

Is the Lord calling you?

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick,
President of the LCMS
Texas District

My previous background was in military intelligence in the late 1960s (including a one-year assignment in Vietnam). After discharge from the military I began college, managed a lumber yard in Abilene, Texas, and began my own construction firm there.

My family background is this: my wife, Ollie, is a registered nurse. We have two children, James, who is 17 and a high school senior, and a daughter, Amber, who is 24, as well as a grandson, Justyn, who is going on 3.

• My decision to attend seminary was influenced by a number of people including my former home pastor in Abilene, Robert Hagemann. His "mentoring" of me—by that I mean specifically his taking me under his wing and allowing me to grow in teaching and other important facets of church life—was a major contributor to my attendance at the seminary.

In the same vein, Pastor Hagemann's wife was a tremendous blessing to my wife in helping her understand the vital role that a wife plays both at the seminary and when her husband is an ordained pastor.

We finally made the commitment to attend the seminary in spring 1985. There was much discussion in the family, my wife's career and our children's place in the school and neighborhood. At that time our children were 8 and 14. They were

**Second career
men are saying:**

HERE am I
send me
SEND ME

supportive but at the same time felt uprooted from friends and neighborhood.

Financially the impact on the family was significant, but was workable. I did work while I was a student at the seminary. That added an element of time-away stress, but with careful scheduling it again was workable.

• For us the lows of the seminary were moving: from Abilene to Fort Wayne, Ind., from Fort Wayne to Iowa, from Iowa to Fort Wayne.

The highs were the community activities, both the seminary community and the Fort Wayne community; the friendships that were developed between the seminary families, and the incredible theological academics which I was privileged to study.

I believe that the maturity of having been in the work force for at least a few years was a true blessing. It afforded me a sense of purpose and calm about the studies and amount of work. I believe that family dynamics, the move, finances, etc., are an important issue to consider and be aware of.

• The support and love of family, wife and children was a genuine key to a good

seminary experience. I know that by the grace of God we were drawn an enormous amount, as a family, closer in our relationship to God as a result of the whole seminary experience.

* * *

The testimony you have just read was written by Rev. James C. Martin, pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church in San Antonio. His story is not unusual, but it is unique.

Jim and Ollie Martin and their children are representative of a growing phenomenon—the second-career seminary student who leaves a business, a profession, a career in response to the Lord's call into full-time pastoral ministry. Many wives of such seminary students also leave a professional position or career ladder opportunity to accompany and support husband and children for the duration of their seminary experience.

• According to recent statistics, approximately 57 percent of all students currently enrolled at our LCMS seminaries in Fort Wayne and St. Louis are second career students. In the next few issues of the *Texas Messenger* we will hear from some of those whose stories are as unique as that of Pastor and Mrs. Martin.

In the meantime, perhaps you or someone you know might be hearing the Lord calling you. Listen closely to what He may be telling you through the voices of friends, family, associates,

pastors, fellow church members, events and experiences in your life.

And be prepared, like Samuel, to say, "*Speak, Lord, for your servant hears.*"



Martin

Kieschnick

**Special word
about district
prayer seminar**
by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick

It is my privilege and pleasure to announce and to participate in the Texas District Prayer Seminar scheduled for Feb. 11 at Christ Lutheran Church in Austin.

The opening devotion will begin at 9 a.m. and the entire seminar will include topics like:

- The Scriptural Components of Prayer;
- The Practical Components of Prayer Life;
- How to Establish a Prayer Ministry in Your Congregation;
- More Disciplines for Deeper Spiritual Life;
- The Pastor and His Prayer Life;
- Teaching Children to Pray;
- Praying for Others: Intercessory Prayer;
- Overcoming Barriers to an Active Prayer Life;
- How to Pray to a "Silent"

(Continued on next page.)

NEWS

PRAYER

(Continued from Page A.)

God."

In addition, and quite significantly, time for actual prayer will be set aside during this seminar.

Presenters will include Brad Hoefs, David Luecke, James Linderman, Richard Covey, Diane Mommsen, Betty Bobo, Jeanette Schaefer, James Craver and Ray Schkade.

Included in the registration fee of \$20 per person will be a copy of a new book on prayer from Concordia Publishing House (CPH). It is a preview publication of *A Better Prayer Life for Ordinary Christians*, to be published in final form later in 1995. Cooperative efforts between the author, Dr. David Luecke, the Texas District Prayer Task Force and CPH are bringing it to fruition. We look for it to fill the need for a book on prayer, from our Lutheran perspective, that will give "how-to's" and encouragement to the Lutheran community.

Video and audio tapes of the seminary will be available.

To register for the seminar or to inquire concerning availability of tapes, please contact Helen Hagood at the district office at (512) 926-4272.

My encouragement is for those who are able to make it to Austin Feb. 11 to participate in this meaningful Texas District Prayer Seminar.

The Lord's blessings continue to be with those who lead and who participate in this important seminar.

"EQUIPPED FOR PRAYER, EQUIPPING FOR LIFE"
A PRAYER SEMINARY IN AUSTIN, TEXAS Feb. 11, 1995

ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

"I want to pray in a more disciplined way."

Where do I pray?

—Find or make a prayer closet. Matt. 6:6

What is a "prayer closet"?

—Any place—anywhere you can be alone without interruption to communicate with God. A special room, chair or corner. Even in the car during your commute.

—Quick prayers during our day are certainly part of our "praying unceasingly" (1 Thess. 5:17). However, a disciplined time to be with the Lord in prayer is a significant time for growth in relationship with Him.

Texas District Prayer Ministry Task Force #951

Tom Couser chosen Master DCE

Tom Couser, minister of youth and young adults, Holy Cross, Dallas, was selected as Master DCE at the November 1994 National DCE Conference held in San Antonio. Keith Loomans, executive director of Parish Services, Texas District, states that Tom Couser is one of the strongest and most talented directors of Christian education (DCE) in the Synod.

Couser has served at Holy Cross in Dallas since 1988. Before that, he served as a DCE in Dundee and Downers Grove, Ill., and Cape Girardeau, Mo.

He received his master's degree in education from Concordia, River Forest, Ill., in 1980 and his DCE certification in 1985. He has served on numerous district, regional and national professional organizations and in various capacities to plan and carry out district and synodical youth gatherings.

At the November Texas District Board of Parish Services meeting Couser was



Tom Couser

contracted to work part time for the Texas District in youth ministry beginning this month.



REV. ARMIN H. WAGNER

Funeral services were held Nov. 11, 1994, at Grace Lutheran in Brenham for Rev. Armin H. Wagner who died Nov. 8. He had been a resident of Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village in Brenham since 1993.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth, also a resident of Kruse Village, and six children: Stephen, Constance, Robert, Douglas, Joan and Barbara.

Flood response is \$20,613

Congregations of the Texas District have given \$20,613.29 in disaster response for the flood victims of Southeast Texas, Dr. Keith Loomans, director of the Texas District Board of Parish Services, told district directors at their meeting Nov. 15, 1994, in Austin.

On other matters, Loomans said 1993-94 Hearts for Jesus offerings, pledged to Wheat Ridge Ministries, totaled \$7,963.97.

The directors also heard that:

St. Paul, Plano, received a grant of \$3,500 from the Schultz Christian Education Endowment Fund in the South Wisconsin District to help with the costs of beginning and operating a Christian preschool at St. Paul.

Parish services has begun a planning process for implementing parish nurse ministry throughout the district.

The Sheraton Astrodome in Houston will be the site of the 1996 GLORYBOUND.

REV. O. WILLIAM LUECKE

Rev. O. William Luecke died Nov. 12, 1994, in Houston, one week short of his 51st wedding anniversary.

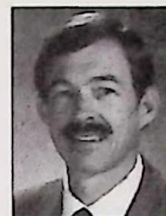
He and his wife, Sue, lived in Kingwood. Besides his wife, he is survived by five daughters: Pamela, Dianne, Celia, Cheryl and Michelle, plus several grandchildren.

Services were held Nov. 16 at Our Savior, Houston.



Texas District Mission News

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



Rev. Ken
Hennings

Holy Spirit touches many Vietnamese via Port Arthur ministry

A few years ago Trinity Lutheran Church, Port Arthur, realized that the area where the church was located was rapidly becoming a Vietnamese community. Buddhist monks from Vietnam had purchased a large church building two blocks away and turned it into a Buddhist temple.

Port Arthur has the second highest Vietnamese population in Texas, second only to Houston. The Roman Catholic Church worships around 3,000 each weekend, and yet there are thousands who are not Christian or are not connected with any church.

TRINITY LUTHERAN Church made a decision in 1991 to look at how their congregation might become involved in a ministry to Vietnamese people. Pastor Wynn Nguyen from California came to visit the area and to meet with the leadership at Trinity Lutheran Church. While he was visiting the area, he made contact with Pastor Dung Van Do who had been trained in the Baptist Seminary in Saigon but was not currently involved in ministry in Port Arthur. A meeting between Pastor Hennings, Pastor Nguyen, Pastor Dung and Trinity's pastor, Pastor Dinger, helped begin a Lutheran ministry to the Vietnamese people in Port Arthur.

Over the past three years, God has blessed our ministry in Port Arthur. He has opened doors at His perfect timing to move the ministry forward.

THE BOARD OF Mission Administration (BMA) has been a partner from the beginning, but not to the extent that neighboring Lutheran congregations have been, nor to the extent that Trinity Lutheran Church has been involved. Trinity has maintained the level of support for the district and Synod while also supporting the new ministry. The

BMA thanks God for the congregations and people that have been a part of this exciting ministry.

Last year, a new dimension took place in the ministry. While the number of Vietnamese children coming to midweek school has increased, many Afro-American children also have started coming. Today on any given Wednesday you will probably find 50 to 60 Vietnamese children and 40 to 50 Afro-American children along with Anglo children making up the midweek program. More than 100 children weekly hear about God's love for them.

TRINITY ALSO offers for preschool age children and for adults an English-as-a-second-language (ESL) program. For children who are under 4, there is no community program available for them unless they speak English.

Since many Vietnamese children don't know English, they cannot be involved in these programs. Trinity is attempting to

make a difference by offering English to these children. Bible stories are shared, and God's Spirit is working.

Trinity's ESL program has around 100 adults enrolled. Because of work schedule and family needs, the weekly attendance fluctuates. However, 30 to 40 adults weekly have contact with God's Word through the ESL classes.

THE LUTHERAN Women's Missionary League has chosen this ministry as one of its mite projects and has enabled the ministry to purchase a van to transport children and adults to midweek school and ESL classes.

Thank God with us for His blessings, and continue to pray for the Spirit to touch many more lives through Trinity's ministry.

REJOICE!

Mission to Moscow

Last September the first four orphans to be adopted through the LSSS Russian Adoption Program were greeted with smiles, hugs and tears of joy at Houston's Intercontinental Airport. Since that day, several more Russian children have been received into the homes and hearts of loving families in Texas, and the adoption program continues its efforts to find caring homes for orphans of the former Soviet Union.

However, the adoption process may see some important changes as a result of new rules passed by Russia's lawmakers.

LSSS President and CEO Rev. Robert C. Greene says it could take some time before the effects of the new rules are fully known. "Not unlike the United States," Greene explained, "lawmakers adopt a new law, and then others must set out to interpret that law. That hasn't been done yet."

GREENE TRAVELED to Moscow in early November to look into the entire program firsthand. "It appears a new wave of nationalism has developed which will make it more difficult for anybody to adopt a Russian orphan," says Pastor Greene. He says some Russians are saying of the children, "That's our future, we're letting those children go to other countries, we can't do that."

He says the government there is making an effort to encourage "local" adoptions. According to reliable sources, this effort might include

How new laws and attitudes might affect the LSSS adoption program

the following: If, say, an American couple wanted to adopt a child, they would have to wait six months while the orphanage tried to find a Russian adoptive family for that child. "This may discourage some families from attempting the process," says Greene.

THERE ARE between 20,000 and 25,000 children in orphanages in Russia. Greene says there are more older children (those 3 years plus) than younger ones available for adoption. Many have been removed from abusive homes, and in some cases, several siblings from a single family are placed in orphanages.

Greene visited an orphan-



Inside a Russian orphanage

age in Jaroslav, 180 miles north of Moscow. He says the children looked healthy, the place was clean and well-equipped with chairs and tables appropriate for the children's ages.

GREENE SAYS orphanage officials seemed rather "tight-lipped" about changes that might be expected under the new rules pertaining to the adoption process.

While in Moscow, Greene visited with the mission staff of the church and attended Sunday worship service with them at a layperson's home. Greene also met with Jeff

Willis, the assistant director of the Lutheran Layman's League operation in Moscow. Before going to work for the LLL, Willis had previously worked with HOPE, an international adoption agency.

AS FOR WHAT'S in store for the future of the LSSS Russian Adoption Program, Greene concluded, "Overall, the changes taking place in Russia will make it harder for people to adopt children from that country."

He asked that we pray for the Russian orphans, especially those who will not be adopted.

Suffering not over for Texas flood victims

"The devastation has been great, but so has the outpouring of love and support," says Donna Mora, LSSS Southeast Texas regional director. She and many others put in countless hours of extra effort during the early stages of the flooding in Southeast Texas last October.

April Boyden was named coordinator, and set up shop at the LSSS Houston office. She is assisted by Coordinator of Volunteers Joanne Baker.

Although the disaster occurred about three months ago, there is still much work to do. "Rebuilding hundreds of peoples' homes and lives takes more than just a couple of months," Boyden explained. More than 20,000 families were directly affected just in Houston alone. Thankfully there

were no deaths among area Lutheran congregations, but 45 Lutheran residences were counted as total losses.

Even before the rain had stopped and the floodwater ceased to rise, LSSS Disaster Response Coordinator Rev. Norman Hein was in contact with Donna Mora in Houston. As the designated agent for the Inter-Lutheran Disaster Response Board (ELCA/LCMS), LSSS set up a well-organized group to handle the relief efforts of the church.

Boyden says the efforts of Lutheran Brotherhood, Aid Association for Lutherans and congregations in the area and elsewhere have been tremendous. However, she wanted to be clear that the work is not yet over. For information on the recovery effort, call the Houston LSSS office at 1-800-637-4658, or (713) 521-0110.



Gone, but not forgotten

St. Andrew, Houston, has 26 young members away at college. They're gone but not forgotten.

The Ladies Guild sends them care packages of goodies and tries to time arrival of the packages just before final exams.

San Antonio getting Lutheran high

The largest city in Texas not to have a Lutheran high school is about to get one.

San Antonio's Lutheran high school will open with a freshman class in mid-August, the fifth Lutheran high school in Texas. The campus will be at Concordia Lutheran Church, 1826 Basse Road, which has set aside classrooms and office space for the school. A class will be added each year until a four-year high school is in place.

Five LCMS churches in San Antonio have joined the Lutheran High School Association. They are Mount Olive, Concordia, Redeemer, Shepherd of the Hills and Crown of Life. Each church has committed \$1,000 to the school project and is pursuing an annual commitment of \$10 per communicant member in support of the school. Association members assign two voting members to the school's board of directors.

Michael A. Miller has accepted the position as principal.

Chairman of the board of directors is David Mueller who may be reached for details at Concordia at (210) 735-4094.



BRYAN—Will and Clara Schaefer, Bethel, Bryan, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Nov. 6, 1994. They have two daughters, four grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. They have been active in area ministries since 1945.

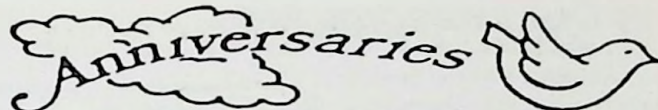


NAVASOTA—A dinner celebration was given Sept. 17, 1994, in honor of Bennie and Elsa Peters, members of Trinity, Navasota, by their grandchildren and great-grandchildren as the couple celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary.

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



The following couples of the Texas District celebrated 50 or more years of marriage in late 1994:

Concordia, San Antonio: Louise and Vernie Hairston, 54 years, Nov. 10; Phyllis and Eugene Bickerstaff, 54 years, Oct. 14.

St. Paul, Wichita Falls, Dan and Esther Heninger, 56 years, Nov. 26.

Zion, Walburg: These couples all observed anniversaries in November: Edgar and Edna Bamsch and Ben and Lorine Kelm, 52 years; Edwin and Selma Noack, 58 years; Norbert and Alvina Kasper, 61 years; Walter and Ella Zoch, 64 years. These were October anniversaries: Arthur and Evelyn Domel, 53 years; Lester and Elvie Mickan, Carl and Ruby Buchhorn, Walter and Ida Bamsch and Ben and Norma Dunk, all 55 years; Erwin and Laura Walther and Bennie and Gertrude Braeger, 56 years; Ehrenfried and Ruth Boriack and Ernest and Ruth Domel, 59 years.

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Leonard and Jean Lambert, 55 years, Nov. 26.

Trinity, Fedor: Herman and Alma Brade, 65 years, Oct. 27.

St. John, Hamilton: Fred and Alice Gromatzky, 65 years, Oct. 16.

Trinity, Borger: Ray and Maxine Tiede, 50 years, Oct. 24.

St. James, Lexington: Walter and Selma Kaiser, 60 years, Nov. 29.

Cross, New Braunfels: Rev. and Mrs. E.F. Lange, 57 years, Oct. 1; Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Retzloff, 56 years, Oct. 16; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Queen, 63 years, Oct. 18; Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Schmidt, 54 years, Sept. 18; Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Roper, 56 years, Sept. 22.

Redeemer, Lubbock: Eddie and Jessie Birdsell, 50 years, Oct. 1.

Mount Calvary, La Grange: E.A. and Frieda Lehmann, 54 years, Oct. 6; L.A. and Ruth Williams, 52 years, Oct. 11; Gilbert and Benita Boeing, 52 years, Oct. 19.

Gethsemane, Houston: Joe and Bertha Epps, 59 years, Oct. 25.

Memorial, Katy: Oswald and Sophie Jatzlau, 54 years, Oct. 27.

St. Luke, Olney: K.P. and Esther Kunkel, 72 years, Nov. 5; Herbert and Marguerite Koester, 51 years, Nov. 30.

Trinity, Sealy: Herman and Alice Schulke, 53 years, Nov. 1; Dennis and Vera Mae Remmert, 56 years, Nov. 20.

St. Paul, Bishop: Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miertschin, 57 years, Nov. 14; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Felder, 54 years, Nov. 24.

YOUTH

Our awesome kids ...

Those great kids in parochial school at **Our Savior, Austin**, collected food items as their chapel offerings in October instead of money. Then the second- and third-graders took the food to the local food bank to be distributed among Austin's needy. While at the food bank, the students helped to sort and pack food for distribution. Back to money offerings, the students designated November gifts for scholarship assistance at the Lutheran seminaries.

Bright kid honors at **Our Savior, McKinney**, go to Jon Campbell and Jennifer Lammert, recently inducted into the National Honor Society, along with Amie Becker, already a member. Jennifer and Erin Thompson are on their high school's student council, while Mary Beth Knight is president of her freshman class.

Jessica Harding, **Zion, Pasadena**, was crowned Miss Galena Park at the Teen Country Fair.

David Schaefer, **Trinity, Klein**, competed in an individual martial arts tournament Sept. 24. Out of 400 competitors from Texas and Louisiana, David placed third in KATA (forms) and third in weapons.

Those achieving kids at **First Lutheran, Texarkana**, did really well at the Four States Fair. Carole Moore won a first place premium ribbon for her exhibit under collectibles/hobbies. It was a display of English royal family china pieces. Fran Eichhorn won first place and best of show for her painting of roses and vegetables, a second for birds and a third for apples and fish. All were done in porcelain painting. Norma McNeal won two blue ribbons for embroidered pil-

lowcases and for a baby quilt.

St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Worth, has five students who qualified for the 15th annual talent search conducted by Duke University. The seventh-grade students are J.W. DePriest, Darren Hernes, Angie Johnson, Delana MacLean and Katie McLean. Their selection means they are within the upper 3 percent of national norms on a math, verbal and total composite section of a standardized achievement test.

Leigh Ann Heidner, **Holy Cross, Nederland**, was one of 40 chosen from 400 competitors for the all-region girls' choir. She's an eighth-grader.

Bright kid honors for Ryan Miller, **Crown of Life, San Antonio**, who was inducted into the National

CHEERS—These young ladies lead the cheers at **Zion Lutheran School in Walburg**. They are Stacy Gottschalk, Christie Sowers, Michelle Jaroszewski and Kristel Overfelt. The school has 150 students, preschool through the eighth grade. Principal is Walter Meyer.



Honor Society. She's also treasurer of her school's math club, first vice president of the Japanese Club, and is coeditor of the literary magazine, the first underclassman to be selected for an editorship. She's a junior.

Congratulations to Mark Steiger, **Christ Lutheran, Austin**, who became an Eagle Scout in October.

The handbell choir of **St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Worth**, was featured in the Oct. 31, 1994, edition of *USA Today* as part of Hardee's "Rise and Shine" community service recognition. The newspaper ran a picture of the St. Paul youngsters, citing them for providing entertainment for Mayfest, an annual community event sponsored by the Junior Women's League to raise funds for city needs. The junior high school bell ringers performed for an hour after returning from a class trip. Although exhaust-

ed, the kids mustered up an astounding amount of energy, battled winds blowing music off their stands, and rang beautiful music for a good cause.

Ellen Watters and Kristin McDonald, **Grace, Orange**, were selected for the all-region choir.

Those great high school kids of **Redeemer, Austin**, spent the morning of Nov. 20, 1994, making sandwiches, and taking them downtown where they distributed them to the homeless. The kids do a service project like this every month. Cool, huh?

And the kids from **Hope, Austin**, are pretty neat, too. As a service project, they set up an adopt-a-grandparent project in which they were matched with senior citizens of the church, getting to know them and doing things like raking leaves for them.



On pastor's mind ...

It's God's grass, but He won't mow it

by Rev. Stephen P. Rynearson
Peace Lutheran, Hewitt

A few years ago, I was serving as vacancy pastor in Corpus Christi. After one service, one of the elderly women of the congregation walked up to me and said, "That sure was a fine sermon you had today, Pastor." I said, "Thank you, ma'am." She said, "Oh, Pastor, don't thank me. Just say 'Praise the Lord.' It wasn't you preaching; it was God." Later on, I thought about this and concluded that it was me preaching. **God certainly could preach better than I can.**



Rynearson

When I was in college, I saw an evangelistic team which came to spread God's Word through music, skits and puppets. On that particular night they were joined by a weight lifter. He was one of these big, brawny, bold characters. After lifting a few heavy weights, he told how it wasn't him doing the lifting, but it was Jesus in his tennis shoes. He then tried to bench-press 500 pounds. He couldn't do it. I remember thinking, "Isn't that something—Jesus can't even lift 500 pounds."

I heard a story once about a preacher who was driving through the hills of Virginia. He came upon an old woman who was working in a flower garden alongside her home. He noticed how every bush was beautifully manicured, every weed was pulled, and her sidewalk was perfectly edged. He stopped his car and got out to talk to the woman. He told her what a beautiful place God had given her. She said, "Yes, He has, but you should've seen it when He ran it by Himself."

God who created **EVERYTHING** in one week can lift 500 pounds or 5 million pounds off the ground. The Lord, who created and redeemed the world by His **WORD**, certainly can "out preach" me or any other preacher. If He were just working through us without any of our input, we would always be flawless.

God gives us talents. **But just like the parable in the Bible (Matt. 25:14-30), what we do with them is up to us.** God may have given you a beautiful voice to sing, an artistic flair to rival Rembrandt's or the simple gift of working with needle and thread, but it is up to you to use them. God may give you a beautiful piece of land, but He'll never cut the grass or trim the hedges—you have to.

And when we use these talents, whether great or small, then we truly give thanks to the **ONE WHO IS WORTHY OF PRAISE.**

*Excerpted from the newsletter
of Peace Lutheran, Hewitt*



ARLINGTON—Chief Warrant Officer Brent Fox puts some of his flight gear on one of the students at Grace Lutheran School in Arlington. The helicopter pilot was in Desert Storm.

Pilot tells of faith in God

An Apache helicopter pilot was speaker at Grace Lutheran School in Arlington, telling students how his faith in God sustained him during his service in Desert Storm.

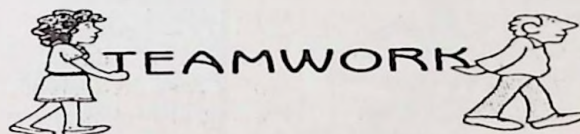
Chief Warrant Officer Brent Fox brought along his flight gear and answered student questions about the equipment and military aircraft.

Fox is a member of Grace Lutheran in Killeen.

100 wives with common bond meet—all married to pastors

On Sept. 23-25, 1994, 100 women met together at Camp Lone Star in La Grange to share their common bond in life—all are wives of pastors. They spent a weekend sharing their faith in God and love for the Lord.

Eunice Otte, licensed counselor and a pastor's widow, shared practical information on pastors' wives caring for



themselves in order to better care for others.

Events included a concert by the Oak Wilt Boys of Concordia Lutheran College, a series of dramatic skits presented by some of the wives and a Sunday communion service with Rev. Mike Middendorf of Austin leading the worship.

The retreat planning committee consisted of Patti Mitschke, Kathy Graumann, Deborah Hildebrandt, Paula Novak, Laura Ramey, Liz Sinclair and Mary Van Duzer.

The 1995 retreat will be Sept. 22-24 at Camp Lone Star. The Texas District LWML has adopted the pastors' wives retreat as a mite box project for 1995 and 1996. Aid Association for Lutherans and Lutheran Brotherhood also support the retreat.

PRAYER

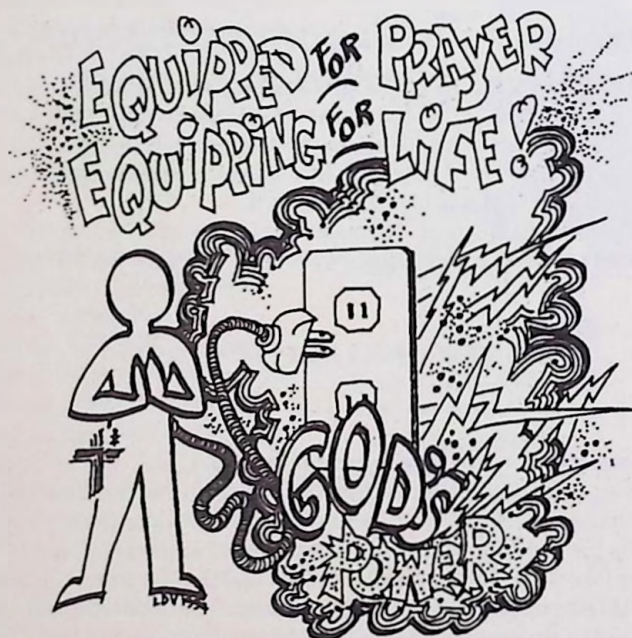
Lord, have mercy!

We are told that this is an ancient prayer, one of the earliest recorded in Christendom. Shifting the emphasis from one word to another makes this prayer fit a number of situations.

God's people have taken this simple prayer and modified it a bit to provide a meaningful way for people to respond to each other while praying. In a group, as one after another offers a prayer, it is ended with, "LORD, IN YOUR MERCY" and the group responds, "HEAR OUR PRAYER."

Some people are hesitant to pray in public. They have to become accustomed to praying from the heart. When that is the case, a person may simply say, in turn, "LORD IN YOUR MERCY," and the group shares their response.

We need to be patient with each other because praying in public is not easy for everyone. So, we find ways to make people as comfortable as possible in the process. The important aspect of group prayer is to involve people in the process. And, in the prayers, people can pray that the Holy Spirit would loosen hearts and tongues, so that all may express themselves with greater and greater confidence—the confidence that comes from knowing God hears and answers prayer.



Prayer seminar scheduled Feb. 11 in Austin

The PRAYER MINISTRY TASK FORCE of the Texas District has scheduled a district-wide prayer seminar to be held Feb. 11 at

Christ Lutheran Church in Austin. The theme is expressed in the illustration above.



Lillian Lange



Cherry Hammon

Two chosen as Texas District 1994 Educators of the Year

At the Texas District Educators Conference last fall, Lillian Lange, Our Redeemer Lutheran North Elementary School, Houston, and Cherry Hammon, Redeemer Lutheran School, San Antonio, were selected as Outstanding Lutheran Educators for 1994.

This recognition is given annually to one or two Lutheran educators in the Texas District. Both Lange and Hammon were nominated by their peers and their names submitted to the Texas District School Committee.

The award was presented at the breakfast banquet by Dr. Barbara Morton, chairman of the school committee and director of teacher education at Concordia Lutheran College in Austin. The speaker for the occasion was Rev. Gerald B. Kiechnick, president of the LCMS Texas District.

Lillian Lange teaches at Our Redeemer Lutheran

North School, 215 Rittenhouse, Houston. She also serves as organist and choir director of the congregation and holds offices in several organizations (PTL, LWML, AAL) within the church and school.

Before coming to Houston, Lange taught in Corpus Christi, Harlingen, and Chalmette, La. She is completing her 30th year of teaching. She is a graduate of Newcomb College, Tulane University and also studied at Concordia College, River Forest, Ill.

Cherry Hammon teaches at Redeemer Lutheran School in San Antonio. She is an organist and children's choir director. She has taught there since 1966, and before that at Concordia, San Antonio. According to her pastor and principal, she is an inspiration to all who know her and has served the Lord faithfully as a classroom teacher and exemplary servant. She shares her faith openly and joyfully with children, parents, fellow staff members, congregation members and friends.



The game of the name

As the congregation of St. John, Beaumont, prepared to sell its property before relocating, it found it had a surprising legal item to take care of—the name of the church.

The congregation was issued a charter by the state of Texas in 1903 with the official name of the church listed as Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. John of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.

Over the years, the church bought property. The name was listed as St. John Lutheran Church and as St. John Church of Beaumont.

The solution: get a couple of longtime members to sign a document that it was all the same church.

Midweek safe haven wins LCMS grant

LCMS World Relief has approved a domestic grant of \$7,000 to support a mid-week school at Grace Lutheran School, Dallas.

The Wednesday evening program at Grace is designed to provide a safe environment in a Christian setting with planned program activities that will address the basic needs of all children.

Through the evangelism board of Grace, the congregation has allocated an additional \$4,000 for an outreach program. It will impact the greater Hispanic community by providing safe, healthy alternatives to unstructured after-school time.



PRAISE THE LORD!—Youngsters of the Hispanic community of Oak Cliff in Dallas worship in vacation Bible school taught in Spanish by members of Todos Santos Lutheran Church of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Unidos en Cristo

by Kristin Kunkel

Member, Zion Lutheran

Most of us probably think of mission work being done in foreign lands for people quite unlike ourselves. This perception was altered in Dallas when members of an LCMS mission congregation came to the United States to work among us as missionaries to Hispanic children in the community of Oak Cliff.

A vacation Bible school was held at Grace Lutheran in Oak Cliff (Pastor Preston Weatherly) where children learned of God's kingdom and sang of His love for them in both Spanish and English.

Classes were taught by our brothers and sisters in Christ from Todos Santos Lutheran Church in Guadalajara, Mexico. Missionary Keith Brda and his wife, Ellen, are supported by Zion, Dallas, as they minister south of the border through the LCMS Together In Mission program.

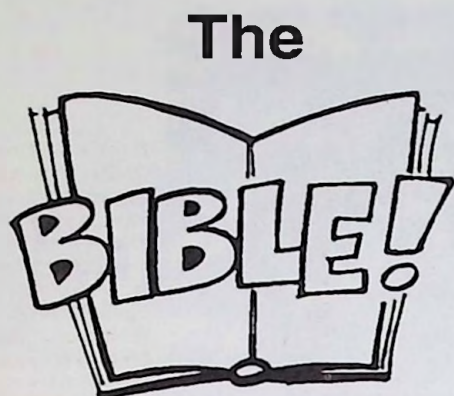
The Brda family, Deaconess Judi Tyler and seven others from Todos Santos were guests of Zion for a week of sharing the love of God with the children of Oak Cliff, as well as parishioners at Zion. Mornings found children from Cristo Rey Lutheran (Pastor Gustavo Guerrero) and the surrounding community at Grace for lessons and songs about prayer, thanksgiving, confessing our sins and God's love. Afternoons were spent in service to the Lord with repair work at Cristo Rey.

Our Mexican visitors also shared in worship at Zion with several dynamic choral offerings. "God's praise sounds glorious in every language," said Pastor Robert C. Preece of Zion.

A true bond of friendship formed between those from Mexico and those from Dallas, despite the language difference. We learned that our God in Christ is not limited by geography, language or culture. His love knows no baptismal boundaries.



NACOGDOCHES—The congregation of Redeemer Lutheran, Nacogdoches, received these new members into fellowship Sept. 25, 1994. Pastor is James E. Otte.



The

Why do people read it?

by Keith Loomans
Executive Director
Board of Parish Services

George Barna, noted church researcher and analyst, in his book *Ten Years Later*, states, "Maybe more people would read the Bible if they didn't already know 'whodun-it.'" Such a statement causes one to wonder, why DO people read the Bible!

MY COUSIN WAS killed in an airplane crash when he was in pilot training in World War II. His mother read the Bible, vigorously, hoping to find a reason why her son died at such an early age. There may be many

people like my aunt, people who read the Bible just to find answers to the problems of the day. When the answer is not readily apparent they give up and turn to other sources for help.



Loomans

People read the Bible for a variety of reasons. But when asked about their reading habits, many indicate that they do not regularly read Scripture. It is understandable that some church analysts have said that Christians, today, lack spiritual discipline.

SOME PASTORS have admitted that their Bible reading is primarily connected to preparing for a sermon or for a Bible class. These pastors agree that they would like to be reading for their personal edification, meditation and growth. But it is difficult to find the time!

When discussing Bible reading habits with Lutheran school teachers, they, too, admit that most of their Bible reading has to do with preparation of religion lessons. They also find it difficult to reserve time each day for personal Bible reading and meditation.

WHAT IS TRUE for some pastors and teachers also is true for some laypeople. Many times a person goes to the Bible to just solve problems or when the person is in severe need. Like the phrase seen on some plaques, "When all else fails, try prayer." Bible reading is a last resort.

When are Bible reading habits or patterns established? It would seem that, just as patterns are established at various stages and at various times throughout life, the daily Bible reading pattern can be established at any time. However childhood is a prime time to start. What is the saying—"as the twig is bent, so grows the tree"?

BEING DAILY in the Word is a matter of living our baptism—of being daily nourished. Just as people need daily bodily nourishment, God's people need the daily nurture of the Word. Through the Word of God the Christian receives forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Scripture says that the Gospel is the power of God unto salvation.

God has given people gifts for the work of the Kingdom. He has given His people the Word for the power to do the work.



PASTORS-TO-BE—These young men from the Texas District have enrolled for their first year at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. From top down, they are Duane R. Bamsch, Holy Cross, Warda; Christopher J. Tabbert, Falth, Plano, and Erik W. Stadler, Prince of Peace, Carrollton.

Our news: Good News

Get out the message of Jesus Christ when and how we can. The opportunity may not always be there.

Our news is Good News! Let us let the world hear it!



A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Thanks be to God for 35 years of service by the Lutheran Foundation of Texas to Lutheran families and all LCMS ministries

by Glenn Pittsford, Executive Director
Lutheran Foundation of Texas

In the book of Acts, Peter said, "You are the heirs of the prophets and of the covenant (last will and testament) that God made with our Father when He said to Abraham: 'And in your Descendant all the people on earth will be blessed' " (Acts 3:25 NET).

WE REJOICE indeed that Jesus Christ has given us all the ultimate gift—the gift of eternal life.



Pittsford

The Lord has blessed us also in many other ways. All that we have and love are gifts from God—our loved ones, the causes and organizations we have a passion for and all our worldly possessions.

Feb. 19 is Lutheran Foundation of Texas Sunday in the Texas District and will begin the celebration of the 35th anniversary of the Foundation serving Lutherans in Texas to the glory of God. 1995 will be a year of thanksgiving to our Lord and a year in which the ministry of the Foundation will reach many more people.

ON NOV. 15, 1994, the Texas District Board of Directors adopted the following resolution commemorat-

ing the 35th anniversary of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas:

"That the Texas District Board of Directors affirm the stewardship of God-given accumulated assets through Christian estate planning by Lutherans in Texas and encourage them to seek advice and guidance on such matters from the Lutheran Foundation of Texas."

Upon notifying the Foundation of the adoption of the resolution, District President Jerry Kieschnick said, "It is our hope and prayer that the significant ministry of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas will continue to be blessed by the hand of our heavenly Father."

WE ARE SO thankful for the many individuals and families who have begun perpetual endowments for the benefit of the ministry they love. Many are named in memory or in honor of loved ones, which is an excellent way to pass the torch of faith and to leave a legacy so that the Gospel can continue to reach out to those who need it so.

Endowments allow the donor to see the benefit of the gift during their lifetime. Future generations of the family also can add to the endowment.

MANY PEOPLE have



THANKS—Rev. Gerald B. Kieschnick, left, recently was honored for his years of service as executive director of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas. Foundation Board President Herb Noack presented a plaque of appreciation.

made plans in their wills, insurance policies and retirement plans for a gift to the Lord's work after their lifetimes. These people continue to be the stewards of the assets the Lord has entrusted them with during their lifetimes, and they know that a portion of their estate will benefit the church after their lives.

Some have begun Charitable Trusts with the Foundation acting as trustee. Such trusts benefit the donor and their family in significant ways for many years, with a

generous trust remainder to the Lord's work at the termination of the trust.

Join the directors and employees of the Foundation in offering thanks to God for the individuals and families who have and will honor Him in their Christian estate planning and for allowing the Lutheran Foundation of Texas to serve them. Please allow the Foundation to help you develop the Christian estate plan right for you.

"Now thank we all our God."

Estate planning expanded

Recently some changes were made which will allow the Texas District to continue to expand its Christian estate planning services.

The former planned giving partnership has been dissolved, and Bervin Mirtsching will devote his effort to assisting supporters of Concordia Lutheran College of Texas in making planned gifts for the benefit of the college. Bervin has been and will continue to be a blessing in service to the Lord.

In time, the Lutheran Foundation of Texas plans to expand its development staff so that even more Lutheran individuals and families can be served. Please call the Foundation at 1-800-880-3733 to allow the Foundation to assist you in any aspect of your Christian estate planning stewardship.

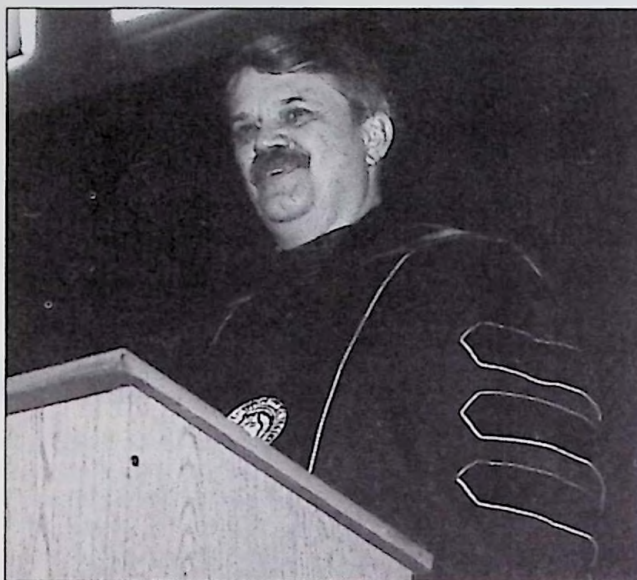
CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Concordia Lutheran College of Texas celebrates inauguration of new president

The inauguration of Dr. David John Zersen as the seventh president of Concordia Lutheran College of Texas in Austin was held on Oct. 23, 1994, in Woltman Activities Center on the Concordia campus. The attending crowd of more than 500 included official delegates from 34 colleges and universities.

Don Bokenkamp of Burton, Texas, president of the Concordia of Texas Board of Regents, presented the official presidential medalion. Bringing greetings to the new president were Dr. William Meyer, president of the Concordia University System; Dr. Patricia Hayes, president of Austin's St. Edward's University; state Rep. Wilhelmina Delco; Professor Harold Rutz, senior faculty member; Lonnie Gonzales, president of the Student Government Association; and Rev. Martin Studtmann, alumnus of the Class of 1930, Concordia's first graduating class.

In his inaugural address, titled "Learning Our Way Out Together," Zersen expressed his resolve that Concordia of Texas be an institution "which will help this generation learn its way out into a new educational era in which the agenda is set not only by economic issues and certainly not by human ego, but rather by the affirming still small voice of God which emboldens minds and spirits to



President David J. Zersen

reach beyond themselves to meet human needs, to right injustice and to promote the brotherhood of all, to say—in concert—"Yes, we can!"

In addition to the Inauguration Ceremony, inauguration week included an academic symposium on the subject "Higher Education

and Our Commitment to Community," luncheons for community and education leaders, and a prayer breakfast with Texas District pastors. Social events included a picnic and country-western concert for students and a formal dinner and dance featuring traditional Texas-German music.

Zersen came to Concordia of Texas from Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, where he had been the Dean of the School of Adult and Continuing Education since 1987. He holds degrees from Valparaiso University, Concordia Theological Seminary and Bethany Theological Seminary. Currently he is pursuing the degree of doctor of education at Columbia University Teachers College.

Dr. Zersen is married to Julie nee Schmid, who herself holds a master's degree in administrative leadership from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. They have two children, Kristen, 24, and Rolf Michael, 21.

Congratulations



THE FIRST FAMILY—David and Julie Zersen with their children, Kristen and Michael



Bring books for Brazil students to Concordia College campus

Concordia Lutheran College of Texas is one of two Lutheran campuses in the United States that will serve as collection sites for a "Books for Brazil" campaign. The other college selected for this project is Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon. The drive for donated, used books will run through May. The goal of the project is to collect 60,000 books.

Useable books will be sent to Brazil and placed in libraries of five Lutheran high schools and nine elementary schools operated by the Lutheran University of Brazil (ULBRA). College-level books will be placed in the university's library. More than 10,000 students are enrolled at ULBRA, with another 5,000 pupils in elementary and high schools.

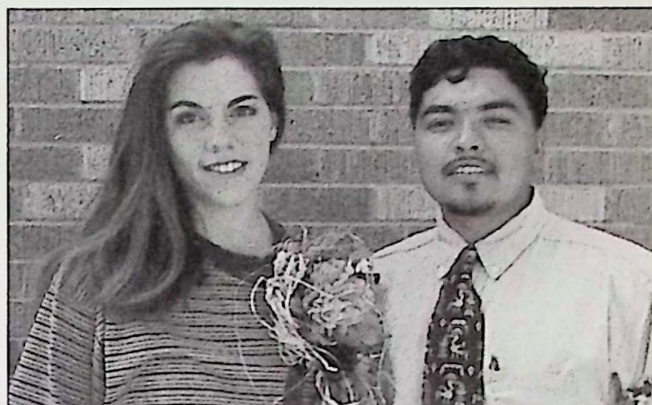
Portuguese is the official language of Brazil, but books in English are needed because so many of the students want to learn English as a second language. Books printed in German also are welcome.

All kinds of books are needed on subjects related to the common school areas of study, including history, geography, music, art, literature, mathematics and science. (Science books should be no older than 1980.) Religious books also are welcome, as are novels and reference books. All books should be in good condition, with both covers intact and no pages missing. Good paperbacks are acceptable, but hardbound books are preferred.

ULBRA's representative in the United States is Dr. M.J. Stelmachowicz, past president of both St. John's College in Winfield, Kan., and Concordia College in Seward, Neb., and executive director of the LCMS Board for Higher Education 1984-92. He serves as general coordinator of the project.

Stelmachowicz points out that this is the second "Books for Brazil" campaign; the first was conducted during the 1992-93 school year at different colleges, and about 100,000 books were donated.

A book-collection box has been established at Concordia in Bokenkamp Student Center. To make arrangements for large numbers of books or to ask questions, call Norman Holmes, Concordia's librarian, who has agreed to serve as a local coordinator: (512) 452-7661.



FESTIVAL ROYALTY—Elected by the student body to reign over Inauguration/Fall Festival Weekend were Jill McMillan of Plano and Lonnie Gonzales of Houston. Both their fathers are CLC alumni now serving as pastors (Rev. Ric McMillan and Rev. Jesus Gonzales).

Homecoming and Sneak-a-Peek scheduled for February

Homecoming '95 at Concordia Lutheran College is scheduled for Feb. 24-26. Honor classes are 1945, 1955, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1985 and 1990. Former students from all years are invited to attend.

High school juniors and seniors also are invited to the campus Feb. 25 for Sneak-a-Peek Day, a get-ac-

quainted opportunity. Concordia alumni are encouraged to bring prospective students with them for the Homecoming/Sneak-a-Peek activities.

To receive a schedule of homecoming events or to register a high school student for Sneak-a-Peek Day, call Raye Green at (512) 452-7661.



LUTHERAN WOMAN OF THE YEAR—Jinx Schkade (second from left), the 1994 Lutheran Woman of the Year, was honored during Inauguration/Fall Festival Weekend at Concordia. With her are her son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Debra Schkade, and her granddaughters Diane (left, a May '94 CLC grad) and Jennifer (right, a CLC sophomore).

CELEBRATIONS



YOUTH LEADER—On Sunday, Oct. 23, 1994, Oscar Benavides was commissioned to serve as youth minister at Prince of Peace, Carrollton. Before serving at Prince of Peace, he was involved on the citywide leadership team for the Dallas "Jesus" video project for Campus Crusade for Christ.

From left are Pastor Steve Wagner, Benavides, Pastor Paul Liersemann, Jennifer Benavides and Wyman Bess, lay minister of inclusion.



CELEBRATION TREE—About to go in a hole in the ground is the "decade" tree at Mount Calvary in San Antonio. The Sunday school students planted the 10-foot-tall oak to honor Pastor K.T. DeVries and his family who now have served members of Mount Calvary for 10 years.



AUSTIN—The Lord added these new members Oct. 16, 1994, to the family of Redeemer, Austin. Pastor is David Schroder.



BEAUMONT—On Sept. 25, 1994, these people were added by adult confirmation, transfer and profession of faith at Redeemer Lutheran in Beaumont. Pastor is Bob Myers.



**Spring break
March 12-17
at Texoma**

Register now for the
spring break camp at Texoma Lutheran Camp on beautiful Lake Texoma in Pottsville.

Called "Springway," this special week of camp will be held March 12-17 (Sunday through Friday). It will be just like a week of summer camp and will include games, music, hiking, archery, canoeing, campfire devotions and making friends! Christian counselors will conduct the activities during the week.

The camp also is ideal for kids whose parents need to work during spring break.

There are a limited number of spaces, so sign up now!

Call Texoma Lutheran
Camp at 1-800-926-5968 for a
registration form or more
information.

Single parent retreat planned at Lone Star

The annual single parent weekend retreat at Camp Lone Star in La Grange is scheduled for March 31 through April 2.

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

For more information, call
Camp Lone Star at 1-800-
362-2078.



CAMP TIME NEAR—This year's LOMT theme is "The Way Of The Cross." Campers will have fun and fellowship with both old and new friends alike. The camping season begins with spring break camp in March at Texoma Camp, followed by summer camp which begins in June at Texoma and Camp Lone Star in La Grange.

It's GREAT to be a Christian!

Once again, summer is just around the corner, and we are hard at work at Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas (LOMT) to make it exciting and **GREAT!** With our theme “***The Way of the Cross,***” we will share throughout the year with youth, young adults, single adults, families and older adults the **GREAT** joy of living a Christian life.

Being a Christian today is not always easy. The devil is out there "prowling like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." But we should not fear.

We have the cross and all that comes with it. We will share this faith, hope, love, grace, peace, suffering, service, forgiveness, light and all His promises that come with the cross. He promises that nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from His love that is in Christ Jesus, our Lord. He promises comfort to those who are troubled in heart and hope to those who have no hope. He promises also that we will be “united with Jesus in a resurrection like His.”

Our Lord said, *"If you want to be My*

disciple, deny yourself, take up your cross and follow Me." That is what we intend to do—follow "The Way of the Cross."

The way of the cross is hearing with your heart, seeing with your soul, being guided by a hand that you cannot hold, trusting in a way that you cannot understand and following what you cannot see. Sometimes our journey is through darkness and sometimes through light. Jesus calls us to have faith through all, which is only possible by God's redeeming grace through His Son's death and resurrection.

In Ephesians, Paul says, *"For it is by grace you have been saved through faith and this not from yourselves, it is a gift from God."* What a great joy to know that we are free! What a wonderful gift from our loving and gracious Father to allow us to look into our Judge's face and see a Savior there. This gives us peace as Christians.

It is our hope and prayer that everyone who comes in contact with LOMT will come to know the **GREATNESS** of God and His atoning sacrifice Jesus Christ—and that the **JOY** of being a Christian will be theirs.

CAN-DO

Sign up now!

CAN-DO registration opens for 1995 mission events

by Randy Potts, CAN-DO director

Registration for the '95 CAN-DO short-term mission trips is now open. Those wishing to participate in the CAN-DO summer mission trips may apply through the CAN-DO office. A total of 10 CAN-DO mission sites are available for 1995: five in Texas and five at international sites in Mexico, Russia and Slovakia.

Last year more than 450 youth and adults served at CAN-DO mission sites. This year there is space for a total of 950 youth and adults to participate in hands-on servanthood at the various cross-cultural mission sites in four countries.

Summer mission event participants will have the opportunity to raise significant funds to support 1995 mission trips and the mission fields by participating in the Project CAN-DO drive. Training for this process will be provided free at the CAN-DO workshops held this month at various locations around the state.

CAN-DO TO IMPLEMENT A "WIN/WIN" PROCESS IN 1995!

In response to significant feedback by congregations this past year, we are implementing an exciting new WIN/WIN process for the 1995 Project CAN-DO.

The revised process will be a "single appeal" pledge drive for 1995 summer mission trips and mission field support.

How is this a WIN/WIN process?

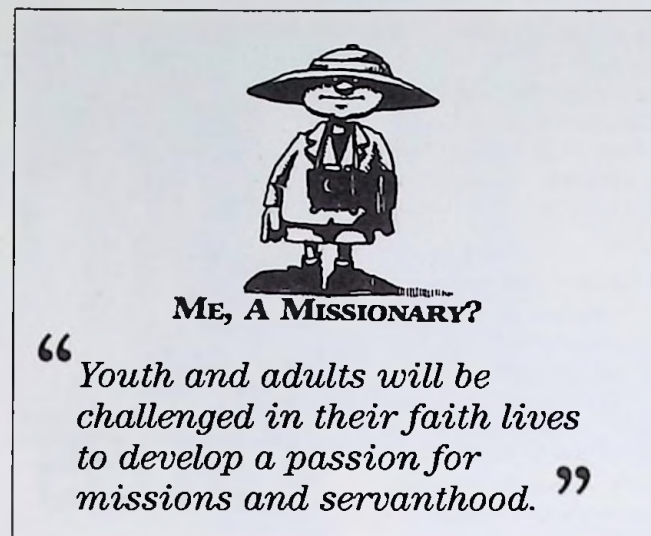
In the new approach, congregations may focus on

personal involvement in the mission fields by sending their own "CAN-DO missionaries" and at the same time provide funding for the mission field by providing for construction type materials, Bibles, outreach materials, administration and missionary support. This is all included in the per person price, which remains similar to last year's cost when the mission support items are taken into consideration.

It is WIN/WIN because the congregations receive the benefits of both sending a missionary and supporting the mission at the same time! What's more, your CAN-DO drive is simplified into a single focus opportunity with increased local ownership of the mission effort. It will be easier to facilitate, easier to support and more exciting to be involved in CAN-DO missions and servanthood on a personal level!

How will the new approach work?

Your congregation decides what mission fields and CAN-DO missionaries it wants to send in 1995. This will determine the support funds to be raised to accomplish both the hands-on servant and the mission sup-



ME, A MISSIONARY?

“Youth and adults will be challenged in their faith lives to develop a passion for missions and servanthood.”

port. Next, the youth conduct the CAN-DO drive in your congregation. All contributions from the congregation's CAN-DO drive which are received in the CAN-DO office will be credited toward your CAN-DO missionaries' trip costs and thus also the mission field support.

What if our congregation doesn't have any youth or adult CAN-DO missionaries to send to the mission fields?

You are encouraged to be personally involved in the mission field support by conducting the CAN-DO drive and thus financially assisting the mission work. A portion of the funds you raise also may be used to make it possible for others to participate hands-on in the mission fields. You will receive reports from youth who travel to the mission fields.

What are the benefits of participating in the CAN-DO drive process?

The CAN-DO drive offers the total congregation the

opportunity to be involved in personalized mission education and support. It builds leadership skills and self-esteem of youth as they conduct an intensive effort in support of missions and servanthood.

The members receive the joy of being involved together with fellow Lutherans from across Texas in this significant youth-led mission effort.

Youth and adults will be challenged in their faith lives to develop a passion for missions and servanthood. Your own CAN-DO missionaries will return to share their extraordinary stories of the mission fields.

Another key benefit is that congregations conducting the five-week CAN-DO drive who raise a significant amount for missions will receive a CAN-DO award. For each \$4,000 raised in gifts submitted to the CAN-DO office, the congregation receives a \$1,000 CAN-DO award. This award is in the form of a credit and can be



used to support additional CAN-DO missionaries on summer mission trips. You receive \$5,000 worth of missionary-sending value for \$4,000 in gifts submitted.

What are the next steps?

1. Decide today to join the 1995 CAN-DO team and become a CAN-DO congregation.

2. Enroll in a CAN-DO Training Workshop (this month).

3. Select and register your CAN-DO missionaries for the mission trip(s).

4. Conduct the CAN-DO mission curriculum and drive campaign (February-May).

5. CAN-DO missionaries participate at mission sites in Texas, Mexico, Russia or Slovakia (June/July).

6. The mission fields receive support and hands-on assistance.

7. CAN-DO missionaries experience life-changing missions and servanthood.

8. CAN-DO missionaries return to share their exiting mission accounts.

9. Congregation members benefit through personalized missions and youth leadership development.

10. Youth develop a new perspective and desire for local mission outreach.

11. The CAN-DO congregation celebrates God's accomplishments through them.

12. Texas youth and congregations are renewed in their desire to reach the unsaved.



PLAY BALL—The youth group of Redeemer, San Antonio, challenged the church elders to a softball game, seeking funds to attend the 1995 LCMS Youth Gathering in San Antonio. Proceeds from the concession stand went to the young people. Pictured are the youth and elders who competed, and perhaps the bravest of the brave, the umpire—Doug Bielefeldt, back row right.

CAN-DO workshops

A series of Project CAN-DO workshops will begin this month to enhance involvement by those who participated in 1994 and to start training for new congregations.

According to Randy Potts, the Texas District CAN-DO director, the workshops are designed for congregational teams of four, consisting of two leadership youth, adult youth leader and the pastor.

Training will be given on conducting the CAN-DO curriculum, pledge drive campaign and servant event process.

Potts said all congregations wishing to participate in the 1995 CAN-DO missions and servanthood process need to attend a training workshop, even veteran CAN-DOers. He said exciting new plans, expanded mission sites and pledge drive procedures will be shared at the workshops. Both veteran and first-time

CAN-DO congregations are invited to be trained in the new process, Pitts said.

Workshop sites and dates are:

Crown of Life, San Antonio, 9 a.m. to noon, Jan. 7.

Our Savior, Austin, 3 to 6 p.m., Jan. 7.

Lord of Life, Corpus Christi, 2 to 5 p.m., Jan. 8.

Bethel, Dallas, 9 a.m. to noon, Jan. 14.

Christ, Fort Worth, 2 to 5 p.m., Jan. 14.

Christ, Houston, 9 a.m. to noon, Jan. 21.

Salem, Tomball, 2 to 5 p.m., Jan. 21.

Redeemer, Odessa, 9:30 a.m. to noon, Jan. 28.

Christ, Lubbock, 3 to 5:30 p.m., Jan. 28.

Last summer, Texas District young people and youth leaders participated in servant and mission events in Russia, Slovakia, Mexico and Texas mission sites.

'How Great Thou Art' leads favorite hymn list at St. Philip

St. Philip Lutheran of Houston recently surveyed its members on their favorite hymns they would like to sing at worship services. The winner:

How Great Thou Art

Beautiful Savior was second, and Amazing Grace was third.

Other top 10 finishers were:

Lift High the Cross

Just As I Am.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus.

Nearer, My God, to Thee.

Crown Him with Many Crowns.

Earth and All Stars.

I Know That My Redeemer Lives.

HAPPENINGS IN TEXAS

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

Members of **Trinity Lutheran, Pecos**, voted to dissolve, and a concluding worship was held Dec. 17, 1994. The Fort Stockton and Alpine congregations voted to form a dual parish that became effective Jan. 1. Self-evaluation studies are being done before calling a pastoral leader.

Pastor John Fritz, emeritus, and his wife, Eunice, who live in Houston, again have gone to South Texas to serve **Fishers of Men Lutheran Church in Port Isabel**, with a part-time ministry aimed at the thousands of winter Texans who leave the snow and ice behind in their midwestern and northern homes to spend the comfortable winter months in South Texas. Fishers of Men with Pastor George Price attracts more than 200 worshipping winter Texans each Sunday. Fritz' special ministry will continue through June.



Capdeville

Roy Capdeville celebrated his 25th anniversary of Lutheran teaching. He currently is a teacher at **Zion Lutheran School, Walburg**.

Cross of Christ, DeSoto, has received a \$500 AAL grant to defray start-up costs for a pastoral care program.

Two members of **Zion, Abilene**, actively involved in community work are Dr.

Paul Jungmyer, elected to the board of **Abilene Center for Non-Profit Management**, and **Salle Schoppa**, newly elected president of the **Abilene Women's Club**.

Ellen Brondos was installed Oct. 9, 1994, as parish assistant at **Messiah Lutheran, Richardson**, with Pastor Victor J. Kollmann officiating.



Brondos

A real gridiron achiever is **Ronnie McAda**, member of **Bethel, Dallas**, who began his sophomore year at the U.S. Military Academy as fourth-string quarterback. What he became was Army's No. 1 quarterback for most of the season and in several games he was named Rookie of the Week in his conference.

Lord of Life, Plano, held a dedication and open house Nov. 6, 1994, as it began use of its new worship center. Pastor is **Ric L. McMillian**.

Pastor Andrew Simcak Jr. of **Trinity, Shamrock** and **Trinity, Childress**, was interviewed Oct. 13, 1994, on "Issues," a daily talk show originating in St. Louis and heard on some 200 radio stations nationwide.

Natalie Coyne, Peace, Hurst, a junior at **Valparaiso University**, was among students selected to study at international centers for the fall semester. She went to



SHE'S TOPS—Peeking past her Gold Headed Cane Award from **Texas Tech Health Sciences** is **Patricia Riley Arledge**, who gained the award as the graduating medical student who best represents the ideals of the outstanding physician as voted by faculty and fellow students. She also received the **Dean's Highest Academic Achievement Award** for ranking first in the 1994 graduating class. Shown with her mom and dad, **Betty Lou and Bob Riley, Dr. Arledge** is now a resident physician at **University of Missouri Hospital in Columbia**. The family members all belong to **Christ Lutheran Lubbock**.

Cambridge in England. She is in the college of arts and sciences at **Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind.**

A special worship service and afternoon reception Oct. 30, 1994, at **Zion, Pasadena**, marked the 25th anniversary of Pastor **Alfred Scholz'** ministry at **Zion**.

Peace Lutheran, Texas City, has a braille work center where the Scriptures are translated into reading for the blind. A dinner Oct. 30, 1994, honored 32 members of **Peace** who have been translators at the center. **Selma Bauer and Lou Elfstrom** have been doing it for 25 years.

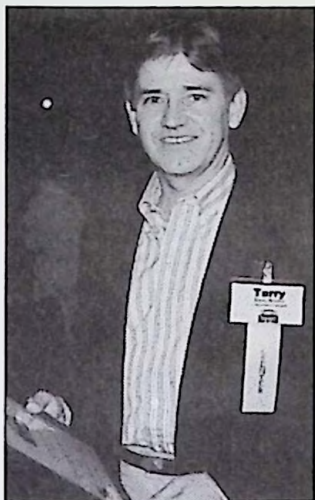
Forty-seven area congregations have students in **Our Savior Lutheran School in Austin**. Included

are **Catholic, Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist** and others.

Susan Miesner, fourth grade teacher at **St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Worth**, was named Teacher of the Week by the **Fort Worth Star Telegram** in its Class Acts publication.

There's good news and bad news at **Lutheran High School of Dallas**. There are 237 students enrolled. That's the good news, up by 22 over last year. The bad news is that the school turned away 30 more students for lack of room.

At **Zion, Fort Worth**, **Charles and Cindy Street** were honored for a combined 26 years of faithful service as Sunday school teachers.



WINNER—CEF congregational representative Terry Brown, Concordia, Richardson, receives plaque as second-place winner in meeting his congregation's investor goal for the previous year. At the conference, Terry served as the presenter of the CEF stamp program for children.

RECRUITING—Wally Weiss, right, serves as coordinator for the Texas District Laborers For Christ program. At the annual CEF Conference he seeks to recruit new laborers and also provides information about current and future Laborers For Christ projects. His wife, Carolyn, also is active in this valuable ministry.



GREAT TIME—From left, Charles and Sonja Godwin, Faith, Laredo, have fun practicing effective communication techniques.



BREAK TIME—Participants at last year's CEF Conference give one another back rubs as an afternoon refresher. From left, Claire Bunge and Dr. Roland Bunge, members of Redeemer, Nacogdoches. Behind them is Don Olsen, CEF representative from Mount Olive, Austin.



WORKSHOP—Ernestine Jackson, CEF representative from Calvary, Houston, listens to a presentation at the '94 CEF Conference about Christian estate planning.



SINGERS—Mike and Gaye Krueger, members of Faith, Lampasas, participate in singing a familiar song during one of the devotions led by Rev. Joe Ardy, Salem, Malone.

It's March 3-5
Come join us
in Austin
for seventh annual
CEF Conference

Attention pastors and CEF congregational representatives: **mark your calendars.** The seventh annual CEF District Conference is coming!

WHERE: Red Lion Hotel, Austin.

WHEN: March 3-5, Friday evening through Sunday noon.

WHO: All CEF representatives 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 representative, now is the time to take action!

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

Tree of life has a new leaf

The Tree of Life at Bethesda/Good Samaritan has a new leaf.

Bob and Georgia Koenig, Decater, Ala., furnished the leaf in memory of Lydia and Joe Hegar Sr.

The leaf was placed on the tree by their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hegar Jr.

Leaves are added to the Tree of Life when a memorial gift or donation of \$2,000 or more is given to Good Samaritan to continue its ministry for people with mental retardation.



Be part of a team that cares

You can be part of the caring team that operates Bethesda and its Good Samaritan Campus, Cypress, Texas.

You can help make a difference in the lives of people with mental retardation in the Greater Houston area.

Voting memberships are just \$5 and open to Lutheran congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Others may join as nonvoting members to provide input on important policies.

Join the team that cares by calling Linda Loesch, regional public affairs director, Good Samaritan Campus, at (713) 351-4911, or write her at Box 729, Cypress, TX 77429.

Evacuated

Good Samaritan residents rise above the flood

Rain continued to fall the week of Oct. 16, 1994, enough to overflow the creeks and ditches which surround Bethesda/Good Samaritan and its nearby group homes.

Residents and staff of the Cypress group home evacuated to the King's Court home while the people of the Good Samaritan group home moved to the Spring home. Bedding, cooking utensils and food went with them.

Another group home was evacuated and residents moved to Trinity Lutheran Church, Spring, Texas.

Rev. Ronald C. Hampsten, chaplain at Good Samaritan, conducted Bible studies with the residents just as would be done on any other Monday night.

Working as a team, residents and staff remained calm while waiting for waters to subside.

More than 120 people gathered Sunday, Oct. 2, 1994, for Bethesda/Good Samaritan's annual Family Day. Residents, staff and families played games and enjoyed a barbecue under the pavilion. After an opening worship service, families were shown Bethesda's 90th anniversary video, *"Portraits in Courage."*



Enjoying the Family Day barbecue under the pavilion are Donnie Steinslek and his mother, Vivian Steinslek.



HUMBLE—Lamb of God, Humble, added 38 new members Sept. 25, 1994: 20 by adult instruction, six by reinstatement, 12 by transfer. Pastor is Allen Stuckwisch.



WELCOMED—Brought into fellowship last Sept. 11 were these new members of Christ Memorial, Houston. Pastor is J. Mark Kuehnert.

BONHAM—Phillip, Melynee and son Matthew Naegle are the newest members of the forever family of Zion, Bonham. Pastor is Loren DuBois.



ABILENE—These persons were received, one by baptism, into the fellowship of Zion Lutheran in Abilene Oct. 9, 1994. Pastor is Dr. Timothy Rosenthal.



NEW LUTHERAN—Cindy Jordan received adult instruction at Grace, Orange, and became a member last Oct. 16. With her is Pastor Eddie Scheler and Shawn Welch, who is her fiancée and a member of Grace.



ORANGE—Welcomed to Grace, Orange, Oct. 9, 1994, were the Andersons: Bruce, Natalie and sons Casey and Nathan. Eddie R. Scheler is pastor.

Lord working mightily through Lutheran Hour Ministries TV

Television is "Bringing Christ to the Nations!"

The Lord is working mightily through Lutheran Hour Ministries TV programs now airing across the globe!

1. **"This Is the Life,"** the ministry's dramatic TV series, now airs in North and South America, Africa, Asia and Europe after episodes were dubbed into various languages.

2. **"Christmas Is,"** an animated special also dubbed into Russian, aired in Russia Christmas Day and on Jan. 7 (Russian Orthodox Christmas). A special that aired in 1993 resulted in 40,000 requests for calendars and materials.

3. **"On Main Street,"** a Christian talk show hosted by Lutheran Hour Speaker Dr. Dale Meyer, is now airing on 133 stations and on the VISN (Faith & Values) Network.

4. Currently in production: **"Red Boots for Christmas,"** a new animated special which will be voiced in several languages, is set to air worldwide Christmas 1995.

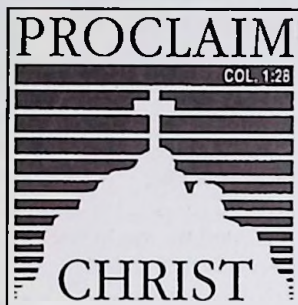
Good News

The Lord is richly blessing our latest radio program, too! **"Woman to Woman,"** an interview-style Christian radio program hosted by Phyllis Wallace, is now airing on 87 stations in the United States, Canada, Belize and Ecuador. Noted one listener, "What a tremendous program! Your topics are interesting, informative

and very encouraging." (Used by permission.)

Reformation Celebration

The fifth Cen-Tex Reformation Celebration was a success. Five hundred people attended the service



Nov. 1, 1994, at the Bell County Exposition Hall at Belton.

LCMS Texas District President Jerry Kieschnick was guest speaker. It was good to review with him the many points of interest and how they relate to the Reformation, Luther and the Lutheran Church.

The offering was designated to the Lutheran Hour Cassette Ministry in China. It will provide additional tapes to proclaim Christ. These tapes are recorded in a studio provided by the LWML.

As the attendees left the service, they each received a bag of cookies. The regular cookies represented how God provides for our bodily needs. The other, a Chinese fortune cookie, declared our fortune in Christ—"Justified by Faith" (Rom. 5:1).

Plans for Reformation Celebration VI are already being made.

1995 Convention

Don Bennett, president of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, will participate in the next Lone Star District Convention. The 1995 convention will be May 5-7 at Concordia College, Austin, hosted by Capital Zone (8).

Bennett of DeWitt, Mich., is president of the International Lutheran Laymen's League, a position to which he was elected in July 1992. Bennett had previously served the league as governor of Region 5 (Michigan) and as president of both the Michigan and Southeast Michigan districts of the league. He also served as chairman of the league's



Bennett

"Round Table," a financial advisory council and of the Board of Governors' ad hoc committee for the celebration of the league's 75th anniversary.

Bennett is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Lansing, Mich., where he has served in various official capacities, including congregational president, elder and Sunday school superintendent. He also has served as a Boy Scout and Cub scout-



master.

Bennett and his wife, Esther, live at 1314 Shavey Road in DeWitt. They are the parents of six grown children.

Remember May 5-7. Plan to attend this convention!

Good Idea

Why didn't I think of that? Stephen Klinck of the Canadian Lutheran Laymen's League office leaves a tract about current issues like divorce or loneliness on his chair in airport waiting areas. Says Klinck, "I've done it for years and often wondered if it did any good, but recently our office received a letter that said, 'I picked up a pamphlet of yours at the Toronto Airport. Could you send me others?'"

Klinck also leaves a tract inside hotel Bibles. Tracts are available at little or no cost by calling Lutheran Hour Ministries at 1-800-752-9636. (Used by permission.)

Send LLL news to:

Irene Teinert
Information Coordinator
1501 Barbara St.
Austin, TX 78759



Happy New Year!

Even better—a year when we can **Live more by God's Design!** That is the theme of our 1995 international convention.

This is what God wants from us. The Lord God breathed His own life-giving breath into the first man. That made Adam a living soul. He and all his descendants were designed to live for HIM—to God's glory!

But the evil one had other designs for the man. "You will surely not die," he lied to the woman. He got Adam and Eve to sin. As a result the Lord God sent them out from the Garden of Eden. But not before He promised them the Savior to be born (Gen. 3:15).

Jesus, born of the virgin Mary, came to our rescue. For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. He came to repair the damage done by the first Adam. He fulfilled the whole law of God for us—to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God.

Jesus humbled Himself to death on the cross after announcing His victory with "It is finished!" He did it

all for you and for me. How great was His love for you, for me!

Now we can begin to live by God's design. We can say with Paul, "I live, yet not, but Christ lives in me" (Gal. 2:20). This is why we can start to live by God's design, to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God.

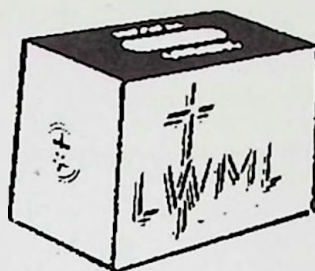
The underside of a crocheted design is less attractive than the top side. It reminds me of the story of a father, walking hand-in-hand with his son down a country road one night. The stars overhead were shining crystal clear. After looking up at the multitude of bright shining stars, the son made this observation: "If the wrong side of heaven is so beautiful, how beautiful will the right side be!"

With this encouragement, let us go forward into the new year to serve the Lord with gladness.

*Florence Winkler,
Fourth Vice President
Mission Projects Chairman
Texas District LWML*

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152, Lewisville, TX 75067; fax: 817-491-0105. Deadline ninth of month.



Mite report November 1994

1992-94	\$275,000
Rec'd November (all sources)	10,813
Rec'd to date (all sources)	66,742
Needed for goal	189,257
Sent to Int'l LWML (November)	2,653
Int'l to date	10,676

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box 1224, Giddings, TX 78942. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.**

Banner for '95 convention is needed

The Texas District LWML will need a banner for the International LWML Convention to be held in Kansas City.

Instructions were given in the October issue of *THE LUTHERAN WITNESS Texas Messenger* 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.

Mites in mission

The International Lutheran Women's Missionary League reports that as of July 31, 1994, \$687,673.02 or 60.32 percent of the mission goal had been received.

With 66.67 percent of the biennium having passed, the monthly average needed for the remaining eight months is \$56,540.87.

The Texas District treasurer remits 25 percent of the mite offerings received each month to the international treasurer in order to fund our international goal.

Society treasurers, please remit mites monthly!

More convention information

The 1995 International LWML Convention will be held in the newly completed Kansas City/Bartle Convention Center. It is in the heart of downtown and located at the hub of several interstate highways.

Most downtown hotels are connected via the underground tunnel system.

A four-meal package will be available for \$60. (A limited number of restaurants are in the immediate area.) Concession stands will be available in the center.

Pre- and post-convention day tours have been planned. Extended tours will include Branson and St. Louis. The 1994 winter *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* contains more information.



Serve the LORD with Gladness



News from around the district

Thirty-nine women of the **Mesquite Zone** held a retreat Aug. 12-13, 1994, at Zion, Abilene.

The theme "Christmas in August" was planned with working women in mind.

The Parish Hall was decorated with a Christmas tree and a birthday cake for Jesus.

Each woman was asked to bring an inexpensive recycled gift for exchange, a white T-shirt to decorate, her favorite tree ornament for the tree and a bed roll for the overnight stay.

The evening devotion presented the Biblical account of Christ's birth and during the singing of Christmas

songs a colorful 4-by-8-foot collage was erected. A candlelight birthday cake was enjoyed by all.

The film "Miracle in the Wilderness" was shown as women settled down for the night.

After a breakfast of pancakes and fruit, the gift exchange was held by drawing.

The Precious Moments video "Timothy's Gift" was the closing devotion.

Virginia Evers, public relations chairman for the zone, reports there were no topics on stress or seminars to attend. Everyone is eagerly awaiting next year's retreat!

* * *

The **Post Oak Zone** held their fall rally Oct. 23, 1994, at Trinity, Dime Box.

Peggy Turnipseed, first

vice president of the Texas District LWML, presented the program using as the theme John 15:12: "Love one another, as I have loved you." There was small-group sharing during the presentation.

The election of new officers was the major business with Paulette Schulze being elected zone president.

* * *

St. Andrew's, Houston, Evening Guild assembled care packages for more than 25 college students the first week of December.

These were mailed in time for finals and included snacks of all kinds, coffee and tracts.

* * *

To help members learn and understand the work of Lutherans For Life, the

LWML of Christ Our Savior, Coppell, has invited guest speakers for its Jan. 19 meeting.

