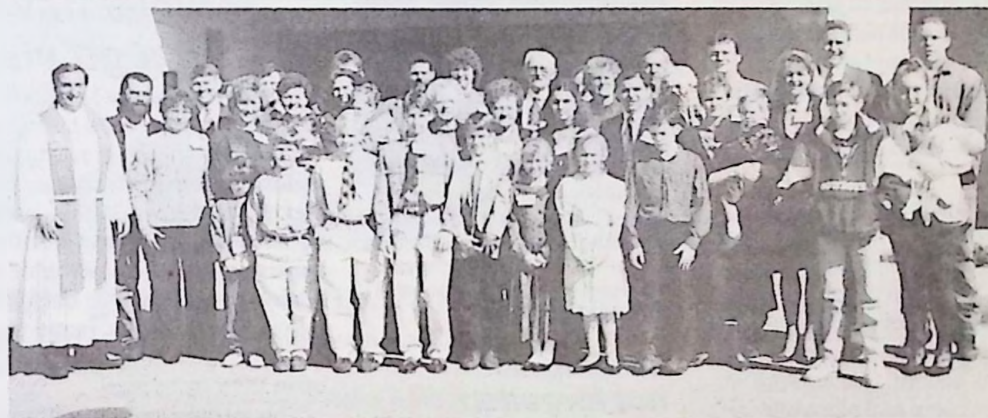


into membership! More than 120 new members have been received in the last 18 months. Messiah is preparing to break ground this summer for its first worship/ministry facility. Rev. Mark Dankis is the mission developer.

CORSICANA

Faith Lutheran Church, Corsicana, participated in the Jaycees' Annual Christmas Parade for the first time and won FIRST PLACE in the religious category! What an accomplishment!

A lot of hard work went into making the nativity scene for the float. Children made up the nativity characters and had lots of fun. This was great exposure to the community.



Thanks goes to all those who helped and participated, especially to Hersch Cooper, for construction, Ron Fledmann for driving and Gwen Schryver for organizing the children. A beautiful plaque and pictures are on display in the fellowship hall.

DEL RIO

Rev. Gary Martin, pastor for Iglesia Luterana, Cristo El Salvador, reports that mission work in Del Rio has had some exciting results.

Martin visited a young woman in the county jail for Bible study. She had invited three other inmates from

her cell to the Bible study, which was done in Spanish. A week earlier she asked him to bring three Spanish Bibles for her friends who also wanted to study God's Word. Martin shared that this was a new experience for him, but what a wonderful opportunity!

Last June, four youth groups built a small house on the mission property, which was rented out in December.

Marisa Hernandez, a second-year student at Concordia, Austin, is studying to serve as an elementary teacher in Lutheran day schools. Marisa is bilingual, but Spanish is her first lan-

guage. She first began studying with us in Mexico when she was about 8 years old. Her family moved to Del Rio when she was in the third grade. She likes school and is doing well.

One Sunday in December, Iglesia Luterana had a record attendance of 105 at the worship service. The Lord has blessed this mission beyond what was expected!

A new group of people are in adult instruction at this time. Most of them are from Roman Catholic backgrounds and have not studied the Scriptures. It reminds us that the Reformation still occurs in people's lives today!

Texas Lutherans quick to aid quake-ravaged Californians

Disaster aid to fellow Lutherans in California was immediate from the Texas District following January's devastating earthquake there.

Even as many Texas District congregations were taking door offerings to aid the quake victims, District President Jerry Kieschnick authorized an emergency grant of \$5,000 sent to LCMS World Relief for appropriate distribution.

Rev. Gordon Albers, chairman of the District Social Ministry Committee of the Board of Parish Services, said 14 LCMS churches were affected by the quake. Albers quoted

Rev. Loren Kramer, president of the Pacific Southwest District, as saying "We're living in a bowl of jelly out here. The destruction is more than we can handle. We need the help of the church and your prayers to keep us going."

In requesting aid for earthquake victims, Albers cited the response of Texas District Lutherans to the Midwest flood disaster of 1993, in which district congregations sent offerings of \$71,579.88.

"We praise God for the response of love from each of you and your congregation," Albers wrote to district congregations.

Special events to mark 100th at Abilene

A number of special events will be held during 1994 at Zion Lutheran in Abilene as the congregation builds up to the celebration of its 100th anniversary Nov. 13.

Theme for the year's events is "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift."

In January Zion observed Education Sunday, honoring teachers and students of its day school, former Walther Leaguers and all confirmands.

On June 12, a special service will give recognition to members of the military who now or have made Zion their church home while stationed at Tye Air Force Base, Dyess AFB or Camp Barkley.

A final special service will be held Nov. 13 for the 100th anniversary. A reception Saturday, Nov. 12, will feature a memorabilia display collected through the years.

On Nov. 13, Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, president of the Texas District, will lead the Sunday morning service. Afterward, a meal will be served, at which Rev. Eugene Gruell of Austin will speak.



RETIREES—Rev. Delmer Brack retired Jan. 30 after 42 years in the ministry. He was pastor of St. Luke Lutheran, Olney. He was honored at a farewell reception.

Missing but not forgotten

A list of names of inactive members is in an envelope that was placed on the altar at Christ Lutheran in Austin.

At each worship service, the pastors include prayers for the inactives, defined as one who has not worshiped at Christ in a month.

Said Pastor James Linderman, "Our prayer is that God will remove that which is preventing our inactives from worshipping regularly with our church family, and will give them the strength to become active again."



Linderman

IN TEXAS

Quake haven for child; 'let's go visit grandma'

One of hardest-hit LCMS churches during the January earthquake was Peace Lutheran of Lakeview Terrace, Calif.

There was heavy construction damage to both church and parsonage, including a grand piano in the nave being picked up, thrown 10 feet, upside down.

Pastor is Jon Imme. His wife is from San Salvador and has experienced catastrophic earthquakes in her homeland where thousands have been killed. Like many Hispanics, as reported on TV, Mrs. Imme was reluctant to re-enter their dwellings. She and the Imme children moved into a tent set up in their front yard.

This suggestion came from their daughter.

"Let's spend the summer with Grandpa and Grandma in Texas."



BRaille GROUP—These Braille workers of Trinity Lutheran, Livingston, stand before a month's labor, nearly 11,000 Imprinted pages of Braille scripture. Coordinator is Katharine Wolf, second from left. Pastor is Vic Winkelman.



**It's
camp
time**

Lutheran camps great for family reunions

Add something special to your next family reunion: Camp Lone Star in LaGrange or Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro!

A family get-together at camp, with a spiritual emphasis, is the perfect combination for all generations of Christian families today. Resource persons can be provided for devotions, campfire sing-a-longs, Scripture studies and other activities.

Outdoor recreation at Lone Star and Texo-

ma includes swimming, canoeing and boating, fishing, Challenge Course programs, hiking and jogging trails and much more. Meeting space, full food and beverage services, and overnight accommodations are available as well.

For more information about hosting a family reunion at camp, call Camp Lone Star at (409) 247-4128 or Texoma Lutheran Camp at (903) 786-3121.

Weekend for singles coming up June 10-12

Calling all singles! Get ready for the annual TLC Singles Weekend June 10-12! The event begins Friday at 8 p.m. and ends Sunday at 1 p.m. Activities will include mixers, Bible study, Challenge Course and lake activities (optional), hiking, campfire devotions and singing, among other things.

The cost is \$35 per person for use of the campground, \$45 per person for use of the

shelter, \$55 per person for the cabins, or \$65 per person for motel-quality rooms. All meals for Saturday and Sunday will be provided. Linens are provided only in motel rooms, so if you plan to use the campground, bring your own camping equipment. If you like to fish, bring your gear!

All registration forms must be returned to Texoma Lutheran Camp, Rt. 1, Box

116-P, Pottsboro, TX 75076 by May 23.

For more information or registration forms, call Texoma Lutheran Camp at (903) 786-3121.

Camp Lone Star in LaGrange and Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro are accepting registrations for the 1994 summer camping season.

The summer will be filled with action as campers learn to live their Christian faith and have fun doing it.

Programs are for youth ages 5 to 18 plus a special new weekend program that includes parents.

For more information, call Camp Lone Star at (409), 247-4128 or Texoma Lutheran Camp at (903) 786-3121. Register now to make sure your kids can be in the session they want!

And bring a friend

Many youngsters come to summer camp by themselves. They have a great time making new friends and sharing their faith! However, if your child has a friend or neighbor who is interested in a Christian camp experience, encourage them to sign up when your child does.

LUTHERAN FOUNDATION OF TEXAS



LEADERS—These are board members of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas with their spouses, along with Foundation staff and Texas District officials.

Capable directors help Foundation to help you

by Glenn Pittsford
Executive Director

Lutheran Foundation of Texas

The Lutheran Foundation of Texas was organized in 1960 as an agency of the Texas District to assist Lutherans of Texas in the stewardship of Christian estate planning. Over the years, the Foundation has been blessed with capable, dedicated, loving leadership by its board of directors.



Pittsford

The Lutheran Foundation Board of Directors is elected by the Foundation and approved by the Texas District Board of Directors. At least one pastor, one Lutheran educator and five laypeople serve on the board. Currently, the directors of the Foundation are:

- Herb Noack, Houston, president—a member of Salem, Tomball, and a certified public accountant and partner in the firm of Deliotte & Touche, Houston.
- Alton Marwitz, Lampasas, vice president—a member of Faith, Lampasas and president of First Texas Bank, Lampasas.

- Karl Lemke, Palestine, treasurer—a member of First, Lufkin, and manager of Investment Center for Royal National Bank Group (main office in Palestine; branch office in Lufkin).

- Katherine Bolland, Dallas, secretary—a member of Zion, Dallas, and a retired Lutheran school teacher.

- Rev. Dewyth Beltz, Klein—a member of Trinity, Klein, and a retired pastor.

- Don Bokenkamp, Burton—a member of Immanuel, Giddings, and owner of Bokenkamp Drilling Company.

- Kenneth Haunschild, Kingsville—a member of St. Paul, Kingsville, and owner of Haunschild Distributing Company.

- Homer Meil, Dumas—a member of St. John, Dumas, and in the oil business.

- Herb Nelson, Georgetown, Texas. Herb is a member of Faith, Georgetown, and a retired Johnson and Johnson Company executive.

These leaders and the Lutheran Foundation are committed to serving the Lutheran individuals and families of Texas and the ministries of the Texas District and Missouri Synod to the glory of God.

What directors say about Lutheran Foundation of Texas

Katherine Bolland

"To see the growth of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas has been exciting. Just as an oak tree grows from one small acorn, so the Lutheran Foundation of Texas has flourished from the vision of one individual. Today it serves innumerable individuals and institutions. Under God's blessings the grade school child, the college student, the missionary in a foreign field, the retiree all benefit because committed Christians utilize the services of the Foundation. The vision for the future is even more exciting. "...Gladly Lord as you

bless us to you our firstfruits give" (LW 405:2).

Herb Noack

"Becoming a member of the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas (LFOT) and seeing the Foundation grow significantly over the last 10 years, has truly been gratifying. In the world in which we live today, it is comforting to know the Foundation is an organization Christians can use to return a part of their earthly blessings which provide funding for all ministries of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod."

Joyfully fit

A number of members of Immanuel Lutheran of Temple have joined a beginners aerobic class that meets in the church gym on Sunday afternoons.

They call themselves the "Joyfully Fit Christians."

Communications research set for district

Seven people have been approved for the Texas District Communications Commission by the District Board of Directors. The commission was established last year to evaluate the new generation of electronic communications devices and how they might be used in the work of the district and its congregations.

Named to the commission were Bill Wagner, Rev. Dennis Bragdon, David Hinkle, Rev. Mike Ramming, Dr. John Frahm, Suzanne Mueller and Rev. Jim Otte.

District President Jerry Kieschnick said the commission will study "ways to connect the district office with district congregations, and district congregations among themselves."

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



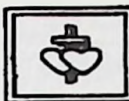
FIVE GENERATIONS—Last Dec. 26, T.A. and Lou Houston of Our Savior, Centerville, were joined in worship by Lou's mother Irita Cox of Mena Ark. Also attending was their daughter Deborah Honea of Hitchcock, and granddaughters Celeste Marshall and Wendy Inman of Texas City, along with great-granddaughters Tyler Leighanne Marshall and Michele Anne Marie Inman.



IRVING—Our Redeemer, Irving, added 11 new members Nov. 7, 1993. From left, front, are Roger Klein, Sandilee Aves, Sandra Kirkland and Kathryn Kramer. From left, back, Deanna Johns, Debora Snow and Rick Dixon. Not in photo are Gary Garner, Jan and Tyler Kammer, and Gretchen Nelson.



GARLAND—Received into fellowship last Dec. 12 at Peace Lutheran, Garland, were, from left, back, Rev. Carl C. Fickenscher II, pastor; Todd Watkins and son, Thaddeaus; Mike Hoffmann, Kurt Freeman and Rev. Scott Quinn, also a Peace pastor. Front, from left, Twylla Maddux, Mike Arnold, Art Arnold, Kelley Arnold and Lydia Helberg.



Anniversaries

The following Lutheran couples of the Texas District recently celebrated 50 or more years of marriage.

St. Paul, Wichita Falls: Glenn and Frances Ladd, 50 years, Jan. 23.

St. John, Galveston: Lorenz and Elizabeth Gast, 50 years, Dec. 18.

Trinity, Sealy: Jones and Edna Finke, 56 years, Jan. 1; Arnold and Evelyn Graf, 52 years, Jan. 28.

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Katherine and Eugene Riegler, 56 years, Feb. 2.

St. Paul, San Antonio: Gilbert and Eleanor Torres, 62 years, Feb. 8.

Cross, New Braunfels: Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hillegeist, 52 years, Feb. 5; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Moerbe, 65 years, Feb. 12; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wendler, 50 years, Feb. 16.

Hope, Austin: Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Smock, 54 years, Feb. 14; Mr. and Mrs. John Heine, 53 years, Feb. 13.

St. Paul, Fort Worth: Helen and Charles Watson, 53 years, March 8; Edith and Woody Foster, 58 years, March 10; Elaine and Claude Beeman Jr., 50 years, March 11; Lydia and Haskel Baker, 59 years, March 14.

St. Michael, Winches-ter: Orville and Wilma Stuessel, 57 years, Feb. 16.



PASADENA—Arthur and Eunice Mueller, celebrated 50 years of marriage last Dec. 19. They are members of Zion Lutheran, Pasadena.



AUSTIN—Harold and Alvina Derenberger, charter members of Christ Lutheran, Austin, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 9.

100th birthday in Wichita Falls

Two special services will mark the 100th anniversary in 1994 of St. Paul Lutheran in Wichita Falls.

Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, president of the Texas District, will be the preacher at celebration services Sept. 11.

On Oct. 30, Dr. A.L. Barry, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, will preach at a grand celebration Reformation service Oct. 30.

Pastor of St. Paul is Rev. Thomas V. Handrick.

HAPPENINGS IN TEXAS

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

On April 16 and 17, the staff and members of **St. Paul Lutheran Church and School, McAllen**, will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Christian day school. Plans include a banquet on Saturday and a special thanksgiving service on Sunday.

James W. Grove, chairman of the board of elders at **St. Paul, Wichita Falls**, was named governor of the North Texas District of Optimist International. The district has 88 clubs.

Being the best that you can be is Melissa White, **St. Andrew, Houston**, who graduated *summa cum laude* from Texas A&M with a degree in accounting. She attended A&M on a National Merit Scholarship.

Through the working of the Holy Spirit, six adults were confirmed, three children baptized and 13 adults and seven children received on a recent Sunday at **Tree of Life, Garland**. "We thank God for them," said Pastor Donald R. Hefta.

A high-tech groundbreaking was held Jan. 22-23 for a new worship center at **Salem, Tomball**. The congregation watched on big-screen TV as the new site literally exploded. Jimmy Glameyer arranged the spectacular ground-breaking experience.

Thanks to the imagination and talents of Connie Tidwell and Bonnie Sullivan,

Redeemer, Odessa, was one of only two churches in Odessa to enter a float in the Heritage Festival Parade. Beautifully designed to depict the "Greatest Birthday of All," the float shared the reason for the season, lifting up the Christ Child to the community.

Congratulations to Cecilia Ladd, **Prince of Peace, Belton**, cited in the print media for outstanding community service through various organizations including the Temple Free Clinic where she organized the volunteer program.

Five students from the Texas District made grade point averages of 3.5 or higher to qualify for the term Honors List at **Concordia College, Seward, Neb.** They are Rachel Doering, Trinity, Taylor; Kristie Elliott, Peace, Hurst; Lisa Held, Trinity, Houston; Beth Royuk, Trinity, Klein; and James Tobaben, Messiah, Richardson.

Scott Graham, **Trinity, Klein**, was elected Homecoming King at Sam Houston State University. He's a senior, majoring in music composition.

The Texas District Board of Directors has approved expanding the district's Lutheran School Accreditation Commission from nine to 10 members. Named to the new position was Dr. Sandra Doering of Austin's Concordia Lutheran College.



ODESSA—Loretta Kelm, right, **Redeemer, Odessa**, was chosen by the local branch of Aid Association for Lutherans as the "Volunteer of the Year." A certificate of appreciation and a cash gift were presented at the annual congregational fellowship meal and meeting last Dec. 12. Making the presentation was Bob Crabtree, local branch president. Earlene Lagow, left, is AAL district representative.

Congratulations to Jimmie Schindewolf, **Trinity, Klein**, chosen 1994 as Houston area "Engineer of the Year." The citation noted his commitment to the engineering profession, City of Houston, and citizens of Harris County.

St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Worth, was awarded a \$300 grant by Aid Association for Lutherans to enable the faculty, through inservice training, to grow in ability and commitment.

Following its renovation, the house of worship of **St. John, San Benito**, was rededicated Feb. 13 with Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, district president, as speaker. Marcus Mueller is pastor.

Rev. Timothy Carr was installed March 6 as pastor of **Immanuel, Houston**. He formerly served St. John, Hamilton.

An extremely talented scholar and athlete, Kathryn Biar has made the Academic All-American Team for the

second straight year. She's a senior at Incarnate Word in San Antonio, an all-star soccer player, a member of **King of Kings in San Antonio**, and has a 3.93 GPA.

Congratulations to Paula Cox, **Grace, Orange**, who graduated *cum laude* from Lamar University as a registered nurse.

Timothy Rosenthal was installed Feb. 13 as pastor of **Zion, Abilene**. He comes to



Rosenthal

Zion from St. John, Athens, before which he was pastor of the dual parishes of Brady and Menard.

Name of the LWML chapter at **Crown of Life, San Antonio**, is the Crown Jewels.

One of the members helping organize a golf association at **Redeemer, Austin**, is Arnold Palmer. No, not THAT one!



Light of the world

The light doesn't go out at Concordia Lutheran in Houston on Sundays. It becomes a message to the world.

The Sunday acolyte relights his candlelighter from the last candle burning, then carries the flame down the center isle.

The connotation is that as members leave the church, they carry the message of Christ crucified to the world.

Their hearts are in the country

Three students at Concordia College in Seward, Neb. who are from the Texas District have received scholarships with a distinct purpose.

They are recipients of scholarships from the Institute for Rural Ministry at Concordia. The institute awards the scholarships to professional church work students who intend to serve the church in a rural area.

Receiving the scholarships were:

Barbara Wilson, a senior from San Marcos and member of Grace Lutheran there. She's in the director of Christian education program.

Rick Terry, a senior from Hamilton, is a member of Prince of Peace in Carrollton and also is in the director of Christian education program.

Robbin Thomason, a junior from Granbury, is a member of Our Savior there. She's in the teacher education program.

Wheat Ridge Ministries provides seed grant to get CAN-DO mission project up and running

by Randy Potts

We are excited to announce that Wheat Ridge Ministries has granted \$45,000 in seed funding over three years to help with the start-up of the Project CAN-DO mission curriculum, pledge campaign and servant event process. We give thanks to Wheat Ridge Ministries for its support of the youth-led Project CAN-DO effort to bring Christ to a hurting world at sites in Texas, Russia and Slovakia.

- The seed funding will make it possible for youth and adults to become personally involved in mission and servanthood through youth adopted/funded mission fields and mission servant events. The goal is to dramatically change the lives of youth and adults to become more intentionally mission-minded on the local, district and international levels.

Wheat Ridge is assisting Project CAN-DO in its effort to raise up and train the youth as the mission-minded leaders of today and tomorrow, sharing the Gospel message and love of Christ with those in need.

- Project CAN-DO is already touching lives with the healing power of the gospel message. The CAN-DO vision was shared with 1,760 youth and adults at the Glorybound kick-off. More than 300 people representing 100 Texas congregations have been trained to implement the CAN-DO mission curriculum, pledge campaign and servant event process in their local churches.



THANKS A BUNCH—At a thank-you breakfast in Austin, Randy Potts, left, Project CAN-DO director, presents CAN-DO poster with Wheat Ridge logo to Dr. Richard Bimler, president of Wheat Ridge Ministries, which gave CAN-DO a seedling grant.

These 100 CAN-DO congregations, which represent more than 42 percent of the districtwide communicant membership, are enthusiastically implementing Project CAN-DO.

There is much excitement and spirit-filled energy as the youth grow in their mission awareness and commitment, challenging the

adults to follow. Youth are not only leading the effort, but are serving as the pledge "pacesetters" in this districtwide mission effort.

- They are also preparing to get their hands dirty, as more than 450 CAN-DO servants are expected to participate in five Texas and two international CAN-DO mission servant events planned for this summer. Youth and adults will be personally linked to the mission fields

that they are supporting through their CAN-DO pledges.

The Project CAN-DO districtwide goal is to raise \$1 million in new mission funds and to empower 450 servants into mission field action. The first \$25,000 has

already been sent to Kanneljärven, Russia where it will fund a roof for the Lutheran

church there and provide worship space for the growing congregation.

- Some 50 mission projects in Texas, Russia and Slovakia have been identified to be funded as the Project CAN-DO mission dollars flow in. Texas congregations who may have missed the CAN-DO training workshops are invited to telephone the CAN-DO office at the Texas District to make arrangements to become a CAN-DO congregation.



The future of Lutheran education

Cotton, Shannon, Amber, Harvey and Kim—they are five of the 191 Concordia students studying to become teachers. In addition to their rigorous schedules to fulfill requirements for Texas teacher certification, the five take additional classes in order to receive the Lutheran Teacher Diploma. Ninety-six Concordians are currently enrolled in the Lutheran teacher program.

Teacher education, which includes early childhood, elementary and secondary education, is the most populous Concordia program. Under the leadership of Dr. Barbara Morton, Concordia teacher education has earned a statewide reputation for excellence, supported by the outstanding record of Concordia graduates on the Examination for the Certification of Educators in Texas (ExCET).

With stringent requirements and a certification test at the conclusion, the teacher education program demands much of its students. The old saying, "Those who can, do, and those who can't, teach," is certainly not true today, if it ever was. Concordia's teacher education students are some of its best and brightest and most hard-working.

Cotton, Shannon, Amber, Harvey and Kim are good examples.

• **Junior Cotton Mendenhall** says all his role models have been teachers. He attended Lutheran schools from fourth grade through high school (Dallas Lutheran High), and he wants to stay with Lutheran education as a teacher. He is

studying for a math specialty in elementary education.

Cotton participates in the Religious Life Committee and Club Ed and serves as a Concordia Ambassador at CLC admissions and public relations functions. In addition, he works for the campus food service and during the summers as a counselor at Camp Texoma.

"I'm looking forward to my student teaching next year," Cotton says. "The Concordia professors make sure you know your stuff. They won't send you out until you are ready."

• **Senior Shannon Dicke** personifies the phrase "a whirlwind of energy." During her four years at Concordia she has held several on-campus jobs (often more than one at a time); participated in Student Govern-

ment, Club Ed, intramural athletics and interscholastic tennis.

She was named to the Dean's Honors List, has served as a Concordia Ambassador and was elected class favorite three times. This spring she moved to San Antonio for her student teaching semester with second graders at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran School.

Shannon says she has wanted to be a teacher since her own second-grade year. Living in Knippa, she never attended a Lutheran school, so it was not until she attended a Texas District Ministerial Youth Retreat that she became excited about teaching as a church ministry.

"Teacher Ed is a hard program because you are learning both the subject matter and how to teach the subject," Shannon says. "But the

professors work you into the actual classroom one step at a time, so that I'm excited, not scared, about student teaching."

• **Junior Amber Maroney** is a member of Concordia's Dance Team, which performs at athletic events, and has been included on the Dean's Honors List. While taking a full load of classes, she also works four hours a day as assistant teacher for a 3-year-old class at a Lutheran school.

Amber says she has wanted to be a Lutheran teacher since she started first grade at Concordia Lutheran School in San Antonio. Her role model is her mother Margie, who also attended the school (they had the same first grade teacher!) and who now teaches there.

"I want to help children learn how to teach themselves," Amber says. "That's why I want to work with the younger children, to give them a good foundation."

Particularly because of the amount of hands-on classroom experience built into the program, Amber believes, "Teacher education at CLC is the best you can get."

• **Sophomore Harvey Richter** caught the "teaching bug" during his junior year in high school while helping his sister, Alicia (a CLC graduate), with preparations for her elementary classroom. In contrast to Alicia, however, Harvey will teach on the secondary level in mathematics and music. He has attended Lutheran schools all his life, graduating from Lutheran High North in Houston.

Harvey is active with the



GETTING READY FOR THE FUTURE—Seated, from left, are Cotton Mendenhall, Shannon Dicke, Amber Maroney; standing are Harvey Richter and Kim Sowers.



Religious Life Committee and Club Ed. He sings with the College Choir and has acted in a campus drama production. In his "spare time" he works for Concordia Media Services, setting up sound equipment and taping classes for broadcast on CLC-TV.

"The Concordia students and professors in teacher education are like a big family," Harvey says. "You don't ever have to deal with a problem alone, whether it's academic or personal."

• **Kim Sowers** is one of several non-traditional students in the Concordia Teacher Education program. She is the 34-year-old wife of an Army chaplain, Tim, and the mother of a seventh grader, Christy. The family lives in Walburg, about 35 miles from Austin, to allow Tim to commute to Fort Hood while Kim commutes to Concordia to complete a degree in elementary education with a physical education specialty.

Kim began her college education in 1977 at St. John's College in Kansas, where she met Tim and married him after her freshman year. In the years following, she added a few college classes here and there as the couple moved. Tim's assignment to Fort Hood in 1992 allowed her to enroll at Concordia.

"Returning to a Lutheran college has been a wonderful experience," Kim says. "The students and professors all put their hearts and souls into the program. You know you are really being educated."

In addition to driving to Austin every week day for classes, Kim takes one class

through videotapes of a television class, checked out to her because CLC-TV on CableMaxx does not broadcast to Walburg. She will complete her degree next spring.

• These five and others equally talented and energetic are pursuing a career that requires long hours and will never make them rich. They have chosen not a job, but a ministry.

Most teacher education students come from families of modest means. Many are the children of teachers. But through part-time jobs, loans and scholarships they manage to attend a Lutheran college because they want to be not just teachers, but *Lutheran* teachers.

You can help educate a teacher

Most of Concordia's future Lutheran teachers need financial assistance to attend. Several endowments have been established at Concordia for church work students, but more are needed.

To discuss what you can do to ensure the continuation of Lutheran education through teacher training, call Mike Linebrink or Ray Martens at the Concordia Development Office at (512) 452-7661. You can make a difference.

Church Music Workshop set for June at CLC

Concordia Lutheran College of Texas in Austin will host its 10th annual Church Music Workshop this summer, June 20-24.

This year's guest present-



CONCORDIA WANTS YOU to play in the Tom Landry Golf Tournament June 6 to benefit student scholarships at Concordia. The tournament will be held in San Antonio. Registration information will be included in the May LUTHERAN WITNESS. The young man is Hunter Nelson, nephew of Don Bokenkamp of the Concordia Board of Regents.

er will be composer, organist and choirmaster Michael Burkhardt, musical director at Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minn. His main topics will be organ improvisation and music for children's voices, two of his special areas of expertise.

The workshops will be led by Professors Harold Rutz, Bernard Gastler and Robert Achterberg of the Concordia music faculty.

The workshops will include sessions on choral reading and organ literature, instruction in choral direction and organ performance, assistance in planning worship music and suggestions for varied worship experiences. Participants will have opportunities for practice and performance as individuals and in groups.

Food service and housing

will be available on the Concordia campus. For more information and registration forms, call Professor Harold Rutz at (512) 452-7661.

Sneak-a-Peek on April 16

Concordia Lutheran College will host a visitation day for high school students and their parents on Saturday, April 16. The Sneak-a-Peek Day will include sessions on financial assistance and student life, as well as a College Fair to allow prospective students to learn about CLC programs and majors.

Call the Concordia Admissions Office to register and for more information at 1-800-285-4CLC.

The last Sneak-a-Peek Day before fall will be June 27.

THE LORD ADDED ...

CANYON—Rev. Wayne Pafk, formerly of Lago Vista, was installed Jan. 9 as pastor of St. Paul, Canyon. Participating, from left, were Revs. Don Kirkland, Hereford; Robert Kuhlmann, Amarillo; Mark Tews, Dumas; Pafk; Richard Greenethaner, Lariat; Gerald Petsch, Amarillo; Vicar Tim Parker, Amarillo.

Welcome



GLORIA DEI—Gloria Dei, Nassau Bay (Houston), received 42 members into membership last Dec. 5. Senior Pastor John Kieschnick and Associate Pastor John Lindner welcomed 18 by adult confirmation/baptism; eight by profession of faith; 11 by transfer and five by other Lutheran transfer.



IMMANUEL—The church family of Immanuel, Houston, grew by 32 in 1933. Vacancy Pastor is Phil J. Konz.



RICHARDSON—Ron and Sandy Ward, left, and Glenn Zanotti, right, were received Jan. 23 as new members of Messiah, Richardson. Pastor is Victor Kollmann.



ORANGE—Two adults and four young people were welcomed recently as new members at Grace, Orange. They are Shelli and Nick McClure; James, Susan, Dustin, Derek and Damon Frye; Megan Hudson. Pastor is Eddie R. Scheler.



BONHAM—Zion Lutheran of Bonham welcomed these new members into fellowship; four by transfer, one by profession of faith, with two children baptized. Rev. Loren DuBois is pastor.



Our bright Lutheran kids ...

The young people of St. Paul, San Antonio, have a genuine gift of service to others. In February, along with youth from Bethany in Austin, they went to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, where they helped with badly needed repairs of a church and parsonage. This summer, a group of youth and adults from St. Paul will participate in a special Servant Event in San Rafael, Mexico, a small town in the Sierra Madre mountains an hour's drive from Saltillo. There, they will join other youth and adults in helping build a new sanctuary for a Lutheran mission. The kids pay to go. Terrific bunch, huh!

Nathan Fischer, St. Mark, Houston, was named a Commended Student in the 1994 National Merit Scholarship Program. That makes the senior at Lutheran High North in the top 5 percent of more than a million program entrants.

Carre Huber, Holy Cross, Nederland, is co-captain of her high school soccer team.

Congratulations to Kim Nagy, St. Matthew, Westfield (Houston), who advanced through four competitive auditions at district, region and area levels to be chosen for the Texas All-State Choir. The choir performed at the Texas Music Educators Association clinic Feb. 12 in San Antonio.

And also making the All-State Choir was Caryn Rommel, Lamb of God, Humble.

William Knipp, Concordia, Bedford, received the Cub Scout God and Country Award Jan. 16 from Pastor Roger Grummer.

...

If you watched the Aloha Bowl in Honolulu last Dec.



Amy

25 you may have seen Amy Whalen, Our Savior, McKinney. She was one of the

cheerleaders because she made All-American in cheerleader camp. Later she earned ninth place in "Best Cheerleader" competition at the National Cheerleaders Association championship. She's a member of the senior youth group at Our Savior.

...

Rob Dorsch, Faith, Gainesville, was named to the President's Honor Roll at Texas State Technical College in Waco. He's a student in the college's golf course and turf management



Natalie

Rebecca

program.

Who says you can't lick city hall? Natalie Fischer and Rebecca Symmank, St. Mark, Houston, have written the Houston mayor's office on occasion regarding



WE'RE NO. 1!—The varsity girls basketball team of Immanuel, Houston, won first place in Houston's Lutheran tournament. Coach is the school principal, Ron Fritsche.

conservation issues. When Houston Mayor Bob Lanier was inaugurated, both the girls were invited to his inauguration ceremonies. They are ninth graders at Lutheran High North.

Melanie Gebhard, St. Mark, Houston, was selected by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution as Good Citizen from Lutheran High North.

Meredith Wright, Bethany, Houston, was named to the Texas Private School Music Educators Association All-State Band. She ranked seventh among 29 flute players auditioned.

...

The youth of St. John, Hamilton, have named themselves the CWA. That stands for Christians With Attitudes.

...

Included in the gaggle of bright kids at Zion, Tom-

ball, are these young artists who were award winners at the Tomball School District Rodeo Art Show: Bobby Ware, Nathan Dane, Kelly Teichmiller, Steven Jatziau, Heather Pusok, Jennifer Pusok, K.C. Schultz, Mandy Klein and Jenna Swonke. Also, for her talents on the flute, Kelly was named to the all-region band as was Nathan on the tenor trombone.

Devin Baerenwald, Lord of Life, Plano, was first place winner in his elementary school's literature division of the 1993 Reflections Program. He won for his short story on "If I Could Give the World a Gift."

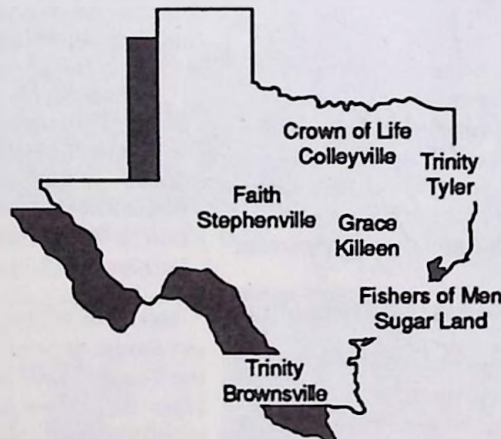
For his demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit, Michael Lockhart, Redeemer, Austin, was chosen to attend the National Youth Leaders Conference in Washington. He's a senior.

Who Will Benefit From My Investments On CEF Sunday?



This diagram illustrates what will happen as a result of monies being invested in the CEF:

1. CEF provides the opportunity for all members to invest a part of their savings to serve their Lord.
2. CEF provides low interest loans to Texas District congregations to build, expand, remodel, or refinance.
3. The congregation repays its loan, plus interest to CEF.
4. CEF returns the principal and interest to the investor. The CEF circle of ministry is complete!



**Here is a partial list of congregations
who will benefit from your
investments in the CEF ministry**

Remember . . . when you invest in Church Extension you make possible a place for the Gospel to be proclaimed!

For more information, contact your CEF congregational representative, your pastor, or the district office.



Siegrist

Bill Siegrist
7900 E. Highway 290
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(512) 926-4272
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Send your news to Bill

Send your photos, stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:

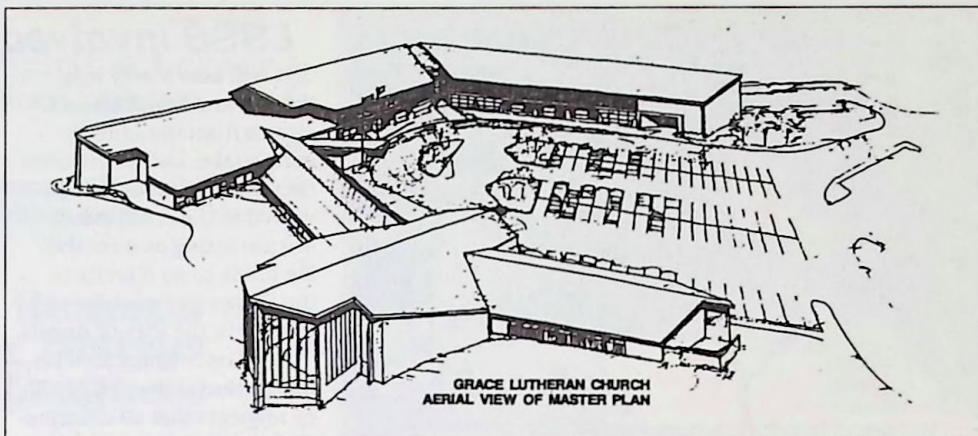
Bill Wagner, editor
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-1499

Campus ministry grant awarded

Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) has awarded St. Paul Lutheran Church and University Center in Denton a \$2,500 grant to help develop a new program to enhance campus ministry.

The grant is part of AAL's emphasis on assisting Lutheran campus ministries across the country to pursue leadership development opportunities or to explore new horizons within their ministries.

Campus ministries are designed to reach out to young adults who may be away from home for the first time, making decisions that will affect the rest of their lives, and to provide an opportunity to help develop and encourage college students to become leaders in the Lutheran church.



THE NEW GRACE—This is what Grace, Killeen, will look like after all three construction phases are complete. The building in front with the two wings is the current worship center.



DIRT FLIES—Pastor Mike Ramming of Grace, Killeen, turns first spadeful of dirt at groundbreaking for church expansion. Beside him is acolyte Jeff Lucht and behind Jeff is Phil Hallenbeck (in uniform), lay minister.

Grace Lutheran, Killeen, launches \$2.2 million expansion

Members of Grace Lutheran, Killeen, the LCMS congregation at the front gate of Fort Hood, broke ground Jan. 30 for a \$2.2 million expansion.

Ground-breaking ceremonies were held at the close of each service that day under the theme "Build Up The Church" (1 Cor 14:12).

Grace has a strong active duty Army and military retired representation in its fellowship who are taking leading roles in the expansion program.

There are three phases in the expansion:

Phase one will build eight classrooms, expand the sanctuary and make parking lot and mechanical improvements.

Phases two and three include more educational and meeting space, child-care facilities, a gymnasium and a large fel-

lowship kitchen.

Phase one, costing \$500,000, is due for completion by August 1994, and is funded by the Texas District Church Extension Fund. Texas Laborers For Christ will provide construction assistance.

Substantial growth at Grace dictated that the classrooms come first. Becky Speckman, Sunday school superintendent, said, "The Lord has blessed us so much that there is no more room to divide classes. We don't have two spaces large enough for an adult Bible class or Sunday school openings."

Pastor of Grace is Mike Ramming. Loren Stroup is building committee chairman.



ANGEL OF MERCY—The Parish Nursing Program helps people in homes and churches outside Lubbock.

Parish Nursing Program helps Lubbock area

For the elderly and the disabled in towns and farms near Lubbock, there is a new Angel of Mercy in the South Plains whose sole aim is to make their lives more comfortable. Nurse Joan Bronstad is heading a pilot outreach ministry for Lutheran Social Services of the South aimed at putting medical advice and guidance in the homes of everyone who needs it.

The program is called "Parish Nursing." While it's a new concept in Texas, the idea is very popular among Lutherans in the Midwest.

Parish nursing involves nurses who are registered. Instead of giving direct care, however, they act in the role of personal health counselor and adviser.

One expert in the field of parish nursing explained the

concept this way. "Health and sickness is so closely linked with one's outlook on life. It's the church's major task to give people God's outlook. When the spirit is broken, healing doesn't take place. Most health centers don't pay enough attention to this."

The response to this Lubbock ministry has been phenomenal. Pastors from around the South Plains are asking Nurse Bronstad to come to their congregations and explain how parish nursing works.

"We're just trying to help more people near Lubbock," explained Eleanor Greiner, Lubbock Area director for LSSS. "Nurse Bronstad works at our 'Health for Friends' clinic at Neighborhood House in downtown Lubbock. Parish nursing is designed to care for people

LSSS involved in quake relief

It will take a very long time before Los Angeles recovers from the January earthquake. Lutheran Social Services of the South is involved in the relief effort. We are acting as a conduit for funds to go directly to the Lutheran Social Service Agency in the City of Angels.

The Los Angeles area Lutheran Social Service Agency requests that all contributions be made in money—not goods. Money has the flexibility needed to meet nearly every contingency. Please make sure checks are designated for the earthquake relief effort in order to avoid confusion.

who can't get to our clinic."

"Bronstad also serves as parish nurse in Slaton at Grace Lutheran Church," Greiner continued. "She is the coordinator for nurses in other rural parishes around Lubbock served by LSSS, and monitors the health screening in those parishes."

Greiner's enthusiasm for the program is echoed by Sam Sipes, director of Community Services for Lutheran Social Services of the South. "Parish nursing has the support from Lutheran churches in Lubbock, and from churches of other denominations as well. We expect this program to grow rapidly as word of its effectiveness in caring gets out."

To learn more about the parish nursing program in Lubbock, phone the LSSS area office there at (806) 763-7051.

Both The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at local and national levels are sending money to Southern California to help with the rebuilding.

Bible studies are big hit at Copperfield

When Lutheran Social Services of the South promises to minister to people's spiritual as well as physical needs, the agency means what it promises. Copperfield Village, our assisted living facility in Victoria, Texas, is just the latest example.

With the help of Rev. Elliott Pancoast of First English Lutheran Church in Victoria, a monthly Bible study group was formed at the Village in January.

What took Pastor Pancoast by surprise was the number of people who came to the first session. "I bought 10 study guides for the class," Pancoast explained. "I already need five more."

The Copperfield residents are so enthusiastic about studying the Word of God that they are asking for more classes.

"The class meets in the dining facility," said Dianne Pfeil, manager of Copperfield Village. "So our classroom now provides not only food for the body, but also food for the soul."

To learn more about assisted living at Copperfield Village, phone Dianne at (512) 575-3978.



Celebrate the Spirit & Legacy of the Walther League

Join in the 75th Anniversary Jubilee of the Organization of the Walther League in Texas

Attend the Reunion of Lone Star District Walther Leaguers

May 13-15, 1994
Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, Texas

Remember the good times of the past!
Look ahead to keep the spirit and legacy of the Walther League alive!

write Publicity Committee
c/o 4419 Shoal Creek Blvd.
Austin, TX 78756

Johnnie reunion scheduled

A "Johnnie Reunion" of the alumnae of St. John's College of Winfield, Kan., will be held May 1 in Austin. A synodical school, St.

John's was closed years ago. For information about the reunion, contact Marty and Teddi Steyer, 13908 Cambourne Drive, Pflugerville, TX 78660; (512) 990-3192.

PASTORS' WIVES—Are you in this picture? These women attended the 1993 Pastors' Wives retreat. They enjoyed a weekend of fun, Bible study and worship. The 1994 retreat will be Sept. 23-25 at Camp Lone Star. Additional information and registration forms will be mailed out soon. Picture yourself at the next retreat!



MARKER UNVEILED—This historical marker at Immanuel Lutheran in Copperas Cove celebrating the church's 100th anniversary was unveiled by grandsons of two of the original charter members. At left is Reinhold Telnert of Austin, grandson of Christian Jacob, and Milton Weiser of Immanuel, grandson of Otto Weiser. Milton is the only member still at Immanuel who is a descendent of a charter member.

Begun by Wends, Immanuel 100

Immanuel Lutheran Church of Copperas Cove, a congregation that traces its origin to the emigration of Wends from Saxony in Germany to Lee, Robertson and Fayette counties in Texas, is celebrating its 100th anniversary in 1994.

Some of the Wends settled at Copperas Cove, then known as Twin Mountain Community, in 1891 and in 1892 began Lutheran worship at the home of Christian Jacob. The house still stands.

The congregation was of-

ficially organized in 1894 with John Paul Riedel as pastor. An 18-by-24 foot church was built in 1895.

An anniversary kick-off celebration was held Jan. 30 at which time an official Texas Historical Marker was dedicated.

A confirmation reunion service will be held April 10. The officiant will be Rev. Delton Weiser, a son of the congregation and great-grandson of charter member Otto Weiser.

On July 10, a centennial celebration is planned with two former Immanuel pastors as morning speakers. They are Revs. Marvin Koch and Earnest Hengst. A 3 p.m. service will feature District President Jerry Kieschnick as speaker along with Immanuel's current pastor, Gerhard Grabenhofer.

A mission festival on Oct. 16 will complete the year's centennial observance. A son of the congregation, Rev. James Herzog, and a former pastor, Richard Manus, will speak.

Historic New Braunfels site of district convention

The Lone Star District LLL will hold its 51st convention in historic New Braunfels April 29 through May 1. Cross Lutheran, where Rev. Raymond Reich is pastor, is proud to host the convention. "Pray for Workers" is the theme of the convention.

All activities of the convention will be at the Wursthalle in Landa Park, near downtown New Braunfels.

HIGHLIGHTS

Registration begins at 2 p.m. on Friday. At 7:30 there will be time for fellowship.

Saturday events begin at 9 a.m. with a luncheon at noon in the hall. The convention business session will continue until 5 p.m.

The Saturday evening banquet at 6:30 will feature German food with entertainment by the Oak Wilt Boys.

Dr. Dale A. Meyer will be the featured speaker, and Rev. Harold Schroeter will be the master

of ceremonies.

Sunday morning there will be Sunday school and Bible class at 9 a.m. and a worship service (Lutheran Hour Rally) at 10:30 a.m. Meyer will deliver the sermon and also will lead the Bible class.

SPECIAL EVENTS

For the noon lunch on Saturday there will be several tables set aside for young adults ages 18 to 25 to attend a luncheon with Dr. Meyer.

Women and children not attending the convention business sessions can participate in a shopping mall tour. Another option is to visit Landa Park, near the Wursthalle where you and the children can play miniature golf, ride the park train or just enjoy the picnic area of the park. The Hummell and railroad museums are just a short walk



Johnson, left,
McDowell, right

toward town just east of the Hall.

The historic town of Gruene with its fine restaurants, antique and gift shops is only a short drive north of the Hall.

REGISTRATION

Please list all events in which you will participate, make check payable to 1994 LLL Convention and mail to 1994 LLL Convention, 1384 Sleepy Hollow Lane, New Braunfels, TX 78130.

LODGING

It is recommended you make your lodging reservation by April 15 as the available rooms will be released to others.

Hill Country Inn
210 Hwy. 81 East
Phone: (210) 625-7373
Price: \$49/\$57 + tax

30 rooms available

Roadway Inn

1209 Interstate 35 East
Phone: (210) 629-6991
Price: \$49.95 + tax
60 rooms available

Oakwood Inn

375 Hwy. 46 S.
Phone: (210) 625-6282
Price: \$29.95/\$42.95 + tax
30 rooms available

J. R. McDowell and Kenneth Johnson, cochairmen for this convention, are working hard with their various committees to make this an enjoyable weekend.

For more information phone McDowell at (210) 899-3135, or Johnson at (210) 625-4517.



REGISTRATION FORM—51ST LONE STAR DISTRICT LLL CONVENTION

April 29-May 1, 1994 • New Braunfels, Texas

MAIL TO: LLL 1994 Convention Registration, 1384 Sleepy Hollow Lane, New Braunfels, TX 78130

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ PHONE _____

Enclosed

Early registration \$12 (late after April 16, \$15)

Saturday noon convention lunch—\$5

(Indicate Yes or No if you are 18-25 years old and would like to attend the luncheon with Dr. Dale A. Meyer _____)

Saturday evening "German Food" (with program and guest speaker)—\$10

Total amount enclosed

Please indicate if carpooling is desired. Circle YES or NO.

Baby sitting services for Saturday can be made available at Cross Lutheran Day Care, 169 S. Hickory St., for a nominal fee. If desired, please indicate number and age of children _____



Amanda Hafer

Candidates for district office

The Nominating Committee submits the following slate of officers for election at the 28th Biennial Convention of the Texas District LWML June 16-17 in Wichita Falls.

SECOND VICE

PRESIDENT:

Amanda Hafer, Brenham, Bluebonnet Zone

Eloise Kuhlmann, Amarillo, Panhandle Zone

FOURTH VICE

PRESIDENT:

Shirley Gaede, San Antonio, North Alamo Zone

Florence Winkler, Angleton, Gulf Coast Zone

SECRETARY:

Joyce Hamilton, Fort Worth, Trinity Zone

Janet Hurta, Waco, Central Zone

TREASURER:

Donna Glass, Killeen,

Sunshine Zone

Mary Lee Schreiber, Cedar Park, Capitol Zone

PASTORAL

COUNSELOR:

Rev. Francis L. Schroeder, Nederland, Golden Triangle Zone

Rev. John (Mike) Ramey, Houston, White Oak Zone

\$7,000 project paid in January

The Birkmann Chapel grant of \$7,000 to repair the stained-glass windows has been paid.

This brings the total paid on projects this biennium to \$107,500. There is a remainder of \$35,000 to go.

Mites contributed until May 31 will be used for these projects.

Mite report

February 1994

1992-94 Goal	\$275,000
Rec'd February	
(all sources)	10,621
Rec'd to date	
(all sources)	222,942
Needed for goal	52,057
Sent to Int'l LWML	
(February)	2,146
Int'l to date	49,399
Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz.	
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.	

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152 Lewisville, TX 75067.



Eloise Kuhlmann



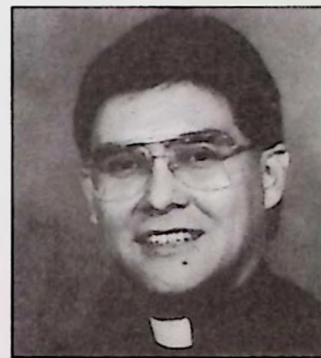
Shirley Gaede



Joyce Hamilton



Donna Glass



Rev. F.L. Schroeder



Florence Winkler



Janet Hurta



Mary Lee Schreiber



Rev. John Ramey

LWML

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Karen Avenson, Austin, Capitol Zone
Gloria Denman, Monahans, West Texas Zone
Louise Haynes, Lufkin, East Texas Zone
Helen Mitschke, Corpus Christi, Coastal Bend Zone
Barbara Rablee, San Antonio, North Alamo Zone
Shannon Reid, Garland, Dal-North Zone
Elaine Royuk, Spring, Golden Harvest Zone



Karen Avenson



Gloria Denman



Louise Haynes



Helen Mitschke



Barbara Rablee



Shannon Reid



Elaine Royuk

Bylaw amendments

There will be proposed bylaw amendments to the Texas District LWML bylaws at the district convention.

Watch for a complete listing of these proposed amendments in the *Public Relations Newsletter*. This publication will be mailed in April to each society.

Each delegate needs to carefully read and discuss

with her society these proposals. Then, delegates should discuss the proposed amendments at zone caucus meetings, which will be called by zone presidents after arrival at the convention hotel. Be informed, and vote wisely!

Dorothy Hunger serves as bylaws chairman. Please direct any questions to her.

Zone young woman rep

Zone presidents are to submit the name of their Zone Young Woman Representative by April 30.

Each zone may elect one or two young women to attend the convention. These young women become eligible to be nominated as a District LWML Young Woman Representative.

Guidelines have been mailed to all zone presidents. This information will help in the selection process.

Please make sure your Young Woman Rep is registered on the proper convention registration form.

Committee members are Rosanne Capdeville, chairman; Diana Klotz; and Katherine McNeal.



SEMINARY STUDENT Daniel Schepmann opens gifts at a "Honey Do It" wedding shower. Invited guests were men of Pilgrim Congregation in Houston. Gifts included gardening and household tools. Activities were videos of football bloopers and an Astros baseball game. Daniel married Karlissa Blar July 31, 1993, in San Antonio. He currently attends Concordia Theological Seminary in St. Louis. The event was sponsored by the Evening Group of LWML. Cheryl Elchem is recording gifts.



District Board of Directors Who they are, what they do

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick
President, Texas District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

This article was prepared late in the evening following a meeting of the Texas District Board of Directors Tuesday, March 22.

As is usually the case, these board meetings begin at 8:15 a.m. with a devotion in the chapel, attended by the board members, staff, support staff and any visitors who may be present.

Normally a brief executive session is held, with only the voting members of the board in attendance, to discuss personnel issues or special concerns that require only the attention of the board's voting members.

THEN, IN THE regular session, consideration is given to the President's Report, ratification or approval of congregational constitutions, special concerns regarding commissions, boards or committees of the district, appointments by the board or by the president, establishment and review of policies and procedures.

In addition, reports are received from the district treasurer, the mission director, parish services and church extension directors, as well as representatives of the LLL, LWML, Concordia College, Lutheran Foundation of Texas, Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas and Lutheran Social Services of the South. All of this takes place, allowing time for lunch, in time for a 3 p.m. adjournment.

THE CURRENT members of the board of directors are, in addition to the district president, First Vice President Eugene Heck-

mann, Gethsemane, Houston; Second Vice President David Joeckel, Grace, Arlington; Third Vice President Paul Hartfield, St. Paul, Serbin; Fourth Vice President Carroll Kohl, St. Paul, Big Spring; Secretary Ralph Ho-bratschk, Hope, Friendswood; Ray Peterson, St. Mark, Houston; Norm Clasen, Our Redeemer, Dallas; Jerry Kolander, Hope, Lubbock; Dr. Harry Kunkel, Holy Cross, College Station; Paul Schoppa, St. Paul, Wichita Falls; Dr. Edwin Trapp Jr., Our Redeemer, Dallas; J.A. Wiederanders, St. Paul, Kingsville.

At our meeting March 22, District Treasurer Marlys Erickson reported that congregations of the Texas District shared mission and ministry gifts of \$5,577,236 with the district. Of this amount, the district Board of Directors shared \$2,481,870 for the mission and ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Syn-



President Kieschnick

od, second in amount only to the Michigan District.

MARLYS ALSO reported that, of the 11 districts of the Synod which send \$1 million or more to St. Louis for synodical mission and ministry,

only the Texas and Indiana Districts are planning to send more in 1994 than in 1993. The other leading districts, most of which were affected by the Midwest

floods, are planning no increase or, in most cases, a decrease in synodical mission and ministry giving.

In addition, congregations of the Texas District sent another \$371,928 directly to ministries, agencies and institutions of the Missouri Synod during 1993. And that includes only such amounts as are brought to our attention. Many more such dollars are given without the awareness of the district office in Austin.

THE POINT of this is two-fold:

1. It is my belief that you, the people of the Texas District, should know who rep-

resents you and your congregation on the board of directors, all the members of which are elected by delegates to the Texas District convention. I believe you should also know what kind of decisions are made by the board. That's why the minutes of every board meeting are sent to the circuit counselors of the district, who are encouraged to share the minutes with the pastors and congregations of their circuits.

2. It is my belief that the congregations, pastors, people and educators of the Texas District have genuine concern for mission and ministry in the local community, across the state of Texas and throughout the world.

That concern is expressed in the mission and ministry gifts which you and I bring to the Lord, in response to His gifts to us, through our local congregation and through the other ministries we support. The Scriptures say, "To whom much is given, of him much is required" (Luke 12:48). I believe that statement is true of our individual lives, of our congregations and of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

God has richly blessed us and is providing many opportunities for us to be a blessing! Thanks for your partnership and involvement in that process, my beloved friends in Christ!



Send your news to Bill

Send your pictures, stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:

Bill Wagner
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499

Albers views Lutheran dollars at work in Mexican slum

Rev. Gordon Albers, Our Savior, Austin, was one of 34 representatives of LCMS World Relief who took part in February in a bilingual worship service in Ajusco, a squatter community outside Mexico City.

Temporary shelters of discarded tin, wood and cardboard

are being replaced by concrete and stucco dwellings.

Two years ago, squatters on the lava

rock hillside formed a housing cooperative with a revolving loan fund that is part of the human care effort of LCMS World Relief. Tutoring, Bible classes and other care also are provided. A worshiping community is arising from these efforts, one of whose services Albers attended.

Besides representing LCMS World Relief in Texas, Albers is chairman of the district Social Ministry Committee.



Albers



MISSION TEAM—These members of Prince of Peace Lutheran of Carrollton visited Russia in January in support of Gospel outreach. From left are Rita Wagner, Wyman Bess, Mary Barnes, Pat Walsh, Lois Rompel, Pastor Steve Wagner, Cherie Davidson and Mark Tipsword.

Texans nourish new Russian spiritual freedoms

Russian people are amazed that western Christians have an interest in them and are most appreciative for the teaching and other resources provided to support the outreach of the Gospel in Russia, according to Rev. Steve Wagner who led an eight-member mission team from his church to Russia in January. He is pastor of Prince of Peace in Carrollton.

The trip included delivering relief and humanitarian supplies to Christian ministries in Moscow and St. Petersburg. The group visited Christian schools, an or-

phanage for handicapped children, a soup kitchen for the homeless and elderly, and administered a drug prevention program for young street people. They also worshiped with Russian Lutherans as well as LCMS missionaries.

Wagner also served as presenter and workshop leader for a church growth conference in Moscow for Russian pastors. It was attended by 182 pastors from as far away as Siberia.

The Prince of Peace mission team also led a prayer seminar at St. Michael Lutheran Church in St. Peters-

burg. Attending were the pastor of St. Michael's, members of his congregation and representatives of Missouri Synod missionaries.

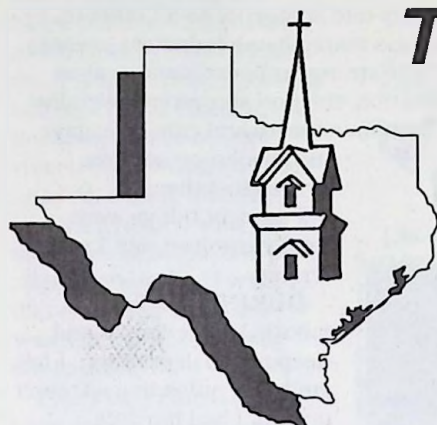
"This is a very special moment in the history of missions and world evangelization as communism has fallen and spiritual freedoms have been recovered in Russia," Wagner said. "People are amazed that western Christians have an interest in them and are appreciative for the teaching and resources which the western church can provide to support the outreach of the Gospel in Russia," he continued.

"Christian churches are growing everywhere in Russia," Wagner said. "It is a humbling and thrilling experience to witness this work and support it in a small way."

Prince of Peace will send another mission team to Russia in January 1995. Information about participating may be obtained from Prince of Peace.

TEXAS VICAR—At the winter call service at Fort Wayne seminary, Scott W. Kirchoff was assigned to Bethlehem Lutheran of Perryton, Texas. He is from Columbus, Ind., shown here with his wife, Sonja.





Texas District Mission News

by Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration



Rev. Ken
Hennings

It's Lutherans helping Lutherans

Church Extension Fund provides immense mission support

Eighty-eight years ago, in 1906, the Texas District created the Church Extension Fund to assist congregations in building needed facilities to carry out the mission of the church.

For many congregations it was difficult to get a loan from a local bank. The thought behind CEF was that Lutherans would invest dollars so that Lutheran congregations could borrow those dollars and pay the investor a return on their investment.

As Texas grew and as CEF grew in number of investors and in the total dollars available for loans, CEF became the number one vehicle for helping congregations with the building of their first unit. This assistance usually came through a low-interest loan.

Today, CEF has been blessed so that it is able to help long-established congregations and new congregations. As the investors

continue to grow and the total dollars increase, CEF will be able to do more in its support of the ministries of the Texas District.

ADVANCE SITES

CEF has been very supportive in helping the Board of Mission Administration (BMA) acquire land for future use by new congregations. Up until 1988, the BMA had to budget dollars to cover the cost of interest, taxes and insurance on the properties purchased.

In 1988, CEF placed a moratorium on those payments. This action immediately freed dollars in the BMA's budget to be used to open and support new congregational starts.

FIRST UNITS

CEF has always had high on its list of priorities, supporting the mission program of the district by providing low-interest loans for first

units. The interest rate for these loans usually ran at least 1 percent below regular loans. However, for ministries in cross-cultural situations, the interest rate went lower.

A major concern for the mission board and for CEF is new congregations saddled with such a high debt that they cannot fully concentrate on ministry. Having a ministry spend most of its time trying to service a debt does not evoke excitement or creativity in regard to reaching the unchurched and the unsaved in the community. Low-interest loans to new congregations help them focus more time on ministry.

\$600,000

During 1993, through no interest, taxes and insurance payments being expected from the BMA on properties and through low-interest loans, CEF supported the

mission program of the district with nearly \$600,000. Without this kind of support, the mission program would struggle to be aggressive and innovative.

INVEST

You might be able to get a higher return on your money investing it in the secular market; but by investing in CEF you not only get a good return, you are also involved in the expansion of the mission program of the Texas District.

For more information on rates or how you might become involved in the mission program of the district, call 1-800-951-3478, or (512) 926-4272.

Service

Be alert to give service. What counts most in life is what we do for others.

I've written letters to you, Pastor, so many times over the past several years. I now feel that's the best and most comfortable way to communicate with you. Dear Brother in Christ, I want to tell others of my experience through a letter to you.

'Pastor, I've had an abortion'

Dear Pastor:

As I was driving to church this morning, I was overcome with the brilliance and beauty of the colorful fall season. I felt the Lord God almighty, our divine Creator, was displaying his finest colors. Fall is always a time of reflection for me. It seems like most of the significant events in my life have happened in the fall of the year.

I THINK BACK four years ago to when I was a patient in a mental hospital. Staggering events led to my admittance. You know the story all too well, dear pastor. A story that you were very much a part of.

I remember so vividly how it all began. I called you one evening to make arrangements to meet with you. During the conversation, I asked you how you handle very confidential matters. You assured me that anything we discussed would be kept strictly confidential. (Actually, I had observed you for several months and noticed what a great kinship you had with people and the members of your congregation. I knew I could trust you.) You asked me if what we were going to discuss had anything to do with one of the members of our youth group since I was then serving as youth counselor. I said, "No, it concerns me." There was an

Helping a friend

My name is Diane Becker. I am a high school English teacher and a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Serbin. I was approached by a friend who asked me if I would proofread and edit an article she was writing. I agreed to help her and am submitting her article since she wishes to remain anonymous at the request of her family.

Diane Becker



uneasy silence, and then an appointment was made for the upcoming Thursday afternoon.

I BECAME NERVOUS and scared about meeting with you, but I was determined. I so needed someone to talk to. I wanted to release what I had bottled up inside of me for 16 long years.

As I entered your office, I

my heart and soul to you. "I had an abortion on Nov. 17, 1973."

YOU WERE shocked. You asked the type of questions I expected. Why? Where? How could you? I told you I had found myself pregnant at age 19, unmarried, with the father of the baby refusing to marry me. He did give me two options. I could have an abortion,

"How could I have committed so horrible a sin as abortion? How could God love someone who had killed her own child?"

was beginning to have doubts. Was I doing the right thing? Were you the one I wanted to tell my deepest, darkest secret to? Would you judge me? Would you scorn me? Would you lecture me? Would you shut the door on me?

Before I knew it, I had told everything. I poured out

which he would pay for, or I could raise the child on my own. I was scared of what my parents would think and say, of what my close friends and associates would think of me and, finally, of raising a child all by myself. I chose the first option. I chose what I thought was the easy way out.

Pastor, I felt relieved that I had finally told someone. As a Lutheran, I always feared harsh judgment because of the strong Lutheran stand against abortion. But you showed me genuine Christian concern and care. You gave

me absolution, and we prayed together.

I thought things were finally resolved, but I was wrong.

DURING THE next month, I sank deeper and deeper into depression. I felt guilty for unloading so much on you. I had horrible doubts about my complete forgiveness. How could my Savior love someone who had committed, to me, the ultimate of sins?

My physical being was also starting to deteriorate. I began to lose weight and to smoke. I excluded myself from my family and my friends. I became busier and more involved in church-related activities. I was more determined than ever to be successful and perfect at all three of my jobs.

I also began to have panic attacks that would include hours of confusion and despair. At that point, I started planning my death. I honestly believed I was not worthy to live.

Several weeks later, on a cloudy November day, I attended Sunday morning services with my family, and I even took communion. I also had lunch with my in-laws. I put on a good front, but I was an emotional wreck. That afternoon I started taking pills. I could not stand myself any longer. I was so ashamed, so full of guilt, so angry and deeply depressed. How could I have committed so horrible a sin as abortion? How could God



love someone who had killed her own child? How could God love me? I knew that I truly wanted my child, but how could I have allowed myself to be convinced into having an abortion? All during the afternoon, I wrestled with my emotions as I took one pill after another. Did I want to die, or did I want to live? Was suicide the best way out for me?

PASTOR, I BEGAN to have doubts about committing suicide, but the pills were beginning to take effect. I became afraid and lonely. My thought process was becoming more irrational, anxious and confused. I decided to call you, but you didn't answer. I needed to talk to someone desperately and right now!

I tried to reach out to you again and again but still no answer. My mind was screaming, please answer! Someone listen to me, I'm hurting. I can't take this deep emotional pain and heartbreak any longer. Please, God, touch me with your healing hand. I tried calling you one more time but still no answer.

Then, I decided to call another pastor I felt I could talk to. When he answered, I lashed out at him. I demanded to hear the explanation of the Second Article of the Apostle's Creed:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins....

'Get involved in fighting for the rights of God's dear babies'

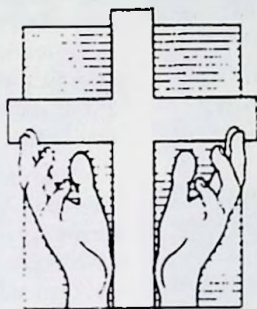
I WAS MOST definitely a lost and condemned creature. I felt so dirty and doomed to spend eternity in hell. I began to interrupt this caring pastor's kind words of comfort. My tone of voice became louder and angrier.

Luckily he put the pieces together and called an ambulance. By the end of that day I was in a local hospital with an IV deep in my arm and a heart monitor attached.

I look back at those events leading to my three-and-a-half month stay in a mental hospital and I shiver. While I was a patient, I learned about post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and postabortion syndrome.

PTSD has been diagnosed in many Vietnam veterans. Many women who have had abortions have some of the same symptoms that are apparent with veterans who have PTSD: severe depression, anger, guilt, shame, loss, confusion and denial.

DEAR PASTOR, I've learned two very important things from my experience. Abortion is wrong! Millions of poor innocent babies have been murdered since 1973 and thousands a day. I'm fighting for those babies



now. I've joined the local Right to Life organization and my husband and I are lifetime members of Lutherans For Life. I want to do as much as I am able to do

to gain rights back for babies.

The second important detail I have learned is abortion has another victim—the mother. There is not a single day that goes by that I don't think about my child that I lost in the abortion.

This may seem strange, but I truly am thankful that I was asleep during my abortion. I have sat in postabortion Bible studies where I have heard horror stories of abortion clinics where women recall the actual sound of the suction machine and have commented that there is often lack of vital information about their own bodies, the unborn and other options.

I want to stress to all Christians that postabortive women need our love and our prayers. They need to know that Jesus Christ loves them unconditionally.

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

PASTOR, I DID it! I fi-

nally wrote my testimony. This is the finale to my healing process. So much weight has been lifted from my heart. The last four years have been difficult, and I still take it one day at a time. But I feel a lot of healing within my heart.

I've had so many people praying for me, and you have been one of those people. I thank you for your prayers and your support not just for me but for my family too. Ever since that first meeting, you never judged me and, praise God, you didn't shut the door in my face.

You've been through a lot with me, my hospitalization, the untimely death of my psychiatrist, my search for a Christian counselor and all my questions. I've also put you through some agonizing moments like being rude to you, yelling at you, ignoring you and even wanting to see you dead.

So many times I fought against your Biblical principles and standards, but you always shared them with me in a loving, patient manner. I came to the realization this Sunday morning that you have been a true, loyal Christian friend to me and also to my husband. You have taught me a valuable lesson: that I am completely and totally forgiven.

I hope that other pastors and people within the church can learn from your example. To open their hearts and minds to postabortive women and to get involved in fighting for the rights of God's dear babies.

*Forever Your Friend
In Christ*



REGISTRATION—Delegates to the district teacher/educator conference sign registration sheets.

Teachers, educators meet

Some 450 teachers and educators attended the Texas District Early Childhood Education Conference Feb. 4-5 in Dallas. The theme was "Feed My Lambs," based John 21:15.

The conference was hosted by Messiah Lutheran of Richardson.

Keynote speaker was Patricia Hoffman, assistant professor of education and director of early childhood education at Concordia University in Irvine, Calif.

Representing the Texas District was Dr. Keith Loomans, director of the district's Board for Parish Services.

The 1995 conference will be held in Austin, hosted by Bethany Lutheran.



Patricia Hoffman

Some Lutheran things in Texas

Sixteen members of Christ Lutheran, Houston, went 30 hours without eating to raise money for the hungry of the community.

More than \$700 was raised, and in addition the participants went to North Channel Assistance Ministries where they did yard work.

Congratulations to Gary Himmler, Zion, Pasadena, who was chosen this year's "Master Teacher at the High School Level." The award was presented at the Houston Area Lutheran School Association banquet.

The first Sunday of each month at Redeemer, Fort Worth, is Tuition Assistance Sunday. Each family is encouraged to place a dollar or two in an envelope found in the bulletin. The money is

used to assist families who find it difficult to pay their child's tuition at Redeemer school.

A ground-breaking ceremony for an addition to the educational building was held Feb. 20 at Prince of Peace, Belton. Laborers For Christ will help with construction.

Texas District's triennial convention slated next month

The triennial convention of the Texas District will be held June 23-26 in the Moody Convention Center in Galveston.

According to District President Jerry Kieschnick, "The convention planning committee has been hard at work, endeavoring to make the convention inspirational, motivational, educational, with time for Bible study, time for worship, time for business, time for fellowship, time for recognition of our partnership with one another in the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod."

- The convention theme is "Power to be His Witnesses," based on Acts 1:8. Essayist will be Dr. Charles Mueller, former president of the Southeastern District, now affiliated with Wheat Ridge Ministries. The Bible study leader will be Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, honorary Lutheran Hour speaker.

Preacher for the opening worship service at 8 p.m. Thursday, June 23, will be Dr. A.L. Barry, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

- Rev. Kieschnick will give his President's Report to start the business sessions at 9 a.m. Friday, June 24.

Matters to be resolved at the convention include election of district officers and memorials to the convention as submitted by the convention committees. Positions to be filled through election include district president, area vice presidents, district secretary, assistant district secretary, circuit counselors, district board of directors, board of mission administration, board for church extension, board for parish services, Concordia College Board of Regents, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas, nominations committee and constitutions committee.

- The various district boards and affiliated organizations will make their reports as will Dr. Barry for the Synod.

A festival worship service will close the convention at noon on Sunday, June 26.



CERTIFIED—Seven laymen of Pilgrim Lutheran in Kilgore (communicant membership of 66) were certified as Commissioned Pastoral Assistants. From left, back row, are Tommy McPherson, Danny Sampson and George A. Hell. Middle, from left, Carl Gardner, Jack LeBus, Bob Abraham and George B. Hell. Front, from left, Rev. Joseph Lowery (retired) supervising pastor, and Rev. Eugene Gruell, director of the Texas District's Commissioned Pastoral Assistant program. Lay assistants perform many pastoral duties under the supervision of an ordained pastor and are particularly valuable in remote areas where ordained clergy are sparse.



Odessa Lutherans help Vietnam refugee find new life—and Jesus

Twenty years ago, Thanh Nguyen was jammed into an already overloaded American helicopter in South Vietnam and flown to an aircraft carrier off the coast.

He and 24 other South Vietnamese had barely escaped the conquering North Vietnamese. All he had was a wallet and the shorts he was wearing. All else had been thrown out to lighten the copter. Left behind was his pregnant wife and the rest of his family.

Thanh, who served in his country's air forces, was sent to a refugee camp in Arkansas. Forlorn and lonely, Thanh didn't know that a congregation of Lutherans in Texas was about to dramatically alter his life.

Rev. Dean Kelm, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran in Odessa, said, "The situation in Vietnam touched our hearts in the church," so the congregation decided to sponsor two refugees. Thanh was one of them.

THE PEOPLE OF Redeemer brought the two men to Odessa, gave them mobile homes to live in, provided schooling and jobs.

It was difficult for the two but they progressed well. "We don't want any of the credit," Kelm said. "They made it all on their own."

Back in Vietnam, Thanh's family had no idea what had happened to him. Thanh was afraid the communists would harm his family if he tried to write them. His mother trav-



LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS—Center front is Thanh Nguyen with his wife, Sandi, and their children. A refugee of the Vietnamese war, Thanh was adopted by Redeemer Lutheran of Odessa. At left is Thanh's son from Vietnam whom he had never seen until recently. At back left is Redeemer Pastor Dean A. Kelm with Mrs. Kelm and godparents at the baptism of Thanh's youngest child. The whole family has been baptized and the parents confirmed.

MINISTRIES AMONG US

eled to his former base, 350 miles away, and searched through numerous corpses, turning them over to look at their faces to see if she could find her son.

After several years, Thanh decided it was safe to write, and he received a reply four months later. Though the family could have left, it opted not to.

By 1980 Thanh had obtained American citizenship and was advancing in his work. The letters continued.

RECENTLY HIS father, A Van Nguyen, decided to join his son in America and brought along Hung Thanh Nguyen—the child Thang's wife in Vietnam had given birth to just 15 days after a burdened helicopter had carried her husband away.

At the airport, Thanh met the son he'd never seen, his father met grandchildren he'd never seen, and Hung met his new brothers and sisters. Thanh had married again, and with Sandi, his new wife, had started a new family.

BORN INTO Buddhism, Thanh was introduced to his Savior Jesus Christ by Pastor Kelm. The pastor baptized each child after birth and confirmed and baptized Thanh and Sandi, the parents.

White House notices Katie

Some of the kids in mid-week school at King of Kings, San Antonio, are getting loving Christian lessons from a most unique teacher.

She is Katie Skramstad who teaches the kindergarten and prekindergarten group.

Katie is a high school student and has been nominated for the President's Youth Service Award based on her service to the midweek youngsters.

Said a school spokesperson, "Seeing Katie diligently prepare and work with the children each week is a refreshing change from the negative reports we read in newspapers or see on television about those teenagers who have not found Jesus as



Katie Skramstad

the center of their lives."

In addition to her work with the church, Katie is active in the German Club and the Future Business Leaders of America. She has been in numerous speech tournaments. She's on the honor roll and in the National Honor Society.

Lutheran Camp **A lifelong influence**

by Amy Brooks

Can attending Lutheran summer camp touch you for a lifetime? Roger Steinsek thinks so.

A lifelong Lutheran and former camper, Roger has wonderful childhood memories of his summers at Camp Lone Star in La Grange, which he says continue to influence him to this day.

ROGER WAS BORN in 1960 in the Spring Branch area of Houston. He grew up as the youngest of three children that included a brother, Donny, and a sister, Diane.

Roger's awareness of Lutheran summer camp began before he ever attended. "My mother and uncle went to Camp Lone Star when they were kids, so I had already heard lots of stories about it by the time I got to go," said Roger.

His first summer at Lone Star was when he was 7 years old. He attended with his brother, Donny, who registered at a Pioneer session for handicapped youngsters, which also allows them to share in fellowship and recreation activities with other campers.

"HAVING CEREBRAL palsy since birth, Donny was severely handicapped physically, but he's always been a great person to talk to and be around," said Roger. "Donny appreciated events at Lone Star because they were just for him. Handicapped camp made him feel special because church members and counselors who went along treated him as extra special," he said.

Roger enjoyed Lutheran

camp and the time spent there with his brother so much that he became active in youth activities at his church. He also continued to attend Camp Lone Star throughout high school and felt it had a great influence on his peers as well.

"Going to camp is what got the youth group at our congregation together in the first place," Roger remembers.

WHEN ASKED what he liked about summer camp, Roger responded, "The thing I appreciated most about Camp Lone Star is that it provided the chance to get to know other youth my age and establish lifelong friendships. I also enjoyed activities like fishing, canoeing, etc."

Roger and his wife, Cindy, were married in 1980. They now have two children: a 5-year-old daughter, Kristy, and a son, Kenny, who is 7 months. They'll be campers in a few years. Roger and Cindy are members of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston.

ROGER CREDITS many close friendships he has made to the time he spent at summer camp.

"All of the people in my wedding were friends from Lutheran camp or my youth group at church. In fact, my best friend at Camp Lone Star introduced me to my wife and later was the best man in our wedding," he said.



CAMPING IS A BLAST—Lots of fun and new friends await you this summer at Camp Lone Star and Texoma Lutheran Camp!

Roger feels that all parents should encourage their kids to go to Lutheran camp. "I think it's an excellent place because the people there are good Christian people. It's a guarantee that kids will be exposed to good influences through the counselors, and the camping experience will be a great one, too."

Great fun and fellowship are available this summer for your kids and grandkids

at Camp Lone Star and at Texoma Lutheran Camp, which is located in north Texas on Lake Texoma in Pottsboro. Weekly and weekend sessions are scheduled from June 5 through Aug. 12 for youngsters ages 5 to 18.

For more information, call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or Texoma Lutheran Camp at 1-800-926-5968.

It's not too late to register!

It's still not too late to register for summer camp at Camp Lone Star in La Grange and Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro.

This year's theme is "God Upon the Mountaintops," and campers will learn to live their faith while having fun swimming, canoeing, hiking, fishing, etc., at the same time.

Sessions will be held weekly and on weekends from June 5 through Aug. 12 for kids ages 5 to 18. Family camps also are being offered.

For more information, call Camp Lone Star today at 1-800-362-2078 or Texoma Camp at 1-800-926-5968.

Register today and don't forget to bring a friend!



PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

St. Philip, Houston, has a bread ministry. Members take home-baked loaves of bread to the doorstep of first-time visitors. In response, many St. Philip visitors have returned to worship, and several have joined the church's growing family. In less than three years, more than 250 visits have been made to the homes of the first-timers.

The men are losing at **St. Mark, Houston**, and some of the women are out to do the same thing. A Christian weight control group has begun that includes Bible study, nutrition education and group support. In a recent men-only session, the guys lost 100 pounds in a week. That's not each, that's altogether.

First Lutheran, Texarkana, began celebrating its 75th anniversary year March 13 with a special anniversary service at which the speaker was Rev. Robert Helberg, pastor of First Lutheran from 1945 to 1980. The congregation also celebrated his 50th ordination anniversary. On Aug. 7, there will be a First Lutheran reunion of present and past members with Dr. Oswald Hoffmann as speaker. In the fall, a service of rededication is scheduled with dates and speakers yet to be affirmed.

Congratulations to Elmer Aden, Zion, Pasadena, who

had the honor of being inducted into the Pasadena Bowling Hall of Fame.

Santa's helper

Faye Heubner is a member of First Lutheran of Lufkin. She's also a rural mail carrier.

She also heads up a team of mail carriers who volunteer to answer children's letters to Santa Claus.

Some marvelous Christian people have emerged as case-in-point in the Hispanic Ministry of **St. Mark, Houston**. Alejandrina Ramos, a native of Mexico, speaks little English but is fast becoming one of St. Mark's most active evangelists. A regular at St. Mark services, she tells many other Hispanics about what she has found at St. Mark and is mainly responsible for some of them joining the St. Mark



ABILENE—Rev. Tim Rosenthal was installed Feb. 13 as pastor of Zion Lutheran, Abilene. Participating in the installation service were, from left, Revs. Delton Welsler, preacher; Rosenthal, Carroll Kohl, district vice president and officiant; Donald Loesch; and LaVerne Janssen, liturgist.

fellowship. Haide Lozano, a native of Cuba, not only brings her mother who doesn't speak English to the St. Mark services, but helps in any way she can with the services. At a recent bilingual Epiphany service at St. Mark, 143 people were present to celebrate the occasion. In addition, 38 Spanish-speaking people are taking English lessons at St. Mark. Rev. Richard L. Schuller leads the Hispanic ministry.

Congratulations to Bernice Clower, **Ascension, Cleburne**, who was recog-

nized for more than 2,000 hours, and to Fran Pansini and Lois Rathgeber, for more than 500 hours of volunteer service to the Johnson County Family Crisis Center.

Borrowing a page from the state of Texas' "Adopt-A-Highway" program, the gardening group at **Christ Memorial, Houston**, has invited the congregation to adopt-an-area of the church grounds from now through December. Already, hedges and flower beds have been "adopted" and the church's Boy Scout troop has taken responsibility for weeding and cleaning a ditch along the property. The gardening group got volunteers by suggesting the church grounds should be looked upon as "God's yard" and treated accordingly.

Houston's Blood Center has great affection for members of **Christ Memorial, Houston**. These Lutherans have donated: Scotty Birrell, two gallons; Marshall Ewald, one gallon; Linn Osborn, two gallons; Bob Warnsman, five gallons; and George Werner, three gallons.



CONFERENCE—Gloria Del, Nassau Bay (Houston), recently hosted a Serendipity two-day decision-making conference attended by pastors and church leaders in small-group management from churches across the United States. Conference Dean of Faculty Lyman Coleman, right, reviews the agenda with conference staff members Pastor Thom Corrigan, Vineyard Church, Cincinnati; Arne Skaalure, Gloria Del director of growth ministries, and Pastor Steve Edney, Serendipity administrator.

ANNUAL CHURCH EXTENSION FUND CONFERENCE



FIRST PLACE AWARD—Joseph and Cyndi McDonald, Messiah, Midlothian, received an award for surpassing the investor goal for 1993.



WELCOME! Helen and Gene Harman, circuit director, Good Shepherd, Pasadena. For the fourth year, Gene served on the CEF Conference Leadership Team.



RECOGNIZING CEF regional directors: From left, Archie Malcom, Christ Our Savior, Lago Vista; Hilda Albers, St. Paul, Canyon; Elmer Werner, Grace, Mart; Amalie Long, St. Paul, Monahans; Ben Hansen, Trinity, West Sinton; Bill Siegrist, director of development; Otho Haunschild, Grace, Orange; Stephen Block, executive director; Curtis Doering, St. John, Galveston; Ernie Balke, Our Savior, Houston; Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, district president.



WELCOME TO TEXAS! Marshall Gibbs, Michigan District, CEF promotion director; Rev. Vic Willmann, English District LCEF area vice president; and Bill Siegrist, director of development. As guests, Gibbs and Willmann were looking for resources to use in their annual CEF conferences.



DISCUSSING the "Church Membership Initiative" report are Betty Carter, Mount Calvary, Houston, and Mary Bauer, Hope, Winnie.



BANQUET SPEAKER—Rev. Gene Heckmann, First Vice President of the Texas District, Gethsemane, Houston, spoke at the annual banquet about making a life insurance gift to the CEF Capital Fund.



CELEBRATING a 10-year anniversary on the Board for Church Extension, Ed Gallmeyer, BCE member, teacher, Trinity, Houston; Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, district president; and Steve Block, CEF executive director.

ANNUAL CHURCH EXTENSION FUND CONFERENCE

TEXAS DISTRICT



MORE THAN 300 congregational representatives from the Texas District attended the Sixth Annual Church Extension Fund Conference in Austin in March. They spent a weekend receiving specialized training and learning about the 1994 promotional campaign, "Build On A Rock."

Several of the training sessions focused on increasing investments and gifts to the CEF Capital Fund. At the final session Sunday morning, Bill Siegrist, CEF director of development, challenged the representatives with the 1994 goals: \$6 million in net investments and 1,000 new investors.

CEF Conference master of ceremonies Cal Spencer, right, Christ Memorial, Houston, introduced Siegrist for his opening presentation.



CHARLES AND SONJA Godwin, Faith, Laredo, enjoy participating in one of the conference communications workshops.

VICKI ARDY, Rev. Joe Ardy, Salem, Malone, (at left) served as conference devotional leader. Vicki designed the conference banner.



QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION—Board for Church Extension directors, from left, Juergen Koetter, BCE Chairman, Christ, Houston; Rev. Jay Simonsen, St. Paul, Groves; Steve Block, CEF executive director, King of Kings, Round Rock; (hidden—Dick Hansen, CEF construction consultant, Resurrection, Spring); Ed Gallmeier, Trinity, Houston; Hardy Schneider, Trinity, Houston.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER, Dr. Alan Klaas, presents the "Church Membership Initiative" report to the conference participants.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

A letter to you from Tom Landry

Legendary pro football coach Tom Landry is once again sponsoring the Tom Landry Concordia Golf Classic Reception.

Dear Friends in Christ,

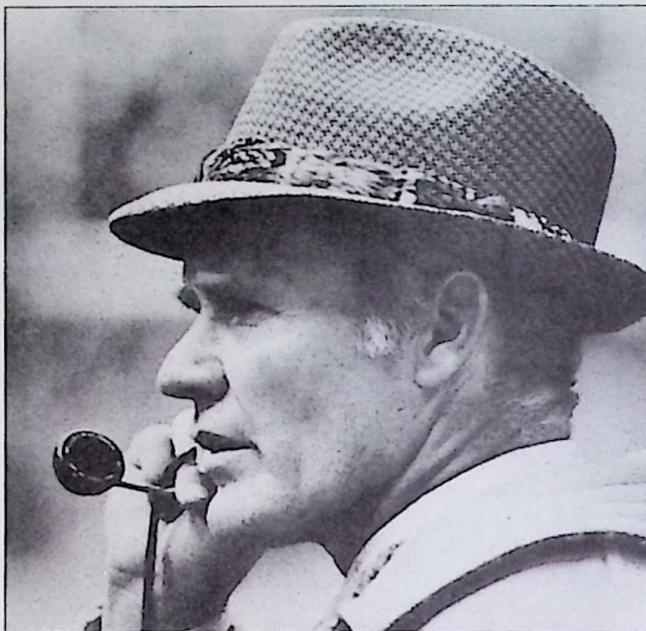
It is with real pleasure that I extend to you my personal invitation to a very special event benefiting Concordia Lutheran College of Texas.

On June 6, I will host the Tom Landry Concordia Golf Classic and Reception, which will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hill Country Resort in San Antonio. The tournament, with the reception to follow, promises to be a fun-filled time for all. Proceeds from the tournament will be used to support the student scholarship fund at Concordia. I can't think of a better cause, but it will take you to make it a success. I am willing to help. I hope you are, too.

The need for scholarships is greater than ever before. Your involvement in Christ-centered higher education is crucial. I'm reaching out to you so that together we can continue to provide our society with Christian leaders.

I would like to point out that the event is for golfers and non-golfers alike. A special reception and autograph party, which will be held at 6:30 p.m. after the tournament, has been planned with the non-golfer in mind. The evening will consist of food, an exciting auction (trips, sports memorabilia, etc.), tournament awards and lots of fun. I'll be there to visit with you.

Please accept my invita-



A CHAMPION—Tom Landry is best known for his 29 years as head coach of the Dallas Cowboys, during which the team posted 20 consecutive winning seasons and a record five Super Bowl appearances. In 1990, Landry was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

tion to this special event. I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio.

*Sincerely,
Tom Landry*

Entry fee for the tournament is \$195 per person. The cost for non-golfers for the reception is \$30 per person. For more information and to receive an entry form, call the Concordia Development Office at (512) 452-7661. Entry deadline is June 1.



Concordia Sunday is May 15

The theme for the 1993-94 school year at Concordia Lutheran College of Texas is "Reaching Boldly," emphasizing that God's love makes all things possible.

The theme for this year's Concordia Sunday in the Texas District is also "Reaching Boldly," a theme which has indeed influenced the entire history of the college.

In 1926, the Lutherans of Texas made the bold decision to establish and support a Christ-centered institution of higher education for their young people. During difficult years of the Depression, they kept the school going, even contributing produce from their fields to feed the resident

students. In 1979, another bold step took the college to four-year baccalaureate status. At a time when the pool of traditional-age college students was decreasing, the Lutherans of the Texas District and Concordia of Texas have remained undaunted by obstacles, displaying a fearless spirit through trust in the Lord.

On Concordia Sunday, the Lutherans of Texas will be encouraged to renew their commitment to Christian higher education. Concordia Lutheran College of Texas asks for prayers, recruitment assistance and financial support as it continues "Reaching Boldly" to provide future leaders for church and society.

Banquet honors scholarship donors

"Concordia has always been special to me, but I see it in a different way now," said Debbie Karcher Albers of Walburg, speaker at the annual Scholarship Donor Recognition Dinner at Concordia Lutheran College.

"As a child, I looked to Concordia as part of my future; as a Concordia student, I had some of the best experiences of my life and made treasured friends," Debbie continued. "And now, as a mother, I want to ensure that Concordia will serve my children and grandchildren. I see Christian education, including Christian higher education, as necessary to the future of the church."

As dinner speaker, Debbie represented donors who have established scholarship endowments or named scholarship funds to benefit Concordia students.



The students who received the scholarships also were guests at the dinner, giving donors the opportunity to meet those they have helped. Senior preseminary student Greg Knippa spoke, representing the students in thanking the donors.

Concordia currently receives the earnings from almost \$5 million in scholarship endowments and trusts. An endowment is a permanent fund established by a donor, with the principal invested in a secure account, earning the highest possible interest, and the earnings distributed as scholarship assistance on an annual basis.

Generally, endowments are established at \$5,000 or more. The earnings from an endowed scholarship of \$50,000 allow one student each year to attend Concordia at a cost comparable to that of a state-supported institution. One of the goals of Concordia's "Who Will Lead Us?" Diamond Jubilee Cam-

paign is to add \$7.5 million in scholarship endowment to provide scholarships for 150 students each year.

With an annual gift of \$500 or more, a donor can establish a named scholarship, whereby the scholarship is identified as coming from a specific scholarship fund. The entire principal of a named scholarship is expended during an academic year.

For information about establishing an endowment or named scholarship at Concordia of Texas, call Mike Linebrink or Ray Martens at (512) 452-7661.

Concordia notes

- Spring commencement at Concordia Lutheran College of Texas will be Saturday, May 14, 10:30 a.m., in Woltman Activities Center. The speaker will be Dr. Mel Kieschnick, a 1945 Concordia alumnus. Now retired, Kieschnick formerly served as executive director of the Lutheran Schools Association of Metropolitan New



SCHOLARSHIP DONOR—
Debbie Albers of Walburg



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT—
Preseminary student Greg Knippa

York. The Baccalaureate Service will be held on Friday, May 13, 4 p.m., in St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin, led by Rev. Steve Wagner, pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Carrollton. Wagner is a 1967 Concordia alumnus, and is a

member of the Board of Regents.

- Concordia of Texas has been invited to join the Heart of Texas (HOT) NAIA athletic conference, along with Schreiner College of Kerrville. Other HOT members are St. Edward's University (Austin), Texas Lutheran College (Seguin), Texas Wesleyan College (Fort Worth), Mary Hardin-Baylor University (Belton), St. Mary's University (San Antonio) and Incarnate Word College (San Antonio). Concordia has previously played as an NAIA independent.

- Three former Concordia Stag baseball players have entered professional baseball this spring. Dusty Ridner and Jason Hart will join the Chicago Cubs minor league players, and Tiger King will join the Cleveland Indians minor league candidates. The three helped Coach James Keller's Stags win 40 of 58 games and CLC's first-ever NAIA conference title last spring.



THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION—These Concordia seniors are student teaching in Texas schools this spring, the last step of a rigorous program designed to equip them to be outstanding teachers in elementary and secondary classrooms.



\$110,000

BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOMES AND SERVICES, INC. GOOD SAMARITAN CAMPUS

Bethesda celebrates 90th anniversary

Staff and residents at the Good Samaritan Campus joined with Bethesda facilities around the country in a special anniversary celebration, Thursday, April 14.

Through an interactive video hook-up—normally used for staff training—Bethesda facilities read a litany together and paused simultaneously to give thanks to God for 90 years of ministry to people with mental retardation, according to Dr. A.L. Napolitano, executive director. Anniversary cake was served after the ceremony.

"It was so exciting for all the facilities to come together as one to celebrate 90 years of caring," said Joellyn Champagne, Good Samaritan Campus administrator.

A new video about Bethesda's ministry premiered.

"Portraits in Courage" shows how mentally retarded people draw on courage and faith to meet the exceptional challenges they face daily.

Lutherans blast into the Summit

Nearly 400 Houston area Lutherans, along with residents and staff of Bethesda's Good Samaritan Campus, turned out to watch the Rockets battle the LA Clippers for Lutheran Night at the Summit, Saturday, March 5.

A portion of the proceeds benefited residents of Good Samaritan's seven group homes in the Houston area.

"Good Samaritan residents and staff always enjoy watching the Rockets play at Lutheran Night at the Summit," said Good Samaritan Campus Administrator Joellyn Champagne. "They

The video features residents from Bethesda's 38 facilities, including the Good Samaritan Campus. Call 1-800-369-4636, Ext. 539, to receive the video free on loan.

have fun cheering on the team together."

The King's Choir, a boy choir from St. Mark Lutheran Church, Houston, opened the game by singing the national anthem, as they have done for several past Lutheran nights at the Summit and the Dome.

"Having the King's Choir and director Mary Mountford has become a tradition," said Champagne. "We look forward to hearing them perform again at next year's Lutheran Night at the Summit."

Residents lasso in fun at rodeo

Along with nearly a million rodeo fans from across the country, the residents of Good Samaritan donned their boots and jeans and attended the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Decked out in western attire, the residents headed for the two-week long rodeo Wednesday, Feb. 23. They enjoyed all the activities the rodeo had to offer, including a live performance by well-known country singer Reba McEntire.

"This rodeo is the largest in the U.S.," said Good Samaritan Administrator Joellyn Champagne. "Thanks to tickets donated by the rodeo, our residents were able to enjoy the fun."



Joellyn Champagne, Good Samaritan Campus administrator, chats with residents Marilyn and Alice on Western Day, Feb. 18. The day was held in preparation for the Feb. 23 rodeo that residents attended.

Along with numerous Houston businesses, the Good Samaritan Campus geared up for the rodeo with a Western Day, Friday, Feb. 18. Good Samaritan employees and residents dressed in their favorite jeans, vests

and boots and gathered under the recently completed Good Samaritan pavilion for grilled burgers and soda. Country western music added to the festive mood as residents and staff sang, clapped and danced.

Lord, help us be a blessing

Lord, help us be a blessing
To the Auxiliary this day.
As we all encourage each other,
On projects along the way.

Help us all to keep in focus,
Of why we do what we do.
In love of those special residents,
Who count on me and you.

Help us to keep on smiling,
Tho we sometimes feel so tired.
To remember to go to you for
strength,
And for the patience so desired.

Lord, help me be a blessing
In all that I do and say.
To encourage the one sitting
next to me,
To work for you today.

Maybe to serve in the office,
Or volunteer at the store.
Making items for the Bazaar,
Doing for the residents more.

The list can go on and on,
Sometimes we feel bogged down.
But Lord help us to remember,
To keep smiling, and not to
frown.

Lord make us the kind of
blessing,
To show your love to others.
To extend the blessing you've
shown us,
To all our sisters and brothers.

—Jean Wottrich

* * *

Jean Wottrich is a member of the Houston chapter of the Good Samaritan Auxiliary, which supports Good Samaritan through volunteering. You can help the residents of Good Samaritan by joining the Auxiliary, helping at the campus or volunteering at the thrift stores located in Austin, Conroe, Grand Prairie, Houston and Tomball. For information, call Jack Thornton, Good Samaritan regional public affairs director at (713) 351-4011.



Lone Star Camp session set for deaf youngsters

Every year, deaf campers ages 8 to 18 come from all over Texas to Camp Lone Star for a week of fun, exercise and Christian nurture.

Date for this year's camp is July 24-29. Registration for the camp is managed by The John of Beverley Chapel for the Deaf in Dallas. The phone number is (214) 368-0569; the address is Deaf Ministry, 7611 Park Lane, Dallas, TX 75225.

Campers are supervised by trained, full-time counselors, and they will hike, swim, canoe, engage in archery, crafts, skits, songs and campfires.

Each hearing-impaired camper shares a cabin with both deaf and hearing age-mates. Volunteers fluent in sign language attend.

Cost for the week is \$208, with a \$30 deposit required at registration. Scholarships are available.



THE INNOCENT DEAD—Members of Grace Lutheran in Seguin have created a "Cemetery of the Innocents" on their church property, with 4,500 white crosses representing the number of babies legally aborted each day in America.

'Cemetery of Innocents' recalls Roe vs. Wade

To mark the anniversary of the Supreme Court *Roe vs. Wade* decision of Jan. 22, 1973, members of Grace Lutheran of Elgin have created a "Cemetery of the Innocents" on their church property.

Church members have been working for several months to build 4,500 white wooden crosses which now make up the "cemetery."

Asked why his congregation would go to so much trouble and expense, Pastor Bryan Sullivan said, "Every day in America 4,500 babies are killed by legal abortions. Since *Roe vs. Wade*, more babies have been killed than the entire population of Canada, more than the total deaths in all wars in which America has been involved in its history.

"When you see a cross beside the highway," Sullivan continued, "it causes you to

remember that someone died at that spot.

We have created these 4,500 crosses to remind all who see them of the 4,500 innocent babies who die every day in our country."

The project has involved all Grace members, Sullivan said, with donations from Sunday school children, teenagers and adults. Several people not members of Grace Lutheran have helped.

"*Roe vs. Wade* made the womb the most dangerous environment for a baby in America," Sullivan said. "We are trying to do our part to say 'This is wrong.' If one life is saved, it will have been worth all of the time and expense."

The pastor also said the church wants to get out this message: "We are ready to help any woman who has a crisis pregnancy. There are alternatives to abortion, and we will help you find them."

It's over the hump in Austin

The mythical 600 membership "barrier" was broken Feb. 28 at Christ Lutheran in Austin by a baptism and an affirmation of faith.

Hannah Elise Osterndorf, infant child of Lt. Col. and Mrs. Brian Osterndorf, was baptized (number 600), and Sandra Young became a member by affirmation of faith (number 601).

Christ Lutheran set 600 as an evangelism goal several years ago, but it seemed impossible to reach. Pastor Jim Linderman said, "About the time we would get near to reaching our goal, several families would transfer to other congregations or someone would die."

Linderman said, "For some of us it (600 members) was like breaking the sound barrier. Now we expect to realize a rapid jump in church growth since we have crossed this hurdle."



SIX-OH-OH—Christ Lutheran of Austin broke the 600 membership barrier Feb. 28. From left are Lydia, Audrey and Brian Osterndorf; Pastor Jim Linderman holding newly baptized Hannah Osterndorf (#600) and Sandra Young, #601 by affirmation of faith.

YOUTH

Our bright Lutheran kids ...

A salute to Matt Register, a high school senior and member of **Faith, Huntsville**, who has been appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He'll begin his studies in July.

Lynn Glienke, a National Junior Honor Society student and member of **Hope, Austin**, was named her middle school's Sport Girl of the Year.

Jennifer Sjogren, **St. Paul, Plainview**, was awarded one of 4-H's highest honors



Jennifer

when her record book in Fitness Leadership won first in national competition. She received an all-paid trip to Chicago and a \$1,000 scholarship from Friends of 4-H.

Kail Bowden, **Faith, Gainesville**, is in the National Honor Society at her high school and was elected the society's vice president.

In good voice is Daniel Coakwell, **Prince of Peace, Belton**, who was named to the all-state choir.



Lyle

It just runs in the family. Lyle Wende, 14, **Redeemer, Cisco**, has earned the rank of Eagle Scout. His brother, Larry, did

the same thing two years ago.

Corrine Book, **First Lutheran, Texarkana**, made the All-America Dance Drill Team.

Craig Galler, **Trinity, Klein**, has received the Lutheran God and Church emblem as a result of completing this religious growth program through the Boy Scouts of America. Sponsored by the Synod's Board for Youth Services, the program takes considerable time and commitment.

Fifth-grader Stacy Spagnolo, **Our Savior, McKinney**, has been named to the advisory board of Rex's Kids Club



Stacy

where she will help organize club activities. The club is sponsored by Community Credit Union and has 4,500 members in McKinney and north Dallas. Children are taught money management skills and the importance of saving.

Applause, please, for Jennifer Bauer, **Hope, Winnie**, who was voted most courteous in her sophomore class. Thank you.

Tara Kaspar, **St. John, Beaumont**, won "Best of Show" in school competition with her science project and is advancing to district meet. Tara's project was electrographic metal detection which tells the metal content



PRICE OF PORK—To raise money to go to Glorybound, the members of Lutheran Youth Fellowship in Nederland, secured pledges in a "kiss the pig" contest and raised \$300. Pastor Francis Schroeder was one of the "winners" (?). Another winner was Lisa Richard who here does her winner duty. Votes were tallied according to how much money was donated for each candidate.

of rocks.

Danny Cadra, **Grace, Midland**, made all-state for his trumpet playing.

Look for Jeremy Ferguson in the halls of Congress one day or maybe even the White House. He was one of



Jeremy

350 young American students chosen to attend the National Youth Leaders Conference in January in Washington, D.C. Jeremy lives in Lorena, where he is a high school junior and attends **Trinity Lutheran, Waco**. The conference is a development program for outstanding high school students who have demonstrated leadership potential and scholastic merit. The participants interacted with key

leaders from the three branches of government, the media and the diplomatic corps. In one role-playing activity, the conference participants assumed the positions of president and members of the cabinet who must respond to an international crisis in the Balkans. Conference officials said the program is to provide the opportunity for students like Jeremy to distinguish themselves as tomorrow's leaders.

Traci Durow, **Holy Cross, Nederland**, auditioned her way into the junior high all-region choir.

Congratulations to Jennifer Cruz, **Trinity, Houston**, who won a blue ribbon at her school district's solo and ensemble competition. She sang Franz Schubert's "Heiden Roslein," and she did it all in German!



More bright kids ...

Kim Walker, **Peace, Texas City**, won first place in the Texas City Science Fair for her research into the effect herbicides and pesticides have on earthworms. Earthworms? Yes, they are an important part of our environment.

* * *

Bright kid honors for Holly Leubner, **St. Paul, Magnolia**, who won her school's Spelling Bee. She received a medallion from the Houston Chronicle and a trophy from her school.

James Allen, **Cross, New Braunfels**, made it to the final round in his school's Geography Bee. He's a seventh grader.

Top music-makers are Michelle Phillips (trombone) and Connie Barz (piano), **Crown of Life, San Antonio**, both of whom won No. 1 ratings in the UIL solo and ensemble contest.

* * *

Congratulations to the gaggle of bright kids at **Bethlehem, William Penn**, who include: Daniel Loudenback, superior rating in district competition on the saxophone; Nancy Loudenback, superior rating for clarinet solo; Heidi Kettler and Terie Ashorn, winners in the county 4-H fashion show; Brian and Jason Ashorn, honors winners with their cattle in the San Antonio and Houston Dairy Shows, with Jason getting a plaque for Senior Dairy Showmanship; Kristie Norris, whose picture of her father received a blue ribbon in the Houston Livestock Show photography contest.

Zion, **Tomball**, was well represented on the winners' list at the Tomball FFA Show. Shelly Grymes won third place with her chickens; Matt Schiel, reserve champion heifer and eighth place chickens, and Marci Schiel, class champion heifer. On the music side in UIL competition, Nathan Dane and Kelly Teichmiller each won three medals for superior ratings in solo and ensembles, Nathan on trombone and Kelly on flute.

* * *

The **Waco Tribune-Herald** placed Randy Wiltshire, **Peace, Hewitt**, on its Central Texas all-academic football team. He also made honorable mention on the newspaper's Super-Centex team on offense. He's a senior at Lorena (Texas) High School.

* * *

Bright kid honors for Tracey Steele, **Hosanna, Kerrville**, who won the city's DAR history essay contest and was honored at the annual George Washington Tea.

* * *

At the Bell County Youth Fair and Livestock show, Zackary Winkler, **Prince of Peace, Belton**, won first place with his market swine. Steven Pucket won second with his market lamb.

Alex Cargile, **Our Savior, Abilene**, was awarded scouting's God and Country Webelo emblem, signifying a commitment to act out his faith and seek continued growth.

Doug Wood, **Peace, Gale-na Park**, was chosen by the

Harris County Department of Education as one of 100 winners of the Gold Key for scholastic writing. His entry goes to New York for national competition. He also was nominated for a National English Merit Award and his biography will appear in the National Awards Yearbook.

Project CAN-DO putting muscle into ministry of Texas youth

by Randy Potts
CAN-DO Director

"Project CAN-DO is the best thing that ever happened to our youth ministry," a youth leader recently said to me. "After returning from the training workshop, we implemented CAN-DO in our church, he continued. "The youths' excitement for leading the congregation in this mission project has



Potts

spread to the total membership. "The youth feel like they have something that they can really sink their teeth into and make a significant difference for Christ. The congregation is so happy to see the youth involved in this districtwide mission outreach endeavor. Both youth and adults are learning more about mission outreach opportunities and enjoying their personal involvement in the mission fields."

There has been a good response to the pledge drive to raise new funds for Texas and international missions. Youth have taken the lead by giving pacesetter pledges and the adults have followed

with significant support. "Our group is really looking forward to participating in the mission fields this summer at the CAN-DO servant events," said the youth leader. "This project has given us a tangible way to be about the Great Commission."

Project CAN-DO is a youth-led, youth-intensive endeavor which seeks to personally involve Texas District youth and adults in mission and servanthood in a significant way. The goal is to dramatically change the lives of youth and adults to become more intentionally mission-minded through:

A. Youth-adopted and funded mission fields.

B. Youth mission leadership training through planned servant events at the adopted mission fields.

The youth of the Texas District are working to raise significant funds to expand the mission fields at several sites in Texas and as far away as Russia and Slovakia. Plans are for 450 youth and adults to be personally connected to these mission fields through CAN-DO summer servant events at sites in Texas, Russia and Slovakia.



'I
love
you'



Katya, other Russian children can be adopted through LSSS

Katya is a 4-year-old toddler who has never known a mother and father. At birth, she was orphaned and became a ward of the Russian government. She lives in a Russian orphanage, makes friends easily and plays well with other children. Katya is one of 48 children who have been referred by the Russian government to LSSS for adoption by prospective parents in Texas.

"WE EXPECTED a good response from our families to the news that LSSS was officially licensed to find parents in Texas for Russian orphans," said Karalyn Heimlich, director of Children's Services, "but we never expected this response from the Russian government."

The children available are infants through their early teen years. Two of the children, who have been referred, are barely teenagers and were found in a train station, abandoned by their mother. The story of each child is different, but they all have the same theme, which says, "I cannot take care of you." There are couples in Texas who are saying, "I can take care of you." Are you one of these couples?

TO LEARN MORE about the Russian adoption program and specifics about Katya and the other children, phone or write the Lutheran Social Services of the South office in your area.

Bernstein looks forward to the challenge in agency advancement

Karen Bernstein joined the LSSS Agency Advancement team at the beginning of March. She is a native Texan and attended college at Concordia in Austin. She is the mother of three children: Brent, 29; Jennifer 22; and 17-year-old Brian.

"My father was an LCMS pastor," said Karen. "I am looking forward to being part of this special ministry. Lutheran Social Services of the South is doing what Christ taught. It is reaching out and helping peo-

ple young or old who need care, love and support."

David Kahle, vice president for agency advancement, says, "She has the background and the knowledge to help the agency and the people who support LSSS. Karen's knowledge of the church is a real asset to Lutheran Social Services. We're excited that she's taken on the challenges of serving the south/central Texas region."

To contact Karen Bernstein, call the Austin office at (512) 454-4611.



Karen Bernstein

Lubbock's Neighborhood House offers tons of aid to needy, but more resources would help

LSSS' Neighborhood-House ministry in Lubbock is growing to meet the needs of the city's poor and helpless. Last year alone, Neighborhood House gave 74 tons of food and hygiene supplies to more than 3,700 families in the Lubbock area. That remarkable number is 22 TONS MORE than the ministry provided in 1992, and represents four-and-a-half trailer trucks full of goods!

Neighborhood House was begun in the 1970s as a ministry of the Texas District and the Lutheran congregation in Lubbock.

Neighborhood House is part of a pilot, one-stop shopping program for needy people that is partially underwritten by the federal government. The program provides all kinds of social services in one downtown building called the Community Health Center of Lubbock.

"We are the key assistance program at the Center," explained Joy Loper, director of Neighborhood House. "People come to us



for more than just food. They also need eyeglasses, prescriptions and everyday necessities. The problem is we don't have enough resources to meet the demand."

While all people who needed food received groceries last year, other needs had to be turned down. Loper said 4,500 separate requests were denied at Neighborhood House due to a lack of funds or materials.

"It's heartbreaking," Loper said, "when people's needs are real, and we can't provide for them. There is so much more Neighborhood House could do if only we had more resources."

To learn about this ministry, phone Joy Loper at Neighborhood House at (806) 741-0459.



Glenn Pittsford



Foundation plan helps retirees increase tax-deferred income

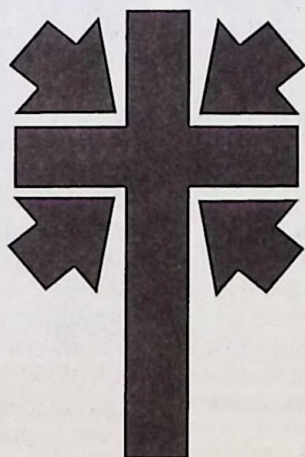
by Glenn Pittsford, Executive Director
Lutheran Foundation of Texas

This message is to our retired Christian friends in the Texas District. I believe the Lutheran Foundation of Texas has a Christian Estate Planning opportunity for you, especially important because of the increasing taxation of Social Security income and other income for seniors.

We have been reading articles and hearing about the need for retirees to reallocate investment portfolios to reduce both taxable and tax-exempt income and to increase tax deferred income.

By utilizing a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, also known as a Retirement Unitrust, it is possible to defer receiving income until you need it. The trust may provide a very minimal income now and a more substantial income later. In other words, the trust can be designed to build up equity growth now and provide more income later. Tax is not incurred during the equity buildup.

To discuss the Retirement Unitrust further, call the Lutheran Foundation of Texas office at 1-800-880-3733, or return the coupon.



☐ Please send me more information on a Retirement Unitrust.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Telephone Number _____

MAIL TO: Lutheran Foundation of Texas
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
1-800-880-3733 (toll-free)
926-4272 (Austin)

TEXAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Texas District 1994 budget set at \$5.8 million; 43.6 percent to Synod

A 1994 budget of \$5,825,000 was adopted for the Texas District by its Board of Directors March 22 in Austin.

Of this, \$2,539,700 will be sent to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for its mission and ministries. That represents 43.6 percent of the district funds. This is \$18,775 more than last year.

Of its remaining district budget of \$3,285,300, directors approved a spending plan that will allocate district monies as follows:

- **Texas District Missions and Ministries, \$2,028,290.** This will support regular mission work in Texas, new mission work, purchase of advance sites, special ministries like campus and ethnic, student aid grants and grants to Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran Foundation of Texas, Concordia Lutheran College of Texas and Lutheran Outdoors Ministry. This is 34.8 percent of the budget.

- **Parish services, \$375,331.** This includes parish education, youth ministry, church worker recruitment, stewardship and evangelism education, human care ministries and worship. This is 6.4 percent of the budget.

- **Special projects and assemblies, \$140,478.** This includes support of THE LUTHERAN WITNESS blanket subscription plan, district and synodical conventions, workshops and conferences, district committees and boards. This is 2.4 percent of the budget.

- **Presidential and Related Services, \$272,428.** This includes the president's office, congregational care and presidential assistance, vice presidents and circuit counselors. This is 4.7 percent of the budget.

- **Business Office Services, \$468,773.** This includes financial and general offices, office building, capital outlays and operating contingency and is 8.1 percent of the district budget.

The district budget of \$5,825,000 is a \$160,000 increase over 1993, made possible by pledges for 1994 from district congregations totaling \$5,322,182, plus more than 30 district congregations pledging mission offerings for the first time, plus receipts over regular mission offerings including events like mission festivals.

In other action:

The board was told by President Jerry Kieschnick that there are 57 pastoral vacancies in the Texas District, with 47 of the vacant congregations actively searching for a pastor, the others being served by lay ministers or vacancy pastors. He said Texas District congregations may call as many as 12 seminary graduates this spring.

Affirmed the appointments of Jane Martens to the district nominating committee, Rev. Paul Jentz as Circuit 15 counselor, Homer Meil, Kenneth Haunschild and Karl Lemke to three-year terms on the Lutheran Foundation of Texas Board of Directors, issued a call to Rev. Lynn Stroud as full-time chaplain at Three Rivers Correctional Institute, approved the establishment of four preseminary interview teams, one for each of the four areas of Texas. They will

consist of an area vice president, a representative of the Ministerial Health Committee, a parish pastor, a pastor's wife and one member of a district congregation. The two LCMS seminaries have agreed they will not accept candidates without receiving the results of the interview process.

The board heard from Mission Director Ken Hennings that the number of subsidized congregations of the district has been reduced from 40 to 36. Seventeen of the subsidized are specialized ministries including deaf, Hispanic, campus or black. Of 16 Anglo subsidized congregations, 11 are expected to become self-supporting in the next few years, Hennings said.

Hennings told the board that a cooperative agreement with the Southern District will establish a Theological Education by Extension (TEE) program for Vietnamese and black students, monitored by the seminary in Fort Wayne. Upon graduating from the six-year home-study program, the men will be colloquized as pastors for ethnic ministries.

Convention nominations

The results of nominations by Texas District congregations for offices to be filled at the June 23-26 district convention in Galveston were presented to members of the district Board of Directors at its meeting March 22 in Austin.

The convention ballot will have five candidates each for the offices of president and area vice president, they being listed one to five in accordance with the number of nominations received. In some cases, there are more than five because of ties for fifth place on the ballot. All have been contacted with some declining nomination.

These are the results of the nominations:

PRESIDENT

Gerald Kieschnick
Robert Hill
Eugene Heckmann
David Joeckel
Glenn Huebel
Lawrence White

VICE PRESIDENT AREA A

Carroll Kohl
Thomas Handrick
Dean Kelm
David Rohde

Art Hill

Donald Loeschen

Jack Schneider

VICE PRESIDENT AREA B

David Joeckel

Glenn Huebel

Robert Hill

Walt Albers

John Armstrong

Terry Beltz

Steve Henze

Charles Houska

Victor Kohlmann

Mike Mattil

John Messmann

Donald Olson

Ben Rathgeber

VICE PRESIDENT AREA C

Paul Hartfield

Henry Biar

Bryan Sullivan

John Ellwanger

Gary Martin

VICE PRESIDENT AREA D

Eugene Heckmann

Lawrence White

Donald Black

Gene Oesch

Tim Dinger

Allen Doering

Donald Kaspar

Doug Rathgeber

Mike Snow

Jerome Teichmiller



MIDLAND—Grace Lutheran of Midland recently honored its two most senior of senior citizens. They are Annie Synatschk, 95, and Charlie Lowke, 98.



LONG WED—These three couples recently celebrated 50-plus years of marriage together. They are members of Zion Lutheran, Schulenburg. From left, Fred and Hattie Mertz, Olga and Monroe Schuetze, Rubin and Lorene Dahse. With them is Pastor Michael Hafer.



PALESTINE—Gilbert and Marjorie Smith, members of Bethlehem Lutheran in Palestine, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary Feb. 11. Marjorie has been Bethlehem's church office secretary for the past 12 years.



GOLDEN COUPLE—Walter and Dona Bea Schneider of Midland are members of Redeemer, Odessa. They celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 15.



McALLEN—Emil and Lillian Krueger are members of St. Paul Lutheran in McAllen and have been since 1948. On May 1, they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary.



ROSENBERG—Arthur Lee and Betty Stern, Trinity, Rosenberg, were married 50 years ago, March 9, 1944.

ANNIVERSARIES

The following couples of the Texas District recently celebrated wedding anniversaries of 50 years or more:

Our Redeemer, Dallas:
Charlotte and Clarence Beaty, 64 years, March 1;
Frances and Percy Lichtenberg, 50 years, March 3.

Grace, Mart: Edwin B. and Evelyn E. Abel, 54 years, Jan. 4.

Concordia, Houston:
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Huber, 54 years, Feb. 5.

Mount Calvary, La Grange: John and Julia Hentschel, 62 years, Feb. 2; Fred and Lena Loth, 57 years, Feb. 7; Herbert and Elenora Lange, 58 years, Feb. 24.

Bethlehem, Palestine:
Walter and Ruby Gruetzner, 57 years, Feb. 4.

Messiah, Houston: Joy and Louis Niklas, 50 years, Feb. 8.

Trinity, Sealy: G.A. and Lillie Mae Remmert, 55

years, Feb. 26.

St. Matthew, Westfield:
Clarence and Marie Frank, 64 years, March 2.

Ascension, Cleburne:
Rudy and Melrie Schoessow, 50 years, March 14.

Trinity, Sealy: Charles and Gladys Bolten, 52 years, March 12.

Immanuel, Giddings:
These couples have celebrated 50-plus wedding anniversaries since November 1993: Fred and Dorothy Wenke, 56 years, Nov. 7; Erich and Amanda Faske, 50 years, Nov. 7; Erwin and Edna Arldt, 57 years, Nov. 8; Erwin and Louise Schautschick, 52 years, Nov. 16; Walter and Ella Mitschke, 60 years, Nov. 28; M.C. and Hazel Gruetzner, 62 years, Dec. 10; and in 1994, Herbert and Ruth Teinert, 55 years, Jan. 1; Charles and Catherine Amoroso, 50 years, Jan. 8; Alvin and Malinda Lehmann, 56 years, Jan. 20; Ben and Lena Pietsch, 54 years, Jan. 21; Leonard and Elizabeth Kappler, 52 years, Feb. 1.



Core committee for Wichita Falls convention pictured are, from left, seated, Clara Ayers, co-chairman; Betty Walker, chairman; standing, Renee Brockreide, housing coordinator; Glenda Roth, secretary; Rev. John Gerlack, pastoral counselor; Lisa Schroeder, treasurer; and Sally Handrick, arrangements chairman.



Norma Kramlin, convention speaker



Iri Skinner, International LWML Board representative

Flood with 'light' at Red River

The excitement is unfolding! The hosting Red River Zone is busy preparing for you to "Shine Like Stars" at the 1994 Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League convention in Wichita Falls, Texas.

Philippians 2:15-16 says, "So that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved gen-

eration, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life...."

The Word of Life will be offered through a communion worship service, Bible study, selecting mission projects, speakers, singing, mission service ingathering and Christian fellowship.

Child care will be provided free of charge for infants through 5 years of age when

the convention is in session. Plans will be made if there are enough interested. A fee will be charged.

Plan now to join your LWML sisters as we "Shine Like Stars" in Wichita Falls June 15-17.

Betty Kiesling
Publicity Chairman
Texas District LWML
1994 Convention

LWML SUNDAY

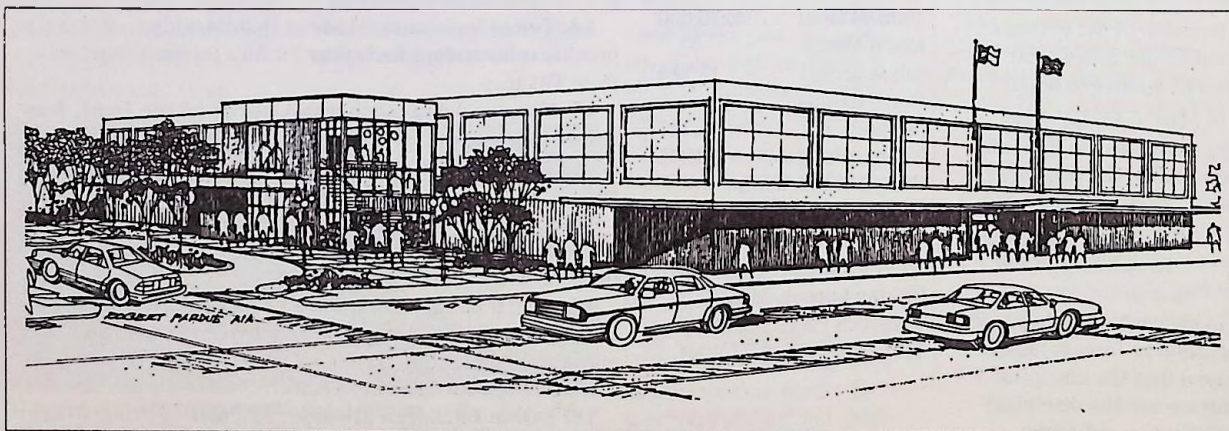
Oct. 2, 1994

**"Made Bold
by the Spirit"**

(Watch for details.)

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152, Lewisville, TX 75067.



The Activities Center in Wichita Falls will be the location for the 28th convention of the Texas District LWML.



Marching orders

Exerpts from the report of the president of the District to the Texas District Convention June 23-26, 1994, Galveston, Texas.

These words of our Lord are extremely important: "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all of Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

We view these words as the marching orders given directly to the disciples by Jesus in what literally were His final moments on this earth. And we believe these words are marching orders for the Christian Church today, some 2,000 years after they were first spoken.

Two words from this passage are of significant importance: **witness** and **power**.

- "Witness" is defined in several ways: "to testify to, to give evidence of; one who, being present, personally sees; a beholder, spectator, eyewitness; one who gives testimony." It is obvious that Jesus was saying that His disciples, past, present and future, would testify, give evidence and testimony of Him.

- "Power" is "the ability to do or act; strength, might, force." Clearly Jesus was saying that such ability, strength, might and force would be received by those people on whom the Holy Spirit would come. We see that power received and unleashed by those who experienced the Pentecost event, written in the very

next chapter of the Book of Acts.

The tangible result of this God-given power: "Those who accepted Peter's message (on Pentecost) were baptized and about three thousand were added to their number that day. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles" (Acts 2:41-43).

CAN YOU IMAGINE 3,000 people, probably mostly adults, being baptized on a single day? Why should we be so surprised at this phenomenon? Probably because it just doesn't seem to work that way today. But the Word of God has power! The means whereby God communicates His grace are effective! "The Lord added to the Church daily those who were being saved" (Acts 2:47).

What a tremendous opportunity and challenge God is placing before us this very day in the Texas District! With a population of some 18 million in the state, only 134,000 are members of congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, less than one of every 100 people in the state of Texas.

The 350 congregations of the Texas District receive total annual offerings of more than \$60 million. Ninety-one percent of those dollars are spent for the purpose of being Jesus'



President Kleschnick

witnesses in Jerusalem, in the local community served by each of our congregations. The remaining 9 percent of the dollars are spent for the purpose of being Jesus' witnesses in Judea, Samaria and to the ends of the earth in the mission and ministry endeavors of the Texas District and of the entire Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

IN SPITE OF these expenditures, we have yet to experience a day when 3,000 people were baptized. Indeed, our growth in Texas has progressed from 13,832 baptized members in 1906 to 134,000 in 1994. That's an average increase of 1,363 baptized members per year.

The Texas District has long been recognized as a "Mission District," one which places heavy emphasis on giving bold witness by word and deed through communication of the Gospel into all the world.

FOR EXAMPLE, in 1994, of every dollar the Texas District receives from its congregations, 43.6 cents are sent to the Synod for world missions, higher education and other services provided by the Synod to its congregations. Another 34.8 cents are spent for mission

and ministry in Texas, including financial assistance for congregations of Hispanic, black, Asian, deaf, campus, outdoors, social and educational ministries. Another 6.4 cents are spent on programmatic and parish services to congregations in Texas in the areas of evangelism, stewardship, recruitment of church workers, older adult ministry, worship, social ministry, parochial education, singles and youth ministry.

Another 8.1 cents are spent to provide a district office building and the business office workers needed to perform the necessary functions in the area of finance, personnel, communication and support. Another 4.7 cents are spent to provide presidential services, expenses for circuit counselors, district vice presidents and part-time assistants to the president in caring for the 350 congregations, 115 parochial schools and 1,400 professional church workers of this great LCMS Texas District.

And, finally, 2.4 cents is spent for special projects and assemblies, including workshops, conferences, task forces, commissions, committees, the Board of Directors and THE LUTHERAN WITNESS.

The reality is that we have a long way to go when it comes to extending the Gospel witness into all the world. The first step is to focus on that Gospel witness as the primary purpose for the existence of the church. Jesus' Great Commission began by saying,

(Continued on next page.)



THEY'RE 10—This is the famed Houston Lutheran Chorale which this year is celebrating its 10th anniversary. The choir has traveled throughout Europe and performed at Carnegie Hall.

Houston Lutheran Chorale marks 10 years of music ministry

by Betty Ann Gerber

It is with all thanks and praise to God that the Houston Lutheran Chorale now celebrates 10 years of music ministry. Through concerts at home at St. Mark, Houston, to travels around Texas, Missouri, New York, the Caribbean, England and Europe, the goal of the chorale has been to reach souls with the word through the gift of music. The chorale is led and directed by Metford E. Mountford.

Some of the highlights over the years are the St. Louis concert tour and recording session at Concordia Seminary, performing in Houston with guest artists like Stephen Nielson, Ovid Young, Willard Palmer and the American Boys Choir. There have been the annual Christmas concerts; European concert tour to Germany, France, Austria and Switzerland; and a New York tour to sing in Carnegie Hall. In December 1991, the chorale's music from Puccini's "Nessa di Gloria" closed the 100th anniversary celebration year of Carnegie Hall.

This year, as a prelude to

the chorale's anniversary celebration, a "welcome home" concert featured soprano soloist and former chorale member Sandy-Knoernschild, with Diana Gaide at the piano. On May 1, another concert presented James Lent, piano accompanist for the chorale, who has received a music scholarship to Yale University.

As they have been privileged in the past, the chorale again will sing at the opening worship of the Texas District Convention June 23 in Galveston.

To begin its 10th anniversary celebration, the chorale will present patriotic concerts Sunday, July 3, at 3 and 7 p.m. at St. Mark in Houston, 1515 Hillendahl. Ticket reservations may be made at (713) 468-6452.

Other events for 1994 include a turkey supper Oct. 15 and "Best of 10 Years" Christmas concerts Dec. 2-5. Tapes and CDs will be available for the first time.

In July 1995, the chorale will go to Salzburg, Austria, where it has been invited to sing at the annual Church Music Festival in the Salzburg Cathedral.

ORDERS

(Continued from Page A.)

"Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." Then He added "...teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you."

Also, in Acts 1:8, the Biblical basis for our convention theme, He said, *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth."*

Obviously, we cannot emphasize only conserving and promoting the unity of the true faith or only extending the Gospel witness into all the world. It's not either/or. It must be both/and.

BUT THE temptation for the Missouri Synod, especially after the tumultuous 1970s when doctrinal matters were in serious disrepair in our midst, has been to focus—using our Synod president's terminology—on "keeping it straight," while seemingly underemphasizing—again using Dr. Barry's words—

"getting it out." It's hard to keep it straight if we don't get it out.

Thus, the importance of our convention theme: **"Power To Be His Witnesses."** We know the task. We have the strategy. We even have available the necessary resources. What we seem to lack is the power, which God promises is readily available: *"Lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."* *"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you...."*

It's true that these words were originally spoken to a specific group of people. Does anyone coming to our convention doubt their relevance and their applicability to this group of people gathered as the 53rd convention of the Texas District?

AS WE RECEIVE that power from none other than God's Holy Spirit, what remains is focusing that power, in strategic fashion, that it might both faithfully and effectively result in the addition to the church of those who are being saved (see Acts 2:47).

May our gracious heavenly Father richly bless all our preparations for the 1994 Texas District Convention and may He grant to us today and into the future **"Power To Be His Witnesses."**



Texas District Mission News

by Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration



Rev. Ken
Hennings

Convention resolution could put mission effort on your doorstep

The Board of Mission Administration (BMA) and the Texas District have attempted, over the years, to increase local involvement in mission starts. An attempt was made many years ago to have a mission committee established for each region of the district. Years later, the district encouraged circuits and even individual congregations to start a mission church on their own. Faith Lutheran Church in Mexia was started this way. However, for the most part, initiating and starting new mission congregations in the district has been done from the mission office in Austin.

Even though God has blessed our efforts as a district in planting new congregations, the Board of Mission Administration believes that more can be done in this area, if a partnership between the district mission office and the local community could be established.

The BMA has submitted to the June district convention, for the convention's consideration, the formation of Texas Mission Action Councils (TMAC) in circuits and/or local areas. These councils would work in partnership with the district mission office, in addressing mission concerns and possibilities in the local area or circuit.

It is the desire of the BMA to have as much of the decision-making process, concerning a new start, made at the local level instead of at the district level.

The rationale behind the TMAC concept is that the people at the local level know more about what is happening in their community and are closer to what is happening than the district. The district mission office does have access to

many demographic sources and "trends" information on areas in Texas and needs to share its information with people in the field. The people in the field can verify, enhance and enlarge this information with information of their own for a better approach to meeting the mission needs of their area.

It is hoped that the TMACs would include one layperson, excited about missions, from each congregation involved with the TMAC; and one or two pastoral advisers from the area. The district mission executive would meet with the TMACs to share information, receive information, encourage and assist in whatever way possible with the mission endeavors undertaken.

The two resolves of Resolution 7-1-94, to be considered at the district convention in June are:

RESOLVED, That the Board of Mission Administration encourage and work with the circuits/circuit counselors to establish "Texas Mission Action Councils" which would endeavor to deal with mission

concerns in local areas; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That the Board of Mission Administration be encouraged to work with and through the Texas Mission Action Councils, providing program support and financial assistance through the same in a joint attempt to reach the outreach challenges of that local mission field.

Please pray for God's blessing on the deliberations of the district convention, so that we can be faithful to our calling of sharing the Good News.



*On your
pastor's mind*

School violence

I was listening to the radio early last Friday morning on my way down to Galveston. I heard a teacher describe some of the trials that teachers are facing in trying to teach children these days. He talked about junior high students who would simply walk out of the classroom whenever they felt like it. He spoke about the noise level being so high it was impossible to shout over the din. He made the point that if you try to bring some order and discipline in the class, you will find yourself soon confronted by some attorney.

OF COURSE, we know about the violence going on the schools today. It has reached epidemic proportions.

I was thinking of that teacher's comments last Sunday morning as I listened to the young people of our Trinity-Messiah School giving a testimony of their faith. I observed the decorum and the sincerity of those young people and I prayed, "Thank you Lord for Christian parents. Thank you for a Christian school."

Oh to be sure, the devil knows how to work also in the environment of a Christian day school, but he is confronted again and again with the power of God's Holy Spirit. He can achieve only minimal success.

I BELIEVE THAT our Christian school is worth all of the sacrifice and effort that goes into it. We have a marvelous blessing in our Christian school, and I hope that you are praying daily for our teachers. Do pray also for those who teach in environments that leave much to be desired. Most public school teachers want to make a difference in the lives of young people, but in many instances their hands are tied behind their backs by the breakdown of the home and the increased bureaucracy together with the endless paper shuffling that makes teaching more and more difficult.

FINALLY, WHENEVER and wherever you have opportunity, be a true example to the coming generation. Let your example be seen in your worship life, your prayer life, your stewardship life. Let them see Jesus in you. That is the best contribution you can make.

*by Rev. Richard Wagner
Trinity Lutheran, Houston*

(This article was excerpted from Trinity's newsletter.)



VIVA!—Members of Trinity, Brownsville, entered this float in the city's annual Charro Days parade Feb. 26. The day-care center at Trinity is adding a new unit that will nearly double its capacity. Laborers For Christ is aiding the construction. Interim pastor is Rev. George W. Price.

Dr. William Thompson takes San Antonio Concordia pulpit

Dr. William G. Thompson was installed June 5 as senior pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church of San Antonio. He succeeds Dr. Guido Merkens, Concordia's founder and senior pastor for 42 years. Merkens resigned his pulpit to join Lutheran Hour Ministries, a worldwide Christian media outreach and lay involvement effort.

Thompson accepted the call to Concordia from Trinity Lutheran in Utica, Mich., a growing congregation of 4,100 baptized members with an average church attendance of more than 1,800. It is one of the Synod's three leading congregations in number of adults confirmed, statistics comparable with Concordia.

A native Texan born in Houston, Thompson graduated in 1973 from the Fort Wayne seminary and earned a doctor of ministry degree in 1982 from Hartford (Conn.) Seminary. He previously served parishes in Galesburg, Ill., and Bristol, Conn.

He is a frequent presenter



Dr. William Thompson

at conferences and workshops related to team ministry, church management and leadership issues. He is a visiting professor at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, and Concordia Seminary in Porto Alegre, Brazil, a country for which he has been instrumental in raising funds to support Lutheran day schools.

He also is president of Lutheran Friends of the Deaf, which provides direct services to hearing impaired adults on Long Island, N.Y., and serves as a model program for other U.S. agencies.

He and his wife, Patricia, have two children, Michelle and John Michael.



What your gifts have done

by Glenn Pittsford, Executive Director
Lutheran Foundation of Texas

In 1993, the Lutheran Foundation of Texas disbursed \$203,647 to ministries of the Texas District and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. We thank God for the generosity and commitment of the families in Texas who made these gifts through their Christian Estate Plans.



Pittsford

Of the total disbursed, \$28,990.54 was to congregations in the Texas District, \$27,544.09 for missions, \$19,021.85 for ministries of mercy and care, \$22,179.43 to seminaries, \$96,961.83 to Lutheran colleges and \$8,949.26 to various other ministries. The amounts disbursed include payments from endowments and trusts as well as earnings on congregational custodial accounts.

These gifts are very significant, yet they are only the beginning of the story. Millions of dollars are in trusts currently benefiting individuals and families. These trusts will some day also benefit ministries. Lutherans in Texas are regularly adding to the number of trusts, endowments and other arrangements managed by the Foundation. And many individuals are remembering Lutheran ministries in their Last Will and Testaments.

In 1993, \$2.8 million in new gifts were added to plans involving the Lutheran Foundation of Texas as trustee. In addition, more than \$2.9 million in future bequests in wills and insurance gifts were planned.

Please remember that the Lutheran Foundation of Texas is an agency of the Texas District and is at your service as you make or update your own Christian Estate Plan. There is no cost for information and assistance, and all matters are held in strict confidence by the Foundation.

If you want to support a Lutheran ministry you love through your Christian Estate Planning, please contact the Foundation so that we can assist you.

Lutheran Foundation Of Texas 1993 Disbursements by Ministry

CONGREGATIONS AND SCHOOLS:	\$	28,990.54
MISSIONS:	\$	27,544.09
MINISTRIES OF MERCY & CARE:	\$	19,021.85
SEMINARIES:	\$	22,179.43
CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION:	\$	96,961.83
OTHER:		<u>\$ 8,949.26</u>
TOTAL	\$	203,647.00



I want to support _____ through my
Christian Estate Plan. Please contact me regarding ways in
which this can be accomplished.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Telephone Number _____

MAIL TO: Lutheran Foundation of Texas
7900 E. Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
1-800-880-3733 (toll free)
926-4272 (Austin)

HAPPENINGS IN TEXAS

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

Four congregations of the Texas District have received grants from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) to celebrate significant anniversaries. The Milestone grants went to 37 LCMS congregations celebrating their centennial, 29 marking their 125th year and nine have reached 150 years. The four Texas congregations are Zion, Abilene; St. Peter, Bowie; Immanuel, Copperas Cove; and St. Paul, Wichita Falls. All four are celebrating 100th anniversaries in 1994.

* * *

Congratulations to R.B. and Barbara Sanford, Zion, Pasadena, who were given Zion's Service to School Award as part of National Lutheran Schools Week. The Sanfords have two grandchildren at Zion school and give an enormous amount of time to the school in many special ways.

Members of St. John, San Benito, gave a farewell luncheon for their winter Texan members March 20. They'll be back when the snow flies up north.

* * *

Can you believe Billy Adair of Trinity, Klein? He's given a total of 18 gallons of blood to the church's blood bank. Kenneth Able has given 13.

* * *

Members of Our Savior, Abilene, conducted a prayer vigil that lasted from the close of their Good Friday service through Saturday until the Easter morning sunrise service. And Christ the King, Kingwood, held a prayer vigil on Good Friday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the hours our Lord was on the cross.

* * *

There was a new sound Easter Sunday at Immanuel, Temple. The handbell choir



MALONE—The congregation of Salem Lutheran in Malone broke ground March 20 for a new worship/fellowship facility. Building committee members are, from left, Patsy Williams, Joe Symank, Eddle Ray Schulz, Kay Watson, Gary Freels, Weldon Reinke, Morris Kruger and Pastor Joe Ardy.

made its first performance, ringing out the good news of a risen Christ!

* * *

Trinity Lutheran, Houston, received a \$500 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans to help defray costs and registration fees for their Feb. 26 seminar, Building Lutheranism in Today's Society.

* * *

Big print bulletins are made available at Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls, for the visually impaired.

* * *

Pastor Allen Bauer was installed as director of congregational growth April 10 at Pilgrim, Houston. He's from Maryland.

* * *

Children in the day and preschool at Faith, Sugar Land, had a special treat when Kevin Bass, baseball player for the Houston Astros, took part in a recent chapel program. Bass has three children enrolled in the school.

* * *

Rev. Richard Lofgren was installed April 17 as pastor of Bethlehem, Houston.

* * *

Jeffrey Burkee, a New Jersey Lutheran school principal, has taken a call to become principal of Zion Lutheran School, Pasadena.

* * *

Redeemer, Beaumont, has come up with a unique way to help finance parking lot improvements. Members have been asked to tithe their income tax returns for the project.



DIRECTOR—Rev. Chester McCown was installed Feb. 6 as director of pastoral care at Shannon Medical Center in San Angelo. At the installation were, from left, Rev. Carroll Kohl, Texas District vice president; McCown; Rev. Kenneth Holdorf; Michael McAndrew, senior vice president at Shannon; and Rev. Malcolm Hoffman, director of chaplaincy ministries for Lutheran Social Services of the South.



Hoffmann set for LOMT banquet, Lone Star barbecue

The last weekend in July is going to be an exciting one in La Grange, Texas!

Dr. Oswald C.J. Hoffmann will be the featured speaker at two events on behalf of Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas (LOMT) and its facilities.

And you're invited!

The first event is the annual LOMT Development Council Awards Banquet which will be held on Saturday evening, July 30, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in La Grange.

The second event is the outdoor worship service at the Annual Camp Lone Star Barbecue and Auction, which will be held the following day, Sunday, July 31.

Hoffmann served from 1955 until 1988 as the speaker for "The Lutheran Hour." He also has appeared on numerous television and radio programs and served as host and narrator for the acclaimed five-hour television miniseries "Yeshua," which aired in 1984.

Details on how you can

attend one or both of these events are as follows:

Development Council Banquet

The Annual Development Council Banquet will be held on July 30 at 5 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall in La Grange, located at 190 S. Brown St., which is one block to the south of Busi-



Dr. Oswald C.J. Hoffmann

ness Highway 71 and five blocks west of the intersection of Highway 77.

The LOMT Council Banquet is held yearly to honor LOMT Development Council members for their support of the ministry and its

campus. Hoffmann will deliver the key address at this event.

There is no charge to attend the council dinner, but a freewill offering will be taken to benefit the mission and programs of LOMT. Reservations are required from those wishing to attend, in writing. Complete and return the form below. Upon receipt of the enclosed form, tickets will be forwarded to you by mail as requested. They must be presented at the door to be seated at the dinner. No verbal or phone reservations will be accepted.

Space to the council dinner is limited to approximately 400 people, and tickets will be provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Ticket orders must be received by July 15.

(Note: LOMT Development Council and board members will receive a separate invitation to this function, so it is not necessary to return the reservation form.)

Lone Star Barbecue and Auction

The traditional outdoor service at the Camp Lone Star Barbecue will begin at 11 a.m. on Sunday, July 31, and will feature Dr. Hoffmann as the worship speaker. The barbecue dinner and Texas style auction will follow, which last year drew more than 700 folks and raised \$22,000 for the ministry and camp.

There is no charge to attend, but freewill offerings will be taken at the service and dinner.

Bus parking will be available for churches who wish to bring a group to the Sunday event.

To help ensure the success of this special Sunday, many additional items are needed for the auction. If you have an item you can donate, clip and return the form below or call the LOMT development office at (512) 926-4272. Questions about the auction also are welcome.

See you in July!

BANQUET TICKET ORDER FORM

☐ Please send _____ tickets for the 1994 LOMT Development Council Awards Banquet at 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 30, featuring Dr. Oswald C.J. Hoffmann.

☐ I/We will be unable to attend but would like to enclose \$ _____ as an offering in support of this event (payable to Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas).

(Please Print)

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening Phone _____

Requests must be received by July 15!



Return To:

LOMT

7900 E. HWY 290

Austin, Texas 78724

(512) 926-4272

☐ I/We would like to donate the following item(s) to the Annual Camp Lone Star Barbecue and Auction featuring Dr. Hoffmann.

Your name (first and last) _____

Item(s) to be donated _____

Business/individual making the donation _____

Street address of business/individual _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Daytime Phone _____

Evening Phone _____

Contact person at business (if applicable) _____

Donor value of item _____

Note: It is requested that all items for auction be forwarded to Camp Lone Star by July 15 for processing.

Return To:

LOMT, 7900 E. HWY 290, Austin, Texas 78724

(512) 926-4272

Single parents find spiritual nourishment at Lone Star retreat

by Amy Brooks

As a single Christian, are you looking for more events which are both fun and meet your needs?

The Single Parent Families Retreat, sponsored by Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas (LOMT) in March at Camp Lone Star in La Grange, was a great place to be, according to those who attended.

The weekend retreat began in a relaxed manner on Friday evening, with the parents and children getting to know one another. There were introductions, songs, games and a campfire devotion. Afterwards, the adults had time to share openly, while the kids had separate activities in another area of the camp that were supervised by the staff. In this informal way, the adults were able to hear about each others' background and story, and begin to develop relationships with one another.

The retreat included several sessions, which were led by Pastor Tim Phillips of Houston, and Eric Sommer, program director at Camp Lone Star. The sessions were diverse—some focusing specifically on the single parent and some on both the parent and their child or children.

According to Phillips, his main goals for the retreat were "to free up the parents from feelings of guilt and failure as a parent or spouse and to direct them to a support network." The "support network" that Phillips refers to is made up of every member of the church who both encourage and include single parents and their families in activities.

One session led by Eric Sommer, was the challenge course and included both the parents and children. "The challenge course serves a number of purposes for this retreat," Sommer explained. "We are trying to teach people how to label information—what it is, how to prioritize and file it and not become overwhelmed with the volume of information. We also want everyone to learn to express their needs to the group and work to accomplish a common goal. The goal is the group working together more than necessarily finishing the task," he said. That is, church members as well as single parents working together to help single parents carry the load. "We want to help the single parents con-

sciously see that they need to have support and to actively seek that support because people won't always offer it or know that you need it," said Sommer.

Several parents at the retreat agreed with Sommer that people aren't always aware of their need as single parents for help. Gloria, a single mom from a rural church in southeast Texas, said it can be very difficult starting a support network for yourself as a single parent when you're going through the pain of the divorce or a death and trying to maintain as much stability as possible for your children. "The only way attitudes in churches are going to be changed is if this issue (single parenting) is addressed," she said. "My church is full of good people; they just do not know what to do with single parents."



MIXING IT UP—Single parents and families, along with Lone Star Program Director Eric Sommer, enjoy a mixer at the March Single Parent Families Retreat at Camp Lone Star in LaGrange.

Gloria said the Lone Star retreat was a blessing. "It's provided spiritual nourishment for our specific needs. The Gospel is for everyone, but it's nice to have something like this to strengthen me to go back out to my church and the world," she said. Claudia, a Corpus Christi resident, agreed. "Not only are we not alone, neither are our children. There are lots of kids like ours in the churches that can help each other understand or relate with them in their situation," she said. Another blessing was shared by Ardene, who attends a church in the Austin suburbs. "I felt forgiveness this weekend for the first time in six years. It was so easy to

share. I thought I'd be embarrassed to come face to face with these people again after I'd shared with them, but it was natural and nice," she said.

In addition to the yearly single parent retreat, LOMT is sponsoring a fall single adults retreat at Camp Lone Star in September and the annual Big Bend Singles Retreat in November.

LOMT and its staff also can assist your congregation in holding its own single adult or family retreat at Camp Lone Star or Texoma Lutheran Camp on Lake Texoma in Pottsboro. Call 1-800-951-3478 for more information.

**THE LORD
ADDED...**

TEXAS DISTRICT



CANYON—These new members recently were received by Christ Our Savior Lutheran in Canyon. They joined this fellowship through adult confirmation and transfer. Pastor is Wayne Paik.



LA GRANGE—These new members recently were received at Mount Calvary Lutheran in La Grange. From left are Karen and LaVerne Fitch, Jason, Michael and Linda Lindberg, and Pastor Dennis Bragdon.



HUNTSVILLE—Received into the family of faith Jan. 30 at Faith Lutheran, Huntsville, were 21 new members, brought by adult baptism, adult confirmation and transfer. Pastor is Donald Kaspar.



BURLESON—Members of Charity Lutheran, Burleson, are rejoicing over the addition of these people into their fellowship. Pastor is Blair Clark.



RICHARDSON—These new members joined the forever family of Messiah Lutheran, Richardson, Feb. 20, by transfer and confirmation. Pastor is Dr. Victor J. Kollmann.

Pulpits await 50 Texans

The Texas District currently has 35 seminary students on the campuses of the two LCMS seminaries, and an additional 15 students are on vicarage, according to District President Jerry Kieschnick.

Six students at Fort Wayne are from Texas with five more on vicarage. There are 29 students on campus in St. Louis, with 10 on vicarage.

The total of Texas District

residents on campus and on vicarage is 50. The two seminaries have a total of 551 men on the two campuses, plus 163 on vicarage.

The Texas District comprises 5.5 percent of the congregations of the The Lutheran

Church—Missouri Synod and 5 percent of the baptized members of the Missouri Synod, according to Kieschnick.

**HERE am I
send me:
SEND ME**

YOUTH

Our bright kids ...

Those great kids from **St. Paul, San Antonio**, went to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico in February and visited a Lutheran mission where they put in a new ceiling, painted the church and parsonage on the inside, and partially reroofed, rewired, put up door frames and hung doors in the parsonage. A bathhouse was partially plumbed. Some teens from **Bethany, Austin**, joined them. The whole team consisted of 29 teens and nine adults.

* * *

These sixth graders from **Redeemer Lutheran School, Austin**, did very well in UIL competition in March. John Focht won first in all-around math and first in math reasoning. He was on the math team with Daniel Gerlach, Jeff Lehmann and Larisa Chamness. Their team won second place. C.J. Saegert was second in all-around math.

* * *

That talented bunch from **Redeemer, Odessa**, won either superior or excellent ratings in UIL competition. They are Brenda Omachel, clarinet solo; Wesley Sullivan, drum solo; Deanna Unger, oboe solo; Joshua Key, cornet solo; Rachel Whaley, clarinet solo; Randi Wilkins, violin solo; Nikki McClelland, viola solo, and Marla Wilkins, named to all-state orchestra.

* * *

Congratulations to Chad Hakemack, **Trinity, Klein**, who won a football scholarship to the University of Southwest Louisiana.

* * *

Erik Malard, **Ascension, Cleburne**, was a member of the trumpet trio that won a first division rating in the UIL regional meet.



WESTFIELD—These members of the youth groups of **St. Matthew Lutheran of Westfield** gave a party for residents of a local convalescent home. They brought gifts to the residents. Here, they are serenading them.

* * *

Kimberly Nagy, **St. Matthew, Westfield (Houston)**, was selected for the Texas All-State Choir and sang for the convention of Texas Music Educators in San Antonio. She also sings for special services at **St. Matthew**.

* * *

The third time was a charm for Chris Lehman, 14, **St. Paul, Vernon**. On his third try, Chris exhibited the champion Angus in the junior market steer division at the Houston



Chris

Livestock Show. Two other times he had finished third and fifth. His 1,208-pound Angus is named "Colorado" and brought \$34,000 at auction. Chris keeps \$15,000, the remainder goes to the Houston Livestock Show scholarship program. Chris raised the steer from a calf on the family farm.

* * *

Bright kid honors for Timothy Boerger, **St. Paul, San Antonio**, who is a National Merit finalist. He's on his high school decathlon team and won a bronze medal in the honors category in literature at the state UIL meet.

* * *

Aric Lockingen, **Redeemer, Austin**, is a high school winner of an Academic Achievement Award in physical science and also claimed a first division rating in UIL competition on the euphonium.

* * *

Those great kids in the youth group at **Redeemer, Fort Worth**, clean the church once a month.

* * *



LISTEN UP!—These day school kindergarten students at **Redeemer Lutheran in San Antonio** are all ears as they listen to Betty Splaser, **Redeemer** member, talk about the gift of hearing during **Celebrate Life Week**.



Awesome Lutheran kids ...

Devon Montgomery, **Christ the King, Waxahachie**, has been inducted



Devon

into the national honor society. She plays volleyball and basketball for her school, with her junior varsity volleyball team winning district. She's in her church's youth group and attended Glorybound. She wants to be a child psychologist or a pediatrics plastic surgeon.

* * *

A "royal" achievement goes to Amanda McLaughlin, **Holy Cross, Nederland**, who was chosen to represent Nederland as duchess at the annual Tyler County Dogwood Festival in Woodville. Amanda is a high school senior, president of Holy Cross LYF and teaches fourth and fifth graders in weekday school! Wow! She deserves a crown.

* * *

Four **St. Mark, Houston**, members will be overseas this summer. Tracy Dobrowski is in France to sing at the 50th anniversary commemoration of the Normandy invasion. Kevin Ramer will be in Russia with Project Can-Do; Logan Schulze is part of a teen mission to Siberia; and Rebecca Wiechman will be a people-to-people high school ambassador to China.

* * *

Among the gaggle of achievers at **St. Mark, Houston**, are Nathan Fis-

cher, salutatorian of his graduating class; Jack Horn and Brian Rochow, named to the Lutheran All-American Soccer team; Melanie Gebhard, first team all-district in girls varsity basketball; Amanda Smith, most valuable in junior varsity basketball. They all attend Lutheran High North.

* * *

Russell Summers, a high school senior and member of **Grace, Mart**, is a community-minded sort of fellow who wondered why there were no students as members of the Mart Chamber of Commerce. He didn't have to wonder long. Chamber officials liked his idea, and Russell became its first student-member. First thing he did was help organize a street dance so



Russell

Mart young people could have an alcohol-free event. He also helped organize a city clean-up day. Now he works three hours a day at the chamber as secretary-manager. He's a debater and has placed first in debate for two years in district competition. He helps in elementary school physical education classes and works part-time as a grocery store checker. He maintains a 86.97 grade average that he says "amazes" his parents.

* * *

Jimmy Wolff, **Redeemer, Beaumont**, won Best of Show both at his high school



OLYMPIANS—Not all Olympic attention was on Lillehammer. This is the closing ceremony of the "Winter Olympics" at Redeemer Lutheran School in San Antonio, held by kindergarten and third-grade students.

and school district science fairs with his project on allelopathy. (Has to do with genes.) He also was a regional winner and took home two trophies, a scholarship and some fellowships.

* * *

Jamie Pitman, **St. Matthew, Westfield**, has played the flute only seven months but still won first place with a solo at her school competition.

* * *

Bright kid honors at **St. John, Beaumont**, go to Sarah Heiner who won three blue ribbons and a trophy in 4-H competition for potpourri and a blue ribbon in sew-

ing, and to Tara Kaspar who won first in earth-science at the Science and Engineering Fair in Houston, second place in a competition by the Geophysical Society of Houston and an award from NASA.

* * *

The stars are shining bright at **St. Paul, San Antonio**, where Lydia Carson and Sally Schanding were part of the cast that won district play competition (Lydia was named Best Actress), and Sarah Chetwood, lead role in her high school play and named to the All-Star Cast, and Timothy Boerger, honorable mention All-Star Cast for his role in his high school play.

CONCORDIA

CLC introduces new programs

Concordia Lutheran College has introduced two new programs to serve the needs of students.

An elementary education teacher certification program begins this summer, designed for the student who already holds a bachelor's degree with a liberal arts major. Through a sequence of classes, a student may complete all requirements for certification in as little as 15 months.

This plan will allow someone who earned a degree in an area like English, but who did not earn teaching credentials, to complete requirements for teacher certification in a relatively short length of time.

Beginning this fall, Concordia will offer a major in history. According to Kurt Senske, CLC registrar, history is one of the most requested majors for those planning to attend law school.

"Concordia continues to expand its programs to meet today's needs," Senske says.

In addition to the two new programs, Concordia currently offers courses of study in accounting, behavioral sciences, business management, communication, church music, education (early childhood, elementary and secondary), English, environmental science, liberal arts, Mexican-American studies, Spanish, preseminary, pre-law, pre-dental and premed.

For further information about any of the programs at Concordia of Texas, call the Admissions Office at 1-800-285-4252 or (512) 452-7661.



LEARNING TO TEACH—*Jennifer Turner is one of Concordia's several post-baccalaureate teacher education students. She received a bachelor's degree in music a few years ago, and has returned to college to earn teaching credentials. The student is Naomi Gerth.*

LB IMPACT benefits Concordia

Concordia Lutheran College has recently received \$2,475 from Lutheran Brotherhood's IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS programs. The latest payment covers 26 gifts of Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the first quarter of 1994.