Stevie Herndon and Pat Ernst, members of Fort Worth Chapter 117 of Lutherans For Life, will share their work in the pro-life movement.

Pat is also a volunteer at a Crisis Pregnancy Center in Fort Worth.

Lora Jones serves as society president.

Young woman scholarship

The Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League will again present a scholarship to a Lutheran woman.

She must be a full-time student or planning to be enrolled full time in an institution of higher learning or recognized by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The course of study must lead to full-time professional church work in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

To receive an application along with eligibility requirements, please send the form (below) to:

Margaret Goodson
5623 Georgetown Colony Drive

Houston, TX 77084

Completed applications must be postmarked by **MARCH 31** to be considered for the 1995 scholarship.



COLLAGE—Mesquite Zone's depiction of the birth of Christ.

Please send an application along with "Eligibility and Requirements of Scholarship Applicants" to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Applications must be returned by March 31



President Kieschnick

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick
President, LCMS Texas District

That's a statement attributed to Theodore Roosevelt. It says a lot!

Many people in our world and society are on the move. Nothing wrong with that! Many other people would like to be on the move. Now that's a problem.

- What frequently happens is that such people pay more attention to what might be waiting around the corner than to what is right before their very eyes. In that process, the tasks they have been given to accomplish go overlooked and remain undone. Then, when what is waiting around that corner becomes available, those responsible for filling the position bypass the one who has not "tended to his or her knitting."

"Bloom where you have been planted" is another way of saying "Do what you can with what you have, where you are."

These words have particularly significant meaning to our family in these days of our lives. Terry and I had the opportunity in November 1994 to participate in the Barnabas Project, which was created in 1986 through an endowment when a Houston woman, who had passed away in 1985, left a sum of money to the Lutheran Foundation of Texas for world missions.

- Its objective is to send church leaders and their spouses to foreign mission fields to visit the missionaries at their mission sites, to lead the annual spiritual retreat for the families of the missionaries of the country being visited and to tell the folks back home about the work being accomplished by missionaries we send to 51 countries in which foreign mission work is being conducted by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

'Do
what
you
can
with
what
you
have,
where
you
are'

Terry and I were invited by the Barnabas Project to visit the mission sites in Guatemala and Panama and to lead the missionaries retreat in Panama. We left Austin Nov. 19 and returned Dec. 1, 1994. The trip was, in some respects, enjoyable, but it was more enlightening, motivating, inspiring, humbling and frightening. We are available to tell the story, with color slides, upon request.

- What impressed us most was the dedication of our missionaries in Guatemala and Panama. Some live in relatively comfortable environments. Others live in much more primitive and modest conditions than you might imagine. Some are adequately housed. Others are out-housed. None complain. All are devoted to their task.

In foreign countries where Christianity is anywhere from largely nonexistent to primarily Roman Catholic and where cultural reality makes it difficult for foreigners to be accepted, trusted and followed, our missionaries have their work cut out for them.

In foreign countries where adequate schooling for missionary children is sometimes nonexistent, other times far away from home, the children are often either home schooled or boarding schooled.

"Do what you can with what you have, where you are." Those words are sound advice to most people. They are especially descriptive of the work of our foreign missionaries.

The ability to heed the advice of Roosevelt's words, for all of us, lies not within our own power, but within God's power.

The apostle Paul wrote, "*I know what it is to be in need and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through Him who gives me strength*" (Phil. 4:12-13).

God's strength is with you, my friends in Christ, even as it is with our missionaries in Guatemala, in Panama and in the uttermost parts of the earth! Therefore, do what you can with what you have, where you are!

HERE am I
send me
SEND ME

Dying brother's witness sends lab technician into second career as a Lutheran minister

Have you, at some point in your life, thought that you would like to be a pastor, but felt inadequate? Have you perceived there to be too many walls or obstacles in your way? God's call to the public ministry reaches out to men who come from varied backgrounds and occupations.

Over the next few issues of the *Texas Messenger*, we hope to share some stories of second-career pastors and their families and their experiences as they dealt with the dynamics of entering the seminary and, finally, the parish. You may relate to some of the experiences.

We hope you will be encouraged enough to ask some questions. Feel free to write to the district office, one of our seminaries, or, if you just want to talk to someone who has come from a second career, write:

**Rev. Richard Goodwill, chairman
Second Career Task Force
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 340
Cedar Park, TX 78613**

Is the Lord calling you?

Last month Texas District President Kieschnick wrote about the growing number of second-career pastors and families serving the Lord and His church. Here is one story about people whose lives were changed by the Lord.



Albers

The article is about Rev. Walter Albers, St. Paul, Waco, and his wife, Elna. Rev. Albers writes:

"I finished high school and entered college with thoughts of being an architect. However, for years as a child I thought of the office of the ministry, but the time, or my lack of trust in the Lord, never seemed right.

"I worked for 12 years as a lab technician for Texaco Research and after watching an older brother die of cancer and seeing how

he helped so many with the witness of his faith, I realized the Lord was calling me to pursue full-time ministry.

"There were no ministers in my family, but we were always involved in our congregation. My mother and father both taught Sunday school ... Dad also served as an elder and leader.

"After my discharge, Elna and I were married, and being involved in the church was a big part of our lives. We knew the office of the ministry was a high calling that could come only from the Lord. So after many hours of prayer and struggle, we made application to our seminary at Springfield. I was accepted and have been very happy ever since.

"We both worked while at the seminary, and as I look back, I think it was very helpful. We also received assistance from the Texas District, a grant from another source, plus a number of gifts from friends and family that encouraged us with financial help and just as important, with prayer support."

Elna writes, "A professor from our home town whom we had not heard from in more than 15 years sent quite a large sum of money with a letter saying in part '...the Lord laid you on my mind and I wanted you to know how very pleased I am with your decision to enter the seminary....'"

Rev. Albers continues, "The highs were so many ... knowing our unworthiness, then to be able to be taught by the great theologians in our church ... to meet and make friends with people we would never have known otherwise ... to daily learn more about the joys and privileges of the office of the ministry ... call night, not only for vicarage and our final call, but every call service, seeing new men going out to serve the Lord and His church. Truthfully, it was almost a three-year high."

Elna writes, "There are no regrets. It is an exciting, fun-filled, rewarding, challenging and humbling life. I strongly recommend it."



Douglas Johnson

Young Lutheran kicks his way to 2000 Olympics

The Olympics in the year 2000 will add the martial arts TaeKwonDo as an official sport. Douglas Johnson, a seventh-grade honor student and member of Pilgrim Lutheran in Houston, will get a kick out of that.

That's because Douglas won the gold in the U.S. Junior Olympic TaeKwonDo black belt national championships in 1994 for the second year in a row. And then he added the gold in the U.S. Cup competition, kicking against national champions from the U.S. and Canada. For this performance, he was named 1994-95 TaeKwonDo junior male athlete of the year.

Douglas plays in his school band, plays various varsity sports and is a four-year veteran of the Fort Bend Boys Choir.

His dream: to compete in the 2000 Olympics.



God opens door for Hispanic ministry in Pecos

by Rev. Ken Hennings, executive director

Texas District Board of Mission Administration

Area A of the Texas District which is comprised of the west and northwest portions of our state, has started its first Spanish-speaking ministry. As is true with many of our congregations in the district, Area A congregations have Hispanic members as part of their congregation, but none has had a totally Hispanic ministry. As of January, that situation has changed. A new Hispanic start has taken place in Pecos, Texas.

Closure/Opening

Lutheran ministry in Pecos began in 1947 and developed into Trinity Lutheran Church. When cotton was still grown, oil was a big part of the economy and the sulfur mine was going strong. Pecos grew as a community and so did Trinity Lutheran Church. It served the needs of people who worked in the sulfur mine or were related to the oil field activities. When gas prices went up, cotton farmers quit putting in cotton because it costs too much to irrigate. Over the last number of years, the sulfur mining company has cut back on its production and is planning to phase out of mining in the Pecos area. Today Pecos is one of many stops along Interstate 20 and is famous for its Pecos cantaloupes, still grown in the area.



Hennings

The town itself has changed over the years as the population of Hispanic people increased and the Anglo population decreased. With the population change and the economic change, Trinity Lutheran Church experienced a sharp decline in membership. The members of Trinity continued to carry on ministry with innovative ideas, going from a full-time pastor to a part-time, retired pastor. Because of those changes, they were able to continue ministry to the members remaining, trying to reach out to the community. Over the years, however, the congregation continued to decrease in membership.

On Dec. 11, 1994, the congregation members held a de-commissioning service, thanking the Lord for the years of ministry they were privileged to carry on. In de-commissioning, the congregation deeded its debt-free building, parsonage and land to the district, supporting the district's plan to begin a Hispanic ministry from the church's location.

God Opens Doors.

Through the Hispanic Institute of the Synod and its Theological Education by Extension (TEE) program, the Texas District has had a number of Hispanic people studying to become pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The program had advanced to the stage where it was time to place some of these TEE students into full-time ministry.

Gilberto Flores of Corpus Christi is the TEE worker who has been placed in Pecos to begin this new Hispanic ministry. He is being supervised for this first year by Rev. Dean Kelm, Redeemer, Odessa. After Gilberto's completion of

this deferred vicarage, he will be ordained as a pastor.

Another open door came to this ministry before Vicar Flores arrived in Pecos. A Hispanic person who was a substitute organist for Trinity Lutheran Church, heard about the district's plan to start an Hispanic ministry from Trinity's location. He contacted the former pastor and said that he was very interested in being a part of that new start and that he knew a number of other Hispanic families in the area who would be very interested in being part of this ministry.

Ministry Plan

Even though the church building that Trinity Lutheran Church worshiped in over these many years is available for use, the ministry plan for the new Hispanic start does not include worship from day one.

The plan follows a design where Vicar Flores will make contacts with leaders of the community, introducing himself and explaining the ministry he hopes to carry on in the Pecos community. Through these contacts and through the other contacts that he makes with people in the neighborhood and with other organizations, he hopes to find people who are interested in joining a Bible study group to learn about God's plan of salvation.

As these Bible study groups multiply and at the appropriate time when the community of people believes that worship is the next appropriate step, then worship services will begin.

Hopefully through the efforts of Vicar Flores and people that join his Bible study groups, the district will be able to identify additional laymen who would qualify for being trained in the TEE program. Through the years of study that would take place through the TEE program, the Hispanic congregation would be raising up not only leaders for their local needs, but also possibilities of future pastors to start a new ministry somewhere else.

Financial Support

Already the district has received a tremendous blessing in Trinity Lutheran Church's deeding to the Texas District its buildings and property. Besides this gift, Area A has given an opportunity to all its congregations to financially support this Hispanic start above and beyond the support they give to the district and Synod. Many congregations have already placed dollars in their budget for this start. Others are planning different activities to raise money. The B.M. Woltman Foundation also has given a \$4,000 grant to begin this ministry. The Texas District Board of Mission Administration will work closely with Area A congregations and will partner financially with this new ministry so that it will have the financial and leadership support to give it a good start.

The district convention of 1994 encouraged Texas mission action councils (TMAC) to begin in each circuit. Area A has taken this a step farther and basically has formed an area TMAC to support, encourage and pray for this new Hispanic start.

On pastor's mind ...

Worship: 'our way' only?

by Pastor J. Mark Kuehnert
Christ Memorial, Houston

One of the challenges we have to face as a church committed to bring the Gospel to bear on the lives of people in 1995 is to create worship forms that relate to the needs of the culture of the unchurched.

The generations that are called the "boomers" (29-47 years old) and the "baby busters" (18-25 years old) who have not grown up in the church have this to say about our worship service: "IT'S BORING" and "IT'S NOT RELEVANT!" It might as well be in Latin!

Is a decline in membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and in Christ Memorial Lutheran Church reason for concern?

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is decreasing in numbers of members: 70 percent of LCMS congregations reported one or less converts to their membership in 1993. Christ Memorial had the same average worship attendance in the first nine months of 1994 as it did in 1993. In the past five years average attendance has declined from 311 in 1988 to 254 in 1993. That's an 18 percent decrease.

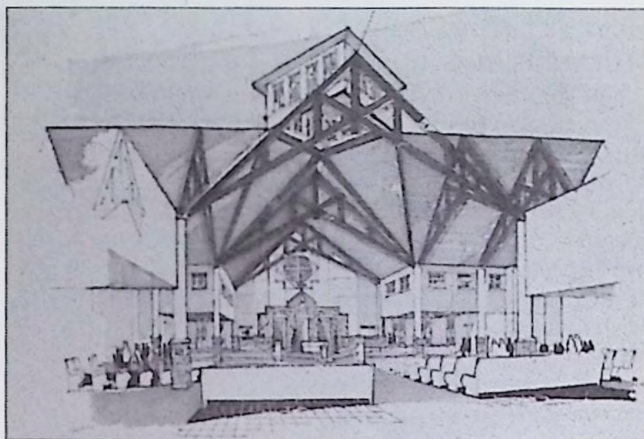
Our first reaction is to defend "our way" of worship. To be sure, our current services provide genuine spiritual nourishment and growth for those who attend. You wouldn't come back if they didn't. At the same time our church is having little or no impact in reaching unchurched people in our community.

We have a decision to make. (1) Continue to offer only worship services with which our membership is comfortable and watch our average attendance continue to decline, or (2) offer, in addition to a "traditional" worship service, a service that is designed to speak intentionally to the unchurched people in our community and trust that God will provide an abundant harvest.

I have asked the elders to approve initiating a "contemporary" service this year. For this to happen, your prayers and support are essential. The committee on adult education is offering a class on Sunday mornings during February on "Worship and Community Outreach."

This class will inform members of Christ Memorial what a "contemporary" service is, who is the target audience, the purpose of this service, the design of the service and answer questions as we step out in faith.

*Excerpted from the newsletter
of Christ Memorial Lutheran*



NUMBER EIGHT—This new worship center will be the eighth building project in 16 years at Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio.

San Antonio congregation plans 600-seat worship center

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in San Antonio celebrated its 25th anniversary Oct. 9, 1994, by unveiling plans for a new 600-seat worship center.

The congregation was organized in 1969 by Missionary-Pastor Robert Kuhlmann. The first service was held Oct. 19, 1969, with 62 people attending. Since then, by God's grace, attendance has grown to the current average of 410.

In 1979 a school was opened with eight students. Today's enrollment is 516.

The congregation also was a leader among San Antonio churches in establishing a Lutheran high school that will begin with a freshman class this fall on the campus of Concordia Lutheran in San Antonio.

Dr. Charles Mueller Sr. preached the Oct. 9 anniversary service. A banquet followed at which members presented a thanksgiving gift of \$3,633.20.

In partnership with Rev.

Robert Hartfield, Middle Europe coordinator for LCMS World Mission, the money will be used to purchase study Bibles—the 1912 Jubaelum Bible—for church workers in the region of Germany where the Lutheran church had its beginning.

The new worship center will be the congregation's eighth building project in the last 16 years. Rev. Daniel G. Mueller is pastor.

Concordia College gets lecture series grant

Concordia Lutheran College of Austin has been awarded \$12,000 in grants from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL).

The grants will be used to sponsor a lecture series on Christian values for Concordia faculty and staff with a goal of helping faculty identify means to share their faith with students.

The grant also will help defray the cost of developing a master's in education degree program at the college.



Brazil Lutheran students await your books

Only three more months (March, April and May) remain in the "Books for Brazil" campaign in Texas. If you have put off gathering your used books, now is the time to act. Books printed in English are needed for Lutheran school libraries in Brazil. Concordia Lutheran College at Austin is the collection center for Texas.

According to Dr. M.J. Stelmachowicz, campaign coordinator, "The deadline date for bringing books to the Austin campus is May 31. Almost any kind of good books in English are acceptable because so many of the Brazilian students want to learn English as a second language: Bibles, religion books, catechisms, story-books, novels, reference books, dictionaries, encyclopedias, textbooks, etc."

Books for all ages are useful because the Lutheran University of Brazil owns and operates nine Lutheran elementary and five Lutheran high schools throughout Brazil. Donated books should be placed in



TEMPLE—Rev. Alan Dean Struckmeyer was installed Oct. 9 as senior pastor of Immanuel, Temple. He previously was associate pastor. Participating in the event were, from left, Rev. Melvin Boehlke, liturgist; Chaplain Vic Killian, Rev. Wilbern Michalk, installer and preacher; Rev. Struckmeyer; Rev. E. George Becker, Rev. Francis Mennenga and Rev. Mike Ramming.

used cardboard boxes not larger than approximately 18-by-13-by-13 inches and dropped off at the Bokenkamp Student Center at Concordia College.

If you wish to support this cause but have no old books, monetary gifts are welcome. Send your check or money order payable to *The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod* and mail to Dr. Norm Sell, LCMS Treasurer, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122. Mark checks clearly "Books for Brazil." Funds are needed to help pay costs of shipping the books to Brazil. The treasurer's office will mail you a receipt for your donation.

District directors ratify presidential appointments

The Texas District Board of Directors has ratified the following appointments made by District President Jerry Kieschnick:

Rev. Tom Van Duzer, Sugar Land, and Jim Moss, San Antonio, to the district communications commission.

Sara Kammrath, San Antonio, to the district social ministry committee.

Rev. Michael Snow, Houston, Circuit 42 counselor.

Rev. Keith Piotter, Odessa, Circuit 4 counselor.

Chaplain John Stelling, Houston, district chaplain advisory committee.

Dr. David Bahn, Arlington, conference program resource committee of the commission for professional worker growth and support.

Rev. Roy Kieschnick, Klein, Circuit 39 counselor.

Bill Wagner, San Antonio, editor of the *Texas Messenger*.

Rev. Reinhard Wuensche, district archivist.

Dr. William Knippa, Austin; Rev. John Stelling, Houston; and Michael Rathje, Houston, committee on ministerial health.

Rev. David Jung, district convention arrangements chairman.

Rev. Delton Weiser, conference coordination committee of the commission on professional worker growth and support.

Rev. James Mann, commission on professional worker growth and support.

In addition, the district board of directors has made the following appointments:

Tom Couser, Ralph Barkin and Metford Mountford, board of parish services.

Lorna Anderson, Lubbock; Richard Tesaro, Dallas; Mike Manupelli and Dr. William Thompson, San Antonio, to Lutheran Social Services of the South Board of Directors.

Glenn Hurta, Waco, Lutheran Outdoors Ministry to Texas District Board of Directors.

Rev. Ric McMillian, Plano, to the board of mission administration.

The district board of directors also elected Texas District President Jerry Kieschnick as its chairman.

ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

"I want to pray in a more disciplined way.

However, it seems that every day during my special prayer time, distractions come flooding in—from the bill to be mailed, to the car that needs work!

How do I concentrate as I need to?"

—The devil truly hates it when we pray and will do anything to keep us from it. 2 Peter 5:8.

—**Pray a Prayer of Protection.**

Pray that God will surround you with His strong barrier against Satan's distractions. **Picture the barrier** around you as you pray. It is God's will that we pray and 1 John 5:14-15 assures us that this prayer will be answered.

Texas District Prayer Ministry Task Force #952

YOUTH

Our awesome Lutheran kids ...

A double dose of talent and character lives in Terri and Kerri DeClue, twins who are members of **St. Matthew, Houston**. Terri is a senior at Concordia, Austin, and in the honors program with a GPA of 3.62. She's taking 19 hours of classwork and works 17 hours a week at an outside job. Elementary education is her major. Kerri is a senior at Southwest Texas State at San Marcos. She's also in the honors program, takes 19 hours of classwork and works 17 hours a week at a job. Her major is communication disorders in physical therapy. Both are graduates of St. Matthew Elementary School. Along with their mother they faithfully participate in worship and youth work.

* * * * *

Bright kid honors for Matthew Allen, **Zion, Walburg**, winner of the Farm Bureau's district free enterprise contest. Matthew received a \$1,000 college scholarship. He became eligible for speech finals at the annual Texas Farm Bureau convention. He's a high school senior.



Matthew

He's a high school senior.

* * *

Eight young people in Abilene received academic recognition on their 1994 TAAS scores from the school board there. Two of the honorees are Lutherans, members of **Our Savior in Abilene**. They are Brenna Holmes and Darin Janssen.

* * *

Nine Lutheran schools in the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex were represented in the 11th annual middle school mathematics contest at Lutheran High, Dallas. Ninety students, grades five through eight, competed in number theory, application and mental calculations. Individual winners were Daniel Runzheimer, **Grace, Arlington**; Matthew Ranker, **Prince of Peace, Car-**

rollton; Tommy Wallace, **Our Redeemer, Dallas**; and Chris Capehart, **Lutheran High, Dallas**. Team winners were Grace, Prince of Peace, Our Redeemer and Lutheran High. Other competitors were St. Paul, Fort Worth; Faith, Plano; Cross of Christ, DeSoto; Holy Cross, Dallas.

* * *

A bunch of ball-hawks is the girls volleyball team of **St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Worth**. They won the Metro Lutheran League tournament at Lutheran High in Dallas. Their season record was 17-1, with a perfect conference record and a 15-game winning streak. These Lady Crusader champions are eighth-graders Britany Aves, Misty Bollman, Leslie Meriwether and Mary Kathryn Segulja; seventh-graders Chris Knorr and Cecilia Sanders; sixth-graders Dena Eichhorst, Jill Pridemore and Elizabeth Segulja. Coaches are Tim Cecil, Paula Maddux and Jana Syring.

* * *

Abigail Diener, **Zion, Abilene**, received her middle school's Bronco Spirit Award, given for citizenship, character and ability to strive toward doing one's best.

* * *



FOR THE HUNGRY—These decorated grocery bags will be filled with food by members of **Grace, Brownwood**, to be given to the Red Cross food pantry. The Sunday school students of **Grace** decorated the bags.

Jessica Hobratch, **Zion, Walburg**, was runner-up in both the Miss Texas and talent contests sponsored by the Texas Farm Bureau.



Jessica

She's a high school junior.

* * *

Bright kid honors for Kevin Cook, Graham Simms and Matt White, who have been inducted into the National Honor Society. **King of Kings, San Antonio**, is proud of these young members.

* * *

David Wiginton, **Redeemer, Austin**, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout Oct. 16, 1994, scouting's highest advancement.

* * *

Ninety fourth-graders in Bishop, Texas, entered the essay contest sponsored by the American Legion Ladies Auxiliary, but it was Jessalyn Kastner who won first and Brianna Felder who won second. Both are members of **St. Paul, Bishop**. Both got to

read their papers at Bishop Elementary School's Veterans Day assembly Nov. 11, 1994.

* * *

For his project for rank of Eagle Scout, Mike Fuller, **King of Kings, San Antonio**, rounded up some fellow scouts who helped him build a chinning bar and sit-ups platform for the after-school program at the church.

* * *

Talent abounds at **Holy Cross, Arlington**, where Brianne Meyers made all-region choir, Matt Bahn made all-district choir and Ben Wright and Sarah Buchrucker made all-city band.

* * *

Bright kid honors go to Daniel Coakwell and Tim Walsh, members of **Prince of Peace, Belton**. Both are seniors at Belton High. Daniel is second in the senior class, academically, and Tim is fifth.

* * *

Congratulations to Jena Imrie, **St. Mark, Houston**, who was elected homecoming queen at Spring Woods High.



Did your savings make a difference in 1994?

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

If you were an investor in the Texas District Church Extension Fund in 1994, the following information will answer the question in the headline above. If you were not an investor in CEF in 1994, please consider two possibilities in 1995.

First, look over the partial list below of congregations that benefited from low-interest CEF loans. The Texas District CEF is a ministry that actively seeks to carry out Christ's Great Commission.



Siegrist

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

***Redeemer, Alpine**
\$10,000

***Redeemer, Beaumont**
\$117,000

***Messiah, Boerne**
\$690,000

***Ascension, Cleburne**
\$29,000

***Crown of Life,
Colleyville**
\$520,225

***We made commitments to 22
Texas District congregations
for almost \$9 million in 1994!***

***Immanuel, Giddings**
\$315,158

***St. Luke, Honey Grove**
\$50,000

***Calvary, Houston**
\$185,000

***Family of Faith,
Houston**
\$108,000

***King of Kings, Houston**
\$2,000

***Mount Olive, Houston**
\$500,000

***Grace, Killeen**
\$550,000

***St. John, Mansfield**
\$80,000

***Messiah, Midlothian**
\$325,000

***Zion, Pasadena**
\$81,000

***Lord of Life, Plano**
\$90,000

***St. Paul, San Antonio**
\$103,595

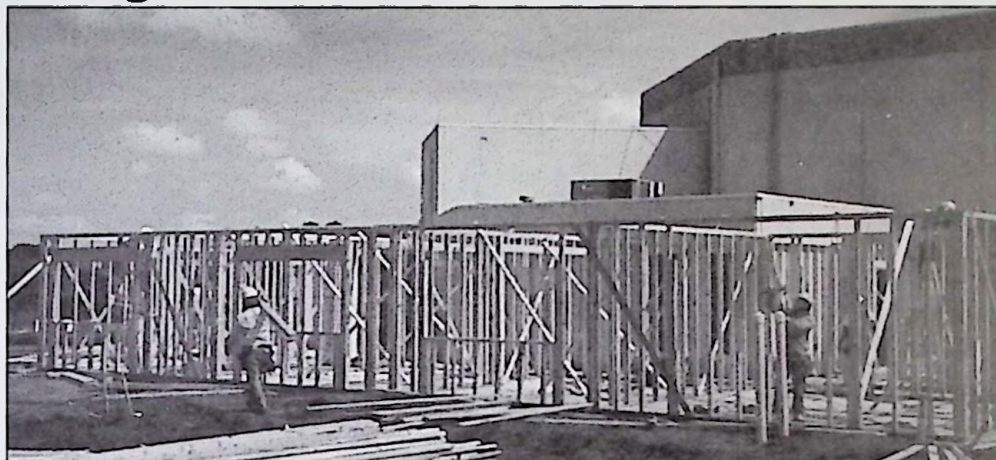
***Faith, Stephenville**
\$470,000

***St. Luke, Sweeney**
\$8,650

***Salem, Tomball**
\$5,000,000

***Grace, Victoria**
\$43,000

***Trinity, Waco**
\$450,000



PLANO—The professional staff and members of St. Paul, Plano, are enjoying their new administration building, shown here under construction, as a result of a loan from CEF in 1994. They also are adding a new entrance, a classroom building and are enlarging their narthex!

Your savings and investment dollars really do make a difference in the Texas District Church Extension Fund. Come join us in 1995 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, 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
or 1-800-951-3478

THE LORD ADDED ...

CONCORDIA—These are the newest members of the family at Concordia Lutheran in San Antonio, received Nov. 13, 1994. At far right is Dr. William G. Thompson, senior pastor. Top row left is Rev. Carl W. Schneider, who led the class.



THE LORD ADDED—On Nov. 20, 1994, Gethsemane, Houston, received 14 new members, brought by the Lord through baptism, confirmation, profession of faith and transfer. At far right is Pastor Eugene Heckmann. Associate Pastor Chris Johnson is at left, rear.



PLANO—St. Paul Lutheran, Plano, received these new members Nov. 6, 1994. A luncheon in their honor followed the reception. Rev. John Kah is pastor.



MIDLOTHIAN—Thirty new members joined the forever family of Messiah Lutheran, Midlothian, Oct. 9, 1994, by profession of faith, transfer, baptism and adult confirmation. Two weeks later, five additional families requested membership and three children were baptized. Members dedicated their first permanent worship home, an 11,600-square-foot multipurpose Family Life Center Jan. 8. Pastor is Glenn F. Merritt.



HOUSTON—These new members were joyously added Oct. 31, 1994, to the congregation of Beautiful Savior in Houston. Some in the picture are sponsors of children baptized. Pastor Michael C. Snow is at left. The new members totaled 34.



PALESTINE—By adult confirmation, affirmation, transfer and baptism, 13 new members were welcomed into the family of faith at Bethlehem Lutheran in Palestine. Vacancy Pastor Paul E. Johnson is at far right. Center, back, is Chaplain James W. Ristvedt who serves inmates in a detention facility near Palestine.

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



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

Pastor Graf joins Lutheran Heritage group

Rev. Herbert Graf, who retired last October as pastor of St. Mark Lutheran in Conroe, has been named Texas regional director for the Lutheran Heritage Foundation.

The foundation's mission is to translate, publish and distribute Lutheran books and materials to assist in the training of pastors and leaders in Russia, Africa, India and in the emerging Eastern European Lutheran Church.

A total of 10,000 copies of Koehler's *Annotated Catechism* has been translated and printed in Russian for a mass evangelism campaign. *The Child's Garden of Bible Stories* has been translated into Russian and will be released next month. *Little Visits With God* is ready to go to press in Russian. The *Book of Concord* is being prepared for publishing in 1995 in Russian, Latvian and Swahili.

To date, more than 65 works have been published or are translated and await publication.

Graf will serve the foundation on a part-time basis, being available for preaching dates, Bible class presentations, rallies or conferences. His phone number is (409) 441-2812.



GRANBURY—Vic and Mildred Holt, members of Our Savior, Granbury, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary July 22, 1994.



GROVES—M. Steve and Louise Rivers, St. Paul, Groves, were married 68 years last Aug. 14. Their two children, grandchildren and spouses have given the Missouri Synod 14 Christian day-school teachers and college professors.



LYONS—Pastor Ed and Ann Wachholz celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a renewal of vows Nov. 27, 1994, at Immanuel, Lyons. More than 100 friends and relatives attended an open house, including a Seabee member of Pastor Wachholz's mission church in Guam of 1960.



LONG WED—Here are five members of the August and Martha (Mitschke) Lehmann family who have been married 50 or more years. They were gathered at the recent 50th wedding anniversary celebration of Walter and Louise (Pietsch) Lehmann, center. From left are Hugo and Clara (Lehmann) Matthijetz, 57 years; Milton and Esther (Lehmann) Pampell, 57 years; Walter and Louise Lehmann, 50 years; Arthur and Milda (Pietsch) Lehmann, 55 years; and E.A. and Frieda (Herzog) Lehmann, 54 years. The Matthijetzs and E.A. Lehmanns are members of Mount Calvary, La Grange. The other couples belong to St. Michael, Winchester.

ANNIVERSARIES

The following couples of the Texas District observed wedding anniversaries of 50 years or more in 1994:

Trinity, Houston: Harton and Vera Schneider, 55 years, Nov. 25.

Concordia, San Antonio: Roy and Shirley Bauernfeind, 50 years, Dec. 2.

St. John, Hamilton: Fred and Emma Jahns, 65 years, Nov. 5; Fred and Alice Gromatzky, 65 years, Oct. 16. The Gromatzkys have been members of St. John for 54 years.

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Lorraine and Glann Carlson, 57 years, Dec. 6.

Trinity, Rosenberg: Albert and Matilda Meyer, 50 years, Nov. 30.

St. Mark, Houston: Oscar and LaVonn Schier, 61

years, Nov. 4; Joe and Lillian Brennan, 55 years, Nov. 17.

Grace, Rockdale: Charles Sr. and Ruby Rackel, 60 years, Nov. 28.

Hope, Austin: Mr. and Mrs. Milton Simon, 61 years, Dec. 23.

St. Paul, Bishop: Mr. and Mrs. David Theis, 53 years, Dec. 28.

Trinity, Sealy: William and Dolores Hildebrandt, 66 years, Dec. 12; Herbert and Mabel Schroeter, 60 years Dec. 16; Eddie and Shirley Svinky, 50 years, Dec. 31.

St. Mark, Houston: Emil and Amanda Laake, 59 years, Dec. 21; Herbert and Lorine Zoch, 51 years, Dec. 26.

Mount Calvary, La Grange: Carl and Ella Zoch, 60 years, Nov. 18.

NEWS

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

One of the most traumatic events in a college student's life is final exams. To ease the pain and make the preparation process as comfortable as possible, the student center at **University Lutheran, UT-Austin**, remained open five nights in December during semester finals so students could relax and study. Coffee, tea, hot chocolate and other snacks were available. Pastor is Norbert Firnhaber.

Gus Edwards, **Zion, Abilene**, received the Haworth Award, highest honor given an alumnus of the geology department at the University of Kansas. He was recognized for his lifetime achievements in the oil industry.



Daina

Muehling has been installed as lay minister of music and youth at **Prince of Peace, Amarillo**. Since she began in September, average worship attendance has increased and both youth and music programs have been expanded.

A \$500 grant has been awarded **St. Paul Lutheran School of Harlingen** from Aid Association for Lutherans to provide in-service training for the Lutheran elementary school teachers.

Petyr Wachholz and his wife, Pam, recently were

flown to Chicago where Petyr received Motorola's top award for volunteerism in Austin. They are members of **Redeemer, Austin**, where Petyr is Redeemer's food collection and distribution coordinator, and bus driver for the church's breakfast for the homeless. He also is host volunteer through Redeemer's participation in the Interfaith Hospitality Network.

St. Mark, Houston, has a Volunteer Handyman Service. Talented men of the congregation volunteer to perform minor household repairs for those needing help.

A high honor has been bestowed on Dorothy Thompson, member of **St. John Lutheran in San Benito**. The Progresso School Board has voted to name its middle school after her. She was a teacher and principal at Progresso for 30 years, retiring



THE GANG'S ALL HERE—Just a few of the kids dropped by for the 80th birthday celebration of Anna Sweilacker, just as they did for the 80th birthday three years ago for Leo Zweilacker. The Zweilackers are members of **Grace Lutheran, Burkburnett** and have been married 58 years. These are their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren who attended Sunday services with them. Can you find the Zweilackers in the middle?

in 1975—after which she taught part-time in an elementary school.

Crown of Life, San Antonio, has been awarded a \$500 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans to help defray cost of a pastors retreat at Camp Lone Star.

Six children and one adult were baptized Nov. 27 at **Hope, Austin**. It equaled the largest number of people baptized on one Sunday in the 34-year history of Hope.

Jerry Hentschel, **St. John, Beaumont**, is head coach at a Beaumont high school. He took his football team to the Class 5A state quarter finals.

Julie K. Lundquist, **King of Kings, San Antonio**, was awarded one of three \$150 best-speaker prizes at the conference of the Texas Region of the American Physics Society. Julie spoke on her internship last summer at the National Atmospheric Research Center in Boulder, Colo. Her subject was "Researching Atmospheric Tides." Julie is a double-major senior at Trinity University, San Antonio, in physics and English. And she's a 3.5-plus scholar.



ADMIRAL SPEAKS—Rear Admiral Donald Muchow, center, was special guest speaker at Thanksgiving eve worship at **Redeemer Lutheran, Austin**. Muchow is the 20th chief of chaplains of the U.S. Navy. Redeemer pastors are David Schroder, left, and Kevin Westergren.



Four receive special honors from LSSS

Four outstanding Lutherans are being recognized by LSSS at the agency's annual dinner Feb. 17 in Austin.

Dr. Florence Montz, R.N., is being honored with the Edwin A. Trapp Jr. Social Leadership Award. For years she has selflessly served the Lutheran church (LCMS) in many ways. (Please refer to the "People and Places" column elsewhere in this issue for more on Dr. Montz.)

The recipient of this year's Helping Hand Award is Virginia "Sue" Nebrig of Lubbock. A volunteer for LSSS, Sue is described as having a persistent commitment to the indigent, the helpless and the elderly. She leads and implements fund-raisers for the agency's Neighborhood House and Lutheran Home of West Texas. Sue has shown ex-

traordinary leadership and foresight in the development of Social Service programs and service.

Each year the Lutheran of the Year Award honors someone who is recognized as outstanding in his or her field. This year for the first time, two people will receive the honor—Ed and Howard Kruse. They are the men behind the modern-day success of Blue Bell Ice Cream. (Back in 1919 it was their father, E.F. Kruse, who saved "the little creamery" from bankruptcy.) Today, Ed Kruse is chairman of the company, and Howard Kruse is its president.

"These four Lutherans have glorified God by using their talents in His name to help and inspire others," says LSSS President and CEO Rev. Robert C. Greene.



Sue Nebrig

No carouser, Dora Walther just keeps going and going and going

How times have changed since Dora Walther was a child. Her family lived between Weir and Granger in the early 1900s. "We had to bundle up to go to church during the winter," recalls the now 90-year-old resident of Georgetown, Texas. The ride to St. Peter Lutheran in Walburg by horse-drawn carriage took about an hour, she said.

Although her story-telling

took place at Trinity Lutheran Home in Round Rock, Dora wasn't there as a resident. Mrs. Walther says she's not ready to retire. No sir! This lively, intelligent and gracious lady is an LSSS volunteer at the Trinity Lutheran Home thrift shop—has been for 10 years now. "I try to keep life interesting," she says. "I don't watch those soap operas. Can't stand 'em." She does like sports and reveals "I'm a big fan of

the Cowboys."

Dora worked at Scarborough's department store for 40 years. (Her husband, Theodore, was a banker in Taylor and later Austin.) During all those years she remained an active member at church, playing the organ and teaching Sunday school.

Dora's family has a history of "being involved." In the 1860s Dora's grandfather, John Doerfler, became one of the first Lutheran pastors in Texas, and her father-in-law, Pastor Franz Walther, was the first secretary of The Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in Texas. (In 1926 the organization became the Lutheran Aid and Orphans' Society, the forerunner of Lutheran Social Service of Texas.)

She says while her generation was growing up, "everyday" life was centered around church life. "In those days," she explained, "we never went dancing, we weren't allowed to drink and carouse around."

Over at the thrift shop Dora is in charge of children's and women's clothing. There, behind the tables and racks of clothing, she once again becomes the gracious and knowledgeable salesperson she had been for 40 years, holding up merchandise and saying things like "Isn't this a pretty blouse?" She also proudly announced, "We only carry the best!"

It's obvious that Dora Walther genuinely enjoys what she does, and when asked why, she replied without hesitation, "I decided to do a little work for the Lord."



Dora Walther

Chaplain bids prison farewell

After 12 years of working behind bars and barbed wire, Chaplain Gerald Discher has retired from the Wallace Pack I Unit of the Texas State prison system in Navasota. Discher was honored at a special reception and presented a retirement plaque by Warden D.J. Dretke, who also happens to be a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Navasota. Discher served as pastor there before going to work at the prison unit.



Chaplain Discher, left, and prison Warden D.J. Dretke

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

CLC designs adult degree program for working adults

How can a 30-year-old with a full-time job and family responsibilities complete a college degree in a reasonable length of time? Concordia Lutheran College supplies the answer through its new Adult Degree Program (ADP).

The innovative program offers 13 sequential courses over a 52-week period for 40 hours of credit toward a bachelor of arts degree in business management. Most classes will meet only one night per week and one Saturday per month. Ordinarily, a part-time student attending evening classes could complete less than half that number of hours of credit in a year's time.

"The Adult Degree Program is obviously quite accelerated," says Professor Steve Pagel, the director of the program. "It is designed for adults with high levels of motivation and self-discipline. Students will have to spend significant time outside of class on independent study, much more than is expected of students in traditional class situations."

To be eligible for the program sequence, a student must have already completed approximately two years of basic lower-level college classes. "Typical ADP students attended college for a couple of years before discontinuing their education and entering the work force," says Pagel. "Now they see that they need further education and the sooner the better."

In addition to the established ADP curriculum,

adult students may complete additional graduation requirements through television classes, credit by examination and Validated Learning Experience (VLE). Through VLE, an adult student can earn up to 18 hours of college credit for knowledge acquired on the job or through other life experiences outside the classroom.

"The Adult Degree Program provides a much-needed service to the Austin community," says Concordia President Dr. David Zersen. "While the 18-year-old certainly profits by the traditional college class structure, older students have unique needs and different learning styles. We are extending Concordia's mission of caring and serving to a new group with the Adult Degree Program."



THANKS—Lutheran Brotherhood agent Robert Beglau presented a grant check to Concordia College President David Zersen on Inauguration Weekend. Zersen, right, is already dressed for Saturday's Texas Roundup.

College receives grant

Concordia Lutheran College has received \$25,520 from Lutheran Brotherhood, part of a \$127,600 challenge grant from the fraternal benefit society. Lutheran Brotherhood General Agent Robert Beglau presented the check.

Concordia was challenged to raise \$127,600, which Lutheran Brotherhood would match. The program will extend through June 1996.

The college also received an \$875 quarterly IMPACT gift from another of Lutheran Brotherhood's matching gift programs. IMPACT matches Lutheran Brotherhood members' gifts of \$25 to \$100 a year to Lutheran institutions of higher education.

Lutheran Brotherhood provides insurance and other financial and fraternal benefits to nearly 1 million members nationwide.



GUILD SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS—The Concordia Guld presented scholarships to two students at its October 1994 meeting. Guild President Jane Martens introduced Jennifer Ellwanger, a senior from Austin (center) and Kathryn Campbell, a freshman from San Antonio (left). The guld also voted to give an additional scholarship to Limakatso Nare from Zimbabwe. The Concordia Guld is open to all who wish to support the ministry of the college. Membership has grown to 216, from 13 states. The next guld meeting is scheduled for Feb. 25 on the Concordia campus.



¿Quieres estudiar en México?

Concordia introduces semester abroad program

One of the most important aspects of a college education is the introduction it gives students to people and cultures different from themselves. As the world becomes smaller and smaller through improved communication and transportation, it becomes increasingly important for a college to provide an international element. Because Concordia Lutheran College of Texas strives always to provide excellence in higher education, it will introduce a "Semester Abroad Program" in the fall.

The program will be housed at the Lutheran Center in Mexico City, an educational property owned jointly by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The center is the former Augsburg Seminary, which closed in 1981.

Junior and senior students will be able to take between 12 and 15 credit hours of classes during the Mexico semester, in the areas of religion, social sciences, art, Spanish language and business. They will live in the Lutheran Center dormitories, set within a beautifully landscaped campus that is completely walled to provide security.

One very strong commitment of the program is to give students competency in Spanish. The experience will be particularly beneficial to the future ministries of pre-seminary and Lutheran

teacher students, since Texas is approaching the time when 50 percent of all people will speak Spanish.

Students from other member schools of the Concordia University System also will be eligible to participate in the Semester Abroad Program.

"Concordia of Texas is ideally situated within the historical purview of Mexican-American culture," says CLC president, Dr. David Zersen. "We intend to provide the doorway to the South within the Concordia University System."

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Adult Degree Program or the Semester Abroad Program, call the Concordia Admissions Office at 1-800-285-4252.

It's time to Sneak-a-Peek

High school students who are looking for a college home have an opportunity to get acquainted with Concordia Lutheran College in Austin on Sneak-a-Peek Day, Feb. 25. Activities will include a financial assistance session for the parents of prospective students.

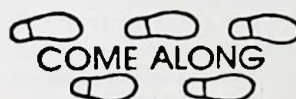
Call the Admissions Office toll-free at 1-800-285-4252 for information and to make reservations.

Getting ready for college?

Because Concordia Lutheran College wants to make a Christ-centered college education available to students of all incomes, the financial assistance office has developed a comprehensive program for students and their families to help with college costs.

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

In common with the majority of colleges, Concordia uses the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in determining financial need. The form may be picked up from high school counselors or college financial assistance offices. Concordia's priority deadline for completion of the application process is April 15.



BIENVENIDOS A MEXICO—These students from Concordia of Texas were the first to study abroad, although their class lasted only a few days instead of a semester. They were led by Dr. David Zersen (third from right), Concordia's new president. One of the pyramids of Teotihuacan is in the background.

For Texas District kids

Jesus is their valentine

Valentine's Day excites many children. Youngsters get excited as the day approaches and they see a valentine box in the classroom. Parents get into the process as they help their children select and sign the valentines they will give to their classmates and others.

That process has been going on for years. However, a number of years ago a teacher in a Lutheran school made a suggestion that dramatically changed Valentine's Day for many students. She suggested that instead of giving valentines to each other, the children take the money they would have spent on valentines and donate it to some worthy cause. Instead of giving their valentine hearts to each other, they

would all give their hearts to Jesus. Thus was born the **HEARTS FOR JESUS** approach to Valentine's Day.

Since that time Lutheran school and Sunday school children have been giving their **HEARTS TO JESUS**. Through the years, in Texas, significant amounts of money have been contributed to a variety of projects as schools and Sunday schools joined their efforts in the annual **CHILDREN HELPING CHILDREN—HEARTS FOR JESUS PROJECTS**. Now, while February is the primary month for this emphasis, funds are contributed throughout the year for the selected project.

In recent years children have contributed to Concordia College for a church-worker endowment fund; to Wheat Ridge Ministries and to the World Bible League to send Bibles to children in Russia.

This year the project is focusing upon children in Africa and using LCMS WORLD RELIEF to assist in touching the lives of children on that continent. The project year runs to July 31, 1995.

HEARTS FOR JESUS PROJECT—HEARTS FOR JESUS AROUND THE WORLD: AFRICA'S CHILDREN. The children of the district schools and Sunday schools can collectively bring God's love into the lives of children and their families in Africa.



THEY WORK, WE EAT—These are some of the dedicated agricultural workers honored at a dinner hosted by Trinity, West Sinton. Seated from left are Matilde Castro and Mr. and Mrs. Abel Aguilar. From left standing are Pastor B.R. Brummett and Trinity members James Ray Adams and Ben Hansen.

Dinner recognizes vital role played by region farm workers

Trinity Lutheran Church of West Sinton is the epitome of the agricultural roots of the Missouri Synod, and of America. Strongly farm-oriented, its members believe that no part of a viable agrarian economy is possible without dedicated agricultural workers.

So on Nov. 6, 1994, the congregation honored area agricultural workers with a special dinner. Farm workers and their families enjoyed fajitas and fellowship with Trinity members.

Speaking for the church and the West Sinton community, congregation President Lawrence Kieschnick thanked all the workers for their contribution to the area's well-being.

Trinity's pastor, B.R. Brummett, took the opportunity to "cast the Lord's net." He invited all who had spiritual or physical needs, who had no church home, or

who might need a spiritual friend to become a part of Trinity's fellowship.

Brummett then concluded the dinner with prayer, asking God's continued blessing on the farms, the workers and for His continued bounty.

High seas Christmas

Members of St. John's, Houston, helped see to it that seafarers of the world enjoyed the spirit of Christmas.

Members prepared shoeboxes with a comb, soap, shaving cream, disposable razors, toothbrush and paste, pencils, pens, pad, Band-Aids, key chain, small photo album, Texas souvenirs and something fun.

The boxes were taken to the Port of Houston as part of the port's annual Christmas gift program to sailors from around the world.



LEADERS—
LOMT Development Council members Marvin and Mary Stelzer were honored at the October 1994 dedication of Nazareth Unit II at Texoma Lutheran Camp on Lake Texoma in Pottsboro. The Stelzers served as project leaders for the second Nazareth Unit which brings to eight the number of private, motel-quality rooms available at the camp for overnight retreats and meetings.



IN THE SAME BOAT—Don Ladwig and his son, Dylan, shared a canoe at the Father/Child Retreat last September at Texoma Lutheran Camp. The next weekend retreat at Texoma for dads and kids is April 28-30.

Quality time retreats

Dads and their kids

By popular demand, two father/child weekend retreats have been scheduled this year at Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro.

The first will be held April 28-30 at the camp on Lake Texoma.

THE RETREAT IS tailor-made for fathers who would like to share some quality time and fun with their kids in the Lord. More than 90 dads and kids attended last September's inaugural retreat at Texoma Camp.

Like the first event, fathers and kids will spend time together outdoors at the April retreat enjoying Bible studies, devotions, campfire sing-alongs in God's creation. Recreation activities will include canoeing, swimming, archery, riflery, hiking, fishing and group games.

LAST YEAR'S retreat was well-received by those who attended.

Matt Loesell of Arlington spoke highly of last fall's retreat, which he attended with his 7-year-old stepson.

"It was the first chance I had to spend some time with Charles and get closer to him," said Loesell. "The retreat was great! It had a good mix of Bible study and group activities but you still had time to go off to be by yourself with your kids," he said.

Other fathers also praised the September event.

"THE RETREAT was very well done, and the staff was real friendly, and there was plenty to do," said Mark DeVanier of Richardson.

"It meant a lot to me to get away and be with my daughter, Rachel. She's 4 years old, and we had never spent time like that away from home just by ourselves," he explained.

FATHERS AND KIDS came from as far away as Austin, Houston, and even California to attend.

Accommodations for the April retreat will be available in the campground, screened shelters, dormitory cabins and the Nazareth motel quality units. Meals will be served on Saturday and Sunday.

For fees, a registration form or more information, call Texoma Lutheran Camp at 1-800-926-5968.



Spring confirmation retreats set at Lone Star and Texoma

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 21-23 at the Lake Texoma camp.

Camp Lone Star's "Lifequest" weekend will take place May 19-21 at that facility.

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

Each retreat begins at 8 p.m. Friday and ends at 1 p.m. Sunday.

For more information about attending, contact your church office or call Texoma Lutheran Camp at 1-800-926-5968 or Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078.



LUTHERAN OUTDOORS MINISTRY OF TEXAS

Behnken Society dedicated

Approximately 30 people attended the dedication of The John W. Behnken Society of Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas (LOMT) at Camp Lone Star in La Grange. The ceremony on Sunday morning Oct. 9, 1994, was part of the "JOY" (Just Older Youth) retreat held that weekend at the camp.

The John W. Behnken Society will help meet future funding needs of Camp Lone Star and Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro by individuals and families who have provided long-term support for LOMT and its facilities through a bequest, charitable trust, memorial or tribute endowment life insurance donation or alternative planned gift.

In attendance at the dedication was Ruth Droege-mueller of Houston, daughter of Rev. Behnken and a number of JOY camp attendees who had been baptized, confirmed or married by Behnken during his pastoral ministry in Texas.

Behnken (1884-1968) was born in Cypress, Texas, and was ordained in 1906. He began his ministry as a missionary in Houston and went on to serve as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in that city from 1908 to 1935. A total of six other congregations in the Houston area were founded by Trinity during his pastorate.

From 1926 to 1929, Behnken additionally served

as president of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. It was during this special period that Lutheran youth camping was first established in the Texas District.

In 1935, Behnken was elected president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in St. Louis and remained at its helm until 1962. His 27 years in the presidency is the longest in the history of the church and was a time of unparalleled growth in the Synod.

A role model for all, Behnken's commitment to the spiritual welfare of current and future generations is remembered and to which the Behnken Society and Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas is dedicated.

LOMT is an agency of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The mission of LOMT is "To provide opportunities for Christ-centered renewal and outreach in the midst of God's creation and among His people." Pursuant to its mission, LOMT operates Camp Lone Star and



Rev. John W. Behnken

The John W. Behnken Society of Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas

Texoma Lutheran Camp.

In 1994 alone, more than 1,400 youngsters attended Lutheran summer camp at Camp Lone Star and Texoma Camp. Hundreds more youth participated in Christ-centered programs at these two facilities during the school year, including preconfirmation retreats (spring and fall), outdoor education programs and directed retreats.

And the Lord has used this to strengthen His kingdom!

As an example, a recent nationwide survey commissioned by the National Lutheran Outdoors Ministry Association of more than 1,000 high school students, who are Lutheran and active in their congregation, found that after the witness of their parents and pastor, the kids themselves cite their experience at Lutheran camp as having had the greatest impact on their spiritual lives (even ahead of reading the Scriptures and their friends!).

LOMT, Camp Lone Star

and Texoma Lutheran Camp (and the Lutheran camps across the nation) are therefore carrying on the invaluable Christian witness program through God's great outdoors.

In addition to Christian youth programs, LOMT offers a variety of Christ-centered camping retreats and outreach programs for people of all ages at Camp Lone Star and Texoma Camp and at many off-site facilities each year across Texas.

On average, more than 14,000 people of all ages in the Texas District are served by LOMT camps and its programs.

As with Christian colleges, schools, seminaries, social service agencies, etc., LOMT and its camps must rely on the ongoing stewardship of Christian friends to maintain and expand its programs and facilities.

Currently, camping and retreat fees cover only about 70 percent of the annual cost of operating the camps and ministry with the remaining 30 percent covered



AT DEDICATION—Those present at the dedication of the John W. Behnken Society included, from left, Ruth Droegemueller, daughter of Rev. Behnken and several people he had baptized and confirmed during his ministry including Laura (Rauh) Genz, Bertha Bauer, Mildred (Bauer) Oglesby, Sarah (Rauh) Harmon (married and confirmed), Gertrude (Schmidt) Johns and Dorothy (Bolton) Swearingen.

by gifts from individuals, congregations, etc.

In addition to basic operating costs, LOMT has a long-term need to expand its level of support to help maintain and construct camp buildings, provide summer camp scholarships for youth, retire debt and provide for ministerial staffing needs.

How to Become a Charter Member

You are cordially invited to witness to future generations by becoming a charter member of the John W. Behnken Society of Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas.

Individuals who have already made provision to include LOMT in their will or estate plan or have otherwise committed a planned gift to LOMT and who formally notify the ministry of their action by Dec. 31 will be enrolled as "Charter Members" of The John W. Behnken Society. Names of all charter members will be

listed on display plaques that have been permanently placed at both Camp Lone Star and Texoma Lutheran Camp.

People will be designated as charter members upon receipt of the Behnken Society enrollment form attached.

Friends who have not yet made provision for a bequest or a planned gift but who are interested in becoming charter members of the Behnken Society should complete and return the "Request for Information" form enclosed. An LOMT representative or planned giving counselor will contact you soon. More information is available by calling LOMT or the Lutheran Foundation of Texas at 1-800-951-3478.



The John W. Behnken Society Charter Membership Enrollment Form

Because of actions I have already taken on behalf of LOMT, I am eligible and wish to become a Charter Member of the John W. Behnken Society. I have provided for the Ministry as follows:

- ☐ I have included LOMT in my will:
- ☐ for a percentage of my estate;
 - ☐ for the balance of my estate after specific bequests have been made;
 - ☐ for a specific amount from my estate;
- ☐ I have created a trust with LOMT as a remainder beneficiary.
- ☐ I have named LOMT as beneficiary of an insurance policy.
- ☐ I have taken the above action indicated but please keep my name anonymous.

Request for Information Form

I am interested in Charter Membership in the John W. Behnken Society at no cost or obligation, please contact me regarding:

- ☐ including LOMT in my will
- ☐ revising my will to include a bequest or planned gift to LOMT
- ☐ providing life income to me and my survivor and a gift to LOMT later;
- ☐ perpetuating a family name through a specific endowment fund.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Street

City

State

Zip Code

Telephone: () _____

Please return to:

LOMT

7900 E. HWY 290

Austin, Texas 78724

(512) 926-4272

1-800-951-3478

Please check off appropriate section(s), fill in bottom information, clip, and return)

Lutheran Foundation: 35 years of expanding God's kingdom

February 19 is Lutheran Foundation of Texas Sunday in the Texas District. We thank God for the 35 years the Foundation has been serving Lutherans as they have created and updated their Christian Estate Plans. The Board and staff also joyfully anticipate serving you in the future as you honor your Lord, each in your own way.

The Foundation was chartered on September 7, 1960 by some visionary leaders of the Texas District. Most of the growth of the Foundation has occurred in the last 10 years. There are two main reasons: the Lord has blessed His people with resources, and many people have availed themselves of the opportunities available through charitable trusts, wills, insurance and other plans.

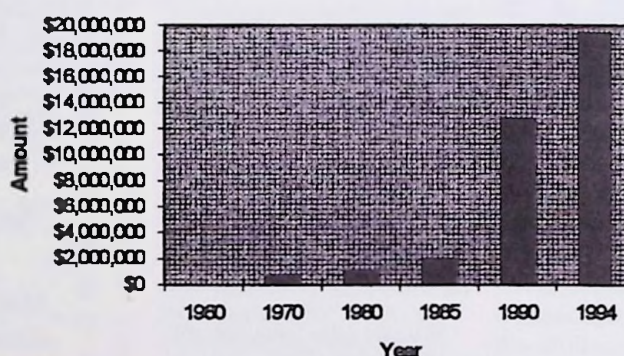
Growth of the Foundation 1960-1994

Year	Total Assets
1960	\$6,100
1970	\$536,688
1980	\$900,801
1985	\$1,944,644
1990	\$12,766,553
1994	\$19,455,585

Source: Audited Foundation financial statements

Note: All amounts are year-end except 6-30-94.

Foundation Assets



The first brochure developed by the Foundation in 1960 contained these words:

"The Foundation enables you, as a Christian steward, to help continue to expand God's kingdom of Grace even after you have been called into His kingdom of Glory. Are you interested? Consult your pastor and Foundation representative this week. Plan and act now, while there is still time, to use this new concept of Christian stewardship for the expansion of Christ's kingdom."

The beloved former Foundation Executive Director Dr. Carl Heckmann, several past Directors and many former clients are now safely home in Heaven. We thank God for the legacy they have perpetuated through the Lutheran Foundation of Texas. Many other individuals and families have made plans to honor and support their loved ones and the ministries they love through their Christian Estate Planning. Please allow the Foundation to assist you with YOUR plan.

"This earthly life will soon be past; What you do NOW for Christ will last."

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



HONORED—Pastor Robert G. Hagemann and his wife, Dorothy, were honored Oct. 2, 1994, by the congregation of Immanuel, Mercedes, as Pastor Hagemann, emeritus, completed nearly a year as Immanuel's interim pastor. After a vacation, they will return to Mercedes and Immanuel as members.



INSTALLED—Rev. Dale Lehfeldt of Natrov, Kan., was installed Oct. 9, 1994, as pastor of Immanuel, Mercedes. Participating were, from left front, Revs. Steve Morfitt, officiant; Lehfeldt; Fred Darkow, preacher. From left, back, Revs. Ed Weber, liturgist; Robert Hagemann, lector; Timothy Stahlke; and Marcus Mueller.



BONHAM—Rev. Loren DuBois was installed last Oct. 9 as pastor of Zion Lutheran, Bonham. Participating, from left, were Revs. Marvin Koch; Michael Mattil; DuBois; Craig DuBois, circuit counselor and installer; and Larry Krueger. In front is Nicole Evans, acolyte.



PLANO PRAISE—The Lord added 20 new members to the forever family at St. Paul Lutheran in Plano on Oct. 2, 1994. Pastor is John P. Kah.



AUSTIN—These new members joined the fellowship of Redeemer, Austin, in September 1994. Pastor David Schroder is at left, back row.



RICHARDSON—These are new members received in October 1994 at Messiah, Richardson. Pastor is Dr. Victor J. Kollmann.

CELEBRATIONS



**2,199 years
of marriage**

GIDDINGS—These 40 couples recently were honored at a special worship service at Immanuel Lutheran in Giddings. All the couples have been married more than 50 years. They represent a total of 2,199 years of marriage.



BUGGY RIDE—In the back seat of the buggy are Texas District President Jerry Kieschnick, right, and Dr. Eugene Gruell, participating in a parade marking the 100th anniversary of Zion Lutheran, Abilene. Members wore 1890s attire to the anniversary worship service at which Kieschnick preached. Gruell was banquet speaker.

WHOA!—Pastor Timothy Rosenthal of Zion Lutheran, Abilene, wore turn-of-the-century circuit rider garb to lead a parade celebrating Zion's 100th anniversary Nov. 11, 1994.



These 'I do's' total more than two centuries of wedlock

Put them all together, and they represent 2,199 years of marriage. That's the 40 couples honored at Immanuel Lutheran in Giddings who have been married 50 or more years.

"Praise God," said Immanuel Pastor Wilbern Michalk, as the couples were recognized at a special worship service Nov. 13, 1994. "What an example for our society today," he added.

The couples and years of marriage are:

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Amoroso, 50; Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Arldt, 58; Mr. and Mrs. Eric Artmann, 56; Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Billig, 50; Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Blume, 54; Mr. and Mrs. James Dixon, 50; Mr. and Mrs. Robert Falke, 54; Mr. and Mrs. Erich Faske, 51; Mr. and Mrs. Otto Galipp, 51; Mr. and Mrs. M.C. Gruetzner, 63.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Hoffman, 56; Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Kappler, 52; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Koslan, 52; Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Krause, 51; Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Lehmann, 57; Mr. and Mrs. John Lerche, 58; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Matthijetz, 57; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Medack, 55; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mersiovsky, 58.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Mersiovsky, 52; Mr. and Mrs. Otto Mitschke, 52; Mr. and Mrs. Walter Mitschke, 61; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Mutschink, 60; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Nimtz, 63; Mr. and Mrs. Louis Nitsche, 62; Mr. and Mrs. Alton Patschke, 51; Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Petersen, 51; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Pietsch, 54; Mr. and Mrs. Elton Proske, 56.

Also, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reinertsen, 50; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Richter, 59; Mr. and Mrs. Hugo Riske, 57; Mr. and Mrs. Earl Sandoz, 54; Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Schautschick, 53; Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Symm, 52; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Teinert, 55; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wenke, 57; Mr. and Mrs. Roland Wolf, 52; Mr. and Mrs. August Zoch, 66.

And Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Zschech, 50.



FOR SERVICE— Juergen Koetter, left, receives plaque from Texas District President Jerry Kleschnick in recognition of service as Koetter completed his full two-term limit on the board of directors of the Church Extension Fund. He was board chairman for 11 years.



Mysterious money

Our Savior, Rockwall, has been receiving contributions from an unknown person on a fairly regular basis. The contributions are found in an envelope slipped under the front door of the church.

Each time, the envelope simply says "To God" on it in red and blue ink.

Our Savior's newsletter says, "We would like to thank this person for the contributions and pray that the Lord watches over them and will bring them into His family one day."

Parish nurses growing

A number of Texas District congregations are being served by a part-time parish nurse.

According to Dr. Keith Loomans, executive director of parish services for the district, the parish nurse is "a visible symbol of the congregation's pursuit of the goal of wholistic health."

Wholistic health is based on the belief, Loomans said, "that health is growth toward well-being of body, soul, mind and relationships."

He said wholistic health finds support in the fact that Jesus not only healed people

from something, but to something. The pursuit of wellness is "our response to Jesus Christ, driven by the Holy Spirit," Loomans added.

Concordia University Wisconsin in Mequon presents "A Distance Learning Program—the Parish Nurse." The program allows a registered nurse to complete the course at home and in concert with the pastor and the congregation in which the nurse will work.

Marlene Hahn in the Texas District office can supply a brochure on the program.

On pastor's mind ...

Preach along with me

by Rev. Francis Schroeder, Holy Cross, Nederland

Recently, I had the members of the eighth-grade confirmation class stand in the pulpit. It gave them a different perspective of what it is to proclaim a Gospel message on Sunday morning.

They wanted to know how much time goes into a sermon, how sermons are formed and especially how long are sermons.

All these questions were gladly answered.

Maybe you don't realize the following fact: even before I stand in the church pulpit to share the message for the day, **YOU already have "preached a sermon."** Did you know that?

You preach a sermon of cheer when you say "good morning" to those you meet as you are parking, or in the hallways, or classrooms. You preach a message of "welcome" when you assist a visitor in church. You preach a message of hope when you sing with joy and power. You preach a message of prayer when you bow your head and are moved by the concerns of your heart. You preach a message of respect when you listen attentively when special music is presented. You preach a message of "hello" when you shake a person's hand or give them a pat on the back. You preach a message of faith when you give your gifts and offerings.

Many messages are preached even before I enter the pulpit. If your message is positive and consistent, then the message I share from the pulpit will be of greater effect.

Each Sunday, I prepare the best sermon I can! Come this Sunday to give the best sermon you can!

Together, we proclaim the love of Christ!

From the newsletter of Holy Cross, Nederland



Schroeder



SIGN OF THE TIMES— Holy Cross, Nederland, is using the concept of "Billboard by the Day" effectively, according to Pastor Francis L. Schroeder, who says the billboard is used to highlight changing messages and themes. And the cost is less than an obscure advertisement in the city newspapers, he adds, while urging local churches to explore the billboard option.



Lutheran Hour Ministries

MANY NEW AND exciting programs are being developed here at Concordia, and we will want to tell you about them when you come. As we seek to develop competency for the challenges to be offered in the next decade from the countries to the south of us, and as we seek to use our distance learning technology to involve all the other Concordias to the north of us, this institution will be at the forefront of new educational ideas and greater service to the church.

CHRIST'S PEOPLE have always been continuous learners, and we believe that as you come visit and interact with us, you will join in celebrating the value of Christian higher education as we move toward the second millennium. Each of you will find something special here on the campus of Concordia Lutheran College of Texas, and we look forward to hosting you graciously and telling you our story.

*In Christ,
Dr. David Zersen,
President*

Capital Zone rally
Redeemer Lutheran LLL of Austin hosted the fall rally of Capital Zone (8) last November. The meeting was called to order by zone

Special invitation, special challenge

On behalf of the faculty and students at Concordia Lutheran College of Texas, I extend a hearty invitation to all of you to visit our campus for the Lutheran Hour Ministries Lone Star District Convention to be held May 5-7. Because we are a school of the church, we are always pleased to have organizations from the church who share our common ministry spend time with us on campus.

President Forest Saemrow. Barry Samsel of the host club welcomed the attenders. Rev. Kevin Westergren, associate pastor of Redeemer, conducted the opening devotion.

Rev. Eugene Gruell presented the rally program "Compadres Todos." This is a program drawn from the lovely, time-honored Hispanic-American custom of asking couples to be "co-parents" for each of their children, from the baptismal font all through the life of the child.

The thrust of the presentation was that all of us in the church and, in particular, in the league all be "co-parents" and that we will do all we can to help young fathers to do the superb job of Christian parenting that God wants us to do.

This program was developed by the pastoral advisers of the district, Pastors Michael Ramming, Henry Biar and Eugene Gruell.

"Red Boots" to Begin Production

"The 'Red Boots for Christmas' special will truly be a global TV event," says Ken Peterson, who directs the international ministries department for Lutheran Hour Ministries. "Twenty of our international offices and project centers have ex-

pressed interest in airing the special in their regions of the world."

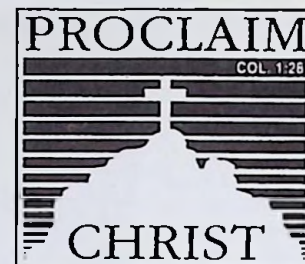
THE SPECIAL is to be aired in December 1995.

Immediately following the approval of the script by a committee of representatives from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Lutheran Hour Ministries, voices were recorded for the English version of the animated special, using the best character voices in the United States.

The script is being translated into Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, German and Mandarin Chinese. After the translating, voices will be recorded in different countries and various languages.

"RED BOOTS for Christmas" is based on a German folk tale about a grouchy, friendless shoemaker, Hans, who thinks Christmas is merely a time for greedy people to receive gifts.

When told he will receive a special Christmas gift from the Christ Child, he suddenly realizes that he has no gift to give to the Lord in return. He believes the best gift he can give is a special-made pair of red boots. While he works on the boots, the Holy Spirit opens his eyes to the need of people around him. Hans realizes that he can offer nothing to the Lord in



comparison to what the Lord already has given him, and his entire demeanor is transformed.

The special is to be aired on major networks in the United States and Canada or through a large syndication service. Overseas broadcasts will be handled with TV stations abroad for coverage. Videocassettes and related merchandise like activity books and posters will be translated and offered at the time of broadcast.

Watch for more news about "Red Boots for Christmas" in October or November.

(Used by permission.)

Christmas special

An estimated 2,400 radio stations worldwide broadcast "The Lutheran Hour" Christmas and New Year's special this year, potentially doubling the program's regular weekly international radio audience. Some of these stations later continue broadcasting "The Lutheran Hour" on a regular basis.

LLL news should be sent to:

**Irene Teinert
Information Coord.
1501 Barbara St.
Austin, TX 78757**



Fixing our eyes on Jesus

"Love is patient, love is kind, it does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails" (1 Cor. 13:4-8).

As I make time on this Advent evening to write a meditation for February, "The Love Month," my thoughts reflect on the events of this day in my life.

There was the funeral of a dear sister in Christ who has gone to be with the Lord. What joyous Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter celebrations she is and will be having in the mansions above. We sang for her "My Course is Run, Praise God, My Course is Run."

Then there was the "Holiday in Bethlehem" drama presented by children of the Lutheran school where my grandsons attend.

And finally, there were some phone calls to coordinate our 1995 Texas Lutheran World Relief Drive—one of our efforts to give to those hurting and in need.

God's great love for us just wraps all this up in one neat package that will, with the power of the Holy Spirit working in our hearts, motivate us to live our lives in response to His love.

My friend is experiencing heavenly bliss in all its glory. We "fix our eyes on Jesus" and continue to run ours.

As the children portrayed

the "Holiday in Bethlehem," we saw how the innkeepers were too busy, had no room, enjoyed their good life, had no trust, did not care and lost their chance to welcome and give place to the "Savior of the world."

May we always have room and give Jesus the ruling place in our hearts and lives. As we look to Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, we will respond in love to the needs of those God puts in our path.

Alma Kern says "Our giving 'gives us away' not what we give, but why we give matters. We have been blessed to be a blessing. We share what we have with God's other children, because our Father tells us to love them. What we do for others, we do for Jesus."

Lutheran World Relief is but one of the avenues for our response to Jesus and His great love for us. It is my prayer that God will abundantly bless our 1995 drive, blessing both gift and giver alike.

Lord, give to each of us the power to glow, to shine like a star, to be that bright moment in someone's day.

Eudoris Weiser

Third Vice President

Mission Projects

Chairman

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. Fax: 817-491-0105.

Scholarship for Lutheran woman

The Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League will once again present a scholarship to a Lutheran woman.

She must be 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.

The course of study must lead to full-time professional church work in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

To receive an application along with eligibility requirements, send the form (below) to:

Margaret Goodson

5623 Georgetown

Colony Drive

Houston, TX 77084

Completed applications must be postmarked by **March 31** to be considered for the 1995 scholarship.

MITE REPORT

December 1994

1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd December (all sources)	8,398
Rec'd to date (all sources)	75,170
Needed for goal	180,860
Sent to Int'l LWML (December)	2,003
Int'l to date	13,527

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box 1224, Giddings, TX 78942. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.

Dr. Florence Montz honored

Florence Montz, past president of the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League, will be honored with the prestigious Edwin A. Trapp Jr. Social Leadership Award Feb. 17 in Austin.

Lutheran Social Services of the South will present the award for her demonstrated and exemplified Christian faith, leadership and commitment to the social ministry work with the Lutheran Church.

Montz served as Int'l LWML president from 1971 to 1975.

Please send an application along with "Eligibility and Requirements of Scholarship Applicants" to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Applications must be returned by **March 31, 1995**

LWML

News from around the district

•“God Opens Windows” was the theme for the Northeast Texas Zone Fall Workshop.

The event was held Oct. 15, 1994, at Grace, Paris.

Pat Bailey shares they used the devotion from the LWML catalog making a banner while giving the program. A resource tape came with the devotion.

Each guest made a craft wreath to take home using the colors from the banner.

Grace Palmer reports that learning about chrismons kept the women of the LWML at **St. Paul, Fort Worth**, busy at their November 1994 meeting.

Julie Black-Grissom, makes chrismons for the annual church Christmas tree. She explained the meaning of the symbols and history of the use of chrismons.

Julie and Elsie Jamison helped each member create two: a cross on an orb, representing Christ over the world; and an Epiphany star with a rose, representing manifestation of the Son. Traditionally, only white and gold materials are used.

Faith, Georgetown, Capitol Zone celebrated Advent/Christmas with a joint meeting of Helping Hands and Joy Circle.

Each year a small change collection using a stocking is donated to the Texas District LWML Scholarship Fund.

Secret Pals are revealed with women of the congregation participating in both events.

Eleanor Nelson reports



This banner was made by the Northeast Texas Zone at its fall workshop.

the two circles Helping Hands and Joy will prepare and serve homemade soup and sandwiches before the Ash Wednesday service.

Hosanna, Kerrville, has been busy working on 100 quilts that will be shipped to Lutheran World Relief this spring.

The quilts were made by the nine members of the LWML Day Group.

Ruth Faubion reports that the quilts plus other items they gathered total 315 pounds.



Hosanna, Kerrville, stitches quilts for Lutheran World Relief.



From left are Joyce Hintz, Dawn Weiser, Jodi Tillman, Dee Cooper, Lila McDermid and Sina Whistler at Faith, Corsicana, enjoying a fall tea.

The Coastal Bend Fall Rally experienced a very unusual program titled “From Russia With Love.”

Pastor and Vera Schuster with Pastor Kelly Crabbe told about their experiences in St. Petersburg, Russia.

They traveled with the CAN-DO group in July.

Wearing a Russian costume, Vera greeted the members with the traditional welcome—the breaking of a piece of bread and dipping it in salt—representing sharing the Word of God.

Dee Cooper reports that **Faith, Corsicana**, made a special “Serve the Lord with Gladness” banner to celebrate LWML Sunday, Oct. 2, 1994.

Jodi Tillman, past president of the East Texas Zone, was the honored guest at a “formal tea” served that afternoon.



Vera Schuster, wearing a Russian costume, welcomes Coastal Bend members to the fall rally.



Whatever it takes



Pastor Kieschnick

By Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, President
LCMS Texas District

Our daughter was only 2 months old. I was being ordained as a pastor of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. A huge crowd had gathered at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Houston, the congregation of my childhood and youth.

TWO OF MY favorite clergymen had accepted the invitation to participate in this meaningful service. Dr. Albert F. Jesse, former president of the Texas District, pastor of St. Paul, Austin, the congregation of my wife, Terry's, childhood and youth and the congregation in whose parochial school I had taught the fourth grade (with a degree in animal science) was the preacher. His successor as president of the Texas District, Dr. Carl A. Heckmann, for whom I would later work at the Lutheran Foundation of Texas, was the ordinator.

A festive service it was, with many longtime friends, family and other loved ones, from near and far, gathered for the occasion. It was decided to make the event

even more memorable by arranging for the newly ordained pastor, still "wet behind the ears," to perform his first official pastoral act right there in the service of his ordination. What would be more appropriate than for this pastor to baptize his own baby daughter as his first such official act?