The IMPACT program matches Lutheran Brotherhood members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran institutions of higher education.

Since the beginning of the IMPACT matching gift program in 1979, \$66,598 in IMPACT funds has been received by Concordia.

Lutheran Brotherhood is a fraternal benefit society that provides insurance and other financial and fraternal benefits to nearly 1 million members nationwide.

CLC-sponsored choir earns recognition

When Concordia music professor Dr. Bernard Gastler envisioned a choir for children in 1986, he initially intended it only as a training vehicle for music education and church music students. His concept expanded however, as he observed music programs being cut back in public schools and saw the community's need for musical training for talented children. And so the Austin Children's Choir was born.

Now including four levels and 123 children from 46 different schools, the Austin Children's Choir has become a valued community asset, bringing recognition to Concordia's music program.

As an acknowledgment of excellence, the 31-member Chorale of the Austin Children's Choir has been invited to participate in the prestigious Princeton Invitational Choir Festival this summer in Princeton, N.J. Along with rehearsal workshops, the group will sing twice alone and in a Festival Concert with the other choirs, including the American Boys Choir.

Following the festival, the Chorale will spend three days in New York City, sightseeing and presenting at least one concert there.

"Our singers have really worked intensively," says Dr. Gastler. "They are ready for this challenge, representing Concordia and the city of Austin."

IMPORTANT DATES

Aug. 1 Application deadline, transfer students

Aug. 12 Application deadline, freshmen

Aug. 21 Freshman Orientation

Aug. 28 Opening Worship

Aug. 29 Classes begin

TODAY Call 1-800-285-4252 to request admissions materials for fall.

Register now for church music workshop

This year's Church Music Workshop at Concordia is scheduled for June 20-24; last-minute registration will be accepted.

The guest presenter will be composer, organist, and choirmaster Michael Burkhardt, music director of Westwood Lutheran Church in St. Paul, Minn. His main topics will be organ improvisation and music for children's voices.

For registration information, call Professor Howard Rutz at Concordia at (512) 452-7661.





It takes some real detective work to find the right college. You have to get the facts—the right facts. And you have to ask questions—questions that get you straight answers.

You say you haven't a clue which college is right for you? Here's TIP #1 to help get the job done . . . Investigate Sneak-a-Peek Day at Concordia:

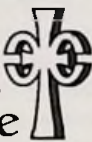
June 25, 1994

Here's TIP #2 about what you will do . . .

- ✓ Take in the "mug shot" reception
- ✓ Go for a snoop around campus
- ✓ Question expert witnesses—students and profs
- ✓ Gather the facts on degree programs and financial assistance
- ✓ Sample the evidence—good times, good food and great people!

Now, for TIP #3 . . . all of this is for FREE. Contact the Concordia Admissions office for details: 452-7661 (Austin) or 1-800-285-4CLC (Toll free long distance).

So, join the super sleuths with the secret to SUCCESS . . . Concordia, Austin—YES!

Concordia 
Lutheran College
Austin, Texas

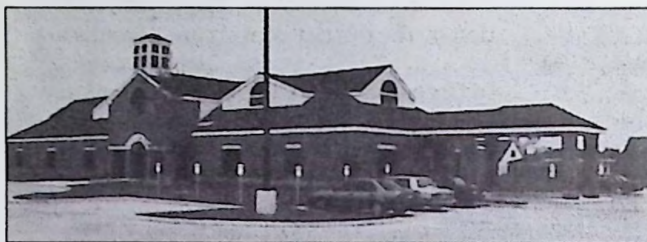
How hard are your investments working?

In times when everyone is trying to make sure that they maximize their earnings, this is an important question. Just as important is "Who are they working for?"

With CEF investments there are good answers to both questions and the answers are in these pictures. CEF investments are at work building churches. That is the principal work your investments make possible.

When you invest in CEF you can become a partner in providing the physical facilities from which the Gospel can be proclaimed. Your investments are hard at work! Your investments work hard for you, too. CEF rates are competitive with those offered by banks and savings and loans for similar investments. That means that when you invest in CEF you can earn a reasonable return for yourself and support the work of the church at the same time.

Now is an important time for you to become a CEF investor or re-investor. Texas District congregations will need \$10 million in 1994, more than \$4 million in both 1995 and

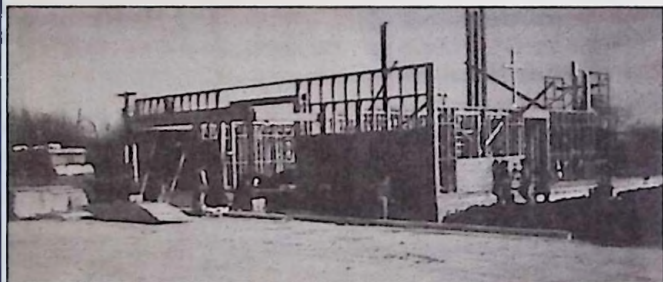


COPPERFIELD, FAMILY OF FAITH—First worship facility. Rev. Mike Ramey, pastor; CEF congregational representative Greg Gibson.

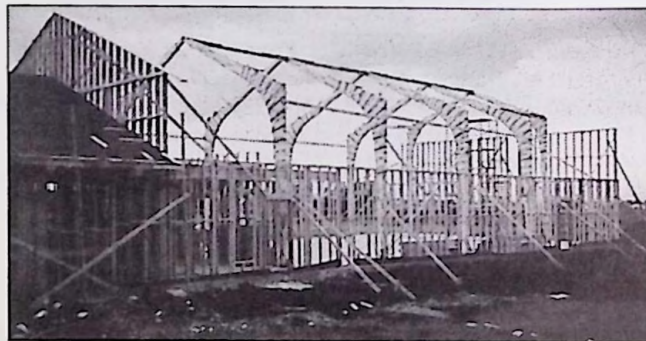
1996, and almost \$12 million in 1997 and beyond, according to a recent survey of building plans. That is a total of more than \$30 million!

In order for CEF to say "Yes" to congregations when they ask for loans, you need to say "Yes" to becoming a CEF investor. You are an important part of the ministry. Unless you take the first step, none of the other work is possible.

Come join us as we **Build On A Rock** in 1994 and beyond. Please talk with your pastor, congregation representative or call one of the CEF staff at 1-800-951-3478 to discuss an investment in Texas District Church Extension Fund. Remember—when you invest in Church Extension, you make possible a church, a school, a baptism, a confirmation, the Gospel proclaimed.



PLANO, LORD OF LIFE—New multipurpose building. Rev. Ric McMillan, pastor; CEF congregational representative Bill Bamsch.



HEWITT, PEACE—New sanctuary. Rev. Stephen Rynearson, pastor; CEF congregational representative George Dethlefsen.

Position available: CEF construction consultant

CEF is seeking to fill the position of construction consultant. The ideal candidate will have a heart for the ministry, good skills in working with congregation members and pastors, and experience in all phases of construction and building. The construction consultant works with congregations and their building committees to plan and carry out building projects. The position requires skills and gifts in planning, estimating construction costs, selecting archi-

ects and contractors and solving problems encountered during the construction process.

If you, or someone you know, are interested in this exciting and challenging service and ministry opportunity, you should send your resume to CEF's executive director.

Stephen C. Block, Executive Director
Texas District Church Extension Fund
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
(512) 926-4272 or 1-800-951-3478



Circuit counselors

The following pastors have been chosen by Texas District congregations to be circuit counselors. The results will be up for certification by the district convention. Circuits are in parentheses.

Art Hill (1), Ed Greenthaner (2), David Rohde (3), Len Ristow (4), George Ascher (5), LaVerne Janssen (6), Thomas Handrick (7), Craig DuBois (8), Glenn Huebel (9), Charles Houska (11).

Also, Melvin Symmank (12), Wayne Braun (13), Adrian Bacarisse (14), Paul Jentz (15), Terry Beltz (16), Donald Ude (17), Donald Olson (18), Alvin Meissner (19), James Linderman (20), Gordon Albers (21).

David Ebert (22), Robert Boyce (23), Ray Reich (24), David Ebs (25), Patrick Erickson (26), Kelly Crabbe (27), Steve Morfitt (28), William Schwertlich (31), Brian Bestian (32).

J.C. Henning (33), Douglas Rathgeber (34), David Sawhill (35), John Smith (36), Al Miller (37), Gregg Stanton (38), Barry Hildebrandt (39), Chris Johnson (41), Roosevelt Gray (42) and Richard Schuller (43).



MESSIAH—Rev. Daniel E. Georg was installed Feb. 20 as pastor of Messiah Lutheran, Houston. Participating, from left front, were Revs. Mel Cordes, Eugene Heckmann, district vice president and installer; Georg; Richard Wagner; Donald Black. From left back, Revs. Lou Konz, Tim Carr, Ronald Hampsten, Harold Heckmann and Bob Kass.

Convention delegates to choose from list of gifted nominees

The District Nominating Committee in March presented its choice of nominees for district boards and committees to the district Board of Directors. The nominees will be voted on, along with nominations from the floor, at the district convention in Galveston June 23-26.

In its report to district directors, the committee said, "We received the names of many qualified pastors, educators and lay members. We had the difficult task of choosing candidates."

The committee followed the previous convention practice of listing only two candidates for each office.

The nominations are:

District Board of Directors

Educator:

Don Christian
Claudio Perez

Lay—Area A:
Hilda Albers
John Phillips

Lay—Area B:

Ed Trapp
W.T. Cope

District Secretary

Rev. Ralph Hobratschk

Rev. Mel Newman

Assistant District Secretary

Ray Lauterbach

Lucille Fritz

District Nominating Committee

Four pastors, one from each area, two educators, three laymen.

Pastor—Area A:

Rev. Art Hill

Rev. Wayne Pafk

Pastor—Area B:

Rev. Don Olson

Rev. John Austin

Pastor—Area C:

Rev. Henry Biar

Rev. William Schuster

Pastor—Area D:

Rev. Douglas Rathgeber

Rev. Herbert Eifert

Educators:

Mike Linebrink

Ed Gallmeier

Mary Wehmiller

Lay:

Fain Kasper

Ralph Paulus

Milton Bade

Mark Clemons

Robert Farley

Marvin Orlowski

Committee on Constitutions

Two pastors, one educator, one layman.

Pastors:

Rev. Lawrence Kelm

Rev. Tom Hadley

Rev. Jerome Teichmiller

Rev. Matthew Jacobs

Educator:

Reynold Kunz

Marty Paluch

Lay:

Ernest Domel

Catherine Burkhard

Board of Parish Services

One pastor, one educator, one layman.

Pastor:

Rev. Steve Rynearson

Rev. Victor Kollmann

Educator:

Deborah Henry

Dr. Barbara Morton

Lay:

John Buffo

Jeff Lehrmann

Board of Mission Administration

Two pastors and one layman.

Pastors:

Rev. Gary Martin

Rev. Ric McMillian

Rev. John Treude

Rev. A. Dean Kelm

Lay:

Beth Lauterbach

James Taylor

Directors, Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas

One pastor, one educator and one layman.

Pastor:

Rev. Tim Dinger

Rev. Alan Struckmeyer

Educator:

Patricia Klekamp

Paul Miller

Lay:

Wesley Krueger

Alan Albers

Board of Regents

Concordia College

One pastor, one educator and one layman.

Pastor:

Rev. Harold Fleischhauer

Rev. Richard Goodwill

Educator:

James Vandercook

Curtis Riske

Lay:

Don Bokenkamp

Janet Hurta

LCMS Nominating Committee

Prentice Andres

Leslie Calder

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE SOUTH

PAL backers are OK!

Volunteers are absolutely necessary for most programs at Lutheran Social Services of the South. Without their help, LSSS can't stretch its resources to meet the needs of people in Texas and Louisiana.

Our "PAL" program in Corpus Christi is one example. PAL stands for "Preparing for Adult Living." It teaches teens the skills that are necessary for a productive life.

Two volunteers, El Doris and Louis Haverlah of Orange Grove, developed close ties with the teenagers in the program. One student was driven by the Haverlahs to the program each week. The Haverlahs became pals with most of the the people in PAL.

A conflict arose when the PAL program wanted to schedule a Valentine's Day party. Louis and El Doris had tickets to a production of the Broadway musical "Oklahoma!" Instead of just going to the play, they

invited the entire PAL class to join them at the musical.

It's a rare occasion when students who are in our PAL program get a chance to see

an important part of American culture. Thanks to the generosity of two program volunteers, they did. As any of our Corpus students will



The Haverlahs with PALs

tell you, the Haverlahs are "OK." To learn more about the PAL program, phone our Corpus Christi office at (512) 882-7922.

VanLaningham semi-retires after notable LSSS career

Since 1989, E.L. VanLaningham served with distinction as a vice president of Lutheran Social Services of the South. As of Dec. 31, 1993, however, he has been enjoying the benefits of semiretirement.

VanLaningham worked as the head of the Agency Advancement department of LSST during the critical years leading up to the opening of the E.F. and Bertha Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village in Brenham, Texas.

When David Kahle became the new vice president of agency advancement in September 1992, VanLaningham continued his development work as vice president emeritus.

"E.L. is an inspiration," said Kahle. "He helped stage the extremely successful Vision 2000 campaign, and he's not through yet."

VanLaningham will continue with his main goal to see the completion of a special Alzheimer's Care Unit at Kruse Village.

"I enjoy working for such an important charity," said VanLaningham. "Lutheran Social Services of the South is critical to the welfare of the more than 4,000 people we serve daily. It's an agency whose purpose is to put the Gospel into action. I'm proud of my years at LSSS and excited about the work I will be doing."



VanLaningham

U. S. population aging

Austin Elderhaven meets increased needs

As America's population ages, new methods are being developed to give high quality care to the elderly in a cost-effective way. Lutheran Social Services of the South (LSSS) is a leader in this field with its Elderhaven service in Austin.

Elderhaven is a day-care center for adults who still live at home and require supervision with activities of daily life. The center is located in the Austin Groups for the Elderly building on Cedar Street. This service is designed for both private pay adults and for those who qualify for Medicare and Medicaid.

On any day, 30 to 36 members of Elderhaven will be involved in arts and crafts of

choice, or go on field trips. Each person is served a hot lunch and two snacks per day.



Ralph Reinke writes a note to the children at Bethlehem Residential Treatment Center in New Orleans while on a tour of LSSS programs during the annual meeting held in February. The children have framed the poster and remember the visit of the board of directors.

"We have room to grow," said Joyce Voelter, director of Elderhaven. "In February, the State Department of Health Services licensed us to serve 59 people each day. I'm confident we will soon reach that capacity."

"Studies show that in just a decade, there will be more need for adult day care in the U.S. than care for children," explained Voelter. "Elderhaven is designed to meet this coming need."

To learn more about Elderhaven and the North Austin Adult Day Care Center services provided by LSSS, contact Joyce Voelter, R.N., at (512) 458-6305.

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



CORPUS CHRISTI—A ribbon-cutting Feb. 27 officially opened the new educational facility of Lord of Life, Corpus Christi. Construction was done primarily by members, led by Mike Sadler and Kyle Adams. The facility's three spacious classrooms and youth room are on the upper floor of the church's first unit, built in 1991 with district funding. Representing the age groups which will grow in faith through the facility are ribbon-cutters William Hofer, Michele Alvarado, Kyle Adams, Chris Cherniss, Johnnie Marley. Pastor is John Sproul.



EDUCATORS HONORED—Redeemer Lutheran of San Antonio celebrated Lutheran School Sunday by honoring two of its educators. At left is Cherry Hammon, celebrating 30 years in the teaching profession. At right is Robert House, school principal, celebrating 40 years of teaching. With them is Pastor James C. Martin. A luncheon honored the educators after the late service.



BRENNHAM—Carl and Selma Buchorn, members of Grace Lutheran, Brenham, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Dec. 26, 1993. They have two children, three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



NEW BRAUNFELS—Edwin and Annie Moerbe, Cross Lutheran, New Braunfels, were married 65 years Feb. 12. Both are now residents of Colonial Manor Care Center. They have six children.



The following couples of the Texas District have celebrated wedding anniversaries of 50 years or more:

Bethlehem, Palestine:
Jack and Olga Brown, 50 years, Jan. 1.

St. James, Lexington:
Walter and Emily Patschke, 60 years, Jan. 21.

Ebenezer, Manheim:
Ben and Meta Jatzlau, 71 years, Feb. 7.

Our Redeemer, Dallas:
Arvilla and Hal Dyer, 62 years, April 1.

Messiah, Houston: Louis and Joy Niklas, 50 years, Feb. 8. They were married in a small town in Australia.

Trinity, Klein: Theodore and Alma Frank, 60 years, Feb. 11.

St. Paul, San Antonio:
Carl and Julia Franz, 59 years, March 16.

St. Mark, Houston: A.A. and Hattie Tucker, 55 years, April 29.

St. Paul, Fort Worth:
Ruby and Fred Kiesling, 52 years, May 10; Ollie and Alvin Dannhaus, 51 years, May 26; Becky and James Webster, 53 years, May 29.

Trinity, Sealy: Raymond and Irene Schroeder, 57 years, April 8.



HARLINGEN—Earl Johnson and Dorothy Kloepping Johnson of St. Paul, Harlingen, were married Feb. 27, 1944, in Rockford, Ill. They celebrated their golden wedding anniversary as guests of honor at a reception in the home of Alan and Elizabeth Johnson, son and daughter-in-law.



MOUNT CALVARY—John and Abble Nelms, Mount Calvary, Houston, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary March 6. They renewed their vows before the congregation at the morning service. They have been members of Mount Calvary for 43 years.

Send your news
Send your photos, stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:

Bill Wagner, editor
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499

Texas youth start building the church through Project CAN-DO

by Randy Potts

As many of you are involved in Project CAN-DO through your local congregations, you may be wondering what your support monies are accomplishing. Permit me to share a few examples.

This summer Project CAN-DO is mobilizing 470 youth and adults to work in the adopted CAN-DO mission fields in Texas and as far away as Russia and Slovakia. They will **"build the church"** in two ways: through their words and their actions. The youth and adults will grow personally as well as make a difference for Christ.

There will be 350 youth and adults **"building the church"** at five CAN-DO locations in Texas: Del Rio, San Antonio, Texoma, Brownsville and the Texas border site of San Raphael, Mexico. They will be involved in a variety of physical construction projects, as well as evangelism outreach endeavors. We are excited to announce that the following phase one Texas projects will be funded and completed this summer due to your generous CAN-DO pledges and support.

Phase One— Cross-Cultural Mission Expansion Projects in Texas

A. Del Rio, Cristo El Salvador: community outreach through building a new house on church property for use by families in need—\$12,000.

B. San Antonio, San Estaban—repair of homes, church playscape construction, community outreach through family vacation Bible school—\$8,000.

C. Brownsville, El Calvario—home and church repair, playscape construction, land expansion for added ministry. out-

reach vacation Bible school, distribution of evangelism materials in community—\$13,000.

D. Texoma Camp, Pottsboro—home repair and outreach at the nearby Chickasaw Indian Reservation—\$2,000.

E. San Raphael, Mexico—construction of a new sanctuary building for mission outreach—\$12,000.

Additional Texas sites and ministries will be funded as the CAN-DO support becomes available. One such need is an expanded preschool building for San Pablo in Houston.

On the international front, Project CAN-DO will send 85 youth and adults to St. Petersburg, Russia, and 36 to Bratislava, Slovakia, to work in the mission fields. Some examples of phase one international projects to be completed and funded this summer are below:

A. New roof and renovations of church shell at Kanneljarven, Russia—\$25,000 (already funded through Project CAN-DO).

B. Lutherhouse Resource Center and St. Michael's Lutheran Church Renovation in Russia—\$50,000.

C. Missionary family support in St. Petersburg—\$55,000.

D. Youth Workers leadership training in Slovakia—\$21,480.

E. Publication center and youth materials in Slovakia—\$17,000.

F. Evangelism outreach camps in Slovakia—\$11,520.

G. International mission servant event arrangements and partial scholarships—\$89,000.

There are 56 Texas congregations sending one or more youth to work in the International mission fields of Russia and Slovakia! Many CAN-DO congregations from across the state are participating in



BEFORE PICTURE—Project CAN-DO will renovate this room at St. Michael's Lutheran in St. Petersburg, Russia, to allow for expanded worship and church activities.



AFTER PICTURE—This room at St. Michael's Lutheran has been renovated and is in use as worship space. The church now needs additional renovation and expansion of usable meeting space.



“They became Christians just because somebody told them about Christ. And Jesus, He came into my life only because somebody told me about Him and that is why we need you in Russia.”

the Texas Mission Servant Events, as well as conducting local servant events in their own community.

To date, 119 congregations have received training in the Project CAN-DO mission curriculum, pledge campaign and servant event process. Eighteen congregations have completed the pledge drive campaign with more than \$60,000 in gifts and pledges received. The Lord is richly blessing the youth and adults of the Texas District as they step forth in a bold way to build the church through expanding the mission fields.

What is happening through Project CAN-DO reminds me of the message that Anton Lagoutine, a Russian teenager, shared at the Glorybound gathering. Below please see some excerpts of his talk (even though the English is not perfect, he speaks much better English than I do Russian):

• “My name is Anton Lagoutine from St. Petersburg, Russia. But I am now studying at Concordia College, Bronxville. I want to say a few words about Russia. It is a very hard time over there, and people don't have

enough money to buy everything they want like food and basic needs. In this situation young people are trying to forget about this surrounding life and trying to find a way out and there is no way out. But they are trying to forget it all, and they are trying to go somewhere to dance or to do some sports or something, but it is very expensive. So most young people they just go out and to the streets. And when you go like in the streets, you are thinking the street is no place to go. And it's like going down the street and think let's go and buy some drugs because drugs are the cheapest thing in Russia.

• “I didn't come to this point, because two years ago I have Jesus come into my life and I choose this way and I ask Him every day to help. He made a lot of difference in my life. As you can see I am here, and it is really great.

• “My parents are not Christians, and it is still a Communist-like country. There is not so much people that can tell me and my friends about Jesus. Most of my Christian friends became Christian at the age of 16, 18 or 20-something. They be-



RUSSIAN CHRISTIAN—Anton Lagoutine, left, with friend Stanislav Plisarski from St. Petersburg, Russia.

came Christians not because of the society or because of their family, or even because of the church, because young people in Russia don't want to go to church now.

They became Christians just because somebody told them about Christ. And Jesus, He came into my life only because somebody told me about Him, and that is why we need you in Russia.

“We need people that can tell personal experience about what Jesus is doing in their life. But there is no young people in Russia who could tell Russian young people about this. So we need you, you Americans. I know a lot of my friends that became Christians because some of their foreign friends came and told them about Christ. So in Russia, we need you young people who have Christ in your heart, and I think you can do

it.”

What a powerful witness to the need for teenage missionaries to go and share Christ with those who are lost! Anton speaks to the heart of what Project CAN-DO is about: *expanding the kingdom of our Lord through word and deed*. I am excited about the magnificent response of Texas youth and adults to expand the mission fields through Project CAN-DO!



THE LORD ADDED...



GLORIA DEI—It was a day of celebration and thanksgiving March 6, as Gloria Dei, Houston, welcomed 58 members into fellowship, 21 by adult confirmation, 18 by LCMS transfer, 13 by other Lutheran transfer, five by profession of faith and one by infant baptism. Pastors are John Kieschnick, senior, and John Lindner, associate.



HOUSTON—Received Feb. 27 at St. Mark, Houston, were nine adult confirmands, 12 transfers and three members by profession faith. They brought 15 children with them, for a total of 39 new members. Steven Simon is pastor of outreach.



THE LORD ADDED—On March 6, the Lord added four new members by reaffirmation of faith at Salem Lutheran in Malone. From left are Charles and Betty Howard, Pastor Joe Ardy, and Donna and Charles Huse.



TRINITY—These members new to the fellowship of Trinity Lutheran, Houston, were honored with a new-member dinner Feb. 13.



ADDED BY THE LORD—These nine adults were brought into the forever family of Zion, Dallas, Feb. 27. From left are Dr. Roland White, Jennifer Blunt, Sandra Andrews, Mrs. Burnell White, Barbara Gilsan, Nancy Griggs, Ben Gilsan, Mrs. Burnell Mueller, Kathryn Brandt and Robert Preece, senior pastor. In addition, Ken Koester, Clayton Blunt and Venita "Beebe" Claymon were baptized.



DALLAS—Eleven adults and five children were accepted into membership on Palm Sunday at Bethel Lutheran in Dallas. Pastors are Donald Berg and Randy Haedge.



Unitrust not only benefits donor, but advances the Kingdom

by Bervin Mirtsching, Texas District, Planned Giving Counselor

When you think of estate planning, do you think of only writing a will? For many people writing a will may fully accomplish all their estate planning goals and objectives. However, in some instances a will may be only one part of an estate plan. Often additional estate planning tools are needed in order to complete an estate plan.

The Lutheran Foundation of Texas and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation offer various life income agreements that may aid you in satisfactorily completing your estate plan. One of these agreements is the Charitable Remainder Unitrust, or simply the Unitrust.

The Unitrust is an agreement in which a donor makes an irrevocable gift of cash, securities or real estate to the Foundation. In exchange for this gift, the Foundation manages the assets of the Unitrust so that the Unitrust earns income. This income is then used to make quarterly payments to the donor for life. The invested principal of the Unitrust remains untouched.

When the donor enters a Unitrust, he or she then designates what area or areas of the church should receive the principal of the Unitrust upon the death of the last income beneficiary. The home parish or school, synodical college or seminaries, special ministries and district or national LCMS work are all examples of ministries that can benefit from the principal of the Unitrust.

When the gift is made, the

Foundation determines how the assets of the Unitrust could best produce income for the donor. If funded by real estate or securities, this may mean that the Foundation sells the property and invests the proceeds from the sale. On the other hand, if the Foundation feels income would best be produced by retaining the property, the property would not

be sold.

Simply put, when the gift is made, the Foundation now has full control over the assets of the gift. It will be the Foundation's main concern to do what is best for the donor and the beneficiaries of the Unitrust.

There are many advantages to the Unitrust. By entering a Unitrust, the donor can ensure a life income for him-

self and others. The donor also has the satisfaction of knowing that ultimately the work of the Lord will receive a very substantial gift. There are many tax advantages as well.



Mirtsching

Would You Like To—

- Increase your income?
- Reduce capital gains and other taxes?
- Help spread the Gospel?

—Here's an example:

John, 75, and Mary, 73, inherited a 200-acre farm when it was worth \$600 an acre. Now it's worth \$1,500 an acre, but last year they received only \$12,000 cash renting the land.

When the couple transferred the farm to a Foundation Unitrust, they made the **RIGHT DECISION.**

- Now they enjoy an annual income of \$19,500.
- They have a current income tax deduction of almost \$124,221.
- Taxes are saved by avoiding \$180,000 of capital gains.
- Most of all, through this act of Christian stewardship, John and Mary have helped to advance the Kingdom.

For more information, call Bervin Mirtsching toll free at 1-800-880-3733 or send in the coupon below.

.....

Bervin Mirtsching Planned Giving Counselor LCMS Texas District
7900 East Highway 290, Austin, TX 78724-2499
Phone: 1-800-880-3733 (In Austin: 926-4272)

I have: ☐ Farmland ☐ Real Estate ☐ Cash or Securities Value _____

- ☐ Please contact me for a confidential visit.
☐ Please send me more information on the Unitrust.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Date of Birth _____ Phone (____) _____

Convention welcomes supporters of Lutheran Hour Ministries

The Lone Star District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League is preparing for a gathering/reunion of family and friends to celebrate our togetherness as one in Christ.

Lots of folks are busy lovingly making plans for you to join them July 23-27 in Fort Worth for the 77th international convention. "PROCLAIM CHRIST" is the theme for the 1994-95 league year. What are some of the highlights you can anticipate at this year's convention?

Dr. Wallace Schulz will deliver the sermon at the communion worship service on Sunday morning. Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, president of the LCMS Texas District, will lead the adult Bible class. Representatives from Concordia College, Austin, will lead the youth Bible class. The first session and a first-timer's orientation will be held in the afternoon.

The day will conclude with the Sunday Evening Celebration Event beginning at 6:30 p.m. More than 3,000 participants are expected for this exciting and soul-inspiring celebration. Dr. Dale Meyer, speaker on "The Lutheran Hour," will speak and many local congregations and choirs will participate. Even if you do not plan to attend the convention, you are invited to participate in the Sunday evening celebration.

Keynote speaker at the

convention will be Dr. Norbert Oesch of St. John Lutheran Church, Orange, Calif. His inspirational and motivational address will be the highpoint of the convention.

The 77th international convention draws to a close on Wednesday. The convention will conclude that evening with the closing banquet featuring Dr. Eugene Gruell as the speaker and entertainment by the Tarrant County Lutheran Chorale.

We are preparing a place for you. We want your visit to be comfortable and exciting. After all, we want you to come again. Maybe you've heard the expression, "Y'all come, now!" Well, we mean it.

Use the convention registration forms from the March issue of *The Lutheran Laymen*, or call 1-800-752-9636 to order more. (Used by permission.)

LAYMAN OF THE YEAR

Charles Bogs, Zion Lutheran, Tomball, was honored as Lutheran Layman of the Year of Tall Pine Zone



Bogs

21. This award was presented at the zone's annual banquet Feb. 18. The banquet was hosted by St. Mark, Conroe, which served a delicious steak dinner. There were 84 people in



**Lutheran Hour
Ministries**

attendance. Rev. Laurence White, Our Savior, Houston, was the guest speaker.

IMMANUEL, TEMPLE

One of the most exciting happenings in recent years in the opinion of many is the China Cassette Ministry. It seems to be comparable to the Reformation of 1517, when the message of justification by grace through faith was accelerated by use of the new printing press.

That same message is delivered today via audio cassettes, using cassette players already in place. They were installed by the Chinese government over a period of years to communicate political messages to people living in rural areas.

This fantastic blessing, however, is that the audio

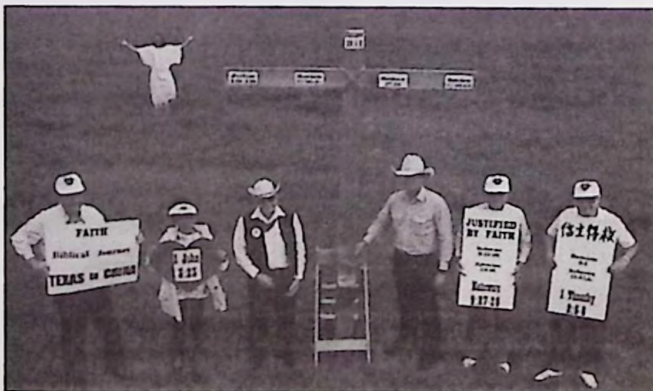
cassette production studio that was financed by the Lutheran Women's Missionary League accomplished what once seemed impossible: "Christianity is no longer seen exclusively as an imported western religion; instead many now consider it an indigenous movement—a Chinese Church."

Motivated by interest in the China Cassette Ministry, several members of Immanuel, Temple, invited others to step out in support of generating funds to purchase additional tapes. This resulted in 29 family units pledging \$6,000 annually.

The group from Immanuel, Temple, also produced a photo-type "Love and Faith" Easter message. The message "Justified by Faith" was printed in English and Chinese. (Submitted by Nelson Henze.)

LLL news should be sent to:

Irene Teinert
Information Coord.
1501 Barbara St.
Austin, TX 78757



IMMANUEL'S EASTER MESSAGE—Among those proclaiming the Easter message are Earl Krahn, zone president, Trinity, Klein; Charles Bogs; Rev. Richard Noack, zone pastoral adviser, Trinity, Klein.



'Shine like stars'

This month we will gather in Wichita Falls around the theme from Phil. 2:16-17: "so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which YOU SHINE LIKE STARS in the universe as you hold out the Word of Life." Such a theme reminds us of who we are in our relationship to God and what we are in relationship to the world.

Having lived in West Texas for 10 years, I have gained an appreciation for the crystal clear evenings that allow an awesome view of the night sky. It is a wonder not always fully realized by people who are crowded within cities and large towns.

And still, on these rare occasions when the sky is clear, the truly spectacular sight of the stars declares the majesty of God. The psalmist wrote, "The heavens declare the glory of God and the skies proclaim the work of His hands" (Ps. 19:1).

Far too often we allow the dirt and grime of sin to cloud our declaration of the glory of God as His new creation.

Rather than shining, we would prefer to remain hidden. However, as Jesus says, "No one lights a lamp and hides it under a bushel. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone ... let your light shine before people, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:15-16).

By the power of the Holy



Spirit through baptism, we are made God's new creation. We shine like stars, simply reflecting the glory of our Creator.

There really is no effort involved in the process. The reflection comes naturally as we revolve our lives around the Word of God, Holy Baptism and Holy Communion.

We remember Moses, whose face was shining because he had spent 40 days in God's presence on Mount Sinai. So now, we come each week into God's presence and receive the fuel of our faith that we might go out into the crooked and perverse generation in which we live in order to "SHINE LIKE STARS."

Rev. David W. Rohde
LWML Pastoral Counselor

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152, Lewisville, TX 75067.

Convention banquet and entertainment

There will be a banquet on the evening of June 16. It will be held at the Wichita Falls Activity Center and begin at 7:30.

A dinner theater has been planned for you. The Burkburnett Theatre Guild will perform the best from their past musicals. They plan to use audience participation and have a lively, entertaining show.

The guild is a nonprofit organization dedicated to furthering the performing arts.



MEMBERS OF THE RED RIVER ZONE Convention Committee work on details for your visit to Wichita Falls. From left, they are Jeanette Graf, Ina Roark, Betty Walker and Clara Ayers.



PICTURED are, from left, Ruth Streitt, Nettie Freeling and Elinor Roth, displaying the logo and the T-shirts to be worn by hostesses.

News from around the district

Central Texas Zone held a spring workshop Feb. 13 with Rev. Kent Heimbigner, Grace, Marlin, as guest speaker. His topic was, "Bought With a Price."

The group divided up into sectionals and learned about "Pieces of God's Quilt/The Colors of Worship."

* * *

The North Alamo Zone Spring Rally met April 17 at Crown of Life, San Antonio.

Pat Biar, president of the Texas District LWML was guest speaker. She spoke on Prov. 14:30a with the theme "A Cheerful Look Brings Joy to the Heart."

* * *

The White Oak Zone rally was held April 10 at Epiphany, Houston.

Psalms 46:10, "Be still and know that I am God" was the theme with Doris McKay, past president of the Texas District LWML, serving as guest speaker.

LWML scholarship fund

It is spring time, a time for family celebrations. Have you considered giving a gift to the LWML Scholarship Fund to honor such an occasion?

The LWML Scholarship Fund is still short of our \$50,000 goal.

Donations are gladly welcome both to honor or in memory of someone special.

Last year two young women received LWML scholarship monies. Your donation makes this possible.

To make a donation, send your check to Lutheran Foundation of Texas, 7900 E. Highway 290, Austin, TX 78724-2499. Earmark your donation for the LWML Scholarship Fund. To request a brochure and envelope, call 1-800-880-3733.

*Debra Curry
LWML Scholarship
Committee
Secretary/Treasurer*

Builders of the Nation

Builders of the Nation is the title of a historical novel authored by Helen Konz. This book has been published and will be offered for sale at the convention.

Helen will be available to autograph each copy as it is purchased. The price is \$9.95 plus tax. She plans to donate 10 percent of the proceeds to Texas District LWML projects.



DIGNITARIES who attended the Lutheran Braille Anniversary included, from left, Rev. Michael Hafer; Pat Biar, president, Texas District LWML; Wilbern Michalk; Roberta Werth, president of Board of Directors, Lutheran Braille Workers; Wesley Werth; Bea Ward; Janice Droemer, president, Post Oak Zone; and Alice Unger.

Bringing Christ to those in darkness

The Post Oak Zone honored the Braille Center #163, Feb. 27 on its 10th anniversary.

Immanuel Lutheran, Giddings, hosted the event.

The 50th anniversary of the parent organization, Lutheran Braille Workers, Inc., also was commemorated.

There are 18 braille centers located in Texas. Guests from various cities and towns attended.

Roberta Werth, president of the Board of Directors of Lutheran Braille Workers, was the featured speaker. She shared stories of people being led to Christ and salvation through the braille pages.

MITE REPORT April 1994

1992-94 Goal	\$275,000
Rec'd April	
(all sources)	11,071
Rec'd to date	
(all sources)	247,798
Needed for goal	27,201
Sent to Int'l LWML	
(April)	2,481
Int'l to date	54,973

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.

'Quarterly' news

Lutheran Woman's Quarterly news editor Lois Schroeder requests news from the Texas District.

The news section of the *Quarterly* provides an opportunity for the exchange of ideas that have proven successful and that have helped members grow in Christian service and fellowship.

The upcoming themes are as follows:

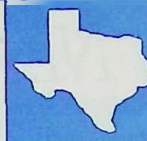
- Winter 1995: A Clos-

er Walk (growth in spirituality); deadline is July 20.

- Spring 1995: Reason to Rejoice (celebration); deadline is Oct. 20.

- Summer 1995: You and Me (relationships); deadline is Jan. 20, 1995.

Send all news and photos to Lois Schroeder. Her address can be found on the back page of the *Quarterly*.



**'All things to all men
(and to all women)'**

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, President
LCMS Texas District



President
Kieschnick

1 Cor.
9:22

Lots of paper comes into my hands and across my desk. A recent tally by the district office receptionist, Kathy Lindbloom, indicated that, in one particular month, the president's office received from a low of seven to a high of 44 pieces of mail per day.

SOME OF THAT mail is very important, as it deals with the significant ministry and very real concerns of the congregations, educators and pastors of the Texas District. Each one of those letters requires careful, thoughtful and almost always decisive response. That takes time!

Other pieces of mail are more easily and promptly dispatched. Many of the advertisements and most of the third- or fourth- class mail, except congregational newsletters, may receive a quick glance and a flip of the wrist into the ever present and mostly full receptacle on the floor behind my desk.

SOMETIMES it takes a while to get to all the mail and other paperwork which comes my way. Many previously scheduled meetings, appointments, out of town preaching engagements, pastor/educator conferences and return of telephone calls require huge chunks of time.

Therefore, writing articles like this one, preparing sermons, call lists, agendas, speeches and dictating letters usually will occur in the early hours of the morning either in my study at home

or at the office before the normal flow of interruptions begin.

AS I BEGAN this article, I didn't really intend to say as much about the routine responsibilities of the president's office as I see I have already done. However, I've discovered in the past three years that not many people in the Texas District have much opportunity to gain an insight into the multifaceted responsibilities of this office.

Yet, wherever I have the opportunity to share what the Texas District is all about, I sense a genuine interest in and support of the magnificent entity we know as the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

THE MISSION Statement of the Texas District states that "The Mission of the Texas District is to assist congregations, individually and collectively, to accomplish the Great Commission."

The Great Commission, given by our Lord Himself in Matthew 28, compels us to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you."

The Texas District and

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are attempting to help congregations accomplish that Great Commission by coordinating district, national and worldwide mission work, by training pastors and educators for professional church work and by providing parish, membership and support services to the congregations, educators and pastors of the Synod.

MUCH OF THIS work is labor intensive because it deals with people. Many of the dollars which you and I return to the Lord in the offering plate of our congregations are used to support the people who have committed their lives, in response to God's calling, to accomplish the Great Commission.

The pastors, educators, secretaries, musicians, custodians, missionaries, professors, district workers and synodical workers are all people who have been called, contracted, elected or appointed to fulfill specific positions of the effort to accomplish the Great Commission. A very significant part of their task is to help you as an individual Christian fulfill your God-given responsibility to be a witness to Jesus Christ in your community and beyond. That effort is no small task.

THE CHALLENGE before us is immense. In a world of 5.6 billion people, only 1.9 billion claim to be Christian. The other 3.7 billion are pagan, atheist, agnostic or members of non-Christian religions. We in the Christian faith are outnumbered by non-Christians, almost two to one.

The challenge of making

disciples of all nations sometimes seems insurmountable in the face of such overwhelming numbers. But think of it this way: if every Christian person in the world were able to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ to **just one** non-Christian person, the ratio of two non-Christians to every Christian would be reversed.

THAT, MY Christian friend, is my personal challenge to you. Begin now to identify, pray for, express Christian concern for and communicate the Great News of forgiveness of sin, life and salvation by God's grace, through faith in Jesus Christ, to **one** person who at this moment is non-Christian.

The apostle Paul says it simply, but eloquently: "Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible. To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews ... to the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the Gospel, that I may share in its blessings" (1 Cor. 9:19-20a, 22-23).

God's blessings to you, my friends in Christ, as you also become all things to all men and to all women, so that by all possible means you might, like Paul, participate in the salvation of some.

NEWS

Zoch reunions sure do draw a crowd

How many Zoch's does it take to have a family reunion? Well, at the last reunion there were 476 family members—and 12 visitors. The reunion was held at the Sons of Hermann Hall in Giddings.

District President Jerry Kiechnick offered greetings and best wishes to these family members celebrating a common heritage of culture, language, faith and family.

The enormous family descends from Johann (Hans) and Anna (Schneider) Zoch who came to Texas in 1869 to make a new life for themselves and their families. Above all, they wanted the freedom to worship their Lord.

Two sons, Mathes and John, came to America two years earlier and another son, Christian Zoch and his family were in the Wendish group that came to Serbin in 1854.

When Rev. Johann Kilian settled in Serbin, he and the Wends formed the Serbin church that has become known as the "mother church of the Missouri Synod in Texas."

The worship service at the reunion was led by Rev. Robert Boyce of Holy Cross, Warda, a family member from the branch of Michael and Maria Zoch Schoppa.

Thanksgiving for service

A special program of thanksgiving May 15 at Pilgrim Lutheran, Houston, honored both Rev. Donald Peymann and Allan Paluch for the 25 years each has devoted to the preaching and teaching ministries.



THE ZOCH BUNCH—These are the descendants of Johann and Anna Zoch who came to Texas in 1869. The family reunion was held in Giddings.

Send your news to Bill

Send your pictures, stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:
Bill Wagner, editor
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499

District offers consultation on church growth, outreach

Two members of the Texas District staff have received training to serve as district consultants to congregations seeking assistance in outreach and growth renewal.

They are Rev. Ken Hennings, district mission director, and Rev. Ray Schkade, executive director of the district board of parish services.

The specialized training is called "Outreach Renewal Consultation Process," and was provided by Michael Ruhl of the Michigan District staff. Sponsored by synod's congregational services unit, the training process enables the consultants to serve as a mentor, or learning partner, for congregations and pastors, providing them with encouragement, guidance and resources for an outreach-based strategic plan.

Either may be contacted for more information at the Texas District office.

Former Walther Leaguers of 30 years ago have Hewitt reunion

Peace Lutheran in Hewitt was the site of the recent 30-year Walther League Reunion in the Heart 'O Texas Zone. More than 40 former Walther Leaguers, their families and friends, attended from many part of central Texas including Austin, Dallas, Bryan, Waco, Riesel and Marlin.

Special guests were Rev. and Mrs. Loren Krout of Chicago, Ill. Krout was pastor of First Lutheran in Rosebud as well as Walther League zone counselor and zone choir director from 1958 to 1962.

Hosts were William Drews, Kathy Pick Fehler and Lloyd Schmedthorst of Peace Lutheran in Newitt, and Ruth Abel Scheffer of First Lutheran, Rosebud, along with Peace Lutheran youth members. Some of these youth are children of former Walther Leaguers.

The reunion was such a success that another is planned for 1996.

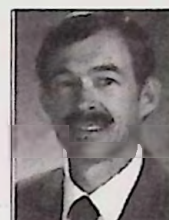


A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN—These are former Walther Leaguers of the Heart 'O Texas Zone who attended a 30-year reunion in Hewitt.



Texas District Mission News

by Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration



Rev. Ken
Hennings

Lutheran students establishing outstanding record as servants

Polls and surveys seeking to establish the current generation of college students and young adults as self-serving are ill-founded.

FOR EXAMPLE, hundreds of students at Texas A&M University participate in the annual "Big Event," an opportunity for students to assist people in the Bryan-College Station community in maintaining and restoring their homes. The students see this as a chance to thank their neighbors for hospitality.

Numerous other campus groups, like Habitat For Humanity, provide service oriented experiences for their members. The same altruistic spirit prevails, at least to some degree, on all campuses.

THE EMPHASIS among Missouri Synod high school youth, Project Can-Do, promises to prepare even more young people to expect such opportunities in college.

Lutheran Student Fellowship, Region 6-Texas, has logged three years of Christmas or spring break servant events in Mexico and South Texas. Individual ministries, including the University of Houston, regularly work on Habitat for Humanity projects.

THE UNIQUE ASPECT of campus ministry-based service is motivation. Our students serve, not on behalf of themselves or of Lutheran Student Fellowship, but of Christ. There are obvious personal rewards in participating



STUDENT SERVANTS—Roofers rest at spring break servant event site, Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor, McAllen. From left, seated, are Jason Beyer, Kristin Murphey, Pastor Richard Manus, Emily Grees, Vickie Miehleib and Jeff Morton. Standing are Allen Durda and Jason Awbrey.

in a servant event including enhancement of group closeness; learning new skills; appreciating different cultures and linking with other Christians.

However, the most important factor is to represent our Lord who comes to us as a servant. Campus ministry service grows out of the Divine Service during which Jesus washes us clean through absolution; fills us with His Word of Life, and hosts us at a simple banquet which is a "foretaste of the feast to come."

BEFORE TRAVELING to our mission destination, we pray for our Lord's protection and guidance. Once on site we have morning and evening devotions and prayers at meals. We participate in the worship and outreach of our host congregation or community, learning more about this network known as the Body of Christ, caretaker of a Word which will not return to its Author without good effect.

Service, as all aspects of campus ministry, is a theological enterprise, which involves seeking God's will in His Word; acting upon that Word, and then reflecting upon the entire experience, letting the Holy Spirit use our servant time together as leaven for future service in God's kingdom. Students are servants!

INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS sometimes recognize the

(Continued on next page.)

OUR GREAT COLLEGE PEOPLE

STUDENTS

(Continued from previous page.)

Lord calling them to extended missions before they attend graduate school or seek employment. For example, Pamela Tacquard, an A&M graduate and member of Salem, Tomball, spent one year in the Canadian Northwest Territories with Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots.

Other recent Texas graduates serve as missionaries in Russia and at other sites. Our Synod now has a comprehensive and growing program of mission opportunities for recent graduates wishing to serve Christ full-time. The Holy Spirit is at work within those who will lead our church and society into the future.

* * *

Our thanks to Texas A&M Campus Pastor Richard M. Manus for submitting this article.

College excellers

A number of Texas District Lutheran students in higher education have recorded notable achievements. They include:

* * *

- The Lutheran Student Fellowship of University Lutheran in Austin whose members disdained the sand-and-surf syndrome of spring break and instead went to McAllen where they stayed with families of El Buen Pastor (The Good Shepherd Lutheran Church) served by Pastor Tim Stahlke. The students spent their time doing construction and repair work on homes around the church.



SERVANTS—Project CAN-DO youth and adults will build a house in Del Rio this summer.

Three synodical servant events in Texas District

Three spring and summer Servant Events coordinated by the LCMS Board for Youth Services will be conducted in 1994 in the Texas District.

One, called **Springing Into Service**, was held at Texoma Lutheran Camp during spring break time of the participants. Servants will provide manual labor serving elderly and needy persons in the Lake Texoma area. They also did camp construction and repair projects under the supervision of Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas.

One young servant explained why he will spend his spring break helping others instead of partying on the beach with thou-

sands of other students: "It's an opportunity to serve and do something that matters."

A second Servant Event will be conducted July 8-16 at Texoma Lutheran Camp. It is called **North Texas Lakeshore Outreach**, and servants will run a vacation Bible school camp for the area and spend time working on devotion sites.

A third Servant Event called **Serving in a Multicultural Community** will be conducted July 24-31 at St. Paul Lutheran Church in San Antonio.

Participants will experience Christian ministry through developing Big Brother/Big Sister relationships with inner-city youth.

- James G. Kuhlmann, Christ Lutheran, Amarillo, apparently has been watching those be-as-good-as-you-can-be TV commercials. A senior in architecture design at Texas Tech in Lubbock, James earned a perfect 4.0 grade point average in the fall semester.

- Jodi Wetuski, St. Mark, Houston, was named to the Dean's List at Texas Christian University for a third consecutive semester. Her high GPA earned her a place in the university's Honors Program. She also writes a weekly editorial column for the campus newspaper and serves as intramural sports chairperson for Alpha Delta Pi sorority.

- Bernice Gonzales, Peace, Galena Park, was awarded a \$700 scholarship from Aid Association for Lutherans. She's a freshman at Texas Lutheran in Seguin and is on the Dean's List for academic excellence. She's the daughter of Pastor and Becky Gonzales of Peace.



why?

by Lee Teinert, elder
Mount Calvary Lutheran
La Grange, Texas

I took my seat in the sparsely populated waiting room of our local rural health clinic. The nurse giving me my weekly allergy shot said, "You'll have to wait 15 minutes to see if you have a reaction."

"Why?" was my reply. "I have taken these shots for eight years with no reaction."

"Policy," was her reply.

I picked up a tattered magazine and began looking at the pictures. I'd left my glasses in the pickup and I numbly turned the pages. A movement near the door caught my attention. A man in his late 60s opened the door for a woman carrying a bundle. A child, I presumed, since the weather was quite cold, and it was raining.

The woman did not seem to be quite as old as the man, and after registering at the desk, the man and the woman with her bundle took their places in the waiting room across from me. I presumed that this was grandparents with an ill grandchild. I began thumbing pages again waiting for my 15 minutes to pass.

I hardly noticed when the woman uncovered a face, a large face, within the bundle. I was startled to see such a mature face in the bundle that moments before I had presumed to be a small child. With shoulder-length brown hair, large brown eyes, slightly deformed teeth, this was certainly no small child.

But the face seemed happy—quite happy—in fact. Then to my amazement, legs emerged from the bundle. Long legs neatly dressed in warm-ups, but it was obvious these legs, hardly any larger than my wrist, had never walked.

A conversation developed between the woman and another patient in the room. The patient said, "There's a little boy like that in our church. He's certainly a handful. How old is your little girl?" The woman's reply was that she would be 14 on her next birthday. The conversation dwindled.

At this point, I was nearing a level of shock—to such an extent that I have been unable to do more than think of

About Lee

Lee Teinert and his wife, Janice, are parents of a child born with a heart defect who suffered a cardiac arrest which left her handicapped. She continues to improve. It is because of this, according to Janice, that Lee was especially touched by the woman and her daughter in the clinic.

writing this for more than a month. I am a parent of a disabled child, but my child is steadily improving over the past nine years.

As I continued to observe this special family, there was a certain look about the woman that became apparent. Lines that once were a quality of beauty, now dulled by age, gave off a look of peace. This child, even without the ability to control facial muscles, bore a direct resemblance to the mother, and radiated a look of happiness and peace.

WHY? How could an all knowing, all powerful God do something so cruel as this? To a woman who probably was a thing of beauty in her youth and then given a child who would always remain an infant. Never to

hear her daughter's first words, no "mama" or "dada," no first steps to cheer for. No first day of school. No first date. No graduation, and never to see her daughter as a bride. How could this be?

Then it happened. Just as a puppy will nuzzle its nose against one's neck, so the daughter did to the mother. There, without the utterance of a sound, I saw the explicit exchange of unconditional love between a daughter and her mother. There was the gratitude for all the diaper changes, all the messy feedings, and all the daily chores that a mother does for her baby—for 14 years.

Fourteen years is a long time, especially when one's age is advancing well past 60. How many more years? These questions have haunted me for quite some time. Then, as if given a divine answer, a Bible verse came to me. I can't remember if I heard it in a sermon or in parochial school. I can't remember, but it had to do with the relevance of time. With the help of a couple of my dear friends, the verse was located:

Psalm 90:4: "A thousand years to you are like one day, they are like yesterday, already gone, like a short hour in the night."

Could this be the look of peace that I saw in the woman's face? Could she already know that, on God's calendar, tomorrow she and her daughter would walk and talk together in heaven?

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

James Buss was installed May 1 as minister of youth and education at **King of Kings, Round Rock**.

Pastor Timothy Rosenthal, **Zion, Abilene**, has completed his dissertation and passed the oral examination for his doctor of ministry degree at S.M.U. On May 21, he became Dr. Rosenthal.



Rosenthal

Congratulations to Jan Heitschusen, **Christ Memorial, Houston**, whom the Texas Hospice Organization chose as Outstanding Hospice Volunteer Coordinator.

Lutheran Outdoors Ministries of Texas has been awarded a \$500 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans. The money will be used for a telephone campaign to raise funds for youth and retreat programs at Camp Lone Star in La Grange.

Penny Maxson, a member of **Holy Cross Lutheran of Kerrville** for 20 years, was identified as the "living example" of what the Kerrville Association for Retarded Citizens is all about. In a story in the Kerrville newspaper, Maxson's



Maxson

achievements as a 14-year employee of a cosmetology college were cited. She is labeled one of the college's "most dependable employees" where she does laundry, folds towels and works in the dispensary area. She is mentally retarded. Holy Cross Parish Secretary Irma I. Mumm said, "Penny is a delightful person, with a neat sense of humor, gentle and affectionate, and very close to her family. Her co-workers say she is a bright spot among the people who work there, and is well-liked by clients of the college."

Mark Senechal, formerly of **Lutheran High of Orange**, becomes director of celebration ministries this month at **Christ the King, Kingwood**.

Carolyn Johnson initiated the new pipe organ in 1974 at **Redeemer, Odessa**, on Resurrection Sunday. Twenty years later, last May, she was honored at a festival service for her continuing and faithful ministry.

The **University Lutheran Center at Texas Tech** added an extra computer this spring to help students get their papers ready for finals.

Rev. Steve Henze, **Immanuel, Temple**, has accepted a call as senior pastor of **Trinity, Tyler**.



RUSSIAN PASTOR— Standing before both the Russian and American flags are Pastor Stephen Wagner of **Prince of Peace** (left) and Pastor Sergei Timokhin of **St. Petersburg, Russia**.

Raised as atheist, now pastor

Russian pastor Sergei Timokhin from St. Petersburg shared his story of personal faith April 24 during the three worship hours at **Prince of Peace Lutheran** in Carrollton.

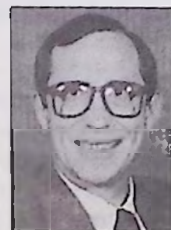
Timokhin's parents were both career Soviet Union military officers. He was raised as an atheist. He came to Christ through the Christian witness of a Russian musician. His story includes two years of imprisonment and hard labor in a KGB prison camp.

Timokhin leads the international March for Jesus in St. Petersburg. Each year the march concludes with a citywide rally in the Palace Square, the exact spot the Bolshevik revolution began in 1917.

St. Philip, Houston, announced to its members "something you've all been waiting for—a short service." For the service before their traditional Memorial Weekend picnic May 29, members were invited to dress casually, and "wear your shorts." The service, incidentally, was standard length.

The Evangelical Lutheran Ministries of Houston was awarded a \$500 grant from

Aid Association for Lutherans, supporting radio and TV advertisements and video distribution. Part of the grant paid for the May 22 "Family Concerns" program



Knippa

broadcast on WOAI (1200 AM) in San Antonio, featuring Dr. William Knippa of **Bethany Lutheran Austin**.



Who comes first? With her, the residents

When asked about her attitude toward work, Dotsy Luhn says simply, "Our residents come first." This approach, and her continuing effort to improve her skills, is why the activity director at Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village in Brenham, Texas, earned the LSSS Employee Recognition Award for the fourth quarter of 1993.

The president of LSSS, Rev. Robert C. Greene, announced the award earlier this year saying, "Dotsy is being recognized for sustained, superior performance in several key positions... and for the outstanding service provided to the residents and families at her facility. She is an individual who lives the mission of LSSS every day in her concern for those entrusted to her care."

Luhn joined LSSS shortly after Kruse Village opened in January 1991. She began working the food service department. On weekends, she took classes in Austin until she earned her certification as an activity director. Today, Dotsy serves the agency by coordinating all hostess and meal services at Boken-



Luhn
kamp Pastoral Retreat as well as working at the Village as activity director in the health care center.

For more information on Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village, phone (409) 830-1996.

Cinco heads public affairs

Ken Cinco joins LSSS as director of public affairs after many years as a broadcaster and broadcasting consultant in Hawaii, Florida and Texas.

Ken's broadcasting experience began at the University of Hawaii in Honolulu, where he helped restart the university's cable radio station. He later became program director of a Hawaiian station.

Ken is an active member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Austin.

Ken can be reached by phone at (512) 459-1000.

New Life equals new hope for emotionally scarred children

Emotionally scarred girls 11 to 17 years old are now receiving the loving Christian care they need to eventually lead fulfilling lives. The New Life Children's Treatment Center near Canyon Lake, Texas, was officially dedicated June 5.

The special ceremony was led by LSSS President Robert C. Greene. Special guests in attendance were Lawrence and Mildred Lieder, members of Salem Lutheran Church in Tomball, Texas. The Lieders have made a lead gift of \$200,000 to establish an endowment for the center.

THE RESIDENTIAL treatment center will help repair emotional damage caused by abuse and neglect. Many of these girls suffer from anxiety disorders, depression, substance abuse and have trouble dealing with authority and responsibility.

"One of the most important things to do with these kids is to establish a context of emotional and physical safety," says Clinical Director Terry Ebeling. "We have to show them that people do care... that *we* care."

THE CENTER'S HIGHLY qualified staff provides these young women, and in some instances their families, with group and individual therapy and counseling. The facility has an accredited school and regularly scheduled Bible classes as well.

The girls learn responsibility through a well-planned schedule of daily activities. Responsible behavior is rewarded with more recreational activities, including field trips.

The New Life Children's Treatment Center is located on 20 hill country acres along the Guadalupe River just northeast of San Antonio. The peaceful setting adds to the nurturing environment that will help heal the hurt these girls have suffered.

For more information on this and other services, phone (512) 459-1000.

Clergy Care to be headed by highly respected leader

Dr. Peter Steinke accepted the position of director of clergy care for Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc.,



Steinke

effective June 1. Steinke returns after spending the last two years in the Chicago area in a similar position. While there, he developed a program with counselors especially selected for their ability to care for clergy.

"There will be a new model for the Clergy Care Program," said Steinke, "which will use deployed, certified counselors in Louisiana and Texas." These LSSS counselors will be selected and supervised by Steinke. Cler-

gy requiring counseling services will be referred to individuals in the Clergy Care Network.

Steinke is a graduate of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He also has a master of arts degree in education from the Presbyterian School of Christian Education in Richmond, Va., and a doctor of religion degree from Chicago Theological Seminary.

Steinke is a licensed professional counselor in the state of Texas and a Fellow, American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Steinke will have an office at the Austin Highland Center, 314 Highland Mall Blvd., at phone number (512) 454-4611.

SINGLES

This retreat's for you

Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas is hosting its annual Fall Singles Retreat on Friday, Sept. 16 through Sunday, Sept. 18 at Camp Lone Star in La Grange. The cost range is \$70 to \$80 per person with housing available in the Johnson Retreat Center and the cabins.

The fee includes all meals and scheduled activities. Optional events include the Challenge Course (both beginning and experienced sessions will be offered) and a canoe trip for an additional fee.

To obtain more information or a registration form, call Eric Sommer at Camp Lone Star at (409) 247-4128 or write c/o 2016 Camp Lone Star Road, La Grange, TX 78945.



Singles retreat to be held in Big Bend Nov. 23-27

Attention singles! Mark your calendar now for the annual LOMT Singles Retreat at Big Bend National Park on Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 23-27. The event is open to all single adults 18 years and older.

Come join in what will be a weekend of fun, fellowship and Christian growth in a land of timeless beauty.

For more information, write Lorri Roberts, c/o Texoma Lutheran Camp, Rt. 1, Box 116-P, Pottsboro, TX 75076 or call (903) 786-3121.

Don't forget! The annual Camp Lone Star outdoor worship service, barbecue and auction is being held this month on Sunday, July 31, at the camp in La Grange.

This year's worship speaker will be Dr. Oswald C.J. Hoffmann, former speaker for "The Lutheran Hour."



CAMPING

... for dads and kids

Fathers, are you always wishing that you were spending more time with your kids? Texoma Lutheran Camp has the weekend you have been waiting for!

A father/child retreat has been scheduled for Sept. 9-11 at the camp. This will be the perfect opportunity to share some quality time with your children in God's creation.

Activities will include Bible study and devotions, swimming, canoeing, fishing, archery, hiking, riflery, campfires and Challenge Course activities.

Fees range from \$29 to \$62 for adults and half price per child based on accommodations using the campground, shelter, cabins and Nazareth Adult Unit. Meals and program are included.

For a registration form or more information, call Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro at 1-800-926-5968.

It's July 31

Don't forget the Lone Star barbecue!

CAMP LONE STAR

The outdoor worship service begins at 11 a.m. followed by the barbecue dinner and auction. There is no charge to attend (a free-will offering will be tak-



Dr. Oswald C.J. Hoffmann

For more information, call LOMT at (512) 926-4272. See you there!



DIME BOX—Rev. Frank Koessel, formerly of Kimball, Neb., was installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran in Dime Box. Participating were, from left, back row, Rev. Albert Wuensche, Wayne Schumpe, Wilbern Michalk, Theodore Michalk. From left, front, Koessel and David Ebert.

Easter egg shortage proves to be blessing in disguise

An interesting thing happened Easter Sunday at St. Philip, Houston.

The Sunday school staff had carefully planned its annual Easter egg hunt for St. Philip children and their friends.



Barnett

The event was advertised on the new church sign out front.

Something **not** counted on, though, was a whole lot of other children and families from the local community who showed up. They were outdoors waiting for the hunt to begin. They had read the church sign! Many were not dressed for church, just an Easter egg hunt.

The Sunday school staff scrambled (no pun intended!) for more eggs and managed to provide at least an egg or two for each child.

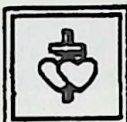
The following week, the St. Philip Sunday School enrolled several new children.

"It was because of the egg hunt," said Pastor Doug Barnett. "It was another point of entry. Our community noticed. They came. The Lord brought persons outside our current membership just a little closer to the true Bread which gives eternal life.

"Would that God would enable all of our congregation's plans and programs to 'run out of Easter eggs,' " he added.



SAN ANGELO—Bill and Joan Caldwell of San Angelo celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 13. They were married in Norwich, England, in 1944. Their five children honored them with a reception. They are long-time members of Trinity, San Angelo.



Anniversaries

The following couples of the Texas District recently have celebrated wedding anniversaries of 50 or more years:

Immanuel, Houston:
Emil and Meta Schautschick, 63 years, April 12.
* * *

Bethany, Houston:
Eddie and Elizabeth Uhl, 68 years, June 22.
* * *

Hope, Austin: Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Wagner, 66 years, May 20.
* * *

St. Paul, Austin: Walter and Erna Schroeder, 60 years, April 22.
* * *

St. Mark, Houston:
Harry and Dot Zulauf, 51 years, May 22.
* * *

Beautiful Savior, Houston: Recent anniversaries included Bob and Freda Collingsworth, 54 years in April; and Bill and Sarah Riese, 58 years in April. Bill also celebrated his 88th birthday April 10.
* * *

Grace, Denison: Larry and Mae Krumm, 61 years, May 20.
* * *

Redeemer, Baytown:
Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilson, 59 years, May 10.
* * *

Good Shepherd, Azle:
Jay and Lavina Sanderson, 60 years, June 10.
* * *

Trinity, Sealy: Leroy and Berneatha Schaare, Sr., 55 years, May 14. Herbert and Estella Meyer, 50 years, May 30.



ABILENE—Gus and Evelyn Edwards, members of Zion, Abilene, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 9. They have two sons and five grandchildren.



ORANGE—A surprise reception was held April 2 for John and Marian Gibbs to observe their golden wedding anniversary. They are members of Grace Lutheran, Orange.

Mount Calvary, La Grange: Edgar and Eva Marie Roitsch, 56 years, April 20; Charlie and Erna Tiedt, 61 years, April 25.
* * *

Our Redeemer, Dallas:
Garnet and Oscar Mehl, 58 years, May 31.

On pastor's mind...

by Rev. Gerald Boerger
St. Paul Lutheran Church, San Antonio

I like teens! Maybe it's because I have so many of them in my home. Maybe it's because I have the privilege of teaching so many of them in a Sunday morning Bible class.

I do know that some of them are faster and stronger and even taller than I am—so it helps to be nice to them—especially since I'm outnumbered!

ANYWAY, THE FOLLOWING thoughts are for teens—but it would be all right if adults listen in.

So you're a teenager and you want to have a date? For starters, you need to remember that half of the students in high school do not have dates. It's not the end of the world if you are in the half that does not date.

That time, though, probably will come. I did have some dates in high school and college, but I've been dating for the past 21 years—the same person that is, my wife.

SURE, WE STILL DATE! What? Do you think marriage stopped the fun? We try to have at least one date a week, and it's great fun—if nothing else, to get away from all the teens in the house!



PAYBACK—Women of Redeemer Lutheran in San Antonio enjoy a "thank you" luncheon hosted by the youth of the church.

Kids dish out payback, and Redeemer women eat it up

by Shalon Richardson

In our society today, all we frequently hear is "gimme, gimme, gimme."

Well, in a church in San Antonio, the youth of Redeemer Lutheran decided it was time to give back. They thought long and hard trying to decide what they could do to say "thank you" to their congregation which willingly gives them a large amount of time.

They finally arrived at the idea that a luncheon for the women of the congregation would be suitable.

When their idea was announced, many of the women were hesitant about going because they were afraid "strings" might be attached. They were assured that the luncheon was just for them, and nothing was going to be asked of them.

Members of the youth board came early to church to prepare the food, set up the tables and get ready to serve the

TEENAGERS

Some of the following might help your dating. Instead of trying to **FIND** the right person, work at **BEING** the right kind of person. You'll be surprised at what God can do with you. I think one of the more important qualities, alongside a person's faith in Christ, is concern for others.

IN HIS BOOK, *The Awesome Power of the Listening Ear*, Pastor John Drakeford tells about a girl who was the most popular girl on the campus of a large university. She was not particularly beautiful, nor did she wear designer clothes. She was in church every Sunday, and many of her dates were "church dates," but it was amazing because fellows were lined up trying to date her. Pastor Drakeford wanted to know why, so he invited her by his office for an interview. He asked her about herself, her background, her plans. But instead of talking about herself she turned to the pastor and began to ask him questions about himself. Naturally he wanted to share some of his experiences. She hung on every word. He didn't learn much about her, but he did discover the secret of her popularity—she was genuinely interested in other people, and she **LISTENED!**

I believe that good listening is a God-given characteristic, one that He can teach you, if you're willing. Dale Carnegie said, "You can make more friends in two months by being interested in other people than you can in two years by trying to get other people interested in you."

This, by the way, becomes a tremendous evangelism tool for all of us. Do other people matter to us? Does their eternal salvation matter to us? Then listen to them!

In time, the Lord will give you plenty opportunity for sharing your faith with them—and to invite them to St. Paul.

God bless your ears!

(Excerpted from the St. Paul newsletter.)

women when they arrived.

Upon arrival, the women were greeted by two "ushers" and seated. A prayer was said and the food was served by the youth. Anything the women wanted, the youth were at their beck and call.

After lunch, the youth put on a skit, explained why they had put on the meal and thanked the women for their support and encouragement.

The women were asked to write down their names and phone numbers and add something that the youth might be able to do for them. These requests will be fulfilled by the young people during the year.

Concluding the event, all those present joined hands and recited the Lord's Prayer. They finished by singing a song together.

The women called it a treat. The youth enjoyed finally being able to give back to their beloved congregation.



Bea and Ren McCroskey, Ascension, Cleburne—CEF representatives are eager to introduce others to CEF ministry.



Melvin and Marian Fritsche, St. Michael's, Winchester—CEF reps are recognized and appreciated for their dedicated service.



Claudio and Ellsa Perez, St. John, Houston—CEF reps are active in worship, Bible study and prayer.

Come join the search party

In your church, if you were asked to head up a search party for someone, what questions would you ask?

- Who are we looking for?
- How will we be able to identify the person?
- What type of activities are they usually involved in?
- What do they enjoy doing; what is a priority in their life?

This special person that we are seeking to identify has five unique characteristics that might serve as clues in your search:

1. A layperson well-known and respected by your pastor and other leaders in your congregation.
2. A "people person"; an organizer with leadership ability, a self-starter who is willing to accept responsibility.
3. A person who is active in worship, Bible study and prayer.
4. A person of proven dedication to your church and to the mission of the Church Extension Fund (major clue!).
5. An investor in CEF, who sets a good example for others.

Who are we seeking to identify? **Your Church Extension Fund congregation rep!** Each congregation in the Texas District is asked to select a leader in their church to serve as a CEF rep. What specific activities keep them busy?

- The CEF rep is familiar with the various investment programs and is eager to share this information.
- The CEF rep works in close cooperation with and seeks the support of your pastor(s), president, council, voters, day school and Sunday school teachers, and leaders of other church organizations.



- The CEF rep keeps the congregation informed about the mission and ministry of CEF.

- The CEF rep promotes the Tracky Stamp Program for the children in the congregation.

- Once a year, in the spring, your CEF rep attends the annual training conference in Austin.

- Your CEF rep makes calls and personal contacts with members of your congregation to encourage investments and gifts for CEF.

What an outstanding ministry to be a part of. We are certainly grateful for the loyalty and commitment these leaders have to the CEF ministry.

If you are still unsure who your CEF rep is, ask your pastor. He will be glad to introduce you. Please share your appreciation with this dedicated servant leader—**your CEF congregational representative.**

Please call or write:

Texas District Church Extension Fund

Bill Siegrist

7900 E. Highway 290

Austin, TX 78724-2499

(512) 926-4272

1-800-951-3478



Terry Brown, Concordia, Garland—CEF reps are ready to teach others about the mission of CEF in Texas.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Commencement at Concordia

"Have respect for the ground," Dr. Mel Kieschnick advised the 94 candidates for Concordia degrees at spring commencement, referring to respect for those who have gone before and the history they created.

A native of Walburg, Kieschnick is a 1945 graduate of Concordia's preparatory high school. He received degrees from Concordia University, River Forest, Ill., and the University of the Pacific before serving as a missionary in Hong Kong for several years.

After leaving Hong Kong, Kieschnick held numerous leadership roles in Lutheran education. He is currently a national/international representative for Wheat Ridge Ministries.

Kieschnick challenged the graduates to "dream no small dreams, make no puny plans," and to nurture concern for human relationships and trust in the power of the Word.

Also speaking at the commencement ceremony May 14 was Lawrence Oldham (Holy Cross, Kerrville), representing the senior class. Highest ranking graduates were Chris Bocek (Memorial, Katy) and Roxanne Mitschke (St. Mark, Houston), both with perfect 4.0 grade point averages. Other honor graduates were Jason Bartels (Zion, Walburg), Aaron Ceyanes (Gloria Dei, Houston), Claudia Collier (Pflugerville), Karen Cotham (Austin), Shannon Dicke (Trinity, Uvalde), Dana Hilpert (St. Philip, Houston), Katherine Hilscher (St. Paul, Austin), Linda Kirkegaard

(Holy Trinity, Tupelo, Miss.), Janel Moore (Christ, Austin), Diane Parks Thompson (Austin), Melodi Paskett (St. Paul, Serbin), Lois Rogers (Leander), and Sarah Vandercook (Grace, Arlington).

The 94 spring and summer graduates join 30 winter graduates to total 124 during the 1993-94 school year.



Dr. Melvin Kieschnick



Senior Lawrence Oldham

It's not too late

Submit all admissions materials by Aug. 8 for enrollment in the fall semester. Call 1-800-285-4252 for an application.

Stahlke receives teaching award

Professor Leonard "Len" Stahlke, chairman of the Concordia religion department, received the Dr. Martin J. Neeb Sr. Teaching Excellence Award at the May commencement ceremony. The award is given annually to a professor who "goes the extra mile" to provide learning experiences for students and who influences their lives.

Stahlke is especially known for his patience in taking time to see that all his students understand the subject matter he teaches. Because Concordia students trust his kind and gentle nature, he is frequently sought out for counseling on ethical and spiritual matters.

Before coming to Concordia in 1980, Stahlke served as a missionary in El Salvador and taught at the Lutheran seminary in Mexico City. For the past several years, concurrent with his CLC teaching duties, he has taught on weekends at various locations for the Missouri Synod's Hispanic Institute of Theology.

The teaching award is named for Dr. Martin Neeb Sr., who taught at Concordia from 1926 to 1945.

Field Day—It was great!

The 1994 Field Day crowd at Concordia Lutheran College of Texas topped 1,000, as young people from 32 Lutheran schools and congregations competed in academic, athletic and fine arts events. They once again proved themselves to be among the best and bright-



TEACHING EXCELLENCE—Professor Leonard Stahlke

est, and certainly some of the most well-behaved young teens to be found.

"It was great!" commented one school principal about the day of competition and Christian fellowship. "This was our first time, and we had fun. We'll be back!"

Next year's Field Day is scheduled for April 21. All sixth, seventh and eighth graders from LCMS schools and congregations are invited to participate.





Our bright kids ...



FUTURE TEACHER—Junior Amber Maroney (Concordia, San Antonio) was one of only two winners of the Early Childhood Education Scholarship from the Lutheran Education Association. The certificate was presented to her by Dr. Sandra Doering, left.



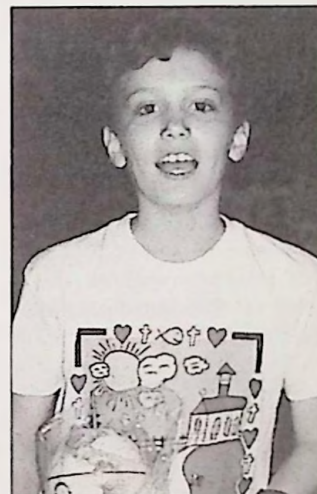
CAMPUS FAVORITES—Lonnie Gonzales (Peace, Galena Park) and P.J. Parker (Shepherd of the Hills, Onalaska, Wis.) were voted "Mr. and Ms. CLC."



BIBLE SCHOLAR—Travis Brown (Trinity Lutheran Church, San Angelo) was presented a \$500 Concordia scholarship by Dr. Les Bayer for winning the eighth grade Bible Knowledge Quiz at Field Day. He also won first place in the eighth grade geography quiz and sixth place in spelling.



TOP COMMUNICATOR—Roxanne Mitschke (St. Mark, Houston) received the Concordia Communication Student of the Year award from Dr. Claudia Teinert.



GEOGRAPHY WHIZ—Sixth grader John Focht (Redeemer Lutheran School, Austin) competed against students in grades 6, 7 and 8 to win the first-ever Geography Bowl at Field Day.



HONOR AND HONOR SOCIETY GRADS—(front, from left) Shannon Dicke, Roxanne Mitschke, Chris Bocek, Diane Thompson, Karen Cotham, Claudia Collier, Linda Kirkegaard, Melodi Paskett, Dana Hilpert; (back) Susan Perry, Lois Rogers, Katherine Hilscher, Sarah Vandercook, Janel Moore, Jason Bartels, Shawn Vickers. Not pictured, Aaron Cayanes.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOMES AND SERVICES GOOD SAMARITAN CAMPUS

Lutheran Day at the Dome set for July 24

Come join staff and residents of Bethesda/Good Samaritan as they cheer on the Houston Astros Sunday, July 24, at Lutheran Day at the Dome.

A portion of the ticket proceeds will benefit the children and adults with mental retardation who live at Good Samaritan's seven Houston-area group homes.

"Lutheran Day at the Dome has become a tradition for us," said Dr. A.L. Napolitano, Bethesda's executive director. "Once again, we look forward to sharing the afternoon with Lutheran fans from around Texas."

The King's Choir, a boys' choir from St. Mark Lutheran Church, Houston, will open the game with its rendition of "The Star-Spangled Banner."

To order tickets, contact the Good Samaritan public affairs office at (713) 351-4911.

Surveys come out on top

Two more Bethesda/Good Samaritan facilities have earned zero-deficiency ratings from state surveyors.

The Rosehill and King's Court group homes were awarded the top-notch mark, which means no deficiencies were found.

"This rating is a tribute to the caring and dedicated staff at both homes," said Bethesda Executive Director A.L. Napolitano.

90 years and counting

John, a resident of Good Samaritan's Heights group home in Houston, enjoyed cake and punch with his father after Bethesda's corporate-wide anniversary celebration April 14. Residents and staff from Bethesda/Good Samaritan's seven Houston-area group homes gathered at the Good Samaritan Campus, Cypress. They were linked by audio and video hook-ups to most of Bethesda's 38 facilities located in 10 states.



— Signs of faith —

Jim, a resident of the Good Samaritan group home, cannot communicate very easily. He doesn't speak and often carries a cloth with him, which he won't put down.

Sometimes it is difficult for Pastor Ron Hampsten, Good Samaritan chaplain, to teach Bible lessons to Jim. It is hard to judge whether or not Jim understands.

One day, after trying in vain to get a response from Jim, Hampsten was about to give up. Out of frustration, the pastor said, "Jim, if you really love Jesus, put that rag down and come over here and shake my hand."

To Hampsten's surprise, Jim did just that.

"You can't get Jim to shake hands for social occasions," explained Hampsten. "He wouldn't have shaken my hand for any other reason except to show his love for Jesus."

Jeremy, a resident of the Rosehill group home, has a remarkable ability to memorize. For example, he remembers the words to every song he hears.

Hampsten had been reciting the first portion of the Apostle's Creed with the residents during chapel for only two days. On the third day, Jeremy approached Hampsten after the service.

"Pastor," said Jeremy.

"Yes, Jeremy," replied the chaplain.

"I believe in God the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth," said Jeremy, as he clapped his hands and walked away.

"Jeremy had learned that after reciting it only three times," said Hampsten. "To me, that shows his desire to express his strong faith. Once he was shown a way to express his faith, he didn't hesitate to do so."

Golf for Good Sam

Golfers, get out your clubs! The fourth annual Good Samaritan Charity Golf Tournament will be held Monday, Oct. 3. The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at noon at the Old Course at Tennwood in Hockley.

The format of the tournament will be a ProAm Florida Scramble. Hole-in-one prizes include \$15,000, a new car and a new truck. Several raffle prizes also will be given away.

Barbecue dinner on the Tennwood grounds will follow the tournament, where prizes will be awarded, raffle tickets drawn and sponsors recognized.

All proceeds from the tournament benefit Good Samaritan residents. Contact Steve Coffman at (713) 782-6079 for more information.



Where no man has gone before

Charlie Lowke has gone where no man has gone before.

Charlie, a member of Grace Lutheran, Midland, has been given the Golden Pin Award by the Midland Women's Bowling Association. He's the first male recipient.

Charlie carries a 102 average, slightly over his age. He turned 98 last January.

The women bowlers say he's a real charmer!

Youth issues are identified

Young people representing 24 districts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have identified five issues they would like the Synod's Board for Youth Services to address through resource material and training events. The issues are family values, substance abuse, identity, sexuality and loneliness.

The issues were developed as 37 youth and 10 adults met in March in St. Louis at the annual Lutheran Youth Fellowship Council of Representatives.

Representing the Texas District was Angie Nichols, Holy Cross, Dallas.

The district representatives were equipped and encouraged to lead training workshops designed to reach out to teens back in their home congregation, circuit or district.



Angie



REV. CLIFFORD WAYNE HORN

A former pastor in the Texas District, Rev. Clifford Wayne Horn, age 57, entered into eternal life April 25. His ministry included 18 years as a missionary in Japan after graduation from the St. Louis seminary.

Upon his return to the United States, he was pastor of Faith Lutheran in Stephenville, and later senior pastor of Beautiful Savior Lutheran, Houston.

In 1988 he took a call as director of international studies and religion at Concordia College in Portland, Ore., and in 1992 was appointed dean of the school of arts and sciences. He died in Portland.

He was author of a number of articles and pamphlets on missiology and the development of dogma and worship, all written in Japanese.

Services and burial were in Austin.

Survivors include his wife, Bettie; a son, Timothy Wayne Horn; two daughters, Berith Kelm and Faith McKinney; father, C.H. Horn; brother, Robert Horn; two sisters, Judith Johnson and Gloria Speckhard, and seven nieces and nephews.

Fort Wayne sends seven pastors, vicars to Texas

Five of the 66 spring graduates from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., have received calls to be pastors of Texas District congregations.

The men, their home towns and the congregations they will serve are:

Gregory D. Hyatt of Ironwood, Mich., to St. Luke Congregation, Olney.

Richard E. Robinson, Cleveland, Ohio, to St. Paul Lutheran, Dallas.

Michael R. Scudder, Sturgis, Mich., to Zion Lutheran, Tomball.

Robert J. Stevens, Orange, Calif., to Redeemer Lutheran (assistant), San Antonio.

James E. Sturgis, Austin, Texas, to Mount Olive Lutheran, San Antonio.

In addition, two seminarians will spend their vicarage year in the Texas District. They are:

Dennis M. Kitzmann, Bay City, Mich., to Trinity Lutheran, San Angelo.

Todd A. Peperkorn, St. Charles, Mo., to St. Paul Lutheran, Waco.

Seminary officials said the Fort Wayne and St. Louis seminaries together received 31 more calls than they could fill.

Bringing them in

Fishers of Men Lutheran Church in Port Isabel, begun as a mission outreach by St. John Lutheran of San Benito and chartered as a member congregation of the Texas District in 1991, is celebrating its third anniversary this year with the best church attendance in its short history.

The 21-communicant member congregation saw its attendance rise in January from 103 per Sunday in 1993 to 126 in 1994, a rise of 22.3 percent. February's increase went from 135 in 1993 to 190 per Sunday in 1994, a 39.9 rise. March increased another 25.1 percent.

The growth in attendance is because of the surge of winter Texans in the area escaping the winter cold of the north and midwest, underscoring the need for a Word and sacrament ministry in the Port Isabel and South Padre Island area served by the church.

The congregation is served by Rev. George Price of Brownsville who was assisted during the busy winter months by John D. Fritz, pastor emeritus of Houston.



Hyatt



Scudder



Stevens



Sturgis



Kitzmann



Peperkorn

CAN-DO youth are learners, servants and storytellers

by Randy Potts

As you read this, 450 youth and adults from over 100 congregations across Texas are mobilizing and working at Project CAN-DO mission sites in Texas, Mexico, Russia and Slovakia. The youth and adults will go forth into the mission fields in a learner, servant and storyteller posture. What does this mean?

IT IS A WAY to approach ministry, especially in another culture, but can be used in any situation. As a **LEARNER**, the Texas youth and adults will go into another culture to learn what God is doing there, in an effort to understand their culture. As a **SERVANT**, they will seek to come alongside the local leaders and assist them in what God is doing through their efforts. Finally, as a **STORYTELLER**, the Texas youth and adults will have opportunities to share their story in terms of what God is doing in their lives.

This approach is quite opposite of what often happens as people enter another culture with a teacher, leader or preacher posture, which implies that "we have all the answers and need to show you how to think and what to do."

I WANT TO THANK the world servants mission consulting personnel for sharing this mission approach in a recent prefield orientation training weekend that was held for the leadership team of 25 adults who will travel to Russia and Slovakia this summer.

The adult team leaders will in turn train and equip the youth participants traveling to the international mission fields this summer in this same learner, servant and storyteller model. I believe that all youth and adults across our district who participate in the summer CAN-DO hands-on mission servant projects will get a feel for this approach.

We pray that the Lord will richly bless all CAN-DO youth and adults as they both serve and grow in their faith to become more intentionally mission-minded through these summer events.

Update on CAN-DO Participation and Pledge Drive

As of this writing, 117 congregations and more than 350 people have participated in Project CAN-DO training and are equipped to implement the CAN-DO mission curriculum, pledge campaign and servant event process. The 117 congregations represent more than 52 percent of the communicant membership of the Texas District.

Thirty congregations, including the pilots, have completed the pledge campaign to date and have raised more than \$100,000 through 2,100 gifts and pledges. An additional 70 congregations are in the process of implementing the

pledge campaign.

MORE THAN 60 CONGREGATIONS are sending at least one representative to the international mission fields this summer and many more are participating in CAN-DO mission servant events around the state of Texas and in their local communities.

Initial projections indicate that Project CAN-DO will raise \$375,000 in gifts, pledges and grants in its inaugural year, along with empowering countless numbers of youth and adults to be more intentional missionaries in their local settings and daily lives.

Although it appears that we will fall short of making the \$1 million goal, I believe that it has been a very good effort for the first year of Project CAN-DO. In this start-up year we will achieve approximately 20-22 percent participation in the 100-plus congregations. We need 40 percent participation across the district to reach the \$1 million mark.

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT the pilot nature of this project, charting of the unknown and many start-up challenges, I believe that the youth and adults of Texas are doing a fabulous effort for this first year!

In addition are the many and varied outreach and servant-hood efforts happening all across the district. I want to give thanks and praise to the Lord for all He is doing through the committed youth and adults to move powerfully forth in mission through Project CAN-DO. I believe that we have much for which to celebrate and give thanks!

Next year promises to be even more powerful as the many youth and adults return from the mission fields to tell the story of what God is doing in the mission fields and in their lives through Project CAN-DO.



Another moldy story

Last June in the *Texas Messenger*, Rikki Nichols, Christ Amarillo, read a story about Tracey Hardin of Mount Olive in Austin who had won an award at her school's science fair. Tracey's entry answered this question: Do Different Types of Molds Grow on Different Kinds of Bread?

Rikki was intrigued and challenged the same project at her school's science fair. The project came through again. Rikki won second place.

The conclusion: blue molds favor rye bread; black molds favor pumpernickel and white luncheon bread; and sour dough bread didn't have any mold at all.

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



HOUSTON—Rev. Timothy Carr was installed March 6 as the sixth senior pastor in the 75-year history of Immanuel Lutheran, Houston. Participating, from left, back, Revs. Melvin Newman, Donald Black, Victor Winkelman, Daniel Georg, Lawrence White, Harold Fleschhauer, Richard Schuller, Chris Johnson, Roosevelt Gray and Lawrence Kelm. From left, front, Revs. James Bomba, Reinhard Wuensche, Donald Zuhn, Steven Simon, Eugene Heckmann, Timothy Carr, Elmo Mlertschin, Keith Gravesmill, Kevin Lentz, Otto Brillinger, Walter Harting and Melvin Cordes.



SAN ANTONIO—These new members were received March 27 by confirmation and transfer at Concordia Lutheran, San Antonio. Assistant Pastor David Kipp instructed the confirmation class.

Lord's grace rests on Deer Park

A gracious Lord has added 21 new members in the past year to the fellowship of Christ Redeemer in Deer Park.

Nine came by baptism, one by adult baptism, one by adult baptism/confirmation, three by adult confirmation, two by reaffirmation of faith and five by transfer.

New members in top picture (photos at right) are, from left front,

Patty and Ryan Grantom, Nathan Wallace, Chastity and Joshua Groaning. Back row from left, Mae Wertz, Brooke and Tina Wallace and Pastor James Mann.

In lower picture from left front, Richard Hollis, Jessica Nelson, Marie Riley and Edith Erfling. Back row, from left, Barbara Nelson, Pastor Mann holding Emily Thedford, Mark Edwards and Kyle Nelson.



PLANO—These new members were received by baptism, profession of faith and transfer at Lord of Life, Plano. Pastor is Ric McMillan, top left.

YOUTH

Our awesome Lutheran kids ...

Devin Howard, **Trinity, Klein**, won the consolation finals of the 200-meter butterfly at the U.S. swimming nationals. As the fastest 16-year-old in the United States in the 200-meter butterfly, Devin automatically qualified for the U.S. junior team that will compete abroad next year. He also qualifies for the Olympic Festival this month in St. Louis.

* * *

Jennifer Haffemann, **Pilgrim, Houston**, has been given the Girl Scout Gold



Jennifer

Award, highest in scouting. In 10 years as a Girl Scout, Jennifer has earned all four levels of the Protestant religious awards: God and Me, God and Family, God and Church and God and Country. For her Gold Award project, Jennifer held auditions, directed and acted in a play given in a nursing home. The play was set in the 1930s, a time with which most nursing home residents could identify.

Bright kid honors for Lynn Glienke, **Hope, Austin**, who achieved the highest grade point average in her junior high eighth-grade class.

And more bright kid honors for Erin Garrick, **Concordia, Houston**, who won her school district's science fair at the sixth-grade level.

* * *

Honor roll student Kelly Galloway, **St. John, San**

Benito, won second place with her science project in Harlingen's citywide science fair.

* * *

Congratulations to two youngsters at **First Lutheran, Lufkin**, who competed for their schools in district competition: Courtney Evans in math count, and Stephanie Teer in picture memory and listening skills.

Andrea Williams, a member of the youth group at **Our Savior, McKinney**, received a superior rating playing the sax in UIL competition.

Off to Taiwan in June as a member of the Houston Boys Choir was Paul Roch, an eighth grader at **St. Mark Lutheran School, Houston**.

* * *

Bright kid honors for that gaggle of achievers at **Good Shepherd, Cedar Park**, who were inducted April 14 into the National Honor Society: Nathan Jeske, Kelly Mittelstadt, Amy Hammack, Tambrey Jacobs, Sarah Jeske, Angela Raske and Laura Tienert.

* * *

A state champion is Sean Theiss, **Beautiful Savior, Houston**, who won the top history award in Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools competition. He'll be a junior at Concordia Lutheran High in Tomball.

* * *



THAT'S COOL—As part of National Lutheran Schools Week, students at Trinity Lutheran School in Waco presented a musical called "It's Cool in the Furnace." Austin Fuseller plays the role of the king, and Shawn Malow is a guard. Colt Bell, Justin Swanson and Chris Parker are three friends in a furnace.

Sherry Paetznick is a member of **Pilgrim Lutheran, Kilgore**, and teaches kindergartners in Sunday school. She's a Texas Scholar and is in the National Honor Society. But wow! What music credits! She's in the Marshall Symphony Orchestra, Longview Symphony Orchestra, Kilgore High Symphony Orchestra. She was all-region orchestra all four years of high school and all-region three of those years as first chair viola. She received the National Science Merit Award in 1992. She's entering Kilgore Junior College this fall, and later hopes to study at a music conservatory.

* * *

First place winner in an areawide science fair was Chuck Leininger, **Redeemer, Austin**. He wiped out the competition in the computer science division.

* * *

Not one, but two scholarships have been claimed by Jason McInerney, **Lord of Life, Plano**. He received a Pepsico Merit Scholarship and a President's Scholar award. He'll attend Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y., and will study biochemistry in genetics. It's his goal to work in genetics and seek a cure for male-pattern baldness. Lots of guys pulling for you, Jason!

* * *

Fourteen students of **Our Redeemer, Dallas**, secured sponsors and then read 846 books, raising \$1,558.74 for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Joshua Peterson did best—206 books. Currin Berdine raised the most money, \$648 in pledges. She contributed the cash value back to the school.



'Tis a bit of Texas in Ireland

A wee bit of Lutheran influence found its way to Ireland when the Allen High School Escadrille of McKinney performed there. Five of the Escadrille members belong to Our Savior Lutheran of McKinney.

Taking part in Dublin's St. Patrick's Day Parade, the Escadrille won large band award and best overall band award.

They performed at the Lord Mayor of Dublin's mansion, the Lord Mayor's Ball and the International Concert Band Festival held in St. Patrick's Cathedral. They also performed in Limerick and Galway.

The members of Our Savior are Sara Scherer, Charlene Lorenz, Megan Fauver, Jill Kindler and Casey Knight.



TEXANS IN IRELAND—These young travelers are all members of Our Savior in McKinney, and also belong to the Escadrille of Allen High School. That's the Shannon River behind them in Limerick, Ireland, as the Escadrille toured abroad. From left are Sara Scherer, Charlene Lorenz, Megan Fauver, Jill Kindler and Casey Knight.

More awesome kids ...

All the world's a stage to Todd Frugia, **Hope, Winnie**, who won best actor in play competition at both district and area levels. He also won fourth in UIL poetry competition.

Congratulations to Lisa Brashear who competed in the Special Olympics April 23. A member of **Zion, Fort Worth**, she won bronze medals in the softball throw and 50-meter dash.

St. Paul, San Antonio, is proud of this trio: Alissa Guzman and Justin Hellmann, National Junior Honor Society, and Matthew Boerger, gold medal winner in economics at the regional Octathlon meet.

Bright kid honors to Paul Ferrell, **Christ, Amarillo**, who won first place in Roman Culture and Literature, and fourth place in Greek Culture and Literature at the state Latin competition. Quo vadis now, Paul?

Three members of the Sunday school at **Re-deemer, Baytown**, competed in the first-ever public school district UIL contest at the elementary level. And they did very well! Nikki Carroll won a gold medal for ready writing. Katie Miller won a silver for picture memory and Erin McMurrrough won a bronze for music memory.

Adam Ceyanes, Gretchen Hulka, Lauren Jenkins, Karl Streit, Whitney Wood and Niki Stewart, **Gloria Dei, Houston**, are participating this month in the Synod's Cristo Tijuana Servant Event. They are providing vacation Bible school for Mexican children, building a home, painting and distributing food, medicine and clothing.

That bright bunch at **St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Worth**, cleaned up in the 43rd annual Fort Worth Regional Science Fair. So

much so, that St. Paul science teacher Timothy Cecil received the fair's \$100 operating committee award. Big winner was Sean Werstein whose engineering project received third best of fair, number three entry out of 500. First place winners were Jason Ruggebert, math; Jennie Miesner, behavioral science; Sean Werstein, engineering and Melissa Barker, earth and space science. Second place winner was Cody Worden, math. Third place winners were Jessica Jacobs, math and Justin Lauderdale, chemistry.

Honorable mention awards went to Darren Hernes, chemistry; Phillip Young, chemistry, and Alexa Corbusier, physics.

The youth of **Family of Faith, Houston**, visited the Salvation Army Family Residence, a facility for homeless women and children. There, the youth hosted an "I Am a Child of God" party, offering Bible stories, crafts, games, songs and snacks for more than 50 children in the facility.



COMMUNICANTS—Five young people became communicant members of Grace, Orange, May 1 in confirmation rites conducted by Pastor Eddle R. Scheler. A luncheon after the service honored the five. From left are Cory Arnaud, Laura Mooney, Heather White, David Burman and Robin Hicks.

PASTORS' WIVES RETREAT

Registration Form

**Pastors' Wives Retreat of the Texas District
of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
Sept. 23-25, 1994, Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, Texas**

Name _____
Address _____
Home telephone _____ Anticipated time of arrival _____
Congregation _____
Roommate preference _____
(If no preference, do you prefer to room with a _____ night owl; _____ early bird; _____ no preference.)

Key Bible verse: "We love, because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

Topic leader: Eunice Otte, M.Ed., L.P.C.

Widow of an LCMS pastor, licensed practice counselor

Registration Fee: \$85 before Aug. 31; \$95 after Aug. 31.

(Widows of pastors attend free of charge—our gift to you!)

_____ Amount enclosed _____ Check number _____ Widow, commitment to attend

(The Texas District has requested congregational support with registration fee. If you are in need of scholarship assistance due to lack of congregational financial support, please indicate: _____. See payment information below.)

Support groups will be available during the retreat. Indicate your preferences/needs.

Check all that apply:

_____ widow of pastor _____ senior/retired _____ empty nest _____ mother of young child(ren)
_____ mother of teen(s) _____ wife of second career pastor _____ infertility, _____ co-dependency
_____ identity/self-esteem _____ conflict management/relationship disturbance
_____ establishing/maintaining balanced life _____ dealing with losses
_____ other _____

I would be willing to participate in the weekend worship experiences in the following way(s):

_____ Sing in choir: _____ large group _____ small group _____ both;

Voice: _____ soprano _____ alto _____ tenor

_____ Instrumentalist (list instruments) _____

_____ Set up altar, communionware _____ Drama

_____ Other: _____

By preference of the 1993 retreat participants, children, including those of nursing mothers, are respectfully requested not to attend the retreat. Child care is unavailable due to space limitations. Please indicate the following:

_____ I am in agreement with this policy.

_____ I request a reconsideration of the policy.

_____ I am unable to attend due to policy but would welcome prayer support and program literature from the 1994 retreat mailed to my home.

Comments _____

Retreat Schedule

Friday evening

6-7:30 Registration, lodging preparations
7:30-7:50 Welcome
7:50-8:15 Worship and praise
8:15-9:15 Eunice Otte
9:15 Fellowship with snacks

Saturday

8-8:30 Breakfast
9-9:15 Worship and praise
9:15-11:45 Eunice Otte
noon-12:30 Lunch
1-3:15 Eunice Otte
3:15-3:30 Group photo
3:30-5:30 Free time
5:30-6 Dinner
6:30-7:30 Eunice Otte
7:45-8:45 Special program by the Oak Wilt Boys of Concordia College,

Austin

8:45-9:15 Candlelight worship and praise
9:15 Fellowship with snacks

Sunday

8-8:30 Breakfast
9-10 Retreat topic
10:15-11:15 Worship and praise with Holy Communion
noon-12:30 Lunch

Make checks payable to **Mary Van Duzer**, Treasurer: Pastors' Wives Retreat.

Mail check and registration form to **Liz Sinclair**, Registrar, 8130 Blase Road, Rosenberg, TX 77471, or bring check and registration to reception for pastors' wives at the Texas District Convention in Galveston on June 24 from 4:30-6 p.m.

Items to bring:

Bible; notebook for journaling; extra washcloth/towel; flashlight; pen, pencil; casual clothing; walking shoes; crafts to share and/or sell; swimsuit, towel; mosquito repellent; checkbook for purchase of books, tapes, crafts; alarm clock; several liters of your favorite soda.



**LUTHERAN FOUNDATION OF TEXAS
GIFT BENEFICIARY REPORT
DECEMBER 31, 1993**



The following is a listing of the dollar amount of current or future support by major type of ministry. The amounts are derived from the total accounts currently being managed by the Lutheran Foundation of Texas. It includes the dollar amount which will someday be received by ministries outright, and the dollar total of endowments which will or are providing income to ministries. It includes the dollar amount of endowments, trust, gift annuities, management accounts, etc. Not included are many millions of dollars in bequests, insurance gifts, etc. which will also benefit these ministries in the future.

CONGREGATIONS:	\$ 2,061,151.46
MISSIONS:	\$ 2,533,266.62
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION:	\$ 4,357,640.23
MINISTRIES OF MERCY & CARE:	\$ 1,561,854.04
OTHER MINISTRIES:	\$ <u>7,742,249.16</u>
TOTAL	\$18,256,161.51

If you want to make a future gift from your estate for the ministries you love, call the Lutheran Foundation of Texas for information and assistance. Through your own Christian Estate Planning, it is your privilege to have and enjoy the assets the Lord blesses you with during your lifetime. By making gifts to the Lord's work after your lifetime, your offerings to the ministry you love continue when you are safely home in Heaven.



**Lutheran Foundation of Texas
7900 E. Highway 290
Austin, Texas 78724-2499
512-928-4272
1-800-880-3733**

I would like to make a gift to _____
through my Christian Estate Plan. Please contact me
regarding ways in which this can be accomplished.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Telephone Number _____

**MAIL TO: Lutheran Foundation of Texas
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
1/800/880-3733 (toll free)
928-4272 (Austin)**

THE LORD ADDED ...



MOUNT OLIVE—The congregation of Mount Olive in Houston recently moved into a new sanctuary, educational wing and fellowship hall. Since then, 40 members have been received into fellowship, some shown here. Five came by adult confirmation, one by adult confirmation/baptism, three by junior confirmation, one by junior confirmation/baptism, one by baptism, 13 by transfer and 16 by other Lutheran transfer. Pastor is Randy Ledbetter. The congregation is celebrating its 50th year of ministry.



RICHARDSON—These new members were received in April at Messiah, Richardson. They came by confirmation and transfer. Pastor is Dr. Victor J. Kollmann.



AUSTIN—These are new members received at Redeemer Lutheran, Austin, March 27. Pastor is David Schroder.



LIVINGSTON—It was New Member Sunday Feb. 13 at Trinity, Livingston, and 19 new members were received, most shown here. With them is Pastor Victor L. Winkelman.



CONFIRMED—These young people made their profession of faith on Palm Sunday at Messiah Lutheran in Richardson with Dr. Victor Kollmann officiating.

PLANO PRAISE!—St. Paul, Plano, received 25 new members in February and March at a special new-member reception. Rev. John Kah is senior pastor.





Y'all come to Fort Worth

Preparations are being fine-tuned for the 77th International Lutheran Laymen's League Convention and Sunday Evening Celebration Event being held July 23-27 at the Tarrant County Convention Center, Fort Worth.

Everything is falling into place after many months of planning and preparation by lots of folks to make this Texas gathering exciting and memorable for all who attend. Representatives of the International Lutheran Laymen's League will come from all parts of North America.

Some of you will not be able to attend the sessions or the many activities planned, but each of you is invited and encouraged to attend the Sunday Evening Celebration Event, July 24 at 6:30 in the East Hall of the Tarrant County Convention Center. Dr. Dale Meyer, voice of "The Lutheran Hour," will be the speaker, with many area congregations participating in the worship.

Although the Sunday Evening Celebration Event is scheduled as part of the convention, it is for *anyone and everyone*. You need not register for or attend the convention to be part of this evening celebration. It is our prayer that the Convention Center will be filled with hearts and voices proclaiming Christ.

If you plan to attend the convention, send your regis-

tration forms as soon as possible (not by Pony Express). As the convention committee finalizes plans, it is important to know the number of attendees.

For more information about the convention, contact Joyce Runge, publicity chairman, Peace Lutheran Church, Hurst, at (817) 284-

1677 or at her home at 458-0016.

FAIR BOOTH-MERCEDES

Zone 15 again participated in the annual Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show at Mercedes in March. They have been doing this annually for several years. Members of LLL clubs or congregations in the area took turns tending the booth. Art Post of Zion Lutheran of Alamo was the chairman of the project.

Last January, the zone participated in a German Fest at the RGV Livestock Show Grounds to raise funds to pay for the booth expenses and to help pay

the cost of broadcasting "The Lutheran Hour" in the Rio Grande Valley.

NEW BRAUNFELS CONVENTION

LLLers enjoyed the 51st Lone Star District Convention in New Braunfels. The LLL district board says, "thank you" to Cross Lutheran Church and all its members who planned and worked so hard to make it a success.

A lively group of 200 registered for the convention. To keep from going to neighborhood eating places, a noon lunch was served by the host.

During the session, Steve Marceau, volunteer chairman of "Go ... Tell A New Generation," reported on the progress of this five-year ministry campaign.

Dr. Guido Merckens told of the league's involvement in

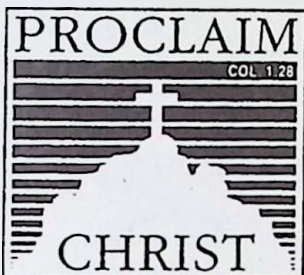
of thin sliced beef), German potato salad and sauerkraut salad. The dessert was peach cobbler. This food was enjoyed by 257.

Master of ceremonies Rev. Harold Schroeder was very entertaining with his humor. He presented the Oak Wilt Boys, who provided the dinner music. Dr. Meyer was the inspirational speaker at the banquet.

The convention closed Sunday morning with a rally service sponsored by Cross Lutheran Church with Dr. Meyer as speaker.

Thanks to the young adults who served in special ways. Cortney Smith and David Moerbe served as ambassadors. Bryan Rust was organist. Fleur Christensen served as parliamentarian.

The league appreciates financial support from the following: Aid Association for Lutherans, Greater New



For the youth and young adults in attendance to have the opportunity to get acquainted with Lutheran Hour speaker Dr. Dale A. Meyer, a special table was set up at the noon lunch to meet this need. Some of the 12 who were at the special lunch with Dr. Meyer are students at Concordia, Austin.



Elmer Payne, left, and Carl Schroeder of San Benito.

"Mobilizing The Laity."

Eric Flüßel, Int'l LLL vice president, was the representative of the LLL's office in St. Louis. He lives in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada.

The German heritage of the community was evident in the banquet menu, which consisted of rolladen (a roll

Braunfels Chamber of Commerce, Lutheran Brotherhood and Sophienburg Museum and Archives.

There were 14 of our church's related organizations that displayed materials relative to the services. Thanks.

Did you pray, 'Send me, Lord?'

There are several things that have influenced me to choose this thought for my message to you—the most recent of those being the District LWML convention in Wichita Falls.

At the convention, did you realize how God has blessed you with many gifts and talents and how He has put you where you are today for a purpose?

Do you feel challenged to be in the Word knowing that with the help of the Holy Spirit you can witness of Jesus' love and be a blessing to others?

Another influential event was the Lutheran Laymen's League Convention held this spring.

The theme "Pray for Workers" set the stage for an informative presentation. Dr. Dale Meyer, Lutheran Hour speaker, gave an inspiring sermon. We left feeling the need for "workers in the harvest field."

And lastly, Duane and Diana Kihne, members of St. Paul, Austin, were the guest speakers at my April LWML Women's Guild meeting.

Both have been Bible study fellowship leaders for a number of years.

Diana challenged her group to pray that one among them would consider serving with the "Bible Study Fellowship Third World Outreach".

It was Duane and Diana who accepted the challenge and will leave in August to serve their Lord for a mini-

mum of two years in Zimbabwe, Africa.

On a trip home from Camp Lone Star several years ago, a friend and I were discussing some possible goals or areas of service for our lives. I shared that I thought some day I would like to be involved with the LWML on the district level, possibly serving on a committee of some kind and also that I thought I would enjoy working as a secretary at the Texas District office. I can't tell you how it makes me feel to think back on that conversation and know that the Lord has guided my life in that direction. There have been other events that have happened in my life—to God's glory! I feel God's presence in my life, and it's truly overwhelming at times.

I challenge you to pray "Send me, Lord" and then be ready to go where He leads. The rewards will often be far more than you can comprehend.

My prayer for you is that you will be conscious of the purpose for which the Lord has put you on this earth, to be aware of the opportunities around you to share His Word and to be ready to walk through those "open doors" that are put before you. And when you pray that the Lord would use you, be ready for what is to come!

"There is always enough time in every day to do God's will. And there is enough time to make an eternal difference in the lives of those around us for whom time may be running out" (John Maxwell).

*Peggy Turnipseed
First Vice President
Texas District LWML*

News from around the district

• Lois Hartman reports that 40 women from **Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio**, participated in a LWML retreat April 23-24 at "His Hill" in Comfort, Texas. The theme "GRACE, God's Redemption at Christ's Expense" directed the Bible study.

* * *

• "Called for Action" was the theme that brought the **Dal-North Zone** to a spring workshop April 17 at Grace, Denison.

Special music, a skit with host Pastor Mattil portraying Moses at the burning bush, with Pastor Larry Krueger,

zone counselor, voicing the "call to action" from a large green plant decorated with red bows. The message was reinforced with a special song, "Called for Action," written by Todd Roeske.

* * *

• The **Post Oak Zone** rallied April 24 at St. Michael's, Winchester.

Pat Biar, president of the Texas District, was the featured speaker. The theme of the rally and title of her inspirational message was "Smile, Let the Son Shine."

* * *

• The **White Oak Zone** held its spring rally April 10 at Epiphany, Houston.

Pastor Bill Johnson gave the opening devotion based on Rom. 8:15-16 emphasizing "Be still and know that I am God," which was the theme for the day.

Doris McKay, past president of the Texas District LWML, served as guest speaker. Using puppets, she related how the words "Be still and know that I am God" bring comfort to all.

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152, Lewisville, TX 75067.

Mite Report

May 1994

1992-94 Goal	\$275,000
Rec'd May	
(all sources)	2,856
Rec'd to date	
(all sources)	260,729
Needed for goal	14,270
Sent to Int'l LWML	
(May)	2,976
Int'l to date	57,950
Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box 1224, Giddings, TX 78942. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.	



Cast all your cares upon Him And ask for help!

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick
President, Texas District
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

A very close friend of mine is experiencing a significant amount of anxiety in his life at the time this article is being written. He faces the possibility of a career change, his wife's job is in a state of transition and possible dissolution, they are contemplating a move to a different home and he is facing significant challenges in his daily work, to name just a few of the sources of that anxiety.

Congregations and their called workers are not immune from such anxiety. In the April-June issue of *Minister-to-Minister*, the district president's newsletter to the pastors and educators of the Texas District, I wrote:

"At a recent meeting of the Council of Presidents, I learned from Dr. Bruce Hartung, director of ministerial health of the Board for Human Care Ministries of the Synod, that by a ratio of six to one, the most frequent cause for mental health Concordia Plan payments is depression. He observed that organizations, including churches, can make people ill or can make people healthy.

"Dr. Hartung said that the major opportunity for support of professional church workers available to district presidents is to participate in creating a healthier church body, district and congregations. He also suggested four principles which every congregation should adopt:

1. Tell the truth
2. Avoid gossip
3. Remain faithful
4. Address conflict.

“...organizations, including churches, can make people ill or can make people healthy.”

"Please know that there is help available for depression or for any other difficulty you may be encountering. Please also know that when you experience such difficulty, **you must ask for help!** I encourage you to do so as soon as you become aware of such difficulty."

Anxiety, worry, stress, fear and depression are all familiar concepts and frequent experiences in the world in which we live. In spite of time and labor-saving devices, it seems our lives are busier and more stressful than ever before.

It's distressing to receive formal notification from an



President Kieschnick

officer of the law that you are being served with a lawsuit. It's depressing to see a well-respected, major public figure accused of a double homicide. It's stressful to experience the growing pains associated with the development and maturation of family members. It's painful to be embroiled in a conflicted congregation that

painful and very serious anxiety, fear and depression.

In the midst of such difficulties, I am reminded of those special words from 1 Peter 5:6-7: *"Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may lift you up in due time. Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."*

What a comforting truth it is to know that, no matter the nature, the scope or intensity of our problems, worries or cares, humbling ourselves under the mighty hand of God and casting all our cares upon Him are in order. And how blessed it is to know that, in His own due time, He will lift us up, because He cares for us.

God bless and keep you, my friends in Christ, in His merciful, gracious and loving care!

is seemingly unable to achieve reconciliation in the midst of multifaceted turmoil.

All these and many more life situations are capable of producing very real, very



WELL SCHOOLED—Lee Unger, member of Redeemer, San Antonio, reads to the day school's third-grade class. Lee's nine children all attended school at Redeemer, as well as all but one of his grandchildren (too young yet).

NEWS

Send your news to Bill

Send your pictures, stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:
Bill Wagner, editor
 7900 East Highway 290
 Austin, TX 78724-2499

Church sponsors youth ministry

Christ the King Border and Innercity Ministry, Inc. has been awarded a \$15,000 domestic grant from LCMS World Relief. Sponsor of this ministry is Abiding Savior Lutheran of Zapata, where Jack Crippen is pastor.

The ministry includes a camp built around a sport, and offers Bible school, talks on drug and alcohol abuse and reasons why young people should stay in school. The camp uses local volunteers and visiting sports figures.

Goal of this social ministry project is to fulfill the needs of all people and promote youth participation in local congregations.

LCMS World Relief domestic grants this fiscal year total more than \$1 million, providing start-up or extended support for 93 projects in 29 LCMS districts.

Briefly, it's women

There are three members of Holy Cross in Nederland who are attorneys. All are females.

Karen Lewis and Catherine Hughes have their own practice, while Lisa Michalk is an assistant district attorney.



TEXAS-BOUND—These second- and fourth-year students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, were assigned, along with their wives, to the Texas District at campus services April 26. In front, from left, Marie Watson; Ken Bersche, pastor to Zion, Vernon; Melissa Bersche; District President Gerald Kieschnick, who attended the assignments service; Catherine Callender; Jonathan Thomas, associate pastor, Gloria Dei, Houston. Back row, from left, Ken Watson, pastor to Trinity, Weatherford; Kathryn Lowrey; Bill Lowrey, pastor to Redeemer, Cisco; Robert Gebel, vicar to St. Paul, Big Spring; Phillip Wheeler, vicar to Immanuel, Houston; and Sue Gebel.

Midnight basketball offered troubled youths

The lights are burning late these nights at Beautiful Savior Lutheran in Houston. It's because the congregation has teamed up with the Houston Midnight Basketball league.



Snow

The church is providing gym facilities to the league, a nonprofit community service organization whose mission is to provide Houston-area youth with a positive alternative to the destruction and illegal activities so prevalent in society.

Pastor C. Michael Snow said that conversations with a number of troubled youth have determined that two of the most common sources leading to negative behavior are boredom and the belief that no one has a sincere interest in their future.

A majority of crimes are committed by males 13 to 25 years of age, Snow said, and statistics indicate these crimes most frequently occur between 10 p.m. and 2 a.m.

The Beautiful Savior gym is open from

10 p.m. to 2 a.m.

Snow and lay leaders provide spiritual guidance and encouragement. According to Snow, "The league will serve as an instrument to reach a seemingly hopeless segment of our society; teaching them to look inside themselves and discover that they have worth as a created, redeemed child of God.

"The purpose of the league is to instill mature behavior—spiritually, morally, socially, mentally and physically," Snow said.

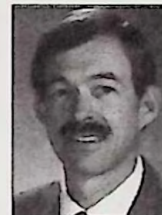
He added that the stresses and emotions of everyday life are similar to the feelings experienced in the atmosphere of competition. "The Midnight League will be used as an accelerated laboratory for the exercise of mature responses to challenge."

Snow acknowledged that midnight basketball will not be a cure-all for illegal activities, but he said, "We feel this community service will help prevent the beginnings of such new activities and cause a decrease in the current drug and gang activity where the church is located, perhaps even causing some cases to cease altogether."



Texas District Mission News

*by Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration*



**Rev. Ken
Hennings**

Campus ministries involved in growth, outreach and service

If you know of a member of your congregation or a relative of yours who will be attending one of the colleges or universities listed below, please share the information about the type of ministry that is taking place at our campus centers.

If your relative or friend is attending a college or university outside the state or one not listed below, you can call the mission office at 1-800-951-3478 for information about the nearest Lutheran ministry from the campus.

UT, Arlington—campus director Vera Sweet, (817) 274-9201.

Bible studies, meals, outings, fellowship and opportunities to belong and participate are all part of ministry at the UTA Lutheran Center. There is opportunity to interact with students from around the world, because the center has a great international ministry.

UT, Austin—Pastor Norb Firnhaber, (512) 472-5461.

University Lutheran Center offers a ministry to students that involves Sunday worship, Scripture studies, retreats, an active Lutheran Student Fellowship group, community service and more.

UT students have made trips to Mexico and have worked with the poor and elderly of Austin. Counseling, marriage preparation and confirmation classes also are part of this ministry.

Texas A&M College Station—Pastor Richard Manus, (409) 846-6687.

Worship on Sunday is held in the chapel at the Lutheran Campus Center. Training in Stephen Ministry is offered to students as well as small-group studies. Fellowship, retreats, servant events to Mexico or other places, and a ministry to international students happens throughout the year.

Counseling and peer ministry place the emphasis of this ministry on the university at large.

UNT and TWU, Denton—Pastor Larry Krueger, (817) 387-1575.

The Lutheran University Center in Denton is located close to both campuses and is connected with St. Paul Lutheran Church. Sunday worship finds the students and members of St. Paul worshipping together. This ministry also uses small-group opportunities for students to grow in faith, leadership development and relationships.

UH, Houston—Pastor Robert Budewig, (713) 741-6171.

The Lutheran campus ministry is housed right on campus in the Religious Center. Counseling, fellowship, worship and services to needy families help involve students with each

other and the community. The Lutheran office is used as a place of relaxation and study for the students.

Lubbock, Texas Tech—Director Karla Konrad, (806) 763-3644.

The Lutheran Center, across from the campus, provides a place to meet new friends, grow in faith, fellowship opportunities and the opportunity to be involved with the community through Habitat for Humanity. Worship on Sunday happens at the local congregations in Lubbock, which offer a family atmosphere and opportunities for service.

Town Gown Ministries, which also are supported by the mission board include:

- ETSU, Commerce—Rev. Fred Rogers, (903) 886-6810;
- SFU, Nacogdoches—Rev. Jim Otte, (409) 564-6729; and
- Tarleton/Stephenville—Rev. John Armstrong, (817) 968-2710.

DINOSAURS

**Church Extension Fund refuses
to dance with any of them** 

by **Bill Siegrist**
Director of Development
Church Extension Fund

Each month, the staff in our Texas District office meets for the purpose of planning, sharing resources and professional growth. At a recent staff meeting Dr. Will Sohns, director of congregational care, mentioned a book that he found useful in working with congregations. We all thought it had an



Siegrist
amusing title, *Dancing With Dinosaurs* by William Easum.

The subtitle of the book is, *Ministry in a Hostile and Hurting World*. Easum shares a series of assumptions about the changing paradigms our church is facing:

1. North America is the new mission field.
2. Society will become increasingly hostile toward Christianity in the 21st century.
3. The distinction between clergy and laity will disappear in the 21st century.
4. If churches only improve what they have been doing, they will die.
5. The best way to fail to-

day is to improve yesterday's successes.

6. Bureaucracies and traditional practices are the major causes of the decline of most denominations in North America.

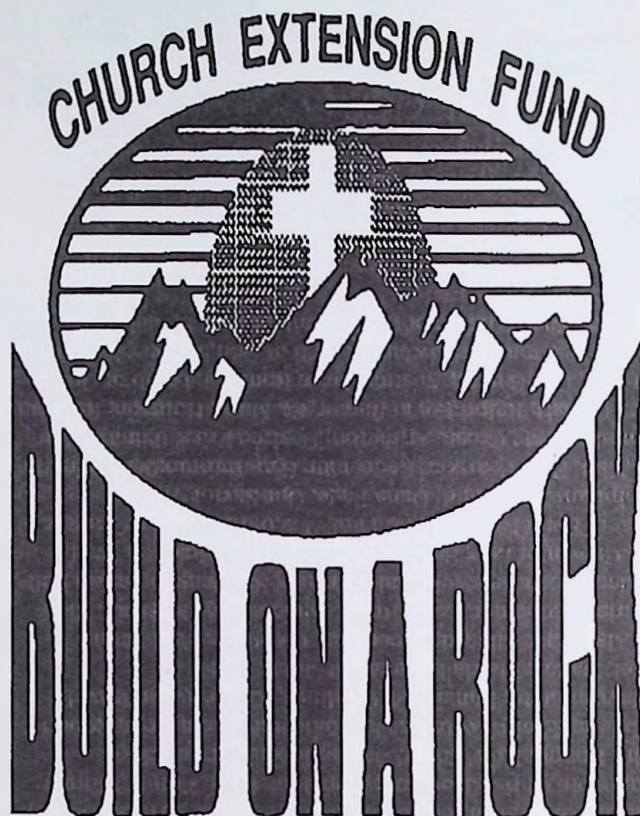
7. Traditional churches that thrive in the 21st century will initiate radical changes before the year 2001.

Easum also states, "Ministries that worked in the industrial society no longer meet the spiritual needs of people in an informational society."

During the last 88 years our country has gone from being agriculturally based, to an industrial society, and now we are in the information age. Throughout those 88 years of change, the Texas District Church Extension Fund has sought to remain relevant to the changing needs of our churches.

As we look to the 21st century, the following goals will serve as a foundation for our vision:

- Our goal is to anticipate and be responsive to the ministry needs of the future.
- Our goal is to continue to provide quality services, resources, leadership and vision to meet those needs.
- Our goal is to identify and to be open to the fund-



ing of creative new ministry opportunities.

• Our goal is to assist the people of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, especially those in the Texas District, in investing and distributing their savings in a way that is beneficial to themselves, their loved ones and to the ministry of CEF.

It is the desire of the Church Extension Fund to remain a significant contributor to the ministry of our Lutheran congregations here in Texas. For CEF to continue in its supportive role there is an ongoing need for new investments and also

gifts for the CEF Capital Fund. Your investment in CEF will touch the lives of others for generations to come.

For more information, contact your CEF congregational representative, your pastor or the district office.

Bill Siegrist
7900 E. Highway 290
Austin, TX
78724-2499
(512) 926-4272
1-800-951-3478





Our Texas kids take love of Jesus to Russia and Slovakia

It used to be "the Russians are coming." Now, it's "the kids are going!"

A total of 116 youth and adults of the Texas District are participating in Project CAN-DO's mission and servant events in Russia and Slovakia.

These special young people and their congregations have made extraordinary efforts to be a part of the first CAN-DO international event, sharing the love of Christ.

YOUTH SERVANTS IN RUSSIA

Matthew Allen, Zion, Walburg; Matt Bahn, Holy Cross, Arlington; Amy Banta, St. Paul, Waco; Sara Bellinger, Peace, Garland; Donna Brown, Concordia, Garland; Lydia Carson, St. Paul, San Antonio; Sara Cartwright, Emmanuel, Odessa; Jeffrey Dieberich, Bethel, Dallas.

Also, Nicole Dieterichs, Grace, Denison; Luther Diaz, St. John, Lariat; Angela Doering, Bethel, Dallas; Esther Dunn, Trinity, Corpus Christi; Alice Fuller, King of Kings, San Antonio; Vicky Lynn Gallegos, Family of Faith, Houston.

Also, Scott Glaser, Gethsemane, Houston; Sandra Hanson, Trinity, Borger; Derrick Haseloff, St. John, Lariat; Carrie Hendrickson, Immanuel, Giddings; Brittaini Hepler, Trinity, Borger; Angela Herbrich, Grace, Arlington; Bret Hintze, Beautiful Savior, Arlington; Mindy Hixon, Our Savior, McKinney.

Also, Sherrah Holobaugh, St. Paul, Waco; Danna Hubbard, Trinity, Borger; Jennifer Hunter, Peace, Hurst; Sidney Johnson, Christ, Houston; Stephanie King, Trinity, Borger; Tim Knapp, Holy Cross, Dallas; Joseph Krause, Zion, Abilene; Emily Lestock, Our Redeemer, Longview; Robert Clayton Liebl, Immanuel, Giddings; Kimberly Lindsay, Bethel, Dallas; Sharla Lingnau, St. John, Lariat.

Also, Eric Malard, Ascension, Cleburne; Paul Mann, Christ Redeemer, La Porte; Stephanie May, Messiah, Richardson; Heather McDonald, Trinity, San Angelo; Susan Miller, Crown of Life, San Antonio; Brandon Moss, St. Paul, Waco; Ryan Neuhaus, St. Paul, Waco; Erica Lynn Oravetz, Epiphany, Pearland; Dana Page, Our Savior, Austin.

Also, Erin Pearson, Redeemer, San Antonio; Michelle Pluerneke, Holy Cross, Arlington; Desiree Prinz, Trinity, Corpus Christi; Ralph Kevin Ramer, St. Mark, Houston; Rachael Ressel, Our Savior, Austin; Caryn Rommel, Lamb of God, Humble; Amanda Rowland, Lamb of God, Flower Mound; Brandy Sasso, Lamb of God, Humble; Matt Schiel, Zion, Tomball.

Also, Danna Schmidt, First, Texarkana; Leah Smith, Holy Cross, Arlington; Rachel Smith, Our Redeemer, Longview; Daniel Stephens, Our Redeemer, Longview; Kristen Strobele, Redeemer, Cisco; Colleen Swint, Redeemer, Austin; James Tessmann, Crown of Life, San Antonio; Melissa

VanDekerkhove, Messiah, Keller; Rudy Villarreal, Immanuel, Hereford.

Also, Krista Walker, King of Kings, San Antonio; David Weaver, First, Texarkana; Timothy Wedel, Ascension, Cleburne; Kristi Wendt, Redeemer, Austin; Bethany Wiatrek, Concordia, San Antonio; Leslie Willmann, St. Paul, Waco.

ADULT SERVANTS IN RUSSIA

Mike Byerley, Gethsemane, Houston; Dale Sierer Costello, Our Savior, McKinney; Pastor Kelly Crabbe, Messiah, Corpus Christi; Carolyn Fickenscher, Peace, Garland; Nicole Hahn, Bethel, Dallas; Martin Kibby, Lamb of God, Humble; DCE Craig McCourt, Christ, Houston; DCE Paul Miller, St. Paul, Waco.

Also, Molly Potts, King of Kings, Round Rock; DCE Randy Potts, King of Kings, Round Rock; Pastor Frederick Riemer, Redeemer, Atlanta; DCE Greg Rommel, Lamb of God, Humble; Pastor Jon Salminen, Epiphany, Pearland; Vera Schuster, Faith, Aransas Pass; Pastor William Schuster, Faith, Aransas Pass; Elizabeth Williams, Mount Olive, San Antonio.

YOUTH SERVANTS IN SLOVAKIA

D'Ann Adkisson, Salem, Tomball; Brian Beckendorf, Salem, Tomball; Jason Bice, Salem, Tomball; Cynthia Boone, Salem, Tomball; Heather Bostick, Redeemer, Odessa; Carl Brewer III, St. Mark, Lake Jackson; Malinda Brown, Salem, Tomball; Erin Bullock, Crown of Life, Colleyville; Heather Correll, Redeemer, Odessa; Meliea Diesterhaft, Christ, Amarillo; Michal Dube, Hope, Austin.

Also, Melissa Frei, Lord of Life, Plano; Aaron Gensel, Salem, Tomball; Jessica Hobratch, Zion, Walburg; Emily Lauterbach, St. Paul, Canyon; John Riley McConnell Jr., Salem, Tomball; Amanda McLaughlin, Holy Cross, Nederland; Cathy Muehler, Salem, Tomball; Angie Nichols, Holy Cross, Dallas; Josh Pinter, Salem, Tomball; Sam Rahberg, Messiah, Richardson; Crystal Simms, Salem, Tomball; Matthew White, Salem, Tomball; Larry Williams, Prince of Peace, Belton; Leslie Winkler, Salem, Tomball; Amanda Wunderlich, Salem, Tomball.

ADULT SERVANTS IN SLOVAKIA

Shirley Boone, Salem, Tomball; Dennis Hobratch, Zion, Walburg; DCE Kevin Pieper, Salem, Tomball; DCE Randy Potts, King of Kings, Round Rock; Pastor Tim Stahlke, El Buen Pastor, McAllen; Yolanda Stahlke, El Buen Pastor, McAllen; Annette Vystreil, Lord of Life, Plano; Pastor Ed Weber, Emmanuel, Mercedes.



PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

Gethsemane, Houston, reached a significant milestone when it received its last group of new members by confirmation. It now has confirmed more than 800 youth and adults in its history. Pastors are Eugene Heckmann and Chris Johnson.

* * *

For the second consecutive year, Pastor J. Louis Konz has received the Special Achievement Award from Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Houston "in recognition of an outstanding contribution to the improvement of operations resulting from sustained superior job performance." He



Konz

began his work there under the sponsorship of the Houston Area Lutheran Council and after three years was asked to join the staff as a part-time chaplain. This is his fifth year in that capacity. He retired from Calvary Lutheran in Houston in 1986.

* * *

Most churches hold congregational picnics but the May 15 one of **St. Matthew in Houston** was just a little unusual. It was their 94th consecutive annual barbecue and picnic.

Michael Schoppa, Immanuel, Harrold, an agriculture instructor for the



Schoppa

Harrold School District, was chosen by the National Future Farmers of America to serve on an instructional curriculum development committee. He was one of eight chosen across the United States to develop studies for FFA students to enhance classroom and lab experience.

* * *

The McKinney Rotary Club has chosen Karin Featherston, **Our Savior, McKinney**, employee of the quarter as an example of Rotary ideals which include humanitarian and ethical standards. Featherston is a telephone operator for an answering service.

* * *

Congratulations to Gertrude Greenwald who was named volunteer of the year at Trinity Lutheran Home in Round Rock. She is a member of **Our Savior, Austin**.

* * *

No time on her hands! Elsie Johnson, **St. John, San Benito**, recently was honored by Valley Baptist Medical Center for her volunteer work—12,500 hours of it.

* * *



EDEN—This new church sign has been installed at Trinity Lutheran in Eden on busy U.S. Highway 87. Weekly messages of church activities or Gospel-related thoughts are placed on the sign to be read by hundreds of passersby each day. Pictured are 10 adult and youth AAL members who led the project in ordering the sign, installing it and supplementing its purchase cost.

Honors have been bestowed on two members of **Grace, Killeen**. Marjory Haedge, an elementary school principal, was chosen top Killeen School District administrator by the local teacher's association. Orlan Kenyon was named veteran of the year by the Belton VFW.

* * *

James E. Sturgis has accepted the call to become pastor of **Mount Olive, San Antonio**. He had been a deferred vicar there. The ordination is scheduled for 3 p.m. Aug. 14.

* * *

A special anniversary celebration June 11 and 12 marked the 75th anniversary of **St. John, San Benito**.

* * *

Once a quarter, **Zion, Abilene**, begins its worship service 15 minutes early for a preservice hymn sing. Members select their favorite songs.

* * *

Rev. Donn Williams was installed June 12 as pastor of **Bethany, Houston**. He

comes from a dual parish in Kansas.

* * *

The Dunagan family, Al, Jan, Chase and Lauren, won a colorful award at **Crown of Life, San Antonio**. They wore the most red in the greatest variety of shades to brighten the church's Pentecost worship.

* * *

Special congratulations to Mrs. Elo Gaertner who was 100 years old June 10. She is the oldest member of **Mount Calvary, La Grange**.

* * *

St. Philip, Houston, has organized a Hospital Visit Team headed by George Knudsen. The 10 on the team will visit ill members, after three training sessions by Pastor Kenneth Mitschke.

* * *

Sharla Boeckman, **Trinity, Corpus Christi**, is a pre-med student at Del Mar College. She scored so high on an English exam for a job at the English Learning Center as a tutor that she was hired over all English major competitors.



Your district at work

THE TEXAS District Prayer Task Force is making plans for a prayer/meditation retreat for pastors Oct. 24-26 at Camp Lone Star. Rev. Walt Waiser will lead it. Supporting the event is a \$1,000 grant from the district LLL.

A **ONE-DAY** prayer ministry seminar is being planned Feb. 11, 1995, in Austin for Texas District congregation professional church workers and congregation lay leaders.

TEXAS DISTRICT Sunday will be Sept. 25. Concentration will be on helping congregations be aware of what the Texas District is doing for them and others around the world.

THE DISTRICT recruitment committee is discussing ways to capitalize on the enthusiasm of Project CAN-DO participants to have them consider church vocations.

NANCY DINGER of Trinity Lutheran, Port Arthur, has been chosen 1994 Volunteer (Sunday School) Teacher of the Year. She received a plaque at the district convention and is under consideration for a like honor from the Synod.

CALIFORNIA earthquake relief totals \$28,930.02. Financial aid came from 92 Texas congregations.

ACCORDING to the 1993 congregation questionnaires, 100 Texas congregations have LifeLight™ programs.

WORSHIP COMMITTEE members of Trinity, Houston, are developing an opening of school worship service that will emphasize ministry to families. Many of the kids in Texas parochial schools are non-Lutherans.

ANGIE NICHOLS, Dallas, and Randy Potts, Austin, have been trained to conduct Teens Reaching Teens workshops. Purpose is to equip teenagers in discipleship and sharing their faith. Workshops are scheduled Nov. 5 in Lubbock and Nov. 19 in Dallas. The whole district will have had area workshops by March 1995.

THE YOUTH Ministry Committee is looking at South Padre Island as well as Houston as a 1996 Glorybound site.

TWENTY-THREE youth registered for the district convention and met with Jerry Kieschnick, district president, and A.L. Barry, synodical president.



WITH THE TROOPS—Chaplain Tom Waynick provides orientation at Fort Hood for Texas District President Gerald Kieschnick as the president stays in touch with one of the many ministries in his district. Kieschnick also visited Grace, Killeen, at Fort Hood's front gate, where he checked construction progress of this congregation's educational wing, funded by the Church Extension Fund.

What a nursing home visit can do

Does visiting residents of a nursing home make a difference? It surely did when a member of the outreach team of Christ the King in Kingwood visited a local nursing home.

This Christ the King member speaks Spanish. The nursing home resident speaks only Spanish.

The nursing home resident was so buoyed up by the witness of the Christ the King volunteer whom she could understand, that she left her room to eat in the dining hall—for the first time in weeks!



SHAMROCK—This is the float of Trinity Lutheran in Shamrock which won first place in the city's March 19 St. Patrick's Day parade. This comment was read as the float passed the reviewing stand: "Jesus is the Light of the World. He shines into our darkened hearts and makes it possible for us to see the light; to see our sins and to see Jesus as our only Savior from sin." Pastor at Trinity is Andrew Simcak Jr.

Christians need to hang together in an undisciplined society

by Keith A. Loomans, Executive Director
Board of Parish Services

It is no secret! The followers of Jesus Christ live in a post-Christian era and Christian values no longer prevail. All around us we experience an undisciplined society. All around are the temptations to live as the world. Our very faith is challenged!

Christians do the things they do, they make the decisions they make because they love God and accept the values He prescribes for His followers. During the time when America was considered a Christian nation, when Christianity was predominate, people lived in a disciplined society. The circumstances today require faithfulness, diligence and obedience—all elements of Christian discipline.

The Scriptures have a number of things to say about discipline or training. Two familiar passages are Prov. 22:6, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it," and Eph. 6:4, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

The process of training is the process of discipling. While the passages imply that this training is going on primarily in the lives of children, discipline or discipling is a lifelong process. God expects His people to live disciplined lives based on His principles—His value system.

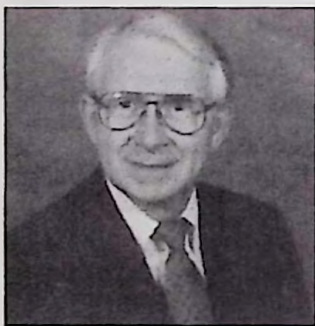
Now more than ever before God's people—children, youth and adults—need the daily study and meditation on the Word. Daily we need to be in prayer. Instead of the models, teachings and influence of an undisciplined society

(and they are strong), we need the stronger, Spirit-led models of people who are diligent in Bible reading, prayer, regular church attendance, regular participation in the Lord's Supper. We need to be supported by fellow Christians in Bible study groups whether that be on Sundays or some other time of the week.

If we are going to have Sunday school ministries, let's make them strong ministries. If we are going to have day school ministries, let's make them strong ministries. If we are going to have weekday schools and vacation Bible

schools, let's make them strong ministries. Let's make sure that all these programs are geared to reaching the unsaved as well as nurturing the saved. One church leader says that God's people are not building a fortress but a force to impact and influence the world.

To be that force, God's people need strength. We need and have the strength of the Holy Spirit in body and soul to proclaim the great love of God as we make disciples of all nations in a disciplined or undisciplined world! (See Heb. 12:1-13).



HONORED—Dr. Keith Loomans, executive director of parish services in the Texas District, is celebrating his 40th year in the teaching ministry and on Sept. 1 marks 25 years of ministry as the district's education executive. He was honored June 19 at a service and reception in his home congregation, Our Savior, Austin.

On pastor's mind

by Rev. Jerome R. Teichmiller
Zion Lutheran, Tomball

Someone once taught me that it is better at times to keep quiet and let people think you are a fool, than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.

But, folks, I am getting very tired of some of the names that people are calling us simply because we hold to the truth of God's Word.

Because we believe in the sanctity of human life and oppose abortion we are called "radical right-wing religious fanatics."

Because we believe that homosexuality is a violation of God's created order and contrary to His will, we are called "homophobic."

Because we believe that sex outside of marriage is a violation of God's commandment, we are called "Bible thumpers."

And the list goes on and on.

One writer called us "zealots." But if being a "zealot" means that we stand up for what

we think is right and oppose what we think is wrong, then I will wear the name with pride.

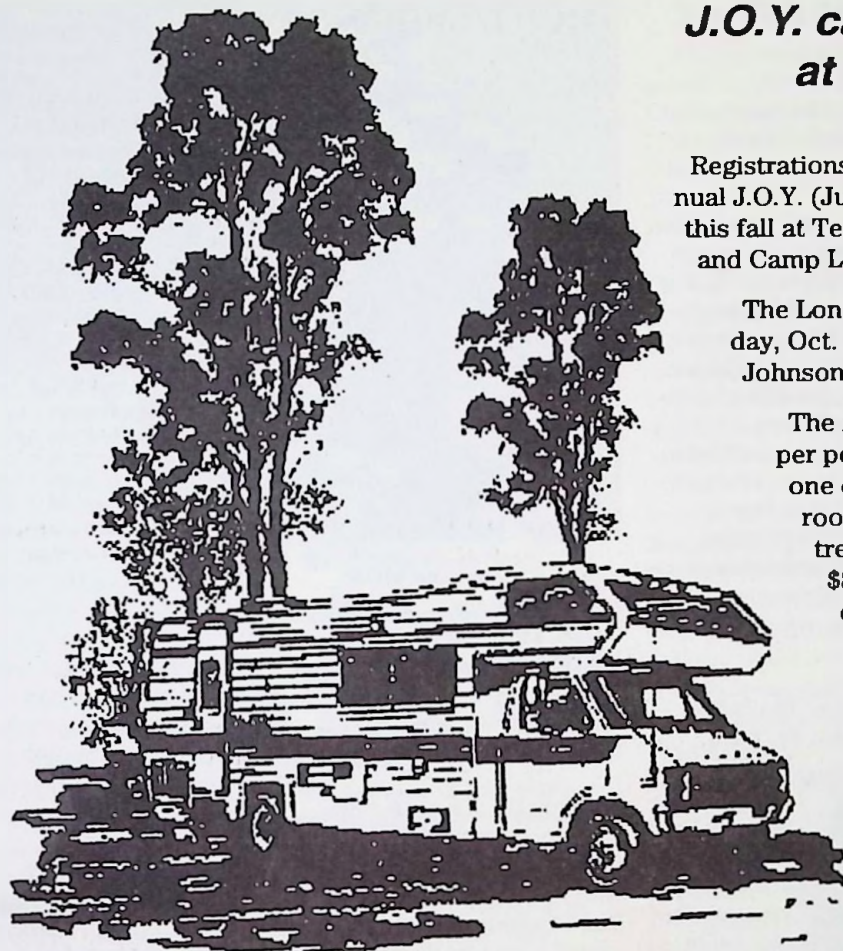
We are Christians because of the grace of God, because of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and because of the work of the Holy Spirit through the means of grace.

But because of God's grace and because of who and whose we are, we have a responsibility to give witness to the truth that God has revealed to us in Holy Scripture—both Law and Gospel.

Morality is not just a personal opinion. Morality is God's will in action. And without God's morality, our freedoms cannot long endure.

As we have opportunity let us give witness to God's grace and to God's will. If we do nothing, evil will prevail. But with God's help and with God's Word, the truth will be heard. God help us. Amen.

(From the Zion newsletter).



Retreat for RV/tent campers is set for Tyler State Park

The fall LOMT RV/Tent Family Retreat will be held on the weekend of Oct. 14-16 at Tyler State Park in Tyler, Texas. Activities will include fishing, games, Bi-



ble study, a potluck supper and Sunday worship. The registration deadline is Oct. 1.

Call (903) 786-3121 to obtain a registration form or for more information.

J.O.Y. camps set in October at both Lone Star and Texoma

Registrations are now being accepted for the annual J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) retreats being held this fall at Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro and Camp Lone Star in La Grange.

The Lone Star retreat will be held from Friday, Oct. 7, through Sunday, Oct. 9, at the Johnson Retreat Center at the camp.

The fee is \$92 per person for one or two in a room in the retreat center, \$87 for three or four in the same, and \$79 for five or more in a room or in the dormitory cabins.



The Texoma J.O.Y. Camp is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 31 through Wednesday, Nov. 2. The fee is \$80 per person for a private room (\$67.50 semiprivate) or \$60 per person in dormitory style cabins.

Meals and events are included.

Each J.O.Y. Camp will feature many activities including devotions, singing, worship, card games and "42," hiking, great fellowship and relaxation in God's great outdoors.

For more information, call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or Texoma Camp at 1-800-926-5968.



YOUTH



Angela

The sister act

*If pots were pans and feet were hands,
And the rose had a different name,
If peaches were plums and fingers
were thumbs,
I'd like you just the same.*



Elizabeth

This poem called "Opposites" was written by fourth-grader Angela Haley and earned her the state award for poetry in the Rising Star Writing Project, sponsored by the Waco Independent School District, Baylor University and the Texas Council of Teachers of English. She also received President Clinton's Academic Fitness Award.

Her sister, Elizabeth, brought in additional family honors by being chosen All-American Scholar in the at-large division of the United States Achievement Academy, not to mention being a national award winner in the Academy's art division, and not to mention her being chosen her school's student of the month.

The girls are members of Grace in Killeen, where Elizabeth is in junior confirmation classes.

Our bright kids ...

Jennifer Gillis, **Immanuel, Harrold**, hangs out with champions and has blue ribbons to prove it. At the Wilbarger County 4-H and FFA Junior Livestock Show, Jennifer took first with her shorthorn heifer in that division, and scored a virtual sweep in sheep judging, showing both grand and reserve champions in the breeding category, and reserve champion in market lambs. She also won first in showmanship. She's 12.



Jennifer

Vanessa Lau, **St. John, Cypress**, was honoree at the Academic Awards Banquet May 10 as outstanding student at Tomball Elementary based on her academic average.

On her toes! That's Meg Spitzenberger, **St. Paul, Wallis**, who won first place in the annual Wharton talent search. Her ballet performance did it for her.



Meg

Receiving her school's special award for academic achievement and citizenship was Dawn Anderson, **Christ Lutheran, Austin**. The 10th grader also was inducted into the National Honor Society.

Congratulations to Kevyn Pietsch and David Unger, **Redeemer, Odessa**, for the induction into the National Honor Society.

Outstanding guys at **Prince of Peace, Belton**, are Larry Williams Jr., who



STRENGTH IN NUMBERS— Some of the more than 200 youth who attended a cross-cultural youth rally in Corpus Christi in April form a human pyramid to emphasize the rally theme, "Strengthening the Body of Christ." Young Lutherans from the Rio Grande Valley, San Antonio and Corpus Christi came.

placed fifth in state VICA competition for small engine repair, and Jay Fischer, all-district football standout, who has signed to play for Tarleton State University, Stephenville.

Bright kid honors for Stacey Gibson and Ryan Schiffner, **Grace, Killeen**, who were chosen for the Duke University talent search based on their seventh-grade SATs.

The annual Wharton County Junior College Talent Search found plenty in Will Burgess, **St. John, Wharton**, who won third place for his cello rendition of a Bach composition.



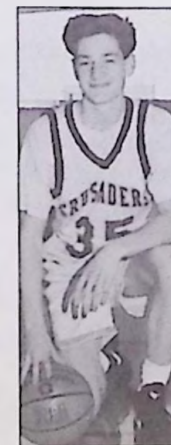
Will

He's a senior at El Campo High.

Keil Bowden, **Faith, Gainesville**, was fifth in his high school graduating class and vice president of his

school's National Honor Society chapter. He won second place in UIL ready writing competition, was co-editor of the yearbook and a varsity tennis player. He's going to College Station to be an aggie and study marine biology.

The wild blue yonder beckons for Charles Craig Cates IV, **Trinity, Klein**, who has been appointed to the Air



Charles

Besides academics, Charles was a varsity stand-out in both football, basketball and soccer.



LIVE FROM MOSCOW—Youth from Messiah Lutheran of Keller check out Russian language games via computer in the language lab at the University of Texas-Arlington.

Youth mission awareness grows

Because of Project CAN-DO, congregations and their youth are experiencing a heightened interest in missions, both at home and abroad.

Recently, youth of Messiah Lutheran in Keller visited the main campus of the University of Texas at Arlington on invitation from the Lutheran International Center there.

At the Center for Eastern European Studies, the young people viewed the Moscow evening news by satellite. Professor Pete Smith explained Russian culture and customs, and the students tried out Russian language games at the school's language lab. They also did research on native Indian tribes.

This youth group is part of the Texas District's Christ Among Nations—Disciple Outreach (CAN-DO). A total of 117 Texas District congregations and 350 people have participated in Project CAN-DO training.

CAN-DO sponsored mission events this summer at five sites in Texas and two international sites of Russia and Slovakia. There were 83 youth and adults registered for the St. Petersburg event held in July. Going to Bratislava, Slovakia in July and August are 34 youth and chaperoning adults. The various Texas servant events are at Del Rio, San Antonio, Brownsville, Texoma and San Raphael, Mexico, on the border. Some 330 youth and adults will take part in these events.

The entire Messiah youth group participated in a servant event with a native Indian tribe in Oklahoma in July.

On education's fast track

Sharon Scherer, St. John, Beaumont, is education-bound on the fast track. She's attending high school and college at the same time.

For her last two years of high school, she'll attend Texas Academy of Math and Science on the campus of the University of North Texas in Denton. She's one of 200 students in Texas chosen to attend the academy.

As she completes her high school education, she'll also receive some college credits for the courses.

Young Lutheran achievers ...

Among the many honors gained by Alyson Franklin, **Christ, Lubbock**, were the PTA council and Altrusa scholarships. She's going to Texas Tech.

* * *

Carrie Cunningham, **Crown of Life, San Antonio**, graduated sixth among 186 seniors at her school after receiving a number of honors in the academic decathlon.

* * *

The Kirks have strong hold on bright kid honors at **Redeemer, Longview**.

Sarah Kirk received a number one rating in choir ensemble and also in choir solo and is on her school's math/science team. Her sister, Amanda, was blue-ribbon winner at the Longview Piano Teachers Association hymn fest where she played "For the Beauty of the Earth." And then there's Ryan, only a first-grader, but he also got a blue ribbon for playing "Amazing Grace." Amazing, no?

* * *

Two young members of **Epiphany, Pearland**, know their way around the keyboard. Matthew Daugherty received a superior-plus rating at piano guild auditions as did Kyle Wiesenborn who also was chosen to play at the national piano teacher association convention.

* * *

Taryn Baacke who just finished sophomore year at **Lutheran High South**,

Houston, proved to be better than perfect with a 4.60 GPA on a 4-point scale. Other honors: National Honor Society, varsity softball team's MVP, all-district softball team two years, chosen for leadership conference at Rice University.

* * *

Collin Wissen, **Christ, Austin**, played in the junior college world series in Colorado with his Galveston College team. He now has a baseball scholarship to Southwest Texas in San Marcos.

* * *

Bright kid honors for Marie Satterwhite, **Christ Lutheran, Lubbock**. A graduating senior, she won the U.S. Scientific scholar-

ship given by the U.S. Congress, the Robert C. Byrd scholarship, Secondary Principals of Texas



Marie

Recognition of Science scholarship and National Honor Society and AAL scholarships. Cal-Tech gets her.

* * *

Melissa Frei, **Lord of Life, Plano**, has been awarded four separate non-needed scholarships. She received the Hunt Scholarship from SMU, the AAL all-college scholarship, Murphy Women's Auxillary scholarship and the Pearl S. Birmingham scholarship. What's it all worth? More than \$60,000. She'll attend SMU for premed.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE



THE CLC FIRST FAMILY—David and Julie Zersen, with their children Kristen and Rolf.

A new president for Concordia

After more than a year of hard work by the Concordia Lutheran College Presidential Search Committee, the board of regents and electors from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod issued a call to the presidency to Dr. David Zersen. On May 31 he accepted, and will assume duties in mid-August. He succeeds Dr. Ray F. Martens, who resigned last August after serving in the post for 20 years.

"We are delighted and honored that Dr. Zersen has accepted the call as Concordia's next president," said Bradley Johnston, chairman of the board of regents. "We believe that his innovative ideas and special talents will provide Concordia the leadership necessary to continue the College's time-honored traditions of academic excellence and confessional Lutheranism well into the next century."

Since 1987, Zersen has been Dean of the School of Adult and Continuing Education at Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon, administering the 1,000-student school at eight sites in four states. He also administers the LCMS Growth in Excellence Ministry project, which provides continuing education for professional church workers.

From 1965 to 1987 he served as parish pastor for congregations in Illinois.

Zersen holds degrees from Concordia Theological Seminary (M.Div.) and Bethany Theological Seminary (D.Min.). He is currently a candidate for a second doctorate, an Ed.D. degree in educational administration from Columbia University.

Zersen, 56, is married to Julie nee Schmid, and they have two children, Kristen, 24, and Rolf, 21.

Dear Christian friends in Texas,

Next to the village of my ancestors in the Suntel Mountains of northern Europe is the village of Texas, Germany. The story told is that many years ago a local man settled in Texas for a short while and, although he became so lonely he had to return to his homeland, he insisted on taking a piece of Texas with him. Once again some Zersens are coming to Texas, but we won't be lonely because the reputation of your warm Christian hospitality and your exciting ministry of higher education provides an invitation and a challenge within which we will be at home.

One of the best lessons I have learned from travel is that God's good people live everywhere in this wide world and that strangers who share Christ have an immediate bond. We will look forward to visiting in your churches and homes and to cherishing with you the good news about God's love in Christ without which all of us would really be lonely and distraught.

It is a special honor for me to be joining the educational ministry of Concordia's distinguished faculty and to seek to continue the tradition of leadership established over so many years by Dr. Ray Martens. In the years to come, all of us at Concordia will work very hard to sharpen the definition of what it means to be Lutheran in a setting of higher education, to focus the vision which is uniquely Concordia's, to identify new educational markets, to provide sound fiscal operation and to continue to be the higher education setting of choice for yourself—and for your children and grandchildren.

In the months to come, please remember Julie, Kristen, Rolf and myself in your prayers as we go through all those physical, mental and emotional changes involved in moving, which some of you know so well. God bless us every one.

Serving you in Christ,

*Dr. David Zersen
President-Elect,
Concordia Lutheran
College of Texas*



Good news at Concordia of Texas

The Austin Chamber of Commerce has given Concordia the Program Excellence Award for its adopt-a-school partnership with Rosedale, a school for multi-handicapped students. Only 10 institutional awards were given for adopt-a-school programs.

Concordia students continued to give time and hard work to Rosedale and other community service projects. During 1993-94, approximately 600 people were impacted by nearly 700 hours of service by Concordians.

Big Brothers-Big Sisters of Austin presented Concordia with a plaque in appreciation for the college's partnership in its scholarship program for seventh graders. Under the program, which is designed to combat school drop-out, the children promise to finish high school and several area colleges promise to provide \$500 scholarships for each of four semesters to those who enroll in one of the participating colleges.

Farmers Insurance Group, Inc. presented a grant of \$3,600 to Concordia to be used for scholarships. The company's Aid to Education program provides \$1,200 to the college of graduation of each staff member. Former Concordians employed with Farmers Insurance are Lawrence Bauer ('89), Mark Haake ('88) and Don Sturm ('84).

Texas Lone Star Branch of Lutheran Brotherhood held a Tom Thumb Dinner to benefit Concordia's scholarship fund. A total of \$600 was raised, and \$500 more was added by Lutheran Brotherhood.

IPC-Austin donated an Austin 486 DX66 computer to Concordia's Founders Library. The computer will allow the library to expand CD-ROM holdings for student and faculty research.

Rev. Stephen A. Wagner, senior pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Carrollton, is the newest member of the Concordia Board of Regents. Wagner is the chair of the LCMS Texas District Church Growth Task Force and has led numerous workshops and seminars on church growth throughout the nation. He is a 1968 graduate of Concordia's junior college.

The Cedar Branch of Lutheran Brotherhood matched member gifts two to one, up to the first \$1,000, to present a check to Concordia's James Keller. CLC baseball coach Keller has been diagnosed with Lou Gehrig's disease. The Lutheran Brotherhood grant came through their Disaster Relief program.

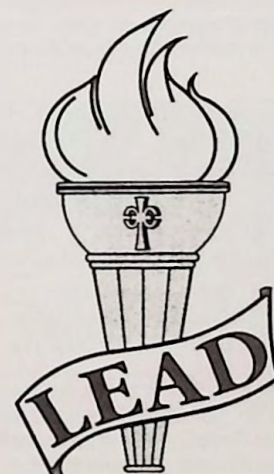
Concordia has received two Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation New Connections Grants of \$1,000 each. The grants came because Ken Markert (Victoria) and Carl Luker (La Grange), LB field agents, are both Concordia volunteers through

Concordia events calendar 1994-95 school year

Aug. 21	Freshman Orientation
Aug. 28	Opening Worship
Aug. 29	Classes Begin
Sept. 25	Music Faculty Recital
Oct. 20-22	Fall Drama
Oct. 21-23	Fall Festival
Oct. 22	Concordia Council
Oct. 23	Presidential Inauguration
Oct. 28-29	Fall Drama
Nov. 8	FreeView (adult prospects)
Nov. 12	Sneak-a-Peek (high school prospects)
Dec. 2-3	Christmas Concerts
Dec. 10	Fall Commencement
Jan. 17	Classes Begin
Feb. 10-11	Lutheran Elementary School Tournament
Feb. 24-26	Homecoming
Feb. 25	Concordia Council
Feb. 25	Sneak-a-Peek (high school prospects)
March 5	Scholarship Donor Recognition
March 23-25	Spring Drama
March 30-April 1	Spring Drama
April 1	Sneak-a-Peek (high school prospects)
April 5-9	Choir Tour
April 21	Concordia Field Day
April 27	Student Solo & Ensemble Concert
May 12	Baccalaureate
May 13	Commencement
May 14	Concordia Sunday in Texas District
May 23	FreeView (adult prospects)
June 19-23	Church Music Workshop
June 24	Sneak-a-Peek (high school prospects)

the Concordia Council. New Connections Grants are a new category of funding through the Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation.