SO IT WAS, that while they were there, the baptismal party brought forth this firstborn child to the baptismal font at the front of the sanctuary. All was proceeding well until Angie decided, in the unfamiliar environment in which these festivities were taking place, to begin to put up what was appearing to be a pretty significant fuss!

The new dad and even

newer pastor quickly and quietly asked Mother Terry and sponsors Dave and Irene Easterday for "*the plug*," the marvelous little invention that miraculously transforms squalling babies into contented angels. Since the desired instrument apparently had been left somewhere by someone for some reason, Dad/Pastor did what seemed to be the thing to do: He offered the anxious child a taste of the forefinger of his left hand, which spontaneous effort worked like the proverbial charm! No one except the baptismal party was privy to these proceedings until the conclusion of the service.

WE TALK FREQUENTLY of this experience, especially on baptismal anniversaries. Mine occurs this month, March 14, the day of birth of my sister, Carol. She might remember my baptism. I was not present at her birth!

Whatever it takes! That phrase popped into my mind

as this article was being written. That's the attitude with which God promised to send and to sacrifice His only Son that the world might be reconciled to God through Him. No cost too high! No sacrifice too great! No opposition too formidable! And that's the attitude with which He fulfilled that promise of all promises!

Whatever it takes! That's the attitude with which Jesus said, "*Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of God the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you.*"

Whatever it takes! That's our response to His promise: "*Lo, I am with you always, to the end of the age.*"

ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

*"I want to pray in a more disciplined way.
What will help?"*

Spend some time in God's Word

It can make a great difference in our perspective. Instead of just "gimme" prayers, we focus first on who we are coming to.

1. Take a few minutes to read a few verses of **Scripture**. The Psalms are especially helpful, but use it all!
2. Take a few minutes to **truly meditate** on what you read and what it tells you about God. Ps. 77:12.
3. Begin to be awestruck about Him and His relationship with us as our loving Father. Rev. 19:6-7.
4. Continue in your prayer with these thoughts of Him.

Texas District Prayer Ministry Task Force #953

WITH JESUS ON THEIR LIPS

Look
out,
world



CAN-DO kids are coming

by Randy Potts

Building on the mission work that began last year, CAN-DO youth and adults will spread the Gospel through word and deed at 10 cross-cultural mission sites in Texas, Mexico, Russia and Slovakia this summer. Developing a passion for missions and servanthood, the young people and adult leaders become practical expressions of Jesus' love to the people in four countries.

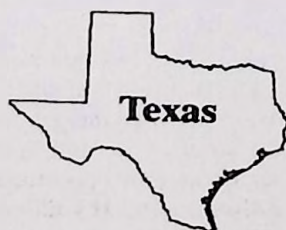


At each site, the CAN-DOers will serve in two ways: physical labor construction type work and evangelism outreach ministry into the community. Along with the "hands-on" ministry, CAN-DOers also will commit and raise significant new funds to provide ongoing support to our missionaries and the mission fields.

You, too, can join the CAN-DO team and enjoy the blessings of both supporting the mission fields and even serving hands-on in short-term mission events.

The 1995 CAN-DO goal is to raise \$300,000 in new mission funds and empower 850 youth and adults into hands-on mission servant events.

Call the CAN-DO office for more information at 1-800-951-3478.



Vacation Bible school outreach in Russia



Construction work on the church in Mexico



Bible distribution to a Russian family

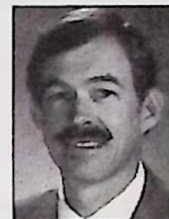


Youth camp outreach in Slovakia



Texas District Mission News

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



Rev. Ken
Hennings

Wednesdays are 'maravilloso' in Brownsville outreach

by Lori Bachmann

El Calvario DCE, Brownsville, Texas

"He's Got the Whole World in His Hands" is a favorite song of the children who come to El Calvario Lutheran Church in Brownsville each Wednesday. Singing songs is a part of the neighborhood outreach ministry of our church, which is located just 12 blocks from the bridge to Matamoros, Mexico.

THIS OUTREACH event is our Wednesday tutorial which we call Wonderful Wednesday or "Miercoles, Maravilloso." We provide assistance with homework (in English and Spanish) and play learning games with the children. We also provide craft activities; recreation time, including time on our new play-scape (built by PROJECT CAN-DO participants); singing; a devotion; and a snack.

THESE WEDNESDAY activities are an opportunity for us to share the love of Jesus through the time we spend with the children.

Our members are being a positive presence in our downtown neighborhood, through the time they spend teaching, preparing food and interacting with the children and their parents. Some great relationships are being formed, and God is allowing us to reach out in His love. We have 30 to 40 neighborhood children attending each week.

WE ALSO OFFER free English classes for adults. Each student is given a New Testament with both English and Spanish translations. These two programs have been very well received.

Last December a neat thing happened with our youth group. We were having a Christmas tree sale as a fund-raiser but didn't sell them all. The youth decided to give them to

the families involved in the "Wonderful Wednesday" tutorial. We gave all of the remaining trees away, and a lot of appreciation was expressed to the church.

RECENTLY WE received a used computer and are now using it with homework and learning games. The children are anxious to try the learning activities, and we hope to get more used computers. With more computers we could set up a structured learning experience for the children, with awards for completing learning games, etc.

Some of our hopes for the future are to reach out to the moms by providing some job/computer training for them!

We are also looking at future family activities, parenting classes and Bible studies as another way to reach out.

WE ARE WORKING with the Brownsville school system

in creating a process to help keep kids out of gangs and eliminate the violence. Soon there will be programs in our neighborhood for developing healthy families to help keep the children in positive surroundings. Some of these programs will probably take place at El Calvario. This is yet another way to impact people with the love of God.

I do sometimes wonder if we are making a difference in people's lives. We do not have new church members from this outreach effort yet, but I know we are planting seeds. So, ultimately I feel that we are making a difference. We are thankful that God is giving us the opportunity to show His love in action and that we can share the Word of God with many. We trust the Holy Spirit to work through our efforts. What a wonderful opportunity to serve as His people!

Editor's note: If you have new or used computers and/or software that you can share with El Calvario, please contact Lori Bachmann at (210) 546-2350.

CARE

About One Another in Christ

THE LORD ADDED...



MARCHING TO ZION—Fifty new members joined Zion, Dallas, on Reformation Sunday last October. Six adults were baptized along with three older children, and six other adults were confirmed. Robert C. Preece is senior pastor.



FLOWER MOUND—Lamb of God Congregation of Flower Mound (Dallas suburb) celebrated Christ the King Sunday with the reception of 100 souls into membership, including 67 new communicants of which 18 were received by adult confirmation and 14 by profession of faith. The total group contained 34 families. Pastor is Norman W. Schwolert.



THE LORD ADDED—Christ Memorial, Houston, added these new members Dec. 4, 1994. Pastor is J. Mark Kuehnert.



GROVES—These new members joined the fellowship of St. Paul, Groves, last Sept. 11. Three adults came by profession of faith, four adults by adult confirmation and four children as baptized members. Pastor is Jay E. Simonson.



ARANSAS PASS—Four of these new members joined the fellowship of Faith Lutheran in Aransas Pass Dec. 18, 1994, by adult confirmation. Two more came by baptism, and four by transfer. Pastor is William K. Schuster.



Texas-Synod partnership to be 'advocate for the lost'

The Texas District and LCMS World Mission have established a special partnership that envisions them working together as "advocates for the lost."

UNDER THE PLAN approved Jan. 24 by directors of the Texas District, \$400,000 from the district budget will be designated for specific mission fields by the district. The partnership will support mission priorities of church planting and national/ethnic leadership training in Texas and around the world, seeking to involve Texas District members and congregations in these efforts, as well as LCMS and district mission staff. Sites are not yet specified where the partnership will focus but, besides Texas, likely will involve work in Africa, Central and South America.

It was pointed out to district directors by LCMS mission leaders that many districts, especially those facing the challenge of new ethnic groups and urban growth, have not al-

ways been able to expand mission efforts. A way to meet new opportunities is through mission partnerships. Pooling resources and working together, districts are able to accomplish more than would be possible by working alone, it was pointed out.

UNDER THE PARTNERSHIP, LCMS World Mission will be responsible for calling, orientation, training, supervision and recall of cross-cultural workers outside the United States. Logistical support for missionaries and volunteers also will be provided.

The district will provide calling and supervising of cross-cultural workers in Texas, coordination and promotion of congregational involvement in Texas, and initiation of mission efforts in Texas.

THE PARTNERSHIP is a three-year covenant with annual reviews.

\$6 million budget adopted for Lord's work in Texas

A budget of \$6 million was approved for the Texas District by its directors at their Jan. 24 meeting in Austin.

The spending plan for Fiscal 1995 is 3 percent higher than last year's \$5,825,000.

Of the \$6 million in proposed spending, \$2,442,000, or 40.7 percent, will be sent to the Synod for its missions and ministries.

For Texas District missions and ministries, the budget calls for expenditure of \$3,558,000, or 59.3 per cent of budget total.

A breakdown of Texas District spending proposed in the budget includes the following.

- \$2,216,307 for Anglo, Hispanic, African-American, Vietnamese, deaf, campus and other ministries; also, new mission development, advance sites and student aid grants. Included is support for Lutheran Social Services of the South, Lutheran Outdoor Ministries of Texas and Lutheran Foundation of Texas.

- A total of \$384,358 is proposed for parish services to include parish education, youth ministry, church worker recruitment, stewardship education, evangelism, human care ministries and worship.

- For special projects and assemblies, the directors approved \$135,312 that will include blanket subscription plan for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS, workshops and conferences, circuit counselors, task forces, commissions and special committees.

- Congregational care and services was budgeted for \$308,349 to include the president's office, congregational care and presidential assistance and expenses of vice presidents and circuit counselors.

- For business office services, \$513,674 was budgeted to include financial and general offices, district office building and capital outlays.

Strategic plan will beef up district's mission and ministry

Responding to a resolution adopted at the last Texas District convention, district directors adopted a strategic plan designed to bring the number of mission and ministry facilitators on the district staff to five.

The action was taken as district directors met Jan. 24 in Austin and approves the employment of three staff members to bring the total to five facilitators. President Jerry Kieschnick was authorized to redefine two currently filled positions so that these staff members may function as mission and ministry facilitators within the new structure, which envisions all facilitators working to provide resources and facilitation within a network that includes

every district congregation, implementing the district's mission and vision.

The 1994 convention cited changing needs of congregations for professional support and assistance from the full-time staff of the Texas District.

One facilitator to be brought aboard will replace Rev. Ray Schkade, retired executive director of the board of parish services. The two redefined and presently filled staff positions will fit the mission and ministry model, and a search committee will seek to fill two more positions under the model.

Daughter, 80, is looked after by her mother, 106

The members of the Nursing Home Ministry of **St. Mark, Houston**, visit a woman named Elizabeth Harris who just celebrated her 106th birthday. She is mentally alert and gets around in her room.

She feels the Lord has let her live this long so that she can care for her daughter who shares her room. Her daughter is 80.

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

While the Marine Corps seeks a few good men, **Bethel of Dallas** is seeking some early risers. The church plans to begin an early morning prayer service from 6 to 7 a.m. Soft background music will be provided and if supplicants run out of personal prayers, the church will provide a prayer list of people needing God's intervention.

Gloria Dei, Houston, offers classes two nights a week in English as a second language. The Lord has blessed this ministry. Instruction is now being given students from Mexico, Vietnam and Russia, and already more teachers are needed. Day classes are planned.

Congratulations to Rudy Metzler, **Concordia, Houston**, who was volunteer of the month at Spring Branch Medical Center. "Perfect example of humanitarianism," they said.

And a special pat on the back for Janet Woodside, **Hope, Austin**, who graduated in December from the University of Texas as the "Outstanding Graduating Student" among nursing grads.

Members of **Zion Lutheran, Pasadena**, sprung a surprise celebration Oct. 30, 1994, for their Associate Pastor Alfred Scholz on the occasion of his 25th year of service to Zion. He was pastor of Zion from 1969 to 1992 when he assumed his present position, concentrating on visitation and outreach. Rev. David L. Sawhill now is senior pastor. Guest speaker was Dr. Norbert Mueller, a classmate of Scholz. An afternoon reception also honored Pastor Scholz, 67.

"Amazing Grace" wins again. In a congregational hymn/song survey at **Gloria Dei, Houston**, it was voted number one favorite, followed by "Lift High the Cross" and "How Great Thou Art."

The folks at **St. Paul, San Antonio**, gave city trash collectors a nice holiday gift by disposing of their own Christmas trees. Members hauled their trees to a ranch where they held a special Epiphany celebration, burned the trees and toasted marshmallows and wieners.



CARROLLTON—Prince of Peace, Carrollton, installed Tim Dommer Dec. 4, 1994, as minister of worship and celebration arts. Pictured are members of the church staff and Dommer's family who participated in the installation. From left are Minister of Inclusion Wyman Bess, Pastor Paul Liersemann, Debby Dommer and Tim, son Andy Dommer, Pastor Steve Wagner and Dommer daughter Holly.

Members of **Grace, Denison**, erected 4,000 small crosses in a pro-life display representing the number of abortions that take place in the United States every day. A sign accompanying the display encourages people to choose life and makes a powerful statement to the community about the sanctity of life as a gift from God.

Ground was broken Jan. 8 for a new educational complex for **Concordia Lutheran High in Tomball**. The building program will be completed in 1995. The complex will combine with the recently completed athletic fields and training center to make an excellent educational facility for Lutheran kids of the future.

The Hispanic Ministry of **Christ Lutheran, Austin**, has begun a bilingual celebration service at 4 p.m. on the third Sunday of each

month. Most of the liturgy is in English, with well-known hymns in Spanish. All worshipers will receive *Dios te bendiga*. (God bless you.) Jim Linderman and Alan Sielk are pastors.

Ten youth and three adults of **Redeemer, Odessa**, provided 44 hours of Christmas shopping babysitting time to 14 parents. There was no charge; the youth just wanted to share Jesus' love with the congregation in a practical way.

Members of **Peace, Garland**, celebrated the 40th anniversary of the congregation Jan. 8 by holding the worship service in the Fellowship Hall as it was 40 years ago.

Charles and Vivilyn Kalil have given tall, beautiful Christmas trees to **St. Andrew, Houston**, every year since 1956, without fail.



BRaille DAY—Lutheran Braille Sunday was celebrated Oct. 16, 1994, at Grace Lutheran in Orange, with Terry Lyons, member of Grace and well-known radio personality, reading the Scripture lessons and his address from braille. Present were his parents, Pastor and Mrs. Arthur Lyons of Copperas Cove, left. Lyons is at right with Pastor Eddie Scheler.

Noted piano duo will help chorale mark 10th birthday

The Houston Lutheran Chorale will host the duo piano team of Stephen Nielson and Ovid Young in a "Together Again" concert, helping mark the celebration year of the chorale's 10th anniversary.

The event will be Sunday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mark Lutheran, 1515 Hillendahl, Houston.

The concert will feature Nielson and Young performing on two pianos a program of favorite hymns and anthems, some accompanied by the chorale. Both men have made guest appearances with the chorale at separate concerts as well as being part of the musical group in 1990.

The piano duo has presented hundreds of live con-

certs worldwide, have been on TV and have recorded dozens of albums. Both men engage in solo recital tours, compose, conduct and teach. They live in Dallas.

To make reservations, call (713) 468-6452.



Nielson and Young

On pastor's mind ...

Why don't we sing 'better' hymns?

by Gregory D. Hyatt, pastor
St. Luke, Olney

It is sometimes asked, "Why don't we sing 'better' hymns?" The answer lies primarily in what is written in the words of the hymn. Hymns are selected to fit the theme of the entire service, for one thing.

While it may be true that there are some other songs that "sound better" and make us "feel better," the words at times leave something to be desired. Significantly, many popular hymns display a strong individualism by emphasizing personal experiences rather than the common experience of the Church (community of believers) throughout the centuries. Thus, we sometimes want to sing of receiving special individual blessings from God.

THIS IS ESPECIALLY true of hymns used by the Charismatic movement like "He Touched Me," "Fill My Cup, Lord" and "Fill Me Now."

On the other hand, more traditional hymnology glorifies Christ, or the work of God, rather than the person singing the hymn. Christian hymnology is not usually in the first person singular or even in the first person plural. Instead, it expresses the faith of the church in terms that glorify God rather than the individual or his person and his religious experience.

ONE GOOD EXAMPLE of those human-centered hymns that is out of place in the worship setting is "Faith of Our Fathers." You may want to look at it some time and consider these questions: How could this be considered Christ-centered? Is Jesus (or even God) ever mentioned? What faith is this faith that is being extolled in the hymn anyway? Is it Lutheran? Baptist? Roman Catholic? Quaker? Jewish? Mormon? Islamic?

Anyway, as one can begin to see, the hymns that we sing in our church services are Christ-centered rather than man-centered. Also, the hymns we sing are carefully chosen so that they relate to the theme of the day found in the liturgy, the prayers, the Scripture readings and the sermon. Therefore, the hymns we sing are not simply isolated songs that we enjoy singing. Rather, they are beautiful hymns that are an integral part of the worship service. As such they need to be chosen with great care to fit the theme of each particular Sunday in the church year.

An excerpt from *The Enlightner*,
newsletter of St. Luke, Olney

YOUTH

Our awesome kids

Chris Hearn, **St. John, Mansfield**, won first place in regional competition at Fort Worth in the National Football League's Pass, Punt and Kick competition, and was to represent the Dallas Cowboys in competing against other youngsters from across the United States. Winners were to participate in competition at the Pro Bowl in Honolulu.

Kelly Iverson, **Zion, Fort Worth**, an eighth-grade honor student, was chosen second chair oboe in all-district band and competed for all-region band. She won first chair ahead of 31 other oboe players.

Congratulations to Samuel Wilson Watters Jr., **Grace, Orange**, who was awarded his Eagle Scout rank Nov. 20, 1994.

Bright kid honors at **Our Savior, McKinney**, go to Tara Williams, Lori Lammert and Stacy Eliason, eighth-graders who made the Junior National Honor Society at their middle schools.

Three students of **Zion Lutheran School, Pasadena**, have been awarded the Arrow of Light, highest award available in Cub scouting. They are Bradley Golden, Jeremy Fowler and Christopher Simpson.



SERENADE—Kindergarten students of Redeemer Day School, San Antonio, sing for patients at St. Luke's Hospital. Pastor James Martin is in background, beaming his approval.

Josh Key, **Redeemer, Odessa**, toots his own horn quite well. He was first chair trumpet all-city and 10th chair all-region.

Bright kid honors for Ainsley Stelling and Amy Allen, **Holy Cross, Midland**, who were inducted into the National Honor Society. Ainsley is on her high school's swim team and is vice president of Holy Cross LYF. Amy is in her school's band, student member of the Texas Scholars Board, and she is president of the Holy Cross LYF.

Elizabeth Salverson, member of the Senior Youth Group at **Our Savior, McKinney**, is a self-proclaimed fitness nut who runs and does aerobics. She also holds seven of the 11 swimming records at McKinney High School. College recruiters are calling. Says Elizabeth, "In college I would like to try to get some Olympic trial qualifying

times." Go for it, Elizabeth!

You might say Ginny Wenck, **St. Paul, San Antonio**, struck it rich when she racked up enough strikes and spares in a bowling tournament to win second place and a \$250 scholarship.

Those great kids through junior high at Redeemer, **Austin**, joined the city's "Blue Santa" (police) service project and helped deliver gifts and food to needy families at Christmastime.

Talent abounds at **Crown of Life, San Antonio**, where Matthew Hartman, Tom Brezinsky and Ryan Miller were inducted into the National Honor Society, and Stephen O'Leary was chosen as a member of the high school regional choir, and Leslie Miller was chosen as a violinist in her school district's honors orchestra.

Jason Brown, **Fishers of Men, Sugarland**, has been awarded Scouting's highest rank—Eagle Scout. His Eagle project was replacing the fence at HWY Ranch, a home for men who cannot live independently because of brain impairment. Jason's twin sister, Heather, and younger sister, Megan, performed in a concert in Carnegie Hall in New York City.





GIFT BEARERS—Students and faculty members of Trinity Lutheran School, Amarillo, gathered \$594.86 in Advent-Christmas chapel offerings which they converted into gifts for the Salvation Army Angel Tree. Students who helped wrap and deliver the packages were, from left, Brittany Briones, Nichole Burgess, Michelle Wetsel and Ashleigh Hayes. Van driver is Jan Fluegel.



SEA STORY—These children of Grace Lutheran Sunday School of Brownwood are portraying Luke's account of Jesus calming the sea.



CHEER—Young men of the day school choir of Redeemer, San Antonio, brought cheer and praise during the recent holiday season to residents of a local nursing home. Kathlyn Gerhardt is director.



Boys choir reaches out to the mentally retarded

The King's Choir of St. Mark Lutheran in Houston was honored for its caring outreach to people with mental retardation as it received the Follower of the Lamb Award from Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc.

The presentation was made to the 38-member boys choir at the Good Samaritan Campus of Bethesda in Cypress, Texas, during Bethesda's annual banquet.

The choir, directed by Mary Mountford, has been an active part of special events on the Good Samaritan Campus. The citation, given in recognition of sincere love and concern for persons with mental retardation, noted that "these young volunteers have demonstrated love and concern for Good Samaritan residents and a willingness to stand in support of persons with mental retardation in their community and have encouraged and motivated others to do likewise."

The Good Samaritan Campus provides services for residents of seven group homes in the greater Houston area. In addition, thousands more are helped through workshops, seminars, publications and videotapes.

One for the books

You'll hear the term "squirt" a lot around St. Matthew pre-school in Westfield.

No, it's not what they call the kids, and it doesn't refer to a squirt-pistol water fight.

At St. Matthew, SQUIRT stands for Super-Quiet, Uninterrupted Reading Time. It's a transition time after snacks when each child picks out a book to look at, and just before story time.

On loving



And
gifts
that
show
your
love

by Glenn Pittsford
Executive Director
Lutheran Foundation of
Texas

Often I talk with people who want to make a special gift to a ministry they dearly love. Of course, most people think of writing a check to the ministry, and indeed that is not only the most common method of gifting, but it is also very advantageous to the ministry to receive the gift in that immediate way.



Pittsford

However, some of the more significant gifts often involve giving stock, bonds, mutual funds, real estate, life insurance and other financial assets or personal property.

HELPING facilitate such gifts is one of the reasons for the existence of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas. The Foundation regularly receives stock or other securities from donors, immediately sells the stock and remits the proceeds to the ministry selected by the donor, either outright to the ministry or into its endowment.

In addition to gifts of

HOW TO GIVE:

TYPE OF PROPERTY GIFTED	METHOD OF GIFTING	BENEFITS
Cash	Write check to ministry.	100% charitable income tax deduction
Securities	Contact the Foundation for instructions. Security is transferred to the Foundation, then sold.	• Bypass any capital gains tax (if held more than one year) • 100% charitable income tax deduction
Real Estate	Deed property to the Foundation, which converts the asset to cash for use by the ministry. (See LFOT Real Estate Acceptance Guidelines for other requirements.)	• Bypass any capital gains tax (if held more than one year) • 100% charitable income tax deduction
Life Insurance	• Change beneficiary to ministry (revocable) or • Change owner to the Foundation; execute a Life Insurance Trust with the Foundation.	100% charitable income tax deduction if a charitable organization (such as the Lutheran Foundation of Texas) becomes owner
Personal Property	Contact the Foundation for instructions.	Partial or complete charitable income tax deduction
NOTE: Gifts of cash are 100% deductible. The maximum amount deductible for any year is 50% of adjusted gross income. An additional 5-year carryover is available.		
Gifts of long-term appreciated property are 100% deductible. The maximum amount deductible for any year is 30% of adjusted gross income. An additional 5-year carryover is available.		



stock, real estate and insurance are very popular assets gifted to ministries through the Foundation. Again, the Foundation processes the gift and converts it to current or future cash to benefit the ministry.

THE DONOR receives the obvious advantage of a charitable income tax deduction for the gift. In addition, there are distinct and significant capital gains tax benefits when appreciated assets are gifted to the ministry.

If you have a deep love for a certain ministry or aspect of our Lord's kingdom, then contact the Foundation to explore the various methods and opportunities available to you through endowments and current gifts.

IF YOU want to benefit your loved ones as well through your estate planning, then contact the Foundation to find out more about "Give it Twice" charitable trusts.

Through prayerful consideration of Christian estate planning options, individuals and families practice good stewardship of their God-given accumulated assets. Often, estate taxes up to 55 percent of the estate may be avoided. By utilizing opportunities during your lifetime, capital gains taxes may be bypassed and very significant charitable income tax advantages realized. For most, however, the opportunity to honor and support the Lord's work and loved ones is the most important result of Christian estate planning.



ON RETREAT—The Lutheran International Center at UT-Arlington hosted the fall rally at Texoma Lutheran Camp for Lutheran Student Fellowship. Students from Tarleton State, A&M, Texas Tech, UT-Austin, Concordia Lutheran College, East Texas State and North Texas State University attended, as did several international students from UT-Arlington.

AS ALWAYS, the Foundation is a servant organization, an agency of the Texas District, existing to assist you in your Christian estate planning for the benefit of your loved ones and the ministries you love. Call the Foundation for information and assistance.

"But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His deep love for us, also made us who were dead in sins alive with Christ. (You are saved by grace.) And in Christ Jesus He raised us with Him and had us sit with Him in heaven, in order to show in the coming ages the immeasurable riches of His grace by being kind to us in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:4-7).

May we all in some way help reach lost people with the good news of the saving grace of Jesus Christ.

Dr. Barry here Easter

Dr. Alvin L. Barry, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, has accepted the invitation of the Easter Triumph Pageant Steering Committee (and of St. Paul Congregation of Austin) to introduce the Saturday, April 15, performance of the pageant and to preach the Easter morning services of St. Paul on April 16.



Barry

The Saturday evening performance of the Easter Pageant begins at 6 p.m. on April 15 at Palmer Auditorium, 400 S. First St., near Riverside Drive in Austin and will be preceded by a half-hour of sacred music by the Oak Wilt Boys, who will also play briefly after the one-hour pageant. Admission is free and there is no charge for

parking, but a free-will offering will be gathered.

A second performance of the pageant will be repeated on Easter beginning at 6 a.m.

This 1995 production of "Easter Triumph" will be the 37th consecutive year that LCMS congregations of the Austin area have sponsored this dramatic, public witness to the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. A cast of more than 100 people, fully costumed, appear on stage, backed up by a supporting committee of stage hands, wardrobe, lighting and others numbering more than 30.

Barry will be the third synodical president to visit the Austin Easter Pageant during its 36-year history. The first two were the sainted Dr. J.W. Behnken and Dr. Oliver Harms.

Barry will preach at both the 8:15 and 10:40 a.m. services at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 3501 Red River, on Easter morning, April 16.

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Concordia presents

Concordia Lutheran College will present the Tennessee Williams' drama "The Glass Menagerie" on March 23, 24, 25, 30, 31 and April 1 in the Louise T. Peter Center. Tickets are \$8 and may be reserved through Concordia's Lieder Bookstore, (512) 406-7216, or purchased at the box office on performance nights. Curtain time will be 8 p.m.

"The Glass Menagerie" is a study of disappointed dreams told through a young man's recollections of his family. The characters are Amanda Wingfield, the mother, a fading Southern belle whose husband abandoned her years ago; Laura, the sister, a young woman crippled in body and spirit; Tom, the narrator, an aspiring poet frustrated by a routine job; and the Gentleman Caller, a representation of the harsh realities of the world.

First performed in 1944,

"The Glass Menagerie" has become one of the most esteemed plays in American theater. Concordia's production will be directed by Dr. Claudia Teinert of the Communication faculty.

CLC receives \$12,000 in grants from AAL

Concordia Lutheran College in Austin has received \$12,000 in grants from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL).

A \$5,000 grant will sponsor a lecture series on Christian values for Concordia faculty and staff. A \$4,000 grant will defray the cost of developing a master's degree in education at the college. Concordia hopes to offer the program beginning in fall 1996. A \$3,000 grant will be used to provide financial assistance to academically talented students.

AAL is a fraternal benefit society that provides its members with community service opportunities and insurance products.

Hey, Lutheran kids, do you like to write?

All Lutheran young people in grades 6, 7 and 8 are invited to submit entries for the Field Day '95 writing competition. This is the only Field Day activity that does not require participants to attend the actual event April 21.

This year's writing topic is "Making a Difference." Students may submit essays, short stories, biographies or poems. Call the Concordia

Public Relations Office at (512) 452-7661 to receive contest guidelines. All entries must be received at Concordia by April 13.

All Lutheran schools with eligible grade levels have received complete Field Day registration packets. Lutheran young people not enrolled in Lutheran schools also are invited to participate in Field Day. Call to request a packet.

Check out Concordia

High school seniors, it's time to Sneak-a-Peek

It takes some real detective work to find the right college. You have to investigate for yourself and get straight answers to tough questions.

You can gather the facts about Concordia Lutheran College in Austin on Sneak-a-Peek Day, Saturday, April

1. You will be able to uncover pertinent information about Concordia academics, co-curricular activities and financial assistance—and have a good time, too!

Call the Admissions Office at 1-800-285-4252 for information and to make a reservation.



ON TOUR—The Concordia College Choir will tour in April, with stops in Louisiana and Oklahoma. The choir will be in the Dallas-Fort Worth area April 8-9. Watch church newsletters for specific places and times.

CONCORDIA

TEXAS DISTRICT



Academics Fine Arts Athletics

COMPETITION

for students in grades 6,7 and 8

April 21, 1995



Concordia 
Lutheran College
Austin, Texas

BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOMES AND SERVICES GOOD SAMARITAN CAMPUS

Johnson named Good Sam programs director

A new face can be seen around the Bethesda/Good Samaritan Campus. Ruth Johnson has assumed the position of programs director, announced Dr. A.L. Napolitano, Bethesda's executive director.

Johnson brings to Good Samaritan nine years of experience in the field of mental retardation services, said Peter Henning, campus administrator. She worked as a QMRP and social worker at a group home in the Hous-

ton area and has years of experience as a direct care worker.

As programs director, Johnson will oversee all habilitation programming as well as supervise the care staff at Good Samaritan and surrounding group homes.

A native of Mississippi, Johnson came to Texas for opportunity. She is a graduate of Jackson State and is studying to get her master's in social work at the University of Houston.

Day Programming puts residents to work

Residents of Bethesda/Good Samaritan's group homes have jobs to do in Day Programming at the main campus, Cypress, Texas.

Four areas are stressed in the Day Program to help each resident become more independent in their everyday lives:

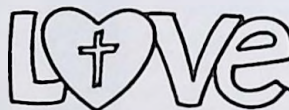
- Prevocational/vocational training helps develop skills, including sorting and packaging.
- Creativity is fostered through work with paints, yarn and other arts and crafts.
- By making their own beds and doing their own

laundry, residents develop personally.

• Because the residents are active and like to have fun, they spend time in the recreation room where they can use exercise equipment, watch television and listen to music.



Ruth Johnson, Good Samaritan's new programs director, discusses her goals at a conference at Good Samaritan this winter.



ABOVE, Marilyn Schmalz is working on pre-vocational skills. Here she puts spoons into a bag. This task allows her to learn coordination and motor skills.

AT LEFT, Leigh Boy works with multicolored beads. Collecting beads is one of Leigh's favorite things to do.

National Mental Retardation Month

Help your church reach out in March

Reach out to people with mental retardation in your community this March.

Bethesda has materials to help you observe National Mental Retardation Month.

You can:

- Invite individuals with disabilities to participate fully in church and social events and to share their talents and gifts;
- Have a Disability Awareness Sunday at your church. Write or call Bethesda for a copy of our Disability Awareness Sunday Litany;
- Look for barriers—not only architectural but attitudinal—that prevent people with mental retardation from full participation and resolve to overcome those obstacles;
- Volunteer to serve as your congregation's Bethesda contact person. We're looking for someone at your church who will receive information about Bethesda programs and see that it gets to the right person at your church—perhaps the Sunday school, ladies' aid or youth adviser. Call 1-800-369-4636 for more details.
- Show a Bethesda video at a congregational get-together. Videos are free on loan by calling 1-800-369-4636, Ext. 539.
- To find out how your congregation can make a difference in your own community, contact public relations at Ext. 539.

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



CONFIRMED—As Pastor Norb Firnhaber put it, "It is always a cause for celebration when three very sharp collegians take instruction in the faith and are confirmed." It happened last Dec. 11 at University Lutheran in Austin. The UT students with Pastor Firnhaber are, from left, Andy Thyssen, Jenifer Pierce and Donna Cavanaugh.



GROWING—The early childhood center of St. Andrew, Houston, recently celebrated its second anniversary. There are 40 children enrolled with a staff of 12. The ministry provides day care, preschool and Mother's Day Out care for members of St. Andrew and the Spring Branch community. Director is Cindy Hadley. Pastors are Harold Fleischhauer and Tom Hadley.

**He's
a
good
scout**



AT THE TOP—David Wiginton, right, Redeemer, Austin, receives Eagle Scout rank from Scout Leader Darryl Kellnske. This highest scouting rank bestowed on David included his earning 21 merit badges. For his Eagle project, he led a group of scouts in rebuilding the bench area outside Redeemer's gym and cafeteria. With him are parents, Jeffory and Sunne Wiginton.

ANNIVERSARIES

These Texas District couples celebrated 50 or more years of marriage either in late 1994 or early 1995:

St. Mark, Houston: Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Zwernemann, 62 years, Jan. 1; Eddie and Alma Lehmann, 53 years, Jan. 11; John IV and Helen Tedens, 56 years, Jan. 18; Louise and Clarence Sanders, 50 years, Jan. 28; and Martin and Meta Melcher, 50 years, Jan. 28.

* * *

Redeemer, Baytown: Mr. and Mrs. Rubin Kappler, 50 years, Dec. 10, and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Eixmann, 64 years, Dec. 11.

* * *

Cross, New Braunfels: Mr. and Mrs. Arlind Blome, 54 years, Dec. 31.

* * *

St. Paul, Wichita Falls: Glenn and Frances Ladd, 51 years, Jan. 23.

* * *

Trinity, Sealy: Jones and Edna Finke, 57 years, Jan. 1.

St. Matthew, Westfield: G.B. and Selma Barnett, 54 years, Jan. 18.

* * *

Grace, San Marcos: Fred and Alice Meierant, 50 years, Nov. 5. They are charter members of Grace. Mr. and Mrs. Roland Tiekens, 70 years, Dec. 17. They also are charter members and helped construct the church.

* * *



BRADY—Cecil and Pat Schill, Mount Calvary, Brady, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary last Dec. 19. To mark the event, they visited the church in which they were married in 1944, Trinity Lutheran, San Angelo. Cecil is a charter member of Mount Calvary.



VERNON—Henry and Florence Karcher, St. Paul, Vernon, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last Nov. 20.

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



GIFT—LSSS President and CEO Rev. Robert C. Greene, left, receives keys to van from Paul LaRoche Jr.

Brenham businessman gives LSSS new van

Well-known Brenham businessman Paul LaRoche Jr. recently surprised LSSS and residents of the E.F. and Bertha Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village (KMLV) with a special gift—a new Chevy Lumina van. Fresh off the showroom floor of the LaRoche G.M. dealership in Brenham, the seven-passenger van will allow more flexibility in meeting the transportation needs of village residents. KMLV provides them with rides for shopping trips, medical appointments and village-organized outings.

LSSS President and CEO Rev. Robert C. Greene said this is another outstanding example of Paul LaRoche's dedication to the E.R. and Bertha Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village.

LaRoche's involvement goes back to the late 1980s when the project was still just an idea. He served as committee chairman that guided its development and raised funds for its construction in the late 1980s.

Troubled lives improved by LSSS program

Confined to a wheelchair after suffering several strokes, 55-year-old Mr. "Smith" was facing eviction from his home in a public housing project. He had not been able to pay his rent, and life there had not been very pleasant anyway, since the apartment complex could not properly accommodate the handicapped. Then someone brought his situation to the attention of Lutheran Social Services of the South.

By that time, he was behind in payment of his bills by more than \$4,000 and was un-

derstandably having trouble making ends meet. LSSS provided him with help under the Money Management Program, and today his life has been completely turned around.

Smith was relocated into an apartment equipped to handle the handicapped, his debts have been cleared up, and arrangements have been made to assure that he takes his medication properly.

For information on the Money Management Program, contact the LSSS office nearest you.



Incredible safety record at Trinity Home in Shiner

"It's practically unheard of in any industry," says LSSS Safety Director Darin Leddy. He was referring to the fact that for five consecutive years there were no "time-loss" employee injuries at Trinity Lutheran Home in Shiner. Staff members were treated to a special barbecue lunch and award ceremony to celebrate their accomplishment.

Rich Risley, LSSS vice president for residential services, praised the efforts of the employees, administration and safety committee.

"The five-year record is really incredible," he said, "and was made possible through the great cooperative effort among employees in all departments." Risley added that in order to really appreciate the accomplishment, one must realize that, in operating a 95-bed facility like Trinity Lutheran Home in Shiner, there is always the potential for injury. "Just think of the possibilities," he explained, "when people are working in a large kitchen or lifting residents into and out of bed."

The LSSS Human Resources Department pays close attention to safety at



SAFETY FIRST—Trinity Lutheran Home (TLH) Administrator Lynn Campbell, left, and TLH Safety Committee Chairman Mabel Jalufka accept Safety Trophy for employees.

agency facilities. It uses various methods, including a safety orientation program for new employees, ongoing training and an incentive program that rewards "safe" employees quarterly. To receive this safety bonus the employee must have no safety violations and must not have caused any work-related accident.

An additional bonus is based on the overall safety record of the entire facility. This encourages all employees to take a special interest in the safety issue.

Each facility also has a safety committee made up of representatives from each department. They not only identify potential problems, but recommend solutions and preventative measures.

"We are really appreciative of our people," says Risley. "They deserve this special recognition for their contribution in making the Shiner home a place we can all be proud of."



“Three feet of water sat in her house while she made arrangements to bury her husband.”

Lutheran compassion eases flood woes in SE Texas

A lot of people had a hand in bringing relief to the victims of last October's flooding in southeast Texas, but the love and support of members of Christ the King in Houston was especially noteworthy. This family of faith and love made an important difference in the lives of more than 25 families hit by disaster.

BESIDES HELPING with clean-up; restoring walls and insulation; providing clothes, furniture and food; and restoring utilities, members contributed more than \$7,000 in financial aid, to which the AAL added \$5,000.

Across the Texas District, congregations as of the middle of December had given \$42,830.58 to aid flood victims. This included contributions from individuals and other synodical districts, according to Dr. Keith Loomans, executive director of the Texas District Board of Parish Services.

TWO HUNDRED Lutheran families were affected by the flood. In all, 15,704 housing units were damaged or destroyed in 41 counties around Houston.

A flood relief work team from Christ the King came across a woman who had become a widow the very first day of the flood. Three feet of water sat in her house while she made arrangements to bury her husband. The couple had no private flood insurance, and the promised assistance from the government had yet to arrive.

MEMBERS OF THE work team reported this:

"The lady says 'God will provide.' She is cleaning and sanitizing her kitchen and plans to live in it until she can get the rest of the house restored. Her greatest material needs are a mattress and cookware. We have provided both."

Into the Word, and remembering it

If any members of Trinity Lutheran in Navasota don't already have a few Bible verses memorized, they will by this time next year.



Kasper

Pastor Donald Kasper has launched a Bible verse memorization program. One of his fervent desires, his congregation well knows, is to help each of them "get into the Word."

"I am convinced," the pastor says, "that the only way we grow in faith is through regular and increasing use of Word and sacrament."

To this end, at the start of each month in worship services, the congregation will memorize one of Kasper's favorite Bible verses as part of the sermon. Then, the verse will be repeated in the rest of the worship services that month. "Hopefully," says the pastor to his flock, "by the end of the month

that part of God's life-giving word will have become a part of our inner being."

By the end of the year, members will have committed 12 verses to memory.

Two years ago, Kasper began a read-through-the-Bible program, now near its halfway point.

Correction

The author of an article in the December issue, titled "On Pastor's Mind," was incorrectly identified. It was written by Rev. Allen Bauer, associate pastor of Pilgrim Lutheran in Houston.

ON PASTOR'S MIND . . .

When things go badly

by Mel Newman, pastor, Memorial Lutheran, Katy

Do you have any enemies? Are there people who would rejoice to see you falter and fall in your work or in your home and family life?

David had enemies, and David has given us much strength against the fear of our enemies in his hymns of praise. Consider Ps. 9: 9-10 (RSV):

The Lord is a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble. And those who know Thy name will put their trust in Thee; for Thou, O Lord, hast not forsaken those who seek Thee!

God has not promised that His people would not suffer injury in this life, nor that His people would ride a tide of success after success. In the Scripture, Job suffered great loss; David was chased for years by Saul; Daniel was forced to serve a foreign king; Jesus was crucified; the church suffered persecution at the hands of Saul, of the pious and powerful Jews and of the emperor.

God has, however, promised that all things will work for the good of His people; and that He will never leave nor forsake them.

Therefore, let's put our trust in Jesus. Let's seek Him always as our Rock and as our Stay. He will be our stronghold in times of trouble!

Excerpted from the newsletter of Memorial Lutheran, Katy



Newman



RV-tent retreats planned

By popular demand, LOMT has scheduled a full calendar of RV-tent family camping retreats this spring. This includes the following weekends and sites:

- March 31-April 2 at Blanco State Recreation Area in Blanco, Texas.
- May 12-14 at Tyler State Park in Tyler.
- June 9-11 at Fairfield Lake State Recreation Area in Fairfield.

Space is limited so register now to reserve your spot. For more information or a registration form, call 1-800-926-5968. Happy camping!



Camp retreats set in April for older adults

Registrations are now being accepted for older adult retreats being held in April.

The spring JOY Camp (Just Older Youth) at Texoma Lutheran Camp on Lake Texoma in Pottsboro is being held April 3-5. The event will feature many activities including devotions, singing, worship, card games, "42," great fellowship and relaxation in God's great outdoors.

Accommodations are available in the Nazareth motel-style complex and camp cabins.

For more information, call Texoma Camp at 1-800-926-5968.

Also, the annual PTL/ALOA Retreat (Prime Time Lutherans/Association of Lutheran Older Adults) is being held on April 17-21 at Camp Lone Star in LaGrange.

Lodging is available in

both the Johnson Retreat Center and the camp cabins.

The theme of the retreat is "Parenting Parents—Another Blessing with Different Responsibilities." The retreat will explore the challenges of being parents to adult children over 30.

Rev. Charles Mueller will

be the presenter. An Illinois resident, Mueller is a noted author and speaker in the area of family life. His latest books include *School Dazed Parents* and *Then Comes the Baby in the Baby Carriage* published in 1994 by Concordia Publishing House in St. Louis.

Recreation includes card games, "42," fishing, hiking, sing-alongs, canoeing and other activities. There also will be devotions and Bible study.

For more information and a registration form, call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078.



IT'S CAMP TIME—Now is the time to register for summer camp at Camp Lone Star in LaGrange and Texoma Lutheran Camp on Lake Texoma in Pottsboro. For more information, call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or Texoma Camp at 1-800-926-5968.



'I believe the Lord wanted me to go to the seminary'

by Rev. Jay Beyer
Redeemer, Lubbock

I grew up in Colorado and was raised in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as were my mother and father. My grandfather, who died before I was born, served as an LCMS pastor in southern Colorado and parts of Kansas.

While attending Colorado State University (CSU) in Fort Collins, Colo., I met my wife, Glenna. I graduated from CSU in 1978 with a degree in history and a keen interest in archaeology. For four years after graduating I was employed by various universities and colleges in Colorado and Wyoming to work on historical and archaeological projects.

• Glenna and I were married in 1981. In 1982 we moved to Denver where I began working for the Colorado Historical Society in the office of archaeology and historic preservation. It wasn't until 1989 at the tender age of 33 that I believed the Lord wanted me to go to the seminary.

Glenna was fortunate enough to find a job as a paralegal with one of the large law firms in downtown St. Louis. Financially it was a struggle, largely because we were not able to sell our town home in Colorado and were burdened with a mortgage.

• I must point out that while at the seminary I discovered that the Texas District supported seminarians much more so than most districts. We truly learned to

HERE am I
send me
SEND ME

This is the second in a series of articles on men who have chosen the pastoral ministry as a second career.

rely on the Lord, and He did provide for us. Just when we didn't know how we were going to make ends meet, a check would show up from some congregation anywhere from Illinois to Minnesota.

Some of the high points for me included chapel every day and the camaraderie. These are strong and fond memories and have helped to shape me as a pastor and as a Christian.

The first words of advice that I received from a fourth-year student have stuck with me to this day. He simply told me that we needed to look out for one another and help one another out. Many seminarians did not have any difficulty with the academic aspects of the seminary and some did. The "Second Career" guys really needed to look out for one another. We needed to look out for one another academically and also in personal, spiritual and family matters.

• The seminary life can indeed be very taxing on the family. Initially I thought that I could spend 40 hours a week going to class and studying and then have plenty of time to spend with my family and even play some golf. However, the academics took much more time than I ever anticipated. At times it seemed like I was

married to my classes and classmates rather than to Glenna.

It is important to delegate time for your family and try to keep your family first in your priorities. It is vital—absolutely necessary—if you are married, that your wife is supportive of you.

• Spending time in such a close community, we also developed some deep and lifelong friendships. In fact, the godparents of our son who was born at the end of our second year, are former classmates and their wives. I can truly say I miss seeing

my brothers on a day-to-day basis. But I rejoice in the knowledge of who they are and how they are serving God's people.

To have the privilege of attending the seminary and serving God's people as their pastor is a true honor. The seminary experience for me may have been the most challenging and the most rewarding experience I have ever had. I will cherish it as long as I live.

• I received a call to serve the people of Redeemer in Lubbock, Texas, in 1993. I truly believe that the Holy Spirit guided the director of placement and the placement committee to send me here. And I know the people of Redeemer believe the Holy Spirit guided them to ask the seminary for a candidate.

Opens in August

Students committing to new high school in San Antonio

As of Feb. 13, 1995, a total of 34 first-year students has committed to be a part of the pioneering student body of San Antonio's first Lutheran high school.

The school will begin in August with a freshman class, adding a class a year until a four-year high school is in place. Five San Antonio Lutheran congregations joined in organizing the school and pledged their support to its functioning.

The campus will be at

Concordia Lutheran, 1826 Basse Road, sharing facilities with that congregation's school which includes classrooms, athletic fields and a gym.

The new school's board of directors has chosen Michael Miller as principal. He has taught biology and been a football coach at Judson High, a school in a San Antonio suburb. He is a native of LaGrange, a lifelong Lutheran, and a member of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran in San Antonio.



WORK BREAK—Texas Laborers For Christ enjoy a Christmas gathering Dec. 5, 1994, at Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Austin.

Christian seniors

They've nailed down their jobs

by Dick Hansen
Director of Construction
Texas Church Extension Fund

Have you had the opportunity to be around the Texas Laborers For Christ? If not, you have missed the experience of seeing a senior group of people who witness their faith not only in word but also in their work. These upbeat, energetic Christians display to the congregations they service, as well as to the communities in which they are building, their love for the Lord. In a



Hansen

time of life when many older folks are on the golf course, fishing or taking life a lot easier, the laborers are hard at work.

I am always proud to hear the praises from city inspectors after the completion of a job by the laborers. These inspectors examine construction sites every day and notice the difference.

The laborers' day starts early, and they put in a full day of work. They set a pace that some younger hands would have a hard time following.

The laborers' wives are a very important

partner of the laborers team, not only by their support of the project, but by becoming involved in the congregations. These important partners assist in the church office, teaching Sunday school and even join the choir. These couples become an active part of the congregation while they are on the job.

In the past six years, I am aware of 18 congregations which Laborers For Christ has served in the Texas District. They built for one congregation on two separate occasions.

If you have an interest in learning more about Laborers For Christ or want to join in this special ministry, please contact the Church Extension Fund office in Austin. It's also good if you own a travel trailer or RV.

If your congregation has plans to build or remodel in the future and would like to consider the services of Texas Laborers For Christ, contact the Texas District office:

7900 E. Hwy 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
(512) 926-4272
1-800-951-3478.

Top national honors go to Lutheran coach Ron Harms

Ron Harms knows where all the X's and O's go on the blackboard. He has just been named Division II Coach of the Year by television's CNN.

Harms has been head football coach at Texas A&M-Kingsville for 16 years and athletic director for 12. He and his wife, Marlene, are members of St. Paul Lutheran, Kingsville. He has been an elder for six years and now is on the stewardship board.

The coach is the son of Dr. Oliver Harms, past LCMS president.

His 1994 Javelinas were National NCAA Division runners-up, compiling a 12-1 record, losing only 16-10 to North Alabama in the divisional championship game. Two of his players were named to the All-American team.

Harms previously was named Lone Star Conference Coach of the Year and the American Football Coaches Association regional coach of the year.

His record with the Javelinas is 128-56-0 and includes conference and national championship teams.



Coach Harms



'We are God's gypsies'

Grace Lutheran Church of Killeen has been blessed by trailer loads of special ministers during the past year. These Laborers For Christ are helping complete a \$2.2 million "Build Up The Church" expansion and renovation project.

Laborers For Christ are retired carpenters, handy-men and other workers from Texas and states as far away as Montana who, through the Missouri Synod, have been helping Lutheran churches expand since 1984.

Eight laborers have been living in trailers on the Grace Church grounds and are working with contractors and congregation volunteers to help build a 6,500-square-foot educational wing onto the church and renovate existing buildings.

"We assist a church as it builds," said Laborer Foreman Gere Phillips. He said it is equally as important that church members pitch in to build a "sweat equity" in the project.

The laborers bring their spouses with them and live in their trailers and RVs on the site, becoming part of the church community. And although most of the laborers are men, Phillips said some are women "who get up on the roof and pound nails better than some men."

The women also help in other ways, according to Alice Phillips, Gere's wife. From grocery shopping and laundry, to preparing meals, sweeping up work sites and gathering as a group in communal prayer, the women said they do "Martha's work" and consider them-

selves Laborers For Christ as well.

Ruth Waetzig who came from Montana with her husband, Russell, said the women also have chances to witness throughout the city. She said many people ask them what the "Laborers For Christ" lettering sewn onto their jackets means.

Phillips and Wally Weiss, a retired police officer, said they work as laborers for the fun of it. "It's fun serving the Lord," said Phillips. "We sure aren't doing this to be recognized, and we aren't doing it for the money," he said, adding the glory goes to God.

"Besides, it beats sitting home in a rocking chair," said Weiss. He said through their work the laborers, mostly retirement age, also help show people that just because a person is older doesn't mean he or she can't do anything.

Alice said the group refers to themselves as "chronologically gifted," not old. She and other wives agree that the sense of purpose and accomplishment their husbands feel in working for Christ balances the loss of home, family and old

friends.

"We are God's gypsies," added Weiss.

The laborers make minimum wage at the Grace project to be covered under workers' compensation. Through their efforts and the use of high quality tools which belong to the Texas District Laborers For Christ, the group is helping save about 40 percent of construction costs, which allows the church to expand farther than it could otherwise.

(From the Killeen Daily Herald used by permission.)



Herb Meyer of Westphalia, Kan.



Russ Waetzig, left, Great Falls, Mont., and Harry Wegehott, Garland, Texas.



Paul Seller, Copperas Cove, Texas.



Clarence Stelzer, Dallas, Texas.



Foreman Gere Phillips, right, Manistee, Mich., with Grace volunteer Henry Kielman.

Lutheran Hour Ministries has new volunteer training center

Lutheran Hour Ministries hosted a special dedication service Thursday, Jan. 12, for its new Center for Volunteer Development, located at 2165 Hampton Ave. in St. Louis. A day of festivities climaxed with a chapel service at 2185 Hampton Ave., the organization's international headquarters.

The ceremonies featured Dr. Dale Meyer, speaker on "The Lutheran Hour" radio program, Associate Speaker Dr. Wallace Schulz and Donald Bennett, president of the International Lutheran Laymen's League. A ribbon cutting ceremony followed the service.

The newly renovated building adjacent to the Lutheran Hour Ministries main office, will serve as the Christian media ministry organization's training center for volunteers who work in Lutheran congregations. The building will house nearly 50 employees in the volunteer opportunities, ministry support and gift planning departments.

Good News

"The Lutheran Hour" radio program's holiday specials were accepted for airing by a record-breaking 3,651-plus stations.

Our Southern California District's Tournament of Roses Parade float was seen by approximately 450 million people worldwide.

The Word of God is reaching out in exciting ways!

Public service announcements generating awareness of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and Lutheran Hour Ministries are now airing. Earlier PSA campaigns netted \$5.5 million in free publicity.

"The Lutheran Hour" is aired by 1,088 radio stations in the United States, as of Nov. 1. Of these broadcasts, about 21 percent are locally sponsored and just over 45 percent are considered public service time. Eight new stations were added to the broadcast list in October.

District Convention

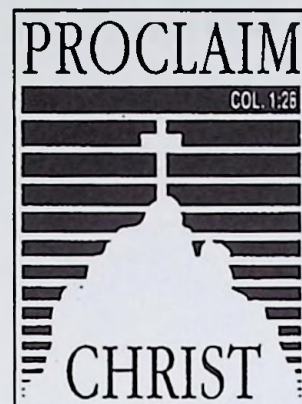
The 1995 Lone Star District Convention should be very interesting with Don Bennett, president of the Int'l LLL, and Rev. Bill Diekelman in attendance. Diekelman will be sharing his experiences of Lutheran Hour Ministries "Living for Tomorrow" media campaign. Diekelman, president of the LCMS Oklahoma District, is from Owasso, Okla.

Watch your mail for information about registration and housing. Remember the dates: May 5, 6 and 7 at Concordia Lutheran College in Austin.

Called to Glory

Bernhard (Ben) F. Jutzi, born May 28, 1904, in Chester, Ill., died in Austin Dec. 15, 1994, at age 90.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Rosemary; son,



Bernard, and two sons-in-law.

Survivors include his daughters, Carolyn Gassman and Mary Lou Crutchfield; three grandsons, one great-grandson, and a brother, Henry Jutzi.

Funeral services were held Dec. 18, 1994, in Austin. Additional services and burial were held in Houston.

A graduate of Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill., he came to Texas as a school teacher in 1925. His whole life was devoted to his church. He held many positions in Walther League,



Ben Jutzi, right, receives the 1979 Lutheran Laymen's League award from Lone Star District President Arthur Samuel.

Lutheran Laymen's League, Sunday school teacher and elder in church. In later years, he held the position of executive director of the Int'l LLL (1971-75 and 1976-77).

Before moving to Austin in 1990, he served as director of the Houston Area Lutheran Council. Of the many awards he received, he was most proud of being named Lutheran Layman of the Year in 1979; elder emeritus of St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Houston; and receiving his honorary doctor of letters degree from Valparaiso University.

In the *Texas Messenger* of THE LUTHERAN WITNESS dated March 14, 1944, we find that Jutzi was an ex-officio member of the Int'l LLL Board of Governors. This article listed Feb. 13, 1944, as the date for the organization of the Lone Star District LLL, and B.F. Jutzi was elected as its first president.

At that time, Jutzi said, "The Lone Star District of the LLL is dedicated to the service of the church in the extension and intensifying of Lutheranism in Texas. I appeal to all pastors and congregations to encourage their laymen to affiliate with us so that, under the blessings of God, our church may be strengthened both internally and externally."

LLL news should be sent to:

**Irene Teinert
Information Coord.
1501 Barbara St.
Austin, TX 78757**



Peace is ours

"Peace I leave with you; My Peace I give you" (John 14:27). Peace is what Jesus wishes us to enjoy! Yet how often peace evades us in this fast-paced world filled with deadlines, crime, financial woes, uncertainties of every description.

During this Lenten season, let us strive to reclaim that peace that our loving Savior came to earth to win for us!

Peace is ours only because Christ frees us from the curse of the law having kept the Law perfectly for us so "that we might receive the full rights of sons (and daughters)" (Gal. 4:5)!

Peace is ours because Christ suffered the punishment for our wrongs and "His blood ... purifies us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). We are free from guilt!

Peace is ours because He rose again and lives in heaven where He "prepare(s) a place for (us)" (John 14:3)! We need never fear death—it is the door to eternal life!

Peace is ours because He promises to be "with (us) always, to the very end of the age" (Matt. 28:20)!

Peace is ours because "God is faithful; He will not let (us) be tempted beyond what (we) can bear" (1 Cor. 10:13)!

Peace is ours because He forewarns us that "in this world (we) will have trouble." But He encourages us to "take heart! (He) has overcome the world" (John

16:33).

Peace is ours because 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).

Peace is ours! Pass it on—to your children, grandchildren, neighbor, fellow worker, to anyone who needs this peace which the world cannot give, but we can through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

To Him be all glory forever.

*Pat Biar, President
Texas District LWML*

Mite report January 1995

1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd January (all sources)	13,003
Rec'd to date (all sources)	88,143
Needed for goal	167,856
Sent to Int'l LWML (January)	2,598
Int'l to date	18,129

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 ninth of month. FAX 817-491-0105.



Thank you, Katherine Boone

The Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League sends a grateful message of thanks for

Katherine's 20 years of devoted service to the Lutheran World Relief yearly drive.

Due to her willingness to serve, a group of devoted

friends from north Dallas were organized to receive our packages, store and load trucks every spring for LWR.

Because of the well-planned effort, the yearly drive has grown to such an extent there will be three locations for the 1995 collection.

Katherine has been ably assisted by her husband, Richard, and many friends from the Dallas area churches.

The Texas District LWML asks that God continue to bless Katherine in all her future endeavors.



"Live ... By God's Design" is the theme for the 1995 International Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention June 22-25 in Kansas City, Mo.

The convention goal statement is "in response to God's mission call, Lutheran women make a significant difference for Him."

The theme is based on 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. It is God who takes the threads of our lives and weaves them into

design for His eternal purposes.

The Kansas and Missouri Districts are serving on the host committee and are looking forward to the anticipated arrival of 10,000 delegates and guests.

Ida L. Mall, president of the Int'l LWML, will preside.

Dr. David Buegler is serving as program facilitator; Donna Hopkins, song leader; and Ruth Johnson, performing arts moderator.

Dr. A.L. Barry, LCMS president, also will attend.

Watch for registration forms and more information in the Spring issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*.

This convention offers new and exciting experiences!

Don't miss it!

Announcing

Lutheran World Relief '95

There are some very important changes in the Texas District Lutheran World Relief Drive for 1995.

For the first time there will be three locations for dropping off your packages.

1. Immanuel Lutheran
306 E. 15th St.
Houston, TX 77008
Dates: April 14 & 17
Times: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Contact person: Lucille Campbell at (713) 463-7747
2. Mount Calvary Lutheran
308 Mount Calvary
San Antonio, TX 78209
Dates: April 17, 18, 19
Times: 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Contact person: Ruth Braulick at (210) 686-3264
3. Bethel Lutheran
11211 East N.W.
Highway
Dallas, TX 75238
Dates: April 19, 20, 21
Times: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Contact person: Marilyn Kramer at (214) 328-6865
For San Antonio, the area encompasses Del Rio, Kerr-

ville, Austin, Victoria and all points south and west.

Dallas includes Temple to Lufkin and all points north and west.

The remaining area of Houston and all cities in the southeast portion of the state will use Immanuel.

For a list of items needed, packing and shipping instructions, refer to the document mailed in January to all Lutheran churches within Texas.

Every effort has been made to reach all ELCA and LCMS congregations within Texas. If, however, you know of a Lutheran church that did not receive the mailing, contact me or any zone president of the Texas District LWML.

I pray God will bless our effort as we gather and send our offerings to LWR '95!

*Eudoris Weiser,
Third Vice President
Mission Service Chairman
Texas District LWML*



LWML NORTHEAST TEXAS ZONE women were busy making a banner for the "God Opens Windows" fall workshop held Oct. 15, 1994, at Grace, Paris.

Books for Brazil

The largest Lutheran University in the world is located in Porto Alegre, Brazil.

ULBRA has an enrollment of more than 10,000 students and owns and operates nine Lutheran elementary schools and five Lutheran high schools.

There are several college extension campuses in western Brazil and all of these Lutheran school libraries need more books, especially books in English because so many of the students want to learn English as a second language.

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is in pulpit fellowship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB).

All kinds of books are needed: Bibles, Bible histo-

ries, catechisms, Arch books, story books, famous fairy tales and for older children, geographies, histories, mathematics, music, art and science. Science books should not be older than 1980. Also reference books e.g. dictionaries, encyclopedias, atlases, etc.

All books should have both covers intact and no pages missing. Good "paperbacks" are acceptable, but no popular magazines, please. Professional journals are welcome especially in theology, education, medicine, dentistry, nursing, psychology, engineering and philosophy.

Contact your church office, zone president or the district news editor for collection information.

If you have not sent in your application to be considered for the 1995-96 LWML woman's scholarship, please do so now. Below is the form for requesting the "Eligibility and Requirements of Scholarship Applicants" information. Send request to Margaret Goodson, 5623 Georgetown Colony Drive, Houston, TX 77084.

Please send an application along with "Eligibility and Requirements of Scholarship Applicants" to:

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Applications must be returned by **March 31**



America at mid-decade

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick
President, LCMS Texas
District

That's the title of one issue of a weekly fax update recently received in my office. It cites some interesting, some startling and some disturbing observations. Other such observations also have come to my attention recently. A few examples will suffice.

- "No American is typical anymore. There is no average family, no ordinary worker, no everyday wage and no middle-class as we once knew it. The aging of the population has been going on for several decades, and births and birth rates in recent years have been much higher than expected.

"IMMIGRATION also has been higher than predicted, and so is the backlash against it. Interstate migration to the South and West are old trends. What is new is heavier out-migration from the Northeast than the Midwest and rapid growth in the mountain states.

"The recovery has altered the nation's income distribution and contributed to uncertain spending patterns. America at mid-decade is a tale of growth in some places and decline in others, increase in some market segments and shrinkage in others."

- "HOUSEHOLDS are growing more slowly and



President Kieschnick

getting older. The number of elderly households will increase relatively slowly until 2010 when the oldest baby boomers retire."

- "The all-American household continues to fade. Married couples are a bare majority of U.S. households. Only about one-third have any children under 18. Nearly one-fourth of all households are people who live alone."

- "Despite the fact that education levels in the United States have been rising for decades, most American adults still have not attended college. Jobs that require brawn keep losing ground in the 1990s, while those that do not require physical strength keep growing in number."

- "ABOUT 262 million people live in the United States, an increase of 13 million since 1990, primarily from an unforeseen boom in births. The 20.4 million births between 1990 and 1994 were more than in any other five-year period since the end of the legendary baby boom (1960-64). Two-thirds of the increase came

from births and the remaining one-third was from 4.6 million immigrants, the highest immigration total since the turn of the century."

- "Asians are the fastest-growing minority in the United States, followed by Hispanics and blacks. Minorities have grown from one in five Americans in 1980 to one in four in 1995. The minority population is concentrated among children. There are now almost as many children and teenagers (0-18) as there are mature adults (50 and over)."

IN THE United States, for every one Anglo death, there is one Anglo birth. For every one black death, there are three black births. For every one Hispanic death, there are 12 Hispanic births. For every one Asian death, there are 20 Asian births.

In the United States today, 32 million people do not speak English when they go home at night.

In addition to these demographics, America continues to struggle with basic questions of right and wrong, good and bad, moral and immoral.

HAVE YOU been to a movie theater recently? There are many fine, entertaining, humorous and heart-warming films on the silver screen. At the same time, I am personally incensed, offended and profoundly disturbed by the abundance of adultery, the commonplace depiction of violence, the sickening portrayal of drug abuse and the senseless proliferation of profanity that almost nonchalantly fills the screen.

In real life, tragic drive-by shootings are everyday occurrences in cities of size,

wreaking untold trauma in the lives of families of the victims and a multiplicity of problems in the future lives of the perpetrators.

Many people are obsessed with the state lottery, which is nothing more than a greedy, selfish attempt for personal gain at the expense of millions of other equally selfish and greedy individuals. And even though the fear of AIDS is scaring many people toward a greater sense of sexual abstinence or at least away from rank promiscuity, sexual immorality, pornography, abortion and self-gratification continue to be plagues that enslave many people in our country today.

WHAT ARE we, as members, pastors and leaders of congregations of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, doing to attempt to bring the life-changing power and eternal influences of the Gospel of forgiveness of sin, life and salvation through faith in Christ Jesus to the communities, to the state, to the nation and to the world in which we live?

Jesus said some very important and relevant words to His disciples "after seeing the multitudes of people" in His "Sermon on the Mount" as written in Matt. 5-7 including these:

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled by men. You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a (Continued on next page.)

NEWS

AMERICA

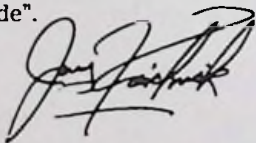
(Continued from Page A.)

bowl. Instead they put it on its stand and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven" (Matt. 5:13-16).

My friends in Christ, you and I are the salt and the light of the earth. Are we in danger of losing our saltiness? Are our lamps hidden under a bowl?

The Lord gives us His continued blessings. These blessings include the purity of the Gospel that mankind is saved eternally by God's grace alone, through faith in Christ alone as these truths are communicated through God's written Word, the Scriptures alone.

OURS IS the challenge, individually and collectively, to communicate that Gospel to people, including the people of "America at mid-decade".



ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

"I want to pray in a more disciplined way."

A recap of this "prayer box" for the last five months

We have asked for a *desire to pray*. God has answered.

We have asked for a *place to pray*. God has answered.

We have asked for the *time to pray*. God has answered.

We have asked for *protection from Satan during our prayer time*. God has answered.

We have *read and meditated on God's Word*.

Next, take a few minutes to

"Be still and know that I am God" Ps. 46:10.

How much of our prayer time do we do all the talking and don't give God time to get a word in edgewise?

Listen to Him—for a prayer need, a comfort, a direction.

Texas District Prayer Ministry Task Force #054



IT'S ABOUT BOOKS—Visitors from Brazil at Concordia Lutheran College at Austin. Right, Professor Leandro Becker, vice president of the Lutheran University of Brazil; second from right is Rev. Nilo Figur, first vice president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil. From Concordia, third from right, Professor Bill Driskill, dean of students. Chris Winkler, director of student activities, is third from left. With hat is student government President Lonnie Gonzales. Left is head librarian Norman Holmes. Kneeling is Aaron Goeke, chairman of student committee of "Books for Brazil" campaign. These faculty, staff and students are providing leadership for the effort to gather 30,000 books in the Texas District by May 30 for the Lutheran University of Brazil.

Keep those books coming

Only two months (April and May) remain before the end of the "Books for Brazil" campaign.

Texas District congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod have been collecting used

books for the Lutheran University of Brazil (ULBRA) and the nine Lutheran elementary and five Lutheran high schools operated by the university. The books are needed to help students learn to read English as a second language.

"More than 15,000 books already have been collected in Texas, but our goal is 30,000" said Dr. M.J. Stelmachowicz, retired pastor who serves as director of the drive.

All donated books should be dropped off at Concordia Lutheran College in Austin, Texas, located at 3400 North Interstate 35.

All kinds of books are needed including reference books and school text books, e.g., Bibles and religious books, Bible histories, art, music, science, story

Singles weekend at Texoma

Calling all singles! Get ready for the annual Singles Weekend June 9-11 at Texoma Lutheran Camp on beautiful Lake Texoma. 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, camp-fire devotions and singing, among other things. (If you would like to fish, bring your gear.)

Housing will be available in the shelters, cabins, Nazareth motel units and at the campground.

For more information or registration forms, call Texoma Lutheran Camp at 1-800-926-5968 or write the camp c/o Rt. 1, Box 116-P, Pottsboro, TX 75076.

books, novels, math, social studies, etc. Books for small children are especially welcome. Paperbacks are acceptable, but no popular magazines, please. Professional journals are welcome: psychology, education, theology, nursing, engineering, dentistry, medicine, architecture.

If you have no old books to donate you may make a cash gift to help pay the cost of shipping the books. Please send checks to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, c/o Norman Sell, Treasurer, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295. Make checks payable to "LCMS Books for Brazil."



Texas District Mission News

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



Rev. Ken
Hennings

Grants to provide outreach vision for district churches

Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) funded the Church Membership Initiative (CMI) study, in an attempt to help the Lutheran Church understand why church membership is declining; and why Lutherans are leaving the church and not coming back.

Many things were brought to light, but probably the major finding was that many churches do not have a vision or healthy attitude for outreach. We are good at taking care of ourselves but not good at bringing people who are unfamiliar with our church into church membership.

In trying to assist congregations to improve their ability to reach people outside the church and to help congregations check for any barriers that might hinder people from joining their congregation, AAL is offering financial assistance to congregational leadership for training and growth.

Three types of grants are



available for 1995:

\$500 Congregational Grant I.

This grant is for sending four or more people of a congregation to an outreach training event.

\$250 Congregational Grant II.

This grant is for sending three or fewer people to an outreach training event.

Teaching Congregation Grants.

Up to \$1,000 can be received by a congregation that has experienced consistent growth over the years. This grant is to assist them

in sharing with and training other congregations in their areas, through holding a network event.

Contact the district mission office at 1-800-951-3478 to request the forms needed to apply for one of these grants.

For information about outreach training events or congregational networking events, watch for a listing in the REPORTER, which is

sent to each congregation, or contact the district mission office. A copy of the AAL study and its findings is kept in the mission office. A congregation can receive a copy by requesting one from Aid Association for Lutherans.

“Many churches do not have a vision or healthy attitude for outreach.”

District endowment update

During 1994, the district Church Planting Endowment Fund received \$8,133.71 from members, congregations and agencies, bringing the total of the fund to \$30,730.98. The net interest earned on this fund for 1994 was \$1,156.74. Ninety percent of this interest will be used to support the mission program of the district.

In 1994, the district Hispanic Endowment Fund received \$1,798.60 from members, congregations and agencies, bringing the total of the fund to \$5,197.60. Ninety percent of this interest will be used to support Hispanic ministry in Texas.

If you would like to make a gift to any of these endowment funds, contact the district mission office or Lutheran Foundation of Texas.



TOP HONOR—Ben Hansen, center, receives U.S. Coast Guard's highest civilian award from Rear Admiral R.C. North. Mrs. Hansen, Ira, holds husband's medal.

Safe haven for seamen earns Coast Guard honor for Hansen

The United States Coast Guard has given its highest civilian award to Ben Hansen, certified lay minister and member of Trinity Lutheran Church of West Sinton.

The award is the USCG's Public Service Commendation.

It cited Hansen's more than 20 years of dedicated service to merchant seamen calling at the Port of Corpus Christi.

The commendation said that 20 years ago, Hansen noticed a significant shortfall in the amenities the Port of Corpus Christi offered for the hundreds of ships that "called" each year. There was no place where visiting seamen could gather to socialize away from their ships.

Already active in religious services for visiting ships, Hansen teamed with Alice Milloy and enlisted the support of port authorities, shipping companies and local businesses to provide a place where visiting mer-

chant mariners could relax and gain a brief respite from shipboard life.

Through his efforts, the Corpus Christi International Seamen's Center opened its doors Dec. 14, 1974, with Hansen as chaplain and adviser. For 20 years now, the center has provided a safe haven for mariners from around the world.

Staffed initially by volunteers and funded by donations, the center provides refreshments, access to religious materials, transportation and a variety of other services. Part of the center's funding now comes from port assessments on visiting ships, but is largely supported by the community.

HE'S 40—Members of Messiah, Richardson, congratulate Pastor Victor Kollmann at a surprise 40th birthday celebration between services Dec. 18, 1994.

On pastor's mind ...

Lost in an upside-down world

by Daniel Georg, pastor
Messiah Lutheran, Houston

A father and his 6-year-old daughter were walking through the downtown streets of the city to which they recently had moved. With almost no conversation between them, they turned corner after corner, taking in the sights of the unfamiliar streets.

After some time the little girl looked up and said, "Daddy, are you lost?" There was an anxious look on her face which did not escape the father. But instead of answering directly, he tightened his grip on her little hand and asked, "Are you lost?"

A **SMILE** brightened her face. "Oh, no," she said quickly. "I'm with you, Daddy!" And with that her fears were gone.

How could she be lost while she was with her father—or as long as he was with her?

And how can you and I be lost as long as we know that our heavenly Father is with us, and we are with Him?

As we turn the corner of each new day, each new week, or each new year, and look down the unfamiliar road which lies ahead, we are likely to shrink from the uninviting prospect. There are so many uncertainties, so many problems, so many pitfalls, so many dangers!

SOMETIMES, INDEED, we feel that God and we are lost in a world that is upside down, in a world in which everything is going topsy-turvy.

As we stand upon the threshold of each new day, let us remind ourselves that our heavenly Father is never lost, and that we are His children, who have come to Him by faith in Jesus Christ, our Savior, are forever safe within His keeping.

WITH OUR HAND in His, let us walk courageously into today, tomorrow—into the many tomorrows which lie before us.

For each tomorrow belongs to Him!

*Excerpted from newsletter
of Messiah Lutheran Church*





ANGELS—St. Paul Lutheran, Kingsville, entered a float in the city's La Posada Christmas Celebration and won first place in the parade's church category, helped by these precious little angels on board. From left are Hank Christopher, Zachary Michalk, Kiersten Pazdera, Sara Christopher and Kaelyn Hewett (seen peeking over Zachary). J.A. Wiederanders and his helpers built the float, which was decorated by Vicki Palmer, Duane Clatanoff, Bill Raabe and their helpers.

Sick leave? No, thanks



Evelyn Mueller

Most employers routinely provide sick leave for their employees. Well, meet one employee who doesn't want any.