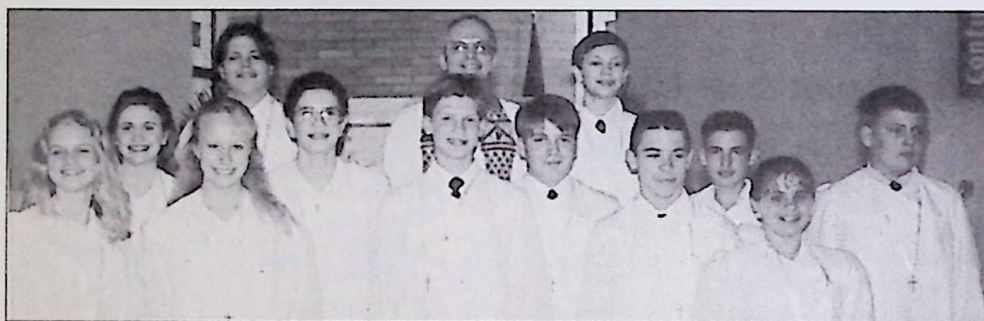
The Tom Landry Concordia Golf Classic in June was a resounding success, with 93 golfers enjoying a day of sport with the football legend, all to benefit the Concordia scholarship fund. An auction of sports memorabilia, trips and other items raised even more money to benefit Concordia students.



\$200,000

THE LORD ADDED ...

AUSTIN—Forty young people were confirmed May 1 at Redeemer, Austin. Top left is Randy Kerkman, minister of youth and singles. At top right is Pastor David Schroder.



SPECIAL DAY—The largest number of youth in the history of Redeemer, Beaumont, was confirmed Palm Sunday. Twelve young people confessed their faith, and one was baptized. Redeemer will celebrate its 35th year Sept. 18. Pastor is Robert F. Myers.



PALESTINE—Earlier this year, Bethlehem Lutheran of Palestine received these new members, by baptism and by confirmation. Vacancy Pastor Paul E. Johnson is at left.



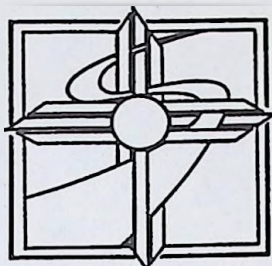
BROWNSVILLE—These junior confirmands from Trinity, Brownsville, are Matt Tuokko and Clint Cortinas. Interim Pastor George W. Price confirmed them.



MOST EVER—This is the largest confirmation class ever at Our Savior, McKinney, brought into communion fellowship on Palm Sunday. From left, back, are Pastor Craig Du Bols, Mary Beth Knight, Michael Erdmann, Jessica Biel, Kyle Kindler, Christopher De Bols, Jason Ehler, Peter Hoewisch, Larry Biel (youth minister). From left, front, Emily Ware, Chandra Reed, Jaclyn Lorenz, Casey Coble, Jeremy Orosco and Dustin Nguyen.



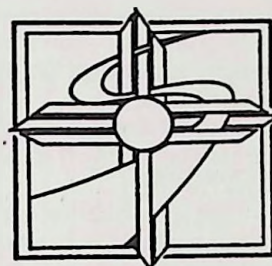
GROWING—These new members were welcomed May 22 at Grace, Orange, by adult confirmation, baptism and transfer. From left, back, are Scarlett, Mary and Jerry Silmon and Kendall Barron. Front, from left, Sarah Silmon, Leighla Barron, Jeremiah Gunter and Pastor Eddie Scheler.



WE WANT YOU NOW!
Join the
TEXAS LIGHT BRIGADE

The full-time volunteer corps for
"RIVER OF LIGHT"

The National LCMS Youth Gathering
July 2-6, 1995
San Antonio Texas



Full-time volunteers will serve the Gathering from July 1 through July 6, 1995. The registration fee for a full-time volunteer will be \$125 which includes Gathering registration and downtown hotel accommodations for 5 nights.

Registration for the "Texas Light Brigade" opens November 1, 1994.

For more information, please contact:

Susan Tonder
Volunteer Services Manager
25142 Summit Creek
San Antonio, Texas 78258
Phone: (210) 497-3548

☐ A number of part-time volunteers are also needed. Contact Susan if you have a limited amount of time to volunteer for the Gathering. She'll put you to work!



Martha Andres

The kids are coming! The kids are coming! Will 700 of you adults please step forward?

Susan Tonder is looking for a few good people. Well, not a few. Actually, 700.

The LCMS Board for Youth Services has chosen Tonder as volunteer services manager for the Synod's Youth Gathering to be held in San Antonio July 2-6, 1995.

More than 25,000 youth and adults from every state in the United States and several foreign countries will attend. And it will take 700 volunteers to help put on this mammoth event.

Tonder is counting on Lutherans in the San Antonio area and from across the Texas District to step forward as volunteers.

Martha Andres has been appointed by the youth board to serve as local arrangements manager. Both Andres and Tonder are members of Crown of Life Lutheran in San Antonio, and both are active in congregational programs, especially the church's youth ministry.

Texas District congregations and individuals may contact either of the women on how they might become involved in the national Youth Gathering support system. Contact:

Martha Andres, 2103 Morning Drive,
San Antonio, TX 78232; (210) 494-5668.

Susan Tonder, 25142 Summit Creek,
San Antonio, TX 78258; (210) 497-3548.



Susan Tonder

CELEBRATIONS

Lariat kids lasso pennies

When the children of St. John Lutheran in Lariat were asked to help with the church's building project, they wheeled right into action. Their response was a wheelbarrow full of pennies.

Pastor Dick Greenthaler challenged the youngsters after a Sunday service, saying "I didn't want to leave them out of the project."

The project is an addition to the church and renovation of the present building. Cost is \$200,000.

Greenthaler pointed out that each restroom tile in the renovation costs 18 cents.

"But don't just bring a dime, nickel and three pennies," the pastor urged. "Bring so many pennies that we'll have to go outside and get a wheelbarrow."

That's what happened. The next Sunday the young people brought 15,200 pennies—enough to fill a wheelbarrow!



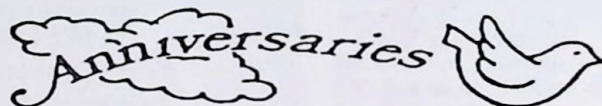
RECOGNIZED—George Reinschmidt, at right, was recognized at Bethel, Dallas, with a plaque for his 30 years as lay music director. Although he never had formal music training, Reinschmidt led the adult choirs and is associate organist. Steve Herrington, congregation president, makes the award.



STUDENT LEADERS—These are newly elected officers of the Texas Lutheran Student Fellowship at the University of Texas-Austin. From left, Emily Drees, district representative; Andy Thyssen, secretary/treasurer; Elizabeth Woods, district president; and Rev. Norb Firnhaber of University Lutheran Church, campus pastor.



ANNIVERSARIES—These couples from Mount Olive, Houston, are celebrating notable wedding anniversaries. At left, Robert and Inez Oncken observed their 53rd anniversary Feb. 8, and Bill and Alice Telnert will mark their golden wedding observance Sept. 10.



The following couples of the Texas District are celebrating wedding anniversaries of 50 years or more:

Trinity, Borger: Frank and Rose Bienroth, 50 years, Aug. 24.

* * *

Mount Olive, Houston: Curtis and Thelma Jentho, 53 years, July 27.

* * *

Messiah, Houston: Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Heine Sr., 51 years, May 16; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Doege, 58 years, May 23.

* * *

St. Mark, Houston: Cliff and Wilma Wahl, 50 years, June 3.

* * *

Grace, Smithville: William and Erna Galipp, 56 years, June 5; Martin and Hildgarde Goebel, 60 years, March 21.

* * *

St. Paul, San Antonio: Leo and Louise Mooty, 64

years, June 21.

* * *

Trinity, Rosenberg: Elton and Hildegarde Schroeder, 54 years, June 13; Tony and Ann Johs, 56 years, June 20.

* * *

Trinity, Sealy: W.F. and Esther Thornton, 55 years, June 18; Jessie and Lillie Wittenburg, 54 years, June 26.

* * *

Cross, New Braunfels: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Willmann, 52 years, June 12; Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Riggs, 56 years, June 17; Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Johnson, 50 years, June 29.

* * *

Hope, Winnie: Donald and Marcella Gaus, 50 years, June 18.

* * *

Messiah, Houston: Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Leu, 60 years, June 30; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Konetzke, 51 years, June 30.



INSURANCE

As a gift to the Lord

by Glenn Pittsford, Executive Director
Lutheran Foundation of Texas

This article was conceived because of the action of several Lutheran families and individuals in Texas who have recently made generous gifts to various ministries through life insurance trusts at the Lutheran Foundation of Texas.

• In most cases, a gift of an existing life insurance policy has been made into the trust. The donor receives a charitable income tax deduction roughly equal to the cash value of the policy.

Also, future premiums are paid by the trust after receiving tax-deductible contributions of the premium amount from the donor.

A gift of a new policy purchased through an insurance company chosen by the donor is also an effective gift plan. Utilizing a life insur-

ance trust through the Lutheran Foundation of Texas, the donors select the ministries they want to support after their lifetime.

• The insurance proceeds may be paid outright to the ministries after the lifetime of the donor or the proceeds may be used to begin an endowment that will provide perpetual income to the ministries the donor loves.

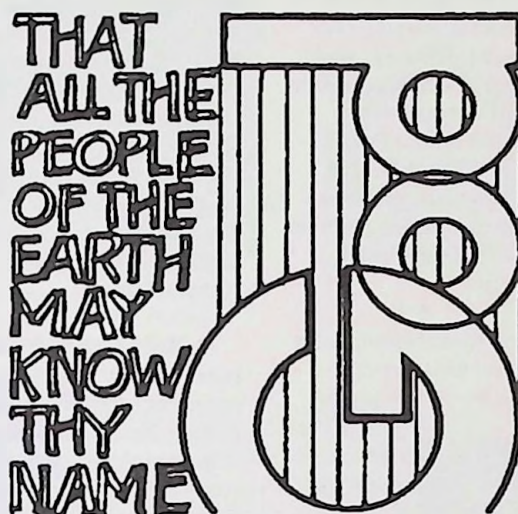
The Lutheran Foundation of Texas acts as trustee of these life insurance trusts. One or more of any of the ministries of the Texas District or The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, including one's own congregation can be remembered through these trusts.

• To find out more about life insurance trusts and how to begin one, simply call the Lutheran Foundation of Texas at 1-800-880-3733 (926-4272 in Austin) or return the coupon. As one of our fraternal life insurance representative friends said recently, "Life insurance provides the greatest leverage to make a large gift to the church." In other words, relatively few monthly or annual insurance premium dollars can buy a very large amount of future benefit to the ministry or ministries to which you want to leave a legacy.

May God bless you as you consider this and many other ways to support the Lord's work.

Notice to former members of Prince of Peace, Henderson

You are hereby notified that one of the last official acts of the congregation was to begin the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Henderson, Texas, Seminary Student Scholarship Endowment Fund. This fund will perpetually serve the Lord and continue His work by providing scholarship for full-time students preparing for the pastoral ministry in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Scholarship recipients will be selected annually by the Texas District Board of Mission Administration.



Pittsford



Lutheran Foundation
of Texas
7900 E. Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499

I would like to make a gift to _____
through my life insurance. Please contact me about
ways in which this can be accomplished.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Telephone _____

MAIL TO: Lutheran Foundation of Texas
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
1-800-880-3733 (toll free)
926-4272 (Austin)

YOUTH

More bright kids ...

Megan Halvorson, **Our Savior, McKinney**, was a winner in the annual Collin County Poetry Contest sponsored by the Poetry Society of Texas. A fifth grader, she was invited to read her poem this summer at the society's annual conference.

* * *

Shane Eisenbraun, **King of Kings, San Antonio**, tends to be on the top of things. He was second in his high school graduating class of 300, an officer in the National Honor Society, JROTC battalion commander of the national champion color guard, member of the national champion drill team, a National Merit Finalist, and has an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy.



Shane

Mellisa Covensky, **St. Paul, Monahans**, was chosen for the leadership award from Tau Lambda and the Wednesday Study Club. A sophomore, she attended seminars in El Paso taught by leaders in business, news media, academia and government. She's in the National Honor Society and active in band and drama—and at her church.



Mellisa

* * *

Super achievers at **St.**

Paul, San Antonio, include Brooke Biediger, chosen for the National Junior Honor Society and second soprano in the all-region choir; Sarah Boerger, National Junior Honor Society; and Laura Boerger, who won \$75 and a plaque from the South Texas Geological Society for her project at the regional science fair.

* * *

At **Holy Cross, Nederland**, Shandi Schrader was recipient of a four-year Texaco Foundation scholarship, which she will use to study biomedical science at Texas A&M. And Carre Huber was chosen for the all-district softball team.

* * *

Matthew Kuhlmann, **Redeemer, Fort Worth**, was one of 373 high school juniors who were awarded academic letter sweaters by the Fort Worth School District. He also has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do.

Tracy Dobrowski, **St. Mark, Houston**, has been invited to sing in the youth choir with the Houston Grand Opera.

Bright kid honors at **Redeemer, Cisco**, go to Kerstin Gerhardt and Christy Hughes, both salutatorians at their high school graduations.

* * *

A great effort award goes to Sara Mueller, **St. John, San Benito**. As a seventh-grade competitor, she won the 100 meter, 200 meter, long jump and 4x100 meter relay. Her 13.27 seconds in the 100 meter set a district record.

* * *

That great youth bunch at

Concordia, Bedford, organized the Concordia Summer Youth Corps, focusing on service and fellowship. Projects included planting flowers and flower bed care, grounds cleanup, painting and much more. The church provided T-shirts and the youngsters provided the skills as they served their church.

Bright kid honors for Laura Wiltshire, **Peace, Hewitt**, who was salutatorian of her graduating class.

Chris Hennington, **Peace, Texas City**, received an academic scholarship for highest GPA at his school.

* * *

Doing flips—and doing them well—was John Carey, **Zion Abilene**, who won a place on the six-member Texas boys team which was to compete in the national High School Gymnastics championships. John does floor exercise and high bar, and is alternate on the vault. He's also in the National Honor Society and son of Anne Carey, Zion's organist.

* * *

Residents of Centro del Barrio's Elder House live clear across town from Boy Scout Tom Brezinsky, but they're connected. Tom, **Crown of Life, San Antonio**, built a garden in the courtyard of Elder House as his Eagle Scout project. He had heard that the residents of Elder House—a shelter for abused or neglected elderly—wanted a garden. Tom recruited troop buddies to help him build the garden of 200 landscape timbers containing 15 cubic yards of soil. Caring for the garden

has proven therapeutic for the residents.

* * *

Amber Fussell, **Our Savior, Dallas**, was inducted into the Junior National Honor Society.

* * *

That talented bunch at **Hope, Winnie**, includes: Todd Frugia, named best actor in district UIL one-act play competition; Jared Dailey, Tiffani Kroll and Brook Bauer, top-ranked freshman students in high school at Winnie; Kristin Chesson, outstanding musician of her sixth grade, region band and "A" honor roll all year long; Stephanie Chesson, number one rating for trumpet solo in UIL meet, yearlong "A" honor roll; and Buffy Robinson, number one rating for twirling solo and invited to the National Youth Leadership conference in Washington, D.C.

Meghann Buck and Erika Allison, **Holy Cross, Arlington**, each received three academic letters, and Mark and Paul Symank were selected to attend the gifted and talented summer program for two weeks at Hardin Simmons University in Abilene.

Tara Kaspar's middle school has 1,090 students. All she did was earn the school's highest academic average. Tara, member of **St. John, Beaumont**, was highest in her class in humanities, English, computer literacy and choral music. She was highest in her school in earth science and American history. Wow, Tara!

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



BEAUMONT—These new members were brought into fellowship at Redeemer, Beaumont, May 1 by baptism, confirmation, profession of faith and transfer. Back row, from left, Pastor Robert F. Myers and Brittlyn and Sarah Bergeron. Front, from left, Hans and Maxine Keilling, Barbara Bateman, Trey, John, Angie and Jennifer Nell, Mark Bartels, Roberta Lott, Barbara Duhon, Rhonda Bersche and Cheryl Pierce. Five more, not pictured, also were added.



HOUSTON—Rev. Richard Lofgren was installed April 17 as pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran of Houston. Participating, from left back, Revs. Melvin Cordes, Donald Zuhn, Timothy Carr, Victor Frank, Chris Johnson, Lou Konz, Larry White, Richard Schuller, Jesus Gonzales. From left, front, Revs. Otto Naumann, Eugene Heckmann, Richard Lofgren, W.H. Wetzstein, Richard Wagner and Mr. Claudio Perez.

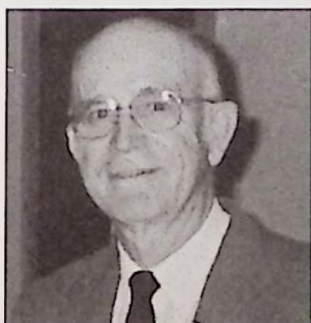


HALF-CENTURY—Zion Lutheran of Schulenburg celebrated 50 years of "preaching Christ crucified and risen" at a special service April 17. Among those present were, from left front, Michael A. Hafer, Zion pastor; Gertrude Getschmann, charter (and still) member; Rev. Paul W. Hartfield, district vice president, who was guest speaker. In back, from left, former Zion pastors Herman E. Baumann, Dr. LaVerne J. Fitch and Otto H. Kretzmann.



NEW CAMPUS LUTHERANS—On May 1, Campus Pastor Norb Firnhaber, left, at UT-Austin, baptized two of these students and confirmed all three. From left they are Cindy Hslao, a premed student from Taiwan, baptized and confirmed; Stephanie Payne, business major, confirmed; Becky Bruce, masters student in social work, baptized and confirmed. All attend UT.

CITED—Lay Minister Ben Hansen of Trinity Lutheran, West Sinton, has received the Certificate of Excellence award from the Corpus Christi Caller-Times for his service as a volunteer lay chaplain at the Port of Corpus Christi where he ministers to visiting seamen.



FAMILY GROWS—These are some of the new members at Christ Memorial, Houston, who entered into fellowship April 17. At left is Pastor J. Mark Kuehnert.

THE LORD ADDED ...



BLESSED—Since the beginning of the year, Trinity Lutheran, West Sinton, has been blessed with nine new members through adult instruction or profession of faith. Here are three of the latest: from left, Kelly Adams, Robb Nolen, Pastor B.R. Brummett and Gene Turner.



MAGNOLIA—In March, St. Paul Lutheran of Magnolia had the joy of receiving 20 new members through confirmation, baptism and transfer. At left is Pastor Barry Hildebrandt.



CORSICANA—March was blessed at Faith Lutheran in Corsicana as the Lord added 15 new members by adult baptism and confirmation, child baptism and transfer. Pastor is Delton Weiser.



CEDAR PARK—The Lord has blessed Good Shepherd, Cedar Park, with the addition in recent months of all these new members in the three pictures. Pastor is Richard Goodwill.



RICHARDSON—From left, Joyce Dayton, Idalina and Tiffany Shumway, Scheryl Simmons and Joshua are new members of Messiah, Richardson. With them is Pastor Victor Kollmann.



**Seguin
offices
opened**

Counseling offices dedicated

More than 100 volunteers turned out for the dedication of new counseling offices in Seguin in mid-April. Pastor Tim Brunn said the former location in the parsonage across the street could no longer handle the load. "About 25 people per week seek counseling," he explained. According to Brunn, "they come in with a full range of problems." Those include anxiety, parent/child issues, depression

and marriage.

But it looks like there is some good news—Brunn says that "there is a growing acceptance of the need to practice a spiritual life."



LSSS volunteers clear Martha's yard of storm debris.

LSSS offers aid during tornado, hurricane season

When disaster strikes, Lutheran Social Services of the South responds. You may recall the devastating tornadoes that struck in Lancaster and Marble Falls in May. Those were just two examples of how our disaster team goes into action when others desperately need assistance.

Pastor Dick Howard of Lord of Life Lutheran in Lancaster played a key part in coordinating our efforts after the storm. After the tornado struck, the houses "looked like they had been through one of those machines that grinds up tree branches," he said. But "a very good side effect," said Howard, "was the coming together of racial communities. Crying side by side, praying side by side and working side by side has been very good for us," he said. "I hope it lasts." LSSS set up a counseling center at the pastor's church.

LSSS Vice President for Planning and Information Norman Hein explains, "There are three phases of rendering help following natural disasters." First, there is the rescue operation. This happens immediately following a tornado or hurricane when "professionals get people out of harm's way," says Hein. The second phase mainly involves the Red Cross, Salvation Army and local community and church people working to stabilize people's lives. Those who have lost their homes are given temporary housing, clothes and other necessities.

According to Hein, the recovery phase comes next. "This is where the church

plays a bigger role," he says. While LSSS and other church-related organizations are active in helping disaster victims from the start, Norm added that during recovery, "We are able to help with counseling, rebuilding/repairing of homes and with advocacy."

As an example, immediately following tornadoes in May, the Inter-Lutheran Disaster Response Board (ELCA and LCMS) provided \$10,000 as an initial grant. Part of the grant was used to set up Lancaster Re-Birth, an agency which will continue relief response on behalf of the church for the long-term in the affected areas.

This story from Lancaster is just a small example of how LSSS helps disaster victims: Martha cares for her elderly mother, and her only income is renting part of her home as a duplex and renting two, small houses. After the storm, all the renters left due to damage. Martha temporarily lost her home and her only source of income as well. LSSS not only joined other organizations in providing long-term counseling and support to families, but also provided material help.

An LSSS crew volunteered to clean up Martha's yard, cutting trees and hauling off debris from the storm. Before the crew left, she asked if they might come back in a few weeks after her ceiling damage was repaired, and help clean the inside of her house. And, of course, the volunteers were more than happy to do that.

Be assured that when a natural disaster like a hurricane or tornado strikes, Lutheran Social Services of the South will be there!

Employee cited

"Sherry's dedication to the agency reaches beyond her formalized job duties," wrote Deidre Showalter in nominating the agency's employee-of-the-quarter, Sherry Houston. Sherry is payroll clerk at our administrative offices.

"Sherry's positive attitude and work ethic seem to be

contagious," explained Diedre. LSSS President Bob Greene says, "Sherry is an outstanding individual



Sherry

who lives the mission of LSSS every day." Greene presented the award to a very surprised Sherry at a recent board of directors meeting.

Lutheran high school in Slovakia told to move

The Lutheran high school in Tisovec, Slovakia, is a very important project of Lutheran Hour Ministries. Currently the school is located in a government owned building that must be vacated by Aug. 31.

Restoration of an old building has been hampered by depletion of the \$100,000 donated through Lutheran Hour Ministries. An additional \$75,000 is being advanced by Lutheran Hour Ministries. Gifts to finish the renovation of the school building should be sent to the Lutheran Hour Ministries office in St. Louis.

FACED WITH a deadline, parents and students are volunteering to help with the work. A local construction company is helping financially by providing workers to match the hours of labor performed by Lutheran Hour Ministries volunteers.

Julie Ballantyne, a teacher and visionary of the project says, "The volunteers have served as catalysts because through them the Slovak people see true Christian love in action."

NEXT FALL, the school will be facing not only a problem of location, but also a problem of space. More than 125 students took the examination to be in the freshman class, and there will be places for only 60 students. The total enrollment of the school is 190.

The American teachers at the school pay their own way, including rent and teaching supplies. They are under a one-year contract from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Board for Mission Services, and their \$130 a month salary is paid by the state. If they teach English, \$6 is added to the salary.

THE FIRST LUTHERAN school in Slovakia was built in 1527, just 10 years after the Reformation started by Martin Luther. The Slovak people quickly grasped the concept which Luther found in the Gospel, that of God's mercy and grace.

Slovakia became a Lutheran and Christian nation at that time. Now Slovakia is predominantly Roman Catholic, but there are signs of revival of the Lutheran Church. The Lutheran high school is part of the process in advancing God's kingdom.

Your prayers and financial support are needed for the success of this project. *(Used by permission.)*

BIBLE STUDY HELPS LHM

Throughout the years, the International Lutheran Laymen's League has prepared Bible study materials. Some of

the material is for use in a Bible study group while some may be used for individual Bible study.

"Listen Up" is a Bible study in eight series covering the first three chapters of the Book of Revelation. It is written by Gordon E. C. Meyers. In order to understand more fully what God is revealing, this study includes readings from God's earlier revelations in the Old Testament and in other books of the New Testament.

"Real Life" introduces you to Jesus Christ, the most amazing person who ever lived. How is it that this carpenter's son from a little-known country in the Middle East became the central figure in history?

Who is He? What is He like? What has He accomplished?

Why is it important to you? Why does He promise you a rich, full life?

These are some of the questions answered in this Bible study in a series of eight lessons.

To receive these Bible study booklets, call Lutheran Hour Ministries at 1-800-876-9880.

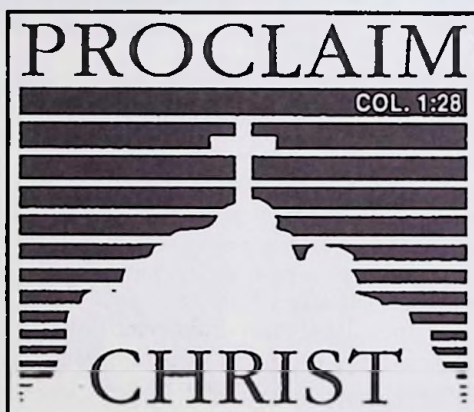
"Ultra Life" is an exciting new concept in young adult ministry that opens an inspiring door of ministry for the entire church.

Some think young adults are too old for youth ministry while others think they are too young for church leadership. Too often they are set aside in the life and ministry of the church.

It is easy to become involved in the "Ultra Life" ministry! You'll find the tape series and guides to be a wonderfully engaging way to present young adult issues and assess the exciting ministry before you. To receive sample material, call 1-800-752-9636.

SOUL CONNECTION

At a recent meeting of the Lone Star District LLL, Norman May, vice president for Region C, reported that Mount Calvary received 170 calls responding to the "Soul Connection" radio spot in the one week it was aired in the Houston area. He also reported that Rev. Roosevelt Gray, pastor of Mount Calvary, was told by the radio station operated by Texas Southern University that they were impressed with "Soul Connection" and wanted to discuss that with him. Those who responded to the spot announcement received the audiocassette "Hey Girl Friend—Here is Help!" These spots are directed to the African American population.





How to love Jesus

"I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink; I was a stranger and you invited Me in. I needed clothes and you clothed Me; I was sick and you looked after Me; I was in prison and you came to visit Me" (Matt. 25:35-36).

Alma Kern has put this so beautifully in her book, *You Are Loved*.

"Jesus gives us tasks that are down to earth, which, after all, is where we live.

"Not colossal changes but ordinary human things can give evidence that we love Him.

"Great occasions to serve our Lord come very, very seldom. Little ones surround us."

Having first tabulated the mission service reports from across this state, I can assure you that the results give testimony to your love for Jesus. For you, indeed, have fed, invited, clothed, helped and visited Jesus. To God alone be the glory!

People don't care how much we know until they know how much we care. May God help us to season each task that we do with His love and grace.

God has channeled a path for our lives and in His will there is order and purpose. To know that purpose which God has for each of our lives and to have the sincere desire to fulfill that purpose for which we were created is truly a gift from God.

"We love Him, because He first loved us" (1 John 4:17). All love ultimately comes from God and genuine love is never self-generated. In

John 16:14, Jesus' words for us are, "My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." Jesus loved us enough to come to this earth to suffer and die for our sins. There is no greater love.

As we awaken to the dawn of each new day, may this great love motivate us to:

- Love Jesus;
- Shine like stars;
- Reflect His light in darkness.

*Eudoris Weiser
Third Vice President*

Mite report June 1994

1994-96 goal	\$256,000
Rec'd June (all sources)	11,721
Rec'd to date (all sources)	11,721
Needed for goal	244,278
Sent to Int'l LWML (June)	1,565
Int'l to date	1,565

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box 1224, Giddings, TX 78942. Make checks payable to TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152, Lewisville, TX 75067. Deadline is ninth of each month.

A word from Pat

With our recent district LWML convention just a few weeks behind us, we are now well into orbit striving to reach the set goals for a new biennium! Let's meet the challenges with boldness and enthusiasm!

Are we being the shining stars God would have us be? Examine your personal priorities! Each society should reevaluate its ministry. Are you effective?

Are you growing or dying? If the latter, find out why. Take positive steps to turn the tide!

Look to God's Word daily for guidance and encouragement. Talk to Him often in prayer. Rely on *His* strength when taking on new responsibilities—with *Him* nothing is impossible. Reach out with the love of Jesus to the hurting in your own congregation and community—share that *Wonderful Gospel Message!* Look for new avenues through which you might minister. Explore the wealth of materials available through the LWML office. Use the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*. Support mission projects with your generous mite offerings.

We are daughters of the King. His mission is our mission. Look to *Him* for blessings.

TO HIM BE THE GLORY!

Pat Biar, President, Texas District LWML

LWR drive 1994

Katherine Boone reports a successful 1994 Lutheran World Relief drive.

Four Yellow Freight trailers and a U-Haul truck, driven by Rev. and Mrs. Lu Eschberger, Cuero, carried the shipment to the Maryland warehouse.

The final total for the 1994 drive was 72,439 pounds! Lutheran churches in Louisiana and Oklahoma also participated with a total of 386 churches, 18 of which were

new participants! Boone has been serving as chairman of this Lutheran World Relief collection for many years.

Our Redeemer Fellowship Hall, Dallas, serves as the collection point, and the trucks are loaded there.

Boone says, "Thanks once again! It is with grateful hearts and sincere appreciation that we report such a successful conclusion to this year's effort."



The "Salem 'Gospel Light' Players" present a skit.



News from around the district

Frances Molitor reports that the Bluebonnet Zone held its spring workshop April 17 at Salem, White Hall.

Rev. Aubry Morrison led the Bible study "Let the Son-shine Through: His Light in My Life."

The "Salem 'Gospel Light' Players" provided a light-hearted and enlightening skit.

A quilt with a message!

Evelyn Domel, Zion, Walburg, has been creating quilts for others for many years.

She reports that two weeks before the deadline for the Lutheran World Relief drive, she still did not have a design in mind.

Early one morning, while thinking about her quilt, she saw on her ceiling a beautiful cross. This was the inspiration she had been waiting for.

She says, "I hope it will bring a message to those that use it." She calls it a "vision from God."

The Mesquite Zone met for a "Joy Gathering" April 16.

Zion Lutheran, Abilene, hosted the all-day event.

The featured guest speaker, Dawn Weiser, Texas District Young Woman Representative, based the seminar and group dynamics session on "His Eye is on the Sparrow ... You Are Special!"

Discussion on promoting Christian values with an exchange of ideas for recruiting new LWML members met with enthusiasm.

Virginia Evers reported a 25 percent increase in attendance for the event!

The LWML at Trinity, Shamrock, sponsored a luncheon honoring the graduating seniors of Shamrock.

Rev. Andrew Simcak Jr., pastor, reports 25 seniors attended the annual event.

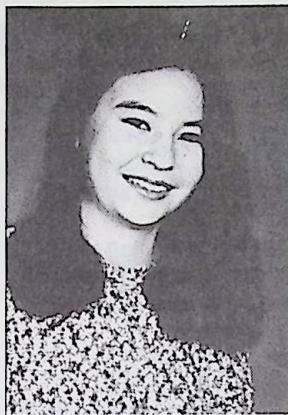
The South Plains Zone held a get-away weekend retreat April 22-24 at Pastor Francis and Martha Mennenga's home in Aleman.

"Turning Weakness to Strength" was the theme, with Mennenga leading the Bible study.

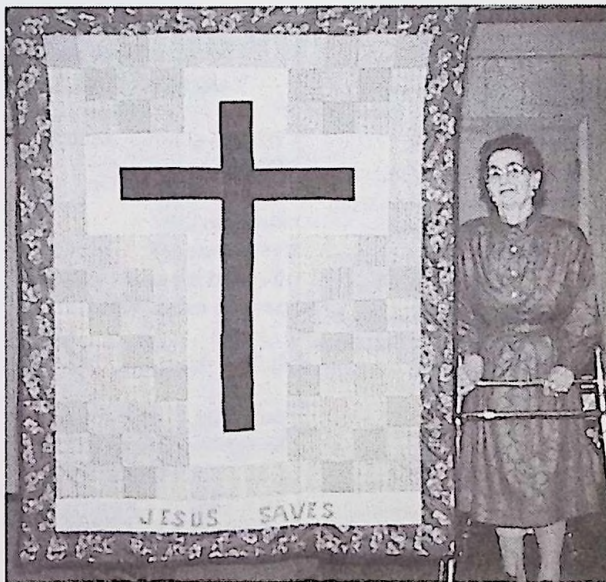
Retired Pastor Otto Brilling showed a film of his visit to Nigeria, basing his topic on "Adventures for the Lord in Nigeria."

Martha Mennenga took the group to Hamilton's Civic Theatre Saturday night to see the play "You Can't Take It With You."

The retreat ended on Sunday morning with the group attending Bible class and the church service together. After a scrumptious lunch, the LWMLers headed home!



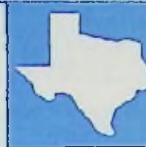
Michelle Otsubo, left, of Dallas and Jodi Leslie of Austin will each receive \$1,000 for the 1994-95 school year. This will be paid from the Texas District LWML Scholarship Fund. Both young women attend Concordia Lutheran College, Austin, preparing to become Lutheran school teachers.



Evelyn Domel, Zion, Walburg, made this quilt for the LWR drive.



South Plains Zone members participate in get-away weekend retreat. Corlis Schafer, zone president, is second from left, front row.



'She's great! He's perfect!'

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick,
president, LCMS
Texas District

Those were important words to the ears of an expectant father and two expectant grandparents, spoken by two attending physicians the morning and afternoon of July 5.

Her due date was June 30. The doctor had declared the baby inside her womb full-term, so the decision was made to induce labor early the morning of July 5. Angie and Todd had arrived at the hospital at 6 a.m. Terry and I followed at 7:30.

Everything was progressing smoothly and systematically. Angie had chosen an epidural, so the contractions were painless to her at their two-minute intervals. We were watching and timing them on the monitors.

Periodically we were invited to leave the room while the doctor got down to serious business, and the nurses did what nurses do so well. When the doctor left the room and we asked how our daughter was doing, each time he said, "She's great!"

At 1:12 p.m., Kolby Ryan Keith was born. His life had been obvious to us all for more than 270 days. How can something grow unless it is alive? Now this life was visible to a handful of very thankful people who had been praying every day for this moment, for the good health of mother and child.

When the pediatrician left the room and we asked how Kolby was doing, the response was, "He's perfect!"

"She's great! He's perfect!"

Those words were music to our ears. They became even more melodious when we learned the next day that a newborn in the hospital room next to Angie's had developed serious complications and had to be airlifted to Dallas for emergency treatment. We prayed fervently for that child, whom we had neither before nor since seen or known. And we prayed fervently in thanksgiving for the miraculous gift of life with which the Lord has blessed our family.

Kolby is a happy baby. He sleeps and eats well. Likes to "party" from 2:30 a.m. un-

ists in life, besides life itself and besides those things which appeared in their finished state as a result of our heavenly Father's creative hand, are fashioned by humankind.

But a newborn child, other than the involvement of the male and the female whose microscopic and almost microscopic parts are joined through a God-given act of love, grows undisturbed and unassisted in the mother's womb. And then when the time is right for departure from the warm, cozy, fluid, dark environment of the womb, the long awaited entry into the world



"I marvel at the precious, fragile, miraculous nature of life, birth and humanity."

til...? Some "parties" are longer than others. Grandma Terry and Uncle Andy, along with many other relatives and friends, are as thankful as I for his arrival.

In those moments when I'm alone with him, this first grandchild of ours, I marvel at the precious, fragile, miraculous nature of life, birth and humanity. How can such an intricate being, with all the systems necessary for the sustenance of life, be brought together, created, nourished, formed, developed and birthed without any more than minimal assistance from or direct involvement of other humans?

Everything else which ex-

of light, reality, love and struggle takes place.

At the time of this writing, the daily newspaper bears headlines of the incredible, devastating situation in Rwanda, Africa. Somewhere between 200,000 and 500,000 members of the Tutsi tribe have been savagely slaughtered by members of the Hutu tribe. The Tutsi rebels have finally mustered enough power to resist, resulting in the exodus of more than a million Hutus, fleeing for their lives across the border into Zaire.

The pictures and stories of the loss of human life turn my stomach. How can the same life that is so pre-



Rev. Jerry Kieschnick

cious to new parents and grandparents be unthinkingly, cruelly, senselessly snuffed out by people of one's own country?

Sin rears its ugly head in many places and at many times. Only because of God's redeeming love in Jesus Christ can the words "She's great! He's perfect!" have meaning, not only for brand new grandparents, but also for all who receive God's forgiveness, communicated through His Word and sacraments.

By God's grace through faith we receive the marvelous gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. God looks at people like you and like me and, although we may wonder how and why, He says about us, "She's great! He's perfect!"

"Thank you Lord, for the gift of life as we see it in the wonder of newborn babes, as we mourn its loss in the inexplicable atrocities of man's inhumanity to man and as we experience it through forgiveness by God's grace, for Jesus sake. Amen."

Jesus loves the little children
and sometimes He works through us

It's amazing how, with the right intentions and with prayer, things can work out. Nancy and Joe adopted Daniel in 1987 and Kate in 1990 through Lutheran Social Services of the South. Recently, they and the children discussed adding another adopted boy and girl to the family.

They took an interest in the new Russian adoption program started by the agency, but decided to give it more thought. It would mean at least one parent would have to travel to Russia for several weeks.

While mulling over the possibility, the family got a call from their social worker. Kate's birth mother had unexpectedly delivered twins, and contacted LSSS for assistance with an adoption plan. Three days before Easter, the twins (a boy and a girl) became part of this loving, happy family.

Nancy and Joe fulfilled their dream of adopting again; Daniel got his little brother, Kate got her little sister, and three half-siblings have the opportunity to grow up together, making the birth mother feel even more comfortable with her adoption decision.

Lutheran Social Services of the South Adoption Services has placed thousands of children into loving, Christian homes. Have you thought about adoption? Counseling and seminars can help you explore the possibilities.

LSSS accepts inquiries from families interested in adopting minority, mixed-

race, school-age and handicapped children, in addition to sibling groups. We also work with international agencies in placing children from other countries. While requirements for adopting these children are more flexible, we prepare families

through the same basic process as the infant adoption program.

Find out more about how you can bring the love of Christ to His children through adoption. Call (512) 459-1000.

Help is a button away

"Help! I've fallen and I can't get up." A couple of years ago, that line from a television commercial for an emergency response device became a favorite target of jokes across the nation. But at the same time, it created a greater awareness of the product.

Today, more and more people are seeing this technology as a practical way to add to the security of their loved ones who are elderly and/or disabled. In turn, it gives family members and friends peace of mind. Perhaps even more important is the fact that emergency response service allows the elderly to live at home longer. No one wants to leave the home they love.

This small communicating device operates through the phone line. The user wears a small, waterproof button around the neck or like a wristwatch. Anytime, day or night, when the button is pushed, a monitoring station is alerted. Experienced personnel respond in seconds, and call for emergency assistance, or notify the person designated as someone to call for help.

LSSS, through a contract with the Texas Department of Human Services, provides in-home emergency service

to people meeting financial and medical guidelines. This service is provided out of our Texas offices in Austin, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Lubbock, Midland and San Antonio. A similar program is available out of our New Orleans, Louisiana office.

For more information, call (512) 454-4684.

Ruth's House makes headway

What would you do if you lost your job and had little or no savings to fall back on? To make matters worse, you don't speak English very well. Maybe you are simply trying to balance the responsibilities of work and parenting with classes to improve your English and job skills.

Well, if you were living in the northern section of Houston, you could seek help at Ruth's House, a program of Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc.

The purpose of Ruth's House is, first of all, to provide immediate relief for individuals and families facing financial, social and spiritual crisis as a result of job loss or income reduction.

Case Worker/Program Developer Christina Fox works closely with those seeking



LSSS works with international agencies in placing adoptable children from other countries.

aid. "We help a lot of single women who have children," explains Fox, "and we provide food and clothing for over 300 people per month." Food is purchased at a discount from the Houston Food Bank. Bilingual case-workers also help clients identify other community resources in the area.

The goal of Ruth's House is eventually to empower heads-of-households to take the steps necessary to reach financial independence and stability.

"Most of our clients are looking for work," Fox explained. "Because of their below-average educational level and low socio-economic status, they frequently need individual guidance in how to plan a job search," she said.



Texas District Mission News

by Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration



Rev. Ken
Hennings

TMACs give new vision to mission effort in Texas

During the Texas District Convention in Galveston June 23-26, the delegates passed a resolution encouraging each circuit to form a Texas Mission Action Council (TMAC). The TMACs and the board of mission administration would form a partnership in determining possible mission starts in their area, or mission opportunities in other areas. More than one TMAC might be formed, depending on the size of the circuit or interests of the members in the circuit.

OTHER DISTRICTS HAVE something similar to TMACs, however the main purpose behind the creation of the TMACs for the board of mission administration is to get local input and involvement in the mission program of the district. The mission board would like local congregations to be a major player in determining what type of ministry is needed, where it should be located, and how it should be started. The TMACs also might be involved in evaluating the progress of the ministry, but definitely would be involved in encouraging the mission worker and the mission effort.

Rev. Ken Hennings, mission executive, sees the district mission program working with TMACs and sharing information on what is happening in Texas, and trends in the United States, relating to population, religion, economy, jobs and education.

The mission office also will share demographic studies, help with a market survey, share information on the various kinds of mission starts, supply cross-cultural information,

link TMACs with experts in a given ministry area and provide other assistance that would help TMACs in their mission understanding and endeavors.

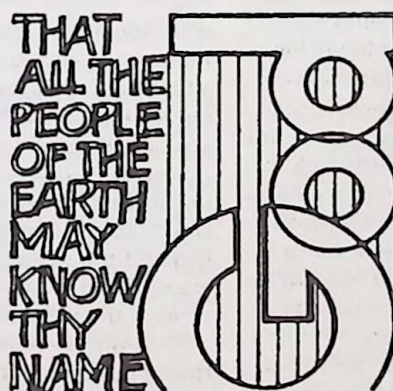
THE TMACs WOULD USE the assistance provided by the mission office to study their community for possible mission starts, share information with the congregations in their circuit, network with other TMACs or circuits, communicate with the mission office about future assistance needed and pray for and support the mission program of the district.

Because this is a circuit/local endeavor, the mission office has not set up one type of structure for TMACs. Each circuit should determine what would work best for them. Most similar groups in other districts have been made up mainly of laypeople. The TMACs are not intended to give pastors another job. The mission office suggests a dedicated layperson from each congregation who has a heart and love for missions and one or two pastors from the circuit.

THE MISSION BOARD is excited about the TMAC concept. Through TMACs, it hopes to receive more input about the district mission program and its direction as together the mission

board works and shares with the TMACs.

If you would be interested in forming a TMAC in your area, or serving as a member of your TMAC, contact your pastor to see how you might serve.





1944 CONFIRMANDS—These members of the 1944 confirmation class of St. Paul, Bishop, recently held a 50th anniversary reunion. From right are Gilbert Meyer, Corpus Christi; Viola (Kleschnick) Prinze, Corpus Christi; Carl Zieschang, Bishop; Ruth (Wuensche) Wright, Corpus Christi; June (Niemann) Homes, Navasota. Two of the nine-member class are deceased.

A place for your used books: Lutheran schools in Brazil

The Texas District is participating in a unique used-book collection to benefit Lutheran schools in Brazil.

The largest Lutheran university in the world with more than 10,000 students is in southern Brazil near Port Alegre. The university owns and operates five Lutheran high schools and nine Lutheran elementary schools. Most students want to learn English as a second language to their native Portuguese.

Austin's Concordia College is the collection site for the books. The campaign runs from Sept. 15 until May 1995.

Religious books are desirable as well as books on common school subjects like geography, history, art, music, literature, math and science.

Concordia librarian Norman Holmes is the campus contact. Directing the campaign is Michael J. Stelmachowicz, former LCMS college president and board of education executive, now retired in Austin.



Wendish Fest at Serbin

The sixth annual Wendish Fest will be held Sunday, Sept. 25, at Serbin, Texas. There will be an English service at 8:30 a.m. and a German service at 10:30 a.m., both at St. Paul Lutheran Church. Speaker will be Dr. Eugene Krentz, president of Concordia University, River Forest, Ill.

There will be a noon meal at the Serbin picnic grounds with short-order booths opening at 3 p.m. Entertainment will include music by Kovanda's Czech Band of Fayetteville, Texas, with a sing-along. Contests will include a coffee cake bake-off, and a cross-cut saw competition. Demonstrations of various Wendish crafts will include Wendish Easter egg decorating, noodle making, sausage stuffing, hog butchering, quilting, crocheting and butter-making.

Children's activities will include horseback riding, corn shucking and shelling, feeding the geese, coloring contest and pea shelling.

San Antonio Lutheran high school planned

A Lutheran high school in San Antonio by the fall of 1995 is the goal of a group of Lutherans organized as the Lutheran High School Association of San Antonio. The group lists the principals of the city's Lutheran elementary schools as directors, plus a legal counsel.

To join the association, congregations are asked to make a financial contribution of at least \$1,000 and then continue to support the Lutheran high school with a percentage of their congregational budgets beginning in January 1995.

The group's mission statement says "We believe that a Lutheran high school where faculty, students and curriculum are empowered with the Good News of justification by grace and shaped by a proper distinction between Law and Gospel, is necessary if we are to be faithful in our witness as Lutheran Christians in San Antonio."

The group has a start-up goal of raising \$100,000, with \$50,000 of that in hand before extending a call to a teacher/administrator a year in advance to work with congregations, parents and students in preparing for the high school.

An April report said 37 pledges and gifts are in totaling \$21,625, an average of \$584 per pledge. Parents of elementary and junior high students are targeted.

A curriculum team headed by David Harkins of Mount Olive in San Antonio is



TOGETHER IN TEXAS—Dr. William G. Thompson, right, was installed June 5 as senior pastor of Concordia Lutheran in San Antonio. He came to Concordia from Trinity Lutheran in Utica, Mich. To preach the installation sermon, he chose Dr. John Messmann, left, a long-time friend and senior pastor at St. Paul in Fort Worth.

working to ensure that the school "will not only meet but exceed state requirements."

Studies are under way for leasing classroom space and purchasing textbooks.



HIS HONOR—Robert "Bobby" Burns, member of Grace, Midland, was installed June 6 as mayor of Midland. He won the election with 76 percent of the vote.



On pastor's mind

When the old meets the new

by Rev. Harold L. Fleischhauer
St. Andrew, Houston

I just returned from attending a portion of a workshop honoring the graduates of Concordia Seminary (St. Louis) with five-year anniversary increments. I was delighted—with a grateful heart—to see their new worship center. (After all, it's about time the seminary that trains our "church" pastors should finally have a real church of its own.) Clear windows instead of stained glass, and painted pews instead of stained raw oak pointed to the beauty of the chancel with its simple stone altar and the Gospels cross.

I HAVE 30 YEARS of ministry—a goodly number, I thought. Before I saw my fellow classmates, I met an "elderly" pastor who doubled my years of ministry. From the class of '34, he was living in Iowa and serving congregations in Minnesota. So much for slowing down!



Fleischhauer

At the closing banquet, the master of ceremonies recognized each class. The anniversary classes of '44, '49, '54, '59, '64 (mine) and '69 arose with joy and grateful applause. It was good to see these veterans of the cross. They have preached the Good News of Jesus Christ again and again. They baptized, married and buried. Heaven will sing their *Te Deum* on that last day of grace and glory.

BUT WHAT ABOUT the man who was celebrating his 60 years in the ministry? They didn't forget. They called for the class of 1934 to arise and a few others joined him; then the class of 1929—one pastor was present. God bless our faithful pastors.

Our evening closed with a special prayer by one of the honorees. (He still preaches monthly services in German.) His words of praise and thanks for God calling him into the ministry rang throughout the lengthy Wartburg Hall. He spoke without a microphone! He gave thanks for God's gracious gift of forgiveness that he treasures each day.

OH, YES, HE GRADUATED from Concordia Seminary in 1919.

This is our church! These pastors are veterans of a church that is dedicated to the task of preaching Christ crucified. I respect their years of service. The old (pastors) are still able to preach to the new the message of God's love in Christ.

From the St. Andrew newsletter.



NEVER TOO LATE—At age 74, Edward Wachholz became the oldest pastor to be ordained in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. At ordination rites May 29, District Vice President Eugene Heckmann, left, places pastoral stole on Wachholz at Immanuel Lutheran in Lyons.

Ordained at

When Edward R. Wachholz was ordained May 29 at Immanuel Church in Lyons he became the oldest ever to be ordained in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

74

Wachholz was ordained in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He is

Wachholz had been a certified lay minister since 1960 and completed his requirements for ordination last March. Following the ordination, he was installed as associate pastor of Immanuel.

A call into the service during World War II ended his plans to study for the ministry at that time. In 1968, he retired from the Air Force but not before serving as lay minister to the Paulauens of Guam. He continued his lay ministry, serving in Texas at Anderson, North Zulch and Lyons.

Delivering the ordination sermon was Rev. Eugene Gruell of Austin, who directs the Texas District's lay ministry program. Rev. Eugene Heckmann, district first vice president, conducted the ordination rites.

Pigeons 4, St. John 0

The score is pigeons 4, St. John, 0.

Minutes of the July 1955 voters' meeting reveals that ways to remove pigeons from the church property (St. John, San Benito) were discussed.

April 22, 1956: pigeons in the church tower were discussed.

October 1978: trustees were instructed to "check on the birds in the belfry."

July 1994: "We're still battling this one."

WHAT CONVENTION DELEGATES DID

Memorials, resolutions voted up or down at district convention

Delegates to the June convention of the Texas District, meeting in Galveston, determined the following matters:

- Declined to memorialize the 1995 LCMS convention to amend a bylaw to require the constitution and bylaws of congregations which have or are seeking membership in the Missouri Synod to include a reference to membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

- Approved memorializing the 1995 synodical convention to affirm voting and other eligibility rights to a pastor serving a vacant congregation who has no other voting privileges.

- Approved memorializing the 1995 synodical convention to affirm full voting eligibility for each congregation in a multiple-point parish (two separate congregations).

- Approved reelection of all seven members of the Texas District Commission on Adjudication to serve only until all Texas District matters pending before the Synod's Commission on Appeals are resolved.

- Designated convention worship service offerings to ethnic/cross-cultural church work student scholarships.

- Directed the Texas District Board of Directors to review and analyze future district staff needs and then to implement realignment of the district's full-time professional staff as deemed prudent within existing fiscal guidelines.

- Approved memorializing the Synod's 1995 convention for a requirement that at least two of the four synodical vice presidents be actively involved as parish pastors while serving as a synodical vice president. Delegates noted that in recent years there have been few, and in some cases no, synodical vice presidents actively involved in parish minis-

try, and urged input from active parish pastors on the Synod's Praesidium.

- Authorized the full-time district position of director of construction for the Church Extension Fund.

- Defeated a resolution to divide overtures to the convention by the number of convention business days and commit delegates to dealing with all that day's business before daily adjournment.

- Resolved to repudiate all racism.

- Encouraged district pastors to read accepted studies on the proper distinction between Law and Gospel and incorporate those distinctions in their ministries.

- Reinforced the policy of close communion.

- Authorized the board of mission administration to work with circuits/circuit counselors to establish Texas Mission Action Councils (TMACs) designed to deal with mission concerns in local areas in a joint attempt to meet the outreach challenges of local mission fields.

- Directed the board for mission administration to communicate to all TMACs the priority and urgency of cross-cultural work.

- Rescinded the previous cap of \$10,000 per year in budget assistance from the district to

Concordia Lutheran College.

- Directed the Texas District to fund deaf ministries on an individual basis as is the case with all other financially assisted ministries.

- Encouraged district congregations to give priority to the support and strengthening of families and use resources developed for this emphasis by the Synod, with the district facilitating the networking of congregations and negotiating of resources for family ministry.

- Encouraged congregations to establish health and human care committees, explore the feasibility of engaging the services of a parish nurse and seek district and synodical resources in establishing such committees.

- Encouraged each district congregation to become a partner in the Lutheran Hour's "Go ... Tell A NEW Generation" initiative, and secure an underwriter to provide financial support of \$3,000 each year for three years.

- Resolved that the Texas District receive information from the Synod's Conference for Congregational Services (CCS) and disseminate it throughout the district. The CCS effort is designed to give congregations "hands-on" treatment from districts to meet the felt needs and expectations of the parish.

- Gave praise to God for the 40 years of Rev. Ray Schkade's Gospel ministry, 27 of those years as executive director of the district's board of parish services. Schkade retires at the end of September.



THREE TOP GUYS—Three men who were or are Texas District president got together at the district convention. From left are Rev. Louls Pabor, emeritus; Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, elected to his second term as president; and Dr. Glenn O'Shoney, now the Synod's mission director.



WOMEN IN HIS LIFE—When the votes were counted, Rev. Jerry Kieschnick had been reelected to a second three-year term as district president. Proper congratulations came from his wife, Terry, and his mom, Elda. (Photos by Bill Siegrist.)



Elected

Elected to district offices at the June convention in Galveston were:

President (3 years)

Rev. Jerry Kieschnick

Vice president (3 years)

Rev. Carroll Kohl, Area A

Dr. David Joeckel, Area B

Rev. P.W. Hartfield, Area C

Rev. E.E. Heckmann, Area D

Vice president rankings (by # of votes)

Heckmann, first

Joeckel, second

Hartfield, third

Kohl, fourth

District board of directors (6 years)

Claudio Perez Sr. (educator)

John Fred Phillips (lay)

Dr. Edwin Trapp Jr. (lay)

Board of Mission Administration (6 years)

Rev. A. Dean Kelm

Rev. Gary Martin

Beth Lauterbach (lay)

Board of Parish Services (6 years)

Rev. Victor Kollmann

Dr. Barbara Morton (educator)

John A. Buffo (lay)

District secretary (3 years)

Rev. Ralph Hobratschk

Assistant district secretary (3 years)

Ray Lauterbach (lay)

Board of Regents, Concordia (3 years)

Rev. Harold Fleischhauer

Curtis Riske (educator)

Don Bokenkamp (lay)

LOMT Board of Directors (3 years)

Rev. Tim Dinger

Patricia Klekamp (educator)

Wesley Krueger (lay)

1997 convention nominating committee

Rev. Art Hill, Area A

Rev. Donald Olson, Area B

Rev. Henry H. Biar, Area C

Rev. D. Rathgeber, Area D

Mike Linebrink (educator)

Mary Wehmiller (educator)

Milton Bade (lay)

Mark C. Clemens (lay)

Marvin Orlowski (lay)

Commission on Constitutions (3 years)

Rev. Lawrence Kelm

Rev. Jerome Teichmiller

Reynold Kunz (educator)

Catherine Burkhard (lay)

Synodical nominating committee

Prentice Andres

Best convention time

Summer



THE VEEPS—Convention delegates reelected all four district vice presidents, shown here with two presidents: Dr. Alvin L. Barry, left, synodical president, and Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, right, district president. Beginning second from left are Revs. David Joeckel, Arlington; Paul Hartfield, Serbin; Carroll Kohl, Big Spring; and Eugene Heckmann, Houston.



CAN-DOers—Testifying at the convention on how Project CAN-DO is making a difference in their congregations, communities and personal lives were, from left, Anton Lagoutine, a Russian student who told how Russia needs the good news of Christ's salvation; Angie Nichols, Holy Cross, Dallas, who described how youth and adults of her church participated in a CAN-DO servant event in Del Rio; Randy Potts, CAN-DO director; Vicki Villareal, El Calvario, Brownsville, whose youth group hosted a three-week servant event at El Calvario; and Stanislav Pissarski, St. Petersburg, Russia, who shared his faith in a Christian song he wrote called "God Our Salvation." He closed with the Lord's Prayer in Russian.

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

The congregation of **Peace Lutheran in Hurst** set aside three Sundays in August to celebrate its special blessings. On Aug. 14, the nearly 29 years of ministry of Pastor Roger Neeb was celebrated in worship and at a reception following. He is retiring. Other church ministries also were celebrated. On Aug. 21, ministry to the community was celebrated, including rejoicing that the three mission congregations sponsored by Peace—Concordia, Euless; Messiah, Keller; Crown of Life, Colleyville—are flourishing. On Aug. 28, church mission work was emphasized. For many years, Peace has given 25 percent of its total income to missions and other purposes beyond its own congregation.

Chaplain Gerald Discher has been chosen by the Civil Air Patrol as its six-state southwest region "Chaplain of the Year." He has been Texas Wing assistant chaplain for more than seven years. Discher lives in Navasota and is LCMS unit chaplain at Pack I Unit of the institutional division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

A special service at **Our Savior, Austin**, honored member William C. Driskill as he completed 30 years of service as a Lutheran educator. He presently is dean of students at Concordia College, Austin.

His peers have named David Lyons regional Outstanding Principal of the Year. He is a member of **Faith Lutheran, Aransas Pass**, and is principal of Ingleside High School. Noted in the selection was his strong commitment to academics.

Rev. Vernon Appel retired from the pastoral ministry at the end of August. He has served **St. Paul, Thornedale**, for 35 years.

Gregory D. Hyatt was both ordained and installed as pastor of **St. Luke, Olney**, July 10.

Mark Weinmeister is the new minister of youth at **Trinity, Houston**. He accepted the call from Aurora, Colo., where he was minister of youth and education at Mount Olive.

Rev. Walter A. Dube, pastor of **Peace Lutheran, Texas City**, retired from the ministry June 5. A reception honoring Pastor Dube and his wife, Ann, was held that day following services.

Trinity, Houston, is observing two significant anniversaries. On Sept. 25, the 115th anniversary of Trinity-Messiah School will be marked. And on Nov. 20 Trinity will mark its own 115th birthday. A son of the congregation, Pastor Adrian Bacarisse, will speak at two



FOOD TO GO—Members of Ascension Lutheran in Cleburne are strong supporters of the local Meals On Wheels program. Each week, members deliver hot meals to homebound people. Here Margaret Schlick and Lois Ratheber receive meals for delivery from Billie Warren, program executive. Also, the Ascension Men's Club provides financial support from proceeds of their annual Oktoberfest (\$1,143 this year). The seventh annual Oktoberfest is set for Oct. 8.

morning services and Dr. Oswald Hoffmann will bring the message at a special 4 p.m. service. Trinity pastors are Donald Black and Richard Wagner.

Trinity, Sealy, dedicated its new auditorium/fellowship center June 12. Pastor is Dale Leland.

The Lord blessed **Good Shepherd, Pasadena**, mightily May 15 when 12 adults were added to their forever family by confirmation, two more by profession of faith and eight children by baptism. Pastor is Herbert Eifert.

Donald Stange, **Cross, New Braunfels**, was on a roll when he and his partner finished sixth in doubles competition at the American Bowling Congress national tournament in Mobile, Ala. They earned \$2,400 with total pins of 1,404.

Pastor Jim Linderman and his wife, Jean, invited the whole congregation of **Christ Lutheran, Austin**, to visit with them and the church elders in the Linderman backyard on four week-ends in June. More than 260 members came, and Pastor Linderman now is a grill expert. He cooked more than 400 hamburgers and 200 wieners.

Kenneth Bersche was ordained and then installed as pastor of **Zion, Vernon**, July 3.

A service of holy communion July 10 celebrated the 50th anniversary of the ordination of Rev. William K. Schuster into the holy ministry of the Missouri Synod at **Mount Olive, Corpus Christi**.



CONROE—These are some of the 17 members received recently at St. Mark, Conroe, by transfer. Six of the new members representing two families are back for the second time—having returned to Conroe from another city. Pastor, top left, is Herbert C. Graf.



MERCEDES—These girls were confirmed on Pentecost Sunday at Immanuel, Mercedes. From left are Brianna Robinson, Terese Eilers and Sheri Vogel. Rev. Robert G. Hagemann, emeritus, is interim pastor.



FLOWER MOUND—On Pentecost Sunday, Lamb of God, Flower Mound, welcomed 21 new families into its fellowship. Seven came by adult confirmation, five by profession of faith, 22 by transfer. A total of 55 souls was received. District President Jerry Kleschnick preached as the congregation also celebrated its 25th anniversary. Charter members Ruth Condon and her brother, Richard Farmer, were lectors.



A RECORD—These are new members received April 17 into the fellowship of Memorial Lutheran in Houston. Nine of the group were baptized, believed to be a record one-time reception blessing.



GROVES—These new members were received into the forever family of St. Paul, Groves, June 5. Jay E. Simonsen is pastor. They came by adult confirmation, baptism and reaffirmation of faith.



GIDDINGS—The congregation of Immanuel, Giddings, welcomed five new members by adult confirmation May 8. From left, front, are Rev. Wilbern Michalk, Chad Kovar, Stacy Proske, George Hernandez and Rev. John Burger. From left, back, are Shelby Barnett and Jeff Selvey.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOMES AND SERVICES GOOD SAMARITAN CAMPUS

Henning named Good Sam administrator

Peter Henning, the former program director and residential services coordinator for Bethesda's northern Illinois facilities, has been named the new administrator of the Good Samaritan Campus, announced Executive Director Dr. A.L. Napolitano.

He replaces Joellyn Champagne, who left to pursue other interests.

Henning began his Bethesda career in 1981 as a limited term residential aide at the Watertown, Wis., campus.

Other positions held while at Bethesda include program

assistant and training instructor for affiliated facilities.

"Working in different positions at various Bethesda facilities has been interesting and challenging," said Henning. "I'm looking forward to using my experience to serve people with mental retardation in Texas."

As administrator of Good Samaritan, Henning will be responsible for overseeing all employees and the operations of the campus and its seven group homes in Cypress, Houston and Spring.

Henning assumed his new



Peter Henning, Good Samaritan administrator

position June 6. A service of thanksgiving and dedication, and a reception to welcome Henning and his family, was held on Sunday, July 31, at the Good Samaritan Campus.

Cypress woman prepares for confirmation at Good Sam Campus

For the past nine months, Bonnie has faithfully attended Bible classes at Good Samaritan in preparation for her confirmation.

This June, the fruits of her faithfulness were realized. Bonnie was confirmed at St. John Lutheran Church in Cypress.

"It was obvious to all of us that Bonnie was certainly ready to be confirmed," said Campus Chaplain Ronald Hampsten. "She so clearly understands God's Word."

People with mental retardation who live with their families sometimes find it ideal to join Bethesda residents in their Bible classes, according to Bethesda's Executive Director Dr. A.L. Napolitano.

"This is one of the many ways Bethesda reaches out to serve people with mental retardation who live with their families," said Napolitano.

Some churches choose to start their own special Bible classes for people with mental retardation. Many use *Breakthrough*, a quarterly Bethesda publication, to develop their lessons. Call 1-800-369-4636, Ext. 539, to receive this free publication.

BP Exploration grant helps residents explore learning

A \$500 grant from BP Exploration, Inc., Houston, has helped Good Samaritan residents discover new ways of learning. The grant was used to purchase educational computers for the campus' day program.

"Because of the grant, residents now have new learning tools available to them," said Pete Henning, Good Samaritan administrator. "We are grateful for BP Exploration's generous gift."

In Good Samaritan's day program, residents work on skills including concentration, writing and exercising. They also learn work skills by recycling newspapers and aluminum cans.

The grant will increase the program's teaching capabilities and lead to greater independence for the residents, which is always the end goal, says Henning.



Alice tests a new computer in Good Samaritan's day program as staff member Paula Taylor looks on. The computer was purchased with a grant from BP Exploration.

Good Sam Auxiliary buys pavilion furniture

The Good Samaritan Auxiliary recently purchased \$4,500 of new furniture for the open-air pavilion at the Good Samaritan Campus, including tables, chairs and a pulpit for outdoor chapel services.

The furniture was one of the group's annual Goldie

Fund projects. The fund consists of free-will contributions from members of the Auxiliary's five chapters in Houston (2), Dallas, the Panhandle and northern Louisiana.

"The Auxiliary has brought so many new improvements to Good Samari-

tan through the Goldie Fund," commented Executive Director Dr. A.L. Napolitano. "We are very grateful for their dedication."

Past Goldie Fund projects include the building of the pavilion and the renovation of Good Samaritan buildings.



*Bird watching
or
star gazing*



This retreat at Texoma Camp is for you

by Lorri Roberts

"So God created ... every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good" (Gen. 1:21).

Bring your bird books, binoculars and camera for a week-end of hunting the sundry feathered creatures on Nov. 4-6 at Texoma Lutheran Camp on Lake Texoma. Join the fun as



CALLERS—Lutheran Brotherhood agency volunteers from left, back row, are Kelth Buvinghausen, Patsy Huebner, Brett Carleton, Cheryl Kroll, LOMT Development Director John Hagkins. Front, from left, are branch officers Kevin Koch and Bob Bender.

Agency aids ministry drive

The Texas Gulf Coast Branch 8004 of Lutheran Brotherhood pledged \$300 in matching monies to the Houston area phonathon that is conducted annually each spring to benefit LOMT and Camp Lone Star.

Branch officers and staff members from Gulf Coast Agency of Lutheran Brotherhood in Houston also served as volunteer callers and raised more than \$4,000 in

one evening for the annual campaign, which generated \$25,345 for the most successful drive ever.



we seek out the elusive wild turkey, bald eagle and cedar waxwing and other beautiful birds found in the Texoma area.

A checklist will be available of birds that can be found in the area, as well as those that have been positively identified on site at the camp.

Mornings and evenings can be spent searching out these birds on your own or with other interested ornithologists. Star gazing will be available Saturday night with the camp's telescope to search out some of the more distant creations of the sky. Afternoons will be time for Bible study, group activities, sharing your feelings or for leisure time.

The Lord has blessed us with so many gifts in this world. Often we get so busy with our lives we forget to stop and look around at the beauty with which the Lord has surrounded us. Our hope for this weekend is to help you take time to look closer at some of the beautiful little feathered creations of God, as well as the other creations of nature that our Lord has put into our lives to remind us of His incredible power and love.

The fee for the Bird Watchers' Retreat is \$55 and includes all meals program activities and lodging in the cabins.

For a registration form or more information, contact:
Lorri Roberts
Texoma Lutheran Camp
Route 1, Box 116-P
Pottsboro, TX 75076
1-800-926-5968

Texoma orienteering meet

The annual orienteering meet at Texoma Lutheran Camp on Lake Texoma will be held this fall on the weekend of Nov. 11-13. The meet includes orienteering tracking sessions, competitions, "night-o" star gazing and speakers.

The event is sponsored in conjunction with the North Texas Orienteering Association. This is a great event for families, scout troops, student classrooms, everybody!

Fees and more information on registration is available by calling Texoma Camp at 1-800-926-5968.

CONCORDIA

'OAKWILT ... All Over Texas'

The title above is the somewhat tongue-in-cheek title of the second tape of country-gospel music by Concordia's Oakwilt Boys. As the group's namesake disease circulates through the state's trees, the Oakwilt Boys extend their outreach to new audiences throughout Texas.

During the past academic year and this summer, the "Boys" have performed more than 30 separate engagements, singing to literally thousands of Texans, and have now sold more than 1,300 copies of their self-titled debut recording. From Borger in the far northwest Panhandle to Galveston for the LCMS Texas District Convention, the "Boys" have accumulated plenty of Texas dust on their boots.

The group's second recording showcases their expanded repertoire, including six original songs by group members. According to group member Jeff Daley, "All Over Texas" reflects an improved quality of instrumental and vocal technique, born of our being together so much of the time."

To order an Oakwilt Boys tape, write Lieder Bookstore, Concordia Lutheran College, 3400 IH 35 N., Austin, TX 78705. Specify "The Oakwilt Boys" (the debut tape) and/or "OAKWILT... All Over Texas" (the new tape). Include your name and address, along with \$7.50 per tape. All profits from tape sales will benefit Concordia.



Jinx Schkade

Jinx Schkade is Lutheran Woman of the Year

"She uses all of her talents to the glory of God," wrote the Ladies Guild of Hope Lutheran Church in Friendswood about Jinx Schkade, their nominee for Lutheran Woman of the Year. The

Concordia Board of Regents agreed, and selected Schkade for the honor.

And her talents are many. Schkade's writing ability has been used to prepare articles for *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* and to create numerous skits for her local congregation and LWML society, as well as for the 1994 Texas District LWML Convention. She also writes the publicity materials for her congregation's Stephen Ministry.

Using her leadership skills, Schkade has served her LWML society in many offices, including the presidency, and has conducted Effective Society Planning (ESP) workshops for Gulf Coast Zone societies. She also has held zone and convention-planning offices. Ac-

cording to her LWML society's nomination form, "Her leadership has fostered a strong sense of fellowship among members."

Schkade also possesses a talent for service. She is in her fourth year as a Stephen Minister, and volunteers at the Autumn Hills Nursing Home.

Married for 40 years to the late Otto Schkade, who gave her the nickname "Jinx" on their first date, Schkade has three children—Michael, Cristine and Stephen—and three grandchildren—Diane and Jennifer Schkade and Jason Davila.

Concordia is honored to recognize Jinx Schkade as the 1994 Lutheran Woman of the Year.



THE "BOYS" PLUS ONE—The Oakwilt Boys made football legend Tom Landry (without the hat!) an honorary member of their group when they sang at the Tom Landry Concordia Golf Classic. All Oakwilt Boys are members of the Concordia faculty or staff.



Concordia to celebrate inauguration in grand Texas style

All Texas Lutherans are invited to join Concordia Lutheran College for the inauguration of its new president, Dr. David Zersen. Your invitation is below. The academic ceremony promises to be impressive, with official representatives present from the city of Austin, the state of Texas, the Missouri Synod, and Texas and synodical colleges. At the reception following the inauguration, a receiving line will allow you to meet Dr. Zersen and his family.

- But, wait, there's more! You are also invited to attend a festive inaugural dinner-dance on Saturday, Oct. 22. While the planners have not finalized all details at this writing (mid-July), they do promise a traditional Texas feast to begin the evening, with dancing to follow.

Music will be furnished by The Cloverleaf Orchestra of New Braunfels, who will provide a variety of music to suit the audience, including waltzes, polkas, two-steps—almost anything. Dress will be semi-formal/formal (black-tie optional).

Tickets for the inaugural dinner-dance are \$25 per person and must be purchased by Oct. 12. Call (512) 406-3192 to order tickets by mail, or stop by the Public Relations Office in White Hall on the Concordia campus.

- During the week before the inauguration, Concordia will host an academic symposium and several special activities to introduce Dr. Zersen to various segments of the college constituency. The cornerstone event, setting the theme for the inauguration

and for the academic year, will be an all-college public service day on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of the college will join to clean up an area of Austin (site to be selected by the city). This massive effort will highlight the inaugural-year theme, "Preparing for a Purpose," based on Eph. 4:12: "To prepare God's people for works

of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up."

This event will provide the Austin community with visible evidence that a Concordia education includes more than just career preparation.

In accordance with its mission statement, Concordia "encourages students to develop caring, sharing, and serving attitudes toward others." If you wish to join the

Concordia community in this public service activity, call the Public Relations Office for further information at (512) 406-3192.

- Concordia asks that the Lutherans of Texas join in welcoming Dr. Zersen to Concordia through participation in inaugural events, if possible, and certainly through prayers for him and for the college.

The Board of Regents
of
Concordia Lutheran College of Texas
requests the honor of your presence
at the Inauguration of
THE REV. DR. DAVID JOHN ZERSEN
as the seventh president
of the College
Sunday, the twenty-third of October
at three o'clock in the afternoon
Woltman Activities Center
on the Concordia campus

Reception to follow
in the front courtyard

Investors make CEF ministry work

At the Texas District Convention in Galveston, the Church Extension Report was presented in three parts. Steve Block, CEF executive director, and Bill Siegrist, CEF director of development, presented their report in dialogue form. Next came Rev. Roosevelt Gray, Mount Calvary, Houston. And finally, Archie Malcom, CEF congregational representative from Christ Our Savior in Lago Vista, presented the third part. Here is an abbreviated version of this three-part presentation.

Steve and Bill presented an overview of the CEF ministry and a status report of the last three years, since the last convention.

The Texas District Church Extension Fund is active, sound and growing in its service to Texas District congregations, Texas District members and other ministries of the Texas District.

The principal service of CEF is making loans to congregations for the construction and purchase of physical facilities for refinancing and needed repairs and renovations.

In the last 10 years, loans outstanding have grown from \$11.5 million in 1984 to more than \$30 million at the end of 1993.

In 1993, loans totaling more than \$9.3 million were approved, which helped 29 congregations acquire or add to their facilities.

Over the last 10 years the assets of the CEF have grown from \$17 million to \$59 million at the end of 1993.

CEF investors play an important part in making this ministry work. It's the desire of many of our investors to use their financial resources



CEF SPEAKERS—From left, Bill Siegrist, CEF director of development; Archie Malcom, CEF circuit director; Steve Block, CEF executive director; Rev. Roosevelt Gray, Mount Calvary, Houston.

to expand God's kingdom through this ministry. As a result of their stewardship, investments in CEF have increased from \$11 million in 1984 to more than \$50 million at the end of 1993.

A recent survey of Texas District congregations indicates they plan to build more than \$30 million in new facilities before the year 2000. To continue its service to Texas District churches, it is important for the Church Extension Fund to grow. We invite you to come grow with us as we seek to Build on the Rock—Jesus Christ!

Next up was Rev. Roosevelt Gray, Mount Calvary in Houston. Gray shared with the convention delegates how his congregation had benefited by a low-interest CEF loan.

"It's been a great pleasure to enter into the ministry with the CEF and the Texas District and

getting the building done at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. I guess if it wasn't for CEF, we would not have been able to relocate and

build the building that we have built now to proclaim the Gospel in our part of the Houston community."

Gray went on to relate a story about a young woman and her nephew who came to Mount Calvary one Sunday recently as guests. Before the worship service was over they indicated their desire to become members of the congregation. Gray was happy to accommodate their request. They are now active members at Mount Calvary.

Gray concluded with these remarks: "I thank God for the CEF, because the CEF has done wonderful things, through this church body and through the members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Houston area and the Texas District. The CEF has done wonderful things for Mount Calvary Lutheran Church and so, thank you Texas District and CEF for

the work you have done with us!"

The final part of the CEF report was presented by Archie Malcom. He encouraged all the convention delegates who were not already investors in CEF to invest in the fund that very day.

In his presentation he talked about how his congregation had benefited from the CEF and the Laborers For Christ Program. "We began in 1986 and the first of many blessings that was bestowed upon us was that we became acquainted with the Laborers For Christ. I guess they're about the best thing I've ever run into other than my wife and my family and the Lutheran Church itself. They came in and helped us, and in February of 1987 we were chartered as a congregation of the Texas District."

In his closing remarks, Bill Siegrist also encouraged the delegates to become active investors in the CEF ministry. He challenged them to remember, when you invest in the CEF you make possible a church, a school, a baptism, a confirmation and the Gospel proclaimed to others!

For more information about this exciting ministry of our church, talk with your CEF congregational representative, your pastor, or contact Bill Siegrist at the Texas District Office at 1-800-951-3478.

Texas District
Church Extension Fund
Bill Siegrist
7900 U.S. Highway 290
East
Austin, TX
78724-2499
(512) 926-4272





BONHAM—Members of Zion, Bonham, are praising the Lord for these new members brought by confirmation, affirmation of faith and transfer. Pastor is Loren A. DuBois.



WELCOMED—St. Paul Lutheran of Dallas welcomed four new members into fellowship, two by transfer, one by confirmation and one by baptism. From left are Cedric Ferrell, Leslie Ferrell, Vicar Richard Robinson, Dollie Lyons and Terence Hagerman.



ANDREWS—By confirmation and reaffirmation of faith, these new members were received May 15 at Faith Lutheran, Andrews. Faith is served by Rev. A. Dean Kelm.



NEW MEMBERS—In March, these people joined the family of faith at Zion, Walburg. David L. Londenbergh is pastor.



MEMBERS RECEIVED—These new members were received May 15 at Redeemer, Beaumont, by adult confirmation, profession of faith and transfer. From left are Rick Youngs, Bret Melnscher, Pastor Bob Meyers, and Karen and Gary Relser.



HARLINGEN—Received as members June 5 at St. Paul Lutheran in Harlingen were 12 adults, brought by adult baptism, adult confirmation and transfer, and eight children, five by baptism. Earlier, in May, five adults and nine children were received. Pastor is Dean Von Stroh.



KERRVILLE—This is the second confirmation class in the new congregation of Hosanna Lutheran, Kerrville. From left are Pastor John Treude and new communicants Abigail Guest-Muerer, Tracey Steele and Robert McCabe.



WALBURG—Zion, Walburg, brought these young members into communicant fellowship March 27. From left, back, are Patrick Zipperer, Travis Holmstrom, Scott Schubert, Jeremy Hobratsch, Michael Laszewski, Travis Swenson. From left, front, are Jill Meyer, Jerry Overfelt, Sarah Meissner and Anna Schwerdtfeger.

A ZEAL TO SERVE HIS LORD

Ray Schkade **Stewardship, evangelism visionary is retiring**

Sept. 30, 1994, marks the end of an era. Since Jan. 1, 1967, Rev. Ray Schkade has served the Texas District as executive director of parish services. On Sept. 30, Schkade will retire from that position after almost 28 years of distinguished service.

SCHKADE, a native of Giddings, Texas, began preparing for the ministry in September 1942. He received his training for the ministry at Concordia, Austin (1942-46); St. John's College, Winfield, Kansas (1946-48); and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Mo. (1948-50), at which time he received his bachelor of arts degree. He vicared at Grace Lutheran Church and School, Brenham, Texas, and completed his seminary training at Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Ill. (1952-54).

Upon graduating from the seminary, he was assigned to organize a new mission in Austin, Texas. Redeemer Lutheran Church was organized under his leadership in August 1954, with worship services being conducted in an Austin public school room. During the 12-1/2 years he served as pastor of Redeemer, the congregation grew from a membership of 75 to more than 1,250 members.

ON JAN. 1, 1967, Schkade accepted the call to serve as the executive director of parish services for the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. He was given primary responsibility for stewardship, evangelism and recruitment. He has provided significant leadership in these areas in the Texas District and synodwide. He has written numerous publications and media resources

within his areas of expertise.

On the state and national level, Schkade is frequently involved in speaking engagements and conducting pastor and lay leader workshops, retreats and special assignments.

He has been recognized as one of four most influential stewardship leaders in the Synod. He served as the district director for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's \$75 million "**Forward In Remembrance**" campaign, and also directed the Texas District's successful "**Challenge of the Generations**" campaign in support of Lutheran Social Service of Texas.

Schkade initiated a unique congregational total stewardship three-year process for the Texas District titled "**Stewards—IN HIS SERVICE**," a plan which was adapted for use by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and offered to all districts of our church body.

Schkade was the creator of the plan and a member of the team that developed the Synod's highly successful three-year "**New Horizons in Stewardship**" material.



“ God be praised
for His servant
and distinguished
churchman REV.
RAY SCHKADE. ”

He was the originator of what is now known as Project CAN-DO. His latest creation is the "**Faith In Action**" plan in which he challenges leaders of a congregation to be role models and spiritually mature leaders. As he moves into retirement, he will continue to conduct these seminars.

SCHKADE served two terms as a member of the board of directors of Lutheran Social Service of Texas. He also has been actively involved on the LCMS national level in the following areas: member of the LCMS Council on Stewardship and Finance (three terms); planning committee for the LCMS 1988 Great Commission Convocation; member of the Synod's Planning Council for Mission and Ministry; Developing Leaders for Ministry (DLM) Steering Committee director/coordinator.

In addition to his regular church-related responsibilities, he has served as a military chaplain for the U.S. Army Reserves and National Guard. His final assignment before his retirement in December 1986 was serving as Division Chaplain (Col.) of

the 49th Armored Division, Texas National Guard.

SPECIAL HONORS and awards include The Bronze Martin of Tours Medallion by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Distinguished Alumnus Award, Concordia College, Austin, Texas; The Armed Forces Faithful Service Medal; Army Commendation Medal; U.S. Meritorious Service Medal; U.S. Legion of Merit Medal; State of Texas Lone Star Distinguished Service Medal.

Rev. Schkade and his wife, Kathryn, have three children: son Craig and his wife, Nancy; son Kevin and his wife, Debbie, and daughter, Tammy; and also three grandchildren—Erin, Ryan and Amber.

Rev. Ray Schkade has been described as a change-agent and a paradigm pioneer. He has certainly demonstrated his love for the Lord and his zeal for service in His kingdom. He has been incessant in his exhortation to disciple the lost and nurture the saved.

God be praised for His servant and distinguished churchman **REV. RAY SCHKADE**.

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



The following couples of the Texas District are celebrating 50 or more years of marriage:

Concordia, San Antonio: E.H. and Edna Krause, 70 years, June 28.

St. Paul, Bishop: Mr. and Mrs. Gus Schrader, 53 years, June 21.

St. Paul, Fort Worth: Ruth and L.M. Weldon, 52 years, June 7; Thalea and Louis Hensel, 50 years, June 17; Peggy and John Keagy, 55 years, June 24; Lorene and Edwin Luedtke, 58 years, June 26; Julia and E.A. Dueser, 57 years, July 3; Betsy and George Brandt, 58 years, July 17.

St. Mark, Houston: Ruby and Frank Fischer, 51 years, July 3; Mirl and Dorothy Albin, 50 years, July 6; Herbert and Ruth Schelnick, 55 years, July 8; Carl and Esther Seidel, 58 years, July 11.

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Ronnie and Jeffrey Flatgaard, 56 years, July 7; Elizabeth and Edward Kappy, 50 years, July 22.

Zion, Pasadena: John and Anne Sillin, 57 years, June 16

Redeemer, Odessa: In a special June service, these couples were honored: Clem and Edna Hebel, 64 years, Aug. 7; Ray and Jutta Warington, 53 years, April 26; Ernest and Maurine Schur, 53 years, June 7; Rex and Juanita Galloup, 52 years, July 26; Walter and Dona

Bea Schneider, 50 years, Jan. 15.

St. Matthew, Westfield: Herman and Erma Hildebrandt, 54 years, July 13.

Gethsemane, Houston: Arnold and Margaret Kaspar, 58 years, July 6.

Trinity, Rosenberg: Arnold and Dorris Beissert, 51 years, July 4; Elton and Hildegard Schroeder, 54 years, June 13; Tony and Ann Johs, 56 years, June 20.

Trinity, Sealy: Herbert and Earline Blase, 55 years, July 23.

St. Paul, Wichita Falls: Alvin Jr. and Mildred Jentsch, 50 years, Oct. 3.

Cross, New Braunfels: Mr. and Mrs. Karl Braddick, 53 years, July 11; Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Triesch, 51 years, July 17; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Poggemeyer, 51 years, July 18; Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Sachsenmeyer, 53 years, July 19.

St. Paul, Bishop: Mr. and Mrs. Howard Becker, 58 years, July 26; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Richter, 60 years, July 26.

Mount Calvary, La Grange: Roland and Alma Froehlich, 62 years, May 31.

GOLDEN COUPLE—Donald and Marcella Gaus, Hope Lutheran, Winnie, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 18. On July 7, Don went home to his Lord after a massive heart attack. Mrs. Gaus is former district president of the LWML.



WACO—Ernest and Edna Tiemann, members of St. Mark, Waco, celebrated 65 years of marriage June 9.



GOLDEN COUPLE—Archie and Lily Buchman, St. John, Houston, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 18. They have been at St. John 41 years.

WEATHERFORD—These members for many years at Trinity, Weatherford, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 2. They are L.D. and Ruth Huse, at left.



SAN ANTONIO—The site of their wedding, Happy, Texas, was an omen of a blessed marriage as Bill and Helen Adamek celebrated their 50th anniversary Sept. 3. They are longtime members of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran in San Antonio.



AZLE—Jay F. and Lavina Sanderson have served their Lord faithfully at Good Shepherd, Azle, and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary June 12. He's been an elder, trustee, vice president, president, lay reader, Sunday school superintendent and CEF rep. She's been LWML zone volunteer of the year and has made many quilts—55 one year—for Lutheran World Relief.



YOUTH



A super achiever and shining example of Christian witness is Kelly Miller, **Gloria Dei, Houston**.



Kelly

A spring high school graduate with a 4.0 GPA, Kelly attends church regularly except maybe when she's away for an evangelical weekend with Ongoing Ambassadors For Christ. She's attending UT—Austin and wants to be a marine scientist. She's a scuba diver. And she proposed an education and heart health project to the Hispanic elderly that won her a \$1,000 scholarship from the American Heart Association. She also won the Texas Achievement Award, which is \$2,000 per year up to five years, and an honor colloquium from UT of \$1,000.

Chance Hardie is a life-long member of **Trinity, Tyler**. He has been notified that he is a national award winner in mathematics by the United States Achievement Academy.

Tommy Lowke Jr., **Trinity, Corpus Christi**, practically has a lock on the Kiwanis Club's Terrific Kid



Tommy

Award. He just won it for the third consecutive year. He just finished the fifth grade as a perfect attender, A-

B honor roll member, honors choir member, school representative at state model citizenship gathering and graduate of DARE program.

Something needs to be added to the "Don't Mess With Texas" slogan. And it's don't mess with the varsity girls softball team of **Concordia Lutheran High School, Tomball**. The team finished with a 25-0 record, with star pitcher Wendi Strack getting 22 of the victories. Catcher Shayna Watson batted .712 (WOW!) and Tracy LeMaster had 12 home runs.

Redeemer, Beaumont, offers Henry Roesler for bright kid honors. Henry was first in 4-H district roundup competition and fourth in state. At the district leadership lab he received the Gold Star Award, 4-H's highest. Then there's Jacob Lundberg, outstanding male athlete in his second-grade class. He set a class record with 16 pull-ups. Then there's Mandi Johnson, a fourth grader who won first in spelling at district UIL meet. Then there's James Wolff, third in his high-school graduating class who won a four-year



SCHOOL'S OUT—These young people of Grace, Del Rio, celebrated the end of school with a trip to visit attractions in San Antonio including four of the city's missions. From left, front, Audrey Snyder, Troy Sountris, Jason Sountris, Laurie Abendroth. From left, back, Larry Eckert, elder; Cheryl Graf, Jeff Kuhlman, Galen Dick, Brandon Dick, Brandon Nielsen and Karen Graf, sponsor.

scholarship to Texas A&M. He also was first place winner for botany at the regional science fair.

A terrific academic and sports record was achieved by Jessica Anderson, **Trinity, Rosenberg**. She won awards in honors classes in trigonometry, English III and Chemistry II. She lettered in tennis and softball. She's president of her National Honor Society chapter. She's also an officer in Trinity's youth organization.

Bright kid honors for Mary Martha Walters, **Our Redeemer, Longview**, who had the highest language arts average in her ninth grade; also the highest science average, math average, and honor roll with distinction (4.5 or better). She also excelled in sports.

Jake Teuette, **St. Paul, Wichita Falls**, was named Outstanding Woodwind Player in his seventh-grade band.

She's one in 8,100

Tara Renee Simpson is one in 8,100.

That's how many entries were received in the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) essay contest sponsored by the San Antonio Police Department. And Tara Renee won first.



Tara Renee

Her essay was titled "Why I Dare to be Drug Free." She read it in April at a city-wide DARE rally.

The sixth grader also received a 25-inch color TV, an 18-speed mountain bike, Super Nintendo, a backpack and tickets to Fiesta Texas and Missions baseball games.

Tara is a member of Holy Cross, San Antonio.

YOUTH

TEXAS DISTRICT



Our awesome kids ...

Jonathan Smith, Faith, Aransas Pass, was awarded a \$24,000 scholarship to the College of Art and Design in Columbus, Ohio, after his portfolio emerged a winner in national competition. The art college, one of the nation's largest and oldest, gave 133 scholarships nationwide. Jonathan will major in illustration.



Jonathan

Kendra Haseloff, Peace, Garland, got her foot in the door the hard way. She tried out for cheerleader at her middle school and made it while wearing a boot cast on a sprained foot!

Two youth from St. Paul, Fort Worth, are National Merit Scholar finalists. They are Tammy Boren and Jason Cox.

Honors at First Lutheran, Texarkana, go to Christie Wood, inducted into the National Honor Society, named to Who's Who Among American High



Christie

School Students, and captain of her school's pep squad. Also, applause for Autumn Holder, first-place winner at the Youth American Bowling Association Grand Prix scholarship tournament.

Bright kid honors for Erin

Johnson, Bethel, Dallas, who was on her school team which won first place in the Texas Academic Pentathlon meet. Erin also took an individual third-place medal.

From Faith, Gainesville, William Keil Bowden graduated with honors, fifth in his high-school class. His team won district UIL academic events, and he was second in ready writing. He's a varsity tennis player going to Texas A&M to study marine biology. Also, Shelli Paxton won a silver UIL medal in a one-act play and was selected for the all-star cast.

With a 99.883 GPA, Harold Wayne Vanicek Jr., First Lutheran, Rosebud, was his graduating class valedictorian. He received a number of scholarships that he'll use to study aerospace engineering at UT-Austin.



Vanicek

Eight young people from Hope, Austin, made the National Honor Society this year. They are Lynn Glienke (top academic honors at her middle school), Candace Francis, Sam Kokel (freshman athlete of the year at his high school and recipient of highest grades in honors math and physical science), Leslie Keller, Philip Kokel, Jana Wende, Mark Mueller (all-district baseball team) and Jeff Ashorn. James



THE GRADS OF HOPE—These are eight of the 11 high-school seniors of Hope Lutheran in Austin. Six of them have enrolled at Concordia Lutheran of Austin. All are active in Hope's youth group. From left are Blain Ullrich, Jana Wende, Jeffrey Ashorn, Michal Dube, Mark Muller, Sarah Newman, Matt Moss, James Howerd and Hope's pastor, John Ellwanger. Graduates not pictured are Sarah Dinan, Chris Bauer and Jesse Inmon.

Howard was all-district second team infielder.

More bright kid honors at Peace, Garland, go to Daniel Belling, outstanding eighth-grade boy of his school; Dylan Boyd, owner of the highest TAAS score in his class, and Jennifer Meazell who earned the most badges and patches in her Girl Scout troop. She also sold the most cookies—351 boxes.

The ball has bounced just right for Susan Schumann, Redeemer, Austin, who has won a volleyball scholarship to Stephen F. Austin University. No wonder! She played varsity volleyball three years in high school, was all-district and All-Center MVP, all-state and played in the coaches association all-star game. In all, she earned four scholarships.



Susan

Congratulations to the seventh- and eighth-grade girls varsity basketball

team of Immanuel—Bethlehem Lutheran School, Houston. The girls won division and conference championships with a 17-3 record.

That gaggle of bright kids at St. Paul, Magnolia, includes Melynda Knowles who, at her junior high, won most outstanding brass player, most outstanding English student, perfect attendance, Junior National Honor Society and athletic awards in track and cross-country. Her St. Paul buddies, Erin Bracewell and Traci Reed, also made Junior National Honor Society. Kassie Garza was a perfect attender. Angel Reed, National Honor Society student, graduated in the top 10 percent of her class and received the Presidential Academic Achievement Award.

Bright kid honors at Mount Calvary, La Grange, go to Sara Klesel and David Moerbe, in the top 10 of their graduating class and in National Honor Society, and again to Sara as valedictorian and national merit finalist.

New North American ministries

CHRISTIAN WOMEN—THIS IS FOR YOU!

"Woman to Woman," a weekly half-hour talk radio program hosted by Phyllis Wallace, is now available via satellite to stations across the United States and Canada. It provides today's woman with information and encouragement from a Christian perspective.

"Woman to Woman" promotes women's well being and spiritual growth through messages of Christian encouragement and practical lifestyle information. Phyllis Wallace and her guests motivate and instruct listeners on how to make the transition from "hearing" to "doing."

Responding to a need among the women of her congregation for in-



Lutheran Hour
Ministries

depth study of the Bible and its application to daily life, Phyllis formed a Bible study group which became a weekly gathering of 100 women and a staff of 24 at her church in Collinsville, Ill. This led to numerous invitations for Phyllis to speak at conferences and seminars around the country. These speaking engagements in turn led to an opportunity to develop a radio program, and **"Woman to Woman"** was begun in May 1991 over KFUD-AM radio in St. Louis.

Since then, Phyllis Wallace has produced more than 720 shows covering a wide range of topics of interest to women. Recent

guests include nationally syndicated columnist Cal Thomas, Shirley Dobson and former Miss America, Dr. Debbye Turner. This program has featured authors, psychologists, marriage counselors, a former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, homemakers, cancer survivors and experts on family matters.

Now **"Woman to Woman"** is part of Lutheran Hour Ministries, producers of **"The Lutheran Hour"** internationally-known radio program.

Tapes of these programs are available for personal or group use for a donation of \$5 each. For a title and guest list, call 1-800-944-3450.

"On Main Street," the new 30-minute television program produced as part of Lutheran Hour Ministries, will be the focal point of Lutheran Family TV Sunday, Sept. 18. The subject: How Christian families can manage TV viewing in their households and actually gain some benefits from the medium.

"On Main Street" is hosted by Dr. Dale Meyer, Lutheran Hour speaker.

The special event of Sept. 18 will introduce **"On Main Street"** as a ministry vehicle for pastors, Bible class leaders and participating Lutheran congregations. Lutheran Family TV Sunday will showcase **"On Main Street"** as a church Bible

class forum, which is a unique concept for Lutheran Hour Ministries. Congregations will have access to the 13 original sessions. Each program will be accompanied by relevant Gospel-centered Bible study materials.

The sample program being offered for Bible classes features Meyer interviewing Ken Wales, the producer of **"Christy,"** a new TV program on CBS. The discussion emphasizes how families can find TV programs that nurture faith, values and spirituality.

Other topics probed in the 13-tape series include family communication issues, relationships and theological perspectives toward advance in science and medicine.

The thought behind the Sept. 18 event goes beyond a one-day observance. Homework is an additional twist to Lutheran Family TV Sunday. Each Bible class participant will be given a Lutheran Hour Ministries **"Family TV Guide"** to take home and share with the family.

With **"On Main Street"** the goal is to use secular TV to target issues and topics that nurture and encourage Christians and also reach unchurched people with messages that point them in the direction of the church. During the summer the program is being tested in several cities.

A special Lutheran Family TV Sunday promotional package is available by calling 1-800-944-3450. Targeted to pastors, congregational reps and Bible class

leaders, the kit contains sample posters, sermon notes from Meyer, background literature and information on a special introductory offer to churches for all 13 episodes of **"On Main Street."**

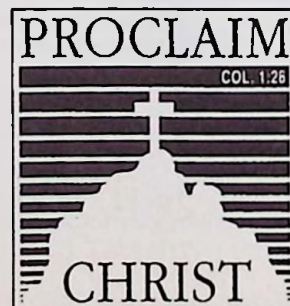
"LIVING FOR TOMORROW"

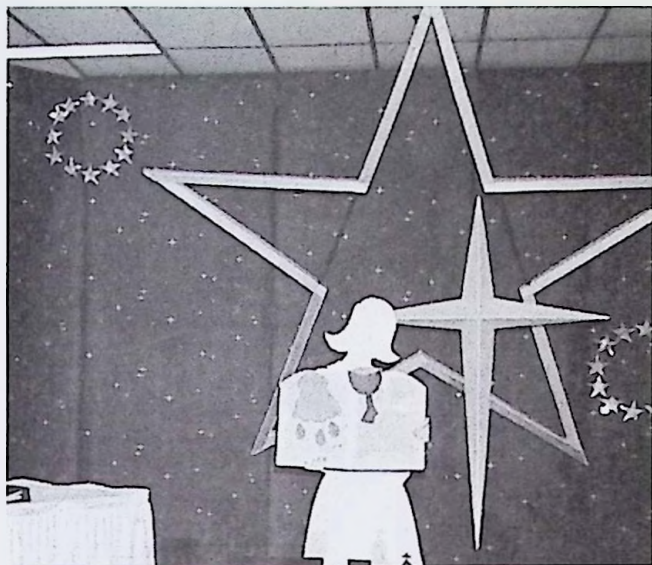
In a recent **"Living for Tomorrow"** campaign, responses to the media messages topped 5,000. The domestic ministries staff for Lutheran Hour Ministries expected no more than 2,800 responses.

Cities included in the recent campaign were Sacramento, Calif.; Sioux City, Iowa; and Oklahoma City, Okla. The media **"buy"** was smaller than the previous January campaign, yet the response was higher.

Conflict management was the topic of this campaign. Tapes titled **"Now You're Talking"** were made available. Volunteers make visits to people who called in response to **"Living for Tomorrow"** and make the initial local connection to a congregation. The number of volunteers involved in the calls doubled for this recent campaign.

Lutheran Hour Ministries requests your support as you **"Pray for Workers"** to **"Proclaim Christ."** (Used by permission.)





District LWML President Pat Biar bringing down the gavel to open 28th biennial convention.



LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152, Lewisville, TX 75067. Deadline is ninth of month.

Report to district

A midnight blue sky sparkling with stars was the stage backdrop for the 28th biennial convention of the Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

The convention held June 15-17 in Wichita Falls had as its theme Phil. 2:15-16, which says "...you will shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the Word of Life."

Here's the meaning of the art display on stage.

The *starry background* represents the whole Christian Church; Abraham's descendants as many as the stars in the sky; many known only to God.

The *circle of stars* in the upper left corner represents the Old Testament Church; the 12 tribes of Jacob, the chosen ones of God.

The *circle of stars*, lower right, represents the New Testament Church; the 12 apostles who shown brightly as they held out the Word of Life.

The *star cross*, center stage, is the Star of Jacob, Jesus, whose birthplace was pointed out by a star, who was glorified by His Father on the cross.

The *woman and large star* represent a Christian holding out the Word of Life. We serve, we witness, we share the same message God gave to Abraham as we "**HOLD OUT THE WORD OF LIFE.**"

Approximately 200 societies sent hand-made stars to hang from the ceiling of convention hall!

A district convention of the LWML comprises color, excitement, education, Bible study, singing that lifts the spirit, entertainment and fellowship.

Rev. Eugene Gruell served as convention proclaimer.

He assured us that we are stars, shining in the universe, when we hold onto and hold out the Word of Life.

There were 696 in attendance with 295 voting delegates adopting a new goal of \$256,000. New projects will receive \$110,865 of this amount. Officers were chosen to lead in the 1994-96 biennium.

The delegates voted to deposit the offerings from the communion service and a special door offering taken at the close of convention to the Texas District LWML Scholarship Fund. These offerings combined with special gifts donated at convention amounted to \$3,964.92, which puts the amount on deposit in the scholarship fund over the goal of \$50,000. Thursday and Friday morning's offerings of \$3,258.89 will go for Texas District projects.

1994-96 DISTRICT MISSION PROJECTS

1. Texas Seminary Student Scholarships—four scholarships each year for Texas seminary student.....\$24,000
2. Youth Great Commission Project CAN-DO—to involve Texas youth in missions and/or provide "hands-on" experience in mission work through servanthood events..\$19,000
3. Abstinence Education—to place slide presentation which promotes abstinence until marriage in Texas Lutheran secondary schools and colleges.....\$5,000
4. Missionary Emergency Medical Evacuation—to provide evacuation in medical emergencies for missionaries and their families\$10,000
5. Pastors' Wives Retreats—to pay costs of programming for next two annual Pastors' Wives Retreats.....\$2,500
6. Port Arthur Vietnamese Van—to purchase a used van for evangelistic ministry to large population of Vietnamese.....\$10,000
7. Van for Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf in Austin—to provide transportation for deaf to worship services and for students to school for deaf.....\$16,000
8. *Portals of Prayer* for Armed Forces personnel (LCMS)—to send *Portals of Prayer* to the men and women serving in the armed services.....\$8,000
9. American Indian Seminary Vicarages (LCMS)—to help pay vicar's expenses when serving among various American Indian tribes.....\$12,000
10. Hereford Hispanic Ministry Bus Repairs—repair bus that transports children, elderly and youth to church activities\$2,000
11. LAMP Ministry, Saskatchewan—to train native American Indians in leadership for Christian education activities.....\$2,365



Iris Franke, Chairman of the Christian growth workshop with Pastor Kim DeVries, presenter of the workshop Bible study "Empowered By Love—To Give."



Special service for the mission ingathering.



Norma Kramin's address to convention related "I am me ... you are you ... each unique and bonded together by our love for Jesus Christ."



Rev. David Rohde, Texas District LWML counselor, leading the Bible study "The Source of Our Shining" and "The Shining of Our Source."



Pages serve with bright smiles and willing hearts.



These "Shining Stars" participated in group Bible study.



Rev. and Mrs. Jerry Kieschnick attended the convention. Both addressed the assembly, encouraging each woman to continue in her service to her Savior, her church and to the LWML.



Dawn Weiser, Young Woman Representative for the Texas District LWML, participated in a skit.

1994-96 OFFICERS TEXAS DISTRICT LWML

President

Pat Biar

First Vice President

Peggy Turnipseed

Second Vice President

Eloise Kuhlmann

Third Vice President

Eudoris Weiser

Fourth Vice President

Florence Winkler

Treasurer

Mary Lee Schreiber

Financial Secretary

Shirley Lorenz

Recording Secretary

Janet Hurta

Counselor

Rev. Francis Schroeder

Secretary to President

Leesa Wells

Parliamentarian

Marcella Gaus

District News Editor

Charlotte Hughes

CHAIRMEN OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Archivist/Historian

Elaine Schur

Bylaws

Dorothy Hunger

Christian Growth

Eloise Kuhlmann

Member Development

Peggy Turnipseed

Mission Projects

Florence Winkler

Mission Service

Eudoris Weiser

Nominating

Shannon Reid

A complete listing of all officers and committee chairmen with addresses should have been received in August member development newsletter. If you need a copy, contact the member development chairman or the district news editor.



Newly elected officers included, front row, Mary Lee Schreiber, Janet Hurta; back row, Pastor Francis Schroeder, Florence Winkler and Eloise Kuhlmann. Florence Winkler is the Concordia Woman of the Year.



Young Women Representatives performed a skit. There were 19 zones represented with 20 young women attending. They each hold up a different type light, representing each person's unique gifts as they "Shine Like Stars."

LWML



Elected to serve on the nominating committee were, from left, Gloria Denman, Elaine Royuk and Chairman Shannon Reid.



Pastor Rohde entertained Iri Skinner, International LWML representative, at the board of directors dinner meeting.



Fellowship spiced up the menu at the board of directors dinner meeting.



These participants "Shined Like Stars" in Wichita Falls.



Tabitha Guild members at St. Paul, Wichita Falls, prepared a delicious meal for the board of directors dinner meeting.



President Pat Blar thanks Betty Walker, Clara Ayers, and the convention committee for a job well done.

Mite report

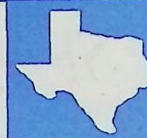
July 1994

1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd July	
(all sources)	8,137
Rec'd to date	
(all sources)	19,859
Needed for goal	236,140
Sent to Int'l LWML	
(July)	1,877
Int'l to date	3,442

Send ALL contributions to
Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box
1224, Giddings, TX 78942.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE
TO TEXAS DISTRICT
LWML.



Janice Droemer, president of the Post Oak Zone, invited participants to the 1996 convention to be held June 28-30 in Bryan/College Station.



by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, president
LCMS Texas District

That's the name of a magazine I see at the grocery store check-out stand. It's in a rack with a potpourri of other magazines, most of which purport to tell the reader and thus the buyer all they've ever wanted to know, and more, about the lives of a whole bunch of folks. Some are people of whom I've never even heard. Many are people I know, at least by name. Most of the magazines have either an eye-catching photograph or a sensational sounding headline, or both. But almost all of these magazines are about people.

PEOPLE ARE INTERESTED in people, especially famous people. People want to know what those famous people do, what they say, what they wear, what they eat, what they believe. And publishers know about that interest, so they provide what people want. Sometimes what they provide is factual and helpful. Sometimes it's fictional and hateful. It's not always easy to know whether what we read, especially about people, is true or false.

It's also rather difficult to tell much about people just by looking. I enjoy watching people, particularly in airports. During a recent wait prior to an airplane departure, I watched a number of fellow passengers:

- a mom and dad with two adolescent sons;
- three little boys and one girl, obviously siblings;
- an older man and a young adult woman, seemingly father and daughter;
- some well dressed, most casually attired;
- some traveling alone, many with one or more traveling companions or family members;
- some traveling on business, many on vacation.

These were people from probably all walks of life. Perhaps all of the professions were represented. Maybe some of the people were illiterate. Had all of them previously traveled by air? Were any en route to be with loved ones who were ill? Were any of them on the way to the funeral of a loved one?

THE PUZZLING PART about perusing people in public is, at least for me, the reality that they are unknown quantities. Even the people with whom one has some sort of relationship are sometimes strangers. During an entire lifetime we may come to know with a reasonable degree of

intimacy relatively few of the many people with whom we are acquainted. So it goes.

People are such precious gifts of God! He knows all about them, even as He knows all about us. "*The very hairs of your head are all numbered*" (Matt. 10:30). He knows us not only physically, but also emotionally, psychologically and spiritually.

How remarkable it is that such knowledge endears us to Him! Frequently, our knowledge of people drives a wedge between us and them. The more we know, the farther we wish to be, because we recognize the inherent sinfulness of the people we come to know.

BUT WITH GOD, that's not the case. He knows us perfectly, He loves us completely.



Rev. Kieschnick

ST. PAUL WROTE, "God demonstrated His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Rom. 5:8). "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus

our Lord" (Rom. 8:35, 37-39).

AND ST. JOHN WROTE, "Dear friend, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love. This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His only begotten Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. Dear friends, since God so loved us, we also ought to love one another" (1 John 4:7-11).

God's special blessings to each of you, my friends in Christ, as you live your lives under the umbrella of God's love, in the midst of the crown of His creation—**people**—especially as you share God's love in Jesus Christ with people who have not yet experienced His love.

SPOTLIGHT

On pastor's mind ...

Our devotional lives

by Rev. Tom C. Hadley
St. Andrew, Houston

It's difficult to maintain one's devotional life today. We all have tight schedules. We all have places to go and things to do. Often, when we are at our busiest, we drop the very thing that can help us most—our devotional life.

Martin Luther certainly was a busy man during the Reformation years. He wrote more than 14,000 pages of commentary on the Scriptures and confessional documents. He was a professor at a seminary. He translated the entire Bible into German. He wrote hundreds of letters to all sorts of people. He was a husband and father.

During these years, Luther rose at about 4 a.m. so that he could have time for prayer. He usually spent about three hours in prayer before he began his schedule for the day. When it was suggested that he cut down on his prayer time so that he could have more time for other things, Luther

laughed and said, "Never! God would not allow me to do all that I do if it were not for the time spent with Him! It is where my energy comes from."

Now, I'm not suggesting you rise at 4 a.m. But you might consider using Luther's morning and evening prayers to begin and end your day. Here they are:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger, and I pray that You would

keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings in life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Excerpted from St. Andrew newsletter)



MARTIN LUTHER



No bones about it



BY GEORGE!—George, a local skeleton and property of a chiropractic friend of Christ Lutheran in Austin, was invited by Pastor Jim Linderman to junior confirmation as a reminder to confirmands how we might look spiritually if we chose to separate ourselves from the Word and sacraments—God's means of grace. The confirmands, duly impressed, are from left Lauren Perez, Misty West, Jason Doran, Linderman, Derrick Bedwell, George and Joshua Laird.

Salute to Christ's Laborers

Texas Laborers For Christ, those men and women who have given immense assistance to district congregations in building first sanctuaries or facility expansions, currently are helping with the construction of an educational wing and sanctuary remodeling at Grace Lutheran in Killeen.

Moved by their devotion and sacrifice of time and talent, Joan Myrah of Grace composed this tribute to the Laborers:

*"I was stirred as I drove that hot day in my car,
And glanced at two Laborers for Christ from afar.*

*Their bodies were silhouetted next to the new frames,
Building a church school was one of their games.*

*To God be the glory, the honor, the fame,
They work for our Savior and uplift His name.*

*Tears filled my eyes as I saw these carpenter men.
Why, they employed the same skills as young Jesus back then.*

Their wives work with them, their trailers are their home.

With love and thanks we sing their praise in a happy-joyful tone.



Texas District Mission News

by Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration



Rev. Ken
Hennings

Lord is opening many doors for Hispanic ministry in Dallas

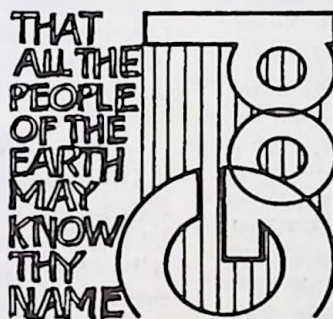
The Lord is opening many doors for our Hispanic ministry in Dallas. In fall 1993, Pastor Hiram Orea-Coria was called as missionary-at-large to the Hispanic population, to start a number of Lutheran Hispanic congregations through Bible study groups, leadership training and social ministry programs.

Trinity Lutheran Church offered office space and the use of their facility as a starting place. Trinity has been operating a community center for the people in their area, and it has provided Orea with an avenue to reach out to the large group of Hispanics living around Trinity.

Orea began his first Bible study group by working through contacts from the community center. The Lord has increased the size of this group, as members have invited friends to attend.

The Lord opened doors for Orea to assist in baptisms for Spanish speaking families in our surrounding

Lutheran churches, through special Mother's Day celebration, through "Quinceanera" observances (recognition of a girl turning 15), through church garage sales and other activities.



Orea is working with Grace Lutheran Church and Zion Lutheran Church in their efforts to reach the Hispanic population with the Gospel. Other congregations also are supporting the ministry and will form

the first Texas Mission Action Council (TMAC) to assist this ministry and expand it.

Three, and possibly four, Bible study groups are in the works or already started. Each is located in a different area of Dallas. As these groups grow, congregations can start. And men from these groups can enter the Hispanic Theological Education by Extension (TEE) program.

Orea has been told that, as missionary-at-large, he will probably not pastor any of these new Hispanic congregations. He is to function as an apostle Paul, starting churches and raising up leaders to minister and lead the churches in mission work.

Pray for the Holy Spirit to bless our efforts to Hispanics, in Dallas and to continue to open doors for ministry.



BIBLE STUDY—These Hispanics in the Dallas area have joined together in Friday night Bible study.

Your kids on a mission

by Randy Potts

A group of 116 Texas youth and adults from some 60 congregations participated in the inaugural CAN-DO mission servant events to Russia and Slovakia July 15-Aug. 8.

In St. Petersburg, Russia, a city of more than 5 million people, the 82 CAN-DO youth and adults witnessed to their faith through word and deed. At first the Lutheran missionaries, pastors and Russian workers were skeptical about what the Texans were there for and could do.

They soon experienced the CAN-DO spirit as the Texas youth and adults worked with joyful enthusiasm at seven different mission work-sites in St. Petersburg: St. Michael's Lutheran Church, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, the Lutheran cemetery, a Russian hospital, the future site of a German Lutheran seminary, the L.I.L. Orphan Grain Train distribution center and a vacation Bible school at the International Christian School.

CAN-DO projects included cleaning, repair, renovation work and building relationships with Russians through outreach activities, care-giving, Bible distribution, teaching and evening worship rally celebrations.

The Lord richly blessed the CAN-DO team and their



RUSSIAN CHURCH—Project CAN-DO team shared in groundbreaking for new church at Kanneljarvi, Russia. From left are Randy Potts, CAN-DO director; St. Peter's Church elder; Martin Frusti, missionary, with the Russian people of Kanneljarvi.

work. The missionaries invited the CAN-DO group to return next year to support and assist the ministry in St. Petersburg.

The goals of mission awareness, education and leadership training for youth and adults were accomplished, along with support and assistance for the Lutheran churches and missionaries in St. Petersburg. One missionary said, "In terms of mission outreach and raising of visibility of the Lutheran churches in the community, the CAN-DO team did in two weeks what normally takes us a year."

One highlight of the CAN-DO Russia event took place at the town of Kanneljarvi. The 82 Texas District youth and adults participated with the Russian Lutherans at Kanneljarvi as they broke ground for a new worship facility for their community.

The new church is a 30-by-80-foot wooden log-cabin-type structure. The facility can be completed and furnished with the \$25,000 CAN-DO funds already re-

ceived for this church.

In Slovakia, the 34 CAN-DO youth and adults worked in the two large cities of Levice and Kosice, as they witnessed to their faith through word, worship and song.

The CAN-DOers first spent five days in "disciple-shop" camps, studying the Bible and learning outreach skills with their 80 new Slovak friends. This was followed by three days of intentional outreach into the cities through sports, surveys and personal contacts to invite Slovak people to evening rallies. They went to the parks, pools, streets and public gathering places to invite Slovaks to the evening outreach rallies. Literally hundreds of Slovak people were invited to hear the good news of Jesus Christ for the first time through gospel music and speaker messages.

The Slovak camp teens and adults will follow up on contacts made and invite people to join the local churches. Every evening

during the camps, the CAN-DO youth along with Slovaks enjoyed hours of singing, worship, praise and praying together. Each night more and more local people joined these evening programs.

While 116 youth and adults were in Russia, another 300 participated in CAN-DO mission servant events at four sites in Texas and two in Mexico. They helped construct a home in Del Rio; did outreach VBS, home repairs and playscape construction in San Antonio; did home repair, playscape and outreach VBS in Brownsville; did home repair and outreach to Native Americans near Texoma; completed a new roof for a parsonage in Matamoros, Mexico; and constructed a new sanctuary for the people of San Raphael, Mexico.

Fall rallies will be held around the state of Texas where CAN-DO youth and adults will share their stories of how God worked through them.



A farewell message from Ray Schkade

As I reflect on 27 years of ministry as Texas District executive director of parish services, my heart overflows with thanksgiving to God for having called me to serve a great district and great people within The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Add to this my privilege of serving with outstanding presidents and staff—the best in the Synod—and I cannot but pause to praise God for having been so good to me. It's been a fantastic 27-plus years for me.

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who honored me with their presence at my surprise retirement dinner during the district convention in Galveston and for the supportive letters presented to me in a leather bound looseleaf book. I will cherish the memories and mementos from that evening for the rest of my life.

Someone recently asked me the following question: "As you look back on 27 years of district work, what was most satisfying and what was most frustrating?" After giving this some thought, my answer went something like this:

MOST SATISFYING: Working with many congregation pastors and lay leaders individually and in groups over a period of time, and seeing them grow, under the Holy Spirit's influence, in spiritual maturity, leadership skills and Great Commission commitment.

MOST FRUSTRATING: Being aware of the large number of unsaved and unchurched people in Texas communities, and how few of them are being reached for Christ through the ministries of some 350 Texas District congregations and their 100,000 confirmed members.

From my perspective, the greatest challenge facing congregations of the Texas District is to intensify their commitment in making the unsaved/unchurched people in the community their number one customer, with members of the congregation serving as the instruments of the Holy Spirit in reaching the lost for Christ. That's a major undertaking!

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost. Redemption is free, but at great cost to Jesus Christ. Nor is it cheap for God's people to reach the lost with the Gospel. It costs lots of time, lots of planning, lots of commitment, lots of determination, lots of money, all of it centering on intentionally sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ in word and deed.

Conversion still takes place through the Holy Spirit. His

"Thank you, and God bless your ministry"



Ray Schkade

power has not diminished. But for some reason, God has chosen to do His work of reaching the lost through plain ordinary folks like you and me, and all His children on earth, in reaching the lost. The devil works very diligently in weakening the human element in this partnership arrangement. He knows he cannot defeat the Holy Spirit. If he's going to win, his only chance is with the human family of God.

It is my prayer that we, the people of God in the Texas District, catch the spirit of the first-century Christians in turning the present world upside down for Christ, as we come to the end of the 20th century and prepare for the 21st.

Thank you, Texas District, for the privilege of serving as your executive director of parish services for 27 years and nine months.

High school gets \$5,300 grant

Concordia Lutheran High School, Tomball, was awarded a \$5,300 grant for the 1994-95 school year from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL).

The money will be used to provide tuition assistance to several students.

The grant is part of AAL's Lutheran High School Enrichment Program, which will provide more than \$780,000 to 96 Lutheran high schools in the United States this year. The program also supports faculty development and program enrichment including adding computer courses and business classes.



IT'S FOR JESUS—These are some of the members of Christ Lutheran, Austin, who took part in this year's "March for Jesus." An international event, the march started in New Zealand, eventually involved 22 million people and has no political agenda, only to praise the Lord. These Austinites marched to the state capitol where prayers were offered.

CELEBRATIONS

CHRISTIAN SUPPORT—When Chih-Ping Lin and Hui-Chu were baptized and taken into membership at Messiah Lutheran in Keller, 18 Taiwanese students at UT-Arlington came with their families to the worship service. Pastor is Glenn E. Huebel.



Texas pastors introduce international students to Jesus

A group of Texas District pastors is making an exceptional effort to reach out to unbaptized and unchurched international students at the University of Texas-Arlington.

The students—more than 300 in the last two years—have come to the Lutheran International Center at the campus.

Pastors from Grace, Holy Cross and Beautiful Savior in

Arlington; from Messiah, Midlothian; St. Mark, Mineral Wells; and Messiah, Keller, taught a catechism class for a dozen students for 10 weeks.

After instruction, two students were baptized at Keller. Vera Sweet is director of the Lutheran center.



HONORED—Pastor Don Hefta and his wife, Barb, were honored June 12 with a reception by members of Tree of Life, Garland, as he celebrated his 10th year in the ministry.



INSTALLED—Rev. Guy R. Bergenthal was installed June 19 as pastor of Holy Cross, San Antonio. Participants included, back row, from left, Revs. Carlos Boerger, Robert Stevens, Matthew Jacobs, Patrick Erickson, David Ebs, James Martin. Center row, from left, Revs. Norman Abbott, Henry Blar, Ray Reich, Ernie Schoenborn. In front is Bergenthal, flanked by his son, Derek, and wife, Debra.



OLNEY—Gregory D. Hyatt was ordained and installed July 10 as pastor of St. Luke, Olney. Participating were, from left, front, Revs. Daniel Canlon; Carroll Kohl, district vice president and installer; Hyatt; Ken Bersche. From left, back, Revs. Thomas Handrick, circuit counselor; Gerald Peterman; Keith Schweltzer; Charles Paulson; and Monroe Husfeld.



PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

Immanuel Lutheran Church, San Antonio, has donated a slice of its backyard to Habitat for Humanity. Five more families now will realize the dream of owning a home. The parcel of land is less than a block from the church site. Pastor Theodore Vogel said, "We do this because we want to be part of the solution, not the problem."

Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls, celebrated one of those special days in July. It's called "burning the mortgage." Pastor Charles Paulson said, "When I came here seven years ago, we had a debt of \$450,000 and a monthly payment of \$5,300. I couldn't imagine we would ever get it paid off, but God blessed us and continues to lead us." The congregation now is contemplating a new building project.

James E. Sturgis was ordained and installed Aug. 14 as pastor of **Mount Olive, San Antonio**.

A grant of \$500 was made to the **Texas District** by Aid Association for Lutherans to help pay for the July 8 district pastors' wives retreat at Camp Lone Star.

A celebration worship service at **Our Redeemer, Harlingen**, Aug. 21 marked the 30th anniversary of the ordination and installation of Pastor Leopoldo Vigil.

Jeff Burkee is the new principal of **Zion Lutheran**

School in Pasadena.

How many people does it take to unload an organ? More than 100 people showed up at **Trinity, Klein**, to unload the thousands of pieces from a van and place them in the church. Pews, aisles, communion rails—everything was covered. The next day the organ builders began putting all the pieces together. The tuners will come next and dedication is Oct. 23.

Rev. Carl W. Schneider has been installed as assistant pastor at **Concordia, San Antonio**. He comes from Sterling Heights, Mich., is especially committed to evangelism and has special expertise in computer and video production used in sharing the Gospel.

Sixteen members of **Hope, Austin**, are enrolled as students at Concordia Lutheran College. It is the most Hope has ever had and probably the highest number of any other single congregation.

A special reception July 24 at **Concordia, San Antonio**, marked the retirement of Assistant Pastor David Ebs. At Concordia 16 years, he headed the church's counseling program, the zone captain program, the Stephen Ministry and the Health Cabinet, which sponsored many



CLASS OF '34—The confirmation class of 1934 of **St. John, Lincoln**, held a 60th anniversary reunion May 15. Of 17 in the class, four have gone to be with their Lord and two were unable to attend. From left, back, are Edmund Koslan, Wilbert Sander, Mildred Boriack Fisher, Meta Proske Smith O'Berry. From left, front, Elna Tonn Poe, Hilda Weiser Iselt, Elsie Boriack Schimank, Frieda Schiwart Karcher, Esther Karcher Hirsch, Adelle Kleschnick Knippa and Ruth Killian Lindner.

health-maintenance events, and other positions. He also served as interim senior pastor as the congregation proceeded through the call process to replace Dr. Guido Merckens. Dr. William Thompson of Utica, Mich. received and accepted the call.

The women of **Messiah, Houston**, are busy preparing Christmas gift boxes to be taken to the Seafarers Center. There the boxes will be placed in charge of the chaplains who will give them to captains of ships at the Port of Houston. The captains will hand them out on Christmas day to crewmen, wherever the ship happens to be.

St. Peter, Bowie, celebrated its 100th anniversary Aug. 14.

Rev. Michael Buchhorn was installed Aug. 7 as pastor of **St. John, Hamilton**.

A series of special services in September and October are to mark the 100th

anniversary of **St. Paul, Wichita Falls**. Already held have been a luncheon for senior members, a praise and thanksgiving devotion, church picnic and worship services at which District President Jerry Kieschnick spoke. The celebration will conclude Oct. 30 with a worship service at which Synod President A.L. Barry will speak.

For 30 years "of preaching the unchanging Word and the message of hope" at **Grace, Channelview**, members held a special worship celebration Aug. 7 honoring Pastor William Brede-meyer and his wife, Ruth.

Kathy Oden, **St. John, Cypress**, has the doctors on her side. The OB-GYN resident physicians at the UT Health Science Center in Houston gave Kathy, who is a surgical assistant, a plaque for her "support, service and dedication to excellence" during their residence training.

An interesting estate plan

by Glenn Pittsford, executive director
Lutheran Foundation of Texas

When a very prominent and nationally known person died recently, the individual's estate plan made extensive use of planned giving vehicles to make what will be extremely significant charitable gifts, while ultimately transferring much of the family's wealth to future generations of the family.

A CHARITABLE LEAD annuity trust, which will last for 24 years, was established under the person's will. The amount of the assets used to fund the trust is expected to be in excess of \$100 million, based on reports of the individual's wealth.

Each year the lead trust will reportedly make gifts totaling a sum equal to 8 percent of the value of the assets used to fund the trust initially. At the end of 24 years, the remaining assets in the trust will be distributed to the grandchildren of the individual.

THE ESTATE WILL benefit greatly from

I would like to make a gift to _____
through my Christian Estate Plan. Please contact me
about ways in which this can be accomplished.

Name _____

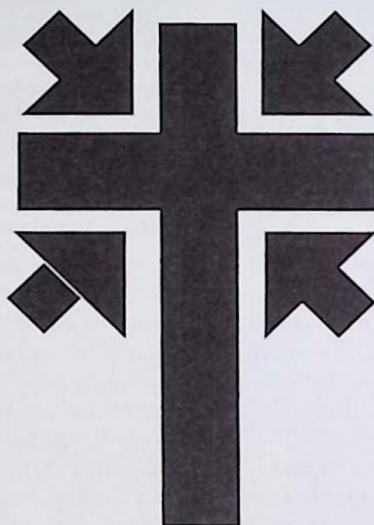
Address _____

City, State ZIP _____

Telephone Number _____

MAIL TO: Lutheran Foundation of Texas
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
1-800-880-3733 (toll free)
926-4272 (Austin)

a charitable estate tax deduction. For this particular plan, the estate tax deduction will apparently be 99.1 percent of any amounts contributed by the trust.



Depending on the future growth of the trust corpus, generation skipping taxes will be reduced to a greater or lesser extent, as well. The person also established a number of smaller charitable trusts in the will.

These plans show us how more and more individuals are making use of well-planned charitable gifts.

OUR ESTATES ARE varied in size. However, we are all blessed with nu-

merous and varied opportunities to support our beloved families and ministries after our lifetimes through various Christian Estate Plans. A Charitable Lead Annuity Trust may or may not be the right plan for you. To learn more about Christian Estate Planning opportunities available to you, please call the Lutheran Foundation of Texas at 1-800-880-3733, or return the coupon. The Foundation looks forward to serving you on a confidential, no-obligation basis.



Pittsford

THE LORD ADDED PASTORS, PEOPLE

TEXAS DISTRICT



MANSFIELD—These are some of the 54 new members received at St. John, Mansfield, in May. More than half came by adult confirmation, the remainder by profession of faith, baptism and transfer. Pastor is Terry Beltz.



TYLER—Rev. Steve Henze was installed July 10 as senior pastor of Trinity, Tyler. He is in the center of the picture. Installer was Circuit Counselor Adrian Bacarisse. Preacher was Rev. David Jung; liturgist, Rev. Victor Bohlmann. Assisting minister was Rev. Roland Friedrichs and lector, Dr. Edward Keuer. Other pastors of the area participated.



SAN ANTONIO—Robert J. Stevens was ordained and installed June 12 as assistant pastor of Redeemer, San Antonio. Participating, from left, were Vicar James Sturgis and Revs. Mark Barz, David Ebs, Ernest Schoenborn, Stevens, James C. Martin, Paul Hartfield (district vice president and officiant), Mark Dankis and David Kipp.



WACO—By adult baptism, adult confirmation, child baptism and profession of faith, these members were received in May at St. Mark, Waco. From left are Ernest Reed, Dianne Reed, Jason Reed, Luke Morton, Pastor John A. Allmann, Jackie Gates, Utahna and Scott Gates.



GARLAND—These are new members recently received at Tree of Life, Garland. Three adults were confirmed, the rest joining the fellowship by reprofession of faith and transfer. Pastor is Donald Hefta.

CHILDRESS—These two young men were received into communicant membership July 3 at Trinity, Childress by junior confirmation. Pastor is Andrew Simcak Jr.



OUR BRIGHT KIDS



If Tiffany Foreman, **St. Paul, Wichita Falls**, tells you to sit, lie down or shake hands, better do it. Tiffany and her dog, Biscuit, won first place in obedience at the district dog show in Weatherford.

Ten senior high youth of **Christ the King, Kingwood**, proved their desire to serve Christ by going to the border town of Reynosa in July where they helped repair and restore homes.

Among the gaggle of bright kids at **St. Mark, Lake Jackson**, are Deanna Birmingham in region choir, on student council, first place in UIL choir solo and ensemble, on yearbook staff that won UIL sweepstakes; Gary Tiemeier, UIL superior rating in trombone solo and winner in Duke University talent search for mathematically and verbally gifted students (top 1 percent in state).

Angela Doering, **Bethel, Dallas**, was named a Texas Scholar, All-American Scholar, in *Who's Who* three years running.

Peace, Hewitt, is proud of the excellence of its young people, including Teri Masters, "Highest Honors" for voice at Music Teachers Association state competition; Kristi Fischer, named to Centex honor band and UIL concert band, National Honor Society and in *Who's Who*; Justin Robertson, second in district in men's tennis doubles; Kent Kroll, second in UIL science meet, outstanding band student, second in 4-H meat judging, fourth place pig at county show.

His middle school's faculty chose William Themer, **Hope, Dallas**, as "Outstanding Eighth Grade Boy." He's in the National Honor Society and is a three-sport letterman.

Michelle Pluenneke, **Holy**

Cross, Arlington, graduated from high school with four scholarships as well as being nominated by the faculty and vote of the senior class as the most well-rounded student in academics and extra curricular stuff. And Ben Wright was chosen for a science exchange trip to Australia and New Zealand.

Jerry Dale Kelm has flipped. And because he does it so well he will be one of 80 contestants from the United States to compete in the World Age Group Games in October in Portugal. He recently won second on the trampoline in the 11- and 12-year-old age group in U.S. team trials in Nashville. He's a member of **St. Paul, Plainview**.



Kelm

A remarkable record was



WINNER—Benne Knippa, **Concordia, San Antonio**, captured three bronze medals in state final competition in May at the Special Olympics in Austin. He was in the long jump (starting his take-off here), the 50-meter dash and 400-meter relay.

made by Jay Scott Fisher who is a member of **Prince of Peace, Belton**. He's an "A" graduate of high school, all-district first team football offensive center, team captain, voted most dependable and intelligent by the student body, national award winner in science. He's a scholarship footballer at Tarleton State U. now.

David Wiginton, **Redeemer, Austin**, has completed his Eagle Scout project, which was rebuilding the benches outside the church gym. Other Redeemer Eagles include Ben Kidd and Vihren Petkov.

Jodi Reisig and Scott



GOD'S KIDS—Spring confirmands at **Faith, Corsicana**, were from left front, Olivia Robertson and Dustin Lewis. From left back, Danielle Wellborn and Nathan Gettel. Pastor is Delton Weiser.

Schauerman, **Redeemer, Beaumont**, have been identified as state honors recipients by the Duke University talent search. They now are eligible to participate in a number of honors programs throughout the country.

That's not Casey at bat—it's Jennifer Neiderbach, **Tree of Life, Garland**, who was chosen for the Mesquite girls all-state fast-pitch softball team.

Bright kid honors for Casey Theis, **St. Paul, Bishop**, chosen a national scholar to represent Texas at the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C. She made a presentation on the floor of the House, was briefed by a senior member of the Clinton administration on current issues, and took part in a panel discussion with prominent journalists at the National Press Club.

Jason Cox, **St. Paul, Fort Worth**, was one of five high school graduates in Fort Worth to be a National Merit Scholarship winner. This earned him a \$2,000 annual scholarship which he has chosen to spend at Texas A&M. The university also awarded Jason an annual \$1,000 scholarship for four years.

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



VERNON—Paul and Alice Lowke, St. Paul, Vernon, celebrated their 63rd wedding anniversary July 29. Alice celebrated her 85th birthday the same day.



THEIR 50th—Bill and Ruth Schmidtko, Messiah, Richardson, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 15. Bill has served in nearly all congregational offices and on district and synodical boards. Ruth is on the board of the Dallas chapter of the American Cancer Society. They have four children.

Wedding Anniversary

Worked it out

So what's new?

The minutes of the 1949 voters' assembly of St. John, San Benito, reveal that the Ladies Aid sought to have the inside of the church papered and painted.

The record reads:

"A motion carried to give the ladies permission to do the work and the men stand the expense."



OFF TO THE SEM—Phillip Penhollegon, right, youth director at Messiah, Houston, has entered the seminary at St. Louis. He and his wife, Gretchen who taught at Lutheran High North, were honored at a June 5 reception. Here Pastor Dan Georg bids the couple Godspeed.



65 YEARS—Rev. Arthur and Lydia Bruns celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary July 15. Those 65 years were spent sharing ministry in the Texas District at congregations in Edna, Sparenburg, La Mesa, San Benito, Pampa, Schulenberg and finally retiring at Redeemer, Beaumont. The Bruns now reside in a care center in Bella Vista, Ark. where their son-in-law Rev. Stanley Jones and daughter Dorothy Jones serve the Bella Vista Lutheran Church.

These couples of the Texas District are celebrating wedding anniversaries of 50 or more years:

Hope, Austin: Mr. and Mrs. Bill Woodard, 50 years, Aug. 29; Rev. and Mrs. Reinhard Wuensche, 55 years, Aug. 20; Mr. and Mrs. Otto Teinert, 52 years, Aug. 29.

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Katherine and Richard Boone, 53 years, Aug. 23.

Immanuel, Giddings: Louis and Elsie Nitsche, 62 years, July 10.

Immanuel, Mercedes: Mr. and Mrs. Donald Deckert, 55 years, July 11; Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Heggen, 55 years, June 4; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Vogel, 55 years, June 7.

St. Paul, San Antonio: William and Alice Hartman, 68 years, July 8.

Cross, New Braunfels: Mr. and Mrs. Gene Dobb, 50 years, Aug. 18.

St. Mark, Houston: Mel and Elme Post, 52 years, Aug. 26.

Trinity, Sealy: J.D. and Melba Sloane, 53 years, Aug. 18.

St. Matthew, Westfield: Joe and Sophie Beke, 55 years, Aug. 24.

Trinity, Fedor: Paul and Meta Dube, 65 years, July 28.

St. Paul, Fort Worth: Mary and Ray Daniels, 53 years, Sept. 21.

Trinity, Livingston: Tommy and Allene Richardson, 50 years, July 15; Elmer and Helen Huber, 50 years, July 29.



HOCKLEY—Tony and Genelle Petry of Hockley celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 25. They've been members of St. John, Cypress, for equally as long and were married there June 29, 1944. They have four children.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE



Sneak-a Peek!

at Concordia...

It takes some real detective work to find the right college. You have to get the facts—the right facts. And you have to ask questions—questions that get you straight answers.

You say you haven't a clue which college is right for you? Here's TIP #1 to help get the job done . . . Investigate Sneak-a-Peek Day at Concordia:

November 12, 1994

February 25, 1995

April 1, 1995

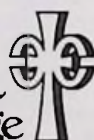
June 24, 1995

Here's TIP #2 about what you will do . . .

- ✓ Take in the "mug shot" reception
- ✓ Go for a snoop around campus
- ✓ Question expert witnesses—students and profs
- ✓ Gather the facts on degree programs and financial assistance
- ✓ Sample the evidence—good times, good food and great people!

Now, for TIP #3 . . . all of this is for FREE. So, join the super sleuths with the secret to SUCCESS . . . Concordia, Austin—YES!

Contact the Concordia Admissions
Office for details: 452-7661 (Austin)
or 1-800-285-4CLC (Toll free
long distance).

Concordia 
Lutheran College
Austin, Texas

CONCORDIA

TEXAS DISTRICT



AAL gives to CLC

Concordia Lutheran College of Texas has been awarded an \$8,000 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL). The funds will be used to redesign and intensify student recruitment efforts. Concordia expects to increase its enrollment to 750 to 800 students in five years.

AAL awarded the grant through the Affirmations of Lutheran Higher Education Program, which provides financial support to Lutheran colleges nationwide.

As a fraternal benefit society, AAL provides opportunities for its members to do volunteer service and fund-raising projects. Last year AAL awarded nearly \$6 million in grants to Lutheran institutions.

LB matches member gifts to Concordia

Concordia Lutheran College of Texas has recently received \$1,550 from the Lutheran Brotherhood (LB) IMPACT/IMPACT PLUS programs. The latest payment covers 16 gifts of Lutheran Brotherhood members made during the second quarter of 1994.

The IMPACT Program matches LB members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 per year to Lutheran institutions of higher education. Since the beginning of the IMPACT Program in 1979, \$68,148 has been received by Concordia.

Lutheran Brotherhood is a fraternal benefit society that provides financial and fraternal benefits to members nationwide.



HELPING CLC BUSINESS STUDENTS—Three Lutheran Brotherhood district representatives have designated a scholarship endowment for Concordia business management and accounting students as their "charity of choice" through the LB Foundation's New Connections Grants. The new category of funding allows senior LB agents to request Foundation donations of \$1,000 each to organizations with which they are involved. Pictured are, from left, agent Odis George, Professor Howard Lacey of the CLC Business Division, agent Paul Beglau and agent Myron Jordahl. The three agents are all members of Concordia's Business Advisory Council.

The Concordia Guild wants YOU!

The Concordia Guild invites all advocates of Lutheran higher education to join in support of the students and programs of Concordia Lutheran College of Texas. Guild membership dues are used to expand tangible expressions of support, including scholarships for deserving students and teaching materials for CLC professors.

The guild meets on the campus twice each school year for planning and fellowship. This year's meeting dates are Saturday, Oct. 22, and Saturday, Feb. 25.

Austin-area guild members host campus events, like the Graduation Brunch, and provide students with greetings and "goodies" for birthdays and during finals. The members also implement fund-raising events.

All Concordia Guild members, whether from Austin or hundreds of miles away, serve as ambassadors of good will for the college in their congregations and communities. They also are instrumental in the celebration of Concordia Sunday in the Texas District.

To join the Concordia Guild, please complete and mail the form below.



WELCOME—Jane Martens, president of the Concordia Guild, invites both members and non-members to the meeting Oct. 22.

Mail to: Concordia Guild
1034 Concordia Ave.
Austin, TX 78705

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone _____

Congregation, City _____

Annual Membership Dues enclosed:

_____ \$10 individual _____ \$15 couple _____ \$25 supportive

LUTHERAN OUTDOORS MINISTRY OF TEXAS



Second unit opens at Nazareth Village; dedication is Oct. 29

The second unit of Nazareth Village at Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro is now open and available for use by church groups and families, according to Keith Lund, camp director.

Nazareth Unit #2 will be formally dedicated at 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 29, at Texoma Camp. All are invited.

THE BUILDING OF the second unit was made possible by gifts from individuals, church groups, and Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood fraternal branches and agencies in Texas. Volunteers provided much of the labor to construct this new facility.

Together with Nazareth Unit #1, a total of eight private motel-quality rooms are now in operation at Texoma Camp.

Each Nazareth room is carpeted and contains individually controlled air conditioning/heating, a double bed, bunk beds and a private bath and shower combination. Each room also has its own outside entrance and double walls for soundproofing.

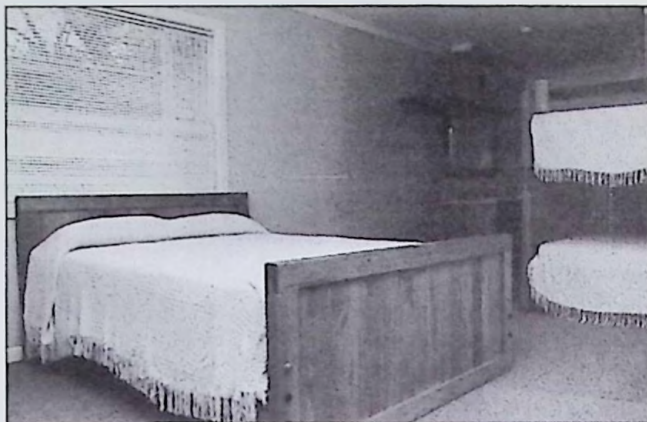
"WE ARE THRILLED that the Lord has provided us with this second unit," said Keith Lund. "We can now provide high quality housing for church groups which were too big for us to serve before," he said.

The combination of units 1 and 2 now means Texoma Camp has comfortable sleeping quarters for up to 24 adults.



The Nazareth units are available to individuals and church groups both on weekdays and weekends. They also are available to organizations for retreats and meetings held at the camp's Bethlehem Center.

FOR AVAILABLE DATES and more information on the Nazareth units or the dedication ceremony on the 29th, call Texoma Lutheran Camp at 1-800-926-5968. A registration form is available by calling Camp Lone Star at (409) 247-4128 or Texoma Lutheran Camp at (903) 786-3121. The registration fee is \$30, and the deadline is Nov. 25 at both camps.



COMFORT—Each Nazareth Room at Texoma Lutheran Camp has a double bed, bunk beds, a private bath and individually controlled heating and air conditioning. The completion of Nazareth Unit #2 brings to eight the number of motel-quality rooms available at the camp.

Serving the Lord

Workshop slated in December for junior camp staff members

The workshop for teens interested in serving as junior staff members at Lutheran summer camp during 1995 will be held Dec. 2-3 at Camp Lone Star in La Grange and Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro.

A junior staffer is an important member of the camp ministry team who assists in meal service, works in the trading post and helps summer counselors. He or she also shares together in daily Bible study and recreation.



Teens who would like to serve the Lord, have completed the ninth grade and will be at least 15 years old by June 1, 1995, are encouraged to attend the workshop.

A registration form is available by calling Camp Lone Star at (409) 247-4128 or Texoma Lutheran Camp at (903) 786-3121. The registration fee is \$30, and the deadline is Nov. 25 at both camps.



Lifting high the cross

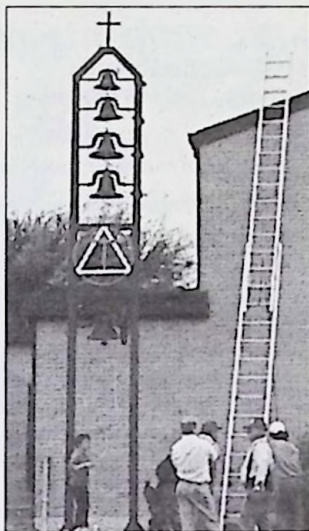
Two recent additions to the exterior of Trinity Lutheran in Taylor add new meaning to the hymn "Lift High The Cross."

The bell tower and a new steeple were erected by members of the congregation and each was topped by a plain Latin cross. A Taylor electrical firm donated a hydraulic crane to lift the crosses.

In his dedicatory remarks, Pastor Martin Doering explained that the steeple was given by the family of Irena Finn, one of Trinity's strong members, who has been handicapped by an automobile accident. Roy Finn, her husband, also was responsible for locating the bells and constructing the bell tower. A memorial fund for a bell tower was started decades ago.

"These additions are further witness that our congregation stands on the truth of the Word, stands for the love of God and stands under the cross of Jesus," Doering said.

The steeple, erected despite winds gusting to 25 miles an hour, was dedicated last Palm Sunday. A poem celebrating the event was published in the church newsletter.



HERE'S THE CHURCH—New steeple and cross adorn Trinity Lutheran of Taylor.



HERE'S THE STEEPLE—Pastor Martin Doering makes final adjustment to cross atop new steeple at Trinity Lutheran in Taylor.

Drug abuse kills

The leading cause of death among teenagers and young adults—unintentional injuries, suicide and homicide—are in many cases linked to drug abuse.

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

PLAINVIEW—Mrs. Joan Bronstad, R.N., of Lutheran Social Services of the South in Lubbock, puts stethoscope on Son Trinh at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Plainview. She made a presentation to St. Paul's children and Bible classes to explain the Parish Nursing Program and recruit volunteer member nurses for community education and health services.



TERMS ENDED—Completing their terms as directors of the Texas District May 24 were Jerry Kolander, Lubbock, left, and Ray Petersen, Houston, right. Texas District President Jerry Kieschnick, center, presented each with a plaque.



DENTON—A worship celebration May 22 at St. Paul Lutheran, Denton, marked the 25th year of public ministry for Dr. Dennis D. Schurter, center. At left is Rev. Rudy Herbrich, who was the service preacher. At right is Rev. Larry Krueger, liturgist and host pastor.

Send your news to Bill

Send your pictures, stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:

Bill Wagner
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499

WE'RE GETTING OLDER

Consultants available to help with older-member ministries

by David F. Lineberger, Messiah, Richardson
Consultant, Older Adult Ministry, Texas District

America is aging, and, not surprisingly, so is our church membership. While the church continues to gain new members of all ages, a significant percentage of our total membership is aged 55 and up. While some churches target specific age groups for special ministries, like youth or singles, specialized programs for older adults are frequently unavailable. However, this is starting to change!

Recently the Texas District provided training for 12 people who are interested in and dedicated to helping congregations look at ways that they can address the opportunities for ministry by and for older adults. These consultants are available to help a committee specially chosen in your congregation to examine seven areas of congregational life: worship, witness, nurture, service, health, fellowship and stewardship. From this will come recommendations that will enable the congregation to move forward and establish specific goals in older adult ministry.

Some of our congregations have a long history of older adult involvement in many aspects of congregational life.

In 1984, Trinity Lutheran Church in Tyler started a fellowship group for older adults called the "Prime Timers." After an initial kick-off luncheon, the group quickly grew to more than 50 and became one of the most active groups in the congregation. In addition to potluck luncheons and field trips together, the Prime Timers adopted the early childhood development (ECD) center of the congregation as their own and have been instrumental in fund-raising, facility repair and financial support of the ECD center. This involvement continued to grow into other areas of the congregational life including the Compassion Committee, prayer chain, teaching LifeLight™, working at the congregation's fair booth and visiting members who are hospitalized or shut in.

More than four years ago, a member of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church at Nassau Bay (Houston) was assigned a study of older adults as part of her graduate work in sociology. A small group formed to aid in her research, and out of that was born the "Friendship Club" for older adults. Today, the group numbers 60 and is active in Bible study, fellowship and loving care for each other. Through their "buddy system" they work on projects together, and strong relationships have been formed.

Recently the congregation completed a two-month study with consultants trained by the district. The result was an older adult being placed on the board and an ongoing "think tank" of advocates continues to address issues that affect

older adults. In the months to come, the congregation will address many of the recommendations of the study.

At a congregational meeting of Messiah Lutheran Church in Richardson two years ago, one member asked that the church consider doing something for older adults. She pointed out that the congregation had excellent programs for youth, singles and married with children, but nothing for older adults, who comprise 20 percent of the congregation. As a result of that meeting, a fellowship group for older

adults was formed, also called the "Prime Timers," and a monthly newsletter was initiated called *Prime Time*. Presently the group activities, which include trips and fellowship opportunities, reach 30 to 35 participants monthly. Messiah just finished its study with an

older adult consultant. Immediate results include a new look at the sanctuary sound system, large-print bulletins available at each worship service and the proposal to the Prime Timers to "adopt" the preschool and offer a wide range of involvement from reading to children to sharing love as a "grandparent." In both Gloria Dei and Messiah, the study committee has indicated a desire to continue the work of implementation of the recommendations.

Benefits of an older adult ministry include a wide range of opportunities for service by all members regardless of age, increased fellowship activities, a sense of belonging, active support for ministry to other groups, a sensitivity to the need of older adults, spiritual growth, more active participation of older adults and a stronger witness by older adults. Getting started can be as simple as requesting the help of a trained consultant from the district office. Consultants live all over the state and at least one is close to you.



OWLS—More than 200 "old Walther Leaguers (OWLS) from Texas attended the Walther League reunion May 13 at Camp Lone Star in LaGrange. Devotions, singing and renewing of friendships gave evidence that an important springboard for Christian witness began through Walther League. Another reunion is planned in two years. If you want to help, call Mr. or Mrs. Marvin Heintze in Austin at (512) 836-7436. In the picture Dodie Heckmann, cochairman this year with Buddy Hingst, speaks to a portion of the crowd.



BOERNE—Fulfilling their motto of "Growing Up and Growing Out" is the congregation of Messiah, Boerne. On April 17, 23 people joined this mission congregation. Messiah has received more than 75 new members this far in 1994. Worship attendance average is 145. Rev. Mark Dankis, right, is Messiah's first pastor.



THE LORD ADDED—Immanuel, Houston, received 25 new members June 12. Fifteen came by adult confirmation, six by baptism and four by transfer. Timothy J. Carr is pastor.



HIS LAST—These young people recently were confirmed at St. Mark, Conroe. Seated is Pastor Herbert C. Graf and this is his last youth confirmation class at St. Mark since he will retire before another youth class is confirmed.



WHARTON—St. John Lutheran of Wharton added eight new members by adult confirmation, transfer and baptism. William Barry Sharp is pastor.



RICHARDSON—Joining the family of faith at Messiah, Richardson, on June 5 by confirmation were these new members. Dr. Victor Kollmann is pastor.



ABILENE—These are nine of 27 new members recently received into the fellowship of Zion, Abilene. Pastor is Tim Rosenthal.



Pastor Herbert Graf

Graf is retiring

Pastor Herbert Graf, who has been pastor at St. Mark Lutheran Church, Conroe, will preach his retirement sermon at 10 a.m., Oct. 23, at St. Mark.

Graf served at St. Mark 1977-94; St. Matthew Lutheran of Westfield, Houston, 1971-77; Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Fremont, Calif. 1962-71; Grace Lutheran Church, Seguin, Texas 1958-62; and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Circle Pines, Minn. 1956-58.

On Aug. 4, 1957, he married Jean Henningsen at Sparta, Wis. They have four children.

He served the church at large in various capacities. He has served in several zones as pastoral adviser for the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and Lutheran Layman's League. He served as chairman of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District Evangelism Board.

For 14 years he served on the board of regents of Concordia Lutheran College, Austin. Ten of those years he was chairman of the board of regents.

Pastor and Mrs. Graf plan to continue to live in Conroe for now.

Colleyville builds permanent home

The three wooden crosses next to the Colleyville soccer fields are being surrounded by construction equipment and crews as Crown of Life Lutheran Church begins its permanent church home. Groundbreaking was May 14.

The congregation started as a mission of Peace Lutheran in Hurst and was chartered in 1989. Its first location was a storefront.

A year and a half ago, Rev. David R. Jung and his wife, Ann, moved from Tyler with their three children to pastor Crown of Life. There currently are 165 members, a 250 percent increase since then.

The new building will have a 217-seat sanctuary, fellowship area, kitchen, nursery, classrooms and offices. According to Jung, future expansion will include an educational facility to begin a preschool and elementary school. An early childhood program will begin in fall 1995.

Church member Dennis Jones, a pilot for American Airlines, is chairman of the building committee and he expects Crown of Life's new home to be ready by Christmas.

Besides 9 a.m. Sunday worship and 10:15 Sunday school, Crown of Life offers children's and adult choirs, Wednesday evening potluck and fellowship, home Bible studies on Sunday evenings, men's prayer breakfast for Thursday mornings, Bible study on Thursday mornings, a monthly men's accountability group on Saturday mornings and recreation and fellowship activities for all ages.



MISSION-MINDED—Third-graders from St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Worth, pose with displays from Pakistan during International Week at the University of Texas-Arlington.

Kids learn serving the Lord means in far-away places, too

At what age does one become mission-minded?

Pretty early, if the Lutheran International Center at the University of Texas—Arlington goes to work on you.

The center has invited all Lutheran schools in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex to visit the Lutheran International Center.

During International Week, students of the third grade of St. Paul Lutheran School in Fort Worth visited the Center.

The students watched dances from Ireland, Taiwan, India, Thailand, Iran, Vietnam, Pakistan and the Philippines.

In addition, UT students from Turkey, Greece, Japan, Singapore, Ireland and Finland explained customs and showed artifacts from their countries.

The third-graders wore T-shirts from their school musical that said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Several UT international students asked the St. Paul youngsters about the inscription, giving the third-graders an opportunity to witness.

Vera Sweet manages the Lutheran International Center, which is a mission of the LCMS serving international students from more than 22 countries.

She may be reached at (817) 274-9201 for information about a visit to the center.



CORSICANA—By reaffirmation and transfer, from left Billy and Mary Louise Price and Susan Christophenson were received at Faith, Corsicana. Pastor is Delton Welser.



Targeting CEF Investors

by Bill Siegrist

Church Extension Fund

How do you target potential Church Extension Fund investors? Are there characteristics which CEF investors have in common? Here are several traits of those who are committed to the ministry of the Texas District Church Extension Fund:

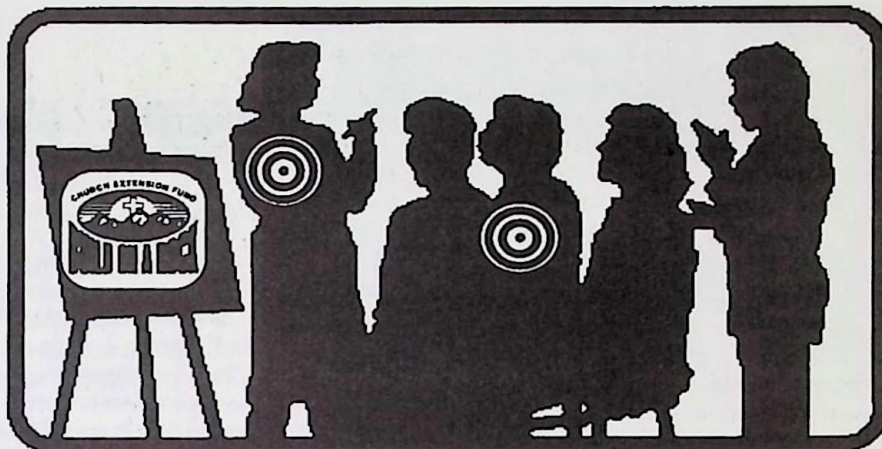
- *Mission-driven* — CEF investors feel an urgency to tell others of their heavenly Father's love—to neighbors and friends, to strangers here and in other lands.