She is Evelyn Mueller who the Texas District Board of Directors honored at their meeting Jan. 24 for her 31-1/2 years of work in the Texas District business office. She retired Jan. 1.

Over the years of her employment, Evelyn accumulated 319 days of sick leave. She took 32, and 26 of these were used to minister to her husband's health needs, first when he fell from their patio roof causing a back injury, then his surgery and final illness. This left only six other days Evelyn took sick leave. It is strongly suspected that five of these days were used to take care of sick children.

So, upon her retirement, she forfeited 286 days of sick leave. She said she just didn't

believe in taking sick leave. She repeatedly said the district did not owe her that time, and whenever she had to take off for doctor visits, she charged that time to vacation.

The last year that her husband, Dewey, lived, Evelyn needed to take off 18 days to care for him. She wanted to use vacation time, but Lawrence Winkler, district manager of administrative services, advised her these days properly could be charged to sick leave. However, Evelyn had the last word. At year-end, she simply forfeited 5-1/2 days of her vacation.

And yes, when she retired, she forfeited 12 vacation days.

In all her more than 31 years, she could have been off a total of four years via sick leave and vacation. She returned one year and one month of working time to the district when she could have been off—but chose not to.

HERE am I
send me!
SEND ME

Lord calls men from other careers into ministry

This article is another in a series about pastors, their wives and families that the Lord called into the ministry after other careers. This article features Rev. Joe Ardy and his wife, Vicki, of Grace, Malone. You may find glimpses of your own situations in the experiences of others who said, "Here am I, send me."

If you are sensing the Lord's call and want to talk to someone besides your own pastor, the people featured in these accounts would be happy to visit with you. You may write to Rev. Richard Goodwill, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 340, Cedar Park, TX 78630.

by Rev. Joe and Vicki
Ardy

I grew up as a Roman Catholic and was an altar boy for many years, eventually earning the coveted status as a Grand Knight in Knights of the Altar. My father was a machinist by trade, so we worked together summers to put me through college, where I earned a degree in music from Kent State University in 1976. While at college, I stopped going to church for more than four years.

WHEN THE LORD

brought Vicki into my life, she urged me to return to my church, and we attended two services each Sunday for more than a year. I was a cantor in the Catholic Church, and choir director in the Lutheran Church. One summer while singing with a men's chorus I organized, the Spirit worked in my heart to seek membership in the congregation I was serving as choir director.

My family reacted strongly to my becoming Lutheran, and there was a great deal of tension for a long time.

When we left for the seminary, I was the vice president of the congregation, a member of the evangelism team, anniversary committee chairman, adult choir and handbell director, a tenor and president of the Cleveland Lutheran A Cap-

pella Choir and the Cleveland Messiah Chorus conductor.

LIFE AT THE sem was wonderful and very hard. The relationships we developed with other students and their families were wonderful. Having so many kind, warm, caring and open-armed people in one place was like seeing a slice of heaven. There is no other place on earth where we have experienced such love and support from brothers and sisters in Christ. And

times, being privileged to witness, comfort, teach, encourage, exhort and even admonish God's people is an honor. I had no idea that working for a Jewish carpenter could be such a wonderful way of life. And the retirement plan—out of this world! *My humble thanks, God.*

VICKI WRITES, "Prior to going to the seminary, we had been married 10 years, owned a home, had two cars and I had my bachelor of arts degree in interior de-

sign. I had worked for a national wallcovering firm for 12 years. The last two years there I had become showroom manager of the Cleveland office—it was one of five showrooms across the United States.

day season making small, detailed Christmas ornaments. **"WE ARRIVED** at the seminary in time for summer boot camp in Greek in June 1987. A month later our house in Ohio sold and after all bills, credit cards, loans, etc., were paid, we had absolutely no savings, but, for the first time in our 10 years of married life, owed *no one* anything! It was an interesting feeling—actually very freeing.

"As husband and wife it was tough to be a 'couple' through the seminary years. With the constant pressure of studying, tests, papers and heavy thinking in general, it was hard to carve out time together. But it takes a lot of understanding on both sides and a real desire of both to see the importance of 'date time' and communication. That can be just as difficult as the studying.

"OBVIOUSLY, my job description changed drastically—and it continued to change. We are still at our first call, starting our fourth year here. The Lord continues His work in and through me—giving me a job description as His precious child with a larger pay bonus in heaven and being able to be my husband's #1 cheerleader—**'I'm a BIG fan!'**"

" I cannot imagine walking back into any of the places I used to be employed and asking to be hired. "

did we ever need that love and support! Class work was tough!

I would not trade what I do in the Lord's service for anything or any other kind of work. Knowing what I know now about the process and the later challenges of ministry, I would do it all again. I cannot imagine walking back into any of the places I used to be employed and asking to be hired. The blessing that ministry is to me and through me as the Lord works is true Christian joy.

While each day is not happy and there are some tough issues and emotionally hard

sign. I had worked for a national wallcovering firm for 12 years. The last two years there I had become showroom manager of the Cleveland office—it was one of five showrooms across the United States.

"When I wasn't working I was the accompanist for the church choir, member of the handbell choir, did solo ringing and also sang with the Cleveland Lutheran A Cappella Choir, was substitute organist, sang in the Cleveland Messiah Chorus the years Joe directed it and was active in LWML. I also started doing craft shows during the Christmas holi-



KEYBOARD DUO—Beth Kunkel, 10, left, and her sister, Ruth, 9, are piano students who occasionally played in church at Grace Lutheran in Orange. For last New Year's Day service, they played the whole service! With them is their teacher, Tricia Scheier, wife of Grace Pastor Eddie Scheier.



RECOGNIZED—Lutheran Social Services of the South (LSSS) was honored by Inter-Lutheran Disaster Response (ILDR) for its ministry following the 1994 tornadoes in north Texas. Here Bernice Karstensen of ILDR presents plaque to Rev. Norm Hein, who directs disaster response for LSSS.



RINGERS—The Celebration Ringers handbell choir of St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Worth, performed Christmas music in the student center at the University of Texas—Arlington last December. The choir numbers 21 seventh- and eighth-graders. A large lunchtime crowd enjoyed 45 minutes of music. The choir was guest of the Lutheran Student Center at UTA.



MINISTRY TEAM—With senior pastor Dr. William G. Thompson, top left, are the newest directors on the ministry team at Concordia Lutheran in San Antonio. From left, Pat Thompson, director of women's ministries; Rose Wesch, director of parish nursing; Velma Sauer, director of assimilation; and David Mueller, administrative assistant. They were installed Jan. 8.



GOD'S CHILDREN—The baptism of six children was celebrated Jan. 8 at King of Kings, Houston. In front is Sarah Hahn. In middle row, from left, are Natasha Settemeyer, Christian McCorquodale, Kenneth McCorquodale, Crystal Land and Melissa McCorquodale. In back is Pastor John D. Smith.

Who Will Benefit From My Investments On CEF Sunday?

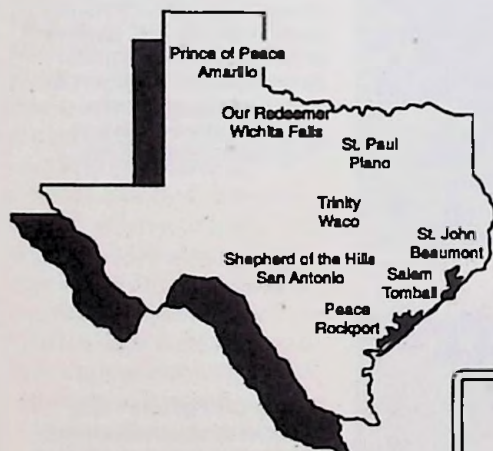
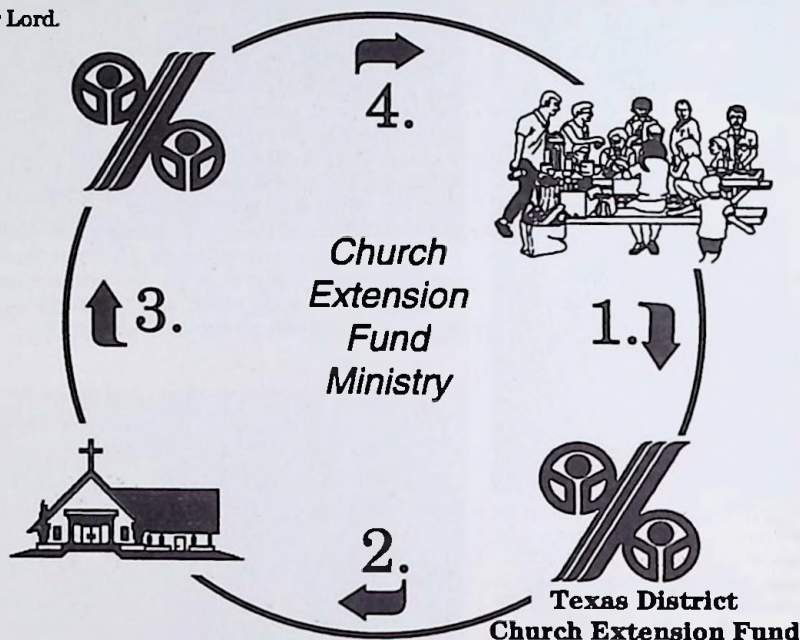
This diagram illustrates what will happen as a result of monies being invested in the Church Extension Fund:

**Church Extension Fund
Sunday
April 30th**

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!

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.



Here is a partial list of congregations who will benefit from your investments in the CEF ministry



Siegrist

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

Current CEF Interest Rates

Save-by-Mail Account	(Min. \$10)	3.25 %
One-Year Note	(Min. \$500) *	5.50 %
Three-Year Note	(Min. \$3,000) *	6.50 %
Five-Year Note	(Min. \$5,000) *	7.00 %

* Subject to penalty for early withdrawal

The Texas District Church Extension Board has approved the following interest rates effective March 16, 1995.

For additional information, please call our toll-free number 1-800-951-3478



PUZZLE—What do we do with all these cans? Bethel youth Christina Fall, left, and Franke Sievers inquire of Pastor Don Berg.

Is there life after CAN-DO?

Yes!

**by Ron Scherch
Bethel, Dallas**

It's been busy times at Bethel Lutheran in Dallas. First it was planning for the Project CAN-DO campaign with all those dramas, temple talks, mailings and more mailings.

Then came the exciting part, counting those pledges, from young people and old people, married people and single people, whole families, the family of God.

Next it was the planning for summer trips. Four people going



HANG-UPS—From left, Tara Scherch, Youth Counselor Nichole Hahn, Kylin Haedge and Miranda Haedge work to sort clothes for local thrift shop.

to St. Petersburg, Russia! Ten going to Cristo El Salvador in Del Rio, Texas. Tearing down the walls of a swimming pool. Building up the walls of a new house for a family in need. Everywhere sharing the love of God in Christ Jesus with words AND deeds! Yes, it's been busy and it's almost over. But wait. What's this? We still have the money we received back from Project CAN-DO for a local mission. How shall we use it? What CAN we DO?

In the space of six hours the weekend of Nov. 18-19, 1994, the junior and senior youth of Bethel Lutheran Church literally "tore down the wall" in the Ferndale branch of the Network of Community Ministries that once separated the clothing and food areas.

"The need for more food and clothing space had been



WALLS COME DOWN—DCE Ron Scherch and Bethel CAN-DO youth Phillip Cook, Jason Cook and Greg Dieterich expand local food pantry.

apparent for a long time. The decision had been made to move the clothes into one of the interview offices and expand the food pantry. The question was, 'who would do the work?'" said Dee

Welder, volunteer coordinator for the Network. The youth of Bethel said, "CAN-DO."

Under the direction of DCE Ron Scherch; youth

counselors Nichole Hahn and Diane Pogue; construction supervisor Ed Herring; and Bethel youth from both their junior high and senior high groups hung clothing racks, moved and sorted clothes, removed a wall, moved shelves and re-distributed canned goods.

Bethel youth also assisted the Network last holiday season by seeking donations of new children's clothes and food supplies for distribution at Thanksgiving and Christmas. With the new space created by their CAN-DO efforts, Bethel youth put the finishing touch on a CAN-DO year. We can't wait to see how the Lord blesses our effort this year.



It's about caring for people

**by Sara Kammrath, Concordia, San Antonio
Member, Human Care Ministry Committee**

One aspect of the newly adopted mission statement of the Texas District is "caring for people." The Human Care Ministry Committee of the Texas District will be bringing monthly comments on "caring" to the readers of the *Texas Messenger*. The committee is seeking to aid congregations in caring for their members and for the people of their communities.

This month the committee shares two upcoming opportunities. The first is the Third Annual Texas Lutherans For Life Retreat and the second is the "We Are His Hands This Mother's Day" project.

- Texas Lutherans For Life is sponsoring its third annual retreat April 28-29 at Concordia Lutheran Church in San Antonio. The keynote speaker will be Linda Bartlett, former president of Iowa Lutherans For Life. Friday evening she will speak on "Let the Word Be Now My Choice." Linda is also a member of the LCMS Sanctity of Life Committee. Other workshops to be held Saturday will include Promise-keepers, "Safe Sex" and Feminists for Life. Registration will be from 5 to 7 p.m. Friday evening in the ministry building of Concordia Lutheran Church. Friday evening's session will begin at 7:15. Saturday's activities will take place from 9 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. For further information about this retreat please contact Jane Almquist, 7426 Daylight Lane, Houston, 77095 or by calling (713) 855-8525 or Sara Kammrath, 109 Susan Carrol, San Antonio, 78216, (210) 342-6957.

- The committee encourages all district congregations to collect needed items or contributions for their local pregnancy center. Suggestions for participating in this project include (1) put an announcement about the project in the church bulletin or newsletter two or three weeks prior to Mother's Day; (Copy for a bulletin insert is available free of charge from Marlene Hahn at the district office.) (2) place a decorated container in a visible part of the church or sanctuary for the collection of gifts. A playpen or baby crib might be an appropriate gift container; (3) advertise! Have someone make a poster or use the bulletin insert for posting on the church bulletin board; (4) let the Human Care Ministry Committee know the success of your project. Address comments to the committee c/o Texas District, 7900 E. Highway 290, Austin, TX 78724.

TEXAS DISTRICT WORSHIP SURVEY

**by Mary Voigt, Gloria Dei, Houston
Member, District Worship Committee**

Today's Lutheran worship experience offers an expanding spectrum of options and styles. In fall 1993, the Texas District Worship Committee distributed an in-depth worship

survey to every congregation in the district. Two hundred twenty-five churches responded. From that survey, the committee has compiled a list of worship interests and needs.

- Over the upcoming months, the results of the survey will be highlighted in this column and many key issues will be explored.

MEMBERSHIP AND ATTENDANCE

Of the 225 congregations responding, 74 percent or 168 congregations have less than 500 members. Sixteen congregations (35 percent) had 500-1,499 members and 22 (10 percent) had 1,000-plus members. When looking at weekly church attendance 172 congregations (76 percent) had 249 or fewer in attendance. Thirty-nine (17 percent) had 250-499 in worship, and 14 (7 percent) had an attendance of more than 500. Of that group, two congregations had more than 1,000 in worship weekly.

WORSHIP SERVICES

More than half the congregations in the district offer one service on Sunday morning with an additional 32 percent offering two services. Ten percent of the congregations in the survey offered three or more services.

STYLES OF WORSHIP AND MUSIC

Worship leaders were asked to identify the style options being offered in their worship services. Results showed that all congregations use a liturgical style with either *The Lutheran Hymnal*, *Lutheran Worship* or *Lutheran Book of Worship*. When questioned about which hymnals were used, the numbers were *The Lutheran Hymnal* —137, and *Lutheran Worship* —135. A number of congregations use a combination of styles and hymnal resources at different services or on different Sundays of the month.

- What styles of music are commonly used in LCMS Texas District congregations? Traditional Lutheran and gospel hymns are heard most frequently in worship services today. However, many of the district congregations are searching for and selecting hymns and styles of music not found in the current Lutheran hymnals. One of the most common requests from worship leaders was for assistance in identifying good quality, theologically sound contemporary music. Other worship leaders noted a strong desire to keep the Lutheran heritage alive and intact.

Fifteen congregations indicated that they offer culturally sensitive worship services. These range from worshiping in Spanish, German or Vietnamese to including other languages or cultural elements within a more traditional English speaking worship setting.

- In the next article there will be data concerning worship components, music styles and Holy Communion practices.



**CARING &
SHARING**



PORT ISABEL—
These members
were received by
profession of faith
Jan. 8 at Fishers of
Men Lutheran in
Port Isabel. From
left, Jack Katschke,
Visiting Pastor John
Fritz, Shirley Lee
and Dr. Warren Lee.



A few

help many worship

Fishers of Men Lutheran Church of Port Isabel has little more than a dozen communicants—but they keep the storefront church open all year to provide a Word and sacrament ministry to winter visitors in Port Isabel and South Padre Island. They've been doing it four years.

WHAT'S MORE, the church added a second service in January to accommodate the Winter Texans, more than 200 of whom attended worship the first Sunday in February.

The tiny core group of communicants grew by three in January as they were added by profession of faith.

REV. JOHN D. FRITZ, pastor emeritus of Christ Memorial, Houston, is visiting pastor at Fishers of Men. In January, he presided over dedication services of a new outdoor sign designating day and times of congregational activities. The sign was donated by Irene Pirkle of Port Isabel. Also dedicated were a chalice and American and church flags, gifts of the women's society at St. John, San Benito, which is Fishers of Men's mother church. Also dedicated was a communion set of trays, individual wine cups and a paten, gift of Zion Lutheran of Alamo.



SWEETWATER—Rev. Leonard Ristow was installed as pastor of Faith, Sweetwater. He is semiretired, serving on a part-time basis. Participating, from left, were Wayne Haygood; Rev. LaVerne Jansen, circuit counselor; Ristow; Rev. Carroll Kohl, district vice president; E. Davenport; and K. Hills.

The mission of the Texas District is to strengthen congregations to reach the lost, disciple the saved and care for people—locally and globally.

Texas District seeking staff facilitators for mission and ministry

The Board of Directors of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is accepting nominations for district staff positions as **MISSION AND MINISTRY FACILITATORS**.

The function of a district **MISSION AND MINISTRY FACILITATOR** is to assist congregational leaders in strengthening congregations in their task of reaching the lost, discipling the saved and caring for people.

Candidates must be "team players" who are committed to the historic theological position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and be active members of an LCMS congregation or on the roster of Synod.

Candidates must possess the personal and professional abilities to assist congregations in:

- strategic planning and

process formulation;

- leadership development;
- organization and management;
- effective communication.

In addition, candidates should possess specialized skills and abilities in one or more of the following:

- Christian education;
- evangelism;
- resource development;
- personnel recruitment;
- human care ministries;
- mission development and support.

MISSION AND MINISTRY FACILITATORS will be "in the field" working with congregations a majority of time.

Candidate resumes should be sent to:

Rev. Jerry Kieschnick,
President
LCMS Texas District
7900 E. Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499

CONCORDIA COLLEGE

Concordia raises \$17.9 million in campaign

Concordia Lutheran College has exceeded the primary goals of its most comprehensive fund-raising effort: "Who Will Lead Us?"—a campaign for the Diamond Jubilee Years. The college has raised \$12.9 million in gifts and pledges and \$5 million in deferred gifts, for a campaign total of \$17.9 million.

As a result of the campaign, major renovations have been completed on two campus buildings. The 1940s-vintage Memorial Gymnasium was remodeled, with a second floor added, to become Bokenkamp Student Center, and Texas (dining) Hall was enlarged and modernized. Partial funding is in place for the expansion and renovation of a third building, Beto (science) Hall.

Also as a result of the "Who Will Lead Us?" campaign, Concordia's endowment has increased from \$1.5 million when the campaign began to \$6 million by the end of 1994.

"One of our goals is to re-

move economic barriers for church-work students," said Mike Linebrink, campaign director. "The increase in endowment makes it possible for Concordia to guarantee a level of support to pre-seminary students that keeps them from having to borrow money for college, and to provide an increased level of assistance for Lutheran teacher students. We continue to aspire to have 150 fully funded endowments in place for church-work students."

Linebrink said, "Both our total enrollment and our church-work enrollment have grown since the campaign was launched in 1991. Our ability to provide more financial assistance to students has certainly encouraged the increase."

"Concordia thanks the many individuals and congregations who have made the 'Who Will Lead Us?' campaign a success," said President David Zersen. "We particularly owe much gratitude to President Emeritus Ray Martens, whose vision

for the Diamond Jubilee years has been the impetus for the campaign. We also compliment The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Texas District and the Lutheran Foundation of Texas for encouraging a partnership for establishing endowments. And, of course, none of this would have been possible without the volunteer leaders, notably Honorary Chairman Charlie Lowke of Midland and General Chairman Robert Bauer of Winnie. We praise God for blessing Concordia with such dedicated and generous advocates."

Join Tom Landry to help students

Few individuals today are as universally admired as Tom Landry. He is not only a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame for his 29 years as winning coach of the Dallas Cowboys, but also a Christian witness who uses his fame to advocate support for charitable and church-related causes. Concordia is fortunate to be one

of the recipients of Landry's assistance.

You are invited to spend "An Evening with Tom Landry" on Sunday, June 25, at Aggie Park in San Antonio. The evening will begin at 6 p.m. with autograph and photo opportunities with Coach Landry. (Bring your camera!) At 7 p.m. a barbecue dinner will be served, followed by entertainment and an auction. Door prizes also will be awarded. Tickets are \$15 per person.

The third annual Tom Landry Concordia Golf Classic will be held the following day, June 26, at San Antonio's Oak Hills Country Club, home of the Texas Open. The entry fee is \$195 per golfer.

Both events will benefit the Tom Landry Scholarship Fund at Concordia. The first two Landry tournaments raised \$71,000 and provided help to 43 Concordia students in need of financial assistance.

Call Clifford Damstrom at 1-800-285-4252 to order "An Evening with Tom Landry" tickets or to request a Golf Classic entry form.



ELEMENTARY TEACHERS—Concordia commissioned a record number of students this spring to begin their student teaching in the Lutheran and public schools of Texas. These elementary education students are student teaching in Austin, Pflugerville, Leander, Taylor, Temple, Spring, Houston, San Antonio, Tomball and Carrollton.



Bervin Mirtsching

Gift Planning counselor moves to Concordia

Bervin Mirtsching, a Gift Planning counselor for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Foundation, has moved his office from the Texas District office to White Hall Offices on the Concordia campus. Concordia has a service agreement with the Foundation whereby a portion of Mirtsching's time is devoted to efforts on behalf of Concordia.

Mirtsching conducts will and charitable giving seminars and is available to meet with individuals and couples to assist in Christian estate planning.

Mirtsching, 44, has 20 years experience in the area of insurance. He was reared in Austin, where he attended St. Paul Lutheran School and Reagan High School, and graduated from Texas Lutheran College in Seguin. He is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin, where he has served in many positions of congregational leadership.

According to Mirtsching, he places an emphasis on the Christian will—writing a

will or reviewing an existing will because of recent estate law changes. He sees this as a needed service because 60 percent or more of the people in America have not written wills. A Christian will differs from others by including a Christian preamble providing a final opportunity to share faith in Jesus Christ with family and friends, and often by remembering the Lord's work in the will.

Mirtsching also is available in the area of deferred giving. A deferred giving instrument provides the donor

with an income for life with the principal of the agreement going to some area of the church upon the death of the donor or last beneficiary.

Working closely with Concordia, Mirtsching encourages planned giving to benefit the college, but says he always assists people in "identifying the areas of ministry which are of most concern to them."

Use the coupon below to request an appointment for Christian estate planning. The service is free of cost or obligation.

Please schedule an appointment for me/us to discuss Christian estate planning.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____

Mail to Bervin Mirtsching, Concordia Lutheran College, 3400 Interstate 35 North, Austin, TX 78705 or call 1-800-735-3232 or 452-7661 in Austin.



MATH WHIZ—Dr. Donald Zielke presented Concordia's Math Student of the Year award to senior elementary education student Kristi Sawicki of Plano.



SECONDARY TEACHERS—These students will be student teaching in junior high and high school classrooms in Austin, Pflugerville, Liberty Hill, Buda, Dallas, Houston and Tomball. The student teaching semester is the culmination of a rigorous course of study, which includes classes in both teaching subject matter (math, English, history, etc.) and teaching methods.

CELEBRATE!

**The
Lord
added ...**



EDEN—Trinity, Eden, welcomed the Gary Gierisch family Nov. 20, 1994, through adult confirmation and transfer. Pastor Gary Boye holds John Wesley Gierisch who was already a member (top photo). Two weeks later, Trinity received the Scott Sorrell family as the father and his two children were baptized. Mrs. Sorrell already was a baptized Christian.



CORSICANA—The family of Faith Lutheran, Corsicana, grew by this many Dec. 4, 1994, as six adults were confirmed, two of whom were baptized. There was one transfer. Delton R. Weiser is pastor.

BONHAM—The fellowship of Zion, Bonham, grew by five as the Dane family was received as members. They are David, Jeff, Cody, Jennifer and Desay Dane. Pastor is Loren Du Bols.



WELCOMED—These are some of the 14 new members that were welcomed at St. Paul, Canyon, Jan. 15, by transfer, confirmation and profession of faith. Wayne J. Patk is pastor.



FORT WORTH—The family of faith grew Dec. 18, 1994, at Christ Lutheran in Fort Worth as these new members were added by baptism, affirmation of faith and transfer. Pastor is Norm Steinke.

YOUTH

TEXAS DISTRICT



Our awesome Lutheran kids ...

More than 30 youths and adults of **St. Philip, Houston** went without food for 30 hours Feb. 24-25 to raise money for famine-fighting programs and to experience hunger firsthand. Known as the 30-Hour Famine, the event was part of an international effort sponsored by World Vision, a Christian relief and development organization with 5,500 projects in 97 nations. More than 300,000 teenagers in the United States and Canada signed up for the event, which raised \$2 million to help attack hunger around the world. Participants asked family, friends and neighbors to sponsor them as they went without food for 30 hours to identify with those who are hungry.

Congratulations to Jerry Kinsey, **Trinity, Shamrock**, who became an Eagle Scout.

Karen Hackney, **Our Savior, Dallas**, has qualified for the seventh grade Duke University Talent Search, meaning that Karen had to have a score of 97 percent on a standardized achievement test.

Jerry Dale Kelm, **St. Paul, Plainview**, competed on the trampoline in the World Age Games in Villa de Conde, Portugal in the 11-12 year group. Competing was



Jerry

tough, but so was just getting there. With his parents and sister, Jerry went through four air-

ports the first day of travel and stayed awake for 32 hours. Competing for the USA trampoline team, Jerry placed 12th out of 30 other competitors from 19 countries.

Bright kid honors at **Ascension, Cleburne**, to Kim Stevens, selected for the all-region band and recipient of the National English Merit Award, and Erik and Chris Malard. Erik made first-chair trumpet in symphonic band and was chosen for his school's jazz band. Chris made first-chair trombone in his school's band.

Those great kids at **Redeemer Lutheran School, San Antonio**, gave a record-breaking \$321 at two chapel services in December to cheer those staying in the city's Children's Shelter.

For her remarkable talent, Ashleigh McClendon was named to the Texas All-State



Ashleigh

Symphonic Orchestra. A sophomore, she is principal bassist for the all-region orchestra as well. She also has performed in the all-state philharmonic orchestra. She's a member of **St. Paul, Denton**.

Bright kid honors at **King of Kings, San Antonio**, for Kevin Cook, Graham Simms and Matt White who now are members of the National Honor Society.

Eight members of the youth groups at **Mount Olive, Corpus Christi**, worked together to raise more than \$350 for costs of the July National Youth Gathering and for youth camp. They took pledges per pound as they worked at the Corpus Christi Food Bank, processing donated food items for distribution to the needy. The eight young people processed more than 5,150 pounds of food in four hours. They gave 25 percent of their earnings back to the food bank. These hard workers are Billy Moseley, Ken Houting, Tasha Moon, Megan Parrott, Josh Parrott, Ryan Westrup, Christi Bader and Megan Luper.

The youth of **Immanuel, Temple**, have signed up to clean the sanctuary and maintain the grounds the last Saturday in every month from April to November.

Don't ask Heidi Schneider, **Hope, Austin**, what she does in her spare time. She probably doesn't have any. At school, Heidi is on the honor roll; in debate; Flag Corps; student council; sophomore class secretary; science club; German club; speech club historian; debate club vice president; poetry, prose and extemporaneous speaking; UIL Science; UIL math; Future Homemakers of America; symphonic band first chair flute; band librarian; honors English; honors algebra II; honors chemistry I; honors world history; and drama.

Devin Howard is a high school junior and member of **Trinity, Klein**, who is

making a strong run at being the best he can be. Devin was named top swimmer on the U.S. Swimming Scholastic All-American Team, composed of high school athletes with a GPA of 3.5 or more and who compete in an individual event in a national swimming meet. The athletes' GPA is combined with their placing in the national events. His efforts in the nationals, plus setting a Texas state 200-meter butterfly record, gave him 238 points, ranking him No. 1 out of all male high school students. Devin won two medals in July at the U.S. Olympic Festival, making him a member of the U.S. National Junior Team, 12 of whom, including Devin, will represent the United States in May in Paris, France, competing against top European junior teams.

Congratulations to Cody Newman, **Ascension, Cleburne**, who was awarded the God and Me badge in Boy Scouts.

Last Christmas, the youth of **Trinity, Corpus Christi**, made holiday cheer calls on older members. The kids enjoyed it so much they decided to carry it on through the year, making monthly visits to older members and spending some time with them.

Bright kid honors at **Hope, Winnie**, go to Tiffani Kroll who won fifth in headline writing at an area literary meet and Buffy Robinson who took third in ready writing. Kristin Chesson played her way to first chair oboe in regional band competition.

LUTHERAN OUTDOORS MINISTRY OF TEXAS

**What's the big
deal about
Lutheran
summer camp?**

F U N

"Because it's fun!" is the answer you would get from most of the past campers who have been to either Camp Lone Star in La Grange or Texoma Lutheran Camp on Lake Texoma in Pottsboro. In fact, many of them return year after year because they had so much "FUN."

But that is only the surface of the answer, and there's a good chance that if you were to ask further, you would find a variety of reasons why Lutheran summer camp has become so important in many kids' lives. Without taking the "FUN" out of it, here's what even the simplest of words has to tell us about Lutheran summer camp:

F- FRIENDS Sharing belief in Christ is the most important element the youth will find at Lutheran summer camp. Campers have a unique chance to find peers among fellow campers who share the same beliefs and



WANT A BITE?—Your kids will explore nature, meet new friends and gain a better understanding of life and the Scriptures through God's great outdoors at Lutheran summer camp.

values they are accepting into their own lives.

The counselors are young people who also share a love for Christ and who have chosen to participate in the Christian camp experience to make a positive influence. They show how gracious and loving our Lord is and how they make Him an important part of their everyday lives. This can help campers in making difficult choices in a confusing world teaching amoral lifestyles that try to pull us away from the beliefs the Bible teaches.

U- UNDERSTANDING Sharing frustrations and challenges and finding the needed understanding of the feelings these create is also part of the Lutheran summer camp experience. The intimacy created by living in a cabin with other Christian peers creates a perfect atmosphere for the campers to examine their own walk with God.

They will be bonding with their cabin mates and counselors on a unique level

where they can feel comfortable communicating the challenges they encounter in daily life. Even the youngest of campers can benefit from the love and acceptance they will experience as they step (many for the first time) away from the security of home and begin to face the difficulties and rewards of independence.

N- NATURE At the same time, the campers are given the opportunity to thoroughly enjoy God's creation. Sharing nature and the wonder of its beauty and magnificence fills the spirit with a renewed faith in God's power.

The truth is that God wants us to be happy in Him and all that He has given us. Lutheran summer camp is meant to bring the joy of God's love for us into our daily lives so we can face life with a cheerful heart. The smiles, the laughter, the joys shared at Texoma and Lone Star camps ring

through the woods as a true testimony to God's love. This is the spirit the campers will take with them as they leave the special time behind and go out to make the important choices they are faced with at school, on the playground, with their neighbors and at home. So why not let your child find out what true FUN is all about this summer?

This year's theme is "The Way of the Cross" and Lutheran summer camp is being held this year from June 4 through Aug. 4 at Camp Lone Star and Texoma Lutheran Camp.

Both facilities are operated by Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas (LOMT), an agency of the LCMS Texas District. Sessions are available by age group for youngsters between 5 and 18. Both weeklong and weekend sessions are offered.

For a summer camp brochure and registration materials, call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or Texoma Camp at 1-800-926-5968.



At Mount Calvary

**Married
there,
still
members
after
63 years**



LA GRANGE—Mr. and Mrs. John Hentschel are still members of Mount Calvary Lutheran in La Grange, where they were married 63 years ago Feb. 2.



WEATHERFORD—Menter and Pearl Bethke, Trinity, Weatherford, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last Nov. 28.



PLAINVIEW—Frank and Agnes Barbian, St. Paul, Plainview, were married 59 years last Dec. 22. They have four sons and a daughter.



MANHEIM—J.B. and Pearl Koym were married 60 years Oct. 27, 1994. They are members of Ebenezer Lutheran of Manheim.

**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



These couples of the Texas District recently have celebrated wedding anniversaries of 50 years or more:

Grace, Mart: Cleo and Evelyn Steinke, 52 years, Dec. 25; Walter and Thelma Dietiker, 59 years, Jan. 1; E.G. and Pearl Lebkowsky, 62 years, Jan. 1; Edwin and Evelyn Abel, 55 years, Jan. 4.

* * *

Cross, New Braunfels: Rev. Edwin and Irene Lange, 57 years, Oct. 6.

* * *

Christ, Hillsboro: Edwin and Martha Kaddatz, 58 years, Dec. 8; Felix and Adeline Schulz, 50 years, Dec. 14; Raymond and Juanita Schulze, 54 years, Dec. 28.

* * *

Trinity, Fedor: Adolph and Linda Patschke, 55 years, Jan. 14.

* * *

St. Paul, Vernon: Herbert and Clara Namken, 60 years, Dec. 11; Henry and Florence Karcher, 50 years, Nov. 26.

* * *

St. Paul, Bishop: Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Denkeler, 51 years, Jan. 4.

* * *

Concordia, San Antonio: Harold and Wilda Combs, 53 years, Jan. 17.

* * *

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Katherine and Eugene Riegler, 58 years, Feb. 2.

* * *



MART—Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Meyer, members of Grace, Mart, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Dec. 31, 1994, with a family dinner, church service and reception at the church.

Hope, Austin: Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Olle, 50 years, Feb. 10; Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Smock, 55 years, Feb. 14.

* * *

Our Savior, Abilene: Ben and Ruby Kunkel, 63 years, Jan. 31. Both are 83. They have nine grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

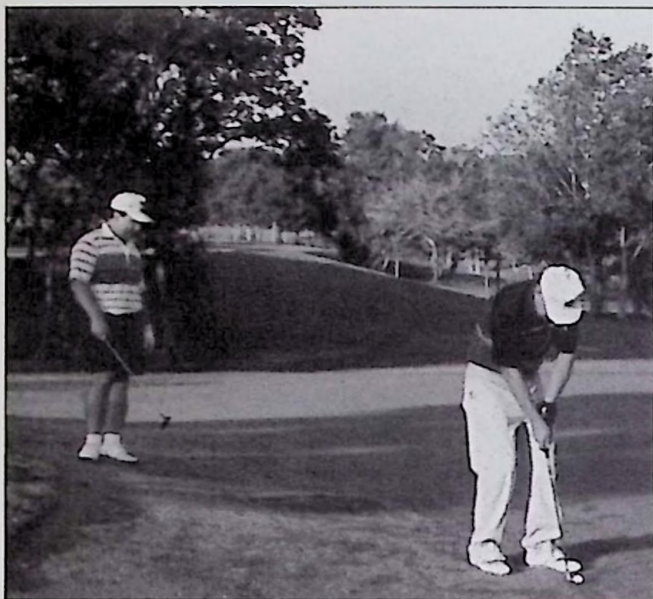
* * *

Ebenezer, Manheim: Ernest and Bertha Kie-schnick, 65 years, Oct. 27.

* * *

St. Mark, Houston: Mel and Pearl Walker, 50 years, Feb. 26.

* * *



FOR CHILDREN—Golfers raised more than \$35,000 for children's services last year.

The children Real golfing winners

Golfers in Austin, Houston and Fort Worth are gearing up for another round of raising funds for LSSS services that affect children.

Chuck Wolfe's Tomorrow's Child Tournament in Houston will hold its seventh annual tournament June 19. Jersey Meadows will be the site again this year.

Austin's first Tomorrow's Child golf tournament last year was a big success. Tentative plans call for this year's event to once again be held in October.

The third annual Save-A-Child Golf Classic out of Fort Worth is set for June 17 at the Golf Club at Fossil Creek.

For their efforts, hundreds of golfers are rewarded with good food, good fellowship, a chance to win

sponsor-provided prizes and, afterwards, the satisfaction of knowing they are making a difference in the lives of needy children—like the neglected child who will again feel loved and possess a sense of self-worth, for the children born with special needs who will find parents able to provide for those needs, and, for those who have been abused.

So fellow golfers, mark your calendar and call the LSSS office nearest you.

Domestic violence target of new program

During a recent 12-month period, Victoria, Texas, saw a 100 percent increase in domestic violence calls. "The increase indicated a heightened need and awareness in family violence," says Lydia Rodriguez, LSSS area director-Victoria. "Yet no systematic or specific program was

Hi, PETER—Amanda greets her new brother, Peter, upon his arrival from Romania.



Romanian child finds loving home in Texas

When they suddenly emerged from the long passenger ramp at the San Antonio airport, little Peter and his new mother, Mary Hartman, didn't look at all like they had been traveling for hours. It was a long trip for 13-month-old Peter, but what he didn't know was that "mommy" and his new dad, Robert Marbut, had been waiting seven months for this exciting family meeting.

Robert and his 2-1/2-year-old daughter, Amanda, had waited at home while Mary made the long trip to pick up Peter, the first Romanian child to be adopted through LSSS.

Unexpected delays with Romania's government and its judicial system kept Mr. and Mrs. Marbut waiting anxiously for a while, but all the details were finally worked out.

"If every family had one child of their own and adopted a second," explained Robert, "there wouldn't be a need for orphanages."

The LSSS mission

In response to God's love and grace, Lutheran Social Services of the South, in cooperation with Lutheran judiciaries, congregations

and individuals, ministers to people's needs by providing spiritual care and social services in the name of Jesus Christ.

available for batterers in the Victoria area."

Now, a new program has given the community a way to reduce spousal abuse. STAR, Stopping The Abusive Relationships, is a batterer intervention and prevention program modeled after the Pivot program in Houston.

"Victoria criminal justice officials are very excited about STAR," says Lydia. "Offenders will be referred to the 18-week course as part of their probation, and the battered spouse will be given access to supportive services."



Education by degrees

You might say Kathie Colone, member of **Holy Cross, Arlington**, got her college education by degrees.

She graduated last December from the University of Texas—Arlington with a major in history and a minor in accounting after attending night school for seven years.

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

Special birthday congratulations to Carl Fritsche, member of **St. Paul, Vernon**. He was born Jan. 15, 1891, and yes, that makes him 104.

The Early Childhood Ministry of **Lamb of God, Flower Mound**, received a \$711 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans for new equipment.

The choir from the Lutheran University of Brazil gave a concert Feb. 12 at **Concordia, San Antonio**.

Deborah Neitsch, **Immanuel, Temple**, graduated *magna cum laude* in December at Texas A&M with a degree in biomedical science. She received the Biomedical Science Academic Excellence Award and plans to attend medical school this fall.

Houston's Northwest Bank looked no further than I.D. Wicker for its 1994 Employee of the Year. She works in statement preparation. She has a hearing impairment and helps bank customers who call in on the Technical Device for the Deaf (TDD) line. She's a member of **Holy Three In**

One Lutheran Church for the Deaf, is its treasurer and belongs to its Christian Life Guild.

King of Kings, San Antonio, has purchased a van equipped for wheelchairs that will permit more routes (and wheelchair/handicap capability) for its Early Childhood Development Center as well as Sunday transportation for members requesting it.

Trinity Lutheran, Corpus Christi, with former members of the congregation, former staff and students of the school as guests, celebrated the 50th anniversary of the congregation March 26.

Rev. Thomas Glam-meyer of Youngstown, Ohio, was installed Jan. 22 as assistant pastor of **Our Savior, Houston**.

A community reception Jan. 26 honored Robert Merchant, **Redeemer, Baytown**, who retired as assistant chief of police of Baytown. "There have been some good times and some bad," said Merchant who is head usher at Redeemer, "but through it all our church and church family



1934 CONFIRMANDS—This is the first confirmation class of **Trinity, Navasota**. The class celebrated its 60th anniversary last Sept. 4. Seated is Esther Hilley, Navasota. From left are Clarence Shaefer, Lake Jackson; Howard Hilley, Navasota; Albert Gruetzner, Palge. The late Emmitt Boehn of Nederland was the fifth member of the class.

have been a major part of our lives and made the low times much easier."

Emily Ubedei, member of **Hope, Austin**, was one of 37 students at Texas Lutheran College to be included in the 1995 edition of *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges*. Her academic achievement, community service, leadership and success potential did it. She's a senior biology major.

Rev. E. George Becker was installed Jan. 22 as pastoral assistant and interim pastor of **Zion Lutheran, Walburg**.

Hope Scheer, **Redeemer, Beaumont**, has become a board-certified specialist in metabolic nutrition. She pro-

vides medical nutrition therapy for Southeast Texas Rehabilitation Hospital and for patients referred by a physician.

Scheer

David Cruz, **Trinity, Houston**, was elected president of Helicopter Operators of Texas. Cruz flies one for the Houston Police Department.

The Early Childhood Center of **Zion, Tomball**, keeps parents involved by holding a Dad's Lunch and Mom's Breakfast at which parents join their offspring for a meal at the center.

THE LORD ADDED ...



LUBBOCK—These new members of the forever family at Redeemer, Lubbock, were received Dec. 18, 1994, by baptism, adult confirmation, profession of faith and transfer. Jay Beyer is pastor.



NEW MEMBERS—These are recent additions to the fellowship of St. Paul, Canyon. The church added 31 new members in 1994, 14 by transfer, six by adult confirmation, four by profession of faith, and there were four infant baptisms. Pastor is Wayne J. Park.



FOREVER FAMILY—Six adults were welcomed Dec. 11 to the forever family of Immanuel, Houston, by confirmation, three children by baptism, eight by transfer. Says Pastor Timothy Carr, "Immanuel praises God that 28 adults were received in 1994 by adult confirmation." Photos above and at right.





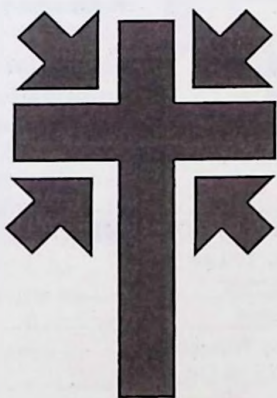
**Katherine
Bolland
ends
longest-ever
term as
LFOT director**



Katherine Bolland

Katherine Bolland retired March 4 after serving as a longtime director of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas. She began her service as a board member Feb. 5, 1977. Her total of 18 years as director is the longest tenure for any director serving on the board.

- Katherine served faithfully as secretary of the board for 14 years. She conscientiously recorded and preserved the official minutes of the Foundation.



During her tenure as a board member, the Foundation has grown from \$666,169 to nearly \$20 million. She has helped bring about much change in a Foundation that has been preparing to meet the challenge of serving Lutherans in Texas in their Christian estate planning.

- In addition to being an outstanding Lutheran school teacher, Katherine's dedication, loyalty and friendship has touched everyone during her time of service. She has been and will continue to be a blessing to the Foundation and all who know and love her.

On pastor's mind ...

Christ's resurrection means our resurrection, doesn't it!

by Dr. Timothy Rosenthal
Zion Lutheran, Abilene

A few years ago, a movie called "The Last Temptation of Christ" was heralded by liberal theologians and the world as a great movie. It was a flop at the box office as is any movie that promotes revisionist views.

The movie tried to show that Jesus never really did die on the cross, and thus, never rose from the grave. It promoted Him as nearly dying.



"He has risen, he is not here,
see the place where they laid him."
-Mark 16:6

THE ENEMIES OF Christianity usually focus their heaviest attacks against the cross and resurrection. To such people Jesus was merely a great moral teacher who was tragically misunderstood by both His followers and His enemies.

It shouldn't surprise us that the enemies of Christianity attack the veracity of the Resurrection because the whole of Christianity stands or falls on that one fact.



Rosenthal

ST. PAUL WROTE, "But if it is preached that Christ has been raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? ...For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised either. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.... If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men."

Only the true son of God can rise from the grave. Is Jesus who He says He is? This will tell us whether everything He said is true. Paul is quick to assert, "But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

CHRIST'S RESURRECTION means our resurrection through faith in Him.

Excerpted from *The Herald*,
newsletter of Zion, Abilene

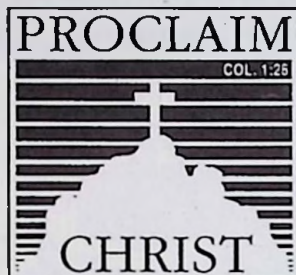
Convention invitation

The Lone Star District Lutheran Laymen's Leaguers will gather for their 52nd annual convention in Austin on the campus of Concordia College May 5-7. Hosts for the convention will be leaguers of Capital Zone (8), under the theme "Proclaim Christ."

Most convention activities, including registration which begins at 2 p.m., will take place in the Louise T. Peter Center. As usual, Friday evening will be time for fellowship, entertainment and snacks.

There will be various displays set up where you may purchase Christian books or receive information from other organizations related to your Christian life activities.

The convention sessions begin at 9 a.m. Saturday. A box luncheon will be served



at the noon break.

The Saturday evening banquet will be in Texas Hall, beginning at 6:30. Don Bennett, Int'l LLL president, will be the motivational speaker.

Sunday's activities begin with Bible study at 9 a.m. led by Rev. Gerald Kiechnick, president of the LCMS Texas District. Rev. William Diekelman, president of the LCMS Oklahoma District, will be the speaker at the Lutheran Hour Rally service at 10:30 a.m.

Concordia ministerial students are helping with plan-

ning and will participate in various convention activities.

Concordia is on the west side in the 3400 block of Interstate Highway 35 North.

Registration

Please indicate on your registration form all events in which you will participate, make your check payable to **1995 LLL Convention** and mail to the address on the bottom of the form.

Lodging

It is recommended you make your lodging reservations early. Please note confirmation number and cut-off date on your lodging choice. Both hotels serve continental breakfasts.

Best Western
7928 Gessner Drive
(183 at Gessner)
Austin, TX 78753
(512) 339-7311 or
1-800-468-3708



Rate: \$48.60 + 13% tax
Use confirmation #2160
Cut-off: April 20

LaQuinta Inn
7100 IH 35 North
Austin, TX 78752
(512) 452-9941 or
1-800-531-5900
Under 55: \$69 + 13% tax
55 or over: \$62.10 + 13% tax
Use confirmation #514-11829

Send your LLL news to:
Irene Teinert
Information Coord.
1501 Barbara St.
Austin, TX 78757

REGISTRATION FORM—52ND LONE STAR DISTRICT LLL CONVENTION

May 5-7, 1995—Concordia College, Austin, Texas

Name: _____ Address: _____

City, State ZIP: _____ Phone: _____

REGISTRATION (Deadline for early registration is April 22):	Number	Amount
Early Registration	_____	@ \$15 _____
Full or Late Registration	_____	@ \$20 _____
LUNCHEON TICKETS (May 6)	_____	@ \$ 5 _____
BANQUET TICKETS (May 6)	_____	@ \$13 _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED IN PAYMENT

LIST NAMES AS YOU WANT THEM TO APPEAR ON BADGE:

1. _____ 2. _____
3. _____ 4. _____

REQUEST FOR BABY SITTING ON SATURDAY, MAY 6:

Number _____ Ages _____

Mail registration with payment to: Registrar, LLL 1995 Convention Registration

5811 Marilyn Drive, Austin, TX 78757

This is true!

We have good news to share with you. KVDL Radio, Quanah, Texas, 1150 on the AM dial, is now airing "Woman to Woman" at 1 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays.

As of Feb. 17, 116 stations are broadcasting "Woman to Woman."



Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

There are some words air travelers never want to hear. I was in Chicago when the ticket agent announced, "We regret to inform you, but flight 511 to Dallas has been overbooked." That's airline jargon for "we sold too many tickets." Now the criteria to enter the plane was the BOARDING PASS. Mine was in my coat pocket firmly tucked away.

Whenever airlines overbook a flight, they are inclined to find ways to separate you from your boarding pass. The initial offer was a seat on the next flight plus a \$100 credit voucher. That won't raise an eyebrow with me, and it didn't with anyone else with a boarding pass. Then the stakes were raised.

A seat on the next flight with a \$200 voucher, then a \$400 voucher and finally a seat on the next flight in first class with a \$500 voucher. Some people got up quickly and made the exchange.

I sat quietly waiting to board my flight. Yes, it was tempting to think about taking up the highest offer, but it would have meant arriving home later and not having the time to be with my family. The highest bid wasn't worth it!

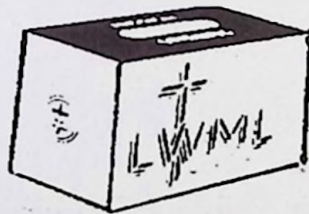
This month you will hear those beautiful words of the resurrection of Jesus. The news from the empty grave and the face-to-face meeting of a risen Savior with His wondering disciples. Yet in the midst of this joyous time

there will be someone increasing the offer of prestige, power and possessions. It will be the lure for you to trade in your Easter treasure for earthly pleasure. For some, it will be an offer they can't refuse.

The Easter Gospel is my boarding pass to heaven. It is the news of my Savior's death and resurrection. It is the resounding echo of His victory given to us!

I know someday my flight to heaven will be announced. I'm not going to miss it—not even for the world!

*Rev. Francis Schroeder
Pastoral Counselor
Texas District LWML*



MITE REPORT

February 1995

1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd February (all sources)	10,305
Rec'd to date (all sources)	98,448
Needed for goal	157,551
Sent to Int'l LWML (February)	2,074
Int'l to date	20,203

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box 1224, Giddings, TX 78942. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.

News request

The *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* requests news from the Texas District LWML.

Fall 1995

Deadline: April 10

Theme: Shapes and Sizes
Emphasis: Diversity of women within our LWML groups; diversity of groups.

Explore diversity in this issue—diversity of women, of groups, of communication.

Winter 1995

Deadline: July 10

Theme: Simple Pleasures
Emphasis: Simplifying lives, appreciating little pleasures.

This issue will address refocusing priorities, making wise choices, reducing stresses and avoiding excesses.

Spring 1996

Deadline: Oct. 10

Theme: The Work of Her Hands

Emphasis: The unique gifts and talents of women.

This issue revolves around the work women do in the name of the Lord. Studies deal with fruits of the spirit, Proverbs 31, talents and gifts.

Summer 1996

Deadline: Jan. 10, 1996

Theme: Kids Stuff

Emphasis: Celebrating children and child-like qualities.

The summer *Quarterly* explores child-like qualities including faith, intergenerational influences, relating to adult children, grandparenting and discipline.

Send news items to Lois Schroeder, news editor. You will find her address on the last page of the *Quarterly*.

Lutheran World Relief

Just a reminder that April is collection month for Lutheran World Relief.

The March issue of THE LUTHERAN WITNESS *Texas Messenger* LWML District News page had details.

If you need drop-off addresses, contact Eudoris Weiser, mission service chairman for the Texas District LWML.



Zone presidents listen as Peggy, Rosanne, Carolyn and Shirley present information for orientation weekend.



News from around the district

An English High Tea was the setting for a Christmas gathering Dec. 3, 1994, at **St. Matthew, Houston**.

Joan Griggs reports the Ladies Circle hosted the sixth annual event to benefit Holy Three-In-One Lutheran Church of the Deaf.

Guests enjoyed an assortment of delicious sandwiches, English scones, marmalade and desserts served with traditional English teas. Instrumental Christmas music was the entertainment.

The Signing Choir from Holy Three-In-One also presented songs for Christmas.

Funds raised were matched by Aid Association for Lutherans.

* * *

To express love and appreciation, **Trinity, Copperas Cove**, honored 40 senior members with a dinner Jan. 22.

Fruit baskets were also presented during the Christmas holidays.

On March 22, Sunshine Zone Spring Workshop met at Trinity. Each society presented a topic from these choices: The Word, Prayer, Fasting, Fellowship, Giving, Forgiveness, Praise, Thanksgiving and Sacraments.

Trinity serves the patients at the veterans hospital in Temple, and will participate in the Lutheran World Relief drive and Books for Brazil.

* * *

North Alamo Zone met April 2 at Hosanna, Kerrville. Eloise Kuhlmann, Christian growth chairman/second vice president of the Texas District LWML, served as guest speaker with a program titled "I Am."

The theme of the rally, "God's Chosen Stars," focused the members on an ingathering of food for the homeless under Nolan Street Bridge in San Antonio.

Tina Moss, zone mission service chairman, reports the youth from Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio, will serve the food on an upcoming Saturday.

Jean Kamper serves as zone president.

* * *

Mary Martha Guild, **Mount Calvary, San Antonio**, served a Christmas potluck to benefit Hannah's Closet, a pregnancy crisis center.

Members donated 137 yards of fabric to make maternity clothes.

Irene Roberts serves as president, with Barbara Rablee, mission service chairman.

* * *

The Mary Martha Guild, **Trinity, Rosenberg**, joyfully serves residents of two nursing homes each month.

A brief devotion and joy-filled singing express their loving concern for residents.

The guild also participated in the coupon program which benefits Bethesda Lutheran Home.

* * *

Melisa Diesterhaft served as guest speaker for a **Trinity, Amarillo**, youth event.

The LWML invited all youth to a Sunday pizza party to hear Melisa speak about her trip to Slovakia as a member of Project CAN-DO.

Since many young people in Slovakia have never heard about Jesus or been exposed to Bible teachings,



From left, members Virginia Wuthrich, Maidie Seydler, Pastor Tom Maggart, Mary Egger, Dolores Churpek and Betty Stern of the Mary Martha Guild, Trinity, Rosenberg, visit with Ella Hupe, nursing home resident, in front.

Melisa said, "they shared Jesus' love with those they met."

She encouraged the youth to take an active part in church projects.

* * *

Leadership training event!

Zone presidents met at Camp Lone Star Dec. 2, 1994, for orientation in the duties of their office.

Presentations included skits; a devotional in song by Peggy Spitzenberger; "Wheel of Bylaws" game led by Dorothy Hunger, which provided a unique way of presenting bylaws and parliamentary procedure; singing led by Rosanne Capdeville; and a Bible study "For Such a Time as This" by Eloise Kuhlmann, which rounded out the weekend.

Evaluations showed that

participants felt the workshop met or exceeded their expectations, helped prepare them for their leadership role as zone president and provided a wonderful opportunity for fellowship.

The event was conducted by the Texas District LWML Member Development Committee: Peggy Turnipseed, chairman; and Rosanne Capdeville, Carolyn Pali and Shirley Gaede, committee members.

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152, Lewisville, TX 75067. Deadline ninth of month. Fax 817-491-0105.



Mothers around the world

by Rev. Jerry Kleschnick
President, LCMS Texas District

May 14 is a special day in 1995—Mother's Day. It's a major celebration in the United States! Truthfully, I do not know how many countries of the world celebrate a similar day, but I'd love to hear from any of you who may be aware of such international Mother's Day celebrations.

Regardless of official declarations or celebrations, mothers are Very Important People throughout the world. Sometimes we forget or at least neglect to remember that all peoples, all tribes, all nations, all ethnic groups exist as a result of God's special and miraculous gift of life, marvelously extended and continued through the beautiful and wondrous process of procreation. Mothers are very significant participants in this part of the life cycle of humanity.

In our Barnabas visit to Panama and Guatemala last November, Terry and I had many opportunities to be reminded of the importance of mothers around the world. The Barnabas Project, sponsored by an endowment of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas and, by LCMS World Mission, sends church leaders and their spouses to visit foreign mission stations to encourage LCMS missionaries, spouses and families; to lead the annual spiritual retreat for LCMS missionaries, their spouses and families; and to communicate to our constituencies here at home the work which is being conducted on behalf of the con-

gregations of our church body which provides the financial support so vitally necessary as it sends missionaries to the 51 countries of the world in which LCMS mission work currently is conducted.

Our observation of mothers in the two Central American countries we visited evoked within us a number of memorable emotions:

Appreciation and thanksgiving for the mothers of our missionaries and their spouses who are concerned about the physical health and safety of their children and grandchildren, who are deprived of the joy of regular and frequent visits with these loved ones and who have obviously instilled in them an awareness of the love of the Lord for them, a corresponding love for Him, a unique ability to relate to people of other cultures and a selfless commitment to caringly communicate Christ's love and forgiveness to people in a foreign environment.

Admiration, awe and respect for female missionaries and missionary wives who not only face the challenge of rearing their



President Kleschnick

children in a culture, country and climate entirely different from that in which they themselves grew up, but who also regularly and daily must be concerned about the issues of safety, health, disease prevention, proper nutrition, education (sometimes boarding school many miles away, sometimes home schooling) and the future re-adjustment to life in America of their children.

Empathy, concern and compassion for native mothers in foreign countries, especially third world or other developing countries, who are faced day in and day out with the challenge of providing the basic necessities of life—food, clothing and shelter—for families usually numbering several children, sometimes with and sometimes without the presence of a husband/father, in living conditions almost totally devoid of even minimal hygienic facilities, on an annual income as anemic as \$200 per year per family.

My friends in Christ, it's absolutely impossible to adequately describe these and

the many, many other impressions that have been stamped indelibly in our minds and hearts as a result of our Barnabas experience. Our color slides and personal commentary, available to your congregation upon request and mutually agreeable scheduling, provide a much more complete glimpse of life in Central America as it is experienced by our missionary families and by the people with whom they are diligently attempting to share the Gospel, including children, fathers and mothers of all ages.

Your celebration of Mother's Day may or may not include the opportunity to physically visit your mother, assuming she is still living this side of eternity. If she is living on the other side, your Mother's Day will probably include memories and recollections of your time together with her, both the positive and the not-so-positive.

Either way, your observation of this special day hopefully will be enhanced by your remembrance of Jesus' final words to His close friend, John, and to His mother, Mary: "*Woman, behold thy son. Behold, thy mother.*"

A blessed Mother's Day to all the "mothers of the world!"

NEWS OF YOUR LUTHERAN FRIENDS

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

Members of **Trinity, Houston**, may have thought they were seeing double Feb. 12 as five baptisms were celebrated: two sets of twins and a single.

Dr. Edward Trapp Jr., **Dallas**, was chairman of the Fort Wayne seminary's



Trapp

150th anniversary thankoffering which exceeded its \$1.5 million minimum goal by several thousand dollars.

The money will be used for student aid. Trapp also is on the Texas District Board of Directors.

Jesse Gonzales, an employee of Lone Star Gas Co., was at work in a residential alley in Plano when he and fellow workers saw smoke pouring from a home. Rushing to the house, they called out to see if anyone was home and were answered by a 70-year-old man. The men broke a window and pulled the man to safety. Gonzales is a member of **Our Savior, McKinney**.

Members of **Faith, Stephenville**, broke ground March 5 for a sanctuary on their new church property. John W. Armstrong is pastor.

Congratulations to Maxine Williams, **Zion, Abilene**, who was chosen Teacher of the Year at an

Abilene elementary where she teaches fifth-graders. She also conducts reading classes for elementary education majors at Abilene Christian University.

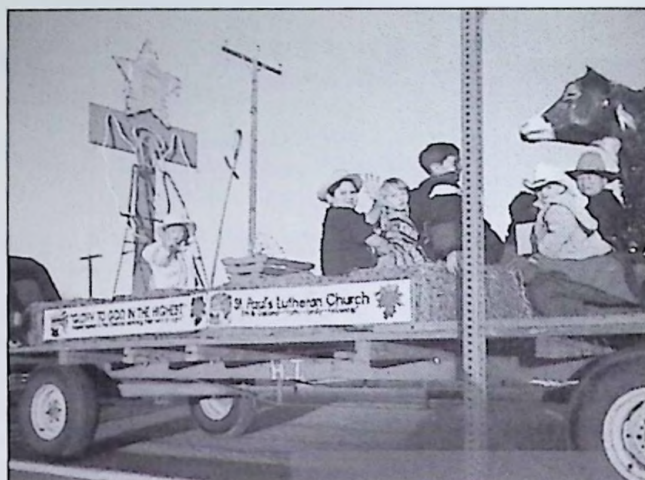
Don't know if he wore his cowboy boots, but Pastor John H. Kieschnick, **Gloria Dei, Houston**, delivered the opening prayer Feb. 21 at the Houston Stock Show and Rodeo as he lifted the name of Jesus before more than 50,000 attenders.

A prayer ministry at **Hope, Friendswood**, is called Moms in Touch and involves mothers who meet for an hour each week to pray for their children, their schools, their teachers and administrators.

A new method of Sunday school offering presentation has been devised at **Zion, Walburg**. Each week, a Sunday school student, along with the ushers, carries the day's offerings to the altar during the second service.

Rev. Kenneth Hessel was installed Feb. 12 as associate pastor of **Faith, Huntsville**. He will team with Pastor Donald Kasper to move the Faith ministry forward in a vigorous way.

Gloria Dei, Houston, began in February a confirmation program designed for senior high students too old to begin junior confirmation and too young for adult instruction.



PARADERS—Several children of the congregation were featured on the float entered in Plainview's Christmas parade by St. Paul Lutheran. Theme of the float was "Glory to God in the Highest."

Lutheran High North, Houston, was named recipient of the Christus Award, a recognition presented annually to six Lutheran high schools across the country. The award is made possible by Aid Association for Lutherans. Bruce Schaller, principal, received the award at the annual conference of the Association of Lutheran Secondary Schools in March in Dallas.

Ann Loja, **St. Andrew, Houston**, doesn't feel a bit drained, even after reaching the four-gallon donor mark in her church's blood drives.

The handbell choir of **St. Philip, Houston**, is called Voices in Bronze.

A Texas District mission congregation needs five church pews 14 feet long. Please contact Richard L. Stromske, **Divine Savior Lutheran Church**, P.O. Box 143, Devine, TX 78018; phone (210) 665-3146.

Bringing Christ to those in darkness, the braille work center of **Peace Lutheran, Texas City**, has sent 24 braille hymnals to Thika High School for the blind in Thika, Kenya, and 24 books of St. Mark in Estonia braille to the Bible Society of Estonia in Tallinn.

Jane Hanlon, **Christ the King, Kingwood**, has been named a Woman of Achievement by the Humble Chamber of Commerce. She is chairman of the chamber's education committee, and has started mentor programs for area schools, sponsored book drives and led fund-raisers for scholarship and teacher projects.

Pete Hames, **Redeemer, Beaumont**, is new commander of the city's Power Squadron, a nonprofit group of recreational boaters which offers free courses in safe boating.



1995 MISSION BUDGET

*By Rev. Ken Hennings,
Executive Director, Board of
Mission Administration*

God has blessed the Texas District in the past and continues to bless and lead us today. As I travel around the District, I sense excitement in many congregations about the mission program of the District. People have heard a clear message that reaching the lost is our top priority. The overall budget of the District has increased to a total of \$6,000,000 for 1995. Of the six million dollars, \$2,442,000 goes to support Synodical Missions and Ministry. The following is a break down of the \$1,915,811 that is designated for Texas District Missions and Ministry for 1995.

Congregational Assistance

Anglo Ministries (20)	\$ 300,810
Hispanic Ministries (17)	\$ 476,447
African-American Ministries (5)	\$ 106,000
Vietnamese Ministries (2)	\$ 42,000
Deaf Ministries (3)	\$ 127,141
Campus Ministries (6 full-time; 3 part-time)	\$ 315,000
Others	\$ 35,000
Additional Worker Grants (<i>Assisting fast growing congregations keep their outreach moving forward</i>)	\$ 292,348
New Missions	\$ 30,000
Advance Sites	\$ 30,000
Student Aid	\$ 25,000
Development & Administration	\$ 136,065
TOTAL MISSION BUDGET	\$1,915,811
Funds to support missions from endowments and special gifts	- 84,504
TOTAL FROM DISTRICT BUDGET	<u>\$1,831,307</u>

Of special note is the \$84,504, coming from endowments and special gifts. Some of the monies from this year's endowment funds are coming from two funds established by the Board of Mission Administration. The BMA is encouraging support to increase the base of these two funds which will help to start new mission work or assist congregations to continue their mission outreach. An endowment fund allows gifts and contributions to be placed in an account that earns interest throughout the year. At the end of the year, only the interest is used and the principle remains in tact. The principle will continue to grow through additional contributions and gifts, and because the BMA puts 10% of the interest back into the fund each year.

If you would like to give in the effort to increase these two endowment funds, you may send your check to the Texas District, Mission Office, earmarked for either the Mission Planting or Hispanic Endowment Fund.

If you would like additional information concerning the 1995 Mission and Ministry budget, please contact the Mission Office at 1-800-951-3478 or 1-512-926-4272

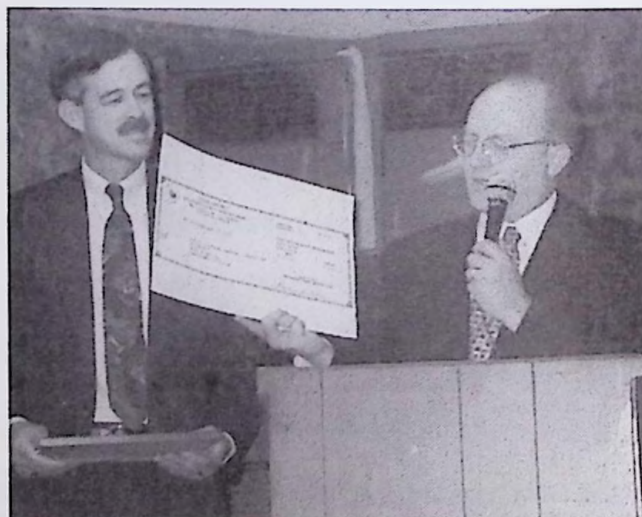
CELEBRATE OUR TEXAS LUTHERANS



HERE WE STAND—Immanuel Lutheran, Houston, has a new lighted sign that Pastor Timothy Carr says is vital for the future of Immanuel, to let the changing neighborhood know that this congregation, nestled on a corner of two residential streets in the historic Heights neighborhood of Houston, is still a thriving congregation. The sign was given in memory of longtime member Fred Schauer by his family. Immanuel is joyously welcoming new members of the various ethnic groups which make up the Heights area.



KING OF KINGS—On Dec. 18, 1994, King of Kings, Houston, received 13 new members by transfer and profession of faith. Pastor is John D. Smith.



ZERO CHECK—A momentous celebration took place Jan. 15 at Faith Lutheran in Corsicana. The congregation became self-sustaining. Jim Whistler, right, Faith treasurer, displays mock check from the Texas District for zero dollars and zero cents, signifying end to district subsidy. Executive Director Ken Hennings of the district mission board, is at left.



CEDAR PARK—These are new members of Good Shepherd in Cedar Park, received Jan. 15. Pastor is Richard Goodwill.

REJOICE!



ORGANIZERS—
From left, Pastor
B.R. Brummett,
Lynn Kieschnick
and James Nolan
organized the
tournament
event.

Little church, big heart



CHOW TEAM—Warren Hayslip and Lawrence Kieschnick man
the barbecue ovens at Trinity volleyball tournament.

For the past six years, Trinity Lutheran Church of West Sinton, a small rural congregation, has hosted an annual youth volleyball tournament for Missouri Synod churches of the Coastal Bend.

Each year, young people from more than 60 miles away come to Trinity for food, fellowship and a shot at winning the tournament.

"Even small churches like ours still have a place and can make significant contributions to the well-being of our district and Synod," said the host pastor, B.R. Brummett of Trinity.

Members of the parish

plan, host, officiate, cook and—for the most part—bear the financial burden of conducting this event geared solely toward youth, the pastor said.

He added, "All this demonstrates that even small parishes can have large hearts, that even diminutive congregations still have a meaningful place in our district and Synod."

More than 150 youngsters participated in the Jan. 22 event. They represented Lord of Life, Flour Bluff; Messiah, Calallen; Mount Olive and Trinity of Corpus Christi; Peace, Rockport; St. Paul, Kingsville; and Trinity, West Sinton.

Lord of Life was junior division champion with Trinity, West Sinton, as runner-up. Trinity, West Sinton, won the senior division championship with St. Paul, Kingsville, as runner-up.

Describing the tournament, Brummett said, "Everyone had a great time as, in the discipline of the game, they were reminded of a far greater discipline; as, in their desire for victory, they were directed to the greatest triumph of all: the goal of which is a gift through Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world."



ACTION—Junior division players compete on one of the tournament's four courts.

A legacy

***We all leave one, and you
can honor God with yours***

by Glenn Pittsford,
Executive Director,
Lutheran Foundation of Texas



When we depart this earthly life and reach our heavenly home, we all leave a legacy here on earth.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have witnessed



Pittsford

to people who needed to hear the Gospel. We may have instilled integrity and initiative in loved ones, or influenced people in other ways.

There is another way in which individuals and families in the Texas District are leaving legacies after their lifetimes. They are doing so by beginning a Family Endowment that provides perpetual support to the ministry or ministries they select.

Some endowments are created now, during the lifetimes of the donors. They

then have the pleasure of seeing the endowment benefit their beloved ministry while they are still living.

Other individuals and families prefer to begin their endowment at the end of their lifetimes, through a bequest in a will, an insurance gift, a gift of a specific asset, or a gift of retirement assets.

These endowments are providing or will provide perpetual annual support for the ministries these people love. Congregations are often chosen to be supported in such a way, as are ministries of mission, ministries of mercy and care, ministries of Christian education, and many other types of ministries.

To illustrate, assume that

you decide to create an endowment named in honor or in memory of loved ones, fund it with \$100,000 now or at the end of your lifetime through life insurance, a bequest, or another method of

of the endowment. In 50 years, \$350,000 will have been provided and \$700,000 within the first 100 years. And the perpetual endowment will continue to provide support to the church

**“What a fantastic way for
our offerings to continue
even after we are safely
home in heaven!”**

gifting. Assuming 7 percent net endowment earnings, the endowment will provide \$70,000 to ministries in just 10 years. In 20 years, the total support will have been \$140,000 provided to the ministry since the creation

much longer than that, according to God's will.

What a wonderful way to give thanks to our Lord for all our blessings!

If you want to explore the possibilities, contact the Foundation for assistance.



1-800-880-3733
926-4272 (Austin)

☐ Please send me a sample package of information about Family Endowments.

☐ Please contact me about creating a Family Endowment.

**MAIL TO: Lutheran Foundation of Texas
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499**

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Work Telephone _____

Home Telephone _____



CANYON—It's a historical phenomenon at St. Paul Lutheran in Canyon. When Martin Kuhlman, a son of the congregation, received his doctorate from Texas Tech last year, he became the fourth member of St. Paul to hold a Ph.D. in history. All teach at West Texas A&M University, and all are active in the congregation. From left are Drs. Fred Rathjen, Bruce Brasington, Peter L. Petersen and Kuhlman.

Young Ongoing Ambassadors join adults in mission push

Ongoing Ambassadors For Christ from Dallas, Austin, San Antonio and San Angelo gathered Jan. 20-22 at Faith, Plano, to canvass the city of Allen.

The 50 kids of the Christian youth outreach organization and an additional 45 members of Faith, Plano, contacted 4,500 homes and spoke to more than 1,100 people. A mailing list of 153 families interested in the Allen mission start was produced as a result of the weekend.

The first service of Immanuel Lutheran Mission was held Sunday, Feb. 5, in Allen. The Holy Spirit

brought together 140 people that day from Allen, Fairview, Lucas, Frisco, The Colony, Plano and Richardson.

Immanuel Lutheran Mission meets in the Allen Public Library. Sunday school and adult Bible classes are offered at 9:15 a.m. followed by divine worship at 10:30. The services are conducted by Pastor Michael Frick, assistant pastor of Faith Lutheran in Plano and mission developer for the Allen church, and by Pastor Robert Hill, senior pastor of Faith Lutheran.

Immanuel is sponsored by Faith Lutheran Church and School of Plano. Both congregations offer historic Lutheran doctrine and worship.

On pastor's mind ...

Conspiracy of silence

by Rev. Norman Abbott, emeritus
Concordia, San Antonio

Christians deplore the killing of abortionists because it is against the command of God, "You shall not murder."

AT THE SAME time, we are grieved at the daily killing of 4,200 unborn children at the hands of abortionists.

We ask, "Why does the media publish prominent articles about the murder of one abortionist, but completely ignores the daily murder of 4,200 unborn infants?"

"Why does the media focus everyone's attention on the violence done outside the abortion clinic and cover up the deadly violence inside the abortion clinic?"

MANY AMERICANS still do not know such simple facts as this: that an unborn child has a heartbeat only 14 days after conception, or that it is legal to kill an unborn child up till the moment of birth.

THE MEDIA has not told the story of the 35-year-old woman who murdered an Alabama minister because of the pro-life witness he gave on his radio program. The media did not tell of the death of a 30-year-old woman who died from a botched abortion at the same abortion mill where abortionist David Gunn was murdered in 1993.

The media does not tell about the fire-bombing of the car of a Lutherans For Life pro-life leader in Ohio. We read nothing about the torching of the Right-to-Life offices in Gainesville, Fla., the month before Dr. Gunn was shot.