- *People-oriented* — Their orientation is not toward an institution, but rather toward people. CEF investors are people who listen, help, support and care.

- *Congregation-centered*—They are actively involved in a congregation where His Word and sacrament provide strength and community.

- *Gospel-based*—CEF investors are lovers of the Gospel. Their faith in Jesus Christ enriches every aspect of their lives and their relationships with others.

Church Extension Fund investors range from the very young to the retired. Many of our congregations in Texas give newly baptized infants their first CEF ac-



Wouldn't it be great if new CEF investors were this easy to spot?



Bill Siegrist

count. Other congregations open up accounts for their confirmands.

There are a growing number of "baby boomers" with CEF investment accounts. My wife and I are "40-something." Pam and I set up a college savings fund for our oldest daughter Emily, several years ago.

This fall Emily will be a junior in high school. After she graduates in May of 1996, she is interested in becoming a child psychologist. She is considering continuing her education at Concor- dia Lutheran College in Austin. This fall there will be numerous students at Concor-

dia and other colleges as a result of their parents saving with the Church Extension Fund.

So how is the best way to target or identify CEF investors? Remember they are mission-driven; people-oriented; congregation-centered; and Gospel-based.

Also keep in mind, CEF investors are wise stewards; their money is doing double duty. Their investments are assisting Lutheran congregations throughout Texas with their building and expansion needs.

Second, CEF investors earn a competitive rate of interest.

If you would be interested in this type of win-win investment, please talk with your pastor, your CEF congregation representative, or call Bill Siegrist at the Texas District office 1-800-951-3478, or write to the Texas District, Church Extension Fund, Attention: Bill Siegrist, 7900 East Hwy 290, Austin, TX 78724-2499; (512) 926-4272.

Special events for Immanuel's 75th birthday

Immanuel Lutheran of Houston has scheduled four special events to celebrate its 75th birthday.

The first was Aug. 7 with a special baptismal renewal service during which all people baptized at Immanuel were recognized by Pastor Timothy Carr.

On Oct. 30 there will be a Reformation and reaffirmation of confirmation vows service at 3 p.m. with Rev. John Selle of Georgetown as preacher. A reception will follow.

Next year, Feb. 12, 1995, there will be a wedding service at 3 p.m. for renewal of marriage vows and special recognition of couples married at Immanuel. Dr. Elmo Miertschin will be guest celebrant. A reception will follow.

At 3 p.m. May 7 there will be a diamond jubilee homecoming celebration with Jerry Kieschnick, Texas District president, as guest preacher. A welcome dinner and dance will follow.



THE GANG'S ALL HERE—This is the all-Texas Lutheran Student Fellowship retreat at Blanco State Park in April. Students from UT-Austin, Texas A&M, Concordia-Austin, Tarleton and UT-Arlington participated. Dr. Larry Melssner of Concordia was the featured speaker on "Creation and Issues of Science."

Youth gathering leaders

Two coordinators have been named to represent the Texas District at the 1995 LCMS National Youth Gathering in San Antonio. Each of the Synod's 35 districts has a coordi-



Kerkman



Potts

nator to help district congregations arrange transportation, develop a district identity at the Gathering, plan special district events and provide training for group leaders.

Information about the Gathering will be funneled through district coordinators to congregations, and they will serve as liaison between churches and the national office.

The two Texas District coordinators are Randy Potts, director of youth and singles for the Texas District, at (512) 926-4272, and Randy Kerkman, (512) 459-7601 or (512) 835-6755.

The Youth Gathering is July 2-6, 1995, in San Antonio with 25,000 youth and adults expected to attend. Registration is \$150. Registration materials have been sent to all LCMS congregations.



CHAMPS—This is the men's basketball team from Our Savior Lutheran in McKinney. The team won first in the Lutheran Basketball League tournament held at Faith Lutheran in Plano. From left, back row, Jon Campbell, Ray Riels, Tom Drews, Terry O'Brier, Larry Biehl, Marshall Decker. From left, front, Scott Smith, Dave Saunders, Matt Jallo, Scott Meentemeyer.

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

Pastor gets to bank a sermon

Rev. Michael E. Ramming, pastor of Grace, Killeen, was able to put one sermon in the bank.

As he was moving to the altar June 12 to lead worship, he was stopped by a leader of the congregation who revealed that members were honoring Pastor Ramming with a special worship service celebrating his 25 years in the ministry.

A guest speaker then emerged to deliver the sermon. It was Dr. Milton Riemer of Austin's Concordia College.

The Grace choirs presented special vocal and instrumental music, key leaders offered congratulatory remarks and a reception was held.



Ramming



FUN BUNCH—This is the seniors group from St. Matthew, Westfield, which took a spring outing to Brenham, mostly to enjoy the wildflowers. But the smiles here likely are because they had just sampled the ice cream at Blue Bell Creamery.

BELL TOWER—A new bell tower with an old bell was dedicated May 15 at St. Matthew, Houston. The bell was given to the church by Gustav Henry Kaiser Sr. in 1921 and was in the tower of St. Matthew's first church. A plaque identifies the bell and rests on the cornerstone of the first church. Kaiser's family gave it in his memory.





Brenham to get Alzheimer's unit

It was a typically hot but beautiful Texas summer afternoon at the E.F. and Bertha Kruse Lutheran Memorial Village. Under a tent that warded off some of the heat, a group of about 80 invited guests gathered to take part in a ground-breaking ceremony for the Ewald and Hildegard Tiaden Alzheimer's Care Unit.

Among the honored guests at the July 17 ceremony was Hildegard Tiaden, son John Tiaden and daughter Evelyn Kruse. Mrs. Tiaden's granddaughter, Karen McDonough, touched the hearts of all those present. With her grandmother at her side, Karen told the gathering how Ewald and Hildegard Tiaden had always been dedicated to the work of Christ. McDonough said that, although her grandfather passed on 16 years ago, the family will never forget his warm smile and kindness.

LSSS President Rev. Robert C. Greene presided over the groundbreaking. Greene said he was pleased that the Kruse Lutheran Memorial Village would soon more fully address the problem of Alzheimer's. In his prayer, Greene thanked the Lord for providing a place in Brenham and other locations, where loving Christian care can be given for those who are affected.

The 8,100 square-foot unit will be occupied by 18 residents. Construction is expected to be completed before summer next year.

McDonough told the gathering that the Ewald and

Hildegard Tiaden Alzheimer's Care Unit "will stand as a continuous sign of Christian love and concern."

Care of Alzheimer's patients also is a specialty of the Lutheran Home of West Texas, Trinity Lutheran Home-Round Rock, and the Lutheran Home in New Orleans.



THEY CARE—
Loving, Christian care is offered at the Alzheimer's unit, Round Rock.

Longtime LSSS leader takes on new duties

It's been 22 years now since Rev. Norman C. Hein moved from New York to head up nursing homes at Lutheran Social Services of Texas. "Since then I've just about done it all," he said. When asked how he felt about his new responsibilities as head of the agency's chaplaincy services, Hein said, "I guess now I have done it all."

Indeed! Over the years, Hein also has headed the agency's development office, served as financial director, was interim president, served as "PR Man" and most re-



Rev. Hein

cently was vice president of planning and information and Lutheran Disaster Response coordinator. Hein will give up his planning duties but will continue as vice president of information and as Disaster Response coordinator.

Chaplains serve at hospitals, state and federal prisons, health care centers, state institutions and other medical centers. "Within the institution," said Hein, "the chaplain is the expression of the church providing God's saving and supporting word at a very important time in a person's life." Rev. Hein can be reached at (512) 459-1000.

Family Center helps prevent child abuse

Many families in the economically depressed McAllen, Texas, area live in poverty, and face a future of great uncertainty. This stress and economic hardship affects the way adults treat each other and their children. The experts say such "families in crisis" are breeding grounds for child abuse.

The focus of the Family Caring Center in McAllen is on children; the mission is to prevent child abuse and neglect. Study after study has shown that grown-ups who were themselves abused and neglected are more likely to recreate the

harmful cycle of abuse with their own children. Dedicated, professional staff at the Family Caring Center tackles the situation from two angles.

First, it works with families at risk of harming their children. The center provides a support system for parents and their children. Families are helped with clothing and toy donations, referrals to available community resources, including counseling. Special parenting classes are offered at the McAllen facility on a regular basis. The idea is to defuse and stabilize the situation

before it results in injury.

The Family Caring Center is sometimes called upon for help by school and law enforcement officials. In such cases, the "SAVE" program, or "Service for Abuse Victims Empowerment," is often activated. Such crisis intervention includes helping a child abuse victim secure state victim compensation benefits.

An important part of your partnership with Lutheran Social Services of the South is preventing child abuse in a high-risk area. Why? Because too often, the consequence is death.

Fort Worth convention highlights—proclaim Christ

"We are gathered here for two purposes," Associate Lutheran Hour Speaker Wallace Schulz said in his message in the Sunday morning communion service. "We are here to rejoice in Christ and to ask, 'What is the future of our world and what does God want us to do in the future?'"

"We stand before God as sinners," Schulz said, "but through the blood of Christ, God declares us forgiven, and that gives us hope!"

"What is our response going to be?" Schulz asked. "What does God want us to do?"

"As we are gathered here today," Schulz concluded, "we do not proclaim the life we are to live, but we 'Proclaim Christ' who lived and died for us."

THE UNITED States and much of North America is a mission field, according to statistics shared by Dr. Norbert Oesch, convention keynote speaker and senior pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Orange, Calif. His words came in the first session, Sunday, July 24.

Oesch pointed out that each person is to blame for his sinful ways. God's intervention package is in Jesus Christ. People are held in bondage until they are taught to look to Jesus for help. "Never has the need for 'Proclaim Christ' been so great as now. Jesus is the hope for secular society and the world," concluded Oesch.

REV. GERALD Kieschnick, president of the Texas

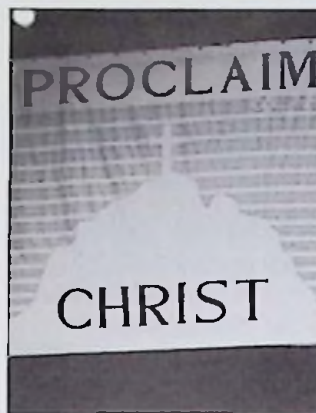
District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, told the Sunday morning Bible class attendees how they can be powerful witnesses. Kieschnick noted how the disciples received a special measure of the power of God through the Holy Spirit to be empowered as witnesses at the greatest Pentecost. The result was that 3,000 people were baptized in a single day.

Is there power for us today to be witnesses? He asserted there is. The world is bringing people to our door. They are coming to us! There is great potential for God's people to "Proclaim Christ." May we believe, teach and confess the beauty of God's Word!

"You are having a good time at this convention because you are people of hope," Lutheran Hour Speaker Dr. Dale Meyer said at the Sunday evening celebration. *"We have a message of hope to proclaim to the world."*

Meyer spoke about an interview he had with a TV reporter in Vancouver, British Columbia. She had asked why he thought our young people are so angry. "There are a number of reasons," Meyer told her.

"They could have been aborted. They hear about assisted suicide. We give them the idea that life isn't that important. Other reasons they are angry are their questionable economic future, the tremendous national debt in both the United States and Canada," Meyer



Convention banner

said. "The suicide rate among teenagers has increased from 3.6 percent in 1960 to 11.3 percent of deaths today. Young people have no hope. They are the first hopeless generation in our history. They are convinced it will not be as good for them as for you and me."

"BUT IT'S NOT just the young," Meyer continued. "Many baby boomers who have reached the top of the ladder have discovered that the ladder is leaning against the wrong wall. And the elderly are more hopeless, too. All the people of the church have God's right answers for this society of ours," Meyer concluded. "Christ has been proclaimed to us. We go out to 'Proclaim Christ' to all who are lost without Him."

In the final convention session, Larry Lumpe, executive director for Lutheran Hour Ministries, announced that the total through pledges, gifts and the special convention offering at the Sunday Evening Celebration Event amounted to \$140,070 for the renovation of the Lutheran high school in Tisovec, Slovakia.

HERE ARE SOME special people who worked hard to host this convention.

John Manfolk was the chairman of the convention committee. Harry Jordan provided accompaniment on the piano, while Tillie Mae Turnbull (played by Rosalyn Henze) led occasional periods of singing at the convention sessions. To you, John, and all the others who worked with you, "Thanks."

Cen-Tex Reformation Celebration 94

- Date: Nov. 1
- Time: 7 p.m.
- Fifth annual
- Location: Bell County Expo Center, Exhibition Hall, Belton, Texas
- Guest preacher: Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, president, LCMS Texas District
- Coordinator: Rev. Al Meissner, Prince of Peace, Belton, Texas
- Liturgist: Rev. Kevin Lentz, St. Paul, The Grove, Texas

The offering received at the service is designated to provide audio cassette tapes for the China Cassette Ministry. A studio there, provided by the LWML, produces these cassettes for distribution by the China Christian Council.

Region 10 Board Meeting

On Nov. 18-19, the Lone Star and Oklahoma Districts will meet at Texoma State Park in Oklahoma. The park is near Kingston, Okla. It is west of Highway 75 as you travel north toward Durant.

Zone 8 Fall Rally

The LLL Club of Redempter, Austin, is hosting the fall rally for the Capital Zone (8) on Nov. 5. The main topic will be "Compadres Todos," led by Rev. Michael Ramming.



Rev. Francis Schroeder

What my baptism means to me!

On my desk I have a piece of the Berlin Wall. In one corner of my office I have recognition plaques from East Germany and the Soviet Union. On my wall I have my baptismal certificate signed by Pastor Eldor Mickan. All four of these items are reminders of forces that have been eliminated, removed or dissolved. The first three are symbols of earthly powers subdued. The last a supernatural power conquered.

How do you view your baptism? It must be more than just a family ritual or empty tradition.

It must be what God intended, a means of grace given by the Lord. It is a daily reminder I belong to the Lord and no one else. A confidence booster which instills the assuredness that every morning I arise, the Lord will bless my steps.

Ultimately, it allows a peacefulness I need to cope with the wall of obstacles I will face. Some of these barriers

others have placed before me, some I have erected on my own, but all hinder the deepening of my faith and the extension of the Gospel message.

I know whatever man constructs, God can remove! Joshua 7 echoes the trumpet blast that brought down the walls of Jericho.

Daily in my baptism I hear the rolling thunder of Easter morning and the Christ-bought victory that is ours.

A gravestone helpless on its back, an empty cross motionless in the wind and salty tears of sorrow transformed into sweet tears of joy!

As you and I work with the LWML, we will encounter barriers and walls that will need to be removed. Some will be easy to eliminate and others will be more challenging.

In the course of the next two years, will you do me a favor? If the Lord allows an obstacle to be brought down in your life, your society or in your church, please let me know. Better still, cut off a piece or tear off a corner and send it to me! I need more items in my collection.

With the Lord's joy and peace, until we meet again!

*Rev. Francis Schroeder
Pastoral Counselor
Texas District LWML*

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152, Lewisville, TX 75067. Deadline ninth of month.

Otsubo/Leslie recipients of 1994 LWML scholarship

Michelle Otsubo of Dallas and Jodi Leslie of Austin will receive \$1000 each for the 1994-95 school year at Concordia Lutheran College in Austin.

Both young women will be continuing their education to become Lutheran school teachers.

Michelle is the daughter of Mrs. Diane Otsubo and a member of Zion, Dallas. She is entering the second year of a five-year program.

She served on the newspaper staff and homecoming committee as well as helping with Concordia Field Day. The LWML is pleased to assist her for the second year with a scholarship.

Jodi Leslie is the daughter of Jerry and Joyce Pfleeger and a member of Hope in Friendswood.

She will graduate in May 1995 with a teaching certificate in elementary education and early childhood with minors in communication and behavioral sciences. Jodi has plans to get a master's degree in early childhood education.

She serves at church as a youth counselor and Sunday school teacher for the high-school class. She also works as a babysitter and volunteers with the mentally handicapped.

With great joy, the LWML asks God's blessings on this young woman as she completes her education.

Funds for these scholarships are provided by interest earned on contributions

given to the LWML Scholarship Endowment Fund administered by the Lutheran Foundation of Texas. If you or your society would like to donate to the fund, envelopes may be ordered from the Lutheran Foundation of Texas at 1-800-880-FREE.

The Scholarship Committee thanks Marcella Gaus for her dedicated service the past four years. We welcome Ethel Mickan, who joins Margaret Goodson and Debra Curry to the committee.

With joy in Jesus,

*Debra Curry, Secretary
LWML Scholarship
Committee*

Mite report

August 1994

1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd August	
(all sources)	12,194
Rec'd to date	
(all sources)	32,053
Needed for goal	223,946
Sent to Int'l LWML	
(August)	1,704
Int'l to date	5,146

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box 1224, Giddings, TX 78942. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO DISTRICT LWML.



News from around the district

• **Lamb of God, Flower Mound**, will offer a variety of programs for their fall meetings.

Dolores Bruncke, past news editor for the *Quarterly*, will speak on "Uniquely You—Free to Accept the Real You" Oct. 11.

A dinner using each woman's favorite recipe from the new cookbook *Treasured Recipes* will begin the meeting.

Both **Lamb of God** and **Christ Our Savior, Coppell**, invited Dawn Weiser, the Texas District LWML Young Woman Representative, to serve as a guest speaker this fall. They decided to combine their meetings Nov. 8. She will speak on the theme "You Are Special."

A Swedish smorgasbord will start off the evening.

* * *

• May 8 was a special day for the Dorcas Society, **Trinity, West Sinton**.

The organization was honored on their golden anniversary of service to their Lord.

The charter members were Gertrude Adams, Mrs. Gus Adams, Esther Kieschnick, Lydia Marburger, Frieda Person, Linda Schneider and Mrs. Max Schneider.

Of these charter members, Gertrude Adams, Esther Kieschnick and Linda Schneider are still active.

Trinity, West Sinton thanked God for these faithful women designating May 8 at Dorcas Society Appreciation Day. To God be the glory!

Rev. B.R. Brummett serves as pastor.

• **Trinity, Copperas Cove**, held its annual end of the year banquet in July.

Pastor Arthur Lyons opened the meeting with prayer.

Spouses and guests were in attendance, with the installation of new officers by Pastor Keith DuBois as the main event.

Trinity's theme for 1994-95 year is "Made Bold by the Spirit."

* * *

When submitting news for the LWML District News page, please do not send minutes of meetings. Ask your zone president for the news form.



Texas banner for '95 convention

Banner designers please take notice! The Texas District will need a banner to display at the 1995 International Convention June 22-25 in Kansas City, Mo.

The theme is "LIVE ... BY GOD'S DESIGN." As each woman focuses on the victorious cross of Jesus Christ, she lives a lifestyle interwoven by God's design "to act justly, to love mercy and walk humbly" with her Lord (Micah 6:8).

Please submit your design in color with fabric swatches by Feb. 15, 1995, to Pat Biar, president of the Texas District LWML.

Do not use the convention logo on the banner, but base it on the convention theme.

Seminary scholarships

Mina Fitting, past vice president for projects, sent the following report on recipients of the Texas District LWML Seminary Scholarship grants.

1988-89

William Sharp—Graduated 1992, pastor at St. John, Wharton, Texas

Fred Beck—Graduated 1992, pastor at Zion, St. Louis, Mo.

1989-90

Donnie Poole—Graduated 1990, pastor at Mount Calvary, Watonga, Okla.

Daniel Heuer—Graduated 1993, pastor at St. Peter, Davenport, Neb.

1990-91

Delton Weiser—Graduated 1991, pastor at Faith, Corsicana, Texas

James Greear IV—Graduated 1991, pastor at Epiphany, Montgomery, Ala.

Ron Burkhard—Graduated 1993, pastor at Grace, Crockett, Texas

Henry Wied—Graduated 1993, pastor at St. Mark, Mineral Wells, Texas

1991-92

Thomas Snooks—Canada

Joshua Schustz—On vicarage, member of Pilgrim, Houston

Donald Cooper—On vicarage, member of Beautiful Savior, Austin

Philip Graf—On vicarage, member of Lord of Life, Corpus Christi

1992-93

Terry Small—Fourth year, St. Louis seminary

Christopher Otten—On vicarage member of Bethel, Dallas

Jim Sturgis—Graduated 1994, pastor of Mount Olive, San Antonio, Texas

Gerald Epperson—Graduated 1993, pastor St. John in Wapakoneta, Ohio

1993-94

David Thompson—Second year at Fort Wayne seminary

Robert LeBlanc—Second year at Fort Wayne seminary

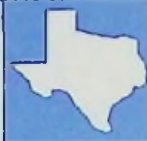
Byron Williams—First year at St. Louis seminary

David Byler—First year at St. Louis seminary

Colors are green and blue. However, these colors need not be used in the banner. Banner size is 3-by-5 feet. Fringe may be added to these dimensions. The district name **MUST** appear on the front of the banner. Letters may be any size. Attach

to a three-quarter-inch or one-inch dowel stick with eye screws on the ends to secure the cording.

Please read Texas District LWML standing rule number 18 for additional information.



'The little boy at the graveyard'

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, president
LCMS Texas District

How I would love to hear the whole story of Ivan, the little boy at the graveyard! I've heard only bits and pieces of the event that occurred this summer as more than 90 young people and counselors from the Texas District participated in what, for many of them, was the journey of a lifetime.

It had been my hope to participate in Project CAN-DO's mission trips/servant events to St. Petersburg, Russia and Slovakia, but the other previously scheduled items on the calendar prevented such participation. Randy Potts, CAN-DO project director, gave me a full report of their activities in these faraway places.

Upon their return to the United States, each participant was asked, "What part of this trip had the greatest impact on your life?" I'd love to be able to share all of their responses with you, but limited space on the printed page won't allow that. Here are some responses:

- The fact that everyone really cared and helped me learn more about my relationship with God on an even larger scale had such a positive impact on my life. —Sara Cartwright

- The thing that affected me most was the little boy, Ivan, at the graveyard. He was eager to learn and help. He, I believe, became closer to God and Jesus. —Sara Bellinger

- During our stay at St. Petersburg I was blessed with the ultimate privilege

of sharing the great news of salvation through Jesus Christ with many of our new Russian friends. Through broken English and/or translators, I was blessed with comments like:

"Thank you, thank you for helping to bring God back to our people!" (hugs and tears)

"We are so thankful that your young people care! (Our young people are here because they love Christ and want to share His love with you!)"

"Will you return to America and tell them about us so more of you will come back to help?"

"We love you Americans—thank you for being here!"

A woman came to the cemetery in tears, had heard of us and sought a Bible. Her son died four years ago, and she was very grateful for God's comfort. Vera, lovely young school teacher, anxious to share our devotions with all of her students on Sept. 7, first day of school!

—Carolyn Fickenscher

- No matter what country you are from or what language you speak, God's love always shines through. Rus-



Rev. Jerry Kieschnick

sia was an experience to remember for always!

—Nicole Dieterichs

- Entering Russia as Christ's servant, His Spirit moves both Russians and Americans to work as one. This has been absolutely the greatest inspiration in my life.

—Mindy Hixon

- The incredible impact that I am feeling is how amazingly powerful God's universal love affects all humans when they have shared His hope and love.

—Erin Pearson

- I was most affected by the friendship of Alexey and Benjamin—also Dina and Rashid. It was a joy to see many of our youth witness and give Bibles and to see the joy and gratitude of many of the Russian people.

—Pastor William Schuster

- The one thing that impacted me the most in Russia was the hunger for the Word of God, which had been denied them for many years.

—Vera Schuster

- The overwhelmingly positive attitude shown us as Christian Americans impacted me the most. The Russian people, cynical at first, in the end treated us with great love and accep-

tance.

—Pastor Kelly Crabbe

- The one thing that impacted my life the most during this trip was being able to see people drawn to Christ and start a spark for the Lord. I know in my heart that these sparks are going to turn into candles so they, too, will be able to spread His Word.

—Ryan Neuhaus

- Handing out the Bibles really changed and touched my heart. I seem to take the Bible for granted. These people didn't have the Bible, and they are eager to learn.

—Amy Banta

- Before I left I wondered how much could take place during a "short-term" mission trip. I was amazed at how powerful the Gospel message impacted the lives of the Russian people and our CAN-DO team. Walls of separation which stood for years crumbled before God's love and forgiveness.

—Heather McDonald

- What I will most remember is the love of Christ that shined through the eyes of all of the young adults as they worked, prayed and became a part of Russian history through the rebuilding of the Lutheran churches in St. Petersburg. We all left a little bit of ourselves behind.

—Nicole Hahn

- The most rewarding part of my trip was seeing the tears of joy in people's eyes when they received a Bible.

—Stephenie May

- I feel very privileged to have had the opportunity to travel to Russia on a mission trip. I will treasure the wonderful memories forever.

—Michelle Pluennke

(Continued on next page.)

PROJECT CAN-DO

(Continued from Page A.)

As you can see from these candid comments, lives were changed, both in Russia and in America, as a result of these events.

Project CAN-DO (Christ Among the Nations—Discipleship Outreach) is a special ministry of the young people of the Texas District. The time they spent in Russia and Slovakia was volunteered. Many of them paid their own expenses. Others received help from parents, congregations and special financial grants.

All were blessed by being a blessing to some of God's children who live far away, many of whom are incredibly receptive to the **Great News** of forgiveness of sin, life and salvation through the grace of God, by faith, communicated through the pages of the Holy Scriptures and the working of the Holy Spirit in people's lives.

- You, too, can be a blessing to this important mission. The young people are asked to contribute the equivalent of a can of soft drink each week for one year. At 50¢ per can, that amounts to \$26 per year. Adults are encouraged to contribute at or above that level.

Terry and I have found great joy in our participation in Project CAN-DO. We encourage you to join us by sending your contributions, payable to "Project CAN-DO," to the LCMS Texas District, 7900 E. Highway 290, Austin, TX 78724.

Ivan and all of the others whose lives were touched by our young people are just a few of those who may be **eternally grateful!**



THE TEAM—Rev. Daniel Mueller, left, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio, stands with members of the team ministry there. From left are Alice Klement, minister of family life; Rev. Louis Redmann, visitation pastor; Frona McGuire, administrative assistant and office manager; and Rev. David Ebs, pastoral care.

'Exciting possibilities' seen in new team ministry

One of the blessings Shepherd of the Hills in San Antonio has enjoyed during its 25-year history has been steady growth. To minister to the needs of its growing membership, the congregation has begun a team ministry.

Alice Klement was installed as minister of family life. Her duties will include assimilation, starting small groups and teaching.

Also installed was Rev. David Ebs, emeritus from Concordia, San Antonio,

who, as a part-time assistant, will work primarily in pastoral care. Ebs also serves the Texas District as circuit counselor.

They join Senior Pastor Daniel Mueller and Rev. Louis "Bud" Redmann, part-time visitation pastor. Frona McGuire rounds out the team as administration assistant and office manager.

"It's exciting to imagine the ministries that will be possible with this team in place," said Mueller.

1995's special Sundays set

Special Sundays for 1995 have been approved by the Texas District Board of Directors. They are:

Lutheran Foundation of Texas Sunday (LFOT), Feb. 19.

Lutheran Hour Sunday (LLL), Feb. 26.

Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas Sunday (LOMT), March 5.

Church Extension Fund Sunday (CEF), April 30.

Concordia College, Austin, Sunday, May 14.

Texas District Mission Sunday, Sept. 17.

Lutheran TV Sunday (LLL), Sept. 24.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Sunday, Oct. 1.

Refugee Concerns Sunday (LCMS World Relief), Oct. 8.

Lutheran Social Services of the South (LSSS) Sunday, Nov. 5.

World Hunger Sunday (LCMS World Relief), Nov. 26.

Campus Ministry Sunday (Texas District Board of Mission Administration), Dec. 31.

Good idea whose time didn't come

In July 1950, a motion carried in a voters' meeting of St. John, San Benito, that the congregation's constitution should be read on the first regular meeting of each year.

In the January meeting of 1951, the record duly notes a motion "to postpone the reading of the constitution until next January."

LOOK IN THIS SPACE EACH MONTH FOR ENCOURAGEMENT AND HELPS IN PRAYER

ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

- Prayer is one of God's great gifts to His children.
- God promises to hear our prayers. (Luke 11:9)
 - Jesus prayed—a lot! (Luke 5:16)
 - The early church prayed—a lot! (Acts 2:42)
 - We would like to pray like that!
 - How do we get started?
 - How do we keep going when struggles hit?
 - Remember: **Prayer begins in the heart of God. He is the source and the strength of your prayer.**
 - *For this month: Ask God for the desire to pray.*

Texas District Prayer Task Force **KEEP 2/11/95 OPEN!**



Texas District Mission News

by Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration



Rev. Ken
Hennings

More congregation worker grants bring fantastic results

A number of years ago, Glorinda Dei Lutheran Church, Houston, approached the Board of Mission Administration (BMA) with a novel idea. They were in a fast growing community and were experiencing good growth in their congregation. They needed an additional staff worker to help the congregation reach out to the new people moving into their area.

The BMA agreed to do a pilot project with them for the needed additional worker, and the results were fantastic! God blessed the additional ministry, so that the congregation continued a strong growth pattern, including, strong financial support to the district and synodical ministries.

After the pilot project was completed, the BMA looked for additional opportunities to increase the outreach focus of congregations that found themselves in fast growing areas. God has continued to bless this partnership between the Board of Mission Administration and the congregations.

Two years ago the BMA established partnerships with two cross-cultural ministries to see whether an additional worker would help increase these congregations outreach efforts. Even though the results have been slower, both Community Lutheran, San Antonio, and El Calvario, Brownsville, have experienced a boost in touching the lives of more people in their communities.

During 1994, King of Kings, Round Rock, added Jim Buss as a director of Christian education/youth worker. Through a community demographic study, King of Kings discovered

a very large youth population in its area and a strong trend for youth in the future. Using Jim's gifts, the congregation has developed youth programs for reaching the large unchurched youth population.

It is apparent that God's Spirit is moving, as unchurched youth have started attending King of Kings. Hopefully, the

youth outreach efforts also will give the congregation the opportunity to reach these youths' families with God's love. The BMA and King of Kings thank God for sustaining a 23 percent annual growth of the congregation.

During 1995, the BMA hopes to support other similar congregations in the district. The BMA won't be able

to help all, but is willing to assist as many as possible. If your congregation would like more information, contact the mission office at 1-800-951-3478.

JESUS + changed
CHRIST my life



FUN IN THE SUN—These high school youth of Redeemer, San Antonio, took part in a three-day beach camp at Port Aransas in July. The final day was a servant event at Faith Lutheran in Aransas Pass where the kids did fix-up stuff in the parish.

THE LORD ADDED...

CONCORDIA—These families were received Aug. 21 at Concordia, San Antonio, by confirmation, transfer or reprofession of faith. There were 35 adults and their children. At left is Assistant Pastor David Kipp, who taught the instruction class, and at right is Senior Pastor William G. Thompson.



CHURCH OF THE DEAF—On Pentecost Sunday the Lord added through confirmation, baptism and transfer these nine new members to Jesus Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Austin. Mark Seeger, center holding child, is pastor.



NEW BRAUNFELS—The Lord added these new members July 3 to the fellowship of Cross Lutheran, New Braunfels. Five came by adult confirmation, one by profession of faith and eight by transfer. Pastor is Raymond D. Reich.



ANDERSON—These new members were welcomed July 17 at Zion Lutheran in Anderson. They came by adult confirmation, baptism and transfer. Pastor, second from right, is Dan Schoessow.



SPRING—These are some of the 25 adults received into the forever family at Resurrection Lutheran in Spring. This year has brought the joy of 51 adult confirmands, 20 junior confirmands, 25 children baptized and three adult baptisms. God has added to the church! Pastor is Stephen J. Sohns.



GRACE GROWS—This is the 1994 confirmation class of Grace Lutheran, Midland. Pastor at left is Raymond E. Johansen.



Reality Check

by Carol A. Rinn

How do people survive trials and trauma in their lives? What enables them to go through a tough situation instead of around it? Why is it some people just seem to be "stronger" than others? Does God really work for good in all things? Why is it through pain we tend to grow more as a person and in our relationship with the Lord? These are questions I have had to deal with in recent years.

Until my 30s, I lived a pretty normal life. I was happily married, had two children and did everyday "mom" jobs. My first encounter with trial and trauma came when I experienced the dying and death of my husband's grandmother, very dear to me. I had to see my first dead body, attend a funeral and graveside service of someone I loved. It seemed I was overwhelmed with a new word—death. Yet I grew. I didn't know death was preparing me for the next chapter in my life.

MY FATHER DIED on the operating table seven years ago. Here was a real reality wake-up call. I was devastated. But I grew some more. I didn't know my father's death was preparing me for the next chapter in my life.

I attended the funeral of a member at our church, Peace Lutheran in Hurst. I left the service a changed person. I had always believed with my head and my heart that when you die you go to heaven. The idea of

just being a pilgrim here on earth took deeper root. God touched my life by providing a stronger insight into the word "death." I grew again. I didn't know death was preparing me for the next chapter in my life.

FOURTEEN MONTHS after my father's death, my mother died. I'm convinced it was of a broken heart. The Sunday before her death was Good Shepherd Sunday. I read her the Bible passage from Psalm 23: *"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want...."* Boy, that is some serious work when you read that passage to a dying person. Some real reality. I grew some more. I didn't know death was preparing me for the next chapter in my life.

Six years ago, I had my first metastatic cancer diagnosis and had to face the possibility of my own death. Within the last six years, I have had numerous CAT scans, biopsies, MRIs, blood tests, a combined 18 months of chemotherapy, loss of hair twice, radiation, two types of cancer surgery, a false alarm surgery, four minor surgeries, all ending with a bone marrow transplant last January. Wow, you say. WOW! I say!

AS I REFLECT over the last years, I'm amazed! I'm a survivor! But I don't get all the credit. I was blessed with awesome doctors, nurses, a pastor, family and friends. Most especially I was blessed with our God who loves us all and who used people around me to

do His will.

Right before my bone marrow transplant, I asked my oncologist to put my name on his prayer list. "You've been on my prayer list," he said. **"God is the only reason you are alive."**

One particular day during bone marrow transplant, I was frustrated because I couldn't seem to feel God's presence. I needed to know that He was there because I was miserable. I just couldn't get a grip. Then it dawned on me as mail was brought to my hospital room. God was sending me "the telegram" I needed. Every card or note I received for three weeks in the hospital, contained the message **"You are in my prayers."** God used my friends, family, church members, neighbors, coworkers and others I had not met to offer me the comfort and care my family and I needed.

IT USED TO MAKE me angry when people would say, "Oh, you're so strong," or "You're tough, you can handle it." I knew it was God holding my head above water. God was the reason I didn't drown in pain.

There are so many good things that have come out of the deaths and my cancer diagnosis. I'm not saying it was all easy! But there is so much good. Relationships with those around me grew and became firmer. I am much more outspoken with my thoughts and feelings. The Lord and I have a much better relationship. I rely on



Carol Rinn

and trust Him more easily. I've given Him more control in my life.

I've learned about patience and unanswered prayer. (I'm still working on those.) I pray more. I don't worry about little things as much. A lot of folks prayed for me. That's the good news. They were spending time talking to the Lord.

I DON'T KNOW what reality check God is preparing me for next, but I do know that however I die, I want balloons at my funeral to celebrate my pilgrimage on earth and going home to heaven. Until that time, I will trust the Lord to do what's good for me, continue regular check-ups and keep this passage from John Baillie's *A Diary of Private Prayer** close to my heart:

"So shall my courage be firm and my heart be at peace."

What about you? Will you let God continue to work in your life, especially during reality checks? Maybe then you can see and embrace these words with your head and your heart:

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose" (Rom. 8:28).

(*Copyright, 1949, by CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS, copyright renewed 1977 Ian Fowler Baillie.)

Church finds summer camp great door to other youth activities in congregation

In just one year, St. John Lutheran Church in Hamilton went from sending seven kids to Lutheran camp to sending 29 kids this past summer to Camp Lone Star in La Grange.

• How did they do it?

More important, *why* did they do it?

Rick Terry, director of Christian education at St. John Church, said their congregation made Lutheran summer camp a priority this past year.

"Summer camp is important because our kids spend as much time together with their youth leader in one week as they would in a whole year at our church," said Terry. "We also know that Lutheran camp has worked well as a motivator in getting our kids involved in other youth activities at our church."

Terry also has found camp counselors at Lone Star to be tremendous role models for his kids.

• Terry said the youngsters from St. John who went to Lone Star ranged in age from 5 to 15. (The youngest attended a weekend session only.) The church participated in the "Pioneer Camp" program offered each summer at Camp Lone Star, which allows adult youth leaders to attend camp with youngsters from their congregation on selected weeks.

To help send all kids to camp who wanted to go, Terry said their church con-

ducted two fund-raising events.

• The first one was cleaning up a section of highway in their community which has not been formally adopted by a group. They received permission to do this from the Texas Highway Department as a "one-time" commitment only. The job took four hours, and the kids gathered sponsors for their participation in this event from both church members and the Hamilton community-at-large.

Terry said the kids were allowed to keep most of the pledges they raised toward their enrollment fee. That allowed them to gather as much money as they needed in order to go to camp. "The pledges ranged from \$50 to \$270. Everyone who wanted to go was able to because those who needed to raise a little more money did so by gathering more pledges," he said.

Altogether, the kids raised \$2,500 and an additional \$1,000 was provided by AAL and Lutheran Brotherhood through fraternal matching gift programs available in their congregation for a total of \$3,500.

• In addition, a car wash was conducted which raised \$500.

Terry said a key factor in the large attendance was scheduling their group to attend camp in June. "We found it is actually better to go *before* summer baseball is over. We're in a small



HIGHWAY TO CAMP—Pictured above are youth at St. John Lutheran Church in Hamilton who "adopted a highway" on a one-time basis to gather pledges to help send them and their adult leaders (below) to Lutheran summer camp at Camp Lone Star in La Grange.



town, and our kids will miss playing in a game but won't give up playing in a tournament later in the summer. It worked out better for us and it was also a lot cooler," he explained.

• Terry said he feels the greatest challenge today in youth ministry is encouraging kids to make church activities a priority in their lives.

Camp Lone Star is operated by Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas (LOMT), which is an agency of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In addition to Lone Star, LOMT also operates

Texoma Lutheran Camp on Lake Texoma in Pottsboro.

• If you would like information about sending your child or church youth group to Lutheran summer camp in 1995, please call LOMT at 1-800-951-3478. (Suggestions and ideas on raising funds for this purpose also are available by calling this number.)





Why CEF?

To serve the church

Are you interested in knowing more about Church Extension Fund ministry? Possibly you need an investment form. Or, maybe your congregation is considering renovating or expanding its facilities. Who do you call to get answers to your questions?

First of all, it might be beneficial to know that there is a board of directors for the Church Extension Fund. One of them may live in your area. Here is a brief list of their major responsibilities:

1. Investment management.
2. Purchase advance site properties.
3. Process and approve congregational loan applications.
4. See that the loans are repaid promptly.
5. Most important, the Board for Church Extension (BCE) is responsible for setting and maintaining CEF policy.

Texas District Office Staff and Support Staff

Natalie Woolverton, CEF secretary, is responsible for providing congregations with CEF promotional materials. If you need an investment form or IRA application, call her at (512) 926-4272 or 1-800-951-3478. She also works with CEF congregational representatives.

Stephen Block is CEF executive director. Here is a



CEF Board—These are the members of the Texas District Church Extension Fund Board. From left, standing, are Wilson Whiteside, Bruce Schaller, Rev. Jay Simonsen, Skipper Koetter, Steve Block, Bill Siegrist, Hardy Schneider. Seated are Karl Young and Ruth Stacey.

list of Steve's major responsibilities:

- Provides advice for potential investors;
- Assists congregations with loan applications for the BCE;
- Serves as a liaison with the Board of Mission Administration;
- Most important, he is responsible for the total accounting and financial management of the fund.

Bill Siegrist, is CEF director of development. He works in the following areas:

- Serves as a public representative for the Church Extension Fund through developing ongoing relations with laypeople and professional church workers in the district;
- Visits with potential CEF investors and donors, assisting them with their Christian estate planning;
- Makes CEF presentations in churches throughout the district;
- Provides specialized training each year at the annual CEF conference for congregational representa-



Woolverton Hansen

tives.

Goal of these efforts: increase the total Church Extension Fund and the CEF Capital Fund (gifts and donations).

Richard Hansen is CEF director of construction. Dick can provide these services to your congregation:

- Assists in organizing a building committee;
- Guides the committee through the selection of an architect;
- Assists with the development of the preliminary plans;
- Reviews preliminary cost estimates;
- Monitors various phases of your building program;
- Works in conjunction with the Texas District Laborers For Christ.

As you can see, a competent team of professionals is ready to assist your congregation. To this team, we add your CEF congregational representative and pastor. He or she is a valuable CEF resource person.

There is one final way we can be of service to your congregation. These excellent loan rates will speak for themselves!

**Financially Assisted
Congregation—Loan Rate
7.5%**

**Self-Supporting
Congregation—Loan Rate
8.50%**

**(Ask about our rebate
program!)**

**CEF Investment Rates:
Save-by-Mail Account
3.00%**

**One-Year Note 4.25%
Three-Year Note 5.00%
Five-Year Note 6.00%**

**Church Extension Fund
Bill Siegrist
Texas District Office
7900 E. Hwy. 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
1-800-951-3478**

YOUTH

Our bright kids ...

Victor Quick, member of **Tree of Life, Garland**, received the Pro Deo Et Schola award, highest award given to a student at Lutheran High School of Dallas. He was student council president and in the National Honor Society. He's now at Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., studying communications.

* * *

The Texas Assessment of Academic Skills, or TAAS test, has discovered DeWayne Mangan has a bountiful supply of academic skills. DeWayne, a member of **Our Savior, Center-**



DeWayne

ville, scored a 4 on written composition—the highest possible—and answered correctly at least 95 per-

cent of the items on the reading, writing and math tests. He has received a National Mathematics award for eighth grade pre-algebra and averaged 100 in his class for the year in that subject. He's working toward an Eagle Scout rank and is active in sports and church youth groups.

* * *

Shannon Brewer, **St. John, Cypress**, was on the volleyball team that placed 11th in the nation at the Junior Olympics.

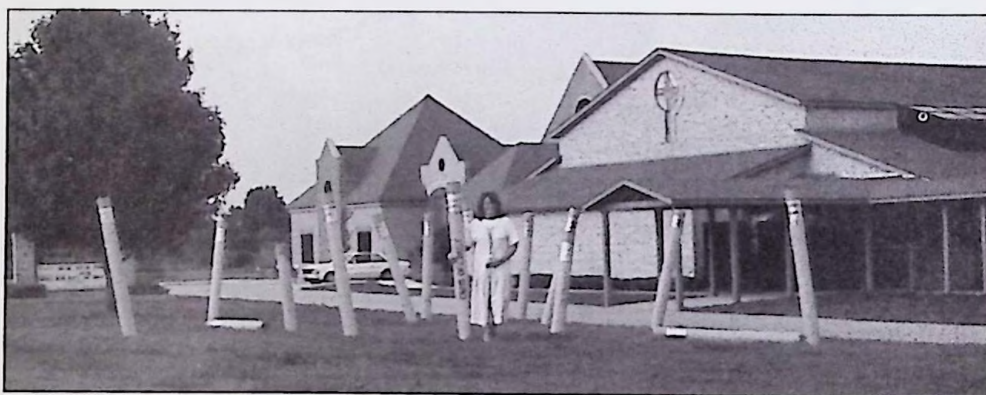
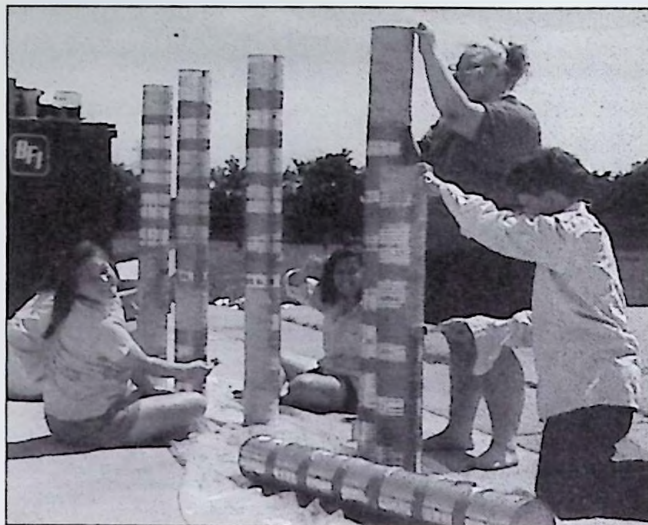
* * *

Bright kid honors for Ryan Bergsieker, **St. Philip, Houston**, who was awarded an AAL four-year all-college scholarship.

* * *

GET THE POINT?—Art students at **Cross of Christ Lutheran School in DeSoto** came up with the idea of giant pencils as they studied conceptual art. In top photo, Jean A. Maddocks, art instructor, works with students Jimmy Gildersleeve, Elisa Jacobo, Natalie Rusk and David Wheat on the pencils.

Second photo shows the pencils on exhibit in front of the school.



ALONG FOR THE RIDE?—You're supposed to paddle, too, Christi. Alan Nowell and Christi Bruno were part of the youth group of **Trinity, Weatherford**, who took a canoe trip Aug. 6 on the Brazos River. The kids paddled 11.5 miles.



San Antonio's Lutheran High to accept freshmen in 1995

A Lutheran high school will open in fall 1995 in San Antonio. Nominations are being taken by the Lutheran High School Association of San Antonio for the position of principal/administrator and development director.

The August report of the association said gifts and pledges from individuals and congregations total \$30,574.64, with the average gift being \$555.90. A curriculum committee has prepared suggestions for a four-year

high school curriculum.

It is expected at the outset that the high school will share the facilities of an area Lutheran elementary school. The association's headquarters is at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran School, 6914 Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, TX 78240.

The school will open with a freshman class, adding a grade each year. Eighth-graders in Lutheran schools will be targeted as core members of the first class.

Pastor Freed is retiring

Pastor John H. Freed, St. Mark, Houston, has advised his parishioners that he intends to retire May 1, 1995.

His decision follows months of leg numbness and back pain that has prevented him from continuing his pastoral duties. He had two back surgeries in 1993. His physician has declared him permanently disabled. He will remain on disability and will not return to ministry at St. Mark in any capacity pending his 1995 retirement after he has reached age 62.

Writing to his congregation, Freed said, "It is no easy thing to give up a ministry of 22 years at St. Mark and lose the relationship of being pastor to a wonderful family of God. I cannot overstate the joy and fulfillment I have found in serving as senior pastor for these many years."



Freed

Help Jake put seminary students onto the information highway

Jake Oesch is building an on-ramp to the information highway for some of our future pastors.

If you have an old computer or a piece of one, you can help him.

Oesch and his wife, Wilda, are members of Our Savior Lutheran in Rockwall. In 1980, Jake and Wilda started the O-Tec Computer Service, doing third-party maintenance on computer equipment. The business prospered.

Thomas Hoyt, a Texas District pastor, told Oesch he was trying to collect some used computers for seminary students who had contacted Hoyt about their need for such equipment.

And so the idea for regeneration of older but still usable personal computers was born.

In his business, Oesch had access to trade-in systems still usable but not state-of-the-art equipment. Building on computer parts available, Oesch has sent four complete systems to students at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

But there's a problem! Oesch has depleted

his ready resources of complete systems. He has partial ones such as mother-boards, but lacks other parts—and money—to refurbish what's left.

"We are sure we have not satisfied the need," Oesch said, "and we would like to continue."

"I am sure," he added, "that there are members in the Texas District who have older systems they have replaced that need a new home. Also, someone may have an extra \$5 they would like to put to a good cause."

Jake will welcome contributions of older systems or any of their parts including monitors, keyboards, hard drives, etc. All must be IBM compatible.

Your \$5 (or more) contribution is automatically compatible.

Send it to:

Jake and Wilda Oesch

Route 4, Box 166

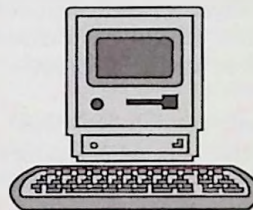
Terrell, TX 75160

Phone: (214) 524-9680

Jake will appreciate it, and so will some young man studying for the holy ministry of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



CONCORDIA STAFF—Rev. Carl W. Schneider, front right, was installed Sept. 4 as an assistant pastor in the team ministry of Concordia Lutheran, San Antonio. Beside him is Senior Pastor William G. Thompson. Others in back from left are Assistant Pastors David Kipp, Robert Jaeger, David Ebs, emeritus but serving as circuit counselor, and Assistant Pastor Patrick Boomhower. Schneider accepted the call to Concordia from Sterling Heights, Mich.



HAPPENINGS IN TEXAS

PEOPLE. PLACES. & EVENTS

If you need a refill, Rev. Lawrence Kelm, pastor of **Our Redeemer, Houston**, likely is the man to see. The Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center in Houston recently honored Kelm for his lifetime donation of (now read this carefully) 85 gallons of blood plasma and platelets. This translates into 680 units of blood given.

Pastor Steve Wagner, **Prince of Peace, Carrollton**, has accepted an invitation from the Dallas Cowboys organization to conduct a chapel service on Thanksgiving for players and coaches at Texas Stadium before the football game between the Cowboys and the Green Bay Packers.



Wagner

The American Legion Chaplain of the Year for the state of Texas is once again Basil Karm who received the honor also in 1992.



Karm

Karm is a member of **Grace Lutheran, Seguin**.

St. John Lutheran School, Houston, is celebrating its 50th year this 1994-95 school year. Carl Nickell, previously fifth and sixth grade teacher, is the school's new principal.

Clara Neis, **St. Paul, Plainview**, has been chosen



Neis

Volunteer of the Month by RSVP for her work in visiting the sick and cooking for people who need her special touch.

Pastor Leopoldo Vigil has devoted his entire ministerial career to **Our Redeemer Lutheran, Harlingen**. On Aug. 21, the congregation commemorated the 30th anniversary of his ordination and installation with a special bilingual service. A stained-glass window, designed and crafted by Rev. Donald Kroll of Winnie, was installed in the sanctuary in honor of Pastor Vigil. A special offering was designated for the Hispanic Endowment Fund of the Texas District.

Rev. Alston S. Kirk was installed Aug. 14 as pastor of **Trinity, Corpus Christi**.

When you get involved, get involved! Elaine Schur did. Since she joined the American Cancer Society in 1963, she has been chapter president, memorial chairman for 15 years, service



Schur

chairman, treasurer, secretary and public education chairman. She is the recipient of this year's Cotton Bar-

ons' Award. She and her husband, Martin, are members of **St. Paul, Plainview**. Martin is congregational chairman.

Rev. David Quail, Caldwell, Idaho, was installed as pastor of **St. Mark Lutheran, Conroe**.

Walter Schramm, former principal of Fort Worth's Redeemer School, was installed Aug. 21 as principal of **Grace Lutheran School, Killeen**. In addition, he will teach the fourth and fifth grades and lead the school in its accreditation process.



Schramm

Rev. Joseph C. Lowery, emeritus, was installed Sept. 11 as part-time interim pastor of **Pilgrim, Kilgore**.

Bet you didn't know this about Pastor Francis Schroeder of **Holy Cross, Nederland**. His hobby is building model aircraft to detailed scale. He has won model contests in Texas and Louisiana and a national modeler's magazine is going to feature his work.

From its German roots to multicultural congregation, **Trinity Lutheran, Port Arthur**, celebrated its 95th anniversary Oct. 22-23 with historical displays and a celebration service.

A wireless hearing aid system has been installed by **Mount Calvary, La Grange**. The pocket units

have receivers with earphones and a transmitter connected to the speaker system. Now all the hearing-impaired can hear Pastor Dennis Bragdon's sermons.

Rev. Roosevelt Gray Jr., pastor of **Mount Calvary, Houston**, accepted a call to Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne as admissions officer. He is a 1988 graduate of the seminary. He also will be active in recruitment and counseling and will encourage men who are considering seminary and the holy ministry. He was installed Sept. 11 at Concordia.

Rev. B.R. Brummett, pastor of **Trinity, West Sinton**, was the subject of profile in the *Corpus Christi Caller-Times*, as the newspaper features leading members of the local religious community in a weekly column. Witnessing to the paper's readers, Brummett said, "The world cries for love, but it needs the only real



Brummett

love there is: God's love in Christ Jesus."

Lord of Life, Plano, moved into its new multi-purpose sanctuary/fellowship hall Sept. 11. Gathering in the old sanctuary, members began a service of relocation by carrying all implements—their own chairs, the altar, banners and paraments—into the new building, and the first full service in their new building followed.



Do your executor a favor

by Glenn Pittsford,
Executive Director,
Lutheran Foundation of
Texas

Christians have a great opportunity and a great responsibility to care for and distribute their God-given assets which have accumulated over a lifetime. Formulating a good Christian estate plan, utilizing a will and



Pittsford

perhaps a trust and insurance, is indeed good stewardship.

Your will names an executor. After you are called home to heaven, this individual is responsible for distributing your worldly assets precisely as you prescribed in your will. Serving as executor is a very serious responsibility involving much time, effort and attention to detail.

YOU CAN DO YOUR executor, and your family and loved ones, a great favor by formulating a good Christian estate plan and organizing your affairs so that the executor can accomplish his or her task when the time comes according to your desires.

The probate process involves submitting the will to the county probate judge and receiving letters testamentary which serve as legal authority to settle the estate. The executor then identifies, lists and gathers

all assets, liquidates any assets that will not be directly distributed, settles the debts and obligations of the estate and distributes the remaining assets as dictated by your will. In addition, the executor is responsible for giving certain notices and for filing any necessary income or estate tax returns and paying the taxes that are owed. The whole process can be time-consuming and expensive.

REMEMBER that none of the process described above can begin if your will cannot be located when you die. It is important that the person selected as your executor, and any successors, be able to obtain your original will at the appropriate time. This requires knowledge of where the will is and access to it. If you use a safe deposit box for storing your will, make sure there is a second signer and/or check on the depository's procedure for entering a box after a box holder's death.

Sometimes an original of the will is held in safekeeping by the attorney. They almost always retain a copy which can, in certain circumstances, be used if the original will is lost (but not if the original was revoked or destroyed by the Testator).

The will must meet certain requirements set out under state law (Texas Probate Code) to be valid. In addition, an improperly drawn will can be more difficult and costly to probate and lead to challenges to the validity or interpretation of

the will. That is why it is strongly recommended to have an attorney prepare the will. The will is too important to take lightly.

It also is important that the will be updated and changed as necessary. The will should be reviewed every year or two to make sure it accurately reflects your desires.

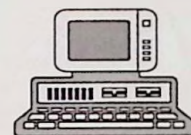
Once the executor receives power from the probate judge to settle the estate, the assets of the estate must be identified and gathered. Keeping a current and accurate list of assets and their location for the benefit of your executor in the future is very important. Without such a list, you can imagine the difficulty of finding assets and the likelihood that some assets may be missed.

IT IS WISE TO inform the person you have selected as your future executor. In case that individual is ultimately unwilling or unable to serve, it also is a good idea to name one or more alternate executors if possible. Often a family member or a trusted friend agrees to serve as executor. In some cases, the executive director of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas may be designated as executor or alternate executor.

The whole purpose of your will is to pass on your God-given assets to the people and organizations you love. Your will is an opportunity to make a difference, to leave a legacy beyond your lifetime. What a fantastic blessing and opportunity!

The Lutheran Foundation of Texas daily assists Lutherans in Texas as they develop their Christian estate plan. We are available to answer any general estate planning questions you have, and are at your service in cooperation with your professional advisers as you plan for the benefit of your family and the Lord's work. We look forward to your phone call at 1-800-880-3733.

This information is provided solely for educational purposes. For specific recommendations, each person should consult with his or her own qualified professional adviser.



May we click onto you?

Recently the Lutheran Foundation of Texas began using Microsoft office software, including Word, Excel and PowerPoint. We are interested in discovering other Lutheran individuals and organizations using Microsoft office software. If you are willing to let us draw on your knowledge occasionally, we would appreciate your notifying us at 1-800-880-3733.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Concordia opens 69th academic year

Concordia Lutheran College of Texas opened its 69th academic year on Aug. 28 with a worship service and rite of induction and installation for new faculty and administrative staff. Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, president of the Texas District, led the service.

"Preparing for a Purpose," the theme for the academic year, was also the focus of the service. "He Gave, Preparing Us to Give" was the topic of Kieschnick's sermon. The Chancel Choir from Bethany Lutheran Church in Austin, led by David Angerman, provided special music.

The enrollment for fall '94 is a record 707, with 124 of those preparing for church work careers—an increase of almost 15 percent over last year's church work enrollment of 109. The most popular major is teacher education, with 208 enrolled. Business management, with 141 enrolled, has the next largest number.

As Concordia begins its 69th year and its first year in 21 years under a new president, the prayers of all Texas Lutherans are needed for this bold ministry of Christian higher education.



A PRESIDENTIAL PORTRAIT—Dr. David Zersen, left, was installed as Concordia's president at the College's opening worship service. With him are his wife, Julie; Terry Kieschnick; and Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, president of the Texas District.

CLC professor takes his ministry to South America

When Dr. John Frahm began making plans for his sabbatical semester from teaching duties as head of the Communication Division at Concordia Lutheran College of Texas, he prepared to research a media literacy project. But the Lord had other plans.

Frahm was asked by the Brazil Lutheran Church, Igreja Evangelica Luterana do Brasil, to teach a communication course at its seminaries in Sao Leopoldo and Sao Paulo and to conduct communication workshops for pastors.

The plan called for three weeks of travel in Chile, Uruguay and Argentina, beginning early last February. The purpose for these visits was to observe the work of the church, adapt to the culture, and visit with pastors and congregations to discuss issues related to communication in the parish.

During Frahm's time in Argentina, the national convention of the church was held, and he was asked to deliver the convention essay to the pastors and lay leaders on various ways to improve communication in the parish.

The months of March and April were spent at the two Brazilian seminaries, teaching an applied communication course to third- and fourth-year seminarians.

During March Frahm was at the seminary in Sao Leopoldo in the south of Brazil. On weekends during that time, he was invited to preach at a number of worship services and to conduct workshops for pastors and congregations on communication topics. During one of the weekends, he and his wife, Sally, traveled to Paraguay where they met with pastors and their families.

The month of April was

spent on the seminary campus in Sao Paulo.

Before returning home on the first day of June, the Frahms spent two weeks visiting pastors and congregations in Manaus, Brasilia, Salvador, Belo Horizonte and Rio de Janeiro.

"Even though our time away was difficult, the experience was one of the most wonderful and joy-filled that Sally and I have ever had. Our lives were changed by our time in South America," said Frahm. "We were constantly reminded of James 2:5 as we experienced the love of our Christian brothers and sisters in South America and their desire to win the lost: 'Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom He promised those who love Him?'"



LEAD—Loans to Eliminate Accumulated Debt—will open the way to the future by reducing the principal of Concordia's debt through interest-free loans from friends of the college. Call Ray Martens or Mike Linebrink at 1-800-285-4252 for information.



Concordia of Texas serves as the doorway to Mexico

As we sometimes say in Texas, it's a "far piece" from Wisconsin to Mexico. But using Concordia Lutheran College of Texas as a bridge, President David Zersen has begun introducing other Concordia University System schools to Hispanic language, culture and economics.

Over Labor Day weekend he joined groups of students from Concordia Wisconsin and Concordia of Texas for an International Business Seminar in Mexico City.

"Concordia of Texas is ideally situated within the historical purview of Mexican-American culture," explained Zersen. "We intend to provide the doorway to the South within the Concordia University System."

The students from the two Concordias had the opportunity to observe the progression from the artisans of an-

cient times to the craftsmen of contemporary Mexico, through visits to the pyramids of Teotihuacan and outdoor markets, along with a visit to Manchaca Falk, a modern manufacturing plant. A series of lectures on international business completed the learning experience.

"Even though I grew up in Brownsville and thought I understood Mexican culture, my eyes were opened on this trip about the attitudes of Mexican businessmen toward America and American business," said Concordia of Texas student Raul Beisteiro.

"Experiential learning is at its most profound in programs like this," said Zersen. "I hope to involve more Concordia University System schools in similar studies of the global dimensions of business."



THE PAST AND THE FUTURE—Concordia University System students from Wisconsin and Texas learned about Mexico's past, represented by the pyramids of Teotihuacan, and her future, represented by a modern manufacturing company.



IN BRAZIL—Professor John Frahm (right) used his knowledge of communication techniques to help the Lutheran Church of Brazil. Frahm, Pastor Raul Blum and Nadya Blum stand before a cathedral in Sao Paulo.



A NEW FLAG FLIES OVER CLC—President David Zersen displays the new Concordia University System flag which now flies below the U.S. and Texas flags at Concordia of Texas.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOMES AND SERVICES, INC. GOOD SAMARITAN CAMPUS

Independence emerges at Texas group homes

For residents of Good Samaritan's Spring and Heights group homes in Greater Houston, learning to be independent is filled with fun and variety.

Joe and Evelyn enjoy the patio deck where they prepare picnic lunches. Barbara and Theresa help their neighbor take care of his dogs. In the process, they build social relationships and community ties.

Eight adults live at the Heights group home in Houston.

After the morning meal the Heights residents head for community-based workshops to learn job-related skills.

In the evening, Bible studies and other educational classes are held within the home.

Monday nights are spe-



Residents of the Spring Group Home do their share of the household work.

cial. Rev. Ronald Hampsten, chaplain from Bethesda/Good Samaritan, leads the Bible classes.

The residents work on Gospel lessons, memorizing the Ten Commandments and learning the meaning of the

Apostles' Creed.

"They do very well," says Rev. Hampsten. "I am pleased."

Like those at Heights, the six residents of the group home in Spring, Texas, learn to live more independently at home.

Five days a week, the residents go to day programming at the Bethesda/Good Samaritan Campus. Here the residents work on vocational skills to help them prepare for a job within the community.

Life for Joe, Evelyn, Barbara and Theresa isn't only fun and full of activity, it is a matter of becoming a part of the community.

Through their growing independence, they learn to reach their maximum potential.



Linda Loesch, regional public affairs director

Staff and residents of Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services all across the United States join Good Samaritan in welcoming Linda Loesch who was named Regional Public Affairs director.

Loesch worked for the public school system in Bay City, Texas, as the school district volunteer coordinator. She also taught adult education classes for 11 years.

"I enjoy meeting people and working with volunteers. Their enthusiasm is amazing," says Loesch.

As Regional Public Affairs director, Loesch is responsible for coordinating volunteers at the Texas thrift stores, acting as the official liaison for congregations and community groups and organizing special events for Bethesda/Good Samaritan.

Welcome, Linda!



Joe shares ideas with Rev. Hampsten in Bible class.

GRAND PRAIRIE THRIFT STORE is looking for enthusiastic volunteers to work flexible hours. Contact Good Samaritan (713) 351-4911 for information.

DONATIONS WELCOME! Hours: Tuesday-Saturday 10-9. Suite 122, Carrier Crossing Center, Highway 303.

The greens were filled as golfers and pros gathered for the Fourth Annual Greater Houston Area Good Samaritan Charity Golf Tournament **Oct. 3** at the Tennwood Country Club. Proceeds benefited individuals with mental retardation in your community. Make plans to join us next year and win great prizes!

PLANNED GIVING TEXAS DISTRICT



Estate plans should be reviewed every three to five years

by Bervin Mirtsching,
Texas District Planned
Giving Counselor

A question commonly asked of estate planning professionals, is "How often should I review my will?"



Mirtsching Although no one specific answer can be given to fit every-one's needs, there are certain guidelines that can help determine just how often one's estate plan should be reconsidered.

Many well-intentioned people believe that a will is done once and never needs to be updated. Because of this misconception many individuals die with an outdated will that fails to meet the needs of spouse, children and other estate

planning goals.

If a will can become outdated, how does one determine a review and possible revision is necessary? One simple way to determine if your will no longer meets your needs is to read your current will and after each section ask yourself the question, "Do I still want my will to do this?"

For example, your will may name a personal representative who no longer is your choice.

Your will may distribute your property to your heirs in one large lump sum. Maybe you now prefer your heirs receive their inheritance in smaller amounts over a period of years.

You may want to change the individuals as guardians for your minor children. These are just three of the

many items in your current will that you may want to change.

We also may find that if the value of one's property changes significantly, whether increasing or decreasing, it may be wise to review the estate plan. Substantial increases in values can trigger tax consequences that were not even a consideration when the plan was first adopted.

By the same token an elaborate estate plan designated to achieve certain tax consequences may be unnecessary if the value of the estate has seriously decreased.

Another reason you may want to change your will is to take advantage of the opportunity to be a witness through a Christian preamble. Most individuals are unaware they have the opportunity to be a witness by including such a statement in their wills. A

number of individuals have redrafted their wills solely because they wanted to make one last statement of their faith in Jesus Christ. Other individuals have changed their wills because they desire to remember the work of the Lord by leaving a percentage to a ministry of the church.

These are just a few of the many reasons why a will needs to be revised and updated. If you would like to review your present estate plan, feel free to send in the coupon below. I will be happy to visit you at your convenience to discuss your situation with you. Also, remember to contact your attorney to have any changes made in your will and estate plan.

If you would like to receive information on preparing a Christian will, or would like a confidential visit to review your estate plan, return the coupon below.



DIAMOND DELIGHT—Forty-seven members of St. John's, Wharton, went by chartered bus to Houston's Astrodome to see the Astros play baseball. The July 24 event benefited Bethesda/Good Samaritan Lutheran Home.

____ Send me information on creating a Christian will.
____ I would like a confidential, no-cost visit to review my estate plan.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Birth date: _____

Spouse's birth date: _____

Telephone: _____

SEND TO: Bervin Mirtsching
Texas District Planned Giving Counselor
7900 East Highway 290, Austin, TX 78724-2499
Phone: 1-800-880-3733; (512) 926-4272

THE LORD GIVES US SHEPHERDS



HERE am I
send me;
SEND ME

HAMILTON—Rev. Michael Buchhorn on Aug. 14 became the ninth pastor to serve St. John, Hamilton, since the congregation was organized in 1936. Involved in the installation service were, from left, back, Revs. Alan Struckmeyer, Francis Mennenga, Buchhorn, Otto Brillinger, Will Sohns, Gerhard Grabenhofer. From left, front, Revs. Kevin Lentz, Harold Wunderlich, Keith DuBois, Melvin Boehlke.



FORT WORTH—Rev. Norman E. Steinke was installed Aug. 7 as interim Parish "Turn About" Pastor of Christ Lutheran, Fort Worth. Participating were, from left, Revs. Terry Beltz, circuit counselor, preacher and officiant; Ben Rathgeber, liturgist; Steinke; Harold Hein, Vicar Joe Watson and Rev. David Bahn.



TAKES PULPIT—Rev. Kenneth Watson was ordained and installed Aug. 7 as pastor of Trinity Lutheran in Weatherford. Participants are, from left, Revs. Richard Nelson, Norman Finke, Glenn Huebel, Walter Albers, Watson, Roger Neeb, Thomas Handrick, Stanley Geisler and James Luecke.



CORPUS CHRISTI—Rev. Alston S. Kirk was installed Aug. 14 as pastor of Trinity, Corpus Christi. Participating were, from left back row, Revs. Wade Butler and Robert Sorensen. Middle from left, Revs. Gilbert Franke, Richard Nuffer, William Schuster, Jeff Brown and John Elser. From left front, Revs. John Sproul, Kirk, Kelly Crabbe, Melvin Brummett and Michael Moreno.



NEW SHEPHERD—Frederick W. Schultz was installed as pastor of Our Savior, Dallas, May 8. Participating were, from left, front, Revs. William Schultz, father of the new pastor; Glenn Merritt, Schultz, Preston Weatherly, Harold Jacobsmeier, Vicar Joseph Watson. From left, back, Revs. Paul Jentz, Ray Kahl and Peter Diebenow.



1944 CONFIRMANDS—The confirmation class of 1944 at St. John's in Lincoln recently celebrated its 50th class reunion. From left are Irene (Wagner) Borlack, Mary (Slegmund) Wachsmann, Lorine (Koslan) Boes, Gladys (Borlack) Frosch, Alfred Borlack, Lorine (Borlack) Proske, Bernie (Walther) Symmank, Elyne (Markert) Rackel. Three additional members did not attend, and three are deceased.

Turn-about pastor installed

Rev. Norm Steinke was installed Aug. 7 as interim pastor of Christ Lutheran, Fort Worth, for a unique role called "Parish Turn-About" pastor.

This is a specialized ministry developed by Steinke to assist congregations experiencing a decline in membership. It also provides assistance to congregations considering relocation. It creates and implements a new structure for ministry, mobilizes parish leaders, develops cohesiveness among members, creates a sense of hope and mission, develops an effective outreach program, and establishes short- and long-term goals for the congregation.

Christ Lutheran is a 42-year-old congregation in transition, currently worshipping in a rented store front in a shopping mall.

About two years ago, the congregation sold its church building and made the com-

mitment to relocate in south Fort Worth. Plans are to purchase land in this area and build a new church as the congregation grows.

They have your number

The Men's Group of Living Word, The Woodlands, sends teams of three into the neighborhoods asking residents if they would like their addresses stenciled on the curb for a small fee. It's a handy device should an emergency vehicle be looking for your house.

Special birthday

Ernestine Greinke lives in a nursing home. On Sept. 10, a motor caravan pulled up to the home, and members of St. Paul, San Antonio, hosted a birthday party for Mrs. Greinke. It was her 100th birthday. She's St. Paul's oldest member.

On pastor's mind...

Your Sunday whereabouts

by Rev. Marcus Mueller
St. John, San Benito

The old country preacher would always say, "A hearse is a poor thing to ride to church in." That makes the point pretty plain, doesn't it?

Why is it we Christians today seem to have such a poor record of regular church attendance?

The national average for Sunday church attendance is 40 percent. (The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is 40.2 percent.) That's certainly nothing to write home about. Forty percent in church means 60 percent absent. If that were a vote, the majority has decided. "Don't bother going to worship."

Instead of the psalmist's words, "I was glad when they said unto me, let us go to the House of the Lord," we answer in a multitude of variations:

"I was tired when they said unto me..."

"I was busy with housework/yardwork..."

"I was relaxing on my day off..."

"I was entertaining friends/family..."

"I was..." (you fill in the blank.)

Regular public Christian worship—it's where the Christian belongs. There always will be time for sleep, to finish the housework, relax or entertain.

As a Christian, you need to take part in the fellowship of Word and Sacrament. You need to join with your brothers and sisters in the faith to sing your Savior's praise and give thanks. You need to lovingly obey God's Word. *"Let us not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, as is the habit of some, as you see the day drawing near"* (Heb. 10:25).

If the wrong habit has settled into your Christian life, it's time to change. It's time to make Sunday worship a regular part of your life for the love of Christ!

From the St. John newsletter

Wagner retires in Houston

Pastor Richard F. Wagner preached his farewell sermon Sept. 4 as he retired at Trinity Lutheran in Houston. He had served Trinity Congregation in downtown Houston for 24 years and also vicared at Trinity from 1951 to 1952.

Wagner graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis in 1953 and then served parishes in California and Washington, returning to Trinity in 1970.

After the Sept. 4 service of thanks and praise to God for Wagner's ministry, a reception was held, honoring the pastor and his wife.

Adoptions carefully prepared

by Ken Cinco

LSSS director of public affairs

Karalyn Heimlich, director of children's services for LSSS, recently announced the agency had accomplished 4,700 placements over the past 50-plus years. I remember how excited we all were, especially since November is National Adoption Month.

However, that evening, my excitement was diminished when a TV program showed birth parents suing to have their relinquished child returned to them. So many hearts were hurting, and I wondered **WHY?!** Concerned about the effect such a program might have on our efforts to find homes for children, I discussed the issue with Heimlich the next day.

"For every one bad adoption experience there are a thousand good ones," she explained. She said what I saw on television was the exception, not the rule. Heimlich pointed out that, in Texas, there is a 30-day period after a child is relinquished during which the decision can be challenged in court. "However," she added, "the biological parents have to prove there was fraud involved, or that they were unduly pressured to agree to the adoption."

- She says avoiding potential problems is just one of the reasons why extensive counseling is such an important part of the LSSS adoption program. "Birth parents need to be sure their decision is the right one," says Heimlich, "not the least painful."

"Why," I asked, "would anyone relinquish their child?" According to Heimlich, the most commonly stated reason is economics. "However," she said, "it is rare that this is the only reason." Heimlich explained that often an unwed mother would like her child to have two parents, the biological father is not supporting the child, the pregnancy is the result of rape, or she feels a mixed-race child won't be accepted by her family.

- Heimlich says when parents relinquish a child that is physically or mentally impaired, it is usually because of one or more of three reasons: guilt (emotional problems with hav-

ing such a child), not being able to afford the medical treatment the child needs and believing they are incapable of raising a handicapped child.



"Children are a heritage from the Lord" (Ps. 127:3).

"What is our involvement with parents who want to relinquish a child? Many times people come to us feeling trapped and not knowing where to go for help," said Heimlich. "First and foremost," she explained, "LSSS provides them with counseling on the options available."

- Heimlich says that many times an unmarried birth mother is unable to pay the rent and faces eviction. In that case, the LSSS case manager helps the mother explore possibilities for help, including relatives or friends. Sometimes the birth mother can find someone who will let her share a place if she pays part of the rent. "In a situation like that," Heimlich explains, "we'll pay the birth mother's part of the rent." Occasionally it also is necessary for the agency to help the birth mother tap community resources for food and other essentials.

- "What about the adoptive parents?" I asked. "There are certain eligibility requirements they must meet," says Heimlich. "For example, in the Domestic Infant Program, both parents must be under the age of 45, married at least two years and have no more than one child already residing at home." But those are just a few of the requirements, and they differ, depending on what program is involved. "When a couple qualifies," Heimlich continued, "a professionally designed education process helps them understand the special issues that impact upon the development of an adopted child."

- After talking with Karalyn, I felt good again, confident that because of our genuine, collective Christian concern, and with the love and grace of God, LSSS will continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of thousands every day.

Holidays for caring, sharing

(hol'-i-day) 1. A day appointed by law or custom for the suspension of general business in commemoration of some event. 2. A day for special religious observance. (sea'-son) 1. Any of the periods into which the Christian year is divided. 2. A period of special activity. (*The Reader's Digest Great Encyclopedic Dictionary*, 1966)

For Christians, the "holiday season" is a combination of secular and religious customs. Our country's laws allow us specially set-aside days to celebrate and reflect upon the gifts of our God. We gather on Thanksgiving Day to express our gratitude to the Lord for His many blessings. Next month we will celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

The hallmarks of holiday seasons are always the spirit of sharing and the gathering of family and friends. This year let us remember those who are no longer able to gather with loved ones at home or with their congregation.

If you know someone in a health care center, residential treatment center or someone still at home but all alone, share some time with that person. Let the love and grace of God shine through you as part of your "special activity" this holiday season.

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



ALL IN THE FAMILY—On June 18, Rev. Walther F. Bielefeldt Sr., retired and a member of Zion, Tomball, baptized his great-grandson, Branden Aaron Bielefeldt, at Trinity, Klein. The grandfather, left, is Walter F. Bielefeldt Jr., an elder at Trinity. Walter F. Bielefeldt III is holding his son while mom, Corinne, looks on—four generations of God's family!



VERNON—Kenneth Bersche was ordained July 3 at Zion Lutheran in Vernon (Lockett). Participating, from left back, were Revs. Thomas Handrick, circuit counselor; Charles Paulson; Gerald Peterman; Keith Schweitzer; C. Dean Von Stroh; Jonathan Stein; Michael Matill. From left front, Revs. Daniel Canlon; Gerald Thiele; Carroll Kohl, district vice president; Bersche; Bruce Donley; Rusty Leavitt; and Monroe Husfeld.



BROWNSVILLE—Pastor George W. Price was installed July 31 at Trinity, Brownsville. From left are Revs. Leo Vigli, liturgist; Walter Pohland, preacher; Price; and Steve Morfitt, officiant.

Anniversaries

The following couples of the Texas District recently celebrated 50 or more years of marriage:

Hope, Austin: Mr. and Mrs. Hudson Powell, 54 years, Sept. 1.

Zion, Walburg: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mickan, 62 years, in July.

Immanuel, Giddings: Monroe and Laura Dube, 50 years, July 9.

King of Kings, San Antonio: Hilmar and Wallie Bechtold, 55 years, Aug. 15.

St. Paul, Harlingen: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dietz, 62 years, Aug. 17.

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Mildred and William Koepp, 54 years, Sept. 28.

St. Matthew, Westfield: Elton and Eleanor Jandrey, 50 years, Sept. 30.

Cross, New Braunfels: Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Schmidt, 54 years, Sept. 18; Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Roper, 56 years, Sept. 22.

Redeemer, Baytown: Mr. and Mrs. Herman Cholcher, 60 years, Sept. 30; Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Kieke Jr., 54 years, Sept. 7; Mr. and



WEATHERFORD—Milliard and Lillian Cates, charter members of Trinity Lutheran in Weatherford, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 3. They marked the occasion by returning for a visit to the church where they were married in 1944, St. John Lutheran in Denver, Colo.

Mrs. Clifton Davis, 52 years, Sept. 25.

St. Mark, Houston: Irene and Charlie Strokos, 55 years, Sept. 7.

Trinity, Sealy: Eddie and Lillie Kersten, 64 years, Sept. 7; Mike and Mildred Shelburne, 55 years, Sept. 16.

Messiah, Houston: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nintz, 62 years, Sept. 25.

St. Paul, San Antonio: John and Isabel Garza, 54 years, Sept. 8.

Trinity, Rosenberg: Charles and Annie Ludwig, 50 years, Sept. 8.

CELEBRATIONS

If we build it, they will come

Members of St. John Lutheran Church in Wilson have given a check for \$7,656.16 to Rich Risley, vice president of residential services for Lutheran Social Services of the South (LSSS).

The gift exceeded the 75th anniversary goal of St. John to raise \$7,500 for the Lutheran Home of the West in Lubbock, a ministry of LSSS.

The money is to be applied toward the cost of a new chapel. The present chapel will be lost in a remodeling project.

St. John members also issued a challenge to the other 14 Lutheran churches in the six-county Lubbock area to raise an additional \$15,000 in two years, also to benefit the new chapel.



CHAPEL BUILDERS—To celebrate the 75th anniversary of St. John, Wilson, members raised \$7,656.16 to help build a chapel at Lutheran Home of the West Texas in Lubbock. From left are Rev. David Mumford, Donald Klaus and anniversary committee members Betty Bishop, Betty Ehlers, Werner and Ester Klaus, Ila Mae Brieger, Victor Steinhauser and Rich Risley.

Send your news to Bill

Send your photos, stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:

Bill Wagner, editor
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499



PLANO—Ground was broken at St. Paul, Plano, for a building expansion that will include Sunday school rooms, larger fellowship hall, nursery improvements and office space. John Kah is senior pastor.

LA GRANGE—Jean Lester and her daughter, Morgan, entered the forever family of Mount Calvary, La Grange, July 10 by adult confirmation and baptism. From left, front, are Laura Moerbe, Morgan Lester, Micah Kiesel and Laura Bragdon, youth witnesses for Morgan. From left, back row, Jean Lester, Deanna Radenz and Pastor Dennis Bragdon.



SAN ANTONIO—Welcomed recently into membership at Redeemer, San Antonio, were these 11 new members. Pastor is James C. Martin.



CONFIRMED—Chris Goodell was confirmed recently at St. Paul in Wallis. There are six youngsters in the current confirmation class. Here Chris is shown with Lay Minister Ray Spitzenburger.



Touching lives for Christ also touches Texas youth

by Randy Potts

Project CAN-DO has completed the first year of focus on developing a passion for mission and servanthood among the youth and adults of the Texas District.

One could perhaps measure the success of this project by the wheelbarrows of concrete mixed, the gallons of paint smeared, the tons of debris moved or the number of Bibles distributed.

One can judge the success by the \$216,000 in gifts, pledges and grants committed from thousands of youth and adults in 100 Texas congregations, the Texas District LWML and the Wheat Ridge Ministries partnerships.

One could even measure the success by the 400 youth and adults who participated hands-on in mission outreach servant events in Texas, Mexico, Russia and Slovakia.

Another key measure would be the number of Gospel presentations made to people in four countries.

But perhaps the best indication of how God is working through the Project CAN-DO efforts is seen by the profound changes made in the lives of these young Texans as they have developed a passion for mission and servanthood. Here are some of the exciting responses from youth and adults who were bold witnesses for the Lord at summer CAN-DO events.

Texas Sites

"One of the youth expressed a desire to enter the pastoral ministry as a result of the Del Rio CAN-DO ex-

perience." *Ron Scherch, Bethel, Dallas*

"The most significant lesson that God taught me on the CAN-DO trip was one of thanks. I saw many less fortunate people on this trip (Del Rio), and it made me feel grateful for what I have and often take for granted. I noticed, though, that these people were content and happy with what they had, and this made me look at many things from a different angle. It was evident God was a major and wonderful part of their lives." *Mike Evans, Bethel, Dallas*

Mexico Sites

"This trip made me think about how things I thought were so important, I could really live without. Not only did I experience a different culture (Mexico), but my relationship with God was strengthened." *Victoria Moore, Hope, Austin*

"I am really amazed at what these teenagers accomplished in just one week. They really made a difference in people's lives. Not only the people down there (Mexico), but also their own lives. They put in long hours of work, slept on hard floors and never complained." *Mark Rhoades, Lord of Life, Corpus Christi*

Slovakia Sites

"The area of my life that I saw the greatest change while in Slovakia was my level of comfort associated with witnessing (beyond the venturing level). I became so accustomed to speaking constantly with others about God and what He has done. I hope it is a habit not easily shaken." *Melissa Frei, Lord*

of Life, Plano

"God used me as a tool of His Word. A boy named George had many questions about Christianity. God put the answers into my mouth, and I spoke them. I believe George accepted Christ as his Savior. I plan to go back to Slovakia next summer and to other lands. I know He wants me to be a minister and a missionary. Most of all I want to bring glory to Him in everything I do." *Carl Brewer, Salem, Tomball*

"I introduced Jesus Christ to a girl named Adrianna, and even though I am gone, Jesus is still there and so are the Slovak youth with her name and address. I pray for her every night!" *Amanda McLaughlin, Holy Cross, Nederland*

Russia Sites

"The one thing that really stands out in my mind was how thankful the people of Russia were for even small gifts, and a gift of a Bible was to one man 'more important than even food or water.' That is incredible!" *Alice Fuller, King of Kings, San Antonio*

"I worked with a Russian youth, and after a little over a week, he came to accept Christ as his Savior." *Ralph Kevin Ramer, St. Mark, Houston*

"I had an older man about 80 or 85 years old that I gave a Bible to, and you could just see the tears streaming down his face and the only word he knew in English was 'Jesus'. That just tore me up." *Amanda Rowland, Lamb of God, Flower Mound*

"When I was handing out Bibles and I would give one

to a Russian, their face just lit up like they had been waiting for that Bible their entire life. That was really a great feeling." *Kristi Walker, King of Kings, San Antonio*

"The thing that impacted me the most was how traditional and conservative the older generation was and how the younger generation was being Americanized, following the moral decline of the United States. This showed me how urgent it is to spread the Gospel quickly in Russia." *Paul Miller, St. Paul, Waco*

We give thanks to God for His blessings in this inaugural year of Project CAN-DO as the Texas youth and adults stepped boldly forth to expand missions and servanthood. Youth and adults are celebrating what God has done in their lives through Project CAN-DO rallies held at various locations around the state this fall.

So what's next? CAN-DO is a three-year project that seeks to involve youth and adults in missions and servanthood in a significant way. Plans are under way for expanding the project for 1995 and beyond.

Texas congregations can learn more about CAN-DO and join the CAN-DO team by participating in the fall rallies. Training will be provided for all '95 CAN-DO congregations (veterans and new-comers) at various workshops in January.

Plans are to return to the mission fields of Russia, Slovakia, Mexico and Texas, and possibly expand to new sites.

Seizing opportunity

Get the donkey for Jesus

The global mission is now. You see it all the time. Television brings it into your living room. You are even hearing about a telecommunications worldwide network.

Jesus says, ***"I have been given all authority in heaven and earth.... Go and make disciples in all nations."***

If we think about it, the Good Lord did not give people these technologies to just sell soap and soda. We have a mission we are to fulfill. We feel the Holy Spirit urging us into the task.

The Lutheran Hour Ministries opened its first international office in 1947. Today we have 31 offices and 80 different radio programs that broadcast the Gospel into 110 countries in 33 languages.

- Besides the thousands of volunteers with the International Lutheran Laymen's League, we have 165 staff people outside the United States.

Fred Bleeke gives these facts with great respect for the on-going, "down in the trenches" work that goes on by laypeople and the international staff. Fred is special assistant to the executive director of the Int'l LLL who heads up the ***"GO ... tell a NEW generation"*** ministry campaign.

What he's talking about when he says "international staff" are people whom others would call missionaries. He wants to point out that

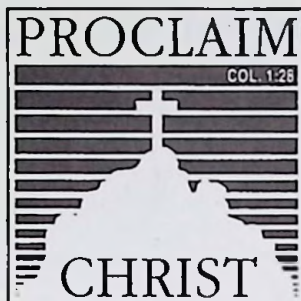
these international staff people often are from the country where they work. Lutheran Hour Ministries did not send them over there from here. They are Christians, there, doing God's calling as we partner through our sponsorship of Lutheran Hour Ministries.

- Bleeke says, "Come, now. It is time to see what you can do to help." He emphasizes gifts of money, because that's most easily converted from our country to theirs. His reports to the volunteers and leaders in Texas remind us that it is our benefits, concerns and interests that are expressed through our giving. It's often how we get things done.

We here in the Lone Star District would like you to write him and surprise him with your gift that may be for you the most meaningful gift you ever thought you could give.

- It will be used to do God's work. Bleeke again refers to the disciples who were told ***to get the donkey for Jesus***—the donkey on which He would ride into Jerusalem: "...Untie him and bring him here. And if anyone asks you what you are doing, just say, 'Our Master needs him'...."

Truly, the times are now for the global proclamation **BRINGING CHRIST TO THE NATIONS—AND THE NATIONS TO THE CHURCH**. Write Fred Bleeke today.



Theme Resolution

At the Monday session of the International Lutheran Laymen's League Convention in Fort Worth, the theme for the year for Lutheran Hour Ministries was declared: ***Proclaim Christ***.

WHEREAS, doors to opportunity have swung open in new vistas of Gospel proclamation throughout North America; and

WHEREAS, the advance of the Gospel continues in dramatic ways in key areas around the world, such as Russia, Slovakia, Germany, China, Thailand and in South America and Africa; and

WHEREAS, the Lord continues to bless the sharing of His Word through existing ministry outreach through radio, television, print and their various formats; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that, by the power of God's Holy Spirit and through a highly motivated laity, we ***"Proclaim Christ"*** in bold ways, following the words of Col. 1:28, "We proclaim Him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all the wisdom, so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ"; and be it finally

RESOLVED, that we, who support Lutheran Hour Ministries, strive to ***"Go ...***

tell a NEW generation," inviting a multitude of new supporters to join us in the prayerful effort of "Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church," all to the glory of His holy name!



Ken Weiser

New Regional Governor

At the convention in Fort Worth, Ken Weiser was elected Governor of Region 10, the Oklahoma and Lone Star Districts.

Weiser is a member of St. Paul, Serbin, where he currently is president of the LLL and an elder of the congregation.

His service to the Lord, for many years, at St. Paul was in various offices, including finance chairman, treasurer, elder, president and on the scholarship committee.

Ken has been active in the Lone Star District since 1956, serving as president from 1984 to 1988.

For many years he operated the Ken Weiser Bookkeeping and Tax Service in Giddings. Currently he is self-employed in a security investment business, and he conducts motivational programs.

He and his wife, Ruby, have four children and two grandchildren.



Growing in Christ

"Did you know that some of the pilgrims weren't just pilgrims? They were Separatists!" Jenny burst into our third-grade classroom with her newly discovered piece of history. With book bag still swinging, eyes dancing, she told me the story that moved her from paper-hat-and-apron pilgrim to a comprehension of a real, living group of people. Growth is an *intriguing* thing.

Late summer brought some room changes to my school. One moving day we enlisted the help of some teenage alumni. With frightening ease they up-ended large pieces of furniture, maneuvered them through doors and down halls. Were not these the same muscles that (just yesterday!) we taught to print the alphabet? Growth is *awesome*.

"I don't know all of the gifts I might have" an LWML sister told our Bible study group at the Christian growth workshop in Wichita Falls last summer. "Every year I keep discovering new ones. I guess I'm always changing." She is 70-some-

thing. Growth is wonderfully *continuous*.

My friend lay very still and strained to remember. Her body struggled with corrosive disease. She recalled stories of her childhood and early years and in the telling—the giving away of them—she gave away the trappings of her earthly life. She was growing toward a new life, perfect and eternal. Growth is *painful*.

He approached my desk silently, this somber child who had felt more hurt and rejection, borne more responsibility for siblings than any 9-year-old should have to. He placed his open Bible in front of me, "Look at this, teacher!" He pointed to Rom. 8:35-39. His voice was almost breathless as he read, "Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress?" He plowed on, through more difficult words, "In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor

angels..."—his voice grew surer and surer—"shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." He looked up from the page and smiled, cautiously, but his eyes revealed his joy: "Isn't that neat?" Growth is *life-changing*.

Thank God for growth. Thank Him for the events that produce growth. Most often growth happens at the point of greatest curiosity or frustration, or need or even pain. The Holy Spirit uses those circumstances to propel us from our inert comfort to fuller discipleship.

Living the new life in Christ, we need not fear growth. Our God, who guides and regulates the universe and its movement, guides and regulates the shaping of our lives. We stretch toward wholeness knowing that we live in the warmth of God's healing forgiveness. That forgiveness frees us to make decisions congruent with God's will for us. That forgiveness empowers us to love and serve those whose lives touch ours. So grow on ... and thank God for it!

Eloise S. Kuhlmann
Second Vice President
Texas District LWML

Mite report

September 1994

1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd September	
(all sources)	11,901
Rec'd to date	
(all sources)	43,955
Needed for goal	212,044
Sent to Int'l LWML	
(September)	2,876
Int'l to date	8,023
Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box 1224, Giddings, TX 78942. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.	

Scholarships paid

The Texas District LWML treasurer paid \$6,000 in August toward the fall tuition of seminary student scholarship recipients.

Randy Potts of PROJECT CAN-DO, is looking forward to the payment of these mite monies in order to continue this ongoing servant event.

Society treasurers... please send your mites in monthly!

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152, Lewisville, TX 75067. Deadline is ninth of month.





International LWML convention! June 22-25, 1995 Bartle Hall Convention Center Kansas City, Mo.

The 26th biennial International Lutheran Women's Missionary League's convention logo reflects the convention's theme, **LIVE ... BY GOD'S DESIGN**, and the basis from Micah 6:8b, *"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to*

walk humbly with your God."

As each woman focuses on the victorious cross of Christ, she lives a lifestyle interwoven by God's design "to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humbly" with her Lord.

The convention is being planned to meet the following goal statement: **In response to God's mission call, Lutheran women make a significant difference for Him.**

Convention highlights

Thursday, June 22, 1995

- Servant events in Kansas City area
- Experimental Mall
- Exhibits open
- Opening ceremonies, 7 p.m.
- CALLED ... by God's Design

Friday, June 23, 1995

- ON TRIAL ... by God's Design (A courtroom drama)
- Adoption of 1995-97 Mission Goal
- Balloting for Mission Projects
- SERVE ... by God's Design
(Mission Service Ingathering)

Saturday, June 24, 1995

- VICTORY ... by God's Design
- DISCOVER ... DEFINE ... DESIGN
(Interest-Experience Sessions)
- CELEBRATE ... by God's Design
(Performing Arts in Ministry)

Sunday, June 25, 1995

- CELEBRATORY WORSHIP ... by God's Design
(Rev. Victor Belton, proclaimer)
- SENT TO LIVE ... by God's Design
- Adjournment, 12:30 p.m.

Banner for '95 convention is needed

The Texas District LWML will need a banner for the international convention to be held in Kansas City.

Instructions were given in the October issue of **THE LUTHERAN WITNESS** for designers.

If you need more information, ask your zone president or write Pat Biar. Your society president will have her address. The deadline is Feb. 15, 1995.

Celebrating God's design 'performing arts in ministry'

A unique portion of the 1995 LWML Convention will be a celebration event featuring performing artists who share their gifts and talents used in personal ministry within the church and the community.

You (an individual LCMS woman or a mixed group) are encouraged to demonstrate your gifts and talents used ... in God's design.

Whatever your gift—singing, instrumental music, art, chalk talks, drama, oratory, weaving/spinning, clowning, puppetry, dancing or another ministry form, you are invited to participate!

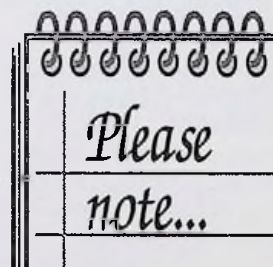
Betty Haar of South Dakota is chairman of this event. More information about "Celebrating ... God's Design" will be coming to you!

Plan now to participate!

One day servant event

On Thursday, June 22, a servant event has been planned before the official opening of the Int'l LWML convention. This fixing/painting/sprucing-up, pre-convention opportunity is open to women and men. Participants in this all-day activity will need to bring a willingness to help and some work clothes. Many hands are needed—skilled and unskilled—to complete the projects.

Plan to participate in this life-changing experience for those helped and for yourself!



Zone presidents orientation

An orientation for zone presidents will be held Dec. 2-4 at Camp Lone Star.

All zone presidents plan now to attend! This is designed and presented by district officers to help acquaint you with your **Leaders Manual**.

The **Leaders Manual** has been compiled by the member development chairman. It provides step-by-step information to help you as you serve as zone president.

Come, join in the fun and fellowship as we begin working together in this new biennium.



No fear, good news,



great joy!

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, president
LCMS Texas District

The words are so familiar, their reality sometimes so seemingly distant!

Who can forget the words of Luke 2 (NKJV), read and reread each Christmas and frequently between: "So it was, that while they were there, the days were completed for her to be delivered. And she brought forth her firstborn Son and wrapped Him in swaddling cloths and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

THE NEXT FEW verses describe the appearance of an angel of the Lord before shepherds who lived in the fields, "keeping watch over their flock by night." The angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11 NKJV).

No fear, good news, great joy! To be sure, there are times when fear, bad news and great sorrow are part and parcel of our lives. As a matter of fact, in the few minutes' time since I first started writing this article early one Monday morning, Terry came into the study with the bad news that her car is "deader than a door nail." A minor blip on the screen of life, to be sure. But, for the moment, bad news.

Your life, I would suppose, is no stranger to fear, bad news or great sorrow. My contacts with people around the state of Texas convince me that Satan is constantly "walking around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." His activity results in the trauma and tragedy that affect our lives in so many ways.

NEVERTHELESS, THE birth of our Savior, as announced by the angel to the shepherds, is the source of freedom from fear, good news and great joy.

The reason for this great news is expressed by St. Paul to the Galatians: "When we were children we were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son,

then an heir of God through Christ" (Gal. 4:3-7 NKJV).

That's the reason we have freedom from fear, good news and great joy. We are children of our heavenly Father! We are no longer captive to sin, death or the devil, as hard as they may try to enslave us. We are free, forgiven by our Father.

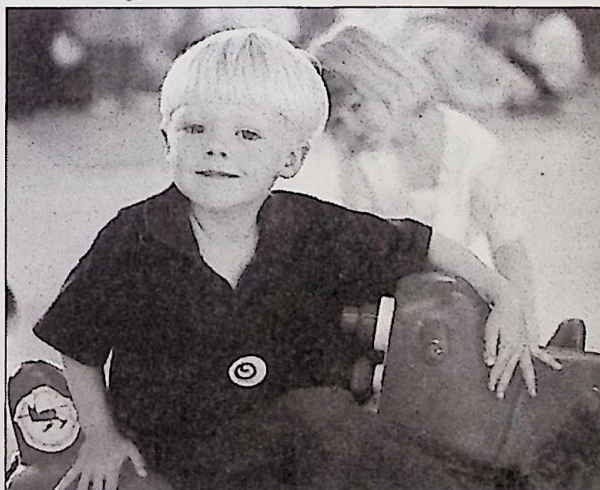
"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people. For there is born to you ... a Savior...."

MAY THESE FAMILIAR words and the reassurance they bring be a constant reminder of the reality of God's love, sent forth by God Himself, in the fullness of time, that we might be the children of God.



Pastor Kieschnick

A blessed Christmas to each of you!



FLYING HIGH—Eric Finke, Grace Lutheran, Killeen sits in a toy airplane as the Grace Sunday School observed a Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP) celebration Sunday. LAMP members take the Gospel to people in isolated communities via their aircraft, principally in Alaska. A Sunday school offering of \$203 was forwarded to LAMP.

On pastor's mind ...

HELL

by Donald R. Peymann
pastor, Pilgrim, Houston

There is an old story about a Methodist church that was not satisfied with its minister, so members went to see the bishop. They told the bishop that their church wanted a new preacher, because the one they had was always preaching on hell.

THE BISHOP DIDN'T like a church telling him how to do his job but he finally agreed to move their pastor. The bishop assigned the congregation a new minister. However, this new pastor was known to preach on hell more than anyone else in the area.

A year went by and a group of laypeople came again to see the bishop. This time, however, they begged the bishop to please leave this pastor with them forever. The bishop said, "Well, I don't understand. You wanted to get rid of that last pastor because he was always preaching on hell. What's the difference?"



Peymann

ONE LAYMAN SPOKE up and said, "Well, sir, the other minister preached that we are going to hell, and seemed glad. This pastor preaches on hell, and it seems to break his heart."

If you and I are to be active Christians, we have to be concerned about those around us who do not yet know the peace of God. As Christians, we are called to care. We are called to be witnesses of Christ. Christianity didn't grow in numbers because of pastors, but because laypeople wanted to share their good news about Jesus Christ.

IT SHOULD BREAK our hearts to see those we know without Christ. I know that we can become a congregation where this is true, but it doesn't come automatically. It comes with work and dedication, always motivated by the Holy Spirit. Come to church this Sunday and hear God's Word. Then go and share that "Good News."

*From the newsletter
of Pilgrim Lutheran, Houston*

SEW 'N SEWS—Women of Redeemer, Lubbock, needed their way to this handsome queen-size quilt that was offered in a drawing with proceeds going to buy bedspreads for the Alzheimer's unit at the Lutheran Home of West Texas. Quilters Leona Herzog, Agnes Wuensche, Pauline Schoppa, Grace Judd, Katherine Asjes, Mildred Graf, Mary McDonald, Lillian Rose Foerster, Lydia Luker and Velma Behrend.



TOPS IN SEALS—Dr. Les Bayer, right, area representative for Wheat Ridge Ministries, presents a plaque to Paul Paulson, president of Bethany Congregation in Austin, for Bethany's support of Wheat Ridge's Christmas seals campaign.

Bethany sold on seals

Each year, Wheat Ridge Ministries gives special recognition to the 15 Lutheran churches providing the largest amounts of support for the past year's Christmas seals campaign.

Bethany Lutheran of Austin was among the top 15. Pastors are Walter Harms and William Knippa.

On Sept. 11, Dr. Les Bayer, Texas area representative for Wheat Ridge, presented a plaque to Paul Paulson, Bethany Congregation president, during the church service.

"I'm very impressed," said Bayer, "that one of our Texas congregations was in the top 15 among the thousands of churches which support the Wheat Ridge Seals program."

Wheat Ridge currently supports some 60 projects around the world involving "Lutherans seeding new ministries of health and hope in the name of the healing Christ."

One new project being supported by Wheat Ridge is CAN-DO, a mission program for youth of the Texas District.





Texas District Mission News

by Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration



Rev. Ken
Hennings

MISSION TIDBITS: Central Texas laymen start church

How about you as a missionary?

Genesis Lutheran Church held its first worship service Sept. 19 in the Kingsland/Buchanan Dam area of Central Texas. They are meeting at the Highland Lakes United Methodist Church, on Highway 1431, near Highway 29, approximately two and a half miles west of Buchanan Dam, at 6:30 p.m. every Sunday evening.

Genesis Lutheran Church started when a couple of families living in the area contacted the Texas District mission office concerning the possibility of a ministry in the Lake LBJ and Lake Buchanan area.

A meeting was held with Ken Hennings, district mission executive and representatives of four families from the area. A plan of action was established for the starting of a preaching station, and the people took it from there. They secured a place to have worship services, ran an advertisement in the area newspapers, contacted people they knew and secured the help of a number of retired pastors living in the area. Their first service had 20 in attendance, with Rev. Eldor Mickan leading the first worship.

VOLUNTEER MISSIONARY OPPORTUNITIES

The district mission office received information from the Volunteer Missionary Service (VMS) program of the LCMS World Mission office, regarding a number of volunteer opportunities for people who can serve for anywhere from three weeks to two years. For 1995 the VMS program is looking for more than 180 volunteers to serve in 23 countries. World areas include Africa, Asia, Latin America, Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and the United States.

VMS is looking for people who love their Lord and are willing to share that love; people who are adaptable and flexible; people who are willing to experience some exciting adventures in God's kingdom. VMS is interested in talking to people who range in age from college student to retiree.

If you would like more information, contact Les Schmidt at the Synod's International Center, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295; or phone 1-800-433-3954, Ext. 1301.

Lariat proclaims Good News from brand-new facilities

The St. John Lutheran Congregation of Lariat has given itself a wonderful anniversary present—new and enlarged facilities. Fourteen months in construction, the new building was dedicated in special services Oct. 30.

Pastor is E.R. Greenthaner, who said, "God has indeed richly blessed St. John Congregation during its first 73 years of life. As we are making plans to celebrate our 75th anniversary and looking forward to moving into the next century, we realized our need for im-



Lariat

proved and enlarged facilities. God has indeed answered our prayers ... as we move forward in the proclamation of the Good News to the greater Lariat community."

THE LORD ADDED ...

ADDED—Thirty-two new members became part of the fellowship of St. Mark Lutheran, Houston, Sept. 25. One was received by adult confirmation, seven by profession of faith and 24 by transfer.



RICHARDSON—These new members were welcomed Sept. 4 into the fellowship of Messiah Lutheran, Richardson. Pastor is Dr. Victor Kollmann.



ABILENE—These 19 people were received into membership at Zion Lutheran, Abilene, by adult instruction, affirmation of faith and transfer. Pastor is Timothy Rosenthal.



BETHEL—These six new members were received into the forever family of Bethel Lutheran, Dallas, in August. Pastors are Donald Berg and Randall Haedger.



GEORGETOWN—These new members were received Sept. 25 at Faith, Georgetown. Pastor is John F. Selle.

WALBURG—The family of faith at Zion Lutheran in Walburg grew by four June 5 as these new members were added by confirmation. From left, they are Donald and Catherine Truxillo, Johnny Brabandt and Janet Hansard.





First books contributed for Lutherans in Brazil

Contributions of used books in the "Books for Brazil" campaign have begun to arrive. The very first dona-



Merkens now with Lutheran Hour Ministries. Merkens sent approximately 300 books from his personal library.

Used books should be brought or sent to Concordia Lutheran College in Austin. Books will be sent to the Lutheran University of Brazil for use there and in Lutheran elementary and high schools where about 40 percent of the students want to learn English as a second language.

Dr. M.J. Stelmachowicz of Austin is leading the book campaign.



BOERNE—Messiah Lutheran, Boerne, broke ground Aug. 21 for its new worship/ministry center. The building committee, from left, are Johnnie Saffer, Bob Jones, Mary Jean Cleveland, Virgil Cleveland, Arlyn Maloy, Pastor Mark Dankis, Will Jones and Wesley Bonecutter.

Hope Lutheran, Friendswood, dedicates its new sanctuary

Hope Lutheran in Friendswood dedicated its new sanctuary Oct. 30. Pastor is Ralph Hobratschk.

Speaker at the dedication service was Rev. Gerald Kie-schnick, president of the LCMS Texas District. The adult choir, children's choir and handbell choir provided music.



Hobratschk

Hope was chartered in fall 1962 by eight families. Her first sanctuary was dedicated in 1964.

An evening service featuring special musicians and area choirs completed the dedication and included a reception honoring charter members.

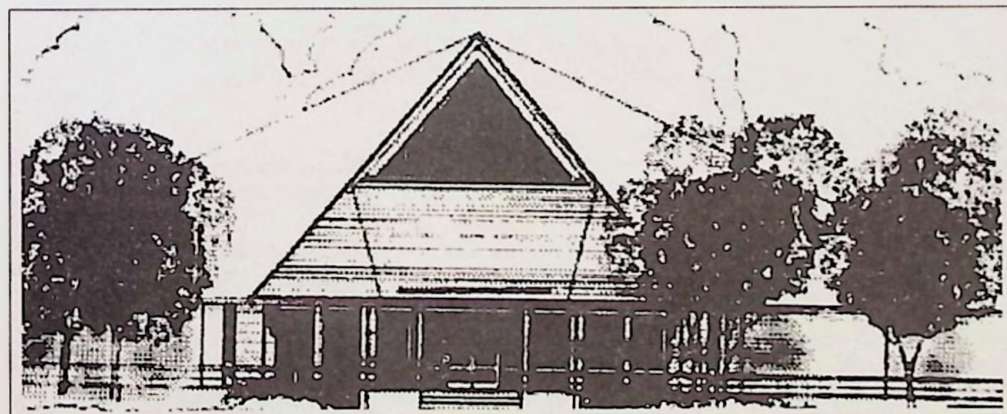
Boerne has first-unit groundbreaking

The congregation of Messiah Lutheran in Boerne broke ground Aug. 21 for its first building, a worship/ministry center.

The 13,000 square-foot building will include a 350-seat sanctuary, 12 classrooms, four offices, a kitchen and fellowship space.

The construction is financed by the Church Extension Fund, and Laborers For Christ is helping with the construction. Completion is expected next spring.

Messiah began in September 1991 with 45 members. Under the leadership of Pastor Mark Dankis, Messiah now has 225 members with average Sunday worship attendance more than 150. More than 60 children are in Sunday school.



FRIENDSWOOD—This is the new sanctuary of Hope, Friendswood, dedicated Oct. 30.

Our kids in Mexico

We beheld the glory of God's kingdom

by John Rice

We awoke to roosters crowing, dogs barking, burros braying. We worked in the shadow of cactus-covered hills and distant, jagged mountains, toiling in a dry heat. At the end of the day, we drove a rugged road toward a tiny village, with excited chatter on our lips and a song in our hearts. Although it was August, we wore jackets to ward off the chill from the cool mountain wind.

We were volunteers of CAN-DO, a project of the LCMS Texas District, on a mission to Mexico. We knew our job was to help construct a church. We didn't know and couldn't have guessed how much we would take away from this experience.

We came to Mexico to help build a church in San Raphael and to enjoy the hospitality of Pastor Juan Cortez and his wife, Gabriela, of the village of La Boca, about seven kilometers away. We saw the work of the Holy Spirit in the Mexican faithful who came by flashlight in the dark of night to worship in Pastor Cortez's church on the edge of La Boca. We saw Jesus Christ in the weathered faces of the villagers who live very different lives than you and I— without running water, flush toilets or telephones, in simple homes on small plots of land defined less often by fences than prickly clumps of cactus.

The church site is in San Raphael, a town near Saltillo southwest of Monterrey. Cortez will be the shepherd of the new church in San Raphael in addition to the church at La Boca. The San Raphael structure is envisioned as a combination sanctuary and youth facility, a beacon of hope in a land where poverty in the truck-stop town of San Raphael has driven many to prostitution and drugs. We were the last of 115 young people and adult leaders to work at the site last summer under the direction of Mark Ziehr of Bethany Lutheran in Austin. Much work had been done. We added what we could, but when our four days end-

ed, it was not without sadness. We were the last summer group of volunteers, and the church remains unfinished.

In our four days we worked on a 40-by-40-foot living area to the rear of the



SIETE NINOS Y UNO PERRO—Lauren Rice of Memorial Lutheran, Katy, holds village puppy as she is surrounded by San Raphael children. The photographer asked permission of a mother to take a picture, and the mother sent the children, both hers and neighbor children. Photo by John Rice.



NAP TIME—Pastor John Davis of Memorial Lutheran, Katy, takes a quick nap at lunchtime during a week of work at San Raphael, Mexico, by CAN-DO volunteers who helped construct a church. Photo by Gretchen Placke.

church. We were able to put the finishing touches on a septic system, run electric wire and install switches and lights, hang windows, attach sheet metal to complete the roof and pour concrete floors for a kitchen-

living room and two bedrooms. The living quarters are nearly habitable, awaiting an interior wall and a front door. But in the 40-by-80-foot sanctuary, the floor is still dirt, there is no roof and the cinder-block walls



are unfinished.

We were a group of 12 from Memorial Lutheran of Katy, joined by other Texas youth mission workers and adult leaders from Redeemer, Cisco; Bethany, Austin; and Hope, Friendswood

We will carry with us always the wide-eyed wonder we felt at beholding the glory of God's kingdom. It was reflected in the wide smile of a nearly toothless Mexican parishioner. It was heard in the celebratory worship services of a vibrant Pastor Cortez. It echoed from the chorus of "amens" from the Mexican congregation that followed the last soft strains of "The Lord's Prayer," sung *a cappella* in English by a Katy youth at a Tuesday night worship service.

We gave a lot to the village of La Boca and the town of San Raphael, but we took back much more. While the job remains unfinished, we know with certainty that others will follow our footsteps to the interior of Mexico, that the work will one day be complete.

(John Rice is an elder at Memorial Lutheran in Katy, and a youth worker for the church. He is a news editor for the *Houston Chronicle*.)

Send your news to Bill

Send your pictures, stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:

Bill Wagner, editor
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499



MAS CEMENTO!—The call for "more cement" was a buzzword of the week. Mixing away, from left, are Angie Frank of Bethany, Austin; Christy Hughes and Connie Welser, both of Redeemer, Cisco. Photo by John Rice



WOOD WORKERS—The only boys in the group from Memorial, Katy, work together on supports for the roof over the living quarters. They are, Brian Rice, left; Matt Hill, right; and Kendel Waggoner, rear. Photo by Lauren Rice.

His heart is in it

Junius Mattiza, a member of St. Mark, Houston, has walked to Japan—or roughly the equivalent.

The September issue of the newsletter of the Healthy Hearts Club noted that, as of Aug. 8, Mattiza had walked more than 7,500 miles!

Berean Bible study coming to San Antonio in January

The Berean Bible Study Retreat, a popular Bible study for laypeople at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., is going on the road with one of its first stops in Texas.

Concordia Lutheran Church in San Antonio will host the retreat Jan. 26-29, 1995. Assistant Pastor Patrick Boomhower is coordinator.

Rev. John Saleska, professor of pastoral ministry at the seminary, will take a sabbatical from his regular teaching duties to lead the study.

The Berean Bible Study was established in 1993 at the request of laypeople who wanted to study the Bible under the direction of seminary professors in a manner reminiscent of the Bereans, described in Acts 17:10-12, who received the word "with great eagerness," examining the Bible daily.

The study focuses on Christ as the central figure of the Old and New Testament. The message that Christ is the sacrifice for our sin, Saleska said, is "the rainbow connecting Genesis and Revelation, shedding its light on every word in between."

Other retreats are scheduled in Iowa, California, Kansas, New Jersey, Oregon, Minnesota, Canada, Florida and Michigan.

Pastor Boomhower at (210) 735-4094 can provide registration information and fees for the San Antonio retreat.

TEXAS CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Where were your investments used in 1994?

Another question that you might consider is how were your investments used in 1994. If you were an investor in the Texas District Church Extension Fund this year, take a look at all the ministries your investments helped support.

If you have any inquiries regarding CEF, call Bill Siegrist in the Austin office at (512) 926-4272 or 1-800-951-3478.



"This groundbreaking at Prince of Peace in Belton was made possible as a result of your investments in the CEF ministry."

Rev. Al Meissner
Hugh and Louise Coston,
CEF representatives



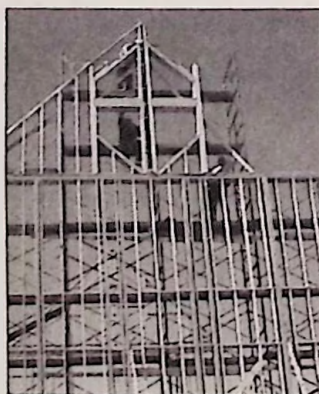
"Dedicated in 1994 as a result of your CEF investment" at Fishers of Men in Sugar Land.

Rev. Tom Van Duzer
Charles and Susan Ellingson
and Phillip and Sandra
Ludwig, CEF representatives



"A winning combination: Texas Laborers For Christ and Church Extension Fund." Prince of Peace, Belton

This is one of six Laborers For Christ projects that was completed in the Texas District during 1994.



Building up at Lord of Life in Plano.

Rev. Ric McMillian
Bill and Joyce Bamsch, CEF
representatives



"Rose Window" at Mount Olive in Houston
Rev. Randy Ledbetter
Morey and Patricia Krumm,
CEF representatives



"Future home for an educational building" at Grace in Killeen.
Rev. Mike Ramming
Thomas and Ruby Sisco, CEF representatives
Pastor Ramming will serve as the CEF Conference chaplain
March 3-5, 1995, in Austin, Texas.

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



Anniversaries

The following couples of the Texas District recently celebrated wedding anniversaries of 50 years or more:

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Helen and Bernard Palmer, 57 years, Oct. 11.

Grace, Denison: H.P. and Irma Adams, 53 years, Oct. 30.

Redeemer, Nacogdoches: Roland and Claire Bunge, 50 years, Sept. 11.

Peace, Garland: Wayne and Louise Law, 50 years, Sept. 30.

St. Paul, Wichita Falls: Alvin and Mildred Jentsch, 50 years, Oct. 3.

Hope, Austin: Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Koslan, 52 years, Oct. 18.

St. Paul, Bishop: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Felder, 50 years, Oct. 12; Mr. and Mrs. Hank Bahn, 57 years, Oct. 24.



GARLAND—Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Law, Peace, Garland, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sept. 30.

Gethsemane, Houston: George and LaVerne Webster, 50 years, Oct. 6.

Trinity, Rosenberg: George and Edna Szymeczek, 50 years, Oct. 3; Herbert and Gertrude Hartman, 50 years, Oct. 12.

Redeemer, Baytown: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Levea, 55 years, Oct. 2; Mr. and Mrs. William Cochran, 54 years, Oct. 16.

St. Paul, Fort Worth: Helen and Don Peden, 57 years, Oct. 9; Margaret and L.J. Hilshire, 55 years, Nov. 5; Peggy and Doc Thomson, 52 years, Nov. 7; Mildred and A.H. Boehm, 59 years, Nov. 22; Nelda and J.C. Parker Jr., 51 years, Nov. 25.

Bethlehem, Palestine: Joseph and Gladys Collins, 50 years, Sept. 16.

Trinity, Sealy: Joe and Bernice Hintz, 54 years, Oct. 5; Clarence and Nancie Hoppe, 55 years, Oct. 7; Kinch and Joyce Meyer, 50 years, Oct. 8.

St. Mark, Houston: Earl and Ruth Bohannon, 54 years, Oct. 26.

Epiphany, Pearland: Jessie and Lucille Ainsworth, 50 years, Oct. 28.

Trinity, Austin: Arthur and Hermine Moerbe, 60 years, Oct. 17.



65 YEARS—Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Drosche, St. Paul, The Grove, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Sept. 22. They are the oldest living couple in the congregation and still attend worship services regularly.

HAMILTON—Mr. and Mrs. Thurman E. Smith, members of St. John Lutheran, Hamilton, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Sept. 25. He is a retired public school principal, she a retired school secretary.



GLORIA DEI—Three new staff members have been added at Gloria Dei, Houston, a congregation now numbering more than 2,000. From left are Niki Stewart, who will direct junior high youth and singles ministries; Jonathan Thomas, who will be associate pastor and director of youth ministries; Senior Pastor John Kieschnick; and Wanda Herfarth, a registered nurse who will serve part-time as parish nurse coordinator, offering health and wellness programs.

SUMMER CAMP

by Mary Nebel

Last summer I was a counselor at Camp Lone Star in La Grange.

There are many things I'd like to share with you about the camp experience; what it's like to work with children of all ages and why Lutheran summer camp is so important.

But how do the actual campers feel about Lutheran camp?

Here's what a few of my campers shared with me when I asked about their week at camp:

"I think if more camps across the country



Mary Nebel

were like this one, more teens would enjoy learning about the Bible."

"Last year, I brought a friend who didn't believe in God or Jesus to camp. By the end of the week, she was believing and drawing closer to Him. Now she goes to church with me every Sunday."

"I think camp is very important because I can come and not worry about being cut down or being made fun of. I've grown closer to God by hearing my counselor's voice and hearing the songs of the other counselors around me. I know that through the music and messages, God really, really, loves me!"

"At Camp Lone Star, I learned through my cabin

"I think when you're young, it's great to have people around you who are excited about Jesus."

group and being on the Challenge Course to put all my trust in the Lord."

"I've grown in my faith by learning that Jesus went through a lot by dying on the cross for us...."

"...At camp I've discovered a lot about myself, the people around me and my Savior. My mom came here as a youngster, and I'd like to grow up to be a junior staffer and then a counselor."

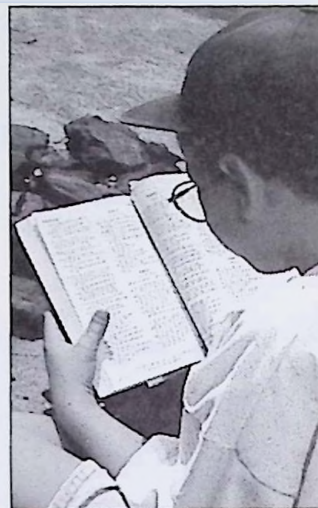
"I love camp. I love the people who work at camp. Everyone here has a special gift of being able to make you understand the Bible. They do skits and songs that make the confusing things in the Bible sound so clear. My counselors have always given me a good example of a life with Christ."

This last one is the most touching to me for it truly shows the action that is taking place at Lutheran camp.

I think when you're young, it's great to have people around you who are excited about Jesus.

In fact, there are so many stories I could tell you about children and teens who've been to camp and have left one week later as different people with Jesus shining inside them.

But the best one is about a 13-year-old girl who came



AT CAMP—You can't go wrong when you put Jesus, nature and children in the same place!

to Lone Star. She didn't want to participate in any of the activities or get into the spirit of things. But the group took her in and helped her.

One day we were talking about our Lord, and I asked my kids what color they thought God was? Probably

the most I heard were blue and green.

But this one girl finally said softly, "God is gold." At that moment, I could really see what was going on inside of her and that the message was getting through. The effect this had on the group and myself was in-



credible because we learned that God never gives up on anybody, and we shouldn't either.

It's because of the influence of camp on me and the youngsters I've influenced that I've decided to become a Lutheran teacher (I start my student teaching this January).

I hope and pray that you will send your own kids, grandkids, Sunday school children, neighbor kids (or any child you can get your hands on!) to Camp Lone Star in La Grange or Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro (also operated by LOMT). I also encourage you to financially support LOMT and its two camps, which will help all kids to have a tremendous experience in our Lord.

Because I believe you can't go wrong when you put Jesus, nature and children in the same place!

Singles Retreat at Lone Star

Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas is hosting its annual winter Singles Retreat Friday, Jan. 20, through Sunday, Jan. 22, 1995, at Camp Lone Star in La Grange.

Several workshops and sharing sessions will be available. Optional events include the Challenge Course (both beginning and experienced sessions will be offered) and a canoe trip.

For more information or a registration form, call Eric Sommer at Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078, or write c/o 2016 Camp Lone Star Road, La Grange, TX 78945.



BUILDING BUCKS—Greg Gastler, right, president of the AAL branch at Grace Lutheran, Killeen, presents check to Loren Stroup, chairman of Grace's building committee.

AAL lends helping hand

When churches need a helping hand, Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) usually is extending it.

The AAL branch at Grace Lutheran in Killeen presented \$876 to the Grace Building Fund, bringing total funds contributed for Grace's new educational wing to \$1,576.75.

Branch projects conducted included an Epiphany party, several silent auctions and a special program called "Down the Aisle" that remembered and displayed 50 years of wedding fashions.

1994 LOMT barbecue is the best ever

More than \$25,000 was raised at this year's barbecue and auction held at Camp Lone Star in La Grange by Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas, making it the most successful ever, according to Camp

On pastor's mind ...

Who would you like to go to heaven?

by C. Dean Von Stroh
pastor, St. Paul, Harlingen

Statistics show that almost half the youth within today's North American churches have had premarital sex by age 18. If you were to ask them what they believe, they will tell you the Biblically correct answer. The inability to connect beliefs with the actions is the dilemma for people of all ages in the '90s.

People may agree with everything the Bible says, yet may fail to grow beyond surface-level Christianity.

WHEN PEOPLE ARE challenged, they often rise to the occasion. Under-challenged people become expert evaluators of what the church should be doing, but aren't involved in the real study of God's Word. Each of us needs to be reading and studying God's Word in a way that combines Christian beliefs with actions.

Let God's Word direct a specific action each day or week. Be specific in what you dedicate of your life—time, talents or treasures. Be specific in your prayers for people, answers, problems and giving thanks. Be specific in who you plan to witness to—who would you want to go to heaven?

BE SPECIFIC IN confession of sins—name the particular action or problem. Be specific in giving thanks to God—name the person, situation or blessing.

When we do this, our faith takes on living, instead of something that is just a surface thought or relationship. Does God truly speak in our personal lives? Yes! He sure does and promises that He is there with us to deal with the everyday things of our lives.

MAY YOUR READING and studying of God's Word be a blessing to your daily lives as you grow in the rich grace and mercy of Jesus Christ.

*From the newsletter of
St. Paul Lutheran, Harlingen*

Director Garland Midgett.

More than 1,300 people attended this year's event July 31. Before the barbecue and auction, an inspiring message was given at the morning outdoor worship service by Dr. Oswald C.J.

Hoffmann, honorary speaker for "The Lutheran Hour" in St. Louis.

(Next year's barbecue and auction is Sunday, July 30. Mark your calendar right now!)



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Thelma Siebelitz
Thomas D. & Ribu L. Sisco
Mr. & Mrs. Terry Small
Mr. & Mrs. Gerald D. Smetzer
George B. & Marleda Snowden, Sr.
Pastor Tom & Beverly Sorensen
by Holy Cross LWML, Dallas
Warren & Vonnice Synder
Dr. Susan Stayton
Leroy L. & Elinor Steglich
Rev. & Mrs. Wilbert W. Stelzer
Mr. & Mrs. Fred J. Strieter
Dr. & Mrs. Varnes Stringer
Gretchen Sump
James A. & Artice F. Tate

Mildred H. Taylor
Herbert & Ruth Teinert
Otto W. & Elsie Teinert
Reinhold A. & Irene Teinert
Violet Teinert
Walter E. & Florence L. Teinert
Earl & Mildred Teufel
Mark & Kathleen Tews
Mr. & Mrs. Theodore H. Theiss, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Alan S. Thorington
Bea Tschatschula
Dr. & Mrs. Leroy Tschatschula
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel H. Tuchenhausen
Mr. & Mrs. Bill Turner
Monroe Umlang
Mr. & Mrs. David L. Voelter
Dr. Donald E. & Karen P. Voelter
William Volkmann
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Vorwerk
The Delbert Wachsmann Family
Ruth U. Wagner
Mark Wahlers
Clarence M. & Helen Weiser
Dr. & Mrs. Gary Wenzel
James C. & Sophie R. Werchan
Peter & Doris Wille
Dora Johlke Wilson
Chris & Miriam Winkler
Ruth Winkler-Hohbertz
Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Wolf
B. M. Woltman Foundation
Dr. & Mrs. Jerel Wottrich
Dr. & Mrs. Donald Zielke
Dr. Rudy & Genie Zoch
Telford A. Zoch
Prof. & Mrs. Theodore Zoch
James C. Zwernemann

Concordia Lutheran College of Texas invites you to become a Grand Reunion Hall Partner, by contributing \$1,000 or more to the building projects of the "Who Will Lead Us?" Campaign. These names will be featured on one wall of the renovated main dining room, or Grand Reunion Hall, of Texas Dining Hall. This effort will be concluded by December 31, 1994.

If you would like to have your name included with this group, return your gift with the coupon below. Generations of Concordia students will benefit from your generosity.

Name(s) to appear on the wall (Please print) _____
Signature _____ Telephone _____
Address _____ City, State, Zip _____
Make checks payable to Concordia Lutheran College, 3400 Interstate 35 North, Austin, Texas 78705.



CLEBURNE—Pastor Ben Rathgeber, Ascension Lutheran, Cleburne, commissioned Dalton and Deanne Noack Sept. 4 as educational missionaries to Ghana.

Texas Together In Mission churches send team to Ghana

Four Texas District congregations involved in the Synod's Together In Mission program have sent two missionaries to Ghana.

Missionaries Dalton and Deanne Noack were commissioned Sept. 4 at Ascension Lutheran in Cleburne, one of the four participating churches. The Noacks will be educational missionaries.

The Noacks left in September for Ghana in West Africa where Dalton is the coordinator for Theological Education by Extension (TEE). He is working under the supervision of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Ghana, helping develop a leadership training program for the rapidly growing church in Ghana.

Besides Ascension, the other Texas District support churches are Gethsemane Lutheran, Houston; Christ Memorial Lutheran, Houston; and Cross of Christ Lutheran, DeSoto.

TAKING CHRIST ABROAD—Four Texans have entered the Synod's Volunteer Missionary Service sponsored by the LCMS Board for Mission Services. From left they are Brian and Joleen Robins of Gloria Dei, Houston, and Dale and Annette Wolfer, Redeemer, Austin. They had a two-week missionary orientation last summer in St. Louis before the Robins left for two and a half years in Japan and the Wolfers a year in Slovakia. Synod has 110 volunteers serving in 23 countries.

Eleven Texans in leadership roles for '95 River of Light

Eleven youth and youth leaders of the Texas District have been given key appointments to leadership roles for the National LCMS Youth Gathering to be held in San Antonio July 2-6, 1995.

The appointees are members of more than a dozen program teams from 20 LCMS districts. More than 60 planning team and steering committee members met in November 1993 in San Antonio to begin planning for the gathering.

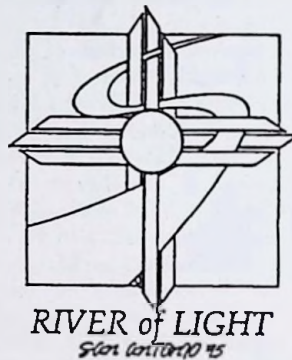
Theme of the gathering is "River of Light." Planners took a river barge cruise of the city's famous Riverwalk area, toured the Alamo-dome, convention center, Institute of Texan Cultures, Mexican Market, Mission San Jose and La Villita.

Teams focused on ways to help participants experience the theme and related Scripture passages through the various programmatic components of the gathering.

Texans named to the planning structure are:

Kim Schutt, Houston; Don Christian, Houston; Kathleen Lobue, Missouri City; Rick Leslie, Tomball, music and the arts team; Katherine Campbell, San Antonio; Paul Hennings, Pflugerville; Angie Nichols, Carrollton; Daniel Trevino, San Antonio, youth advisers; Les Bayer, Austin, evaluator; Keith Loomans, Austin; Tom Couser, Dallas; Randy Potts, Austin, Texas District advisers.

The gathering is under the sponsorship of the Synod's Board for Youth Services.





RURAL MINISTER OF THE YEAR—Rev. Paul Hartfield, center, pastor of St. Paul Lutheran in Serbin, was named Texas Rural Minister of the Year at the annual Town and Country Church Conference. Presentation of the award to Pastor Hartfield, a Texas District vice president, was made by Del Deterling, executive editor of Progressive Farmer magazine, a member of Bethel in Dallas. At right is Mrs. Hartfield. The award honors pastors for leadership and service to rural communities. Photo by Mark Dietz.

Who on earth shows us love? Sometimes it's just our pets.

In some instances, our pets are the only living things that are in our lives to show us love. This is sad but true, said

Pastor Jim Linderman of Christ Lutheran, Austin, as he commemorated the life and ministry of St. Francis of Assisi Oct. 4 with a blessing of the pets service.



Held at the entrance to the church, the service remembered St. Francis who devoted himself to the preservation and care of life, including animal life, as well as to the poor and needy.

Pets brought by their owners received a blessing during the service.

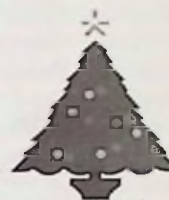
Refreshments for pets and humans followed the service, termed by Pastor Linderman as "a serious and worshipful service."

Gethsemane builds Christmas bridge to all its neighbors

For the last three years, Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Houston has given a special Christmas gift to the community around it. It is called the Christmas Traditions Festival. It will be held again this year the weekend of Dec. 9-10.

Born of a desire to share the real message of Christmas, this festival presents familiar traditions of Christmas from a Christian perspective. Special sets built by members tell the story behind the Advent wreath, Santa Claus, Christmas carols, the Christmas tree, wise men and the nativity.

LAST CHRISTMAS, an entire Bethlehem village was added. For one weekend in early December, guests from the community take guided tours. More than 1,000 attended. According to Chris E. Johnson, Gethsemane's associate pastor, the benefits and blessings of the festival have been many. "It involves hundreds of our members in outreach ministry," he said. "And it opens the doors of our church to the community. Most important of all, it allows us the opportunity to share the good news of Christ in a unique and non-threatening way."



JOHNSON SAID, "After our experience with this festival, we would encourage all congregations to use Christmas as a time to build creative bridges into the community."

One woman who attended the Gethsemane Christmas festival wrote this to the congregation:

"Dear Congregation: This evening I attended the Festival of Christmas Traditions. I could not rest until I expressed my gratitude for this magnificent gift to the community. What a joy to see all ages working together in such harmony and dedication to bring the Light to all. May your devotion and generosity beam forth like the Christmas star to illuminate all humanity. Blessings to all of you."

"EQUIPPED FOR PRAYER. EQUIPPING FOR LIFE" A Prayer Seminar in Austin, Texas

Feb. 11, 1995

Watch for more information to come.



ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

"I want to pray in a more disciplined way."

How do I find the time to pray?

—Ask God to help prayer become a *priority* in your life.

When is the best time?

—Choose what works *best for you*. Everybody's different.

—Jesus prayed: Early in the morning. Mark 1:35

Late in the evening. Mark 6:46-47.

How long do I pray?

—God gives no rules here. Try *five minutes each day*.

For this month: Ask God to give you the time to pray.

Texas District Prayer Task Force #9412

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

Dr. Ralph Bohlmann, president emeritus of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, spoke to the adult Bible class at **Concordia, San Antonio**, on the last two Sundays in September on "The Role of The Women in the Church."

Names and addresses are needed of former members of **Peace Lutheran, Garland**, for celebration of the 40th anniversary of the congregation throughout 1995. Contact Peace at 2929 S. First St., Garland, TX 75041; or (214) 278-5868.

With baptism being God's way of bringing the love and reality of Jesus and salvation into our lives, it was a glorious August at **Salem, Tomball**, as nine adults and seven children received this means of grace.

Rev. Leonard E. Ristow was installed Oct. 9 as pastor of **Faith, Sweetwater**.

Hope, Austin, had 106 visitors on its Friendship Sunday Sept. 18.

Pastor William Johnson retired Oct. 30 after 38 years in the ministry, the last 12 at **Epiphany, Houston**. He and his wife, Emily, were



Johnson

honored at two special worship services and an afternoon thanksgiving gathering.

He is the founding pastor of Epiphany which now numbers 850 souls.

Trinity, Port Arthur, celebrated its 95th birthday Oct. 22-23 with special events marking its progression from its original German roots to its current multicultural make-up.

A service of celebration Oct. 2 at **Trinity, Klein**, honored Pastor Roy Kieschnick as he observed the 25th anniversary of his ordination into the LCMS ministry.

Members of **Grace, Midland**, held a praise and thanksgiving service Oct. 23, marking the 25th anniversary of worship in their current sanctuary.

"Honoring our heavenly Father for providing us with meaningful and honest employment," members of **Zion, Pasadena**, wore the clothing they normally wear to work at special services on Labor Day weekend.

After 17 years as pastor of **Christ Lutheran, Amarillo**, Robert T. Kuhlmann retired Oct. 31.

On Jan. 31, 1945, **Memorial, Katy**, was begun. It will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 1995 with five special observances throughout the year.



HUMBLE—Vacation Bible school was a generational thing at **Lamb of God Lutheran in Humble**. Included in helpers for the school were, from left, Marge Harting, wife of retired Pastor Walter Harting; their daughter, Lois Herron; and Granddaughter Katie Herron, a student at **Concordia College in Austin**.

Happy birthday to Martha Winslow who celebrated her 96th birthday in August. She is the oldest living lifetime member of **Salem, Tomball**.

A special anniversary service Oct. 16 marked the 15th year of **Grace Lutheran, Crockett**.

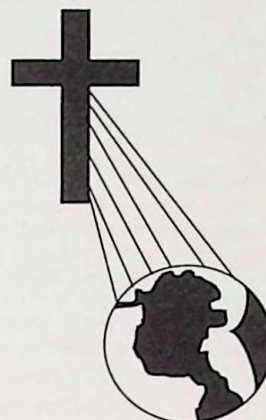
By hard work and help from the Lord, James Simonsen was a fall grauate with honors from the Art Institute of Houston. He is the son of Rev. Jay E. and Joan Simonsen, **St. Paul, Groves**. James attends Trinity, Houston, along with his brother, E.J. (Eric) who is a senior at the University of Houston.

Michael Moreth, **Crown of Life, San Antonio**, was one of six humanitarians to win the Governor's Award

on Volunteerism at the "Service to Mankind" awards dinner of the Southwest Texas Chapter of the Leukemia Society of America. He was named Outstanding Patient Volunteer.

The Mary-Martha LWML Society at **St. John, Hamilton**, is preparing to publish a cookbook with more than 500 favorite family recipes from St. John members. At \$10 a copy, proceeds will go LWML projects.

Grace, Orange, celebrated the 36th anniversary of its first worship service Oct. 12. First pastor was Rev. Eugene Heckmann, now pastor of Gethsemane Lutheran in Houston, and first vice president of the Texas District. Charter members still at Grace are Evelyn Eddins, Otho Haunschild and Charles Hawks.



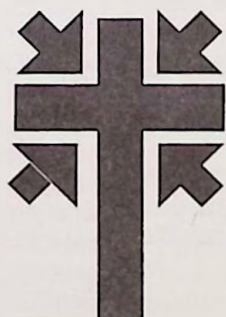
BREAD OF LIFE—MALAWI

**by Glenn Pittsford, Executive Director
Lutheran Foundation of Texas**

Is this group of people waiting in a bread line? In a way, yes, they are—only they are waiting with great hopes that they will get a piece of the true bread of life—a book containing a message of our Lord's great love and His promise of salvation for them. Today is mail truck distribution day. Each one in line is hoping that there are more than the normal 100 books of the Bible in large print in today's shipment. However, the small number of boxes would indicate that the number available will not reach to the end of this line.

It is estimated that there are 58 million blind persons in the world. Lutheran Braille Workers provides braille and large-print Bibles and study materials to people in 120 different countries in 41 different languages.

If you would like to support the ministry of Lutheran Braille Workers, founded by Helene Loewe Koehler in the 1940s please consider a gift in the form of a bequest in your will or a gift of an insurance policy. To find out how to accomplish this, simply call the Lutheran Foundation of Texas at 1-800-880-3733 or mail in the coupon below. We will be honored and blessed to assist you.



**LUTHERAN FOUNDATION
OF TEXAS**

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Austin, TX 78724-2499
1-800-880-3733 (toll free)
926-4272 (Austin)

YOUTH

YOUNG MISSIONARIES—Mission Sunday, Aug. 28, was a most special occasion at Redeemer Lutheran, San Antonio. Guest presenters at a congregational luncheon were participants in Project CAN-DO and Campus Crusade mission efforts. They are members of Redeemer, St. Paul, or Crown of Life in San Antonio. From left are Lydia Carson and Erin Pearson who went to St. Petersburg, Russia; Shannon Bresha and Shalon Richardson who went to San Rafael, Mexico; Lisa Gillian, East Asis Campus Crusade; Bethany Wiatrek, James Tessmann and Susan Miller who went to St. Petersburg. At center back is Redeemer's pastor, James C. Martin.



Our bright kids ...

Kathryn Biar, King of Kings, San Antonio, was voted to the Academic All-American team for the third straight year. She was a three-time all-district soccer player and earned NAIA all-American scholar-athlete last year. She earned the district academic excellence award all four years of high school. She's now a communication arts major, interning at a local radio station and running in cross-country events.

* * *

Bright kid honors at Ascension, Cleburne, go to Michael Ahlert, elected to his school's student council, and Larkin Gentry whose high school awarded him an academic letter sweater.

* * *

Ribbon winners at the West Texas State Fair in the hobbies and crafts division from Zion, Abilene, were Craig Martin (third) and Daniel Martin (second).

* * *

A world champion is a member of St. John, Cypress. Danny Zell was an outfielder on the baseball

Allison 'wired in' to limerick contest

Three students of Hope Lutheran School, Austin, were winners in the limerick contest sponsored by the Austin City Electric Utility.

Allison Martino won second place, and Alana Acevedo and Audrey Schmidt received honorable mention. There were 838 entries.

Here's Allison's:

*I'm a lamp with a cord that is frayed,
To fix it the humans delayed.
My bare wire got hotter,
So when touched by the daughter,
She ended up seeking first aid.*



DEER PARK—Eighty little lambs enrolled in the vacation Bible school at Christ Redeemer in June at Deer Park. Fifty-six were from the community!

team which won the Bronco World Series in California.

* * *

The district 4-H council chose Donald Mersiovsky, Prince of Peace, Belton, as its outstanding youth leader.

* * *

Three young people from Our Redeemer, Longview, were chosen for parts in a recent presentation by the Longview Children's The-

ater. The budding thespians are Margie Sorrells, Amanda Kirk and Ryan Kirk. Applause, please.

* * *

The biggest winners in Texas Wildlife Exposition's poster and essay contests are members of the Williams family of Grace Lutheran in Paris. Rachel, 7, is this year's winner of the kindergarten poster contest. Last

year, Rebecca won the third-grade poster contest, and Ruth won the eighth-grade essay competition. A younger brother, Benjamin, is waiting his chance to compete. The whole family including parents Dr. and Mrs. Ben Williams is fond of outdoor activities. Good thing, too. Prizes for the girls included lifetime hunting and fishing licenses.

* * *



Kurt Senske: "Only together can LSSS and the Lutheran churches reach boldly into the future and serve people in the name of our Lord and Savior."

Important LSSS position filled

Kurt M. Senske was named last month as LSSS executive vice president for operations. Senske graduated with honors from the University of Illinois College of Law, and also earned a master of arts degree in international relations from Schiller International University in Paris.

In announcing Senske's employment, LSSS President Robert C. Greene said, "Kurt's strong administration is an important asset for LSSS." The president explained, "Providing social services has become an increasingly complex undertaking. To be successful requires not just a will to do it, but the knowledge of how to do it."

Senske did part of his undergraduate work at Concordia Lutheran College in Austin. He returned to Concordia in late 1991 as registrar and assistant professor of government.

At LSSS, Senske will be responsible for the administration, supervision and development of human service programs.

Reflecting God's love through LSSS

Anita's dilemma

Just over a year ago "Anita," a young, single mother, turned to the LSSS counseling offices in Corpus Christi for help. This mother was mentally handicapped, and her 1-year-old son "Andy" had a cleft palate and other serious medical problems. Anita was not sure what she should do. She lived in a foster home as a ward of the state and desperately wanted her child to have a permanent family—one with the means to provide the extensive surgery and therapy her child needed.

BEFORE ANY decisions were made, Anita received extensive professional counseling through LSSS. All options were carefully examined and explained.

"It's a very difficult decision to make," says Karalyn Heimlich, LSSS director of Children's Services. "Often, birth parents have to decide whether, by letting go, they are providing a better life for their child."

Anita decided to put her son up for adoption. A short time later, the little boy was adopted by a loving family with the resources to provide the special medical attention he needed.

THE LSSS STAFF realized that despite her mental limitations, Anita possessed a great deal of common sense and insight. So, Anita was referred to our Preparation for Adult Living (PAL) program. She studied diligently and obtained a high school education.

Anita is now happily married to someone who cares for her very much.

BECAUSE LSSS was there at a critical time in her life, this young woman was able to create a better future for herself and her son.

LSSS employee heaven-sent

Not long after Loni Dulin celebrated her 25th birthday, she accepted the director of Social Services position at the Lutheran Home of West Texas in Lubbock. Her mother says, "Loni had several goals set for herself, and among them was working in a Christian facility."

Loni's love for people and dedication to her job became well-known. Those who were hurting would go to her for help—like the elderly resident who had trouble adjusting to the need for assistance from others, or family members of residents who found it difficult to accept the fact that a loved one required more help than they could provide.

"**LONI USED TO** tell me," her father explained, "how wonderful and sweet all the staff members were and how they loved the residents." Lutheran Home Administrator Sue Gentry says Loni wanted to continue helping people even after she became ill.

Loni was called home to heaven last January after a courageous battle with a malignancy. Her stay with us was short, but the Lord packed a lot of "joy" into the life He had created only 25 years before.

IN A LETTER to the staff at Lutheran Home of West Texas, Loni's parents said, "We can't start to tell you how much the home meant to Loni during her illness." The letter concludes, "We know now that the Lord arranged that job for her."

In Eph. 2:10 we read, "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

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CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



CENTERVILLE—Our Savior Lutheran, Centerville, received seven new members Sept. 11 by profession of faith and transfer. Rev. Phil Konz is pastor of this congregation in the farming and ranching community.



AUSTIN—Rev. Kevin Westergren, center, was installed Sept. 11 as a pastor of Redeemer Lutheran, Austin, joining Pastor David Schroder, left, on the pastoral staff. The installer, right, was Redeemer's Pastor Emeritus Louis Pabor.

ARLINGTON—Joe Watson, left, was inducted Aug. 7 as vicar of Holy Cross, Arlington. He is a student at the St. Louis seminary. With him is the pastor, David L. Bahn.



CISCO—A '94 graduate of the St. Louis seminary, Rev. George "Bill" Lowrey was installed July 10 as pastor at Redeemer, Cisco. Participating were, from left, were Revs. Donald Loeschen, vacancy pastor; LaVerne Janssen, circuit counselor and installer; Lowrey; Roger Neeb, proclaiming minister; and Ernest Schoenborn.



THE GROVE—Members of St. Paul Lutheran, The Grove, give thanks to the Lord for the addition of six new members, all coming to the St. Paul fellowship by adult confirmation. Two also received baptism. With them is Pastor Kevin Lentz.



GROWING—Through confirmation and transfer, these new members joined the forever family at Messiah Lutheran, Richardson, Sept. 25. Pastor is Dr. Victor Kollmann.

More than 50 radio stations now air 'Woman to Woman'

"Woman to Woman," a new radio program joining the line-up of Lutheran Hour Ministries and hosted by Phyllis Wallace, is now aired on more than 50 radio stations, and the number is increasing.

STAFF MEMBERS for Lutheran Hour Ministries had hoped that the program would be airing on 36 stations by May 1, 1995, marking the first anniversary of the program's national syndication. But the goal has been surpassed in only four months. "We're very thankful that God is continuing to bless this program," says Mark Eischer, senior producer of the program.

"Radio stations have contacted us, asking to air a series of interviews with Phyllis Wallace in addition to the weekly broadcasts of the program. This is a timely program, and it is God's providence that it came together at this point," explains Eischer.

Wallace says, "The growth of the program is a great blessing and serves as a personal reminder that God is in control. I know that God is full of surprises. We never know when the seeds we plant are going to spring up."

"PEOPLE HAVE taken 'Woman to Woman' audio-cassette tapes to local radio stations and asked that they begin airing the program," says Eischer.

For information on stations airing "Woman to Woman" or to help bring the

broadcast to your area, call Vi Knickrehm at 1-800-944-3450, Ext. 137.

There is good news for people living in the northern area of Texas. Two stations in that area now broadcast "Woman to Woman." They are KJIM radio, Denison, Texas, 1500 on the AM dial at 10 a.m., Thursday, and KBEL radio, Idabel, Okla., 1240 on the AM dial at 1:25 p.m., Wednesday.

More Good News

On Oct. 16, KIIZ-FM radio, Killeen, Texas, 92.3 on the FM dial, began airing "The Lutheran Hour" at 8 a.m. Sundays. This move in the Killeen-Temple area is part of "The Lutheran Hour" marketing plan to increase the number of listeners and improve national coverage.

World Outreach

The Lutheran high school building in Slovakia rehabbed and funded by American Lutheran Volunteers is now open. Dedication was held Sept. 18 for the Evanjelicke Gymnazium of Tisovec.

"The Evanjelicke Gymnazium is a miracle," says Julie Ballantyne, a Canadian teacher who works at the school. Many people thought that it would not survive, but God had a different plan."

More than 200 Lutheran volunteers helped renovate the school building, and

GOOD NEWS

more than \$140,000 was collected at Lutheran Hour Ministries' recent annual convention to ensure that the school could afford to open for the academic year.

Slovakia wasn't the only country to benefit from our recent convention. Representatives from China, Brazil, Ghana, Norway and Thailand shared with 1,300 convention attendees how God is working through Lutheran Hour Ministries in their countries.

Dr. Han Wenzao of the China Christian Council, the governing body of the Chinese church, told the rapt audience, "God has blessed our partnership with you. Together, we are doing ministry in China that no other organization can do."

In addition, a partnership agreement was signed at the convention with Norway's NOREA radio, which will foster a cooperative ministry effort to reach more countries across the globe.

MOSCOW, Russia—More than 10,000 Bibles have been sent to fill requests for Bibles to the Russia Lutheran Hour office here, and Dr. Richard Bode, director of the office, says about 4,000 people have enrolled in the Bible correspondence course.

Bode reports that 200 people have already graduated

from the 10-lesson course.

Other outreach activities from Lutheran Hour Ministries here include translation into Russian of the documentary "Yeshua," which is hosted by Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, and translation into Russian of "Christmas Is," an animated Christmas special for television. Also the production of a new five-minute radio program, "The Living Bible," which is airing nationally.

Bode adds that the other radio programs—the daily five-minute "Eternal Truth" devotional and the 15-minute "Joy"—continue to attract

more than 500 responses weekly and the response continues to grow. "We had 120 people call in one morning," notes Bode. "We are constantly amazed by God's rich blessings on our effort." *Used by permission.*

Compadres Todos

We are praying for God's blessing when the program of "Compadres Todos" is presented at your LLL zone rally, in your congregation or in your local LLL group.

Please send us the results of your "Compadres Todos" presentation.

Send your LLL news to:

Irene Teinert
Information
Coordinator
1501 Barbara St.
Austin, TX 78757



Lutheran Hour
Ministries





Rev. Kim DeVries

Giving and receiving

One of the most difficult things to do is to receive a gift graciously. Sometimes it seems easier to give than to receive. Someone pays us a compliment, and we don't know how to respond. A friend presents us an unexpected surprise, and we are awkward and uncomfortable as we take it. Our hesitancy in accepting the gift can diminish the giver's joy.

As Christians we need to learn both how to give and receive gifts. God is the greatest giver of all. He gave us His Son to be our Savior. Each day He fills our life with good things. He daily loves and forgives us. God wants us to enthusiastically take these professed gifts from Him, not reject them or reluctantly receive them. We receive God's gifts best in gratitude and as we share and then use them in service to others.

When others give us a compliment or a gift, we should likewise graciously accept and acknowledge it, assuming they are sincere. We show that we appreciate their thoughtfulness as we



open the package in their presence and comment on their selection. Our gracious response to someone's gift also brings them joy and satisfaction. This is the way giving becomes truly more blessed than receiving, and both donor and recipient benefit from the gift as God intends.

At this holy season many people are exchanging gifts. Some gifts are big; some are small. People often worry if someone will like their gift. We can put others at ease by being a gracious receiver and being thankful for each expression of good will. It may not be what we would have chosen for ourselves, but it is still gratifying to be remembered.

By becoming good at accepting gifts we can bring a lot of joy to others and thus fulfill Christ's words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Rev. Kim DeVries
Pastoral Counselor
Texas District LWML



ESP skit

The Effective Society Planning skit that was presented at the convention is available from Shannon Reid, chairman of the Nominations Committee.

Her address is included in the recent *Member Development Newsletter* or convention manual. If you do not have access to either, you may contact the district news editor.



YWR newsletter

Rosanne Capdeville, chairman of the Texas District LWML Committee on Young Women, reports the first issue of *Beginnings*.

This is an exciting newsletter to be published twice a year for young women representatives.

It is designed to give information on available resources within the LWML and help in writing and presenting a devotion or short program for a society or zone meeting.

Thanks to Dina Klotz, who is an outgoing member, and welcome to Laurenda Wolford, a recent addition to the committee. Katherine McNeal will serve until the end this year, then Dawn Weiser, our current district young woman representative, will join the committee.

The Texas District LWML rejoices to see yet another example of our leadership reaching out to encourage and support those willing to serve. To God be the glory!



Mission projects video

A video of the newly adopted mission projects is available for loan.

You may obtain it from Florence Winkler, Texas District LWML fourth vice president.

If your society or zone would like to include this in a program on mite giving, you may rent it for the cost of postage.

Names and addresses of all district officers have been published by the member development chairman in a recent newsletter. If, however, you need an address, contact the district news editor.

LWML

News from around the district

• The LWML, Prince of Peace, Carrollton, found a wonderful way to bless others by holding a very unusual baby shower!

The baby was born in October in St. Petersburg, Russia. The proud parents are Rev. Sergei and Nina Timokhin. The Timokhins serve the largest Lutheran church in St. Petersburg.

Rev. Stephen Wagner, senior pastor, Prince of Peace, met the Timokhins when the Prince of Peace team first visited Russia in January 1993.

Sergei was in the United States in March and was a guest speaker at Prince of Peace. His testimony gripped the congregation as he told of life in the Soviet Union. He shared how God has used him in a mighty way to win many Russians to Christ.

The gifts will be carried directly to St. Petersburg in June by the Tipsword family, members of Prince of Peace.

The LWML also donated many other items for the older children and family.

The Timokhins were overwhelmed by the generous outpouring of love!

Prince of Peace LWML continues to support this ministry and others through its worldwide outreach.

• Karen Schade reports the **White Oak Zone Fall Rally** was held Oct. 9 at Gethsemane, Houston.

The women chose *Walking in the Light* as the

theme, with guest speaker Janet Strauss from Christ the King in Kingwood.

• Sharon Sherbert reports the **LWML of Grace, Lamesa**, held a fund-raising ice cream social.

Delicious homemade ice cream and cookies were served.

Bingo was played, with prizes given to the winners.

The proceeds were shared with Grace society's World Vision child from Brazil and Larry Noack who serves with Wycliff Bible Translators.

• Clarice Pauls reports that **LWML at Lamb of God, Flower Mound**, will celebrate Christmas in two ways: Each member will bring a new toy for Christian Community Action, and LWML members will exchange gifts, revealing their secret pals.

After singing favorite Christmas carols, they will share special Christmas recipes.

• The **South Plains Zone** met Sept. 18 at St. Paul, Wilson.

Glenna Beyer reports the featured speaker was Jane Pase.

She presented a one-woman drama on the life of Katherine Luther.

She is the Young Woman Representative of the South Plains Zone and wife of Rev. Robert Pase of Grace, Lamesa.

• On Aug. 8 the **LWML of Redeemer, Lubbock**, hosted a birthday party for everyone in the congregation!



Jane Pase, South Plains Zone YWR, presents a one-woman drama on the life of Katherine Luther at recent zone meeting.

In addition to a potluck dinner, society members decorated 12 tables, one for each month of the year. Birthday cakes, made specially for each table, were enjoyed by participants seated at the table of their birthday month.

The choir provided entertainment. And the LWML presented a skit encouraging all Christians to use their unique gifts in building up God's kingdom. A great time was had by all!

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152, Lewisville, TX 75067; or fax them to 817-491-0105. Deadline is ninth of month.

Mite report October 1994

1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd October (all sources)	11,473
Rec'd to date (all sources)	55,929
Needed for goal	212,044
Sent to Int'l LWML (October)	2,849
Int'l to date	8,023

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box 1224, Giddings, TX 78942. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.**