There is a conspiracy of silence about the genocide taking place in our nation.

*From Letters to the Editor
San Antonio Express-News*

ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

"I want to pray in a more disciplined way.
But after I've prayed for about two minutes,
I don't have anything more to say."

Some people use a "structure" for their prayer time.

One such structure is based on the letters: **A C T S**

1. **Adoration/Praise**—first we focus on WHO GOD IS—His attributes.
2. **Confession**—next we humble ourselves before God and confess our sins, shortcomings and weaknesses.
3. **Thanksgiving**—we thank God for what He has done, especially answers to prayers.
4. **Supplication/Requests**—lastly, we pray for ourselves and for others.
5. Close "**In Jesus Name.**"

Texas District Prayer Ministry Task Force #955



Lutheran summer camp

Try it—you'll like it!

Sound familiar?

The media bombards us continually with reasons to try something new with promises of satisfaction. But, according to Pastor Tom Konz of Faith Lutheran Church in Mexia, that is exactly why a high percentage of kids attend Lutheran summer camp each year. Out of 22 students in its Sunday school program, Faith had eight kids go to Camp Lone Star in La Grange last summer.

"The only reason they go is because they like it," said Konz, referring to the fact that the best tool to encourage attendance is word-of-mouth.

"They like it so much they come back and tell the other kids about it and then the younger ones want to go, too," he stated. He also plans to have children who went last year speak to the other kids in his church so everyone hears what a good time can be had at Lutheran camp.

Konz also enjoys attending summer camp each year as part of the Pioneer Program available at each campsite. He believes another

reason the attendance is so good is due to his commitment to be there with the campers. As their spiritual leader, he finds that the kids enjoy the personal attention they receive from him at camp.

This also proves to be a real relationship builder that can be carried out throughout the year. The parents also have seen the positive influence Christian summer camp has had on their kids.

Initially, bake sales, garage sales and other fundraisers had to be held to support the campers' attendance. Now the parents are so excited about the benefits they see from their children's attendance at Camp Lone Star that they are motivated to come up with the funds for their children to sign up as a regular part of each summer.

Camp Lone Star is operated by Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas (LOMT), an agency of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. LOMT also operates Texoma Lutheran Camp on Lake Texoma in Pottsboro. This summer's theme is "The



GOOD COMPANY—The camp counselors look forward to serving your kids in Christ Jesus once again this summer at Texoma Lutheran Camp and Camp Lone Star. Weekly and weekend sessions will be held from June through August for kids ages 5-18.

Way of the Cross."

Your kids can discover the yearlong benefits of Lutheran summer camp, too. Let them try it, experience the fun and fellowship and share it with a friend or brother or sister for twice

the fun! They'll like it!

For more information and a registration brochure, call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or Texoma Camp at 1-800-926-5968.

Register now for camp

Camp Lone Star in La Grange and Texoma Camp on Lake Texoma in Pottsboro are accepting registrations for the 1995 summer camping season which is being held from June 4 through Aug. 4. This year's camping theme is "The Way of The Cross." The summer will be filled with excitement as campers learn to live their Christian faith and have fun at the same time. Weekly and weekend programs are for youth age 5-18 (plus a special weekend program at Camp Lone Star that includes parents).

For more information and a registration form, call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or Texoma Camp at 1-800-926-5968. Enroll now so your kids can be in the session they want!

Bring a friend along to camp

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 at Camp Lone Star or Texoma Lutheran Camp. All campers are welcome! See you this summer! (For an extra brochure and registration form to give to a friend, call Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or Texoma Camp at 1-800-926-5968).



GLORY TO GOD—The Holy Spirit, through the Word, led 50 people into membership just before last Christmas at Zion Lutheran in Dallas. Dr. Robert C. Preece, center front, is senior pastor.

The Lord added ...



GIDDINGS—The Lord added these people to the fellowship of Immanuel, Giddings, Feb. 12. Eleven adults were received by confirmation, with five of them being baptized. Two spouses were received by transfer, along with two children. Wilbern Michalk is pastor.



SAN ANTONIO—These are the newest members of Concordia, San Antonio, received into membership Feb. 12. Senior pastor is William G. Thompson.



KINGSVILLE—These folks were among the new members that the Lord added to the forever family Jan. 29 of St. Paul, Kingsville. Pastor is John Elser.



NEW AT ST. MARK—These 17 adults and 16 children were received Nov. 13, 1994, into the fellowship of St. Mark Lutheran, Houston. Ten of the new members came by adult confirmation. Two adults and six children were baptized. Three were added by profession of faith, four by transfer.



AUSTIN—These are new members of Redeemer, Austin, received by transfer in January. Pastor is David Schroder.

YOUTH

Our awesome Lutheran kids ...

Those energetic and faith-revealing high school kids at **Redeemer, Austin**, went to Nuevo Laredo on a long weekend in February to help maintain and repair the Lutheran mission there, while the junior high group went to Camp Lone Star to spruce up the grounds for the summer camp program.

* * *

And the junior high bunch from **Gloria Dei, Houston**, will participate in a servant event in Woodland Park, Colo., Aug. 6-11, helping build elements for a challenge course and running a day camp for children of homeless families. The senior high bunch will be part of a servant event July 16-23 in Woodburn, Ore., running a vacation Bible school for Hispanic children, working with family migrant camps, and painting and doing yard work at the mission.

* * *

Don't let Kevin Grimm get hold of you. A high school

sophomore, Kevin won second place in the regional wrestling tournament and was a participant at the state level. He's a member of **Hope, Austin**.

* * *

Bright kid honors at **Zion, Abilene**, go to Kristie Schkade, who received her middle school's Academic Excellence Award; Aaron Krause, who received a superior rating in UIL solo competition; and Kari Kionka, who was runner-up for most outstanding model at a Fort Worth fashion show.

* * *

After surviving auditions at district and region levels, Lori Stubbs, **Faith, Huntsville**, was chosen for All-State Band.

* * *

Matthew Boerger, **St. Paul, San Antonio**, was inducted into the National Honor Society and is a member of his high school's Academic Decathlon Team. At the regional meet in Laredo, Matt won silver medals in math, economics and literature.

* * *

Beth Melcher, a seventh grader at **St. Paul Lutheran School, Thorndale**, was named to the seventh and eighth grade All-Region Band. She and her trombone also play in the Thorndale High School band.

* * *

Glorybound '96 will be held Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 29-Dec. 1, 1996, at the Sheraton-Astrodome in Houston.

* * *



HOOPSTERS—These seventh- and eighth-grade girls and boys of Redeemer Lutheran School, San Antonio, played alumni from the school in basketball. Proceeds from concessions and admissions went to the Youth Gathering Fund and the Booster Club.

Andrea Ahlert, **Ascension, Cleburne**, suffered a knee-shredding fall in track, but it didn't keep her from a top rating in UIL vocal solo. And Erik Malard's instrumental trio and brass choir received a No. 1 UIL rating, while the jazz band in which he performs competed at the state level.

* * *

Nathan Birnbaum, **Our Savior, Rockwall**, took bytes out of the competition at both local and district levels by winning Best of Show in the Cultural Arts Contest

with his computer art picture.

* * *

Becky Robbins, **Hope, Austin**, knocked the competition out and the pins down at the state bowling tournament where she recorded a 656 series. That's a 218 average! Folks who bowl call it amazing!

* * *

Nancy Loudonback, **Bethlehem, Brenham**, played her clarinet to a superior rating in the UIL meet.



SOME TALENT!—Rusty Fields, a high school senior, wrote and directed the children's Christmas program at Mount Calvary, San Antonio. It was named "Shedding a Radiant New Light—a Christmas Definition." She hopes to pursue a career in teaching and drama, and is now appearing in community theater.



MISSION-MINDED—These youth of Messiah Lutheran, Corpus Christi, and their pastor, Kelly Crabbe (center), are anxious to reveal Christ in their lives to people of Russia.

Pastor's enthusiasm prompts Corpus Christi young people to take Christ to Russians

by Randy Potts

Talk about spreading the word of Project CAN-DO, Pastor Kelly Crabbe of Messiah, Corpus Christi has taken this message to heart. After his experience in St. Petersburg, Russia, last summer with Project CAN-DO, Crabbe returned to share the excitement and message of the ripe mission field with his congregation. They set

aside a special Sunday for a meal and celebration of what God was doing in Russia. Crabbe shared video footage he shot while in Russia. The response was exciting and contagious!

This excitement grew as a group of 15 youth and adults attended the CAN-DO Celebration Rally in Corpus Christi last fall. Several young people and families expressed a desire to participate in the '95 CAN-DO mission events.

"The young people of the congregation were truly interested in the ministry potential in Russia," said Crabbe. The result is that five youth and one adult have registered along with Crabbe to go to Russia this summer and spread the Word through CAN-DO! They see many possibilities for both expanding the Kingdom and also growing in their spiritual lives.

The young people and congregation are working hard to raise the needed funds for their short-term hands-on mission experience and to support the ongoing mission fields. They plan to raise more than \$16,000 for Project CAN-DO missions in 1995. They have developed a passion for missions and servanthood taking to heart the Bible verse, "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength" (Phil. 4:13).

More than \$500,000 committed to CAN-DO in 1994

The youth of the Texas District, with the solid backing of many adults, have raised more than \$247,600 in gifts and pledges to support the CAN-DO mission projects and mission servant events this past year! NOT included in the above figure is an additional \$263,000 that youth groups raised to pay the cost of their participation in mission servant events last summer. When you combine the two figures, it shows that more than \$500,000 was raised and committed toward CAN-DO missions and mis-

sion servant events last year.

This includes \$64,000, which was committed in seed grants from partnerships with Wheat Ridge Ministries and the Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

We thank God for the significant efforts and many blessings that He has bestowed on CAN-DO in its first year.

CAN-DO is already geared up and well into its second year cycle, which began with training workshops in January.

Synod plans two Servant Events in Texas

The Board for Youth Services of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is sponsoring 50 Servant Events in 1995. Two of them are in the Texas District.

The events are opportunities for young people to grow in faith while volunteering to work in Lutheran institutions, churches and camps.

The first event in Texas is July 8-14 at Ysleta Mission near El Paso. It is called **Amigos de Cristo** (Friends of Christ). The mission is one mile from the U.S.-Mexican border in a 95 percent

Hispanic neighborhood. Servants will repair Ysleta buildings, homes in the community and in Anapra, Mexico. They will help with the orphanage/day care and the hot meal program. Registration includes housing, meals, local transportation and some recreation activities.

For information or to register, contact John Roudenbush, Ysleta Lutheran Mission, 301 S. Schutz, El Paso, TX 79907; or phone (915) 858-2588, or (915) 852-3288.

The second Texas event is **North Texas Lakeshore**

Outreach July 14-22 at Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro. The youth servants will staff vacation Bible school camp for the area, canvass lake area marinas and resorts to promote VBS, spend time working on devotion site development and provide repair and construction needed at camp.

Registration includes housing and meals. For information or to register, contact Keith R. Lund, Texoma Lutheran Camp, Rt. 1, Box 116-P, Pottsboro, TX 75076, or call (903) 786-3121. Voice mail number is (903) 867-3295.

CONCORDIA

Concordia students say 'thank you' to scholarship donors

Dr. Ernest Besch and his brothers Everett, Emerson and Carl have chosen to honor their deceased mother in a lasting way by establishing a scholarship endowment in her name.

Concordia senior student Amber Maroney has chosen to honor her mother by looking to her as a role model and emulating her vocation to become a Lutheran teacher.

The four Besch sons and their wives have established the Carolyn D. Besch Memorial Scholarship Endowment at Concordia Lutheran College as a tribute to their mother. A young widow, Carolyn Besch reared four sons alone and saw that each received a good education. The endowment is one way the sons can demonstrate their esteem and love for her.

In a few days, Amber Maroney will achieve the goal she has had since she was a first grader at Concordia Lutheran School in San Antonio. She will graduate May 13 with credentials to be a Lutheran teacher. She should be one of the best, too—in 1994 she was chosen to receive a scholarship from the Lutheran Education Association as one of the top early childhood education students in the Concordia system of colleges.

Ernest Besch and Amber Maroney were chosen to speak at this year's Scholarship Donor Recognition Dinner, representing the many scholarship donors and scholarship recipients who gathered at the annual event.

The dinner gives those



SCHOLARSHIP DONORS—Ernest Besch (second from left) spoke at the Scholarship Donor Recognition Dinner, representing the scholarship donors. Introducing him is Mike Linebrink (center) of the Concordia Development Office. Also present were his wife Roslyn Besch and Carl and JoAnn Besch, his brother and sister-in-law.

who have established scholarship endowments or named scholarship funds the opportunity to meet the students they have helped through their generosity. It also gives scholarship recipients the opportunity to thank donors personally for making a Concordia education possible for them.

For information about establishing a scholarship endowment or a named scholarship fund to help students like Amber, call the Concordia Development Office at (512) 452-7661.

Redeemer, Austin, leads congregations in CLC enrollment

As Redeemer, Austin, celebrated Lutheran Schools Week on March 5, it received a surprise award from Concordia Lutheran College. This year more students enrolled from Redeemer at Concordia than from any other congregation.

Dr. David Zersen told Redeemer members that the partnership shared between Concordia and Redeemer included the whole spec-

trum of Christian education—from early childhood to higher education.

"The spiritual formation students receive here at Redeemer helps them make decisions about continuing their education in a Christian setting," Zersen said.

Other congregations in the Texas District also provide substantial numbers of students to Concordia. Hope, Austin, had 15 students at Concordia this year. Bethany, Austin, had nine. Our Savior, Austin, had sev-



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT—Amber Maroney represented the scholarship recipients at the Recognition dinner.

en. However, it's not only big cities that have students at Concordia. Zion, Walburg, had four students and Immanuel, Giddings, also had four.

"Perhaps next year another congregation may receive the traveling plaque which recognizes having the most students, but we are grateful to every congregation which sends students to Concordia," said Zersen. "This is a partnership in Christian education which we all share together."



LEADING CONGREGATION—Redeemer Lutheran Church in Austin led all other Texas congregations in sending students to Concordia, with 18 students. Concordia College President Zersen presented a plaque to Pastor Kevin Westergren in appreciation for the congregation's recruitment efforts. The second leading congregation was Hope, Austin.



Musicians are invited to CLC's Church Music Workshop

The Music Department of Concordia Lutheran College announces its 11th annual Church Music Workshop, beginning the afternoon of Monday, June 19, and concluding at noon on Friday, June 23. Plenary sessions and sectional workshops will cover many aspects of the responsibilities of church musicians. Daily worship and Bible study will be featured, and an extensive display of music and worship related materials will be available for examination and purchase.

The special guest presenters this year will be two members of the music faculty of The University of Texas at Austin, Dr. Craig Hella Johnson and Dr. Frank Speller.

Johnson is head of the UT choral department. A graduate of St. Olaf College, he has studied at Julliard; with Helmuth Rilling at Stuttgart, Germany; at the University of Illinois; and earned his doctorate at Yale. In addition to his responsibilities at the university, he also is director of choral activities for the National Lutheran Music Program; and artistic director of the New Texas Festival, the Victoria Bach Festival, and the Texas Bach Aria Group.

An accomplished organist as well, he has served as music director of a number of churches.

He will lead sessions on choral conducting, choral literature and vocal techniques, and will lead workshop participants in the



THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION—This year's group of student teachers was the largest ever sent out by Concordia. The student teaching experience is the last segment in a rigorous program to prepare teachers for church and public schools.

preparation and performance of a cantata.

Speller is professor of organ and harpsichord at UT. He earned bachelor's and doctoral degrees from the University of Colorado and a master's degree from Indiana University. Further organ study took him to Europe to work with Jeanne Demessieux and Pierre Froidebise. He has served as church organist in a number of congregations, currently at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Austin.

In addition to performing frequent recitals, he has often served as clinician and workshop leader. He has published numerous compositions, including some with Concordia Publishing House and Morning Star Music Publishers.

He will lead master classes on organ playing and will be available for individual instruction.

Housing and food service during the Church Music Workshop will be available on the Concordia campus.

For further information or to receive registration materials, call Professor Harold Rutz at (512) 452-7661.

An invitation from Concordia and Coach Tom Landry

You are invited to join former Dallas Cowboys football coach Tom Landry for an evening of food and entertainment on Sunday, June 25, and for a day of golf on Monday, June 26. Both events will benefit the Tom Landry Scholarship Fund at Concordia Lutheran college.

Landry was coach of the Cowboys for 29 years, during which the team posted 20 consecutive winning seasons and a record five Super Bowl appearances. In 1990, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The "Evening With Tom Landry" will be held at Aggie Park in San Antonio, beginning at 6 p.m. An autograph and photo session will be followed by a barbecue dinner at 7 p.m. Musical entertainment, an auction and the awarding of door prizes will complete the evening. Tickets are \$15 per person.

The third annual Tom Landry Concordia Golf Classic will be held at San Anto-

nio's Oak Hills Country Club. The entry fee is \$195 per golfer.

Well-remembered for his coaching record, Landry has become equally well-known for championing causes in which he believes, and he assists Concordia because he believes in Christian education. During the past two years, 43 Concordia students have received assistance from the Tom Landry Scholarship Fund.

"The need for scholarships is greater than ever before," said Landry in a press release intended for Lutheran churches. "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."

For more information about the tournament and to make reservations, call Clifford Damstrom at the Concordia Development Office at (512) 452-7661.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOMES AND SERVICES GOOD SAMARITAN CAMPUS

Good Samaritan trio confirms their faith

For three Good Samaritan group home residents, a March 5 confirmation service brought new meaning to their lives. With friends and family watching, Edwin, Dwayne and William were confirmed at the Good Samaritan chapel.

"Confirmation means you are invited by God to eat at His table," explains Rev. Ronald Hampsten, Good Samaritan's chaplain. "They understand that and it means a lot to them."

Hampsten has worked closely with Edwin, Dwayne and William through weekly Bible studies. "Each of these men had to work very hard to get to this point," he said.

For example, Edwin can't speak and is hearing impaired. His motivation toward confirmation is Holy Communion. A year ago Hampsten gave Edwin 100 questions to answer. Without speaking, Edwin answered each question by pointing or making a gesture.

When asked about confirmation, Dwayne responds, "Body! Bread! Blood! Cup!" Hampsten says Dwayne has worked very hard and is a quick learner. "He understands what confirmation means and pats his hand on his head three times to show he is confirming his baptismal vows."

William also knows what it means to be confirmed. Despite having Alzheimer's disease, he works very hard in his Bible classes and is happy to answer and yell out "Holy Spirit!" He has been working toward this day longer than Edwin and Dwayne have, and Hampsten says William is very excited and ready to confirm his faith.

After the service, friends, families and confirmands shared an evening dinner. Entertainment was happily provided by residents of the Heights, Texas, group home, who played "Beautiful Savior" on the new tone bars.



Edwin has worked hard in his Bible studies and is excited about his confirmation. Above, Pastor Hampsten and Edwin work on one of the 100 questions.

Goods needed for Golf on the Greens

The Greater Houston area Charity Golf Tournament is just around the summer corner. Golfers are stretching their limbs and practicing their swing so that they can win the raffle or walk away with a prize.

Prizes don't grow on the greens, so Good Samaritan is looking for sponsors.

Cash sponsorship levels

available are:

- \$1,000;
- \$750;
- \$400;
- \$100.

Prizes for the raffle also are needed.

If you have any questions about how you can help, contact Linda Loesch at (713) 351-4911.

ATTENTION!

The Bethesda Good Samaritan Campus needs bath towels and wash cloths! Your donated towels will be greatly appreciated.

Send or deliver donations to 18937 K-Z Road, P.O. Box 729, Cypress, TX 77429. For more information on delivery, call (713) 351-4911.

Auxiliary Goldie Fund donates \$4,600 for Good Samaritan Chapel

Because of their care and commitment to people with mental retardation, the Good Samaritan Auxiliary donated \$4,600 toward chapel pews and tone bars for the Good Samaritan Campus chapel and residents.

The pews and tone bars were 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's dedication has brought about many improvements to

Bethesda's Good Samaritan Campus through the Goldie Fund," said Dr. A.L. Napolitano, Bethesda's executive director.

Last spring the Goldie Fund helped purchase furniture for a pavilion on the Good Samaritan Campus, including tables, chairs and a pulpit for outdoor chapel services.



HERE am I
send me
SEND ME

Second-career pastors are becoming more common each year. Here is another story of a second-career pastor, Rev. Norm Finke and his wife, Marty, of Christ the King in Waxahachie. Perhaps you can identify with the circumstances surrounding them. Is the Lord calling you?

If you would like to talk with someone who is a second-career pastor, write to Rev. Richard Goodwill, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 340, Cedar Park, TX 78630, and we will put you in contact with one of the pastors who has shared his story. He will be happy to talk to you.

'The Lord had something else in mind for me'

by Rev. Norm and Marty Finke

I attended Concordia, Milwaukee, from 1952 to 1958. For most of that time I was studying to be a pastor. During my last year I felt that the Lord was leading me to work with youth so I decided to go to Concordia College (now University), River Forest, Ill. I graduated and became a fifth-sixth grade teacher, coach and youth director. I became the principal of St. Matthew Lutheran School in Houston, and a whole new area of ministry opened up to me. I



Finke

served as principal for 15 years and then it seemed that the Lord had something else in mind for me.

Some of the members of the congregation began to encourage me to go to the seminary and enroll to become a pastor. Could this really be another door being opened by the Lord? I was 51 years old.

If I were looking for excuses for not going to the seminary, I certainly didn't have to look far. Besides, I was comfortable, I had a home, I had served the Lord for 28 years in the field of Christian education.

The days at the seminary were long and required more studying than I had ever imagined. But they were days that were a real

blessing to us. We met many other couples that were doing the same thing we were. (Although most of them were quite a bit younger. If I didn't look in the mirror too often, I began to feel I was just like them—young and eager.)

Through the classes, the students, the professors and the time spent worshipping together, I found myself growing in faith and confidence that the Lord had truly opened another door.

As you probably can see, we enjoyed our seminary experience. In fact it was probably one of the high points of our lives.

I had the financial support of my local congregation, the love and encouragement of my wife and the confidence that God was opening another door for me to serve Him in His kingdom. High points were the seminary atmosphere, the friends that we made, my growth in appreciating my wife, my own spiritual growth and an appreciation for the high calling to which we aspired.

Marty shares her thoughts: "I was a teacher in a Lutheran elementary school when my husband decided to go to the seminary. I was very involved in our church in the choir, in participating in or leading Bible studies, Couples' Club, LWML and, of course, in the activities of the school where I taught.

"I was behind him all the way on this decision and that, I believe, is important!

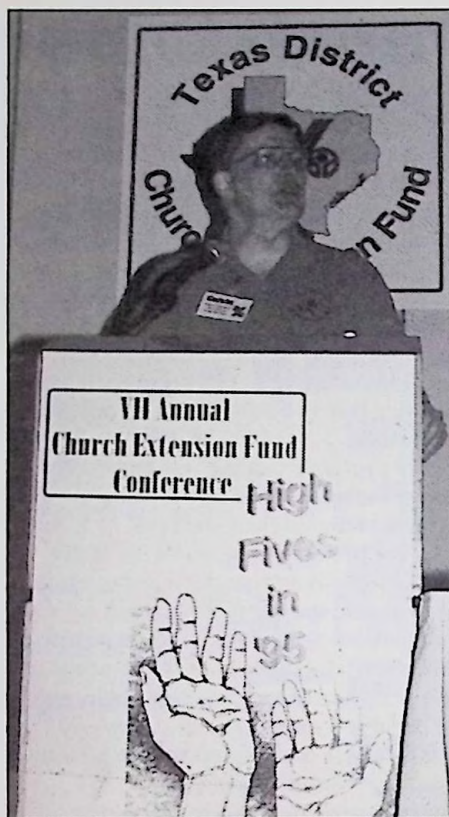
"Our children also were behind him. At that time our children were 20, 22, 24 and 26 years of age. It is so important to try and find 'family' while you are there. Our daughters that were in college made a great effort to help pay for most of their bills. They also took advantage of grants and scholarships that were available. Our congregation was a great help financially, as well as the Lottman Fund. We would not have been able to go to St. Louis at all if it had not been for their assistance.

"As this walk is started, it is so important to remember that the Lord is there with you and will not leave your side for even one moment. It was with His blessing that we attempted the journey to begin with, and He blessed it to the end."



CORSICANA—These eight new members were added Jan. 15 to the fellowship of Faith Lutheran, Corsicana. At left, back, is Pastor Delton Weiser. Next to him is Rev. Ken Hennings, Texas District mission director.

TEXAS CHURCH EXTENSION FUND



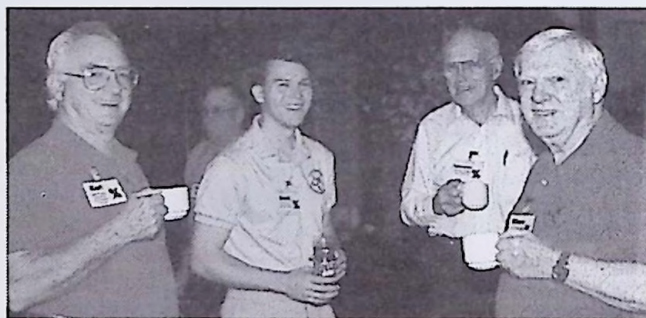
KICK OFF—CEF Conference master of ceremonies Cal Spencer from Christ Memorial, Houston, kicked off the VII Annual Church Extension Fund Conference.



FELLOWSHIP—CEF rep Bob Gwyn, left, from King of Kings, San Antonio, and Charles and Betty Schmidt, stamp reps, also from King of Kings.



LISTENING—Some first-time conference attendees and new CEF reps included, from left, Ruth Perez from St. John, Houston; Karen Reitz from Good Shepherd, Cedar Park; and Ofilla Rodriguez, also from St. John, Houston.



COFFEE BREAK—From left, Karl Young, BCE chairman, Zion, Dallas; Scott Freeman; CEF rep, Good Shepherd, Angleton; Lawrence Schulz, CEF rep, Grace, Brownwood; and Wilson Whiteside, BCE vice chairman from Our Redeemer, Dallas.



WELCOME—From left, Circuit Directors Gene and Helen Harman from Good Shepherd, Pasadena. This is Gene's fifth year on CEF Conference Leadership Team. CEF rep Jean Wottrich, right, also is from Good Shepherd.

Generational impact on our churches discussed at conference

Rev. Jerry Kieschnick and Rev. Ken Hennings gave presentations on the five distinct generations that currently exist in the United States and what the implications are for our churches.

At the conference there were 96 reps from the **G.I.** gener-

ation (1900-29); 102 reps from the **Silent** generation (1930-45); 57 reps from the **Baby Boomer** generation (1946-64); nine reps from the **Baby Buster** generation (1965-76); and five conference participants from the **Echo Boom** generation, 1977 to present.



HIGH FIVES—From left, Ken and Dadle DeYoung, Resurrection, Spring, and Circuit Directors John and Hilda Albers from St. Paul, Canyon.



ENJOYING—From left, new CEF reps Jean and Morris Kilntworth from Bethlehem, North Zulch; CEF rep Don Manke, Bethel, Bryan; and CEF rep Hubert Steen, Holy Cross, Houston. Nice conference polo shirts!



CHECKING IN—From left, Ruth Stacey, BCE member from King of Kings, San Antonio; Circuit Director Dorothy Conrad, also from King of Kings; and Ernie Eulert, circuit director from Salem, Tomball.

WORSHIP—Conference Chaplain Michael Ramming, Grace, Killeen, and Conference Minister Kathy Achterberg, St. Paul, Austin.



CEF representatives set increased investment goals

More than 310 representatives from the Texas District attended the Seventh Annual Church Extension Fund Conference in Austin in March. They spent a week-end receiving specialized training and learning about the 1995 CEF Sunday promotional campaign, "Making a Difference."

Several of the training sessions focused on increasing investments and gifts to the CEF Capital Fund. At the last session, Bill Siegrist, CEF director of development, challenged the representatives with the 1995 goals:

"High Fives in '95"

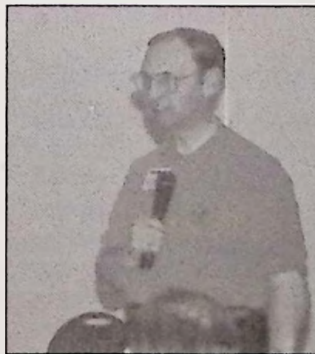
(1) Partnership Goal: five new investors—"partners" in the CEF ministry.

(2) Financial Goal: \$55 increase per communicant member in each congregation.

(3) Publicity Goal: five newsletter and bulletin inserts in 1995.

(4) Personal Goal: five personal contacts per quarter.

(5) Prayer Goal: five minutes each day in prayer for Texas District CEF and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



WHAT'S CEF?—Steve Block, CEF executive director, King of Kings, Round Rock, answers questions during his presentation.



LOAN REPORT—Marlys Erickson, treasurer of the Texas District and member of Faith, Georgetown.

THE MAN

God's man in whom there was no guile

by Dr. C.A. Gaertner

Many members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod knew about this man in relationship to his ministry in the church. He is remembered as a pastor, a district official and a synodical officer. He made his mark in the church in all these categories. But what can be said of him in his many responsibilities as a man, a human being who lived among us?

- First of all, he was a Christian man. Those who knew him intimately probably would be inclined to characterize him as God's man in whom was no guile. Though he held many important official positions in the church, he remained a humble, loving, fair-minded, helpful person. He had time for the troubled and lonely people whose paths crossed his in his busy career.

He is remembered in the church for his great contributions in humble and effective service. His family remembers him as a loving, faithful husband and caring father. Like in public life, so in family life he did not put on any "airs." He enjoyed the outdoors. Gardening was an important avocation. He was reared on a Texas farm. He never forgot or despised his background. One of his most enjoyable pastimes was to fish for the big catfish in the Bosque River near Clifton, Texas.

- Roland Wiederaenders was a successful and beloved pastor of congregations he served in the Texas District: Grace and Faith in North Houston, 1936-39; St. Paul, San Antonio, 1942-58; Trinity, Corpus Christi, 1958. He founded a mission congregation in Refugio, now Trinity Lutheran. He

was an able and courageous preacher, proclaiming God's truth lovingly but without fear or favor. He took time and had patience to be a pastor for parishioners in the trying times that come into the experiences of Christians.

- Wiederaenders' leadership qualities were recognized early in his ministerial career and led to important elective offices. Among those offices were the presidency of the Texas District which he fulfilled (1950-59) mostly while at St. Paul in San Antonio. This was followed by the election as second vice president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod 1959-62. He was elected Synod first vice president in 1962. He continued in this position until his retirement in 1973.

It was in this position, in some of the most distressing years of synodical history, that he manifested his many fine talents of leadership and patient, Christian commitment to a humble and caring ministry. In a consistent and firm commitment to God's truth as revealed in the Holy Scriptures, he sought in a patient and loving ministry to bring healing and peace to a distressed and divided church. In such lamentable divisions, he remained kind and patient and forgiving as he reached out in a healing ministry to many.

This man—pastor, administrator, student, theologian—brought glory to God in a faithful ministry to the church he loved.

This great, humble churchman would never include himself among those described in Dan. 12:3: *"And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the firmament; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever."*



Dr. Roland Wiederaenders

Former church executive had long illness

On Thursday, Feb. 23, the Lord called to Himself Dr. Roland Wiederaenders Sr. at his home in Clifton. He was 86 years old. Wiederaenders had Alzheimer's disease. This disease left him virtually unable to communicate for the last decade. Throughout this trial, his loving wife, Ruth, cared for him at home.

In addition to Ruth, he is survived by their seven children: Roland Jr., Anita (Diebenow), John, Miriam (Casey), Elizabeth (Seeley), James and Karen (Davis). His sister, Elma Frieling of Austin, also survives him.

The funeral service was Monday, Feb. 27, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Clifton.

Grant fuels school's growth

Concordia Lutheran High School, Tomball, was awarded a \$9,000 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL). The grant will fund a model program designed to further quality education.

This small but fast-growing school faces a multimillion dollar building program. The school will develop a capital campaign program, including a database of po-

tential supporters and annual fund-raising activities.

In the past, support has been via tuition, congregational assessments and outside gifts, without any organized program for long-range developmental planning. It is believed that a well-organized program of school development will ensure financial stability now and in the future.



GRANT—AAL District Representative Terrance Welbust, right, presents \$9,000 AAL grant to Concordia Lutheran High School, Tomball, being accepted by Ron Royuk, former administrator.

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

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



KERRVILLE—On Feb. 1, Pauline and Ellsworth Rhoads celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary. They are members of Hosanna, Kerrville.



65TH—Clarence and Marle Frank, members of St. Matthew, Westfield, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary March 2. They have one son, two daughters, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.



VOWS REAFFIRMED—Damon and Valeta Wendel marked their 50th wedding anniversary Nov. 30, 1994, by reaffirming their wedding vows at their church, Grace Lutheran in Brownwood.



TEMPLE—Lucille and Adolph Winkler, Immanuel, Temple, marked the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary Jan. 14 by reaffirming their vows, followed by a reception and dinner.

Viets learn English at Trinity

More than 70 Vietnamese people are involved each week in English-as-a-second-language (ESL) classes offered by Trinity Lutheran of Port Arthur. A number of these students have started attending adult confirmation classes.

Trinity is planning to im-

plement an ESL playgroup where Vietnamese children can come two days a week to learn English, hear Bible stories and improve their communication skills.

Their mothers would be enrolled in an ESL class at the same time.



WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

The following couples of the Texas District recently celebrated wedding anniversaries of 50 years or more:

Ebenezer, Manheim: Ben and Meta Jatzlau, 72 years, Feb. 7. They are the longest married couple of the congregation.

Concordia, San Antonio: Eugene and Eunice Collins, 53 years, Feb. 7.

Concordia, Houston: Clarence and Ruth Huber, 55 years, Feb. 5.

Trinity, Sealy: G.A. and Lillie Mae Remmert, 56 years, Feb. 26.

Zion, Georgetown: Byrl and Verna Tyson, 51 years, Feb. 1; John and Lydia Neitsch, 56 years, Feb. 21.

Cross, New Braunfels: Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Hillgeist, 53 years, Feb. 5; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Wendler, 51 years, Feb. 16.

St. Paul, San Antonio: Gilbert and Eleanor Torres, 63 years, Feb. 8.

Messiah, Houston: Mr. and Mrs. Louis Niklas, 51 years, Feb. 8.



BROWNWOOD—Harry and Thelka Coldeway of Grace Lutheran, Brownwood, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Dec. 26. They are Grace's longest-married couple.

Christ the King, Kingwood: Ed and Florence Phillips, 50 years, Jan. 4.

Trinity, Sealy: Charles and Gladys Bolten, 53 years, March 12.

Ascension, Cleburne: Rudy and Melrie Schoessow, 51 years, March 14.

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Charlotte and Clarence Beaty, 65 years, March 1.

St. Luke, Olney: Edwin and Alice Koester, 50 years, March 5.



SUN THERAPY—
*Gardening is a
form of therapy
for Alzheimer's
patients.*

Gardening is therapy at Village

The warm months are here, and at the E.F. and Bertha Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village in Brenham, Texas, residents suffering from dementia-related illnesses, like Alzheimer's disease, are spending more time outdoors.

With the help of staff, they have organized a garden club that meets every week. This kind of activity is important for these special people. It accomplishes four things: 1) gives them physical activity; 2) the residents reminisce about their past gardens, thus encouraging use of their long-term memory; 3) it gives them an opportunity to socialize; 4) the fresh air is known to help calm the residents who may be agitated as a result of their disease.

Last year Lutheran Brotherhood donated four large planter boxes, while a Kruse Village Health Care Center family member, Patricia Hillborn, donated plants, flowers and gardening tools. The gardening club meets in an enclosed courtyard for their safety.



ATTRACTIVE—*Trinity Place consists of 23 apartment
buildings spread over seven acres.*

Trinity Place celebrates 10 years

"This is heaven just before we go there," is how Urdith Northcutt describes Trinity Place Apartments in Round Rock, Texas. Urdith was one of the first four people to move into the then brand new HUD project managed by LSSS.

The facility celebrated its 10th anniversary in March with a special ceremony and party at the facility's community center.

All the apartments have subsidized rentals for those who qualify under the HUD 202 program.

On being a mom

by Carol Pfeiffer

I've been a mom now for about two years. Our son, William Henry (Will), was born Nov. 13, 1993, in McAllen, Texas. A wonderful and courageous young woman named Gretchen gave birth to him and then very unselfishly put him in my arms, as my son, a week later.

Gretchen is extra special to us because she was a victim of violent rape and chose life for her unborn child instead of abortion. She chose open adoption so that she would not lose contact with this most precious child.

We met Gretchen three days before Will was born. She was considering two families to be his parents, and wanted to meet each of us face to face. We had a three-hour visit, which seemed like 15 minutes. Bill and I left drained. We knew we loved Gretchen and would certainly love any child of hers.

Gretchen called the next night to say she had selected us. Words can't describe the emotions we felt. We hugged and cried a long time.

The day of the placement service at Gretchen's church was the hardest thing I have ever had to go through. Gretchen's (and her family's) love for Will was so real

and so was their pain at parting with him. But the most wonderful peace came over me when Gretchen placed Will in my arms, and he snuggled close.

For years I ached to hold a child in my arms and to share a special "parent love." I now know that all those years of waiting were for a purpose. God knew that our son would be born on Nov. 13, and we know that our son is God's will.

LSSS has placed more than 4,700 children. For information on adoption, call the LSSS office nearest you.

Office opened

A special ceremony marked the official opening of the LSSS Family Counseling Center in Giddings recently. The office is headed by Carrie Proske, a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin. "The need for family and individual counseling is constantly growing," Proske explained.

The idea of opening a Giddings counseling office was initiated by Carrie and Rev. Wilbern Michalk of Immanuel Lutheran in Giddings. Area congregations supported the idea, formed an advisory board, and asked LSSS to provide the counseling service.

To reach the counseling center call (409) 542-0700.

AT OPENING—
*Rev. Walter
Miller, left,
chairman of the
advisory board;
Carrie Proske,
and Dr. Bernard
Scroggin, LSSS
regional director.*





BIRTHDAY FETE—Charlie Lowke, 99, and his sister Annie Synatschk, 96, are members of Grace, Midland. A birthday reception Jan. 15 was held in their honor. His birthday is Jan. 15, hers is Feb. 18.

Texas pastor helps train Russian clergy

A Texas District pastor participated in the third annual training conference for pastors and church leaders held in Moscow in January.

The staff included Rev. Steve Wagner, senior pastor of Prince of Peace, Carrollton.

The conference, sponsored by Missions International of Nashville,



Wagner

was organized through the Church Growth Center in Corona, Ind., whose president, Lutheran Pastor Kent R. Hunter, organized the teaching staff.

The conference included 217 participants from all across the former Soviet Union. Some pastors traveled five days by train from eastern Russia to attend.

The 217 participants filled out commitment forms at the end of the conference, promising to train and equip 6,000 others in their various regions.

Convention in Lubbock

Lubbock has been chosen by the Texas District Board of Directors for the site of the 1997 district convention.

Going to school in Denton? Get this video

Students planning to attend college in Denton at the University of North Texas or Texas Woman's University can obtain a highlight video about campus ministry at those locations.

The video is available through the Lutheran Student Fellowship organization of St. Paul Lutheran Church and University Center in Denton.

For only the cost of return postage, the video may be obtained from the following:

Lutheran Student Fellowship, 703 N. Elm St., Denton, TX 76201; phone (817) 387-1575.

On pastor's mind ...

'Why are you doing this to me, God?'

by Stephen Rynerson, pastor
Peace Lutheran, Hewitt

One area of pastoral ministry that I personally enjoy the most is making hospital and shut-in calls. Almost without exception those I see are happy to see me, fervently pray with me and are encouraged by hearing God's Word.

THERE IS ONE aspect of these calls that often has challenged me. On occasion, the patient or one of the family will say out loud what we all say inside at the time of suffering: "WHY?" Why is God doing this to me? What did I do to deserve this affliction? Why does God permit me to suffer?

Those questions are difficult to answer. None of us truly knows the mind of God. None of us knows why God allows suffering. While the Scriptures clearly teach that disease and death are the result of sin, we know that by faith in Jesus Christ we have been made holy saints of God. Because of what Christ suffered for us on the cross, in God's eyes we no longer are sinners and under His wrath and judgment. I have a difficult time answering "why."

I SUGGEST, however, that when we experience suffering we might be better off asking a different question. Instead of "WHY?," we should ask, "Where is God in the midst of my suffering?" For that question, Scripture has a clear answer. God is not a far off, detached divine being, disinterested in people. God is right there with us as we suffer. God has already shown this. He sent His Son to suffer the immense burden of our sins on the cross.



Rynerson

That same God is right there in those hospital rooms and nursing homes suffering along with us.

AND WHEN WE feel helpless or hopeless, then we are most able to understand how much God does help us. When we feel strong, we often don't realize the depth of God's love and mercy. But when we are lying flat on our backs, with tubes coming from our arms and legs, then the love and mercy of God can touch our hearts and make our faith grow and grow.

As a pastor, I have seen this over and over. In many ways it humbles me, for I know I do little to help it along. For it is only by the grace of God that the suffering one can feel God's love. And it is only by God's love in Christ that any of us can claim the greatest gifts of all—forgiveness of sins, salvation and eternal life. Many a faithful person undergoing great pain has felt great joy when they looked and saw God in the midst of their suffering.

From *The Messenger of Peace* Newsletter of Peace, Hewitt

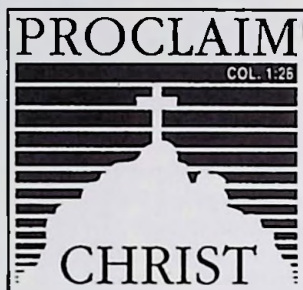
Lutheran Hour Ministries reception honors members of Lone Star Hoffmann Society

ST. LOUIS—Lutheran Hour Ministries will recognize Lone Star District Hoffmann Society members at a special reception Saturday, May 6, at Concordia College in Austin during the Lone Star District Convention of the International Lutheran Laymen's League (Int'l LLL).

THE RECEPTION will be hosted by Don Bennett, president of the Int'l LLL. Forty-four Lone Star Hoffmann Society members have been invited to the reception.

According to Randy Flachsbart, gift-planning counselor for the Hoffmann Society at Lutheran Hour Ministries, the event is an opportunity to show appreciation to the Hoffmann Society members in Texas for their support of the oldest, continually broadcast Gospel program. "We want to be able to look these people in the eye and thank them for their contributions to this ministry," Flachsbart said. "This event is in honor of them."

THE HOFFMANN Society, founded in 1989, is named after Dr. Oswald C.J. Hoffmann, honorary speaker of "The Lutheran Hour." Hoffmann was the speaker for 33 years. After his retirement in 1989, the Hoffmann Society was established to provide a way for people to continue Hoffmann's vision to spread the Gospel all over the world through Lutheran Hour Ministries.



According to Flachsbart, anyone who has funded a gift annuity, a unitrust or placed Lutheran Hour Ministries in their will or estate plan is automatically eligible to become a member of the Hoffmann Society. Those who have given money to the Lutheran Hour Endowment Fund or made the Int'l LLL a beneficiary of an insurance policy also qualify for membership.

"GIFT PLANNING is playing a major role in the 'Go ... tell a NEW Generation' ministry program," Flachsbart says. "Hoffmann Society members are making a large impact on building support for Lutheran Hour Ministries today, tomorrow and well into the 21st century," he said.

For more information about the Hoffmann Society, contact Randy Flachsbart at Lutheran Hour Ministries, 1-800-944-3450.

Zone Layman of Year

Tall Pine Zone 21—Rev. Richard Noack, pastoral adviser, presented a plaque to Garry Rottmann designating him as "Lutheran Layman

Zone Layman of Year



**Garry Rottmann, left, with
Rev. Richard Noack**

of the Year" of the zone. Garry is a member of Trinity, Klein, where Noack is pastor. The presentation was made at the zone's annual banquet which was attended by 90 people. Earl Krahn, president of the zone, reports an evening of Christian fellowship was enjoyed by all in attendance.

Special ministry

Paul Seiler, a field volunteer for Lutheran Hour Ministries, is promoting a ministry of witnessing with a marked New Testament. He has contacted several congregations whose members will be highlighting passages in these Bibles. Sunday schools will financially support this outreach with offerings. These congregations and Sunday schools are Trinity, Copperas Cove; Grace, Killeen; Our Savior, Corpus Christi; King of Kings, San Antonio; and Epiphany, Pearland.

Listed are congregations, organizations, Sunday schools and individuals that have donated money to purchase New Testaments: Trinity, Copperas Cove, LWML \$250 and LLL \$250;

Edgar Rhode, \$250; Love offering \$41.94; Grace, Killeen, Sunday School mission offering \$172.42; and Cowhouse Creek Branch, Lutheran Brotherhood, \$250.

John Hawkins, director of development and promotion of Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas, has requested 2,000 marked Bibles for distribution to campers at Camp Lone Star and Texoma Lutheran Camp during the summer programs.

Paul Seiler received a request for Bibles from Rev. Ed Weber of Mision Luterana Emanuel of Mercedes. "When I was in Slovakia last summer, I saw a plan being used. It was called 'Christ in Every Home.' I would like to try this plan in Mercedes. To do so, we would like to have 1,000 Bibles. I think the best Bible for this area is the bilingual version with Spanish on one side of the page and English on the other."

From Rev. Jesus Gonzales of Peace Lutheran Church, Galena Park, Paul received a request for 2,000 bilingual Bibles. Gonzales is chairman of the Hispanic Action Team of Texas that helps Hispanic and Anglo congregations minister to Hispanic communities.

Please pray for this endeavor of Lutheran Hour Ministries.

LLL news should be sent to:

Irene Teinert
Information Coord.
1501 Barbara St.
Austin, TX 78757



Mothers: imperfect perfection

The fourth-graders were busy making cards for Mother's Day. Carefully drawn pictures illustrated the usual sentiments of this holiday. On the inside of his card one boy wrote, "Mothers are nice, mothers are mean, mothers are sometimes in between." Just what particular chain of events or cryptic circumstance prompted this bit of verse is not known, but it summarized motherhood as only a 10-year-old could.

Few other relationships are as idealized, romanticized, analyzed and memorialized more than a mother-child relationship. For each of us, it was the first relationship we knew. While theory differs on the degree and nature of a mother's influence during our prenatal and early life, experience tells us that, with the exception of God's choice of our genetic make-up, little else affects a child more. The dynamics of our relationship with our mother are as diverse as each of us. Not even two people having the same mother have the same relationship with her.

For most, whether nurtured by our biological or adoptive mother, the bond remains throughout life as one of the strongest we know. Even if only in memory, we tend to see our world through eyes whose vision is in some part determined by our mothers. That vision, for better or for worse, continues to govern our thought forms and behavior even when we are not aware of it.

That is a sobering reality for those of us who are, or

hope to be, mothers. These can be frightening realities were it not for a few other realities.

Reality 1: It is God who has gifted us with our mothers and our children. Neither are property to be merely managed or run-away projects to be controlled. Both our mothers and our children are blessings to enjoy and accept for the richness and joy they bring to our lives.

Reality 2: The mother-child relationship, like all human relationships, is one tainted by sin. None of us had perfect mothers and none of us are perfect mothers. The relationship is one fraught with pain as well as joy. With great capacity to build comes the potential to destroy ("Mothers are kind, mothers are mean....") The dichotomy exists in all of us.

Reality 3: God's love, as shown to us in His Son's life, death and resurrection has brought us back from that imperfection. His forgiveness releases us from the guilt of destructive patterns and frees us to live as His disciples. If our Lord can release our wrongs from His memory, can we not also rely on Him to help us do the same?

Walking in His acceptance allows us to accept ourselves and each other. It is a joyful walk indeed! A walk in acceptance is a walk of service—and that is how our Lord intended for us to live. To serve Him and share Him with those He has given us is our highest calling.

*Eloise S. Kuhlmann
Second Vice President
Texas District LWML*



Convention time

Convention time is drawing near. Feel the excitement? Surely you have set aside June 22-25 and plan to travel to Kansas City, Mo., there to be joyfully renewed and uplifted in service to our Lord Jesus Christ.

The convention goal statement "In response to God's mission call, Lutheran women make a significant difference for Him" reminds us as Christian women to use our unique gifts for the growth of His kingdom.

Please note: The Texas District photo will be taken at the Kansas City convention on Saturday, June 24, at 11:40 a.m. at the back of the convention hall, Bartle Hall East.

Be sure to check the LWML booth for new materials designed to help you grow in Christ and help you encourage your Christian sisters.

Rev. Victor J. Belton, Decatur, Ga., will serve as the proclaimer of God's Word for the Sunday morning Celebratory Worship ... By God's Design.

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. Fax No. 817-491-0105.

Mite report

March 1995

1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd March (all sources)	15,969
Rec'd to date (all sources)	114,417
Needed for goal	141,582
Sent to Int'l LWML (March)	3,517
Int'l to date	23,721

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box 1224, Giddings, TX 78942.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.



In loving memory

Lil Cobbs, our beloved sister in Christ, was called to her eternal rest.

Lil was an energetic figure whose face was familiar to all of us as she worked tirelessly to serve the Lord with gladness. Anyone who knew her or heard her appreciated her great sense of humor.

Lil was Texas District president 1946-47 and Texas District archivist historian 1948-84. She was buried Feb. 24 from Trinity Lutheran Church in Houston.

New editor

Dolores Bruncke was chosen editor-in-chief for Synod's Laborers For Christ organization. You may have read Dolores' article in the Winter issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly*.

We remember that Dolores is former district news editor and *Quarterly* news editor.

Around the district

• CAN-DO kids are everywhere, reporting on their experiences both at home and in Russia. Heather McDonald shared her exciting trip abroad at the **Heart of Texas Zone Rally**. She spoke of how American and Russian people can learn to trust. Her talk was enhanced by pictures taken in Russia.

Melissa Diesterhaft spoke about CAN-DO at Trinity LWML in Amarillo. This project has been successful, involving young people in hands-on mission work.

• LWML members of **Grace in Lamesa** were visited by "Penny Progress" and "Priscilla Pilgrim" at their Thanksgiving dinner. Penny and Priscilla told about the meaning of this holiday both now and at the first Thanksgiving. Free-will proceeds were used to buy new acolyte robes and costumes for the children's Christmas program.

• The LWML of **Charity Lutheran Church in Burleson** began the new year with a lock-in. A pizza feast and Bible study were followed by an evening of straightening closets and organizing the banner room. Timmie Ciriack from Trinity, Weatherford, helped the members make 24 pounds of old fashioned lye soap for Lutheran World Relief. Entertainment for the night included contemporary Christian music, a Christian comedy video and some plain ol' girl talk.

Congratulations

Marcella Gaus is on the ballot for International LWML Nominating Committee member.



Heather McDonald with CAN-DO Project recently visited Russia and was guest speaker for the Heart of Texas Zone Rally Nov. 6, 1994, held at Trinity, Eden.



From left, Sharon Sherbert as Priscilla Pilgrim and Ellie Wilson as Penny Progress, Grace, Lamesa, presented Thanksgiving skit.



Melissa Diesterhaft, right, with Todd Wetsel, left, and Ronnie Baker. After hearing about Project CAN-DO, both young men decided to attend the Youth Gathering in San Antonio. The zone rally was sponsored by Trinity LWML, Amarillo.



The Member Development Committee provided inspiration and "fun" at the zone presidents orientation. From left are Carolyn Pall; Rosanne Capdeville; Peggy Turnipseed, chairman; Eloise Kuhlmann; and Shirley Gaede.

Young women represent Texas

Giovanne Turincio and Stephanie Lanier have been selected to represent the Texas District LWML as district Young Woman Representatives at the Kansas City convention in June.

Giovanne, 26 years old, representing the north part of Texas is from Bluebonnet Zone. She is a Sunday school teacher and secretary of her local LWML society at Holy Cross in College Station. Giovanne says, "The image that everyone should have who is familiar with LWML is an organization dedicated to missions. There is no age requirement for LWMLers other than being a communicant member and there is much we young women have to learn from the established member." She believes there are many Lutheran women who are just waiting till they are "old enough" to join LWML and she hopes she can spread the word to the established members to reach out to their young women and invite them to join.

Stephanie Lanier, 29 years old, represents the south part of Texas. She is from the North Alamo Zone and has served as youth counselor, Sunday school and VBS teacher and in other areas at Mount Calvary in San Antonio. Stephanie says, "I plan to be the eyes and ears of many women who are unable to attend the convention and get a 'full tank of fuel' in both the sense of faith and the LWML mission." She believes LWML is dynamic and is as alive as its members through the Lutheran church everywhere.



Tough stuff from



MARTIN LUTHER

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick,
President, LCMS Texas
District

Have you recently (or ever) read Martin Luther's *Large Catechism*? It is not written for the faint-hearted. In it, Luther minces no words! He boldly characterizes some pastors and preachers (preachers were limited to preaching; pastors exercised the full ministerial office) as lazy and gluttonous, "pastors or preachers for their bellies' sake..." "Such shameful gluttons and servants of their bellies would make better swineherds or dogkeepers than spiritual guides and pastors."

Let me assure you that Luther was not anti-clerical, having a disdain or disgust for those who occupied the pastoral office. On the contrary, he had a high regard for the office and high expectations of those who filled it.

- Similarly, he held the people of the church in high esteem, doing everything within his power to bring the Scriptures and thus both Law and Gospel literally into the hands of the common people by translating it into their language.

Yet, Luther did not hesitate to chastise the people for their laziness in studying the Scriptures, for their failure to read and learn the catechism.

For example, in his preface to the *Large Catechism*, he says, "As it is, the common people take the Gospel



Pastor Kieschnick

altogether too lightly, and even our utmost exertions accomplish but little. What, then, can we expect if we are sluggish and lazy, as we used to be under the papacy?

- "Besides, a shameful and insidious plague of security and boredom has

low both pastors and preachers to suffer distress and hunger. This is what one can expect of crazy Germans. We Germans have such disgraceful people among us and must put up with them.

"As for myself, let me say that I, too, am a doctor and a preacher—yes, and as learned and experienced as any of those who act so high and mighty. Yet I do as a child who is being taught the catechism. Every morning, and whenever else I have time, I read and recite word-for-word the Lord's Prayer, the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Psalms, etc. I must still read and study the catechism daily, yet I cannot

“Shameful gluttons, servants of their bellies, louts and skinflints...”

overtaken us. Many regard the catechism as a simple, silly teaching, which they can absorb and master at one reading. After reading it once they toss the book into a corner as if they are ashamed to read it again. Indeed, even among the nobility there are some louts and skinflints who declare that we can do without pastors and preachers from now on because we have everything in books and can learn it all by ourselves. So they blithely let parishes fall into decay and brazenly al-

master it as I wish, but must remain a child and pupil of the catechism, and I do it gladly.

- "Nothing is so effectual against the devil, the world, the flesh and all evil thoughts as to occupy oneself with the Word of God, talk about it and meditate on it. You will never offer up any incense or other savor more potent against the devil than to occupy yourself with God's Commandments and words and to speak, sing and meditate on them. This, indeed, is the true holy

water, the sign which routs the devil and puts him to flight.

"For this reason alone you should eagerly read, recite, ponder and practice the catechism, even if the only blessing and benefit you obtain from it is to rout the devil and evil thoughts. For he cannot bear to hear God's Word. God's Word is not like some empty tale.... It is 'the power of God,' indeed, the power of God which burns the devil and gives us immeasurable strength, comfort and help."

- All of the above is from "Martin Luther's Preface" to the *Large Catechism* (Tappert, pp. 358-361). There are many more choice words in this preface—rich reading, indeed!

It is my intent over the next several months to share with you in this column of the *Texas Messenger* excerpts from Luther's *Large Catechism*, especially the sections on the Ten Commandments, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

As Luther says, "Therefore, I once again implore all Christians, especially pastors and preachers, not to try to be doctors prematurely and to imagine that they know everything... Let all Christians exercise themselves in the catechism daily and constantly put it into

(Continued on Page B.)

CAN-DO AT WORK IN MEXICO



BUILDERS—CAN-DOers tie reinforcing steel as they help residents of Mexican colonia build houses to replace cardboard shacks like the one in the background.

CAN-DO crosses the border bearing the love of Christ

by Randy Potts

Yes, junior high youth will be CAN-DOers as they work in the poor colonias of Reynosa, Mexico, building homes and a church for the people there. They will build relationships with the families they serve, as well as conduct an outreach vacation Bible school for neighborhood Hispanic children.

CAN-DO, working along with the Lutheran churches in McAllen and the Mexico Synod of the Lutheran Church, is seeking to encourage and re-establish a physical presence for the Lutheran church in Mexico.

Teams of youth and adults will show their love for their brothers and sisters in Christ by building several 12-by-16-foot houses for individual families who cur-

rently live in cardboard or wooden shacks. Several teams (80 CAN-DOers) will construct a large community center which will serve as the Lutheran church for outreach to the people of this colonia.

What an exciting means of spreading the Gospel through meeting practical and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters in Christ. We CAN-DO!

Send your news to Bill

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

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

WORDS FROM LUTHER

(Continued from Page A.)

practice, guarding themselves with the greatest care and diligence against the poisonous infection of such security or vanity. Let them continue to read and teach, to learn and meditate and ponder. Let them never stop until they have proved by experience that they have taught the devil to death and have become wiser than God Himself and all His saints.

• "If they show such diligence, then I promise them—and their experience will bear me out—that they will gain much fruit and God

will make excellent men of them. Then in due time they themselves will make the noble confession that the longer they work with the Catechism, the less they know of it and the more they have to learn. Only then, hungry and thirsty, will they truly relish what now they cannot bear to smell because they are so bloated and surfeited. To this end may God grant His grace! Amen!"



Rev. Otto Naumann

A pastor who devoted his entire ministry to work among Hispanics has died at age 85. Funeral services for Rev. Otto Naumann were held April 11, 1995, at Trinity Lutheran in Houston.

He was widely known throughout the Synod for his specialized ministry and in retirement was counselor and adviser to workers serving Hispanic people, particularly in the Houston area.

Survivors are his wife, Ruth, and four adult children: sons Roger, David and Ronald and a daughter, Anna Griffin.



DECADES OF DUTY—Lawrence Winkler, left, receives congratulations from Texas District President Jerry Kleschnick, as Winkler completed 20 years of service in the district office. He is the district's manager of administrative services.

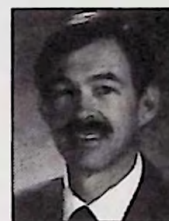
Faith

Faith is the assurance that the things God has said in His Word is true and that God will act according to what He has said in His Word.



Texas District Mission News

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



Rev. Hennings

Mission update: Dallas, Pecos, Boerne; it's happening

DALLAS HISPANIC MINISTRY

Texas District Missionary-at-Large Hiram Orea started his ministry in August 1993 in Dallas. His task was to start several Hispanic congregations around that city. To date, Orea has five groups meeting: One near Love Field, one in Rowlett, one in Garland, and two in churches (Trinity and Zion).

Orea was to seek out men from these Bible studies who would qualify for being trained in the Theological Education by Extension program (TEE) offered through the Hispanic Institute—Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Today, Orea has four men who are involved in the TEE program. These men are being trained so that eventually they will be able to lead one of these ministries.

A Texas Mission Action Council (TMAC) has been formed in the Dallas area to support Orea in his ministry. They meet regularly with him and receive reports from him about ministry issues and challenges.

FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES

Pastor Orea is looking at the possibility of producing a Hispanic radio program which would use Lutheran Hour Ministries Spanish language programs. The cost for 15 minutes on Sunday morning is approximately \$150. Orea also is looking for Christian films in Spanish on relevant topics including alcoholism, divorce, drugs, etc. Other items needed include Christian movies in Spanish for children, Spanish NIV Bibles for adults and children, a computer, TV and VCR. Other items needed to assist families in everyday living include food staples and clothing.

God continues to bless our ministry through Pastor Orea and the people that have joined in his Bible study groups. Please continue to pray for God's continued blessings on this ministry. If you are interested in supporting this minis-

try with a special gift, contact Pastor Orea at (214) 321-1098 or the district mission office at 1-800-951-3478 or (512) 926-4272.

PECOS HISPANIC MINISTRY

Even though this ministry is very young, just begun in March, things are happening! Vicar Gilbert Flores has formed his first Bible study group in the community and continues to meet with appropriate community leaders, introducing himself and sharing his vision for ministry in Pecos.

The Texas District Board of Mission Administration is excited about the partnership that has developed between the mission office and Area A churches in support of the Pecos ministry. Many Area A churches have committed offerings to the Pecos ministry above and beyond their regular support for world missions. As of April 15, \$5,070.87 has been received from 21 congregations. Additional financial help has been awarded by the B.M. Woltman Foundation in the amount of a \$4,000 grant.

BOERNE, MESSIAH

Messiah Lutheran Church, Boerne, celebrated Easter services in its new facility with 275 people present for worship, including 110 first-time visitors representing 24 families from around the community. Beginning as a daughter congregation of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in San Antonio in 1989, Messiah grew rapidly. In 1992, Pastor Mark Dankis began the process of assembling a long-range planning committee. In 1993, Messiah organized an eight-member building committee. The baptized membership grew from 155 in 1993 to 255 in 1994. Average worship attendance has grown from 78 in 1993 to 133 in 1994.

Working closely with the district office, Messiah Congregation entered into a building program and held its first worship in its new building on Easter Sunday. Congratulations!

HAPPENINGS IN TEXAS

Members of **Bethel, Dallas**, built a stone altar in the chancel during Lent, the stones being brought by members on Ash Wednesday. Lenten theme was "Jesus the Rock of Our Salvation," with rocks, stones or boulders brought by members representing some boulder of burden in their lives, or the strength of Jesus.

Trinity Lutheran, Waco, celebrated its 50th anniversary June 4 with a "homecoming day" during which memories were shared. Another anniversary service will be held Nov. 5, featuring praise and thanksgiving.

Dr. Bruce Brasington, an assistant professor of history at West Texas A&M University in Canyon, has been invited to teach at the Institute for Medieval History in Dresden, Germany, this summer. He will lecture on the early Middle Ages. Brasington is chairman of the board of education at **St. Paul Lutheran, Canyon**.

In the afterglow of Friendship Sunday, **Zion Lutheran, Pasadena**, counted 651 in church, 15 new families, 26 returned families, six nonmember spouses of members and 25 visiting families from other churches.

Members of **Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls**, held a surprise celebration March 22 for Pastor Charles and Kathy Paulson as they marked their 25th wedding anniversary

It was a special day April 2 at **Grace, Killeen**, as members celebrated in morning worship the 40th anniversary of the congregation, and in the afternoon dedicated their new Christian Education Center. Michael Ramming is pastor.

Members of **Christ Lutheran, Houston**, hold a monthly campfire in their outdoor worship area behind the church. Around the fire, they sing favorite worship songs and relate stories of faith.

Dr. William (Dub) Crofford Jr., member of **Our Redeemer, Dallas**, is the 1995 recipient of the prestigious George T. Caldwell Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Society of Pathologists. The society's highest honor is based on professional service, excellence, achievement and dedication. An acclaimed role model, Crofford teaches Bible class and has been president and elder at **Our Redeemer**.



Crofford



News about our People

Hope Lutheran, Austin, is adding seventh grade to its day school this year, and will add eighth grade in 1996. David Glienke is principal. The new class will start in rented facilities across the street from Hope.

Rev. Larry Krueger accepted the call to be pastor of **Grace Lutheran, Midland**. He comes to Grace from St. Paul, Denton.

Rev. Mark Cattau was installed April 23 as pastor of **Trinity Lutheran, Amarillo**.

George "Butch" Morris, **Hope, Winnie**, a teacher, coach and administrator, was named Educator of the Year by the Winnie Area Chamber of Commerce. At Hope, he's president of the congregation.

Chaplain James W. Ristvedt was installed Feb. 26 as **LCMS chaplain** at Beto I unit in Palestine of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Vacancy Pastor Paul E. Johnson of Bethlehem Lutheran, Palestine, was the installer.

Mark on the mark

Was it a miracle? Quien sabe. But nevertheless Pastor Mark Barz, **Crown of Life, San Antonio**, made a hole-in-one on a club course when he aced a par three, 134-yard hole, using a seven-iron. An incredulous witness was his high school classmate—and much better golfer—Ray Schueller. The ball is on display in Barz' study.



Barz

There are two families at **Lord of Life, Plano**, with four generations as members.

Mary Voigt was installed April 2 as director of celebration ministries at **Gloria Dei, Nassau Bay**. She had been adult choir director for 14 years.

Austin Lutherans are joining together to raise funds and build a house together for Habitat for Humanity, whose motto is "A hand up, not a hand-out."

Congratulations to Lillian Samuel and Fred Trott, **Crown of Life, San Antonio**, who celebrated their 85th and 80th birthdays respectively, in March.

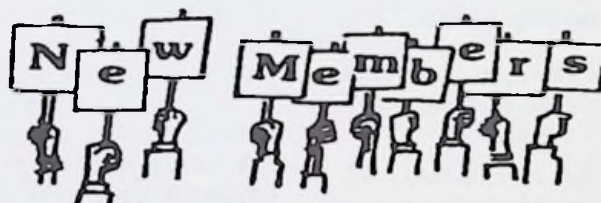
All past ministers and members have been invited to join the congregation of **Bethlehem Lutheran, Palestine**, as they celebrate the 50th anniversary of the church July 9. A service of praise and thanksgiving will be followed by a dinner and display of memorabilia.



ZION GROWS—Added Feb. 19 to the fellowship of Zion, Walburg, were these new members who included Rev. E. George Becker, serving the congregation during a vacancy.



GLORIA DEI—On March 5, Gloria Dei in Nassau Bay (Houston) welcomed 57 new members, including 15 adult confirmands, two adult baptisms, 19 LCMS transfers, 16 other Lutheran church transfers and two by profession of faith.



RICHARDSON—The forever family of Messiah, Richardson, added these new members Feb. 26 by confirmation and transfer. Pastor is Dr. Victor Kollmann.



JOIN CONCORDIA—These are the newest members of the family of Concordia, San Antonio, received into fellowship March 26. Senior pastor is William G. Thompson.



BAYTOWN—The Lord added these new members Jan. 29 to the family of Redeemer, Baytown. Pastor is Richard Turner.



WHARTON—These new members joined the fellowship of St. John Lutheran, Wharton, Feb. 26 through adult confirmation and transfer. Pastor is Rev. Barry Sharp.

28,000 of them

Lutheran youth engulf San Antonio next month

Some 28,000 Lutheran youths and their adult leaders will descend on San Antonio July 2-6 for the triennial LCMS National Youth Gathering.

Approximately 2,000 LCMS congregations will be represented at the gathering whose theme is *River of Light*.

Major gathering activities will take place in the city's convention center and the Alamodome.

Central to gathering events will be a Bible study that follows the lives of eight regular teens struggling with teen issues.

A cross-cultural event will precede the gathering June 30-July 2 at Trinity University. This event is designed to encourage positive, constructive and intentional mixing of young people of various cultures through celebration events, fellowship and recreation aimed at helping young participants discover their common faith in Jesus.

Leaders of the LCMS Board for Youth Services (BYS) said that 27,300 participants are registered, with 2,200 on the waiting list, held back by lack of hotel space. BYS officials said too large a ratio of adults registered for the gathering prompted gathering leaders to encourage congregations to withdraw some of their adults—with limited success.

Indicative of the appeal of San Antonio, its downtown river and other attractions, is the fact that when registrations were open on the first registration day last fall, there were 25,638 applications to attend. This compares with 7,655 on the first day of the 1989 Denver gathering, and 15,431 the first day for the 1992 New Orleans gathering.

The youth gathering offering will be divided among international projects in Brazil, local San Antonio ministries, LCMS World Relief Disaster Fund, LCMS Servant Events and national youth

ministry leadership training events.

Enough Servant Events are planned to keep 2,000 teens a day busy, and include general yard work, painting, general clean-up, refurbishing low-income homes, playground enhancement, nursing home visits and sorting and distributing food to the needy.

A highlight Monday night at the Alamodome will be a communion service featuring a mariachi setting to traditional Lutheran liturgy.

Music and the arts at the gathering will include a jazz ensemble, band, orchestra, choir and dance troupe; a keyboard festival and youth art gallery, all featuring talents of gathering participants.

Using data collected from a national survey of LCMS churches, a presentation will be made to the gathering on the impact of youth ministry in congregations. The goal is to provide effective planning resources for back-home use based on

trends of growth in young people's faith as identified in the survey.

San Antonio-area churches are offering special worship services for early arrivals on Sunday. In addition, a special service in the convention center will begin at 10 a.m. with Texas District President Jerry Kieschnick as preacher.

Wednesday night is Fiesta night. Activities at the Alamodome will feature a major contemporary Christian music group and special events will be held at Hemisfair Plaza with "a bunch" of dances all over downtown.

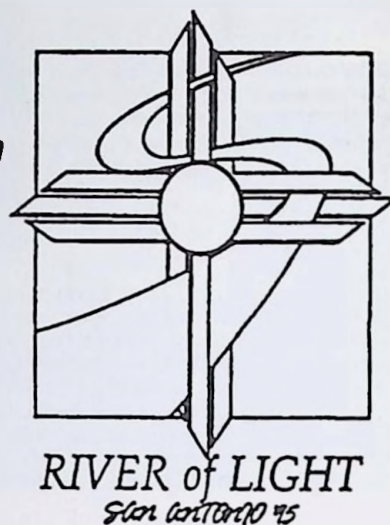
Thirty interest centers will be erected at the convention sites featuring five topics: culture, faith, personal living, relationships and leadership.

Sixty-four hotels hold contracts with the gathering with 27,484 "pillows" awaiting the young people.

Residents of each LCMS district have been asked to bring 20 Christmas tree or-

naments representing something unique about the district. They will be used to decorate the trees in the Pageant of Peace in the convention center.

Other day events planned by various district groups include Texas-style barbecues, visits to Fiesta Texas, a dude ranch, Sea World, the Gulf Coast, Nuevo Laredo in Mexico, the Alamo and other historic sites.



GOOD SCOUT—Cody Newman, 9, is a member of Ascension, Cleburne, where he recently received his God and Me scouting award from Pastor Benjamin Rathgeber. Cody is active in Ascension programs, and last Christmas sang "Silent Night" in German.



DISTRICT LEADERS—Photographed at their January meeting in Austin were these men who make up the board of directors of the Texas District. From left are District President Jerry Kleschnick, also chairman of the board; Rev. Eugene Heckmann, district first vice president; Paul Schoppa Jr.; Dr. Edwin A. Trapp Jr.; Rev. Carroll Kohl, fourth vice president;

Norm Clasen; John Fred Phillips; J.A. Wiederanders; Rev. Paul Hartfield, third vice president; Rev. David Joeckel, second vice president; Rev. Ralph Hobratschk, treasurer; and Claudio Perez, commissioned minister. Missing is Dr. H.O. Kunkel. (Photo by Bill Siegrist.)

Mission, ministry facilitators key to district strategic plan

A timetable for implementing the Texas District's strategic plan for mission and ministry was given the district board of directors March 28 at their meeting in Austin.

The plan originated at the 1994 district convention which cited the changing needs of congregations for professional support and assistance from the full-time staff of the Texas District.

District President Jerry Kleschnick reviewed the plan for directors who at their January meeting approved a strategy that brings the number of mission and ministry facilitators on the district staff to five. This is designed to more fully speak to the 1994 convention's resolution regarding increased assistance for Texas congregations from district staff.

Kieschnick told directors that funding is in the 1995 district budget for a mission and ministry facilitator (MMF) to begin work July 1. This person would replace Rev. Ray Schkade who retired as executive director of the district's parish services board.

Funding in 1995 also is in place for an additional MMF position beginning Oct. 1. Both positions actually will begin Sept. 1 so that both can go through an orientation period at the same time. A third position is to be filled in fall 1996.

It is expected that each MMF will be assigned to one of the four vice presidential areas of the district, and the two filled this fall may be deployed to their assigned areas.

The strategic plan calls for five MMF positions in all. Two already are filled by current staff members. Dr. Keith Loomans, an expert on parochial education, will assume responsibility for Area D (east Texas) where the majority of schools in the Texas District are located. Rev. Ken Hennings, who will continue as mission developer for the Texas District, will have responsibility for Area A (central Texas) until fall 1996 when a third MMF will come on board. At that time, Hennings will become MMF coordinator and personnel director helping congregations search for pastors.

The district is now taking applications for the MMF positions not already filled.

Church worker salary guidelines adopted

Salary guidelines for professional church workers were adopted March 28 by the Texas District Board of Directors. They will be distributed to congregations and professional church workers of the district. The board does this annually at its March meeting.

The salary recommendations come from the district's task force on salary guidelines for professional church workers, headed by Dr. Ralph Reinke.

A recommended base salary of \$18,000 annually was left unchanged by the district directors.

Under the recommendations, the base

salary is multiplied by an index that reflects the cost of living in various areas of the state. Dallas, for example, would have an index of 1.35, while the index at Amarillo would be 1.00.

Other factors recommended that congregations take into consideration in setting remuneration to pastors and other church professionals, include education, experience and responsibility; housing; supplemental benefits; professional expenses; moving expenses and a pastor's discretionary assistance fund. Guidelines for determining these amounts are included in the recommendations.

Missouri Synod name change supported

Directors of the Texas District voted March 28 to support a memorial to the 1998 convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod that would change the Synod's name.

The memorial would ask synodical convention delegates "to approach the new millennium as The International Lutheran Church."

CELEBRATE!

**We Rejoice
in our hope
of sharing
the Gospel
of GOD**

MISSION DEVELOPER—
Vicar Gilberto Flores was
commissioned Feb. 19 at
St. Paul Lutheran in
Monahans as mission
developer for Pecos.
Participating were, from
left, Revs. David Rohde,
circuit counselor; Mel
Herring, St. Paul pastor;
Flores; Carroll Kohl,
district vice president; and
Ken Hennings, executive
director of missions for the
Texas District.



INSTALLED—Rev. E. George Becker was installed Jan. 22 as
pastor at Zion, Walburg. Participating were, from left, Dr.
Ralph Reinke, Becker, District President Jerry Kieschnick,
Rev. Wilbert Stelzer, Dr. Michael Stelmachowicz and Robert
Achterberg. A former professor and dean at Concordia
College, Austin, and Concordia College, Seward, Neb., Becker
retired in 1987 and since has served as interim pastor at
Trinity, Taylor; King of Kings, Round Rock; and Grace,
Rockdale.

CENTURY OLD—
W.O. Moerbe is a
charter member
of St. Paul,
Bishop, who
reached 100
years of age Jan.
14. Many family
members and
friends attended
a large birthday
party. He is in
worship service
and Bible class
each Sunday.
Behind the man
called "an
inspiration to all
who know him,"
is W.O. Moerbe
Jr.



TEACHERS HONORED—Special recognition recently was
given Alice Moerbe at Trinity, Taylor, after she completed 45
years of teaching in Sunday school. Also honored was Nellie
Freels, who has compiled more than 40 years either as a
Sunday school teacher or secretary. From left are Jessie
Safarik, Mrs. Moerbe, Mrs. Freels and Mrs. Safarik. The
Safariks are co-superintendents of the Sunday school.



INSTALLED—Rev. Kenneth N. Hessel was installed Feb. 12 as
associate pastor of Faith Lutheran, Huntsville. Participants
were, from left, Rev. G.P. Dobbarfuhr, liturgist; Rev. Wayne
Schardt, installer; Hessel; and Rev. Donald L. Kaspar, Faith's
senior pastor.



1994 Endowment distribution to ministries

● Congregations & Schools	\$26,834
● Missions	\$38,817
● Mercy & Care Ministries	\$20,855
● Christian Education	\$67,336
● Other	\$25,159
● Total	\$179,003



by Glenn Pittsford, Executive Director,
Lutheran Foundation of Texas

The above listing announces the endowment earnings distributed by the Lutheran Foundation of Texas to the ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in 1994. The funds, which were warmly received by the chosen ministries, are the product of the generosity and action of a number of Lutheran families and individuals in the Texas District. Those who have created and funded an endowment are helping sustain and expand the ministries they selected to support through the endowment.



Pittsford

Many of the receiving ministries are in the Texas District, as you might imagine. A significant amount was provided for churchwide ministries also.

Many other gift plans are providing income to loved ones for a period of time, with a future gift to the ministry or into an endowment.

In addition to the endowment incomes, ministries may receive other gifts through Christian estate planning. For example, thus far in 1995, the Foundation has distributed more than \$220,000 to Texas ministries from estates. This is in addition to the endowment income to be received by those ministries in 1995.

Please prayerfully consider beginning an endowment for *your* family. Not only do endowments provide funds for ministries, they also provide a rallying point for families as they honor the Lord in thankfulness.

New director elected

Mary Wehmiller, principal of Cross of Christ Lutheran School in DeSoto, recently was elected by the LCMS Texas District Board of Directors to fill the educator position on the Lutheran Foundation of Texas Board. She has many years of experience in Christian education, and the Foundation is blessed to have her serve in this position.

YOUTH

Highs, lows and isobars

Is it going to rain? The kids at Zion Lutheran School in Walburg can tell you.

The school is joining hands with TV Channel 36 in Austin to install a weather station on the campus.

The automated station will provide the TV station with weather in that area, but also will give the school instant access to local weather conditions, teach the children complex weather basics and have Zion Lutheran School and Walburg mentioned on TV at least once a month.

Our bright Lutheran kids ...

Bright kid honors at **Hope, Winnie**, go to Todd Frugia, winner of a \$2,250 scholarship for placing second in the VFW auxiliary's "Voice of Democracy" competition; Jennifer Bauer, first in number sense, fourth in computer and third in spreadsheets in UIL competition, and to Traci Melancon who received a full scholarship to Lee Junior College to play volleyball. She was her district's MVP and a state all-star.

* * *

They're proud at **St. Matthew, Westfield**, of Kim Nagy who was selected for the Texas All-State Choir, and Jamie Pitman whose symphonic flute-playing won her a UIL No.1 rating for both solo and ensemble.

* * *

That was quite a Lutheran crew that went on a Servant Event in February to Laredo and Nuevo Laredo. There were 17 youth and adults from **St. Paul, San Antonio**, and 40 teens and adults from Bethany, Austin. The kids tore down an old adobe building to make way for a two-story dorm at a school for the blind, hauled away three dump trucks full of debris, painted, put up sheet-rock and learned how to tape and float. They passed out tracts and worshiped with

congregations in both cities. Super witness, right?

* * *

Beth Melcher, seventh-grader at **St. Paul School, Thorndale**, was named to first chair trombone in UIL competition.

* * *

Bright kid honors for Jennifer McGrath, **Grace, Denison**, who graduated in May from the Texas School for the Deaf as valedictorian.

* * *

Abraham Guerra and Amber Simpson, **Redeemer, San Antonio**, were inducted into the National Honor Society.

* * *

Rachel Collier, Amy Graf, Clint Kieschnich, Jennifer Reinisch and Molly Schur tend to do things together. All are juniors at Vernon High School. All are members of **St. Paul, Vernon**. All were confirmed together in May 1992. And all were inducted together into the National Honor Society.

* * *

As part of National Lutheran Schools Week, students of **St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Worth**, conducted a paper-chain project. Pupils purchased links for 25 cents each to raise funds to buy Spanish-language Bibles and other needed supplies for the church's Honduras Dental



SCOUT AWARD—Alexander Puffe was presented scouting's God and Family Medallion at Our Savior Lutheran in Austin by his pastor, Rev. Gordon Albers, March 12.

Mission team. At the end of the project, the chain contained 4,451 links reaching more than 375 feet in length. The chain was displayed in the church, draped from the choir loft. The effort brought in \$1,112.75 for the Honduran people.

* * *

Bright kid honors for Sarah Bourassa, **Holy Cross, Arlington**, who won her school's Math Olympiad and went on to state competition. And to Paul Symank who was his school's spelling bee winner. Paul's in elementary school, but he went on to compete with other elementary and junior high students in district. He didn't win, but he was the last elementary student eliminated.

* * *

Super-student Stephen Street, **Zion, Fort Worth**, has been named a National Merit Scholar.

* * *

Congratulations to Heidi Handrick, **St. Paul, Wichita Falls**, who was crowned Sweetheart of her high school's a cappella choir.

* * *

Achievers at **St. Paul, San Antonio**, include Scott Simon who won the blue ribbon for his science project at the San Antonio Lutheran School science exhibit at a local mall. He's a fourth-grader at Concordia Lutheran School. And to Laura Boeger, a member of her high school's swimming/diving team, which won district. Laura is one of only two female divers in the entire San Antonio Independent School District.

* * *

Gene Farren, **Redeemer, Beaumont**, was chosen by the Beaumont Rotary Club to attend the annual "Camp Enterprise" in March at Lamar University. The 100 outstanding young men and women chosen from southeast Texas high schools spend a week-end analyzing the free enterprise system.

* * *

Brian Gordon, **Trinity, Borger**, was on his school's Odyssey of the Mind team that went all the way to state. The program encourages creative problem solving.

* * *

Christ Lutheran, Austin, is proud of two of its young athletes, Tim Sellars and Scott Mitchell, who were pre-season picks for the central Texas all-star baseball team.

* * *

Tom Brezinsky, **Crown of Life, San Antonio**, received his Eagle Scout award. His Eagle project was design and construction of a garden area for senior citizens at Centro del Barrio.

* * *

Congratulations to Paul Nowak, **Lord of Life, Plano**, who received scouting's God and Country Award.



Our bright Lutheran

A bright mind focused on a need resulted in first place for fifth-grader Justine DeLong in her school's "Invention Convention." Noting that some of the dry-eraser classroom boards were hard to reach, Justine invented the "Gripper Eraser," a special eraser with a handle attached. It's a quick and easy job, now, and Justine won a medal and ribbon for figuring it out. Justine is the granddaughter of Pastor Jim and Jean Linderman, Christ Lutheran, Austin.



Justine

Kimberly Wernecke, a fifth-generation member of St. Paul, McAllen, was selected as one of 10 girls in Texas to receive the Alamo Scholarship/Athletic award. She received a \$500 scholarship from Alamo car rental company and was featured on the Home Sports Entertainment TV network. She's an all-A student, all-district in volleyball, basketball and softball. She's in the National Honor Society, FHA, student council and is second academically in her class. She's in church every Sunday where she is a junior member of the Altar Guild. Way to go, Kimberly!

Pat Gulley, Prince of Peace, Belton, was inducted into the junior high National Honor Society.

Don't know what a *transducer* is?



Christi

Never mind, 10-year-old Christi Baker can spell it, and because she can she won the Potter County Junior Spelling Bee title. Her last of 44 opponents tripped on *tungsten*. The fifth-grade

er at Trinity Lutheran School, Amarillo, then went on to compete in the Potter Senior Spelling Bee where she survived 26 rounds before slipping on *magnanimous*.

A gaggle of achievers is found at Concordia, San Antonio, with four of its young members being elected to the Junior National Honor Society. They are Christie Willis, Bethany Schindler, Richard Reedan and Jason Roszell. All four previously attended Concordia School.

Congratulations to Jason Osborn, Christ Memorial, Houston, who received the Lutheran God and Church emblem after completing this religious growth program through the Boy Scouts.

The children of Grace Lutheran School, Killeen, adopted a theme of "Christ Touches People Around the World." To help fulfill the theme, the kids filled 50 boxes of school supplies for needy children in Russia. Included in each box was a Russian Bible story booklet and some Good News messages and pictures.



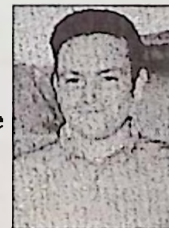
Emily Lauterbach, St. Paul, Canyon, was one of 16 juniors at Canyon High named to the junior Who's Who. A breakfast honored the students and their parents.



Emily

The first-place medal is what Emily Hustead, St. Peter Lutheran, Gun Barrel City, brought home after winning the UIL solo and ensemble contest. Emily frequently accompanies the church organist with her clarinet.

An essay on freedom written by John Dallas, St. Paul, Fort Worth, won first place in an Optimist Club contest. In July, John will be honored with a trip from the Freedom Foundation to Valley Forge, Pa.



John

John is a graduate of St. Paul's School and this year was a senior at Fort Worth's Magnet School for Science and Engineering.

Crown of Life, San Antonio, is growing quite a crop of musicians. Four of their young people received No.1 ratings in UIL competition. They are Joel Brock-

meyer, trumpet; Michelle Phillips, trombone; Allison Wiatrek, flute; and Robin Curry, flute. Then there's Ryan Miller who received the Outstanding Youth in Computer Science Award for 1995 from the San Antonio Optimist Club.

Twenty-seven students of St. Paul Lutheran School, Fort Worth, qualified for Duke University's Motivation for Academic Performance for high-ability fourth- and fifth-graders. Fourth-graders are Ryan Austin, Vaughn Coldeway, Nathan Gonzalez, Thomas Hansen, Christopher Hoyt, Ivry Karamitros, Ryan Manske, Landon Preston, Ann Scheideman, Daniel Sweet, Concetta Tofan and Christy Wallace. Fifth-graders are Tristan Barker, Ross Bourassa, Jonathan Eisenmann, Chase Hilsabeck, Jamie Hunter, Stephen Husmann, Allyson Jones, Jennifer Lauderdale, Greg Lawler, Erin Menzel, Kenny Ponitz, Ben Vossler, David Wiens, Michelle Wood and Alden Young.

The state basketball championship of the 1995 Lutheran Elementary School Tournament belongs to the Lady Lions of St. Paul Lutheran School, Thorndale. Rick Ryan is coach. Austin's Concordia College sponsored the tournament in which 20 girls teams were entered.

CONCORDIA

Introducing Concordia University at Austin

"On the afternoon of Oct. 17, 1926, a concourse of 1,500 people, so the papers judged, met on an August occasion for an exalted purpose, with hearts overflowing with thanksgiving and rejoicing because of the fulfillment of a long cherished hope and ardent prayer heard. It was the day of dedication of Lutheran Concordia College."

So wrote Dr. Henry Studtmann, Concordia's first president, about the beginning of Lutheran higher education in Texas. Standing in front of Kilian Hall on that day in 1926, listening to the hymn "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation," sung by some in English and by some in German, surely neither Dr. Studtmann nor the assembled "concourse" imagined that a mere 69 years later their "gymnasium" for young men would become known as a university.

But that is indeed the case. As Concordia celebrates its partnership with nine other institutions in the new Concordia University System, the college will assume a new name, Concordia University at Austin on July 1.

This is a significant event in Concordia's history. The school—which began as a boys high school academy and then became a coeducational junior college, and then a baccalaureate institution—has reached the highest possible academic status.

It may be an underestimation of the vision of the

school's founders to doubt that they could have foreseen their Concordia's present development. After all, the pioneering Lutherans of Texas had hoped for more than a boys high school academy. Studtmann wrote:

"The people of the Texas District had sought a school for the preparation of pastors and teachers, but, from the very beginning in 1921, a part of the description of that school had included phrases like 'both men and women,' and 'a business course.' General education, if not coeducation, also had been specified in the official overture to the Synod in 1923, with its reference to 'education in secular areas' and with its claim that people so educated would be a blessing to the Church."

While the early supporters may not have been able to anticipate the exact nature of Concordia's progress, by all indications they certainly would have celebrated it.

Present-day students also

will have reason to celebrate this latest change. They will be able to register at a college close to home, and at the same time register for a class at another Concordia, using computer and video technology. They will be able to spend a winter or summer term, a semester or even a year at a Concordia that is not their home campus, as visiting students. Concordia University at Austin students will join 13,000

The quotations in the above article are taken from the book *Concordia of Texas From the Beginning*, reminiscences and impressions by Dr. Henry Studtmann, Concordia's first president, as edited by Dr. Ray F. Martens, Concordia's sixth president. You may receive a copy of the book by telephoning the Concordia Development office at (512) 452-7661. A donation to assist with handling and mailing costs will be appreciated, but is not required.

other Concordia students on campuses nationwide, with a choice of 60 majors. Graduates will benefit because of the term "university" attached to their degrees.

As extraordinary as this change is, Concordia is in basic ways the same as it has always been. Studtmann wrote the following about the first day of classes at the new Concordia:

"Classes at Concordia began on Tuesday, Oct. 26, 1926, at the set hour of 8 a.m. The day began with worship. Arnold Vehling played the piano. The director, of course, spoke the words on this morning of history-making developments. His words were based on Ps. 108:18. This was the school's motto and was emblazoned in golden letters on the south wall of the library: 'With God we shall do valiantly.'"

The Greek motto on the new seal for Concordia University at Austin will be "With God we shall do valiantly."

The 'River of Light' passes through Austin

Youth Gathering participants, you are invited to stop by the campus of your Lutheran university in Texas on your way to or from San Antonio. You may want to ask your sponsors to call the Concordia Admissions Office at (512) 452-7661 to make arrangements for a tour of the campus. Don't miss this opportunity to see the "oasis on I-35," Concordia University at Austin.



You may not know ...

- Concordia Lutheran College of Texas had its highest enrollment ever in fall 1994, 707 students.
- Concordia's church work enrollment increased to 124 in fall 1994, the largest number in 10 years.
- Since becoming a four-year college in 1982, Concordia has added a new library, gymnasium and communication/fine arts center. Older buildings were remodeled to become a student center and a residence complex, and Texas (dining) Hall was enlarged and renovated.
- Concordia has its own television station on Austin CableMaxx which broadcasts classes for credit.
- Concordia's Teacher Education Program consistently remains one of the top teacher education departments in the state as related to the percentage of students passing the state-mandated ExCET test for teacher certification, when taking the ExCET for the first time.
- In addition to its regular schedule of day classes, Concordia offers a complete program of night classes leading to the bachelor of arts degree.
- Concordia offers an accelerated degree completion program for adults, whereby a student with 60 to 70 hours of college credit can complete a bachelor of arts degree in business management in approximately one year, attending class at night once a week.
- Beginning in fall 1995, Concordia students will be able to spend a semester abroad, studying at the Lutheran Center in Mexico City.
- Concordia remains one of the lowest cost private colleges in Texas and in the United States.
- On July 1, Concordia's name will become Concordia University at Austin.

Still looking for a college home?

If you are a recent high school graduate and you have not yet found a college for next fall, you still have time to check out Concordia at Austin. Or maybe you will be a 1996 graduate and you are starting early in the search for a college home.

Summer Sneak-a-Peek on June 24 is for both '95 and '96 high school graduates. It's an opportunity to tour the campus, meet some of the professors, find out about majors and programs

of study, and gather information about financial assistance.

Perhaps you are one of those who has been accepted by Big Name University, but you've realized that "Big" also applies to class size. You may want to reconsider and investigate Concordia, where the average class has fewer than 20.

Call the Concordia Admissions Office toll free at 1-800-285-4252 (452-7661 in Austin) to register for Summer Sneak-a-Peek.

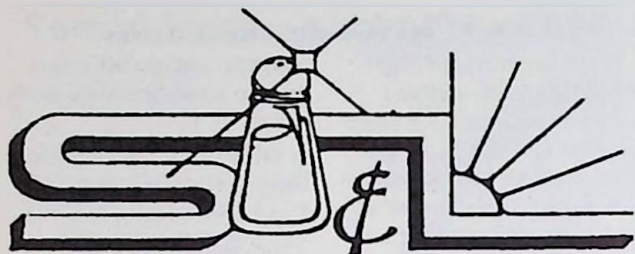
Our future attended Field Day

Anyone worried about the future of our society because of the frequent media news about "troubled and violent" youth should have visited the Concordia campus April 21, Concordia Field Day. Almost 1,000 junior-high-age students from 31 Lutheran schools and congregations proved beyond doubt that plenty of good kids are still out there.

The visitors entered and left the gymnasium in an orderly manner. No one pushed or shoved. They cleaned up after themselves, disposing of their snack wrappers in trash cans. No property was defaced. The only guns were starting guns used to begin races. And they began their day of fun and competition with prayer.



TALK ABOUT BRIGHT KIDS—These Field Day participants received \$500 scholarships to Concordia for winning academic and fine arts events: In front, from left, Crystal Kothmann from Immanuel, Temple, for history; Austin Fusiller from Trinity, Waco, for Bible knowledge; Nickolaus Wing from Trinity, Waco, for spelling; Happy Rahman from Trinity, San Angelo, for instrumental music performance; back, Cathy Snyder from St. Paul, Austin, for keyboard performance; Luke Hennings from St. Paul, Austin, for language arts; Sean Morrison from Zion, Dallas, for geography; Noah Bailey from Zion, Dallas, for current events; Andrew Short from Faith, Plano, for mathematics and for science; and Sara Zueshow from Faith, Plano, for keyboard performance. Not present for the photo was Megan Pachecano from Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio, for vocal performance. Concordia Field Day is co-sponsored by Lutheran Brotherhood.



"You are the salt of the earth.... You are the light of the world" (Matt. 5:13-14).

Lutherans attack moral decline engulfing the United States

by Cindy Meek, member
Human Care
Ministry Committee

With the spiritual and moral decline that has engulfed the United States, Christians are moving toward not only mercy ministries (food pantries, support groups, Stephen Ministry, etc.) but also advocacy/justice ministries. Salt and Light committees are an example of the advocacy side of human care.

Members of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Austin, for example, have established a Salt and Light Committee to proactively address and advocate for Biblical values in society, locally as well as nationally. Christ Lutheran Church, Austin, recently completed a six-part series on the topic "Should Christians be Involved with Politics?," led by Charles Meek, member of Redeemer's Salt and Light Committee.

Salt and light provide flavoring, purifying, enlightenment in and to the world. We are Christians when we work, play, live and vote. Redeemer, for example, informs its members of pending legislation that may be of particular moral interest to Christians. A petition to repeal Austin's "Domestic Partnership" ordinance (city benefits to same-sex couples living together) was available for signature after church. Lutherans For Life materials are actively promoted. Pastor James Linderman, Christ, Austin, says it this way: "Christians not only have a right to be involved in government, but they have an obligation to be in government so as to give it the moral guidance that it needs."

The Salt and Light Committee at Redeemer, Austin, draws representation from several boards (lay ministry or elders, evangelism and social ministry).

For more information, contact the Texas District Human Care Ministry Committee at 1-800-951-3478, or Charles Meek, Austin, at (512) 345-5188.

Standing in the need of prayer

by Jeanette Schaefer
District Prayer Task Force

People in Texas have a hunger for prayer, an interest in learning more about it and a desire to use it in their lives and their congregations!

How well this was evidenced Saturday, Feb. 11, when more than 200 people converged on Austin from all over Texas for the "Equipped for Prayer, Equipping for Life" seminar.

Rev. Brad Hoefs encouraged people to pray as a foundation of their relationship with Jesus. Rev. Dave Luecke shared the experiences of other Lutheran pray-ers from his new book *A Better Prayer Life for Ordinary Christians*. Seven afternoon sectional topics allowed participants to choose those that best applied to their lives.



PRAYER CHANGES THINGS

Sharing Prayer Ministry

The response sheets from the seminar were full of requests for more learning opportunities, more sharing opportunities and more ways to make prayer come alive in our congregations.

One way to meet these needs is for congregations to share ideas and resources for prayer ministries with each other. Each month, we will list here a particular congregation and its prayer ministries. If you see a ministry that might benefit your congregation, call them for information about it.

Christ Lutheran Church
Austin, Texas
Contact person, Susan Crone
Church: (512) 444-5844
Home: (512) 282-0956
(Continued on Page O.)

ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

*"I want to pray in a more disciplined way."
Using the prayer structure "ACTS"*

Adoration/Praise

This is different from thanksgiving. Adoration focuses on WHO GOD IS. The focus is on HIM. *"I praise You that You are (the) _____ (put a noun here)"*, i.e., *my Protector, the Ruler of all, the Listener to prayer.*

Finding Ideas for Adoration Prayers:

1. Scripture
2. Attributes in the *Catechism*: Eternal, Merciful, etc.
3. Luther's Explanations to the Creed
4. Psalms and Hymns

Our concentration on WHO GOD IS puts everything else in our lives in proper perspective!

Texas District Prayer Ministry Task Force #956



The following article in a series on second-career pastors and their families is from Rev. Russell Hildebrandt of Trinity Lutheran in Spring, Texas. It is our hope that others will be encouraged by these articles to respond, if the Lord is calling, and say, "Here am I, send me."

HERE am I
send me
SEND ME

Grocery food to Bread of Life

Pastor Hildebrandt writes, "My background before entering the seminary was in the food business. I worked for a major chain as a store manager. My community involvement was minimal at that time in my life.

Financially this (the seminary) was a great impact on our family. We went to the seminary with our savings and lived off that money for four years while my wife and I worked part-time. This was very expensive and this made life financially more difficult than it used to be. But we have learned to live with less as St. Paul did.

"Seminary was a wonderful time for my family. Our daughters, Kim and Kris, were 11 and 9 when we went to the seminary. It was difficult for them at first, but the kids adjusted quite well after a brief period of being in new surroundings. I feel that the seminary years were some of the happiest for our girls, even though we had little material possessions compared to before we came to seminary.

"Deborah, my wife, was active in the seminettes (wives of husbands attending night

classes with seminary professors) and really enjoyed the community this created for her. She did not work outside the home while we were at seminary, so this was her way of being part of the community life at seminary. It is too bad that the seminary did not provide this opportunity for our girls. The children are left out of community, whether intentionally or not, they are left out. I would encourage those who are entering the seminary to establish themselves in a small group that meets weekly to create community for the sake of your family. It is so important that this happen early at seminary or you will fall into the rut of studying at the exclusion of your family.

"I feel filled inside to do ministry and teach and train my people to do ministry. Equipping is so important today in ministry. The seminary needs to help seminarians in the area of vision casting and equipping the membership. The old days of the pastor doing it all are gone. The laity needs to be encouraged to do ministry rather than watch it being done. There are so many talented people that God has in His kingdom that can do ministry better than the pastor, if only the pastor gets out of the way."



Hildebrandt

PRAYER

(Continued from Page N.)

1. PRAYER VIGILS: 12 to 24 hours of continual prayer for needs of the congregation and of members: four times a year.

2. PRAYER CHAINS: Available at all times for specific prayer requests by individuals.

3. PRAYER PARTNERS FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Each Sunday school staff member has a prayer partner who prays for them during the week.

4. AARON MINISTERS: Persons are assigned one day of the week to pray for the pastors of the congregation.

5. INTERCESSORY PRAYER: During Sunday morning services, several people meet to pray for those worshiping and for those serving during that service.

Often Asked Questions About Prayer

Q. Must I use the ACTS format for all of my prayer times?

A. Although many people need order and a set format for their prayer time, following the adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication formula is not necessary. Many short "arrow prayers" or "popcorn prayers" are sent up to our

heavenly Father throughout the day. God hears all prayers that are offered to Him in faith. See Matt. 6:7-8 and Heb. 11:6.

Q. How do I decide what to pray for?

A. Ask yourself what are your needs, concerns, worries; what are the needs concerns, worries of your family and friends? These questions will help you set priorities for your prayer time. See Matt. 7:7-11 and 1 John 5:14-15.

We welcome your input for other columns. Please send it to the "Prayer Ministry Task Force" at the Texas District Office, 7900 East Highway 290, Austin, TX 78724-2499.



Rev. Martin Koehneke

Rev. Martin Koehneke as a young seminary graduate in 1939, was called to Raymondville, Texas, where he founded Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. In 1943 he was called to Mount Olive in San Antonio where he served until 1950 when he became counselor for parish education for the Texas District.

In 1954 he became the sixth president of Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, Ill. He later joined Aid Association for Lutherans as senior vice president.

Rev. Koehneke died April 11, his 79th birthday. Services were held in Greenville, Wis.

Survivors are his wife, Irma, and their children.

TRACKY HAS A NEW FACE

but kids still taught to save

Announcing a new Tracky Stamp Program designed specifically for the young investors in your congregation. This is the first major revision of the CEF Stamp Program in 20 years.

Heroes of the faith

Four exciting new color posters—each poster (map) when filled with the new 25-cent stamps is worth \$10. The new Heroes of the Faith stamp posters are: David and Goliath, Noah and the Ark, Samson and Deliah, and Daniel in the Lions Den.

What's Available

- A New Heroes of the Faith Stamp Folder—each of these folders or booklets when filled with the new 25-cent stamps is worth \$10. Each folder features all four of the above listed Heroes of the Faith. Tracky is featured on all the new materials!

- Heroes of the Faith Tracky Brochure—this color promotional brochure is an excellent tool for informing parents about the value and ease of getting involved in this new program.

- New Tracky Stamps—these new 25-cent stamps are designed specifically for the Heroes of the Faith poster and stamp folder. These are available in pads valued at \$100 (400 stamps).

- Tracky Poster—these color promotional posters are 17-by-22 inches. On this poster, Tracky encourages young savers to "Become A

Hero Of The Faith." Several of the heroes are illustrated.

What's the Purpose?

Good Savings Habits—children who learn to save at an early age tend to remain savers throughout their lives. The Tracky Stamp Program is an excellent way for children to invest a portion of their earnings, allowances and gifts.

Expanding Missions—The Tracky Stamp Program teaches children the importance of our church's mission and ministry through the Church Extension Fund.

How can we get started?

All promotional materials are furnished free of charge upon request from the district office. Included are maps, brochures, return envelopes, order forms and remittance forms.

Stamp books valued at \$100 each are sold on a cash basis or, if preferred, on consignment. The district office will supply these stamps upon request from you.

In order to use the consignment option, we must have a signed CEF Consignment Form on file for your congregation. Call Natalie Woolverton, 1-800-951-3478,

for a consignment form and supplies.

Beginning June 1, the old CEF Stamp Program materials no longer will be available. For congregations or schools who have the old remaining materials, we suggest you send them into the district office for credit. We will help you start the new Heroes of the Faith Tracky Stamp Program.

For additional information, 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**



NEW TRACKY—At the recent CEF Conference, Terry Brown, right, CEF congregation rep from Concordia, Garland, introduced the new Tracky Stamp Program. Here, Terry is showing CEF Rep Lyle Sorum, Faith, Georgetown, the four new Tracky stamp posters.

AND THE LORD ADDED ...

TEXAS DISTRICT



NEW TO THE FAMILY—The Lord added 21 members to the fellowship of Our Savior, Austin, last November. They came by adult baptism and confirmation, and transfer. Pastor is Gordon Albers.



SUGAR LAND—These are some of the 19 new members who joined Fishers of Men in Sugar Land Feb. 12. Seven adults came by confirmation, five by baptism and others by transfer. Pastor is Tom Van Duzer.



MONAHANS—Some of these new members of St. Paul, Monahans, were received March 5 by transfer from Trinity Lutheran in Pecos, which recently was dissolved as a congregation by its members. The 10 adults and two children were honored with a fellowship dinner. Pastor is Mel Herring.



WALBURG—Nineteen members were added Nov. 20 of last year at Zion, Walburg, by baptism, confirmation, reaffirmation of faith and transfer.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



KINGSBURY—Evangelists Lutheran of Kingsbury received these new members into fellowship recently. Pastor is William Shupe.



PLANO—These are some of the 44 new members received in February at Lord of Life in Plano. They came by adult baptism/confirmation, profession of faith and transfer. Pastor is Ric McMillian.

CELEBRATIONS

THE BROTHERS SCHUMANN—Dan and Felby Schumann, couple on right, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary March 14. They are members of St. Paul, Vernon. To help them celebrate, Dan's brothers and their wives, all married more than 50 years, were on hand. From left are John and Alice Schumann, married Feb. 23, 1941; Gus and Viola Schumann, Feb. 26, 1942; Edd and Tillie Schumann, Sept. 28, 1943; Marvin and Jewell Schumann, March 13, 1944; and Dan and Felby. All the brothers were confirmed by Rev. Paul Holtzen at Immanuel Lutheran in Harrold.



Jenni

Freckles propel Jenni to ice cream carton fame

It probably was the freckles that did it.

When Blue Bell was looking for a "pure country" face to adorn its cartons of Country Cones ice cream, the choice was Jenni Adams in a straw hat wearing a compelling smile and her own natural freckles.

Jenni is an active member of St. Philip Lutheran of Houston and is 14 years old.

Some friends introduced Jenni to modeling. She went to modeling school, developed a portfolio of four photos, one of which drew the attention of the people at that little creamery in Brenham, likely the one that depicts her in a flowered dress and straw hat. Her natural freckles are highlighted.

A regular teenager, Jenni likes to talk on the phone, was on her school's volleyball team two years, also was on the track team and involved in speech and drama.

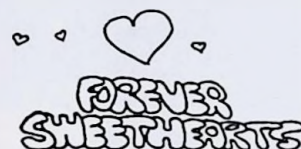
GOLDEN COUPLE—Rev. Arnold and Ruby Mueller celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in February. They live in The Woodlands and are members of St. Mark, Conroe. They have served the Texas District since 1957 at congregations in Brenham, Sweetwater, Lake Jackson, Malone, Lamesa and Conroe.



THEIR 50th—Bill and Bobbye Wagner, Concordia, San Antonio, will observe their 50th wedding anniversary June 15. Wagner is editor of the Texas Messenger.



WEATHERFORD—Ernest and Evelyn Huse, longtime and active members of Trinity Lutheran, Weatherford, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary April 22.



These couples of the Texas District recently celebrated 50 or more years of marriage:

Mount Calvary, La Grange: John and Julia Hentschel, 58 years, Feb. 7; Herbert and Elenora Lange, 59 years, Feb. 24.

St. Paul, San Antonio: Carl and Julia Franz, 60 years, March 16.

Gethsemane, Houston: Ken and Mary Elizabeth Johnson, 52 years, Feb. 20; Marion and Jessie Mae Blackman, 53 years, Feb. 28.

St. Matthew, Westfield: Clarence and Marie Frank, 65 years, March 2.

Concordia, San Antonio: Margaret H. and Manley E. Johnson, 56 years, March 27.

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Hal and Arvilla Dyer, 63 years, April 1.

Trinity, Sealy: Raymond and Irene Schroeder, 58 years, March 8.



PANCAKE PILE-UP—The Alamo and West San Antonio branches of Lutheran Brotherhood (LB) teamed up with San Antonio-area McDonald's restaurants to sponsor pancake breakfasts to raise funds for San Antonio's new Lutheran high school. They raised \$12,000. From left, back, are David Mueller, chairman of the school association's directors; and Jim Burghardt, I.D. Schultz and John Schuetze, LB representatives. From left, front, are Cy Firgens, project director, and Mike Miller, principal. The school will open in August with its first freshmen class on the campus of Concordia Lutheran Church.

English class yields confirmands

There has been a growing interest from Mexican nationals in becoming U.S. citizens as a result of Proposition 187 in California and congressional debate concerning immigrants.

Because of this, Pastor Ed Weber of Mision Emanuel in Mercedes currently teaches three levels of English classes with 26 students enrolled. When students complete the fourth level, they are able to converse and write at the level of an eighth-grader. He also teaches citizenship classes on Saturday evenings.

Eight adults from these classes also are preparing for citizenship in God's kingdom. They are in confirmation class.

School banner back after long (really long) journey

The banner of Redeemer Lutheran School in Austin has come home from a long, way-out journey: outer space!

Commander Dan Bursch, NASA astronaut, presented the banner to the January meeting of the Parent-Teacher League of Redeemer. It flew with him last fall on the space shuttle *Endeavor*, and was signed by the crew members.

Bursch is the father of Emily Bursch, a fourth-grader at Redeemer school.

Besides showing slides and video footage of the Earth as seen from space, Bursch gave Principal Norm Stuemke several photographs from the mission and a U.S. flag and official mission patch that flew aboard the shuttle.

"Thanks for continuing to teach our children to reach for the stars," he added.

On pastor's mind ...

Christianity 'at risk'

by William G. Thompson, senior pastor
Concordia Lutheran, San Antonio

I recently read a survey that was disturbing to me as a Christian pastor. I share these facts with you that we all might be better informed of the needs that exist for our witness of Jesus Christ.

Barna Research Group reports:

- 45 percent of individuals attending church on a given weekend were not people who had made a personal commitment to Jesus Christ.
- Young adults are increasingly inactive in their faith.
- Church attendance is at 42 percent, the lowest level in 10 years.
- Bible reading is lowest among those under 30.
- Only half of those who attend church read the Bible within the same week of attending.

Barna's research causes him to conclude that Christianity is "at risk." The tragedy these statistics portray may be overlooked unless one realizes that these figures represent people. In too many cases the people at risk are men and women we know, in some cases our own sons and daughters.

The need for us to be more concerned about the faith and future of those around us has never been greater. Jesus remains the only way to salvation. Jesus is still the only adequate answer to life. How can we best share that Good News message?

Please include in your prayers concern for others and for our work as evangelists. Be open to opportunities that the Lord provides you in witnessing to others, especially those nearest to you. Be faithful in hearing God's Word. You will be strengthened, and others will see your witness.

May the Lord bless you and yours as you grow in Christ and in your ability to share His love.

*From LIFE, the newsletter
of Concordia Lutheran, San Antonio*



Thompson

Synod invited to meet in Texas

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has been invited to hold its convention in 2001 in Texas.

The Texas District Board of Directors extended the invitation at its March 28 meeting.

District President Jerry Kieschnick said that after a host city is identified, a proposal will be made to the Synod's Council of Presidents for evaluation and recommendation to the 1998 LCMS convention.

New activities center to be dedicated at barbecue

The all-new Arnold Koop Memorial Activities Center will be dedicated at the annual Camp Lone Star barbecue and auction to be held Sunday, July 30, in La Grange.

Dr. Thompson is featured at Lone Star barbecue

Dr. William G. (Bill) Thompson, senior pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church in San Antonio, will be the featured speaker at the outdoor worship service at the annual Camp Lone Star Barbecue and Auction to be held Sunday, July 30, in La Grange.

A Houston native, Thompson was called to his current position last year succeeding Dr. Guido Merckens, founder of Concordia Church. Thompson previously was senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Utica, Mich., from 1981 to 1994. He received his doctor of ministry degree from Hartford Seminary and master of divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

Thompson graduated from Sam Houston State University with a bachelor of business administration degree. He also is an alumnus of Houston Lutheran High School and Bethany Lutheran School in Houston.

Thompson is the author of numerous manuals and publications and is currently listed in *Who's Who in Religion*. He is a frequent presenter at conferences and workshops related to teen ministry, church management and leadership issues. Thompson



Dr. Bill Thompson

has been active as president of the Brazil Mission Society and as a board member of many Lutheran ministries.

The annual outdoor worship service will begin at 11 a.m. near the lake at Camp Lone Star. The traditional barbecue dinner will follow the service, with the auction held afterwards.

Last year's event drew more than 1,300 people and raised more than \$25,000 to benefit LOMT and Camp Lone Star.

There is no charge to attend, but freewill offerings will be taken at the service and dinner.

Bus parking will be available for churches which wish to bring a group to the Sunday event.

To help ensure the success of this special Sunday, additional items for the auction are needed. If you have an item you can donate, call the LOMT Development Office in Austin at 1-800-951-3478. Questions about the worship service, dinner or auction also are welcome.

Mark your calendar now, and we'll see you in July!

THIS NEW multipurpose building will accommodate up to 300 people indoors for retreats, conferences and meetings. An all-weather facility, the Koop Center will feature air-conditioning, heating, carpeting and a stage for use in presentations, worship services and skits.

Construction on the Koop Center began in February after successful completion of a capital fund drive to build this new facility. The addition of the new activities center meets a longstanding need for more high quality indoor meeting space at the camp. The new building is between the Johnson Retreat Center and camp cabins.

THE NEW CENTER is named in memory of the late Arnold Koop, former board chairman of the M.G. and Lillie Johnson Foundation in Victoria, Texas. The Johnson Foundation provided major funding for the new Koop Center and previously to construct the Johnson Retreat Center at the camp.

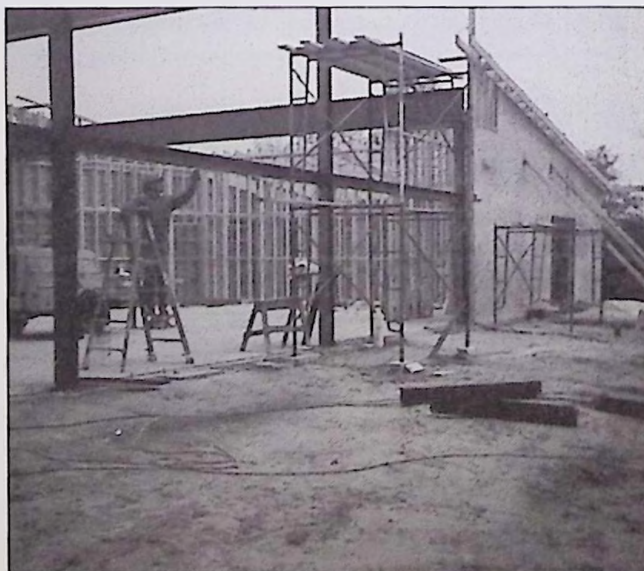
Nearly \$280,000 was committed in gifts and pledges from both the Johnson Foundation and donor friends of LOMT and Camp Lone Star.

With the addition of the Koop Center, Camp Lone Star will now be able to accommodate groups of between 200 and 250 people in air-conditioned/heated meeting, dining and sleeping facilities.

AN OPEN HOUSE of the new activities center will be held all day during the Camp Lone Star barbecue.

More information on booking a retreat or meeting at the new Koop Center and at Camp Lone Star also is available. Call 1-800-362-2078 or (409) 247-4128.

See you at the dedication!



ALMOST READY—Construction began in February on the new Arnold Koop Activities Center at Camp Lone Star which will be dedicated Sunday, July 30.



OPENED—NLCTC Director Martha Flores-Wynn cuts the ceremonial ribbon.

New Life Center expanded

A 10-bed addition to the New Life Children's Treatment Center in Canyon Lake, Texas, recently was dedicated.

The expansion was made necessary by the increase in demand for the services provided by the facility.

"Last year," said Center Director Martha Flores-Wynn, "231 girls between 11 and 17 years old were referred to the facility. But because only 32 could be helped at any one time, nearly 200 girls had to be turned down." She added, "This should highlight the great need for our type of facility and the necessity for our current expansion."

The girls being treated were abused and neglected by their families and/or others. Many became involved with drugs and gangs. Some even had suicidal tendencies.

But their young lives are being "turned around" at New Life. So far this year alone, several young girls have been successfully discharged. They are better equipped, through loving care and professional help, to face the world.

STAR: Stopping The Abusive Relationships

Imagine the anguish, the anger, discovering someone you know and love is a battered wife. Imagine the frustration of not knowing how to help. Bonnie Osborne of Victoria, Texas, found herself in that very situation.

The abused woman, Bonnie learned, had talked with police, her pastor and a counselor. Bonnie checked, but there was no program in Victoria designed to change the behavior of the abuser. The best advice anyone could come up with was for the abused woman to get out of the relationship, leave town. She moved to Houston, where the husband found her and begged her to return home. Bonnie says the family agreed to his request, but only if he sought help. He volunteered for a Houston counseling program called PIVOT (pivot: to turn one's life around). Since completing the program, he has been nonviolent.

Bonnie was so impressed with the results, she decided to work toward establishing a similar program in Victoria. At about that time, an article titled "Victims, Abusers Share Our Pews" caught her attention. "The article was like an invitation to become involved, to get my church involved," says Bonnie.

As director of the Board of Social Concerns at First English Lutheran Church in Victoria, Bonnie asked board members to take on the issue. She enlisted the help of the LSSS Victoria counseling office and convinced Police Chief Timothy Braaten to join the effort.

Finally, Bonnie convinced her pastor, Rev. Elliot Pancost, to approve the funding necessary to start a spousal abuse intervention and treatment program. First English gave \$1,500, and STAR was born.

Village gets new director

Jeff Landua has been named executive director of the E.F. and Bertha Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village (KMLV). A ministry of Lutheran Social Services of the South (LSSS), Kruse Village provides health care and retirement services. It includes the Village Garden Cottages, LaVerna Landua Village Inn Apartments, the Health Care Center and the Ewald and Hildegard Tiaden Alzheimer's Care Unit.

As executive director, Landua is filling a new position at KMLV. LSSS Vice President for Residential Services Rich Risley says, "Kruse Village is a very important part of our ministry to persons in the Brenham community. The creation of the executive director's position fills the need for the highly professional leadership that this facility deserves."

Landua was born and raised in Midland and gradu-



Jeff Landua:
"I feel like I've come home."

ated from SMU. He has extensive experience in residential and property management and also has been a part of the banking industry.

Landua says that as a child he remembers taking the train to Brenham to visit his grandparents, and hunting for squirrel on the land where Kruse Village now stands. "I feel like I've come home. I am excited about being a part of this wonderful community," says Jeff. His mother was from Warrenton, Texas, and his father from Brenham.

Landua's wife, Linda, is a self-employed travel consultant. They have three sons. Barry is a graduate of Pratt Institute in New York City, Blake graduated from the University of Texas, and Robert is a senior at Texas A&M.



Bonnie Osborne—Her efforts made STAR possible.

Good news

'Thanks be to God'

No program better illustrates the recent growth of Lutheran Hour Ministries radio outreach than "Woman to Woman," a weekly half-hour program hosted by Phyllis Wallace.

After the beginning of national syndication in May 1994, "Woman to Woman" was already on 56 stations by mid-September—far more than the 36 the program was expected to attract by May 1995! The program has gone global, airing now in Ecuador and Belize.

Positive response continued and the number quickly grew to 72, then 120 stations in February 1995. "Woman to Woman," with its emphasis on issues relative to women and their spiritual growth, struck a responsive chord! Now, as part of the radio expansion plan, it is hoped to air in 144 areas in the near future.

At the same time, work is under way to dramatically increase the worldwide listenership of "The Lutheran Hour" and numerous radio specials. The goal: to reach 100,000 additional people per week with the Gospel by radio. Today, approximately 1,200 stations in the United States and Canada carry "The Lutheran Hour," reaching more than 2 million people.

In addition, the holiday special this past Christmas was placed on nearly 2,000 new stations worldwide. The Easter special was aired on 1,000 new stations across the United States. The audi-

ence is growing at a record pace. In keeping with the original aim of "The Lutheran Hour," Lutheran Hour Ministries wants every listener to become connected with a local congregation.

The foreign language radio broadcasts overseas "Proclaim Christ" to people who have known terror all too well. An average of 3,175 responses are received to each weekly 15-minute program. More than 1,100 people are enrolled in the Bible correspondence course offered in Russia.

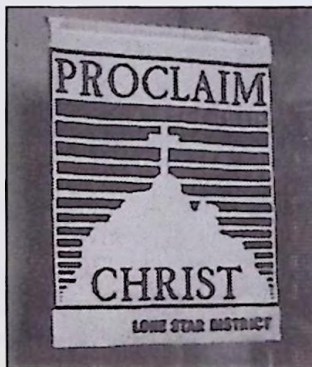
A Russian listener wrote, "Today, June 23, I heard your program. I liked it very much. Whenever possible, I will listen regularly. It was the first time that I heard a religious program with such music. I enjoy it. I converted three years ago. The Lord is merciful toward sinners, and He reached out to help me in the most difficult moment of my life. What a pity that I did not know this faith since childhood. And now I want to strengthen my belief."

Lutheran Hour Ministries is committed to helping this man and many others grow stronger in their belief. For every person who listens and writes, many more have yet to hear a clear proclamation of the Gospel. They do not know our Risen Savior, as you do. They have no hope of the Resurrection Life.

Please pray and give financial support to Lutheran Hour Ministries, 2185 Hampton Ave., St. Louis, MO 63139-2983.



AT BOARD MEETING—Gary Laneman, president of the Lone Star District, listens as Ken Weiser, Region 10 governor, makes his report.



Board Meeting

A Lone Star District Board meeting was held March 3-5 at the Port Royal Condominiums in Port Aransas. Ken Peterson from the St. Louis office of Lutheran Hour Ministries gave an interesting and informative report on overseas ministries. He had just returned from a trip to South America.

Pastoral Adviser Henry Biar led the group in Bible study and the Sunday morning worship service. David Lichtenegger, president of the Oklahoma District LLL, also participated in the meeting.

The group met to do the work of Lutheran Hour Ministries while having time for fellowship, prayer and Bible study.

LLL CHALLENGE—The Proclaim Christ banner was prominently displayed as the Lone Star District Board met.

Grand Rapids, Mich.

For five days this summer, Christians will gather here to give God the glory, praise His Son and be filled with the Holy Spirit while supporting the activities of "Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church."

On Aug. 12-16, the 78th convention for the International Lutheran Laymen's League and its Lutheran Hour Ministries will center around the evangelism theme "Bear Fruit," from John 15:5.

This will be a great opportunity for those who attend to become informed and inspired to carry out the Lord's work of spreading the Gospel (used by permission).

Forms for registration and hotel reservations were published in the March issue of *The Lutheran Layman*.



Appearances are deceiving

Science has discovered that a tiny drop of water can be filled with life. A snowflake magnified becomes a thing of beauty. And behind the outer appearance of people we know and pass on the street, there are parts of them which we never recognize.

A woman can be outwardly poised but inside be fearful and timid. Another person might be plain, with a body twisted by an accident of birth, who is filled with God's love and joy.

Just as the outer layer of everything, so the outward appearance of people often masks the real person within. So what does a person, a woman, look like?

What a person is and does determine how she looks.

She looks like what she does with her life. She looks like the way she treats her family, friends and co-workers. She looks like what she believes and holds most dear. She looks at the world with Christ's eyes of acceptance and love or the world's eyes of disapproval and suspicion. What a person is and does determine how she looks.

As Christians, we need to gaze beyond the skin of another person to see the real person within. Don't be fooled by outer appearances. It is what is inside that counts.

The apostle Paul wrote, "From now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view... If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation, the old

has gone, the new has come" (2 Cor. 5:16-17).

What wonderful advice on how to look at people. A scientist with a powerful microscope can gaze beneath the outer surface to the inner world of the drop of water. We, too, can see behind a person's surface to discover the real person living there.

In the inner being of a Christian, we find Christ. The presence of Christ in someone makes them truly beautiful. Now we are to view each other in a new way—not as the beautiful or ugly, not as the good or bad—but as the forgiven in Christ.

*Rev. Kim DeVries
Pastoral Counselor
Texas District LWML*

Mite Report

April 1995

1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd April	
(all sources)	13,436
Rec'd to date	
(all sources)	127,854
Needed for goal	128,145
Sent to Int'l LWML	
(April)	2,477
Int'l to date	26,198

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 ninth of month. Fax: 817-491-0105.

Scholarship fund balance

It is with great joy that the LWML Scholarship Committee announces that as of Dec. 31, 1994, a net worth of \$52,099.07 is in the fund.

These funds are invested through the Lutheran Foundation of Texas. Interest from the fund is used to award scholarships to Lutheran women studying to be full-time professional church workers in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The 1994-95 recipients were Jodi Leslie and Michelle Otsubo.

Applications for scholarship recipients for the 1995-96 school term currently are being considered.

Interested students should contact the committee chairman, Margaret Goodson, 5623 Georgetown Colony Drive, Houston, TX 77084. Do it now!

*Debra Curry
Committee for LWML
Scholarship Fund*

Projects update!

Exciting news! As of April 5, 1994, three more projects have received funding.

Abstinence Education and the Missionary Emergency Medical Evacuation each received \$5,000; Port Arthur Trinity Vietnamese van received \$10,000. (See photo below.)

The balance of projects to be paid this biennium is \$59,865 as of April 10, 1995.

Already paid are seminary scholarships of \$12,000 and the Youth Project CAN-DO of \$19,000.

We look forward to funding the balance of the 1994-96 projects.



The \$10,000 check for the Trinity Vietnamese Ministry van was presented on Sunday, March 26, at the 2 p.m. Vietnamese worship service. Pictured are 19 of the children who are transported by the van every Wednesday evening and each Sunday morning for classes. Back row, from left, Jlnx Schkade, committee person for mission projects; Rev. Timothy Dinger, pastor of Trinity; Rev. Dung Van Do, pastor of the Vietnamese Lutheran Church; Florence Winkler, fourth vice president for mission projects, Texas District LWML; and, far right, Pat Blar, president, Texas District LWML.

News from around the district

• **Immanuel Ladies Aid, Copperas Cove**, gave a Christmas party for the residents of the local nursing home.

As well as giving a devotion, they presented lap robes they made for all residents for Christmas and led the group in singing carols to bring cheer to their hearts.

They also have been busy gathering soap, used clothing and kits for Lutheran World Relief.

* * *

• **White Oak Zone** held a spring rally at **Messiah, Houston**, April 1.

"Consider the Lillies" was the theme, with Carolyn Pali presenting the topic about worry.

* * *

• **A Young Women's Retreat** was held March 10-11 at **Barcelona Court Hotel in Lubbock**.

Twenty-one young women attended the event and focused on the Bible study "Family, Friends and Me."

The Bible study was led by **South Plains Zone Young Woman Representative Jane Ellen Pase**.

Because of the fun time had by all, future retreats will be planned!

* * *

• **Rachel Clifton** serves the **Ergonian LWML Society, Trinity, Borger**, in a unique way.

Since cake decorating has been a hobby for many years, she donates beautiful



Rachel Clifton presented the March program on altar parameters to Trinity, Borger.

ly decorated Valentine cakes to the annual bake sale.

These monies earned by the society are used for special projects.

* * *

• **The Metropolitan Zone, Dallas**, celebrated with a service of praise and thanksgiving at its spring meeting March 15. **Delfi Schultz** is zone president.

Our Savior, Dallas, hosted the event, which honored the work of "Christ's healing ministry."

A light breakfast was served before the service, with **Rev. Frederick Schultz** officiating the prayer service "God's People—Channels of



Members of Immanuel, Copperas Cove, present lap robes to nursing home residents at Christmas festivities.



South Plains Zone Young Women's Retreat in Lubbock.

Healing" (written by Dr. Howard Mueller).

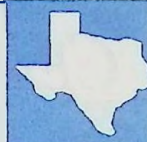
Members of the host church enacted scenes of "A Half Century of Healing," "Emotional/Relational Health," "Parish Nursing"

and "The Christian Home." **Judy Edelhauer** led the enactments with readings.

The women of **Our Savior** shared their faith in Christ and their love of working in His ministry.



The Metropolitan Zone, Dallas, celebrated a service of praise and thanksgiving March 25.



*What is it
to have a god?*

WHAT IS GOD?

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick
President, LCMS Texas District

These are questions with which Martin Luther begins his explanation of the First Commandment in the *Large Catechism*.

His answer: "A god is that to which we look for all good and in which we find refuge in every time of need. To have a god is nothing else than to trust and believe him with our whole heart.... That to which your heart clings and entrusts itself is, I say, really your God."

As promised in the last issue of the *Texas Messenger*, I'll share with you in the next several months excerpts from Luther's *Large Catechism* discussion of the Ten Commandments. Luther continues by suggesting that God is actually saying, "**See to it that you let Me alone be your God, and never seek another.**" In other words, "Whatever good things you lack, look to me for it and seek it from Me, and whenever you suffer misfortune and distress, come and cling to Me. I am the one who will satisfy you and help you out of every need. Only let your heart cling to no one else."

Luther then cites some common examples of failure to observe this commandment. "Many a person thinks he has God and everything he needs when he has money and property; in them he trusts and of them he boasts so stubbornly and securely that he cares for no one.



President Kieschnick

Surely such a man also has a god—mammon by name, that is, money and possessions—on which he fixes his whole heart. **It is the most common idol on earth.** He who has money and property feels secure, happy, fearless, as if he were sitting in the midst of paradise. On the other hand, he who has nothing doubts and despairs as if he never heard of God. Very few there are who are cheerful, who do not fret and complain, if they do not have mammon. This desire for wealth clings and cleaves to our nature all the way to the grave.

"So, too, if anyone boasts of great learning, wisdom, power, prestige, family and honor, and trusts in them, he also has a god, but not the one, true God. Notice, again, how presumptuous, secure and proud people become because of such possessions and how despondent when they lack them or are deprived of them. Therefore, I repeat, to have a God properly means to have something in which the

heart trusts completely."

Luther suggests that there are "those who go so far as to make a pact with the devil in order that he may give them plenty of money, help them in love affairs, protect their cattle, recover lost possessions, etc., as magicians and sorcerers do. All these fix their heart and trust elsewhere than in the true God. They neither expect nor seek anything from Him.

"Thus you can easily understand the nature and scope of this commandment. It requires that man's whole heart and confidence be placed in God alone, and in no one else. To have God, you see, does not mean to lay hands upon Him, or put Him into a purse, or shut Him up in a chest. We lay hold of Him when our heart embraces Him and clings to Him. To cling to Him with all our heart is nothing else than to entrust ourselves to Him completely. He wishes to turn us away from everything else and to draw us to Himself, because He is the one, eternal good.

"The heathen actually fashion their fancies and dreams about God into an idol and entrust themselves to an empty nothing. So it is with all idolatry. Idolatry does not consist merely of erecting an image and praying to it. It is primarily in the heart, which pursues other things and seeks help and consolation from creatures, saints or devils. It neither cares for God nor expects good things from Him sufficiently to trust that He

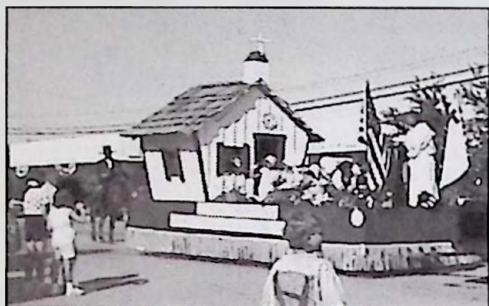
wants to help, nor does it believe that whatever good it receives comes from God.

"We are to trust in God alone and turn to Him, expecting from Him only good things; for it is He who gives us body, life, food, drink, nourishment, health, protection, peace and all temporal and eternal blessings. It is He who protects us from evil, He who saves and delivers us when any evil befalls. It is God alone from whom we receive all that is good and by whom we are delivered from all evil. This, I think, is why we Germans from ancient times have called God by a name more elegant and worthy than any found in other languages, a name derived from the word 'good' because He is an eternal fountain which overflows with sheer goodness and pours forth all that is good in name and in fact.

"Let everyone, then, take care to magnify and exalt this commandment above all things and not make light of it. **Search and examine your own heart thoroughly, and you will find whether or not it clings to God alone.** Do you have the kind of heart that expects from Him nothing but good, especially in distress and want, and renounces and forsakes all that is not God? **Then you have the one true God.**"

CELEBRATE!

SPRING BREAK—These students, at right, from Texas A&M and UT-Austin used their spring break to participate in Inter-Lutheran Disaster Response by rehabilitating a home in Cypress, damaged in last year's flooding. Work included demolition; siding, ceiling and wall preparation; and painting.



BOWIE—This float of St. Peter Lutheran of Bowle won first place in the city's "Our Town" parade. Its sign said, "St. Peter Lutheran Church, 1894, serving God and our town for 100 years, 1994." A circuit rider, dressed in early 1900 attire, followed the float. St. Peter pastor is Rev. Bruce Donley.



SEMINAR—The sixth annual Carl Heckmann Foundation Seminar was held Feb. 13 at Hope Lutheran in Austin. Dr. Norb Firnhaber, left, pastor of University Lutheran in Austin, spoke on "The Young Adult: a Vital Arm of the Church." Hope Pastor John Ellwanger is shown along with Pearl Heckmann. Sixty-five people attended the supper and lecture.



WESTFIELD—These new members joined the congregation of St. Matthew, Westfield, in March. From left are Murphy Wright and wife, Dorothy; Randy and Patti Stratton and children; and Pastor Richard Schroeder.



MOUNT OLIVE—These are new members of the family of Mount Olive Lutheran, Houston. They were received by baptism, reaffirmation of faith, reinstatement of membership, junior confirmation, adult confirmation and transfer. Pastor is Randy W. Ledbetter.



RICHARDSON—By confirmation and transfer, this group joined the forever family of Messiah, Richardson, April 2. Pastor is Victor J. Kollmann.



Texas District mission news

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



Rev. Ken
Hennings

East Texas left-outs get Wills Point preaching station

Lutheran worship services are conducted each Sunday in Wills Point (Van Zandt County) for a cadre of Missouri Synod Lutherans who find themselves too remote from any LCMS congregation in this very much non-Lutheran area of East Texas.

The services are conducted at 225 N. Fourth St. at 10 a.m. by Rev. Walter H. Huber, pastor emeritus of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Waxahachie. He will be assisted by other Dallas-area Lutheran clergymen who are retired.

The Lutherans are joined in worship by a number of others who desire liturgical worship forms, which are scarce in the area. Currently more than a dozen non-Lutherans are attending adult instruction classes which are taught by Pastor Huber after the worship hour.



*“Liturgical
worship
forms are
scarce in
the area.”*

If you know of Lutherans, ex-Lutherans or others interested in visiting or joining this preaching station endeavor, contact or inform Pastor Huber, 9401 Oldham Ave., Waxahachie, TX 75165, (214) 938-1014; or Kay Vanderaue, Rt. 3, Box 230, Wills Point, TX 75169; (903) 560-1364.

Seminars for pastors, leaders coming in August, November

Two new helpful seminars by George Barna will be held in four Texas cities in August and November.

Maximizing Your Ministry Impact: Serving Effectively in a Changing Culture is designed to help pastors and church leaders share a common vision for ministry. The workshop will enable your team to better understand the culture and ministry practices that are successful. Topics will include Discerning God's Vision for Your Ministry; Effective Outreach in an Age of Skepticism; The Challenge of Leadership; The Future Ain't What it Used To Be; and Characteristics of a Healthy Church. This seminar will be conducted on Aug. 26 in Houston and on Nov. 11 in Austin.

What Effective Churches Have Discovered: New Insights on Ministry in the Late '90s. In this new seminar for pastors, Barna sheds light on new needs and opportunities. The topics covered in this intensive, one-day seminar include Effective Fund Raising Strategies; Reaching America: Evangelism Approaches That Work; Understanding the Younger Generation: Today's Paradox, Tomorrow's Leaders; and Reading the Future. This seminar will be conducted on Aug. 28 in San Antonio and on Aug. 29 in Dallas.

For more information, brochures, costs or registration forms, call 1-800-55-BARNA (1-800-552-2762).

These seminars may qualify for scholarship assistance through the CMI program, funded by Aid Association for Lutherans. For an application, call Carole Stevenson at the Texas District Office, 1-800-951-3478 or (512) 926-4272.



Church folks ask: 'When Do We Need To Build?'

Is your congregation considering a building program in the next one to two years? Another question congregational leaders ask us is, "Where do we start?" To help determine your needs, start by answering the following 10 questions:

1. Have you outgrown your present facilities? Many church growth experts say that "once a church reaches 80 percent of its capacity in either the sanctuary or the Christian education department, growth will slow down or stop."

2. Have new ministries or desired ministries created new space needs?

3. Are nurseries and parking lots capable of handling your current needs? Many people believe these are two of the most important ingredients for growth to continue.

4. Are current facilities accessible to the handicapped or senior citizens? Consider ramps, lifts or elevators. Are sanctuary seating, restroom facilities and other areas handicap accessible?

5. Are parking facilities and walks smooth, hard-surfaced and convenient?

6. Is your current building energy efficient?

7. Does your present building need a face-lift?

8. Is your current heating and air-conditioning equipment outdated and inefficient?

9. Has the community

changed?

10. What will happen if we don't build, expand or renovate? Will growth and ministry suffer?

Your Texas District Church Extension Fund stands ready to assist your congregation with low-cost funding as you reach out to share the Gospel in the community which you serve. CEF offers the following professional services to assist you in all phases of your building program:

Richard Hansen, CEF director of construction, provides:

- Consultation on building committee formation;
- Answers to questions



Block



Hansen



Siegrist

related to construction processes and procedures;

- Assistance to many Texas District congregations in their building programs, more than 40 recently.

Bill Siegrist, CEF director of development, provides:

and submitting loan requests;

- Answers to questions about existing loans and renewals.

Why does CEF exist? For

Church Extension Fund Investment Rates

June 16 - September 15, 1995

Save-by-Mail Account	(Min. \$10)	3.25 %
One-Year Note	(Min. \$500) •	5.50 %
Three-Year Note	(Min. \$3,000) •	6.50 %
Five-Year Note	(Min. \$5,000) •	7.00 %

• Subject to penalty for early withdrawal

Church Extension Fund Loan Rates

June 16 - September 15, 1995

Financially Assisted Congregations ★	7.50%
Self-Supporting Congregations ★	8.50%

(Ask about CEF Rebate Program!)

★ - Minimum 30% / 35% Supporting Investments

- Proven promotional support;
 - Confidential Christian estate planning;
 - Availability as a speaker to share the CEF ministry with your congregation.
- Stephen Block, CEF executive director, provides:
- Financial counseling for congregation finances;
 - Assistance in preparing

the last 89 years the mission of the Church Extension Fund has been to involve fellow Christians in providing low cost loans to congregations of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as they carry out the Great Commission.

There are currently more than 25 congregations in the Texas District involved in building programs. Your investment in the CEF ministry will assist these congregations. Current interest rates are shown on this page.

For additional information, talk with your CEF congregational representative, your pastor or contact the Texas District office at 1-800-951-3478.

**Texas District
Church Extension Fund
Bill Siegrist
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724
(512) 926-4272**



AMARILLO—Rev. Mark A. Caffau was installed April 23 as pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Amarillo. Participating, from left front, were Revs. Art Hill, circuit counselor; Caffau; Carroll Kohl, district vice president and installer. From left, back, Robert Kuhlmann, Mark Tews, Larry Krueger, David Jeske, Fred Kelm and Jon Braunersreuther.

San Antonio Lutheran High enrolls its first freshmen

At mid-June, 36 students have registered to enter the first class of San Antonio's new Lutheran High School opening in August.

There are 20 boys and 16 girls enrolled in the first freshman class. More applications have been sent in response to parental queries and school officials expect that as many as 35 or more freshmen will enroll. Enrollment will be capped at 40.

San Antonio had been the largest city in Texas without a Lutheran high school.

Six San Antonio Lutheran congregations are supporting the school whose cam-

pus will be at Concordia Lutheran Church, 1826 Basse Road.

Principal Michael A. Miller said that the faculty and curriculum are in place and the school has been accorded membership in The Association of Private and Parochial Schools.

Miller said that an emphasis will be placed on computer literacy with the creation of a computer lab that will provide computer science classes and computer-based technology to enhance other classes including foreign languages.



On pastor's mind ...

TEENAGERS!

by Gerald Boerger, associate pastor
St. Paul Lutheran, San Antonio

Did you hear about the frustrated teenage girl who said to her friend, "My parents are so awful that I'd like to run away from home." The friend said, "Why don't you?" to which the girl replied, "The telephone cord will only reach the window."

Or did you hear the little jingle that goes, "Papa bought a red sports car—he fed it gasoline—And all the places papa went, he hitchhiked; his son's 16."

• Last January, when our fourth child became a teenager, we officially became the parents of four teenagers (now just about 19, 17, 15, 13). We knew the day would come. We never knew how much fun it would be! It's true that I rarely pick up a cold telephone receiver these days.

The amount of food that passes quickly through our refrigerator is phenomenal. We never know who'll join us for supper.

Last week we received word that 16-year-old Marc Stier was murdered by one of his classmates. Marc was the middle child of Rev. Don and Elaine Stier of Minnesota. They have been dear friends throughout the years. Don was farming in Illinois when I was in the seminary. We worked together in evangelism. Later he worked and struggled through eight years of college and seminary to become an excellent Lutheran pastor.

I still remember little Marc out there on the farm, loving the outdoors, loving life itself. When I see their pain and, yet, their wonderful witness of faith, I'm immediately reminded all the more of how precious my children are to me.

• I don't understand why things are the way they are, but I do know that ministry to children and teens is **SO VITAL!**

We have them now. Tomorrow we may not. Sharing the Gospel of Christ with teens is more important than ever. Teens need to know where they are going when they die!

In turn, that gives them direction for living right now—particularly in making important life choices, including friends, school, dating, marriage and career.

*From the newsletter
of St. Paul, San Antonio.*

PRO-LIFE DISPLAY—This huge cross is made up of 4,500 small white crosses erected as an "Innocents Cemetery" in Navasota. Members of Trinity Lutheran, Navasota, worked with members of Christ Our Light Catholic Church to build the pro-life display, calling attention to the 4,500 legal abortions performed each day in the United States. Trinity Pastor Donald M. Kasper told local new media, "We believe very strongly that life begins at conception and is a precious gift of God to be cherished and protected."

HAPPENINGS IN TEXAS



50TH REUNION—This is the 1945 confirmation class of Holy Cross, Warda, as members celebrated their 50th anniversary in April at the Zoch Family Museum near Warda. Pastor Paul C. Elfert confirmed the class of 13 (all still living). His son, Herbert Elfert, pastor at Good Shepherd, Pasadena, spoke at the reunion. Members of the class belong to at least 10 different Missouri Synod churches throughout Texas. From left, front, Albert Hobratchsk, Elmer L. Zoch, Pastor Herbert Elfert, Joyce (Wolff) Schramm, Evelyn (Schubert) Schautschick. From left, back, Norbert Wacker, Van Durrenberger, La Vern (Moerbe) Rainosek, Verniel (Moerbe) Mertink and Audrey (Blittner) Koenning. Unable to attend were Florence (Michalk) Hudler, Jenell (Buscha) Ladewig, Sophie (Mitschke) Pampell and Herman Teinert.

The Hispanic Ministry Board of **St. Paul, San Antonio**, with the help of the church's youth, is putting together a time capsule to be filled with pictures, a video and written recollections reflecting what the Lord is doing within the ministry in 1995. The capsule will be buried this summer and reopened in 10 years by the same youth who now are filling it.

A special observance May 27 marked 25 years of the weekly ministry by members of **Gethsemane, Houston**, to residents of Lexington Place nursing home. Between 25 and 35 residents hear the Gospel and song from Gethsemane members weekly.

Immanuel Lutheran, Houston, celebrated its Diamond Jubilee Homecoming and Thanksgiving service May 7. Special choral and instrumental music was offered. District President Jerry Kieschnick was guest preacher.

Dr. Elmo E. Miertschin,

visitation pastor at **Our Savior, Houston**, retired April 1—his fourth retirement in his 63 years of ministry.

Rev. Larry Gene Krueger was installed May 7 as pastor of **Grace Lutheran, Midland**.

Trinity Lutheran, Fedor, celebrated its 125th anniversary with a worship and meal April 30. Preacher was Dr. Robert Preus.

Lutherans of Austin are building an all-Lutheran Habitat for Humanity house. Ten congregations have contributed the initial \$20,000 to start the house. Total cost will be \$40,000, with Lutheran volunteers doing the work. Eventually it will go to a low-income family.

Rev. Brian Bibler, South Elgin, Ill., has accepted a call to become associate pastor of **Immanuel Lutheran, Temple**.

It was called "reaching out in a Scriptural way to those who hurt and who so desper-

ately need to see that Christians really do 'practice what they preach.'" That's what prison officials said of members of **Faith Lutheran, Huntsville**, who participated in the Marriage and Family Maintenance Seminar for inmates at the Wynne Unit in Huntsville. Women of Faith gave up a day to cook and serve dinner at the seminar.

Sounds high-tech, doesn't it? Julie Lundquist, **King of Kings, San Antonio**, has been admitted to the graduate program in the Department of Astrophysical, Planetary and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Colorado at Boulder. She was offered either a research or teaching stipend in computer modeling of atmospheric tides while she pursues a Ph.D. in physics.

Theme of the Katy Rodeo Parade March 11 was "Champions: Past, Present and Future." **Memorial Lutheran, Katy**, won a prize with its float entry called "Jesus—THE Eternal Champion."

A newspaper story featured

Edith Eichmann and Peggy Sparkman, senior women who are members of **Trinity Lutheran, Copperas Cove**. They crocheted and gave 10 baby afghans to new mothers of low-income families.

Some special birthdays have occurred since January at **Immanuel, Houston**. A.H. Pearson turned 95. So did Selma Zischang. Wilma Groeschel became 90, Frieda Zwink became 93, and E.W. Ehman celebrated his 90 years.

Redeemer, Baytown, will open a Christian preschool/day-care ministry in September.

Rev. Phil Konz of Centerville accepted the call of **Holy Cross, Midland**, and **Emmanuel, Odessa**, to be pastor of the dual parish.

Irene Tomecek, **Trinity, Taylor**, has taken the Literacy Council training course, allowing her to tutor adults who need assistance in learning to read or write. She makes herself available one evening a week at Trinity for tutoring—free!



Churches need visible presence in community

A church needs to be a visible presence in its community. That's why a lot has been happening recently at Holy Cross Lutheran in San Antonio.

The congregation dedicated a new sign that readily identifies the church, and since Jan. 1, 16 new members—two by adult confirmation—have been added. The adult confirmands and their children were brought into the congregation as a result of witnessing through a rejuvenated Mother's Day Out program.

A youth group was established. Half of the members were unchurched until coming to a youth meeting. One youth has been baptized because of the youth group, another is taking confirmation classes, and three more are preparing for baptism.

A new roof has been put in place and fresh paint added. A neon cross has been repaired on the bell tower, and several trees have been removed to make the church more visible.

Says Pastor Guy R. Bergenthal, "We continue to be a growing witness of Christ's love in San Antonio."

Graf ordained

Philip Graf of Bishop graduated from the Fort Wayne seminary in May. On June 11, he was ordained at St. Paul Lutheran, Kingsville. He has accepted a call to Grace Lutheran, Brownwood.



SIGN DEDICATED—Members of Holy Cross, San Antonio, stand before new church sign in dedication service. Pastor is Guy R. Bergenthal.

Prayer Warriors intercede for pastors

The pastors of Christ Lutheran in Austin have a lot going for them when they lead Sunday worship—the fervent prayers of a group in the congregation known as the Prayer Warriors.

It begins before the services when at least two "warriors" go to the sacristy and meet with the pastors, acolytes and elders. The elder has a prayer and then the Prayer Warriors

go to another room during the worship service and pray during the entire time of the service.

Pastor Jim Linderman says "With that kind of support, you know that you have the power of God's spirit in everything you do or say in leading the service."

This ministry is guided by Susan Crone, prayer minister.



THE COACH—Tom Landry, right, former coach of the Dallas Cowboys, spoke to the Bible class of Messiah, Richardson, March 26, relating his beliefs, how and when he became a Christian, and how he shares his faith. Messiah Pastor Victor Kollmann is at left.

ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

"I want to pray in a more disciplined way."
Part two of the prayer structure "A-C-T-S"

Confession

Ask God to show you hidden sins (Ps. 139:23-24).

Acknowledge the sin (1 John 1:9).

State the consequences of the sin, both for yourself and the one sinned against (Gal 6:7, Rom. 6:23).

Ask forgiveness for the sin (Acts 3:19).

Give thanks, release the burden, go forth forgiven and in joy (Luke 15:7).

These "Prayer Boxes" have appeared in each magazine since November 1994. If you would like a copy of each of them, contact Helen Hagood at the Texas District office at 1-800-951-3478.

Texas District Prayer Ministry Task Force #957

Grab your kid(s) ... let's go camping!

The next Father/Child retreat at Texoma Lutheran Camp will be held the weekend of Sept. 8-10 at the camp on Lake Texoma in Pottsboro.

Judging from the comments at the last Father/Child event in April, you can't miss if you come to this one. "I really enjoyed it. It gives you a good opportunity to spend some quality time with your children in God's great outdoors. It's just a whole lot of fun," said Albert Pankonien of Dallas.

His son agreed. "It was great. I really liked the campfires, the food, the Bible study we did and the fishing. I caught 10 crappie!" said Adam, 15, who attended the retreat along with his brother Kyle, 11.

About 120 dads and their kids attended the spring gathering. Recreation included canoeing, archery, hiking, fishing, riflery and group games. The retreat also had a spiritual side and included nightly devotions and a Bible study after lunch

on Saturday.

One church brought its dads and kids to camp as a group in a bus.

"We went to the archery range in the morning and took the orienteering class in the afternoon. The girls loved hiking through the woods, and we also did some swimming and canoeing. There were just so many activities to do. My daughter liked it so much that she wants to come back to the fall retreat," said Bob Kirk, Keller resident and a member of New Hope Lutheran Church who came with his 10-year-old daughter, Carlye.

"There were 24 of us that came up as a group—half of us were in tents and half in shelters, and we made it a real group project," he said. "The shelters were wonderful and the meals were excellent. I've really never been fed so well. I was just very pleased with the whole establishment," said Kirk.

He also feels it was a growing experience for

those who came from their church. "It really brought our men together. I've seen some of the guys before but never really knew their names; but now I do. I can also place their kids with them," he explained. Kirk encourages other churches to do the same and bring a group to the retreat.

Accommodations for the September retreat will be available in the Texoma campground, screened shelters, dormitory cabins and the Nazareth motel-quality units. Meals will be provided on Saturday and Sunday.

For fees, registration forms or more information, call Texoma Lutheran Camp at 1-800-926-5968.

They'll be biting at Port Aransas

The annual LOMT Family Fishing Weekend will be held Sept. 29-Oct. 2 in Port Aransas. The event will include a deep-sea trip and a bay trip on Corpus Christi Bay and a Saturday night supper and sing-along. For a registration form or more information, call 1-800-926-5968.

Hey Dad!!



Singles retreat

Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas is hosting its annual fall Singles Retreat on Friday, Sept. 1, through Sunday, Sept. 3, at Camp Lone Star in La Grange. To obtain more information or a registration form, call Pastor Henry Biar at Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or write c/o 2016 Camp Lone Star Road, La Grange, TX 78945.

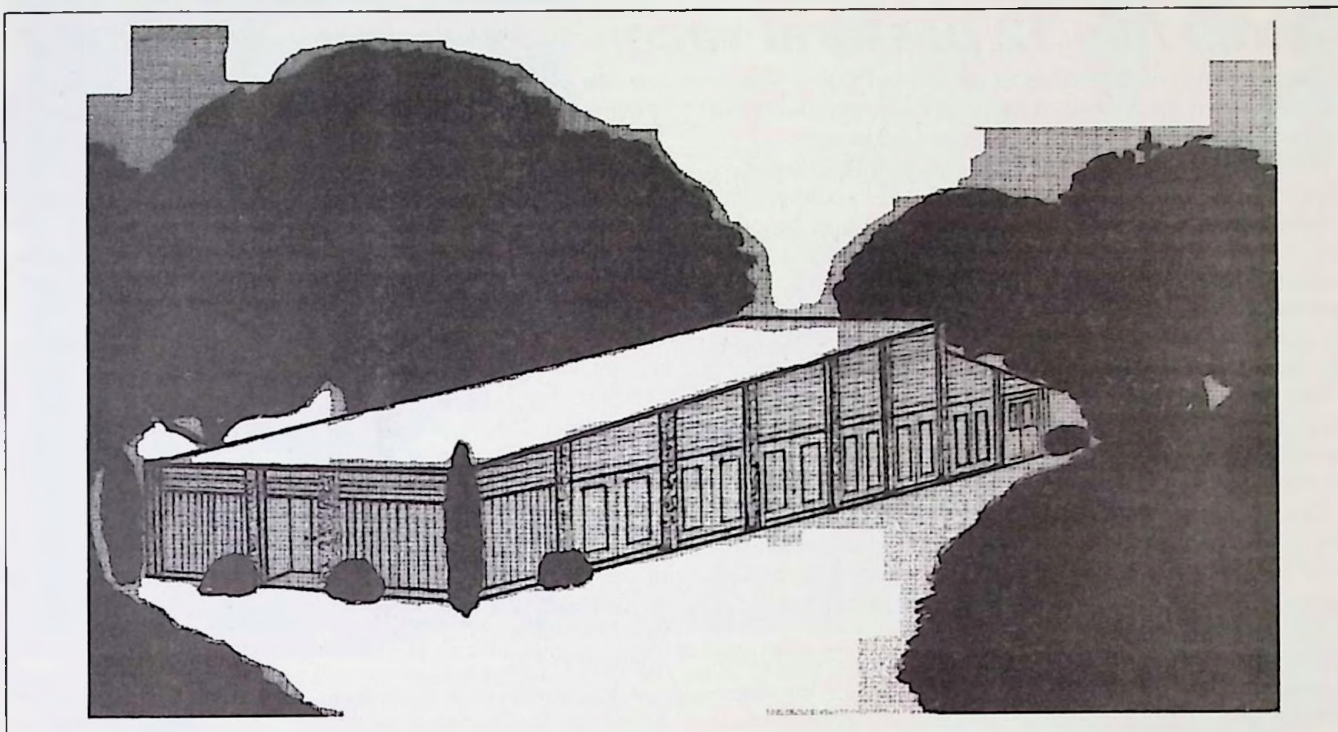


Preconfirmation retreats

Retreats for preconfirmation age youth are scheduled for the weekends of Sept. 22-23, 29-30 and Oct. 6-7 and 13-14 at Camp Lone Star in La Grange and Oct. 6-7, 13-14 and Oct. 20-21 at Texoma Lutheran Camp on Lake Texoma in Pottsboro.

The purpose of these retreats is to build and deepen the relationship between confirmation class members and their adult leaders and to help build a Christian community among the churches in attendance.

Contact your church office or Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or Texoma Camp at 1-800-926-5968 for registration forms and more information.



The Arnold Koop Memorial Activities Center at Camp Lone Star, La Grange, Texas

Arnold Koop Center to be dedicated at Lone Star barbecue

The Arnold Koop Memorial Activities Center will be dedicated at 10:30 a.m. at the annual Camp Lone Star barbecue and auction on Sunday, July 30, in La Grange.

This all-new building will provide meeting space for up to 300 persons for retreats, conferences, Lutheran family reunions, workshops, etc.

The Koop Center is air-conditioned and heated and features carpeting and a stage for presentations, training meetings, worship services, skits, etc.

THE BUILDING of the Koop Center fulfills a longstanding dream to add a high quality indoor meeting facility at Camp Lone Star. With the addition of the new center, Lone Star will now be able to accommodate groups of between 200 and 250 persons in air-conditioned/heated meeting, dining and sleeping facilities.

Construction of Koop Center began in February and was made possible by gifts provided by the M.G. and Lillie A. Johnson Foundation and LOMT donor friends. The building is named and dedicated in memory of the late Arnold Koop, former board chairman of the Johnson Foundation.

THE JOHNSON Foundation was established in 1958 in Wharton, Texas, by the late Marshall G. and Lillie Appelt

Johnson. The Foundation has provided major support for Camp Lone Star over the years including principal funding for the M.G. and Lillie A. Johnson Retreat Center at the camp, which was dedicated in memory of Mr. and Mrs. Johnson. The Foundation also provided seed financing for the Lutheran Hospital Pavilion at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston.

Currently, the Foundation provides funding in the south central and gulf coast region and primarily for medical purposes.

After the dedication of the center at 10:30 a.m., the traditional outdoor worship service will be held at 11 a.m. by the late Dr. Bill Thompson, a Houston native and new senior pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church in San Antonio, will be the worship speaker.

THE BARBECUE dinner and auction will follow at noon. Last year's event attracted more than 1,000 people and raised \$25,000 to benefit the ministry.

For more information on the dedication, barbecue, auction or to book a retreat or meeting at the Koop Center, call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or (409) 247-4128. (Also call if you have an item you can donate for bidding at the auction.)

Texas fills 12 pastoral vacancies in one fell swoop

Last April, 55 congregations of the Texas District were calling pastors. By the end of April, 12 calls from those calling congregations had been filled in one fell swoop.

The last week of April, Synod's Council of Presidents (district presidents) placed all available 147 candidates in congregations of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The candidates for the holy ministry were spring graduates of the Synod's two seminaries. Forty-three congregations that had submitted calls were unfilled because the demand for candidates exceeded the supply. In addition, 160 vicars were assigned throughout the Synod.

The Texas District received the largest number of candidates of any of the 35 districts of the Synod, Texas District President Jerry Kieschnick told the Texas District Board of Directors at its meeting in Austin May 23.

Kieschnick said calls for candidates were placed by 14 Texas District congregations. Twelve candidates actually were assigned, with an additional vicar assigned to the 13th congregation. The 14th, the dual parish of Alpine/Fort Stockton, remained unfilled.

Seven of the 12 graduates assigned to Texas were called as assistant or associate pastors, Kieschnick told the directors. He said 42 Texas congregations still are actively involved in the calling process.

In other matters before the directors:

- Kieschnick reported that a search for two mission and ministry facilitators continues, with hopes of having them aboard by Sept. 1. Two already are in place, responding to the district's strategic plan designed to fill a mandate of the last district convention to offer enhanced support for district congregations.

- The directors authorized the district president to begin a search for a director of congregational and worker care for the Texas District to be filled by Jan. 1, 1996. This work currently is being done by three part-time assistants to the president who are at or near retirement and involves helping congregations experiencing conflict.

- Approved appointment to the Joint Board of University Lutheran Center in Austin of Mark DeRemer, St. Paul, Austin, and Matthew Domsch, University Lutheran, Austin.

- Were informed by district Treasurer Marlys Erickson that \$5,000 was released from the district disaster fund to LCMS World Relief to assist victims of the Oklahoma City tragedy. She also told directors that Texas congregations responded well to world missions in the first quarter of the year, with receipts \$20,064 ahead of last year.

- Distributed \$45,000 in proceeds from Volkmann Estates as follows: \$2,000 to World Mission/LCMS ministry; \$2,000 to Texas District Mission Planting Endowment Fund; \$6,000 to replenish funds spent from the district budget for legal fees; \$35,000 applied to the principal of the existing district computer loan.

- Approved Texas District involvement in the Theological Education by Extension pilot project between the Texas District, Southern District and Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind. The project will develop an alternate route for ordination to the public ministry for special areas, ministries and people.

- Elected five members to the board of Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas. They are Hubert Noack, Waco; Lawrence Lieder, Cypress; Joe Gorder, San Antonio; David Howard, Klein; and Buddy Hings, Vernon.

Ways older adults can enhance their outreach efforts

**by Ralph Barkin, member, Older Adult Ministry Committee
Texas District Board of Parish Services**

Genesis 12:3 tells us that we are blessed by God to be a blessing. This is our first Biblical marching order to reach out and bring others into a living relationship with God.

As we begin our working careers, we usually find ourselves in a setting of believers and unbelievers so we have a good opportunity to reach out and invite others to come and see (John 1:46). As we grow older, we tend to associate ourselves more with fellow Christians to the extent we are able and finally as retired older adults we find ourselves almost exclusively with people of "like kind." At this stage of life we spend a lot of time in self-nurture and frankly don't have the time or inclination to reach out to other older adults.

To carry out the Lord's command, perhaps we, as older adults, should consider ways that we can enhance our outreach efforts:

1. Pray regularly for effective evangelism calls (made by others).

2. Attend regular Bible study and invite others. Pray that God will fill the empty chair.

3. Put on events aimed at prospects. Let pastor do the speaking.

4. Design and send cards to prospects of all ages.

5. Equip older adults with witness style. Hold witnessing seminars.

6. Invite friends and neighbors to attend fellowship events, like trips, dinners and plays.

7. If you have a school or preschool you have an excellent opportunity to meet and interact with young parents many of whom are not affiliated with any church.

Genesis 12:3 did not say that we are to be a blessing till we get our "gold watch" and start drawing a pension. We are to use the three gifts that God gives most older adults: TIME, MONEY, HEALTH.



RICHARDSON—James and Beverly Niemann became members of Messiah, Richardson, April 23. Pastor is Victor J. Kollmann.



CORSICANA—Earl and Barbara Miller, he by adult confirmation and she by reaffirmation, along with baby Brittany, are new members of Faith Lutheran in Corsicana. Pastor is Delton Weiser.



THE LORD ADDED—Received March 19 into the forever family at Redeemer, Austin, were these folks brought by adult instruction and transfer. At far left, back, is Mike Naleleha, director of adult education; center, back, is Pastor David Schroder. Far right, back, is Pastor Kevin Westergren.



GREAT JOY—March 26 was a day of great joy as the congregation of Immanuel, Houston, welcomed five adults into membership by confirmation, one adult by baptism and confirmation, and six children by baptism. Pastors are Timothy Carr and Louis Konz.



READY FOR THE KIDS—Lynda Thomas was installed Feb. 26 at St. Mark, Conroe, as prekindergarten day-care director and teacher. She is state-certified in early childhood education and formerly taught in public school. St. Mark opened its day-care center May 1 for 3- and 4-year-olds. At left is Pastor David C. Quail. At right is Bill Fain, chairman of St. Mark Board of Education.

NEW AT BETHEL—Nineteen new members were accepted at Bethel, Dallas, through baptism, confirmation and transfer. Pastors are Donald Berg and Randall Haedge.



Send your news to Bill

Send your photos (color is OK), stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:

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

Concordia commencement is a milestone

The commencement ceremony for Concordia's 69th academic year marked a milestone in its developing history: it was the first time degrees were awarded bearing the seal of Concordia University at Austin, reflecting the new academic status of the school.

The 93 candidates for spring and summer graduation and an overflow audience of more than 1,500 heard commencement speeches from Dr. Bill Segura, president of Austin Community College, and senior Patricia Jean Parker.

Parker, who graduated with a degree in elementary education and also received the Lutheran Teacher Diploma, was selected by her classmates to represent them at the ceremony.

During the ceremony, the Martin J. Neeb Sr. Teaching Excellence Award was bestowed upon Dr. Susan Stayton, a member of the English faculty who has taught at Concordia part time 1964-82 and full time since 1982. The Concordia Council, an advisory group for Concordia, annually bestows the

award upon a member of the faculty who has exhibited the highest qualities of an educator. Dr. Neeb was a member of the original Concordia faculty in 1926.

The following Concordians were named honor graduates, having earned cumulative grade point averages of 3.50 or above: Lisa Bittner of Austin (Redeemer Lutheran Church); Susan Harris Denbow of Austin; Meredith Mann Duke of Austin; Thor Gunnells of The Woodlands (Trinity, Spring); Julie Hoffmann of Arlington (Grace); Georgena Hutto of Buda; Christi Keilberg of Giddings (Martin Luther ELCA); Thomas Milam of Elgin; Robert Musfeldt of Salem, Ore. (St. John); Mary Nebel of St. Louis, Mo. (Concordia, Kirkwood); Kim Peterson of Austin (Grace, Elgin); second-highest ranking graduate Kristi Sawicki of Plano (Our Redeemer, Dallas); Wade Seaver of Auburn, Mich. (Grace); Barbara Thomson of Richardson (Our Redeemer, Dallas); highest-ranking graduate Sheryl Turner of Rockdale; Kristine Kee Urbanovsky of

Austin (Redeemer); and David Willox of Lake Aerial, Pa.

In related commencement activities, Rev. Jesus Gonzales, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church in Galena Park, preached the baccalaureate service on the Friday before Saturday's commencement. Gonzales is a 1970 graduate of Concordia Junior College and the father of 1995 graduate Lonnie Gonzales.

The spring-summer 1995 class included 18 Lutheran teacher graduates, two church music graduates, and three preseminary graduates.

Concordia is now an institution with alumni who are graduates of the high school, the junior college, the college and the university—all under the motto "With God we shall do valiantly."



IMPACT—Lutheran Brotherhood branch manager Robert Beglau (left) recently presented an LB IMPACT check to Concordia's President David Zersen. IMPACT matches LB members' gifts to Lutheran institutions of higher education.



HOMECOMING ROYALTY—Patrick Miller (Grace Lutheran Church, Denison) and Joy Finney Gonzales (Peace Lutheran Church, Galena Park) were named 1995 Homecoming King and Queen at Concordia.



CONGRATULATIONS—Concordia University at Austin announces its honor graduates for 1995 (from left): Sheryl Turner, Georgena Hutto, Lisa Bittner, Robert Musfeldt, Kristine Urbanovsky, Barbara Thomson, Kristi Sawicki, Susan Denbow, Julie Hoffmann, Thomas Milam, Kim Peterson, Christi Keilberg, Meredith Duke, Thor Gunnells and Mary Nebel. Not pictured are Wade Seaver and David Willox. Honors are granted to graduates who have earned 3.50 or above cumulative grade point averages, including grades from the spring 1995 semester.



New president brings changes

With the completion of the first year of the presidency of Dr. David Zersen, several trends have emerged. Three areas in particular have been emphasized during the past year: adult education, bicultural education and distance learning.

In the area of adult education, the Adult Degree Program leading to a bachelor's degree in business management was introduced in January. Under the plan, students with 60 to 70 hours of previous college credit may complete the degree in approximately one year.

Because Concordia's location is geographically ideal to allow it to become the "Gateway to the South" for the Concordia University System, the college is moving toward providing bicultural education for its students. The first step was the initiation of a "semester abroad" program in Mexico City.

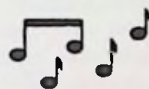
In the area of distance learning, Concordia expanded its educational television offerings to include 13 hours a day of programming on its own television station, Austin CableMaxx Channel 26. With its extensive production facilities, Concordia is readying itself to become a hub for distance learning within the Concordia University System.

The culmination of Dr. Zersen's first year at Concordia was the school's change on July 1 to become Concordia University at Austin.



FULL PROFESSOR—Dr. Bernard Gastler received a commemorative desk clock on the occasion of his elevation to the rank of full professor. With him are Dr. Edna Aguirre Rehbein, Concordia's chief academic officer, and President David Zersen.

Singing homes make singing churches



Concordia University at Austin inaugurated Dr. Bernard Gastler to the rank of full professor at a lecture given to the faculty on May 2. Gastler's specialty as a member of the music faculty is teaching music to children. He is the director of the Concordia-sponsored Austin Children's Choir.

Before joining the Concordia faculty in 1981, Gastler taught for 29 years in Lutheran schools in Texas while serving as minister of music in several congregations. In 1976 he was chosen as Lutheran Teacher of the Year in Texas.

He holds a bachelor of science degree from Concordia College in Seward, Neb., and a master of music and doctor of philosophy in music education degrees from The University of Texas at Austin.

Gastler's elevation to the rank of professor follows an examination of his competencies in teaching and his service to the church and

the world of scholarship.

In his lecture, Gastler pointed to the fact that many college-age students and many new teachers of children have had inadequate training in singing. Their ability to perform with competence differs in this era from that of their counterparts years ago.

Gastler encouraged a variety of settings in which singing again becomes a part of the home and primary school learning environment. Unless this happens, Gastler warned that the musical competence of generations to come will decrease profoundly. "Not only does this have implications for academic and family environments," cautioned Gastler, "but it also bodes ill for our churches. A portion of our communal praise has always been associated with singing."

Gastler retires from teaching duties at Concordia at the end of the 1994-95 school year.

Concordia elected to Adopt-a-School Hall of Fame

At the annual Austin Chamber of Commerce meeting held April 27, Concordia University at Austin was elected to the Hall of Fame of the Chamber's Adopt-a-School program. The program ties businesses, schools and other agencies in supportive ways to public schools in the Austin area.

For the past two years, Concordia has been an adopter of Rosedale School, which serves profoundly mentally and physically handicapped young adults. Students from the Rosedale program visit daily on the Concordia campus.

Several thousand people were present as awards were given to sponsors in the Austin area. The prestigious Hall of Fame Award recognizes Concordia's commitment to the Rosedale students and the service of Concordia students in working with the program.

Daily, approximately 25 students from Rosedale come to the Concordia campus. Some participate in work programs; others are escorted by Concordia students to a variety of activities, including chapel services. Dean of Students William Driskill, developer of the program at Concordia, says, "Students at Concordia learn the meaning of Christian service through their experiential roles with Rosedale students. The long-range impact on their lives as a result of this short-term experience is difficult to measure, but it is clear that many of our students have been profoundly touched."

RESPITE CARE NEEDED!

Every parent knows how difficult it is "to raise children nowadays." But if those children are born either mentally retarded, physically handicapped, or emotionally needy the task is multiplied several times.

One such mother, Sandra Dush of Austin, knows all too well how trying it can be. She's the adoptive mother of 15 so-called "special needs" children. (She also has two biological children.)

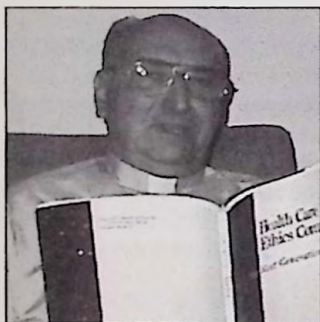


Sandra Dush

Here's the problem: unlike parents of "normal" children, Sandra, and others like her, can't depend on the "nice teenager next door" to baby sit. Parents of these "special" children must depend on other parents who know how to handle the unique personalities and problems of these children.

Under a program funded through the Texas legislature, Sandra is working with LSSS to organize a respite care network of such parents. The network covers 30 counties around Austin. Qualified parents who take part receive monetary compensation.

If you believe you qualify for this respite care, call the LSSS Family Services office in Austin at (512) 454-4611.



Chaplain Gerry Westerbuhr

Health care center for elderly and the question of ethics

When it comes to making critical decisions about health care for the elderly at a nursing home, ethics—moral and medical—play a big part.

"Making Ethical Decisions" was the theme of a recent LSSS chaplains conference. The goal of the conference was to help chaplains see that they are an important part of the ethics issue and should be involved in ethics committees as part of their ministry.

At Lutheran Home—New Orleans, his strong feelings about ethics moved LSSS Chaplain Gerry Westerbuhr to organize an ethics committee. "I have felt for a long time that more can be done to ensure that ethical questions are handled as carefully as possible," says Westerbuhr. "An ethics committee can bring those questions into better focus and

Freedom replaces fear

by Can Truong Phan

About three-and-a-half years ago I had nothing but fear in my life. Fear of being re-captured and detained in the concentration camp ... a place far from the city, in the jungle, the deadly land.

I had always worried about my children's future. They could not go to college or get a good job as they can here, in the United States.

They had been discriminated against because they are the children of an ex-government officer.

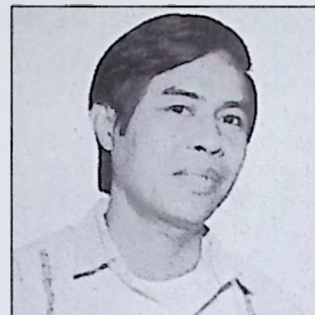
As a former Air Force officer for the Republic of Vietnam, I served as a helicopter pilot during the war in Vietnam. After the "Dark April" of 1975, I was sent to several concentration camps for more than three years. Then spent another year confined at home.

Today, thanks to a special program, I am a free man in a free country, and, oh, how our lives have changed!

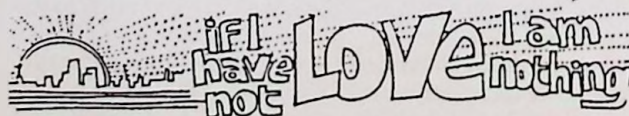
We came here under the protection of the U.S. government through a program that helps ex-political prisoners resettle in this country under the sponsorship of Lutheran Immigration and Resettlement Services, administered by Lutheran Social Services of the South.

I have three children—all good students and nice kids. My wonderful wife always supported me with her spirit and everything I needed while I was in prison, even though she had no work and no public assistance.

Now, I am working for LIRS as a caseworker, helping other refugees. I think of them as I once was.



Can Truong Phan: from concentration camp to caseworker





***From the president of the
TEXAS DISTRICT
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod***

March 10, 1961

LUTHERAN FOUNDATION OF TEXAS
The Texas District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri
Synod

Gentlemen:

In the establishment of the LUTHERAN FOUNDATION
OF TEXAS our beloved District has taken another for-
ward looking step.

Much has been said about TEXAS WEALTH, TEXAS
OIL, and TEXAS GOLD. Our real wealth, of course, is in
the pure Gospel of Christ which we retain, while to the
right and to the left of us this divine heritage has been,
or is being, taken away from man.

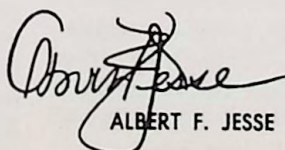
We Texas Lutherans are also blessed as to material
wealth. For the sake of our wealth in Word and Sacra-
ment we will want to turn our material wealth evermore
abundantly into the service of Christ. This may so very
effectively be done through the LUTHERAN FOUNDA-
TION OF TEXAS.

I become enthusiastic as I think of our pastors, teach-
ers, and laymen getting behind the FOUNDATION to
build it to the proportions it can easily attain with the
support of our grateful people.

Think what it would have meant to us today had such a
FOUNDATION been established 25 years ago! Think
what our efforts for the FOUNDATION today will mean
to our Church and District 25 years hence!

As pagan and non-Christian groups are pouring millions
into the winning of converts and continents for their
hopeless religions, we Lutherans, whether numbered
among the so-called rich, or the relatively poor, will want
to find a way to show that Christ can give us grace to
meet the challenge which is before us in this darkening
world. The LUTHERAN FOUNDATION OF TEXAS pro-
vides this opportunity.

The Praesidium of our Texas District joins me in giving
the foundation its unqualified endorsement.


ALBERT F. JESSE

The Lutheran Foundation of
Texas was chartered on Septem-
ber 7, 1960, to serve Lutheran
families and ministries in Texas.
In this 35th year of service, the
Foundation is lovingly remember-
ing the past and eagerly anticipat-
ing the future.

***From the president of the
TEXAS DISTRICT
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod***

March 24, 1995

TO THE TEXAS DISTRICT OF
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

Dear Brothers and Sisters In Christ:

The letter from Dr. Albert F. Jesse, then of the Texas Dis-
trict of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, dated
March 10, 1961, is for me a trip down "nostalgia lane." Pas-
tor Jesse was a significant personality in the life of my wife,
Terry, and in my own life. Terry was born and raised at St.
Paul Congregation in Austin, and I had the privilege of
teaching the fourth grade at St. Paul Lutheran School in
Austin during Pastor Jesse's tenure in office.

To read his words about the importance of the Lutheran
Foundation of Texas, an agency of the Texas District of The
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in whose founding Pas-
tor Jesse played a significant role, is a genuine joy!

The vision of many of the leaders of the LCMS Texas Dis-
trict continues to amaze and to inspire me and many others.
Because of the vision of such men as Pastor Jesse, the Lu-
theran Foundation of Texas, now in its 35th year of exist-
ence, was able to distribute a sum total in the amount of
\$179,003 last year to congregations, agencies, institutions
and ministries throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri
Synod, including many ministries in the Texas District.

As the Foundation celebrates its 35 years of existence, I
am happy to pen these words of commendation, support
and affirmation to the board and staff of the Foundation for
their faithful and fiduciary labors.

In addition, I am pleased to encourage you, the members
of congregations of the Texas District of The Lutheran
Church—Missouri Synod, to support the Foundation
through your prayers and by utilizing the services provided
by the Foundation, which exists to help Lutheran people in
(Continued on Page P.)

NEWS

LUTHERAN FOUNDATION OF TEXAS

(Continued from Page O.)

Texas make the use and distribution of their assets according to their own desires and, in the process, to provide financial support for missions and ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod which otherwise would be unfunded or underfunded.

May the Lord's special blessings continue to abound on the life and ministry of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas and in your life and ministry, my dear friends in Christ.



Sincerely, in Christian love,

Gerald B. Kieschnick, President
GBK/tp

They're doing God's work: give them a stroke or two

by Gerald B. Kieschnick

In the May issue of the *Texas Messenger* we shared some of the information about our trip to Panama and Guatemala.

We thought it would be helpful to share the names and addresses of our missionaries with you.

Please feel free to correspond with them.

Rev. and Mrs. Greg Klotz
c/o Jet Cargo International
P.O. Box 020010
Miami, FL 33102-0010
(Greg, Becky, Daria, John and Nicole)

Mr. and Mrs. Martin Brodbeck
Apdo Postal 1111
Guatemala City (01001),
Guatemala
(Marty, Diane, Bo, Christian and Michael)

Rev. and Mrs. Greg Lorenz
Apdo Postal 1111
Guatemala City (01001),
Guatemala

(Greg, Stephanie, Matthew, Merissa, Daniel and Gregory)

Mr. and Mrs. Tom McWilliams (M-303)
P.O. Box 02-5345
Miami, FL 33102
(Tom, Cindy, Kim, J.C. and Jane)

Rev. and Mrs. Merrell Wetzstein
PSC #07 Box 573
APO Miami, FL 34007
(Merrell and Sandy)

Rev. and Mrs. Don Wiley
Apartado Postal 2070
Balboa/Ancon, Panama
Republica de Panama
(Don, Renee, Gerry and Joshua)

Rev. and Mrs. Don Neumann
Apartado 9711
David, Chiriau
Republica de Panama
(Don and Phyllis)



SEM-BOUND—Two young members of Grace, Killeen, who have just finished an Army tour, are enrolling in LCMS seminaries. At their send-off were Rick Schiffner, left, executive director of Grace, himself retired Army; and Pastor Michael Ramming, right, a Navy Reserve chaplain. The young future pastors are Scott Simpson, center front, and George Schaffer, center rear.

All members get transfer

The official records of Grace, Midland, likely will transfer all members one way or the other, sooner or later.

The records read:

For joining: **TRANSFERS IN.**

For leaving: **TRANSFERS OUT.**

For dying: **TRANSFERS TO HEAVEN.**

Ordained

Steve Farmer, recent seminary graduate, was ordained into the public ministry and installed as associate pastor of **St. Paul, Harlingen, May 28.** He vicared at Concordia, San Antonio.

New church

Crown of Life, Colleyville, dedicated its new church building May 7. Texas District Vice President David Joeckel was speaker. David R. Jung is pastor.

Off the base, into the sem

Grace Lutheran Church in Killeen overlooks the front gate of the Army's mammoth Fort Hood, and many members are military.

When two of Grace's military members recently completed their active duty, there was no hesitation about how they would serve the church now—they have entered LCMS seminaries.

First Lt. Scott Simpson is at the St. Louis sem, and Capt. George Schaffer, along with his wife, Kathy, and four children, is enrolled at the Fort Wayne LCMS seminary. Both were active as members of Grace.

Their decisions to undertake seminary training continue a tradition at Grace of answering the Lord's call to ministry, said Grace Pastor Michael Ramming. In the past 40 years, two other members are now servicing full-time pastorates. Six others have entered teaching or service ministries. And one member is currently on seminary vicarage.



David Friggel, a sixth-grader at Redeemer Lutheran School, Austin, swam away with wins in the Texas state championship swimming meet and in the process broke two South Texas state records and set a new state championship meet record. He won the state championship in the 50- and 100-yard breast stroke, was fourth in the 200 individual medley, eighth in the 50 and 100 free-style and individual medley. A member of the Texas Aquatics Swim Texas team, David also swam relay competition, his team winning a second and a fifth.

Don't get wrapped up with Michael Evens—he just received his school's Most Valuable Wrestler Award. He's a member of Bethel Lutheran, Dallas, and attends school in Delaware. He was one of the school's two varsity wrestlers to qualify for the Delaware state wrestling tournament.

The play's the thing for Todd Frugia, Hope, Winnie, as he was named best actor in district UIL play competition. He also was chosen for the all-star cast in regional competition. Also from Hope, Brooke Bauer made all-district first team in basketball.

Lord of Life, Plano, boasts super-achievers in Catherine Wesebaum who was named Most Outstanding Student in her school's beginning band, and Hilary and Catherine Wesebaum who received superior ratings in their UIL district solo competitions.

Luke Luedke, Zion, Tomball, won first place in the state gym meet and qualified for the six-state regionals.

David Lundquist, King of Kings, San Antonio, has been admitted to the National Honor Society and is on his school's academic decathlon team.

Because of her scholastic achievement, Jennifer Dunne, Lord of Life, Corpus Christi, was chosen to

participate in America's National Teenager Pageant.

Bright kid honors go to Stephen Street, Zion, Fort Worth, who is a National Merit Scholar finalist. A talented musician who plays in a saxophone quartet with his private music teacher,



Stephen

Stephen also is in the National Honor Society, Live Poets' Society and excels in science, especially biology. The young man is a faithful lifetime member of Zion and has a perfect Sunday school attendance record of 12 years. He's Zion's head usher.

Among those achievers at St. Mark, Houston, are Katie Buie, who was named a regional semifinalist in *Teen* magazine's 1995 Great Model Search; Corey Ouslander going to Boys State this summer as a representative of Lutheran High North; Katie Stakemiller, recipient of the "God and Me" Girl Scout



DEBATERS—Amanda Walker, left, and Leigh Ann Tienert, high school seniors, display medals after winning first place in district cross-examination debate. Amanda is vice president and Leigh Ann is president of the Lutheran Youth Fellowship at Mount Calvary, La Grange.

award, and Jasper Jung, who achieved his Boy Scout Eagle award.

Kim Stevens, Ascension, Cleburne, has been named a U.S. Achievement Academy winner in English.

When the regional band festival was over, St. Paul Lutheran School, Austin, had these students named to the concert band: Eighth-graders Nick Keeling, trombone; Krista Achterberg, flute; Tracey Polley, clarinet, and seventh graders Cathy Snyder, mallet percussion, and Betsy Snyder, trumpet. Seventh-grader Kara Mueller, clarinet, was chosen for the symphonic band.

Future church musicians seem to be in the future for Beth Kunkel, 11; Ruth Kunkel, 9, and Christa Scheler, 5, Grace Lutheran, Orange, who all received superior ratings at the Texas Federation of Music Clubs Junior Music Festival. Beth and Ruth already have played the piano for special occasions at Grace, and Christa is waiting in the wings.

Among the talented bunch at St. Paul, San Antonio, are Lydia Carson who was named to the all-star cast after her performance in district UIL one-act play competition, and Jonathan Boerger who was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

Tara Kaspar and her geology project won first place in her school district's science fair. Tara is a member of St. John, Beaumont.

Bright kid honors at Good Shepherd, Pasadena, go to Carolyn Jacobs, Kelli Knus-ton, Christie Schiller and Kristie Smith. All were inducted into the National Honor Society.

At Epiphany, Pearland, Amy Blackburn, Matthew Daugherty and Kyle Wiesenborn all received the Superior Plus (top talent) award at the National Piano Guild auditions.

Kids with horse sense—that's Wesley Campbell and Kim Wende of Zion, Abilene. Wesley placed fourth in the walk and trot class at the Arabian Horse Show in Abilene. Kim and her horse Piquano, placed first in the Liberty Class.

Presentation of the highest rank in Boy Scouting, the Eagle, was awarded Kendall Barron May 21 at Grace, Orange. Other achievers at Grace include Beth and Ruth Kunkel and Christa Scheler who received superior ratings in the Texas Federation of Music Clubs Junior Music Festival April 1.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOMES AND SERVICES, INC. GOOD SAMARITAN CAMPUS

Lutheran Day at the Dome: help set a record

Sunday afternoon, July 23, Houston-area Lutherans and other baseball fans will cheer on the Astros as they battle the San Francisco Giants for Lutheran Day at the Dome, announced Peter Henning, Good Samaritan campus administrator.

"We are hoping to set a record this year and show up at the Dome with a good number of Lutherans," said Henning.

Lutheran Day at the Dome is an annual event, and Be-

thesda/Good Samaritan has won the Astros' award for the largest religious group in attendance in years past.

Proceeds from ticket sales benefit children and adults with mental retardation at the Good Samaritan Campus of Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc., Cypress, Texas.

Mezzanine seating is available for the 1:35 p.m. game. Tickets are \$12 and with your donation, residents of Good Samaritan will be able

to attend.

Look for more information from your church office or auxiliary and plan to join the Good Samaritan residents and other Houston-area Lutherans to cheer on the Astros on game day.

To order your tickets, give a donation, or find out more about other Good Samaritan activities, call Linda Loesch, regional public affairs director at the Good Samaritan Campus, (713) 351-4911.

• Did you know that ...

- There are between 6.2 and 7.5 million people with mental retardation in the United States?
- Bethesda's National Christian Resource Center on Mental Retardation can help you reach out to people with mental retardation in your community?
- Parents, pastors, teachers and others: If you need referrals and information on resources, agencies and services anywhere in the nation, call toll-free 1-800-369-4636.

Tomball and Houston volunteers honored

Good Samaritan's Tomball and Houston thrift stores recently honored volunteers who dedicated many hours of service over the years.

Volunteers from the Tomball store, located at 28575 Tomball Parkway, celebrated together at a luncheon on May 15. The store, which is more than 20 years old, has been under new construction since January to create more space for donated items the store has for resale.

Members of the Houston Chapter of the Good Samaritan Auxiliary who operate two thrift stores in the Hous-

ton area, were honored at a luncheon June 14 at the Good Samaritan campus. The Houston stores are located at 241 W. 19th St. and 5131 Ella Blvd.

Youth volunteers from congregations in the area also were honored. Not only do they enjoy sharing their time and energy at the store, they have the opportunity to fulfill requirements for confirmation classes.

Come and meet the dedicated volunteers who support the children and adults with mental retardation at the Bethesda/Good Samaritan Campus!

Good news from Good Sam

• **Sponsors** for the Annual Greater Houston-area Golf Tournament are still needed for monetary donations and prize items for the raffle. Call (713) 351-4911.

• **Be a Bethesda representative.** Bethesda is looking for someone at your church who will receive information about Bethesda programs. Call 1-800-369-4636, Ext. 539 for details.

• **Visit the Bethesda/Good Samaritan Texas Thrift Stores!** Each store offers donated merchandise at great prices.

Tomball
28575 Tomball Pkwy.

Austin
5111 Burnet

Houston
241 W. 19th St.

Grand Prairie
Hwy. 303/Carrier Cross.

Houston
5131 Ella Blvd.

What's happening on campus?

Find out what's going on at our campus by taking a tour of the Bethesda/Good Samaritan facility in Cypress.

There is always something exciting going on in the classrooms or day programs, so call the main office at (713) 351-4911 to schedule a tour.

• **Thank you AAL!** Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services and the Good Samaritan Campus extends its thanks to Aid Association for Lutherans for the support it offers the residents of Good Samaritan. Thanks!

CELEBRATIONS!

TEXAS DISTRICT



Benjamin Kolodziej is a two-church organist

Rare books, rare organist

A Lutheran organist is the first-place winner in the "Young Organists" competition sponsored by the Dallas-Fort Worth chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

He is Benjamin Kolodziej, 18, member of Faith Lutheran in Plano where he is organist. He also plays for Lord of Life Lutheran in Plano.

Benjamin is a freshman at Southern Methodist University, majoring in organ performance.

Last year, Benjamin was grand prize winner in the SMU annual student book collecting contest. He submitted an essay accompanying 25 books from his collection of old or rare hymnals and songbooks. The oldest book, a Lutheran hymnal published in Hannover, Germany in 1832, was brought to Texas in the mid-1840s.

So what did Benjamin do with his first-place gift certificate? Bought more books, of course.

He is the son of Edward and Annamarie Kolodziej of Faith, Plano, and grandson of Mrs. Julius Krieg, Mount Olive, Corpus Christi.



FLOWER MOUND—Mr. and Mrs. Harold Idecker, members of Lamb of God Lutheran in Flower Mound, celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary March 4.



TOMBALL—Ernie and Mary Eulert will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary July 2 at Salem Lutheran where they are members. Ernie is a lay caller. Mary is retired from the teaching ministry.



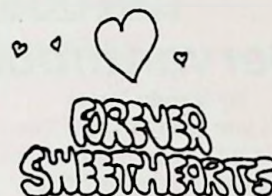
THEIR 50th—Arthur and Lucille Sanchez celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with a special service during worship April 9 at St. John, Houston.



THORNDALE—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mlertschin celebrated their 74th wedding anniversary May 15 in Thorndale. Both were baptized, confirmed, married and currently are members of St. Paul Lutheran in Thorndale.

Blessed are they

Blessed are they who love each other more than any other person in the world and who joyfully fulfill their marriage vow of a lifetime of fidelity as husband and wife.



The following couples of the Texas District are celebrating wedding anniversaries of 50 years or more:

St. Mark, Houston: A.A. and Hattie Tucker, 56 years, April 29.

Gethsemane, Houston: Charles and Mickey Parks, 53 years, May 5.

Mount Calvary, La Grange: Mr. and Mrs. E.A. Roitsch, 57 years, April 20; Charles and Erna Tiedt, 62 years, April 25.

Grace, Arlington: Clif and Lillian Rawe, 58 years, May 27.

Hope, Austin: Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Wagner, 67 years, May 20.

Immanuel, Houston: Clyde and Mable Buckner, 53 years, March 30; Alfred and Esther Herbrich, 57 years, April 17; Marvin and Evelyn Shoup, 55 years, May 30.

Grace, Denison: Mae and Larry Krumm, 62 years, May 20.

Zion, Pasadena: Erna and Charlie Tiedt, 62 years, April 25.

Messiah, Houston: Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Heine Sr., 52 years, May 16; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Doege, 56 years, May 23.

CAN-DO

CAN-DOers in Mexico!

Servanthood goes south

by Randy Potts

As you read this, 135 Texas CAN-DO youth and adults are giving one week of their time to serve at CAN-DO mission sites in the interior of Mexico.

Under the able and enthusiastic direction of coordinators DCE Mark Ziehr, Bethany, Austin; and Rev. Carlos Boerger, St. Paul, San Antonio; the CAN-DOers will give hours of labor and love to expand the Lutheran missions at San Rafael, Potosi and Qujie, Mexico.

The '95 CAN-DO teams will complete the large community center/sanctuary building in San Rafael where they worked last year. They will paint the exterior, raise the cross and complete all interior work. We are excited about the prospect of completing this CAN-DO mission site to provide an ongoing significant outreach to the San Rafael community for years to come. Teams also will work on a parsonage for the pastor at Potosi and lay ground-work for a sanctuary in Qujie/El Hanchichil.

In the evenings, there will be community outreach through "fiesta" nights and worship. CAN-DO teams will live among the Hispanic people, worshiping with them, experiencing their faith and seeing their life.

The CAN-DOers will not only give of their time and labor, but they also will provide \$10,000 for construction and mission support materials for this site alone. We give thanks to God for the passion for missions and servanthood exhibited by the CAN-DO youth and adults from all across Texas, and especially for their leaders and coordinators.



CAN-DO Mexico Coordinator Mark Ziehr, right, with Pastor Juan Cortez at his church in San Rafael. Pastor Cortez loves to play baseball.



Rev. Boerger (far right) with CAN-DO team at sanctuary/community center in San Rafael.



CAN-DOers mix cement the old-fashioned way, with hands of love.

**PASTORS'
WIVES RETREAT**

TEXAS DISTRICT



**Registration form:
THE PASTORS' WIVES RETREAT
of the TEXAS DISTRICT of THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
Sept. 22-24, 1995
Camp Lone Star, LaGrange, Texas**

Name _____ Home phone _____
Address _____
Congregation _____ Anticipated time of arrival _____
Roommate preference _____
(Do you prefer to room with a _____ night owl, _____ an early bird, _____ no preference)
Location preference (SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY) _____ Lodge _____ Cabin _____ no preference
Physical needs—to better serve you (i.e., pregnancy, mobility): _____

Key Bible Verse: "Come unto Me ... and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28).

Bible Study Leader: Nancy Dinger

LCMS pastor's wife, synodically trained teacher, mother of six

Registration fee: \$85 before Aug. 25; \$100 after Aug. 25.

(Widows of pastors, free of charge)

\$ _____ Amount enclosed _____ 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 support, please indicate _____)

Who would you like to become better acquainted with? Please indicate your top three choices:

_____ widows _____ senior/retired _____ empty nesters _____ mothers of young child(ren)
_____ musicians _____ outdoor lovers _____ craft people _____ mothers of teen(s)
_____ grandmothers _____ footloose 'n fancy free (no kids yet) _____ new to ministry
_____ stay-at-home moms _____ mothers of school-age children _____ two-career families

I am willing to participate in the weekend worship experiences in the following way(s). PLEASE REGISTER EARLY TO ASSIST OUR PLANNING. _____ set up altar/communion ware

_____ sing in choir: _____ large group, _____ small group, _____ both _____ voice part;
_____ instrumentalist (list instrument _____)
_____ drama; _____ other: _____

By preference of the 1993 retreat participants, children, including those of nursing mothers are respectfully requested not to attend the sessions. **HOWEVER**, in order to provide a retreat where everyone is able to attend and enjoy the fellowship and Christian love the retreat offers, nursing mothers with children under 1 year old will be permitted to bring their babies. Child care and lodging will be available **ONLY** in cabins.

Should you decide to bring your nursing child, you must agree to abide by the following guidelines:

1. Nursing moms and babies will room together in the outdoor cabins.
2. Camp Lone Star is able to provide babysitting during the retreat so that moms can attend sessions **WITHOUT** their children, whereby no one will be disturbed.

Mothers with special needs children are welcome to bring their children. Our reason for this is that these moms often have difficulty finding weekend-long babysitters for their handicapped child. We would ask that these moms also follow the above guidelines. The committee wishes to provide a retreat where all our women are included and none are inconvenienced.

Please indicate the following: _____ I plan to bring my nursing child under 1 year old.

_____ I plan to bring my special needs child (age _____).

I agree to abide by the committee's guidelines.

Name: _____

Questions: Contact Retreat Chairman Kathy Lentz at (817) 986-1478

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO LCMS TEXAS DISTRICT PASTORS' WIVES RETREAT.

Mail registration form to Mary Kasper, 130 Thane St., Navasota, TX 77868



Installed as Texas District LLL officers were, from left, Norman May, J.R. McDowell and Marvin Urban.

Texas LLLers gather for 52nd convention

LLLers from all across Texas gathered May 5-7 at Concordia Lutheran College, Austin, for the 52nd District LLL Convention.

Activities began Friday evening with a family night gathering. The food for the evening was cookies and banana splits, provided by members of the Redeemer League. The entertainers were the Oak Wilt Boys. They were invited for their third convention entertaining by popular demand.

Rev. Dennis Bragdon, Capitol Zone pastoral adviser, began the Saturday session with a devotion and Bible study.

The welcome and greeting message was given by Forest Saernrow, president of Zone 8, which was responded to by Regional Vice President J.R. McDowell.

Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, president of the LCMS Texas District, gave greetings and encouragement to the league for its ministries serving the Lord.

Int'l LLL President Don Bennett reported on international ministries of the league. He said that Ken Peterson will become the Hispanic ministries supervisor and will live in Panama.

Todd Reineck, also from St. Louis, reported on the congregational partnering with Lutheran Hour Ministries, which is a thrust of "Go—Tell a NEW Generation."

Others on the program were Ken Weiser, Region 10 governor; Pat Biar, president of Texas District LWML; David Lichtenegger, president of the Oklahoma District LLL.

The closing devotion was led by Rev. Henry Biar, district pastoral adviser. At this time he also installed the newly elected officers to serve on the board with Gary Laneman, president; Barry Bielefeldt, treasurer; and vice presidents Robert Johnson, Region "A" North; Orville Helberg, Region "A" South; and Carl Zieschang, Region "D" South.

Concordia preseminary students participated by having the opening and closing prayers for some of the sessions. At the noon lunch they had the opportunity to eat with President Bennett at a special table.

"The Beatitudes" sang several times at session breaks.



The Beatitudes, from left, include Lawrence Oldham, Lonnie Gonzales, Rick Black and David O'Leary.



Rev. Bill Diekelman is president of the LCMS Oklahoma District.



Banquet master of ceremonies David Giles searches his notes for the next story. Giles is a member of Redeemer.

Thanks to Lonnie Gonzales for coordinating the involvement of these students.

Thanks also to two young men who served as pages. They were Chris Daniel and David Sledge, both members of Redeemer, Austin.

The Saturday evening activities included a delicious banquet meal in Texas Hall. Don Bennett used slides to tell the attendees more about Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Rev. Bill Diekelman, president of the LCMS Oklahoma District, gave the special closing in which he related how "Living for Tomorrow" PSAs served in ministering in the Oklahoma City disaster.

On Sunday morning during Bible study period, Rev. G. Kieschnick showed slides and described the trip he and his wife were privileged to take to Panama and Guatemala. Their trip was funded

by a grant to study and review the Synod's world mission outreach.

Diekelman was speaker for the Sunday morning Lutheran Hour Rally worship service. The Concordia College Choir and the "Living Praise" group participated in the service.

During the convention, a special offering was received to fund Lutheran Hour Ministries Oklahoma City disaster relief fund. The offering received amounted to \$1,436.86, which will be matched by Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL).

THANKS

We want to thank AAL for paying for some of the cost of the convention. The league also thanks the many organizations and businesses who displayed items at the convention.

NEWS TO SHARE

We have good news to share with you. KACC Radio, Alvin, Texas, 89.7 FM, is now airing "Woman to Woman" at 2 p.m. Sundays. KYMI Radio, Lamesa, 107.9 FM, is now airing "Woman to Woman" at 7:30 a.m. Sundays.

Send your LLL news to:

Irene Teinert
Information Coord.
1501 Barbara St.
Austin, TX 78757



Prayer warriors needed!

It's halftime! June 30 marked the halfway mark for 1995. Halftime in the sports world means the team takes a break. Midsummer may give us an opportunity to "take a break" from the usual.

Children are out of school. Teachers are filling their hours with activities other than classroom routine. (Although this may not be true for those on year-round school schedules.) Family vacations may be on the agenda. Congregational calendars may be more relaxed. No choir rehearsals, perhaps; or a different Sunday school hour format. LWML societies may not be meeting during the summer.

Taking a break from everyday responsibilities serves a good purpose. It helps prevent burnout. A break gives opportunity to spend some quality time with our loved ones, to reflect on the many blessings we enjoy and often take for granted, to appreciate the magnificence of God's creation, to re-evaluate our lifestyles, perhaps adjusting our priorities.

We pull away from the fast lane for awhile to be refreshed in body and spirit so that we can continue our lives of service with renewed vigor and enthusiasm.

Before leaving July, however, let each of us take time to thank God for our beloved nation! The freedoms we have enjoyed for the past 200 plus years are being severely threatened! Crime continues to rise, rumors of civil rebellion are becoming realities, the economy is un-

stable, moral decay surrounds us, etc.

As Christians, what is our response to this chaos and uncertainty? "If My people, who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and will heal their land" (2 Chron. 7:14).

Be a PRAYER WARRIOR!
Enjoy your summer!

*Pat Biar, President
Texas District LWML*



Mite report

May 1995

1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd May	
(all sources)	11,695
Rec'd to date	
(all sources)	139,549
Needed for goal	116,450
Sent to Int'l LWML	
(May)	2,765
Int'l LWML to date	28,964

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 ninth of month. Fax no. 817-491-0105.



LWR 1995!

The 1995 Lutheran World Relief Drive resulted in an overwhelming 84,312 pounds in 4,354 boxes—the best drive ever, with 11,873 pounds more than last year!

What a beautiful display of love and giving from so many throughout this area.

We thank God for His blessings on this 1995 drive and to Katherine Boone for her guidance and direction.

Mount Calvary, San Antonio, was the collection point for south Texas. Ruth Bralick (ELCA) served as chairman with Barbara Rablee (LCMS) as co-chairman.

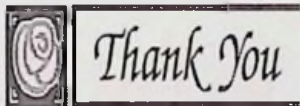
Thanks also to the area coordinators and their helpers.

Central Freight provided free shipping to the world relief warehouse in Maryland, with six Yellow Freight trailers from all zones.

So many gave willingly of themselves and their time to make this effort a success.

To God be the glory!

*Eudoris Weiser, Texas District LWML
third vice president, Mission Service chairman*



Thanks, Shirley

Shirley Baumgartner, former district news editor for the Texas District LWML, stepped in and produced the May issue in THE LUTHERAN WITNESS District News page.

Shirley, you did an excellent job! The Texas District thanks you, and you have my heartfelt thanks.

Charlotte Hughes

New officers needed!

Nominations for officers are needed to lead us from 1996 to 2000.

At the 1996 Texas District LWML Convention, officers will be elected to fill the following positions: president, first and third vice president, financial secretary and members of the nominating committee.

Only societies and zones may nominate. The deadline is Nov. 1.

Send nominations to Shannon Reid, chairman of the nominating committee.

News from around the district

• **The Channel Zone** sponsored an exciting retreat Feb. 10-12 at Camp Lone Star.

Bettye Rosser and Jean Wottrich led a Bible study titled "The Portrait of a Godly Woman."

The study was based on 1 Tim. 4:7-8: "Have nothing to do with godless myths and old wives' tales; rather, train yourself to be godly. For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come."

They covered an inward look (self-examination); an outward look (our service to others); an upward look (looking to our Lord); and an onward look (where do I go from here?).

Those attending were encouraged to portray a woman from the Bible. Some came in costume! A great time was had by all.

Bettye Rosser serves as president of the Channel Zone.



Dolores Bruncke

• **West Texas Zone** Retreat held March 17-18 at Stanton, Circle C Camp.

Also invited were **Heart of Texas** and **Mesquite Zones**.

Dolores Bruncke presented the program "Uniquely You," based on *Beyond the Beauty Trap*. Her presentation was lively. It forced retreat participants to take a good look at themselves and accept themselves as unique and special children of God.

Dolores is a member of Faith, Plano, Dal-North Zone. She has served as district news editor for Texas District LWML and *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* news editor.

Virginia Evers says that "the retreat offered a relaxed opportunity for women to have fun, fellowship and good food!"

• **Zion, Tomball, Golden Harvest Zone**, completed 241 quilts for Lutheran World Relief this spring.

The total weight of their contribution was 1,862 pounds, which included layettes, health kits, school kits, sewing kits, sweaters and soap.

The work was a group project and brought joy in giving to others what God had so richly given to them.

• **Faith, Gainesville**, hosted the spring workshop April 30 for the **Dal-North Zone**.

"A Joyful Noise" was the theme for the day. The program, written by Shirley



Stephanie Lanier



Giovanne Torcincio

New young women reps!

Stephanie Lanier of Somerset (near San Antonio) and Giovanne Torcincio of Bryan were the Texas District LWML Young Woman Representatives to the International LWML Convention held in Kansas City in June. They now eagerly await opportunities to share what they have learned with other women of the Texas District.

Stephanie is representing the southern area of the state and Giovanne the northern area. To contact the young woman reps, write to Rosanne Capdeville. Her address will be located in the 1994 convention manual or ask your zone president. The district news editor also can put you in contact with them.

Sheffield, gave an opportunity to learn about all types of music and musical instruments used to praise our Lord.

Rev. Mike Mattil, Grace, Denison, serves as zone counselor and participated in presenting a portion of

the program with Rev. John Wackler, retired pastor from Ardmore, Okla.

Shirley covered our German heritage by leading us in Christmas carols written by Martin Luther, which we sang in German.



Zion, Tomball, Golden Harvest Zone completed 241 quilts for Lutheran World Relief.



The Second Commandment

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick
President, LCMS Texas District

As a young boy, I vividly remember a number of experiences and events in my life. One of the most vivid is the occasion when my godly and loving mother washed my mouth out with soap. I can remember the bitter taste of that sudsy commodity as if it occurred yesterday, when, in reality, that event took place close to four decades ago.

Although I do not remember the specific words which precipitated that activity, I do know that the mouth-washing was the result of something I said that Mother considered inappropriate and unacceptable.

IN TODAY'S politically correct society, such an activity on the part of a parent toward a child would very possibly be considered abusive in nature. Be that as it may, Christian parents indeed have a significant responsibility to communicate to their children God's holy and perfect will, especially as it is clearly spelled out in the words of the Ten Commandments.

The commandment on which we focus our attention this month is the Second Commandment. You will recall from previous articles in the *Texas Messenger* in this series that we are particularly reviewing the words of Dr. Martin Luther in his *Large Catechism* on each of The Ten Commandments. A few excerpts from Luther's pen concerning the Second Commandment:

"AS THE First Commandment has inwardly instructed the heart and taught faith, so this commandment leads us outward

and directs the lips and the tongue into the right relation to God.

"If you are asked, 'How do you understand the Second Commandment? What does it mean to misuse or take the name of God in vain?' you should answer briefly: 'It is a misuse of God's name if we call upon the Lord God in any way whatsoever to support falsehood or wrong of any kind.'

"THEREFORE what this commandment forbids is



Rev. Kieschnick

matters involving money, property and honor, whether publicly in court or in the market or elsewhere, when a person perjures himself, swearing by God's name or by his own soul.

"THE GREATEST abuse, however, occurs in spiritual matters, which pertain to the conscience, when false preachers arise and peddle

"Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain."

appealing to God's name falsely or taking His name upon our lips when our heart knows or should know that the facts are otherwise. For example, where men take oaths in court and one side lies against the other. God's name cannot be more grievously abused than for purposes of falsehood and deceit. Let this stand as the plain and simple meaning of this commandment.

"Misuse of the divine name occurs most obviously in worldly business and in

their lying nonsense as the Word of God.

"Let us take to heart how important this commandment is and diligently shun and avoid every misuse of the holy name as the greatest sin that can be committed outwardly. For to lie and deceive is in itself a gross sin, but it is greatly aggravated when we attempt to justify and confirm it by invoking God's name and using it as a cloak to cover our shame.

(Continued on Page B.)

The
Lord
will
not
hold
him
guiltless
who
takes
His
name
in
vain

NEWS

COMMANDMENT

(Continued from Page A.)

"THEREFORE, God has attached to this commandment a solemn threat: 'For the Lord will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain.' This means that in no one shall a violation be condoned or left unpunished. As little as God will permit the heart that turns away from Him to go unpunished, so little will He permit His name to be used to gloss over a lie.

"Our young people should be strictly required and trained to hold this as well as the other commandments in high regard. Whenever they transgress, we must be after them at once with the rod, confront them with the commandment and continually impress it upon them, so that they may be brought up not merely with punishment but in the reverence and fear of God.

"TO TAKE God's name in vain is either simply to lie and assert under His name something that is not so or to curse, swear, conjure and, in short, to practice wickedness of any sort.

"In addition, you must also know how to use the name of God aright. With the words, 'You shall not take the name of God in vain,' God at the same time gives us to understand that we are to use His name properly, for it has been revealed and given to us precisely for our use and benefit. Since we are forbidden here to use the holy name in support of falsehood or wickedness, it follows, conversely, that we



UPPER ROOM—During Holy Week, members of Messiah, Houston, built an "Upper Room" for a special Maundy Thursday Lenten service. A "Last Supper" presentation featured narration from Luke's gospel, and disciples, played by church elders and members of the church coordinating council, were costumed to look like subjects portrayed in "The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci.

are commanded to use it in the service of truth and all that is good—for example, when we swear properly where it is necessary and required. So also, when we teach properly 'again, when we call on His name in time of need, or praise and thank Him in time of prosperity.'

"We are not to swear in support of evil (that is, to a falsehood) or unnecessarily; but in support of the good and for the advantage of our neighbor we are to swear. This is a truly good work by which God is praised, truth and justice are established, falsehood is refuted, people are reconciled, obedience is rendered and quarrels are settled. For here God Himself intervenes and separates right from wrong, good from evil. If one party in a dispute swears falsely, he will not escape punishment. Though it may take a long time, nothing he does will in the end succeed; everything he may gain by the false oath will slip through his fingers and will never be enjoyed.

"CHILDREN should be constantly urged and encouraged to honor God's

name and keep it constantly upon their lips in all circumstances and experiences, for true honor to God's name consists of looking to it for all consolation and therefore calling upon it.

"This is a blessed and useful habit and very effective against the devil, who is ever around us, lying in wait to lure us into sin and shame, calamity and trouble. He hates to hear God's name and cannot long remain when it is uttered and invoked from the heart. Many a terrible and shocking calamity would befall us if God did not preserve us through our calling upon His name. I have tried it myself

and learned by experience that often sudden, great calamity was averted and vanished in the very moment I called upon God. To defy the devil, I say, we should always keep the holy name on our lips so that he may not be able to injure us as he is eager to do.

"WE HAVE averted the misuse of the divine name and taught that its right use consists not only of words but also of practice and life. We want (our children) to know that God is well pleased with the right use of His name and will as richly reward it, even as He will terribly punish its misuse."

ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

"I want to pray in a more disciplined way."

Using the prayer structure "ACTS"

Thanksgiving

As we spend a few minutes giving thanks in our prayer time, the focus moves to God's action in our lives and the lives of our loved ones.

We become more aware,

—of how He loves us individually, Rom. 5:8,

—of what He has done for us, Ps. 107:21-22,

—and how He has answered our prayers!

Ps. 91:15

The spirit of thankfulness begun in prayer will follow us throughout our day (Col. 3:17).

Texas District Prayer Ministry Task Force #958



Texas District Mission News

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



**Rev. Ken
Hennings**

Campus ministries offer a variety of experiences

The Texas District has been involved with campus ministry for a long time. Throughout its history, the campus ministries of the district have provided students with opportunities to grow in faith, leadership, servanthood, worship, friendship and evangelism; as well as a place for fellowship and counseling. Today our campus ministries offer students a variety of experiences that prepare them for living in a fast-changing world. The following are a few experiences offered.

SERVANT EVENTS

On almost all our campuses, students have the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people around them. They have fixed the homes of the elderly and poor, worked with Habitat for Humanity and served in soup kitchens. They have even taken trips to Mexico to build chapels, educational buildings, clinics and housing for people of the Lutheran

Church in Mexico. These opportunities allow students to give a helping hand in the name of Christ.

WORSHIP

Campus pastors encourage students to worship regularly either at the campus center or in community churches. At those campuses that offer Sunday morning worship, students have the opportunity to grow in their worship experiences through a variety of settings including Luther's mass, liturgical settings from the hymnal, creative worship, folk mass and contemporary worship. Students also are invited to participate in the worship services using their talents in music, drama, writing, art and other areas.

CROSS-CULTURAL

One of our modern day occurrences on Texas campuses is the growing number of international students. Many are from countries where the church is prohibited from sending

missionaries. Each of our campus ministries is aware of the great opportunity that exists to share Christ's love with these students and their families.

Both students and local congregations can participate in this ministry by being conversationalist partners, attending presentations by these students about their country and customs, including international students in American celebrations, providing a safe environment for international students to ask religious questions, and more. Campus ministers assist in providing interaction between our students and international students.

LEADERSHIP

Leadership development is an important aspect of campus ministry. Students are encouraged to participate in small-group Bible studies, Stephen Ministry and other peer group settings to expand their understanding of relationship building and the use of

their talents as a leader or participant in a group.

If you have students attending the following universities, encourage them to check out one of the campus ministries listed below.

Full-time Campus Ministries:

- Arlington, University of Texas
- Austin, University of Texas
- College Station, Texas A&M
- Denton, University of North Texas and Texas Women's University
- Houston, University of Houston
- Lubbock, Texas Tech

Part-time Campus Ministries:

- Commerce: Trinity for East Texas University
- Nacogdoches: Redeemer for Stephen F. Austin University
- Stephenville: Faith for Tarleton State University

OUR PEOPLE IN TEXAS



FAMILY AFFAIR—Robert and Jean Amundson, Ascension, Cleburne, had the unique pleasure of witnessing the baptism of their two grandchildren, as well as two of their nephews. On April 2, Pastor Ben Rathgeber, baptized, from left, Oren Michael Briggs, son of Nathan and Andrea Briggs; Richard Robert Leonard, son of Christopher and Cherie Leonard; and Jason Shawn and Jared Ray Jones, sons of Anthony and JoAnn Jones. JoAnn is the sister of Robert Amundson, an elder at Ascension.



EASTER—The Sanctuary Choir of Messiah, Richardson, performed the pageant "I AM" between Easter services. There were 100 in the cast and crew. Nearly 600 worshippers viewed the pageant.

PAGEANT—The 37th annual production of "The Easter Triumph" was presented at Palmer Auditorium, Austin, April 15-16. Those present included, from left, Jeffrey Svoboda who played Christ; Dr. Alvin L. Barry, president, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod; Dr. Michael J. Stelmachowicz, pastoral adviser for the pageant; Rev. Jerry Kleschnick, president, LCMS Texas District.



VIDEO MINISTRY—Clayton Goerdel, right, conducts a videotape ministry for Grace Lutheran, Brownwood. This blessing to shut-ins and the ill has been provided by Goerdel for nearly three years. Here he delivers a videotape of Grace worship services to Clifford Hallmark, one of Grace's shut-in members.



NACOGDOCHES—Redeemer, Nacogdoches, recently celebrated its 35th anniversary. At left is the original mission developer, Rev. Dewyth Beltz, with his wife, Esther. At right is Redeemer Pastor James Otte and his wife, Victoria.





Long and winding road leads Elenya to Lutheran church

by Beth Lauterbach
member, St. Paul, Canyon

Elenya Starchenko followed a long and winding road to become a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Canyon. But on Palm Sunday, April 9, she took her place there among those being baptized and confirmed.

Elenya came to West Texas A&M University in Canyon through a scholar exchange program. Her home is in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She is doing graduate studies in international business.

Elenya and her mother and sister did occasionally attend church services in the former Soviet Union. She hastens to add that she came from a religious background. But she and her sister were never able to be baptized or join the church because her father was in the Soviet military, and there would have been reprisals against the family if they had joined the church.

During her university years in her homeland, Elenya's mother died. Elenya talks about how hard it was to accomplish the minimum of two hours of shopping for each week's groceries, to prepare meals for her father, sister and herself, and still maintain the A average she needed to be considered for the exchange program. Her presence in Canyon attests that she did accomplish that! She did have difficulty obtaining her visa to come to the United States since her father had been in the Soviet

military, probably the reason she did ultimately get that visa was that her father retired in the meantime. And that God's hand was already guiding her down that road to her baptism.

At West Texas A&M, Elenya took a French class where she met Susan Caldwell. Susan and Elenya soon discovered they had interests in common. Susan's daughter, Anita, has ancestors that came from the Ukraine. Elenya's family also came from the Ukraine. They shared a common family name, a name quite unusual in the Ukraine. Although they are unable to prove the link, they believe there is a common ancestry between Elenya Starchenko and Anita Caldwell. Susan and Anita invited Elenya to spend a weekend in their home in December. She's been there ever since, a part of their family.

Susan and Anita brought Elenya to worship with them at St. Paul. Over the months Elenya became part of the family of faith at St. Paul, worshipping and attending adult instruction classes with Pastor Wayne Pafk. And on Palm Sunday she was baptized into the family of God and became a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church.

Anita says there is a direct family line linking her with Elenya, but her mother adds that there is no more direct family line than the line that now links Elenya with the family of God at St. Paul and around the world.

For Elenya, the road has not ended. She plans to return to Kazakhstan when her studies are ended, but she will return as a child of God and a member of the family of faith.

Fit her to a T

Sherri Denise Sandifer sort of had her choice of colleges dropped on her.

When Sherri, a member of St. Matthew Lutheran in Houston, was attending a worship service at St. Matthew a few years back, a fellow member, Andy Vickery, dropped a Yale Bulldog T-shirt in her lap. He's a Yale alumnus.

Reacting to this not-so-subtle hint, Sherri applied and was accepted at Yale. She graduated there May 22 with a bachelor of arts degree with honors, majoring in psychology. She begins her studies soon at Yale Medical School and plans to become a pediatrician.

Daughter of Muriel Sandifer



Sherri Sandifer

and the late Jerome Sandifer, Sherri has been an active participant in the youth and music programs at St. Matthew and the Lutheran campus ministry at Yale where she is on the directing committee and was a Malcolm H. Kerr Scholar. She attended the church's school.



REUNION—Trinity Lutheran of Riesel held a confirmation reunion April 9. Present were Lena Becker, left, who celebrated her 75th confirmation anniversary along with her daughter, Ruby Becker Wegwerth, who celebrated her 50th confirmation anniversary. Mrs. Becker will be 90 Nov. 3.

Look at your kids

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

by Randy Potts

Sixty youth and their adult leaders from all across Texas are giving of their time and money this summer to build a new sanctuary for the Mission Emanuel Congregation in Mercedes.

Pastor Ed Weber of Mis-

sion Emanuel said, "The youth are showing a super attitude and a great love for the Lord." Several CAN-DO teams will work at the Mercedes site over a period of four weeks this summer.

The goal is to complete the new sanctuary for this congregation, serving both as a worship space and an opportunity to reach many new families in the community. The two CAN-DO teams from St. Mark's, Lake Jackson, and Zion, Tomball completed the framing of the sanctuary walls the first work week! They will be followed by CAN-DO work teams from Bethel, Bryan; St. John, Athens; Christ the King, Waxahachie; Zion, Walburg; St. John, Lariat; and St. Paul, Waco.

Weber and members of Mission Emanuel are hosting the teams in their homes. Paul Seiler, Laborers For Christ, serves as co-foreman for the project, along with Weber. Paul Miller, director of Christian education, St. Paul, Waco, serves as site coordinator and devotion designer.

It is exciting to see the powerful witness that the CAN-DO youth are making in the Mercedes community, both through the sanctuary work project and the vacation Bible school they are conducting for area children. What a wonderful example of the CAN-DO youth at work making a difference for Christ at cross-cultural mission sites right here in Texas! Here are a few of



CAN-DOers raise the first wall of new church.

their responses to the CAN-DO mission work:

Any doubts that I had before are erased because everyone here is working for Christ. I am really glad that I came because I got to know myself and the people around me better" —Catherine Schulz.

"It reminds me that He can give me strength to accomplish any task no matter how hard it may be" —Maureen Huffman.

"It's a truly wonderful thing to see so many people coming together and working hard without any complaints for the common goal of serving God through building of this church. This trip has given me a chance to grow stronger in my faith by seeing how Christ works through others" —Chris Eddy.

"It is good to know that we are building a church without any pay for the purpose of bringing people into God's family. I have felt a great sense of accomplishment each time we put up a wall be-

cause I actually helped put it together, and I can see the results of our work" —Sean Hicks.

"It was good seeing the teamwork bring us all closer together in Christ" —Chad Lewis.

"It was great to see the appreciation on the congregation members faces as we put up the new church" —Scott Ferry.

"This has taught me not to take things that I have for granted" —Casey Wessels.

"I realize that I am a very lucky person from the people we met while teaching vacation Bible school" —Marci Schiel.

"It was very tiring work, but it was very satisfying to see how the community reacted to us building the new church" —Kevin Williams.

"It is really neat that we can come together for a common purpose to serve others" —Genny Wessels.

(Photos by Chris Eddy, St. Mark, Lake Jackson.)



Casey Wessels gives Ben Albert a hand.



PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

The Lord and Rev. Michael Frick, mission developer, are teaming up to make things happen in Allen. The young congregation of **Immanuel Lutheran** held Commitment Sunday May 21, is planning Charter Sunday soon, has a weekly average of 40 adults in Bible class, 20 children in Sunday school and 100 in worship. Now meeting in the Allen Public Library, Immanuel hopes to have its first building complete by the summer of 1996 and open a preschool.

Bethlehem Lutheran, Palestine, celebrated its 50th anniversary July 9. A former pastor, I. Melvin Newman, was featured speaker. Also attending was Rev. Hugo A. Hannusch of San Antonio, now retired. He was Bethlehem's first full-time pastor in 1945. Paul E. Johnson is vacancy pastor.

Brian L. Bibler was installed June 11 as associate pastor of **Immanuel Lutheran, Temple**. He comes to Immanuel from Elgin, Ill.,

where he was mission developer and pastor of King of Glory. Preacher was Rev. John Austin of Immanuel, Clifton, a seminary classmate of Bibler. Alan Struckmeyer is Immanuel's senior pastor.

Mary Voigt is the new director of celebration ministries for **Gloria Dei Lutheran, Nassau Bay** (Houston). She had been Gloria Dei's volunteer adult choir director for 14 years. She also is a member of the worship committee of the LCMS Texas District.



Voigt

Rollin C. Cattau, director of development for the **Lutheran High School Association of Houston**, has been given the Master Educator Award by Concordia College of Seward, Neb. Cattau is an alumnus of the school. Cattau has given 40 years of service to Lutheran



FLYING HIGH—Sunday school youngsters of Redeemer Lutheran, San Antonio, held this balloon launch May 21. The occasion? Ascension Sunday.

education and has served on numerous synodical and district committees.

Randy Vonderheid, **Peace, Garland**, was named Outstanding High School Journalism Teacher for the state at the state teachers convention April 9.

Carolyn Harris, ministry office secretary at **Gloria Dei, Nassau Bay**, retired May 5 after 14-1/2 years of service. She was honored at worship services May 7.

Janet Matschull with the early childhood program at **Grace, Midland**, was named

Classroom Teacher of the Year by the West Texas Association for the Education of Young Children which recognizes outstanding educators and child advocates in that part of the state.

Zion Lutheran, Fort Worth, will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 22.

The huge Amoco company is transferring 700 employees and their families from other states to the Clear Lake area. The mission committee of **Gloria Dei Lutheran in Nassau Bay** set aside three nights this summer to welcome them with a buffet and information about the community. The first were held on the church grounds June 12 and July 17. Another is set for Aug. 7. Mission chairman Mark Magnuson sees these events as an excellent way for Gloria Dei to "reach out and bring people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ in a way that is fun, informative and casual."

Brent Lucas, **St. Paul, Wichita Falls**, was named "Firefighter of the Year" by the city's fire department.



This is the Tarrant Lutheran Chorale of about 50 members from Lutheran churches in Tarrant County (Fort Worth). Organized in 1989, its mission is to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ. The group did two Easter concerts in April and last summer did a singing tour in central Texas and plans another this summer. It is available by invitation for all occasions. Call Charlene at St. Paul at (817) 332-2281, or Dolores Goll at (817) 428-6875.

How gifts support missions

by Bill Siegrist
CEF Director of Development

Where were you and what were you doing during the summer of 1982? If you were in a leadership position of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the Texas District, you probably spent three days in June in Dallas.

There were numerous resolutions approved at this 49th convention of our district. One approved resolution has had a dramatic and positive effect on mission activity and outreach in the Texas District during the last 13 years.

Resolution No. 9-3-82

Subject: To encourage additional congregational support of the Texas District



Siegrist

Whereas, A growing number of our congregations are placing the Church Ex-

tension Fund in their budget; and

Whereas, The Church Extension Fund actually serves as a form of subsidy for mission; therefore be it

Resolved, That all congregations be urged to designate 1 percent of their total budget for the Church Extension Fund to the Texas District and inform the district of this action.

In the last 13 years, many of our congregations have consistently designated 1 percent of their budgets to the CEF Capital Fund. The following questions and answers will provide you with an overview of the benefits

and results of this vitally important ministry.

1. How has the CEF Capital Fund been used in the past?

The CEF Capital Fund has been used to provide the strength, stability and continuity for the Texas District Church Extension Fund to exist. The CEF does not have the federal government's ability to print money if it runs short, or to receive FDIC insurance in case of "hard times." The CEF Capital Fund is the "insurance" that is necessary for the CEF to carry on its efforts on a long-term basis. All other monies that the CEF receives costs the CEF in terms of interest and administrative cost. This fund has been the "lifeline" of CEF. Without it there would be no future sites and special low-interest loans to mission congregations would be practically nonexistent.

2. How will the CEF Capital Fund be used in the future?

The same way that the fund was used in the past—although it is anticipated that the CEF goals of expanding God's kingdom in Texas will be enlarged, and the fund would enable the CEF to do that. The CEF Capital Fund will continue

to provide a base to make loans to churches at lower interest rates.

3. How else will gifts to the Capital Fund be used?

The Capital Fund will serve to undergird the strength of the total Church Extension Fund and help increase the earned interest available for the mission and ministry of the district. Gifts also provide the needed funding for future advance sites and lower interest rate loans for mission congregations.

4. If I am a current CEF investor, how would a bequest in my will be stated?

Here is a sample of a bequest recently used by a longtime CEF investor:

I give, devise and bequeath to the Texas District Church Extension Fund of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Texas District, Austin, Texas, all monies I have invested with them for the CEF Capital Fund.

You are encouraged to consult with your attorney for assistance in drafting the necessary documents to complete your Christian estate plan.

5. What is the benefit to the LCMS Texas District when I give to the CEF Capital Fund?

Your gift never ends! It continues to earn money that will be used to support the Texas District mission program. It will allow the church to better fulfill its



**Come Join Us
In Making
A Difference!**

primary mission and bring the Gospel to even more people in the district and beyond our borders. It also will allow CEF to assist mission congregation with loans. Finally, it will mean funds forever, which will allow for innovative approaches to be tested to help the church grow!

Already in 1995 several district congregations and individuals have provided funding for the CEF Capital Fund. This funding was made possible through the sale of estates, gifts, bequests, legacies and from the gain on the sale of property. There are a variety of substantial tax benefits for those who make a gift to the CEF Capital Fund. For more information about these tax advantages, contact your CEF congregational representative or Glenn Pittsford, Lutheran Foundation of Texas, at 1-800-880-3733 or Bill Siegrist.

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



Have snorkel, will travel

Concordia professor helps students experience nature naturally

If you have occasion to talk to Concordia biology professor Laurence Meissner, you may have to look elsewhere than Beto Hall, the science classroom building. He might be in the Guadalupe Mountains or the Piney Woods of Texas or in the Grand Canyon of Arizona. You might even find him in Hawaii or Belize.

He will be surrounded by students, examining the plant and animal life of the region. You see, Meissner believes in first-hand learning, studying nature naturally, in its own environment.

"I don't believe the traditional concept of education—a teacher lecturing in a classroom—produces the best results," Meissner says. "My best teaching is done under God's open sky. And it's fun! Learning should be fun for the teacher and the students. They remember more when the learning experience is positive and immediate."

Meissner also indicates that the field classes give students an incomparable insight into environmental problems, as they see with their own eyes the negative impact man can have on nature. "The sight of raw sewage dumping into the waters of the Caribbean sends a strong message," Meissner comments.

The actual course titles of Meissner's "outside" classes are Tropical Biology, Geology and Ecology of the Southwestern United States, and Geology and Ecology of Hawaii. The latter two are co-taught with Professor Ted



LOBSTER, ANYONE?—Professor Meissner gives new meaning to "hands-on learning."

Zoch. The two men also lead a revolving series of four-day field biology mini-courses to study the ecosystems of selected areas of Texas.

Lest anyone think that the trips to exotic locations amount to little more than guided vacation tours, the Concordia *Catalog* descriptions should be noted: "...Requires extensive physical exertion and 'roughing it.'"

The "roughing it" can include hiking up to 10 miles a day or snorkeling for several hours, sleeping in tents or under the stars and often eating campfire meals. (Meissner is famous among Concordia students for his "campfire stew"!)

The trip to Belize to study tropical biology is comparatively luxury-

filled, since the Concordia group stays in barracks at a biological research station and enjoys a diet of tropical fruit, fresh fish, black beans and rice. "They put in electricity this year, and the station's outhouse even features a view—a window facing the Caribbean," Meissner laughs.

Students in the courses complete study guides and are tested, just as in a classroom situation. After a full day of activities, they spend night hours discussing their scientific observations, before closing the day with devotions. These worship times often become mission outreach opportunities, as the Concordia group is joined by natives from the area. "I see the worship as-

pect of the trips and the closeness it brings to the group as of equal importance to the studies," Meissner says. "God's natural surroundings beat any cathedral in the world!"

Meissner also indicates that a benefit to him of the trip to the tropics is the contact it gives him with Third-World people, allowing him to bring personal insight to his role as a member of the LCMS Board for Mission Services.

Meissner sums up his teaching philosophy by citing a quote from naturalist and writer Henry David Thoreau: "Study nature, not books. If only books, you will not understand nature."

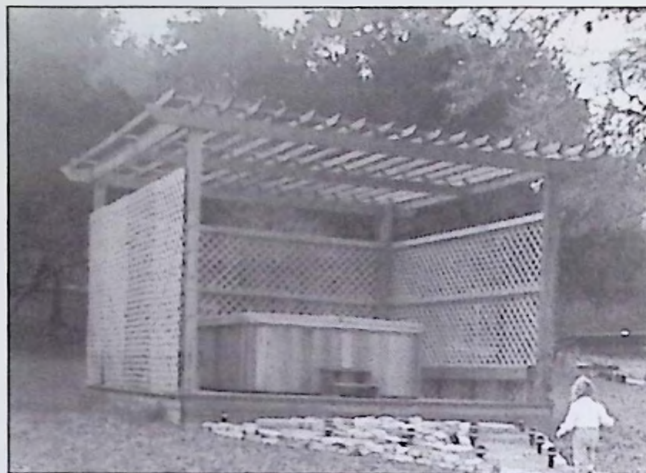
The hot tub is back!

Thanks to the Men's Club at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Houston, the hot tub is back in place at Camp Lone Star in La Grange.

The tub is located outdoors between the Johnson Retreat Center and the new Koop Activities Center. It is available for use by groups and organizations that are attending a retreat or event at the camp.

The Gloria Dei Men's Club provided the design, labor, materials and funds to install the new tub earlier this year.

Thanks, guys!



The new hot tub at Camp Lone Star

Singles



Families

Still time to register for singles Labor Day retreat

There's still time to register for the annual Fall Singles Retreat at Camp Lone Star in La Grange on Labor Day weekend.

The presenter will be Rev. Bill Dasch, senior pastor of St. Mark Lutheran Church in Houston who will deal with topics like stress, relationships of friends and



family, and other relevant subjects to single people. There will be fellowship, singing, worship, Bible study, canoeing and time on the challenge course. All singles are welcome so invite and bring a friend.

For more information and a registration form, contact Rev. Henry Biar at Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or (409) 247-4128.

Two RV-tent family retreats this fall will have lots to do

LOMT has two RV-Tent Family Retreats scheduled this fall and you are invited.

The first retreat will be held Sept. 8-10 at Lake Somerville State Recreation Area at the Birch Creek Unit in Somerville. (Lake Somerville is just north of U.S. Highway 290 near Giddings, between Austin and Houston.) Recreation available includes swimming, fishing, horse trails and lake use.

The second retreat will be held Oct. 20-22 at Wolf Creek Park on Lake Livingston in Coldspring, about 60 miles northeast of Houston.

Activities available include fishing, swimming and an 18-hole golf course.

Both retreats will include Bible study, fellowship and a Sunday morning worship service.

For more information and a registration form, call 1-800-926-5968.





BUILDERS—Josh Matthys, right, one of Grace Lutheran's young building volunteers, remembers all the hard work as he visits with Doris and Jack Callicotte, members of Laborers For Christ who helped build the new school and renovate the sanctuary.



NEW LOOK—The skyline of Killeen was changed with the addition at Grace Lutheran of a new school building, left, and a renovated sanctuary. Grace sits at the entrance to Fort Hood.

Anniversary, dedication held by Grace Lutheran, Killeen

Members of Grace Lutheran, Killeen, observed the 40th anniversary of the congregation and dedicated a new school building and an enlarged and renovated sanctuary April 2 as the first phase of their \$2.2 million expansion.

Located near the Army's Fort Hood, the Grace family is made up of a high percentage of military families and retirees.

District President Jerry Kieschnick was guest speaker at the celebration services. Pastor is Michael E. Ramming. Loren Stroup is building committee chairman.

The project cost \$500,000 and was funded by the Texas District Church Extension Fund, erected by volunteer church labor, subcon-

tractors and Laborers For Christ.

Two more phases of the planned expansion call for more educational and meeting space, child-care facilities, a gymnasium and fellowship kitchen.

Grace Lutheran School offers prekindergarten through the fifth grade and has 152 students with a faculty of 15. The church has 441 communicants and 675 baptized members.

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

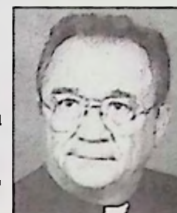
On pastor's mind ...

Ducking church is a sin!

by Jim Linderman, pastor
Christ Lutheran, Austin

The other day I heard two of our members talking about the number of cars that were parked in parking lots in and around a local Catholic Church. One commented that the reason that they have such large crowds is because they teach their people that it is a sin not to go to church.

• I couldn't stand it any more, so I asked, "Who told you that it is not a sin for a Lutheran not to go to church?" They thought for a moment and one remarked, "I guess you have a point."



Linderman

It IS a sin not to go to church when you are physically able to go (of course we are speaking about Sunday worship).

To say "no" to the Holy Spirit is always the most serious of sins. Not only are we failing to take this opportunity to give appropriate

honor and respect to God, but we are cutting ourselves off from His Word and sacraments through which the Holy Spirit comes to us and without which we soon die.

• Make no mistake! Not to attend Sunday worship service when you have the opportunity to do so and are physically able **IS A SIN.** (Commandments 1 and 3 would apply.)

From *By The Way* newsletter of Christ Lutheran, Austin



OZONA—Charles Huffman was ordained April 9 at Faith Lutheran, Ozona, and installed as its pastor. Participating were, from left, back, Revs. Ken Holdorf, liturgist; Carroll Kohl, officiant; John Hafermann; Gary Boye; and Vicar Dennis Kitzmann. From left, front, Deacon Gary Caulkins; Huffman; Rev. George P. Ascher, preacher; Rev. Fred Darkow; and Rev. Herb Kluck.

YOUTH

Our bright Lutheran kids ...

Greta Graumann, 12, is the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Wayne Graumann of **Salem Lutheran, Tomball**. A student at Salem Lutheran School, she was named a finalist in the Pre-Teen South Texas State Scholarship and Recognition program, involving Texas' top 10 percent of academic students. Among the 116 girls participating, Greta received the first place trophy for volunteer service to her church and community. And she was chosen as one of the top 12 exemplary young women in Texas!

Congratulations to Jennifer Dunne, **Lord of Life, Corpus Christi**, who was placed on her high school's permanent honor roll for academic achievement during her four years.

The achiever crowd at **Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio**, includes Andrea Tews, awarded a National Merit Scholarship and full scholarship to Texas A&M University. She was third in her graduating class. Also, Alana Sharp, voted "most talented" by her classmates and chosen for the all-state choir. Also, Ryan Reese, best student award in Theology I at a parochial high school.

The best you can be! That's Emily Sloan of **Lamb of God, Humble**, who graduated from high school as class valedictorian.

Grace, Midland, honored its graduating seniors with a dinner. They included Danny

Cadra, two years on the all-state band and a music scholarship to Texas Tech. He has played with the Odessa College Band, Big Spring Symphony and Midland/Odessa Symphony. Also, Laura Karnis, a UIL Scholar, National Honor Society, three varsity letters in soccer, captain one year; and Amy Long, academic letterman, winner of both Optimist and Rotary awards, Texas Scholars and student council.

Melinda Reimer, **King of Kings, San Antonio**, was elected to the National Honor Society and chosen chaplain for her dance team.



Hillary

Bright kid honors at **Grace, Killeen**, go to Hillary Matthys and Jennifer Lucht, seventh graders both of whom have been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

Jennifer

Let's keep our eyes on Stephen Street of **Zion, Fort Worth**, who was voted "most likely to succeed" by his graduating classmates.

Michael Ahlert, **Ascension, Cleburne**, placed second in his school's spelling bee and first in math competition.

For school spirit, respect

for the school and its teachers, and the highest GPA in her class, Amber Hixson, **Grace, Denison**, won the school's All-Around Student award.

The gaggle of achievers at **Hope, Austin**, include Sara Buchhorn, all-district honorable mention in softball; Jeff Curington, district band with his trombone; Lynn Glienke, school concert band; Julie Kokel, achievement awards in physics and Spanish, and voted "most outgoing" in her senior class; Philip Kokel, National Junior Society; Kara Mueller, district band in clarinet.

Tim Cook, **Our Savior, Austin**, received a football scholarship to Tarleton State.

Good scouts all! At **Concordia, Bedford**, William Kipp received scouting's God and Family award, while Andrew Knipp and Kyle Mingus received the God and Me award.

Trey Domann represented his graduating class at **Lutheran High North, Houston**, as valedictorian. David Souders was salutatorian.

And at **Lutheran High School of Dallas**, Stephanie Allmon and Ben Wells were named co-valedictorians and Sam Rahberg was salutatorian.

The graduating seniors, members of **Our Redeemer, Longview**, claimed top achievement awards. Jodi Hawthorne made the Spanish Honor Society and was on the UIL math and science teams. She wants to be a me-

chanical engineer. Jeff Deyke was a varsity basketball player on a bi-district champion team. He's a scholarship winner who will study video and sound technology. Derek Eberly graduated in the top 25 percent of his class. He played two years of varsity football and is in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and was a Globe and Presidential Scholar. Anna Bell's classmates elected her "Super Effort Student." She was outstanding student in home-making.

James Wiechman, Jr. received the outstanding student award in agricultural mechanics. Timothy Handrick was inducted into the National Honor Society. And Heidi Handrick was chosen top volunteer by the Wichita General Hospital Junior Auxiliary. T.J. Handrick won the academic athlete award. Jace Cambell, Jacob Truette, Bradley Ward and Brian Ward all won top ratings in UIL music competition. And Jennifer Ward was accepted into the 1995 Spectrum Program that allows a high school junior to attend college classes. All belong to **St. Paul, Wichita Falls**.

Seventh-graders Jeffrey and Jeremy Gribnau, **Holy Cross, Nederland**, were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

Ryan Day, **Redeemer, Beaumont**, was valedictorian of his graduation class.

Heath Novosad, **Trinity, Sealy**, won a \$500 all-college scholarship from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL). He will receive it annually for four years.

YOUTH

TEXAS DISTRICT



Our bright Lutheran kids ...

Melissa Kelm, 15, member of **St. Paul Lutheran, Plainview**, is a bouncy kind of young woman. In



Melissa

fact, she's the recipient of American Tumbling and Trampoline Association's All-American Achievement Award. Only 14 athletes across the country got it. The award went to scholar-athletes with a 3.50 or better G.P.A. Melissa's was 4.92 this school year with two honors. She also was named a United States National Award winner in mathematics. She'll be in national competition in Denver this summer in trampoline.

* * * * *

That gaggle of awesome kids at **Faith, Huntsville**, just about cleaned out the prize shelf at the Walker County Fair. Sarah Register was chosen Fair Queen and was 13th in the lamb show. She was first in essay in the academic rodeo and runner-up in metal working. Michael Clay Wunderlich showed the grand champion heifer and received the Herdsman Award. Jeremy Ritter was 17th in the broiler division. Joey LeMay was sixth in academic rodeo and third in math bee. Kyle Wingo won first in the math bee. And Claudia Nash placed third in quilts.

* * *

Bright kid honors at **Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls**, go to Amy Nicholas, Gabriel Boyd, Kyle Marten, Nicholas Whittington and Phillip King—all inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

* * *

A court of honor ceremony May 21 saw Daniel Frank, **Our Savior, Austin**, receive the Eagle Scout Award.

* * *

Among the young achievers at **Crown of Life, San Antonio**, are Bethany Wiatrek and Ben Williams, inducted into the National

Honor Society; Leslie Miller, chosen for her school district's honors orchestra for her viola playing and also chosen for the Junior Honor Society; Brittany Mellum who swam in the Junior Olympics and was individual high point winner in the 13-14 age group.

* * *

Aaron Cordes, an eighth grader from **Epiphany, Houston**, won the grand



TOP SCOUT—Jared J. Hepp, **Grace Lutheran, Killeen**, became an Eagle Scout March 18. He led his troop in conducting a clothes drive for "Families in Crisis" of Killeen, a shelter serving the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. They collected, sorted and delivered more than 3,500 pieces of clothing.



BUSY KIDS—Youth of **Messiah, Richardson**, hustle to bring food to some 700 diners at an Easter meal. Bill Dwyer, **Messiah** member and manager of **Dallas' Medillon Hotel**, made the meal possible. A free-will offering went to the youth for their **CAN-DO** projects this summer, and they reciprocated by doing the serving and cleaning.

prize in the Rotary's district drug awareness essay contest. He received a trip to Disney World, a computer and a season pass to Astro-world. Jimmy Hilton, also a member of **Epiphany**, received an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy, one of 1,200 chosen out of 11,000 applicants.

* * *

Brad Gibson, **Holy Cross, Midland**, received his Eagle Scout Award April 23. His community service project was constructing and placing four benches in the courtyard of a neighborhood elementary school. He's an honor student and on his school's football team. He's also treasurer of **Holy Cross'** youth group.



Brad

He's an honor student and on his school's football team. He's also treasurer of **Holy Cross'** youth group.

* * *

Jessica Hobratch, **Zion, Walburg**, and Kelli Pittsford, **Our Savior, Austin**, are two of five Georgetown high schoolers chosen to represent their city this summer at an 11-day National Young

Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.

* * *

Some heavy-duty arguments won third place for Shawn Slayton, **Trinity, Shamrock**, in the UIL Lincoln-Douglas debate competition. The debated topic was "Should Rehabilitation Have Higher Priority than Retribution in the American Criminal Justice System?"

* * *

Spring high school graduate Victoria Day Moore, **Hope, Austin**, played on the school's girls softball team for three years, receiving second-team all-district honors and earning all-academic honors her junior and senior years. She's a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes and likes biology. Also from **Hope**, Julie Ann Kokel had the highest average in her class in physics and Spanish her senior year, and geometry her sophomore year. She's in the National Honor Society and graduated in the top 5 percent of her class. Her hard work earned her \$2,650 in scholarships. She'll attend Texas A&M University. And she was part of a Servant Event to Mexico.

SECOND-CAREER PASTORS IN TEXAS

Terry Christie writes—

Before Ron (Rev. Ron Christie) entered seminary, I taught grade school for approximately five years. However, I hadn't taught after 1980 when our second child was born. I kept busy with two kids at home.

We were fortunate to sell a house to finance some of our seminary costs. When we arrived in Fort Wayne, I found work at a day-care center while Ron worked part-time at the seminary gym. Then the Lord blessed us with our third child, and I quit full-time work.

After Joanna was born, I worked part-time at the seminary switchboard until Ron went on vicarage. During his fourth year, I worked full-time at the seminary. We were strapped financially like all seminary families. We took out \$10,000 in student loans, which we are still paying on! Our home congregation and Southern California District gave us nothing toward our expenses.

Our families supported us with, I believe, about \$100 per month. We also had support from a congregation in southern Indiana, which came to about \$25 per month. Financial aid through the seminary itself was very supportive, especially during the fourth year.

Our family adapted well to the experience. Our children were quite young and so the moves went smoothly as far as new schools, friends and all.

The support of other seminary families is so helpful. It is an exciting time, though frustrating at times. Every-



one's goal of serving Christ is a definite bond.

Ida Turner says—

Before my husband entered Concordia College, St. Paul, and the seminary, I was working full time at Shell Oil Research and Development Company in Houston as a laboratory technician. It was a very promising career. We had moved into a new home in Sugar Land, Texas, and our children, Deanna and Richard, were attending their first years in school.

When my husband, Richard, told me that he was interested in going into the ministry, I was totally shocked. I thought he was happy with his career, which was security coordinator for the Fort Bend Independent School District. I knew that we would have to give up our new home, and I would have to leave my job.

But at the same time, I deeply loved my Lord, and I knew that if this was God's will, then He would open the way for my husband to become a clergyman. My husband and I prayed together and asked our Lord to guide us. We put our house up for sale in the summer of 1980. The house was sold within a month, and this was during a time when inflation and home mortgage interest rates were at their worst. My husband and I both quit our jobs and headed for St. Paul,

This is the final article in a series on second-career pastors and their families. We conclude the series with stories from two pastors' wives, Terry Christie of St. Luke, Sweeny, and Ida Turner of Redeemer, Baytown. We hope their personal experiences will help others understand the role of a pastor's wife and seminary student's wife.

Minn., where my husband would be a full-time student (he needed a bachelor of arts degree before entering the seminary).

Even though the Lord opened the doors for my husband's career change, the road was rough. Besides some opposition (from family and friends), an environmental change (we had never lived up north before) and financial hardship (jobs were scarce and I had to take whatever was available: secretarial/office work), our experience at Concordia, St. Paul, was the most pleasant and loving.

We became closer as a family. We learned to enjoy simple things in life like playing games together and trying out new experiences/adventures together like going down a steep hill on a toboggan.

Also, most important, we made lasting friendships—these friends are considered as part of our family.

These experiences extended throughout our years in the seminary. Although we were sad to leave each place (we moved from St. Paul, Minn., to the seminary in St. Louis and then to the seminary in Fort Wayne), we were always able to adjust with the help and support of our new friends.

"Financially, we learned to live without. We received financial support from our parents, home congregation and the Texas District, and

we also had to rely on several student loans.

Both seminaries had a food bank, clothing bank and support groups for "sem wives" which made it a little easier to deal with our financial and personal problems. There were several social events for the seminary families—some sponsored by the seminary and some we did on our own (for example, we had our own weekly Bible study and holiday get-togethers).

"As our children got older, their adjustment to a new environment became more difficult. At times they were very angry that we had to move, because they didn't want to leave their friends. But in retrospect, this has helped them tremendously now that they are both away from home in college. They have been able to bond with new friends quickly.

Accomplishing my husband's career change was not easy. There were times when the emotional, physical and financial stress seemed so unbearable that we thought about just quitting altogether. Yet my husband and I can honestly say that we don't regret one minute of it. He is now very happy being a pastor to a very loving congregation, and we both love serving our Lord at our fullest capacity. We thank the Lord that He has made this possible.

CELEBRATIONS

TEXAS DISTRICT



TWO RETIRE—A dinner honored Lorraine Stark, church secretary, and Walter Stark, custodian, at left, as they retired from service at Tree of Life Lutheran, Garland. With them is Pastor Donald R. Hefta and Barbara Hefta.

Give your retiring workers their deserved recognition

Congregations, organizations or agencies of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod from time to time experience the retirement of faithful workers. Those in responsible positions of leadership in such settings have been encouraged by Texas District President Jerry Kieschnick to plan and carry out appropriate celebrations of thanksgiving to the Lord for the faithful service of their retiring workers.

"What a wonderful treasure we have in the pastors, educators and other workers in the church! What a beautiful opportunity the church has to express appreciation to these workers for their faithful service at the time of their retirement," Kieschnick said.

Grant for new Lutheran high

Lutheran High School San Antonio has received a \$1,000 New Connections grant from the Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation. The grant will be used to purchase audiovisual equipment for use when the new high school opens in August. It is San Antonio's first Lutheran high, the largest city in Texas that did not offer Lutheran high schooling.

During its first year of operation with a freshman-only student body, Lutheran High School San Antonio will offer college preparatory classes to the ninth-graders, and will add a grade for each of the next three years.

The new school is located on the campus of Concordia Lutheran Church, 1826 Basse Road. Two classrooms, a gymnasium, cafeteria service and administrative offices are available for the school's first year. Playing fields near the Concordia campus are being reviewed for future athletic use.

Lutheran High School San Antonio is being operated by the San Antonio Lutheran High School Association, made up of six LCMS congregations. They are Crown of Life, Redeemer, Shepherd of the Hills, Concordia, Holy Cross and King of Kings.

McAlLEN—Eric and Elizabeth Kappler observed their 60th wedding anniversary June 2. Members of St. Paul, McAllen, they have 10 children, 30 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



ANNIVERSARIES

The following couples of the Texas District recently celebrated wedding anniversaries of 50 years or more:

Trinity, Alice: Fred and Nora Fink, 50 years, May 12.

Zion, Alamo: C.B. and Esther Chandler, 54 years, Aug. 10.

Trinity, Sealy: Leroy and Berneatha Schaare Sr., 56 years, May 14.

Redeemer, Baytown: Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Wilson, 60 years, May 10; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Lawyer, 50 years, May 26.

Ascension, Cleburne: Johnny and Gloria Amundson, 50 years, June 26.

St. Paul, Bishop: Mr. and Mrs. Gus Schrader, 54 years,

June 21.

Grace, Arlington: James and Dora Minyard, 52 years, June 20.

King of Kings, San Antonio: Oscar and Evelyn Steelhammer, 61 years, April 1; E.R. and Louise Nordmeyer, 60 years, May 31; John and Adeline Oswald, 57 years, May 1.

St. Paul, Magnolia: Elmer and Alma Klenk, 56 years, June 11.

Gethsemane, Houston: Leland and Frankie Lee Lawson, 60 years, June 29.

Trinity, Sealy: W.F. and Esther Thornton, 56 years, June 18; Jessie and Lillie Wittenburg, 55 years, June 26.



TWO EAGLES—Grace Lutheran, Orange, now has two Eagle scouts. Kendall Barron, right, was awarded scouting's top rank May 21. Sam Watters Jr. became an Eagle earlier this year.

LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES OF THE SOUTH



F.C. "Frank" Whitmore, left, joined his father-in-law, F.C. Winkelmann, for the dedication of the KMLV Health Care Center. The center was named for Winkelmann's wife and only child.

In loving memory

In Brenham, F.C. Winkelmann is known by his friends as a kind and caring man.

F.C. and Floy Winkelmann were among the first couples to move into one of the brand-new cottages of the E.F. and Bertha Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village (KMLV) in 1991. They looked forward to many years of "taking it easy for a change."

Like other native Washington County, Texas, residents, living their retirement years at KMLV meant they could be close to family and friends.

But that wasn't to be. Their only child, Jean, was called home to the Lord unexpectedly in 1992. Then, almost two years after moving into the Village, the Lord sent for Floy.

F.C., in his desire to help ensure that the elderly can receive care in a Christian environment, made generous gifts to the KMLV Health Care Center. In appreciation, LSSS offered Winkelmann

the opportunity to name the center.

On Sunday, June 4, at a special ceremony, the health care center, home to 47 elderly residents, became the Mrs. F.C. (Floy) Winkelmann and Jean Winkelmann Whitmore Health Care Center, in loving memory of his wife and only child.

F.C. Winkelmann still lives in his "Kruse Village" cottage and enjoys the company of his two grandchildren and son-in-law, F.C. "Frank" Whitmore, a retired doctor of physics, Blinn College, Brenham.



Another cottage has sprung up among the flowers and trees at Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village.

During the summer, children 18 and under can enjoy a healthy lunch each day as part of a special program at Ruth's House.



Ruth's House wins federal grant to aid hurting families

The emergency assistance ministry of Ruth's House in Houston has received a well-deserved boost. A federal grant of close to \$250,000 has been awarded to the ministry which helps families in crisis—as many as 500 individuals and families each month!

"We worked long and hard to get the grant," said LSSS Regional Director Donna Mora. "This will allow us to provide assistance to people who suddenly and unexpectedly find themselves in a financial bind."

The grant will be spread over a three-year period and will include funds for things like rent assistance, transportation, job training and child care. A half-time social worker will be hired to help with the ministry.

Ruth's House also provides help through a food pantry, clothes closet, job search, school supplies and

English-as-a-second-language classes.

Fogt named

Well-known and widely respected among his peers, Rev. Eugene Fogt is the new LSSS Houston area director.

He was pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Houston for 12 years, and served on the LSSS Advisory Board in Houston during the past two years.

To reach Pastor Fogt, call the Houston LSSS office at (713) 521-0110.



Rev. Fogt

Village grows

In January 1991, after years of planning and hard work, the dream of a beautiful, caring community for the elderly became a reality when the E.M. and Bertha Kruse Memorial Lutheran Village was dedicated.

More duplex cottages are being constructed on the beautifully landscaped grounds of the Village, and the Ewald and Hildegard Tiaden Alzheimer's Care Unit is almost completed.

Nearly 160 special people now call Kruse Village home.



Honoring Christ, Lutheran heritage

Reformation celebration



MY WORD THAT GOES OUT

WILL NOT RETURN TO ME EMPTY
Isaiah 55:11

THE DYNAMIC WORD

LCMS congregations of central Texas with assistance from Lutheran Laymen's League chapters will sponsor a Central Texas Lutheran Reformation Celebration Sunday, Oct. 29.

The event will be held in the Bell County Expo Center in Belton, beginning at 4 p.m.

Guest preacher will be the Navy's chief of chaplains, Rear Admiral Donald K. Muechow.

Organizers said the gathering is being held "to honor our Lord Jesus Christ, to recognize and celebrate our Lutheran Reformation heritage, and to raise the consciousness of mission in ministry." These celebra-

tions have been held annually since 1990. Theme of the celebration is "The Dynamic Word," based on Is. 55:11.

Co-chairmen of the organizing committee are circuit counselors Rev. Don Ude, Faith, Lampassas, and Rev. Al Meissner, Prince of Peace, Belton; public relations, Rev. Kevin Lentz, St. Paul, The Grove; worship coordinator Rev. Michael Ramming, Grace, Killeen; and executive assistant Nelson Henze, Immanuel, Temple.

For additional information, contact Pastor Lentz at P.O. Box 40, The Grove, TX 76576; or at (817) 986-2607.



GARLAND—These new members at Concordia, Garland, were received March 26 by transfer and adult confirmation. Pastor is Gerald Nichols.



LIVINGSTON—The Lord continues to bless Trinity, Livingston, with new members. These are 10 of the 15 new members received in early 1995. Pastor is Vic Winkelman.



NACOGDOCHES—Redeemer, Nacogdoches, received these new members into fellowship April 30 by confirmation and transfer. From left are Shirley Burgdorf; Robin and Craig Mangham; Tim, Vicki and Kelsey Kling; Sharon, Erik and Barrett Appel. Pastor James Otte is at center back.



FAMILY AFFAIR—Dylan James William Melde, a fourth-generation member of his family to be baptized at historic St. Paul Lutheran at Aleman, became a child of God through his baptism Jan. 29. With Pastor Francis Mennenga are Dylan James William's parents, Darrell and Deanna Melde.

Banners recycled

Banners, banners, banners.

Every church has a closet full of them. They're hidden away for possible future reference or just plain forgotten.

But it's a problem that can be turned into an opportunity.

At St. Paul Lutheran Church in Plainview, they use them again and again. First, as a circuit "Banner Library." Second, Pastor David Jeske suggests that they can be used as a witness to the community and neighborhood.

"They can add color and brighten the appearance to windows and glass doors even when hung on the inside," the pastor says. "In addition, they proclaim a risen Savior and a living church, alive with His love," Jeske added.

So in addition to exchanging banners with sister congregations and reusing them in classrooms and parish halls, display them in windows and glass doors of your church, he suggests.

Pastors' wives retreat is set Sept. 22-24 at Camp Lone Star

"Where's the Fire?"

That's the theme for the annual district Pastors' Wives Retreat scheduled in September at Camp Lone Star.

Said retreat organizers, "We all lead such busy lives, rushing here and there. Join us for this opportunity to be led in Bible study as we are reminded of God's Word from Matt. 11:28: 'Come unto me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.'"

Retreat information was sent to each congregation in late July or early August about registration. If it did not arrive, it may be obtained from Janet Whitson, 11631 Wolf Run, Houston, TX 77065. Or phone her at (713) 955-1278.

Dates for the 10th annual retreat are Sept. 22-24.

Lutherans donate their land to boost Texas ecosystem

The ecosystem of Texas has received an historic boost from Paul and Virginia Mezynski, members of Trinity Lutheran in Riesel.

The couple donated five acres of their land for a "relic tall-grass native prairie preserve." The preserve was deeded to the Native Prairies Association of Texas for the purpose of preserving it in its natural state in perpetuity.

This is the first such grant of property given the association. Paul and Virginia want to help preserve a part of the vanishing Tall-grass Blackland Prairie ecosystem. It is their hope that other ranchers and farmers will follow their example.



RECYCLED—Pastor David Jeske hangs a banner in the window of St. Paul's in Plainview.

Gracias and danke schoen!

Whether it is spoken in Spanish or German, the message is the same. "Thank you" Texas District Lutherans for your outstanding service to the RIVER OF LIGHT National Youth Gathering in San Antonio this past July. The success of the Gathering was due to the cooperative effort of thousands of Texas volunteers.

More than 800 Texas youth and their leaders came to San Antonio as members of the "Texas Light Brigade." This crew served an average of six hours a day in various duties.

Many pastors throughout the district volunteered their time and talent to organize and carry out special Gathering events. The local Lutheran community also gave countless hours to the supporting functions under the guidance of the local steering

committee comprised of representatives from San Antonio area churches.

Congregations from the Panhandle to the Rio Grande Valley and El Paso to Texarkana committed to make crosses as gifts for the 28,000 RIVER OF LIGHT participants.

It was a marvelous sight to see the masses of teenage Christians singing, laughing and witnessing their faith to each other and to the San Antonio community. They will take those experiences in San Antonio with them throughout the summer and all the years of their lives.

God's greatest blessings to you!

(From Martha Andres, Local Arrangements manager, and Susan Tonder, Volunteer Services manager.)



SUGAR LAND—Fishers of Men Lutheran in Sugar Land welcomed 23 new members April 2 into its fellowship. Five were youth confirmands, two adult confirmands and 16 transfers. Pastor is Tom Van Duzer.



BEAUMONT—By profession of faith, adult confirmation and transfer, these new members were added April 2 at Redeemer, Beaumont. At left are Wayne, Gayle and Emily Turner. At center, are Carson, Susan and Jordan Brignac, and Kasi Story. At right are Bob, Leesa, Kirk and Bret Sarrine. In back is Pastor Bob Myers.



DEVINE—The Lutheran profile is on the rise in Devine, as Divine Savior Lutheran moves briskly ahead with the Lord's work. The church reopened in the late 1980s after being closed for two years. After three years, the pastor took a call and the pulpit was vacant for 1-1/2 years. In 1994, Pastor David Londenberger accepted the congregation's call, and members say "we definitely are moving forward." Here Pastor Londenberger performs baptismal rites for Kristen Brooke Weyel, Timothy Lee Thomas and Travis Lee Thomas.



SAN ANTONIO—These new members were received into the family of Concordia Lutheran, San Antonio, May 28. Senior Pastor is William G. Thompson.



ORANGE—Two new members were welcomed April 23 at Grace, Orange. They are Linda Bellow, adult confirmand, and Rosalie Nabors, transfer. Pastor is Eddie R. Scheler.



CONFIRMANDS—Redeemer Lutheran in Nacogdoches received these junior confirmands into its fellowship May 7. From left are Virginia Clay, Sarah Davis, Pastor James Otte, Megan Markworth, Sydney Kroll and Kelly Elbel.

From small-group concept comes bonding, care and love

by Geri Smith, Our Redeemer, Dallas,
member, Human Care Ministry Committee

How well I remember that evening many years ago! A small group of about 12 people were gathered in our family room. We had been meeting for about an hour. We had had prayer, a short Bible study and were discussing applications of the Bible in our own lives. Suddenly some devastating news reached us. We turned and shared this with the others in the room, and their immediate reaction was to surround us in prayer. In spite of the terrible news we had just heard, we had never felt so affirmed and so loved.

BECAUSE OF this experience we have continued to desire participation in a small group—a group where we can be ourselves, where we can be vulnerable and know that we will still be loved, where others can tell us of their shortcomings, and we still love them.

Even though we hear a lot about "small groups" today, it is not an original idea. As God established the nation Israel, they were carefully divided into subgroups or tribes. These tribes were fur-

ther broken down into clans or families.

HAVE YOU STOPPED to think of Jesus and His disciples as a small group? As Jesus formed his small group of disciples, He was desiring to have close fellowship with those men. He knew that as this group shared and learned together, they would become close and ultimately change the world. And, of course, we remember that the early church began with small meetings in members' homes.

As the Texas District Human Care Committee has considered the various ways we can show our love to others, we have seen the value of the small group. It does not matter so much what "purpose" your small group may have. It may meet together for Bible study, for prayer or to seek ways to help the homeless. It may be a support group of widows or newly divorced parents. The important factor is that the small group meets regularly.

WE HAVE FOUND that it is especially helpful to share the week's "highs and lows" sometime during the meeting. Of course, everyone is not obligated to share, but those who care to give a short description of their happy and/or sad moments during the past week are given an opportunity to do so. This also gives a focus for prayer of the group. I truly believe that praying with and for one another is a way of bonding not possible in any other way. This is human care—caring for one another and loving one another.



THE TOMB—Members of Redeemer, Fort Worth, dramatized seven scenes of Christ's passion. Here, the women arrive at Christ's tomb to anoint His body, only to find the tomb empty.

Easter dramatized

A number of members of Redeemer, Fort Worth, turned actor to dramatize the Easter message in April.

They presented three performances of "Scenes of the Passion." The narrated seven-scene drama depicted a street in Jerusalem, the Gentile court of the temple, the Upper Room, Gethsemane, Pilate's court, Golgotha and Christ's tomb. Director was Thelma Portie.

The event culminated with a gathering around the altar where vacancy Pastor Richard A. Nelson gave a message of confession and absolution based on Luther's explanations of the Ten Commandments.

Actors were Dale, Margaret and Alan Bentrup; Joseph Brewton; Johnny and Sarah Cartwright; Dick and Thea Edwards; Marlene Hinrichs; Tony Jaecques; Charlie and Ruth Krueger; Karl, Dorothy and Matthew Kuhlmann; Ray Landy; Walt Morgan; Elli Nelson; Kevin Penning; Henry Peterson; Frank Riley; Leesa Schroeder; Alan Schabhut; and Jeanette Zulfer.



GRAND PRAIRIE—Members of Faith, Grand Prairie, used this medium to surprise their pastor, Rev. Raymond Kahle, on his 23rd anniversary at Faith. Recognition events also included a testimonial dinner, gifts, presentation of a plaque and planting a tree in his honor.



Critical role for campus ministry

Spiritual care at a critical time. That's the mission of LCMS campus ministry, and many alumni of Texas universities and colleges remember the blessings of a campus ministry's spiritual care.

Pamela Tacquard, a graduate of Texas A&M, enjoyed her leadership roles in Lutheran Student Fellowship, mission trips to Mexico and the Northwest Territories of Canada, and weekly Bible studies, worship, prayer meetings and regional retreats.

"The experiences and relationships I developed through campus ministry have been one of the major influential factors in my growth as a Christian," says Tacquard. Now in graduate study at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Taquard is helping her new church begin a campus ministry to young adults there.

Another Aggie, Sandie Chapin, writes, "The chapel stood as a center of spiritual education, a place of refuge from what could be overwhelming stresses and a source of strength to deal with the challenges that face every student.

"My experiences with church were minimal," she said. "The discussions and classes I had there led to my confirmation, a happy day indeed. My experience remains as a beacon that directs my walk with God."

Many congregations in college/university towns also use a "town-gown" dual approach to reach out to students. Meeting in chapels and student centers, campus



CULTURE EXCHANGE—Members of the Indian Club at Texas A&M University are guests of the Lutheran campus ministry in a cultural exchange. The University Lutheran Chapel welcomes international students to use its facilities and participate in its programs, Bible studies and worship. Rev. Richard Manus is campus pastor.

ministry pastors, directors and involved laypeople offer worship, Bible studies, mission service opportunities and fellowship activities for and with young Lutheran students. The ministries also reach out to the unchurched and to more than 450,000 international students and their families.

For more information about campus ministries and their special outreach opportunities, contact Rev. Ken Hennings, executive director, Board of Mission Services, Texas District, 7900 E. Highway 290, Austin, TX 78724-2499, or call 1-800-951-3478.

On pastor's mind ...

Lutheran stuff: it has it

by Herbert Eifert, pastor
Good Shepherd, Pasadena

Our congregation is one of a significant number of Texas District churches that provides a "blanket subscription" of THE LUTHERAN WITNESS for its members. The magazine is mailed to your home monthly and contains a tremendous amount of information about The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and particularly about the Texas District. The cost of \$1,155 (for the entire congregation) comes out of our church budget and is well worth the price if people read the material.

The current issue deals with "God's harvest in foreign fields" and contains information about work in a variety of places served by our synodical missionaries and personnel. I personally found most fascinating the story about Army Chaplain Henry F. Gerecke, one of our pastors who served as chaplain to 15 high Nazi war criminals as they prepared for the war trials in Nuremberg, Germany. Ten of these men were convicted and hanged. Chaplain Gerecke walked to the gallows with all of them.

THE LUTHERAN WITNESS generally also includes at least one article dealing with our Christian faith, under the theme "We Believe, Teach and Confess...." The article this month deals with "justification," the process by which God makes us acceptable to Him through faith and the application of forgiveness.

The middle section of the magazine, the pages bordered in blue (the *Texas Messenger*), are dedicated to information from and about events and people in the Texas District. The last part of the publication deals with a large variety of news, information and issues from across the Synod and around the world. It includes brief Bible studies, "Letters to the Editor," question and answer segments, official notices and even a section on humor. The LCMS president usually closes out the edition with a special message on the last page. (So does the Texas District president on the first page of the *Texas Messenger*).

I strongly encourage you to spend some time reading THE LUTHERAN WITNESS. It is one way God makes available information, insights and issues that have a bearing on our personal faith and the life of our church.

If you would like to help the congregational expenses to place this magazine into the home of every member, there is a special LUTHERAN WITNESS envelope in your contribution packet. Subscriptions are \$5 per household.



Eifert

From the newsletter of
Good Shepherd, Pasadena

Lutheran Family TV Sunday

Sunday, Sept. 17, has been designated by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church—Canada as Lutheran Ministers' Lutheran Family Television Sunday. This is a yearly event.

Last year, fewer than 1,300 congregations celebrated Lutheran Family Television Sunday. We don't want to give up this important Sunday. Especially this year, when we will be broadcasting "Red Boots for Christmas," our first new television special for the family in many years.

"Red Boots for Christmas" will be the theme for this year's celebration of Lutheran Family Television Sunday. The gifts given will be used to fund an important evangelism follow-up ministry being carried out in conjunction with the showing of "Red Boots for Christmas."

Good Shepherd, Pasadena

In early April the leaguers of Good Shepherd conducted a garage sale. They came dressed wearing their red vests with the LLL logo. Within seven hours they sold \$1,192 of contributed items. The money raised will finance their Saturday Auto Maintenance Work Day at the church. On this day they do oil changes, light bulb replacements and minor repairs on cars for widows and senior members who need help.

Reformation across Texas



From left, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Berg, Mrs. Fred Klosterman—all from Raymondville.



LLL float entered in the Rio Grande Valley Stock Show.

Rio Grande Valley Zone

For many years the Rio Grande Valley Zone 15 set up a Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM) booth at the Rio Grande Valley Livestock Show in Mercedes. This year, in addition to the booth, they entered a float in the livestock show parade March 16. Mr. and Mrs. Art Post of Alamo built the float. The miniature church has real stained-glass windows.

On different days of the livestock show, various leaguers of the zone staffed the booth. The booth was on display for five days. The LHM booth generally attracts more than 175,000 people each year.

This year Reformation will be celebrated in additional areas. Please note the dates of these celebrations as you may be able to attend more than one.

Belton—The sixth Central Texas Reformation Celebration will be at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29, at the Bell County Expo Center Exhibit Building. This area has a seating capacity of 800. Retired Admiral Don Muchow, chairman, U. S. Navy Chief of Chaplains, will be the inspirational speaker. Congre-

gations involved in this celebration are those of Circuits 17, 19 and Georgetown.

East Texas—Tyler is the location of the first Reformation Celebration in East Texas. The Harvey Convention Center will seat 800. This service will be on Monday, Oct. 30. Please note, time will be given later. Dr. Dale Meyer, Lutheran Hour speaker, will give the message. This area involves the congregations of Circuit 21.

San Antonio—The site for the Southwest Texas cel-

ebration in San Antonio is the Municipal Auditorium which seats 3,271. This celebration will be Tuesday, Oct. 31 (time TBA). Dr. Dale Meyer will bring the message to those in attendance from Circuits 24, 25 and 26.

Bible Outreach Update

Presentations for the Bible Outreach have been given at the following congregations: Good Shepherd, Cedar Park; Immanuel, Copperas Cove; Good Shepherd Pasadena; Hope, Sonora.

Zone 12 South President Benny Mitschke presented the Bible Outreach to the Men's Club of Good Shepherd, Pasadena. The club agreed to purchase and highlight the Bible passages. Larry Hernandez is the club's president and will direct the purchase of 500 Bibles.

J.R. McDowell, vice president of Region "D" North, requested 500 Bibles to be highlighted by Cross, New Braunfels.

Rev. Hiram E. Orea, missionary-at-large in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, requested and received 10 Spanish *Small Catechisms*.

Rev. Jesus Gonzales, Houston Seafarers Center chaplain, requested 50 Spanish Bibles to give to crew members. Two cases of Bibles were sent to Gonzales, who is pastor of Peace Lutheran, Galena Park.

Lately donations totaling \$700 were received.

For information on the Bible Outreach program, contact Paul Seiler, 511 S. Ninth St., Copperas Cove, TX 76522. Checks payable to Lone Star District Bible Outreach may be sent to the same address.



Beginnings ...

Life is always full of new beginnings, and one of the greatest of these is the birth of a child or a grandchild. No words can express the ecstasy of such a moment!

During our lifetimes we have the opportunity to experience many new beginnings—a new job or career, acceptance into college, a call to a new congregation, a move to a new city, a marriage. These events also significantly affect our lives. We should be thankful for the Lord's presence in our lives and for the many blessings that we receive each day, and live our lives as He desires.

"And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly before your God" Micah 6:8b. In response to this Scripture verse and the theme of the International LWML convention, what kind of a "new beginning" is needed in your life for you to "Live ... By God's Design"?

- **What changes** would need to be made for you to spend time in personal devotions and prayer each day?
- **What changes** would need to be made for you to share Christ with others in your daily living?
- **What changes** would need to be made for you to serve others according to the examples Christ gave us?
- **What changes** would need to be made for you to use the gifts and talents

you have been given to God's glory?

Jesus gave us two great commandments when He was upon this earth: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind" and "Love your neighbor as yourself."

Take time today to prayerfully ask for God's guidance so that you can make the "new beginning" needed for your life. Let your life serve as a witness for your sister in Christ, and help her find the "new beginning" she needs in her relationship with God. Search for ways you can *joyfully* serve others. Share the Good News in a meaningful way with all around you. Let the Lord work in you, so that your life is lived "by God's design"!

God Bless You...

with good health and friends each day throughout the year.

God Love You...

and in all you do may He be ever near.

God Keep You...

and watch over those you hold especially dear.

You are very special to God. He has chosen you as His own. Let Him live in you and guide you in "His design."

*Peggy Turnipseed
Texas District LWML
First Vice President
Mission Education*



Florence Winkler presents a \$19,000 LWML grant to Carl Brewer for Project Can-Do.

Those working mites!

Project Can-Do is one of the mite projects for this biennium. Presentation of the LWML grant was made last fall to Carl Brewer III at St. Mark Lutheran in Lake Jackson.

Carl participated in the activities for Slovakia in 1994 and in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1995.

Randy Potts is executive director of Project Can-Do.

Florence Winkler serves as fourth vice president/mission projects chairman of the Texas District Lutheran Women's Missionary League.



Mite report June 1995

1992-94 Goal	\$275,000
Rec'd June (all sources)	6,748
Rec'd to date (all sources)	146,297
Needed for goal	109,702
Sent to Int'l LWML (June)	1,644
Int'l to date	30,608

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box 1224, Giddings, TX 78942.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.

Does your society or zone have a NEW officer?

Many of our zones and societies elected new officers in the spring.

It is important for you to notify the district member development chairman of these changes.

Membership lists need to be kept current. So please send Peggy Turnipseed the name, address and phone number of the following officers:

President
Member development chairman
Christian growth chairman
Mission service chairman
Peggy's address is found in the district convention manual published June 1994, or if you need help, contact the district news editor.

News from around the district

• The Dorcas Guild, Zion, Pasadena, hosted the Channel Zone on April 23.

"I Am a Beacon of Light for My Lord" was the theme for the day. It was based on Matt. 5:14-15: "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house."

Kevin Ramer served as guest speaker. He is a 17-year-old student attending St. Mark in Houston. He was in Hong Kong for two months with Teen Missions and in Russia during the summer of 1994 with Project CAN-DO.

His program was interesting and lively, complete with a video. Time was allowed for questions.

The zone members felt blessed to have a personal involvement with this mite project!

* * *

Dee Cooper, president, Faith, Corsicana, reports that Faith hosted the **East Texas Zone Spring Rally** on May 6. The theme for the day was "JOY."

Pastor Steve and Rosalyn Henze, Tyler, presented a program of beautiful music and inspirational Bible study.

Pastor Delton and Dawn Weiser also participated in the Spirit-filled day.

* * *

Karen Schade, secretary, White Oak Zone, reports that Messiah, Houston, hosted the spring rally April 2.



An Italian luncheon was served by international waiters at East Texas Spring Rally. From left are "Londo" Lloyd Giles, "Ricardo" Rick Robinson and "Marcus" Mark Fleischhauer.

Carolyn Pali was guest speaker. Her topic, "Don't Worry," was based on Matt. 6:25-34.

Rev. Daniel Georg provided the opening devotion based on the same Bible passage.

Rev. Glammeyer closed the day with a devotion on the different kinds of crosses and their meanings. It wasn't the nails that held Christ to the cross but His love for us.

Sandi Hall serves as president of White Oak Zone.



At the bunkhouse, Circle C, Stanton, West Texas Retreat are, from left, Diane Martin, Mina Fitting and Virginia Evers.

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152, Lewisville, TX 75067. Deadline ninth of month. Fax no. 817-491-0105.

These "golden" quilters from the Zion, Tomball, Golden Harvest Zone stitch gifts for Lutheran World Relief.





Sep

Sunday

August 195

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

3

10

17

24

'Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy'

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick
President, LCMS Texas District



Pastor Kieschnick

Martin Luther's explanation of the Ten Commandments in his *Large Catechism* includes the following words about the Third Commandment:

"Our word 'holy day' or 'holiday' is so called from the Hebrew word 'sabbath,' which properly means to rest, that is, to cease from labor; hence our common expression for 'stopping work' literally means 'observing a holy day or holiday.' In the Old Testament God set apart the seventh day and appointed it for rest, and He commanded it to be kept holy above all other days.

"As far as outward observance is concerned, the commandment was given to the Jews alone. They were to abstain from hard work and to rest, so that both man and beast might be refreshed and not be exhausted by constant labor. In time, however, the Jews interpreted this

commandment too narrowly and grossly misused it. They slandered Christ and would not permit Him to do what they themselves were in the habit of doing on that day, as if the commandment could be fulfilled by refraining from manual labor of any kind. This was not its intention. But, as we shall hear, it meant that we should sanctify the holy day or day of rest.

"Therefore, according to its literal, outward sense, this commandment does not concern us Christians. It is an entirely external matter, like the other ordinances of the Old Testament connected with particular customs, persons, times and places, from all of which we are now set free through Christ.

"To offer ordinary people a Christian interpretation of what God requires in this commandment, we point out that we keep holy days not for the sake of intelligent and well informed Christians, for these have no need of them. We keep them, first, for the sake of bodily need. Nature teaches and demands that the common people—manservants and maidservants who have attended to their work and trades the whole weeklong—should retire for a day to rest and be refreshed.

Second and most especially, we keep holy days so that people may have time and opportunity, which otherwise would not be available, to participate in public worship, that is, that they may assemble to hear and discuss God's Word and then praise God with song and prayer.

"This, I say, is not restricted to a particular time, as it was among the Jews, when it had to be precisely this or that day, for in itself no one day is better than another. Actually, there should be worship daily; however, since this is more than the common people can do, at least one day in the week must be set apart for it. Since from ancient times Sunday has been appointed for this purpose, we should not change it. In this way a common order will prevail and no one will create disorder by unnecessary innovation.

"This, then, is the plain meaning of this commandment: Since we observe holidays anyhow, we should devote their observance to learning God's Word. The special office of this day, therefore, should be the ministry of the Word for the sake of the young and the poor common people. However, the observance of rest should not be so narrow as to forbid incidental and unavoidable work.

"Accordingly, when you are asked what 'You shall sanctify the holy day' means, answer, 'It means to keep it holy.' What is meant by 'keeping it holy'? Nothing else than to devote it to holy words, holy works, holy life. In itself the day needs no sanctification, for it was created holy. But God wants it to be holy to you. So it becomes holy or unholy on your account, according as you spend the day in doing holy or unholy things.

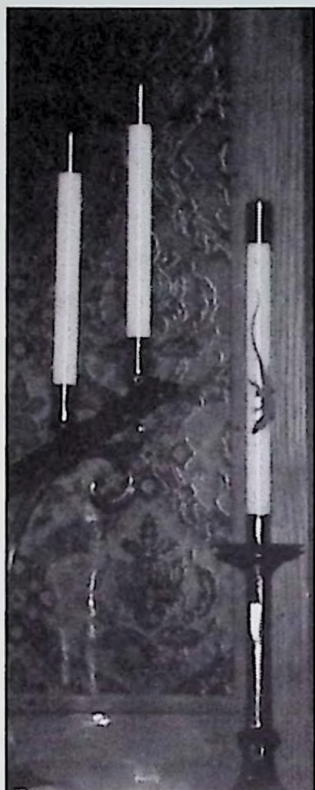
"How does this sanctifying take place? Not when we sit behind the stove and refrain from external work, or deck ourselves with garlands and dress up in our best clothes, but, as has been said, when we occupy ourselves with God's Word and exercise ourselves in it.

"Indeed, we Christians should make every day a holy day and give ourselves only to holy activities—that is, occupy ourselves daily with God's Word and carry it in our hearts and on our lips."

The Third Commandment: Thou shalt sanctify the holy day.

HAPPENINGS IN TEXAS

LEAPIN' LIZARDS—Pastor Donn Williams of Bethany, Houston, now knows why some of his class was giggling on confirmation day.



THE FIRST—Genesis Lutheran Church, Buchanan Dam, newly organized, has received its first confirmand. She is Angela Pearl Blibrey. Pastor is Eldor Mickan.



served his 30th year at Gethsemane and Chris Johnson his 10th. Special celebrations for both pastors were held.

* * *

The walls have come tumbling down at **Trinity-Messiah Lutheran School, Houston**, but the memories linger on. As the old school building was demolished to make room for a new one, "memory bricks" from the old school are being saved for a memory walk and wall. Fifty dollars will buy an engraved brick to keep or be installed in the walk or wall. A free-will offering will get you a brick with a certificate of authenticity.

* * *

Grace Lutheran of Mart celebrated its 60th anniversary July 16.

* * *

The Lutheran High North Association, Houston, received a \$1,000 New Connections grant from the Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation. It will be used to buy a video projector. A similar grant was received by **Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas** and will

be used for tables and chairs for a new auditorium.

* * *

Matthew Boarts, whose hobby as a private pilot keeps him flying high, was ordained and installed as associate pastor of **Mount Olive, San Antonio**, Aug. 13.

* * *

Ted Turner Sr. knows oleanders. A member of **Trinity, Corpus Christi**, Turner received the first Presidential Oleander Award from the International Oleander Society for his patented oleander, Turner's Shari D. This hybrid oleander is known for its long blooming season and profusion of blossoms. Turner also holds patents on several hybrids and other patents are pending.

* * *

Rev. Scott E. Herbert was installed July 2 as pastor at **Christ, Amarillo**.

* * *

Jean Adams, **Trinity, Sealy**, is recipient of the UIL Sponsor Excellence Award. She is a speech and drama teacher at Sealy High. Only 10 Texas educators received the citation.

* * *

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

The men of **St. Andrew, Houston**, did a neat thing for the service on Mother's Day. They organized a one-time choir and provided the service music. One woman said, with tears in her eyes, "We appreciated the men very much."

* * *

Rev. Michael F. Welmer was installed June 25 as senior pastor of **Epiphany Lutheran, Jersey Village (Houston)**. He comes from St. John Lutheran in New Orleans. He succeeds Epiphany's founding pastor, William Johnson, who retired.

* * *

Randy Vonderheid, a member of **Peace Lutheran, Garland**, and journal-

ism teacher at North Garland High, has been named Teacher of the Year by the

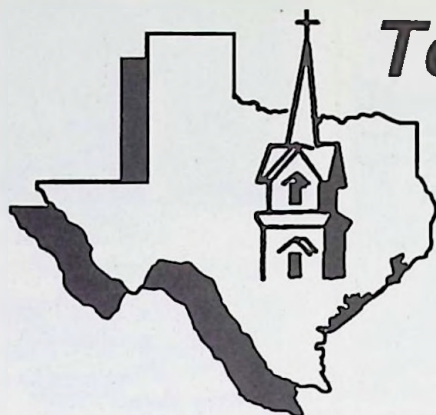


Vonderheid

Interscholastic League. The student newspaper and yearbook for which he is adviser, have won many national awards, and many of his students have become journalism majors in college.

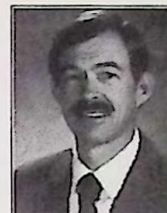
* * *

Both pastors of **Gethsemane, Houston**, celebrated significant anniversaries in July. Eugene Heckmann ob-



Texas District Mission News

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



Rev. Ken
Hennings

Texas District Sunday to stress challenges ahead

Sept. 24 has been designated Texas District Sunday. It is a time to remember and to thank God for the work that, by God's grace, all the congregations of the district are able to do together. The mission program, congregation and worker support, Texas Church Extension Fund, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Concordia University, Lutheran Outdoors Ministries of Texas, Lutheran Foundation of Texas and Project CAN-DO, work together to make the Texas District one of the leading districts of the Synod. It is proper that we set aside this Sunday to thank and praise God.

Texas District Sunday also is an opportunity for us to remember the challenges that are before us, and our God who will supply the gifts to meet those challenges. Listed below are just a few of those challenges.

INCREASING POPULATION

Texas continues to grow faster than the national average. People move to Texas because of job opportunities and a somewhat stable economy.

Texas also is one of the top three states in the nation to receive the most immigrants each year. This trend looks like it will continue for some time. Most immigrants are locating in the major cities of Texas. The future will see these cities becoming more of an international city, with all of the international flavorings. The opportunity for the district is to reach these people with the Good News. It is developing an international ministry without leaving the state. Beginning new ministries and supporting congregations involved in this kind of international ministry is an intricate part of the ministry of the Texas District.

NEW CONGREGATION STARTS

There continues to be a great need to start new congregations. Everyone knows that the large cities are getting larger, but there are rural areas in parts of the state that are mission opportunities. The old strategy was for the district office to start and fund all new efforts. The new strategy is

for local congregations to join together in a partnership with the district office to begin new ministries. Texas Mission Action Councils (TMACs) are beginning to form to study how best to address the challenges in their areas. There are some exciting things happening throughout the state. Innovative ideas are being shared and people are excited about the opportunity they have to expand the work of the church.

FOREIGN MISSION PARTNERSHIP

The Texas District is known as a strong supporter of world missions. To build on that strong heritage, the district will be working with the Synod's Board of Mission Services to develop a closer relationship with four mission partners—Brazil, Guatemala, Panama and Mexico. Developing a relationship with these countries—learning about their ministries, celebrating their accomplishments and working with them in servant events—are only a few of the things that Texas will be involved in with our partners in these countries.

RESOURCES FOR LOCAL MINISTRIES

The new strategic action plan for the district calls for mission and ministry facilitators to come alongside congregations to acquire an understanding of their ministries and the challenges that face them, and to assist them with the appropriate support to meet those challenges and strengthen their ministries. Find out who your mission and ministry facilitator is, and form a partnership with him for strengthening the local ministry.

The mission statement of the Texas District addresses the challenges shared above: "...To strengthen congregations to reach the lost, disciple the saved and care for people ... locally and globally." Individually it will be difficult to meet these challenges, but together we have been blessed with the resources and the leadership to accomplish the mission of our district.

Falling-apart families targeted by LCMS group

by Dr. Barbara Brunworth

Texas District Human Care Ministry Committee

"This is just what I have been looking for." "I am so proud to be a part of this kind of professional association." "I believe this is the most exciting and innovative action that LCMS has undertaken in my lifetime."

These comments and many others like them emanated from the 125 attendees at the first annual convention of the Association of Family Life Professionals (AFLP) held June 8-10 in St. Louis. This association was formed as a result of the Family Initiative Council which met four years ago to brainstorm for ways to do something significant in response to the concern for families.

A major donation was given to support the mobilization of this formidable task. A "hotline" is now in operation, called Family Connections, which provides resource information for families and congregations. AFLP is the other major result of the brainstorming. Lutherans who are professionals working with individuals and families for

their intellectual, emotional, physical and spiritual well-being are being sought out to offer their expertise to the dilemma. Christian values are being perceived as being offensive or as telling others how to live their life. The Christian professional cannot just go along to get along. It is difficult, however, to stand alone.

We invite physicians, lawyers, counselors, pastors, educators, social workers, psychiatrists, nurses—anyone working with families and feeling a need for a professional association where to "see Jesus" in whatever we do is the goal—to join AFLP. A faith statement has been developed for the basis of our association. A therapy model called **THE RECONNECTION MODEL** has been designed to help with the integration of faith and family life. The first journal called **RECONNECTIONS** has been published. Now is the time to join and share in this special community of Christians. Call 1-800-393-8918.



Stroh



Zersen

Church workers to eye culture realities

All pastors and educators of the Texas District have been invited to attend the Professional Church Workers Conference Oct. 8-10 in Arlington.

This is the year of the three-year conference cycle in the district when all professional church workers come together in a mass gathering for worship, personal and professional growth, fellowship and fun. Theme of the conference is "Who's My Neighbor—Communicating the Gospel in a Multicultural Society."

The conference is designed to help church men and women deal with the cultural realities each faces. To do that effectively, conference leaders point out, workers must learn to understand the people with whom they are communicating.

Les Stroh is convention facilitator. He is a consultant with Cornerstone, a consulting and training agency. Dr. David Zersen, president of Austin's Concordia University, is keynote speaker.

Discussion groups and workshops will help identify cultural challenges and understanding of the culture in which workers live today.

Conference hotel is LaQuinta Inn at 825 N. Watson Road in Arlington.

Help's there in caring for the mentally retarded

by Linda Loesch

Texas District Human Care Ministry Committee

With one phone call, Texas Lutherans can get help for family or friends who are mentally retarded. By calling the toll-free number 1-800-369-INFO (4636), anyone can get free referral and resource assistance through the National Christian Resource Center on Mental Retardation (NCRC). The NCRC is a service of Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc.

"Parents, pastors, teachers and care providers can obtain lists of providers and resources and be directed to a specific person or agency free of charge," explains Dr. A.L. Napolitano, Bethesda's executive director. "Our specialists can help families find services and resources in Texas or anywhere in the country."

Rev. Tim Carr of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Houston, had the opportunity to

use the NCRC toll-free number. "I really didn't know where to get information," he said. "The NCRC gave me specific recommendations that I needed to serve my parish."



A computerized database of 40,000 resources allows staff to list referrals as well as information about hard-to-locate agencies, programs, services and, if necessary, funding. More

than 700 calls per year are received by the NCRC.

The NCRC also lends or sells thousands of books, videotapes and periodicals on mental retardation and other disabilities.

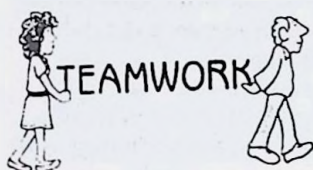
In addition, the NCRC offers secular and religious workshops every year. Congregations interested in developing or improving their own outreach and ministry with people who have mental retardation can call 1-800-369-4636, Ext. 418.



Sunday school teachers give St. Andrew the brush

The folks at St. Andrew, Houston, got something when they got their Sunday school teachers.

Those people in charge of bringing Christ to the lives of the members' little ones, also are painting all the classrooms.



HIS 25th—District President Jerry Kleschnick observed the 25th anniversary of his ordination June 18 at his home congregation of St. Paul in Austin. Part of the recognition included a recommissioning service whose participants were, from left, Bill Siegrist, lector; Kleschnick; Rev. Fred Neumann, St. Paul pastor; and Rev. Eugene Heckmann, district first vice president and service speaker. Providing her husband an affectionate pat at a following recognition luncheon was Kleschnick's wife, Terry, while a beaming mom, Elda Kleschnick, looked on.

The first family



Christ in the classroom



SCHOOL MINISTRY—Members of Grace Lutheran, Arlington, experienced the great joy May 7 of witnessing the baptisms of four members of the 23-member confirmation class. All four of the young people were introduced to Grace through the ministry of Grace School. From left are Candace Smith, Jered Durham, Pastor David Joeckel, Michael Maddox and Charles Durham.

Bethlehem: that's them all over

Bethlehem Lutheran Church rests in a small oak grove amid the hay fields south of North Zulch. Its members come from a five-county area to worship.

This year, the congregation had the joy of seeing seven of its members graduate from five different schools.

Daylan Presley graduated from Madisonville High, Bradley Hildebrandt and William Theiss from North Zulch High, and Joseph Schmidt and Carl Roth from Normangee High. All five have gone off to college.

Roth was one of this year's 925 recipients of an all-college

scholarship from Aid Association for Lutherans. He will receive \$2,500 each of his four college years. He has chosen Texas A&M University.

One of the congregation's Sunday school teachers, wife of a church elder and mother of three, Anita Wells, and Matthew Johnson, son of Bethlehem's pastor, graduated from Sam Houston State University. Each received bachelor's degrees, Anita in education and Matthew in biology, who will continue in graduate school.



Roth

YOUTH

Our bright Lutheran kids ...



So far, it's an all-Lutheran education for Esther Hazlewood and Heidi Haese. Esther was valedictorian and Heidi salutatorian of the eighth-grade graduating class of **Concordia Lutheran School, San Antonio**. Both attended kindergarten through eighth grade at Concordia and now are enrolled in the first freshman class of the new San Antonio Lutheran High School.

Congratulations to Jenni-fer McGrath, **Grace, Denison**. She won the Miss Texas School for the Deaf Pageant. And to Axton Grams who received academic awards for physical science and keyboarding, and a letter jacket for physical science and band.

If it weren't for Sara Be-
ran, 12, a member of **Trinity Lutheran, Waco**, there might not even be a Woody Cooper National Foster Grandparent Jamboree sponsored by Baylor University and Belmont University. For the second year, Sara's original drawing was chosen as the official logo of the jamboree held in San Antonio in June. It appeared on the front cover of the program, T-shirts and tote bags. Sara also was invited to the jamboree and participated by reading Scripture selections at an assembly.

Bright kid honors for Hen-

ry Roesler, **Redeemer, Beaumont**, who is a \$1,000 4-H Foundation winner, based on leadership and academics.

Chris Ashorn, **Faith, Huntsville**, was all-district in both football and baseball and has accepted a full scholarship to Alvin Community College to play baseball. He's also in the National Honor Society. Also, Lori Stubbs graduated as her high school valedictorian and is state vocabulary/spelling champion. She's also a National Merit Scholar and was chosen for the all-state band, B-flat clarinet. She won seven scholarships. Wow!

Congratulations to **Lutheran High of Dallas** which won the TAPPS state baseball tournament. It's the school's first baseball title but has five TAPPS soccer titles. Nathan Frieling, Joel Swor, Josh Patton and Tony Ryan were picked for the all-tournament team.

The Senior High Youth of **Epiphany, Houston**, came up with a unique welcoming event combining service, outreach and fun for Epiphany's incoming freshmen. After "kidnapping" the freshmen from their homes, chap-
erones and older youth led

them on a scavenger hunt in the church neighborhood. The young people collected a truck-load of food which was donated to a food pantry, then finished the evening with a lock-in at church.

Definitely all tuned up were Kristin McDonald and Ellen Watters, **Grace, Orange**, who received merit awards for region choir, with Kristin also being named outstanding seventh-grade choir student. She also was the only seventh-grader in her school to make all A's.

There's quite a gaggle of awesome kids at **St. Mark, Houston**, including Sarah Harmeyer, winner of her school's Golden Eagle Award, highest award in athletics; Jena Imrie, her school's homecoming queen and swim team captain; Jack Roberts, his school's Youth of the Year; and Amy Schaller, *magna cum laude* graduate and winner of the Principal's Award.

Two young Lutherans have been awarded the prestigious Pacesetter Awards of Texas Lutheran College, Seguin, after competing with other top high school scholars across the nation. Misti D. Grimes, **Resurrection, Spring**, received a \$20,000 four-year scholarship at \$5,000 annually. Sarah Schaefer, **Good Shepherd, Cedar Park**, received a \$12,000 four-year scholarship at \$3,000 annually.

Levi Hardcastle and Brian Garcia, **Ascension, Cleburne**, were named to their baseball all-star teams.

Talent abounds in Kristin Chesson, **Hope, Winnie**, who was named Outstanding Musician for the seventh grade after her school's spring band concert.

Two seventh-graders of **Grace, Killeen**, have been inducted into the National Junior Honor Society. They are Hillary Matthys and Jennifer Lucht.

When those great senior youth of **Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls**, went on a camping trip, here's what they left behind in a wilderness area: a 20-foot tree fashioned into a cross, an altar lashed together out of smaller limbs and a bench seating 10 in front of it. After dedicating the "chapel" in a praise and worship service, the kids left a Bible on the altar in a Ziploc bag for future campers who might happen upon the chapel.

Joseph Dunlop, **Prince of Peace, Belton**, has received the Eagle Scout Award. He earned 23 merit badges and was elected to the Order of the Arrow. He's also a top 3 percent student at school.

Bright kid honors at **Zion, Tomball**, go to David Elkin and Kelly Teichmiller, inducted into the National Honor Society; Nathan Dane, UIL honors for trombone solo and trombone and brass ensemble; Amanda Petrich, flute solo, and Kelly Teichmiller again at UIL for vocal solo and ensemble and flute ensemble and woodwind ensemble; Ryan Ogradowicz, his junior high's Most Outstanding Band Student.



HO-HUM—Youngster in front can't stifle a yawn as photo is taken of new members of St. Paul in Groves. Five adults were received by confirmation and one child was baptized. One confirmed adult man previously was an ordained Assembly of God pastor. From left back are Ray Teel, Shelley Meyers, St. Paul Pastor Jay E. Simonsen and Weyman Carson. From left, front, Joanna Teel, Jonathon Teel, Cody Meyers, Christopher Teel and Bill Teel.



CHRISTIANS RECEIVED—These wonderful Christians were received into membership June 25 at Concordia Lutheran, San Antonio. Senior pastor is William G. Thompson.



CLASS OF '95—Junior confirmands of Peace Lutheran in Garland pose with their pastors Carl C. Flickenscher II and Scott Quinn after their confirmation rites.



LIFE IN THE COUNTRY—The rural congregation St. Paul's of Aleman (Hamilton) received these new members by baptism, confirmation and transfer. Pastor is Francis W. Mennenga who said this should give supposedly "declining" rural congregations a lift to see "country" still has life.



LOEBAU—The Lord added three adult members by transfer and four children by baptism April 23 at Christ Lutheran in Loebau.

*'My mother
has been an
inspiration to me'*

Wealthy, no; grateful to God, yes!

"We are not wealthy, but I believe that all we have is a gift from God. I feel blessed that I am able to give some back to help the work of our Lord. We don't have to be wealthy—we can each give as God has blessed us."

"I believe that setting up a Charitable Remainder Unitrust gives me the opportunity to thank God for what He has given me. I pray that God will continue to bless me and my family in a way that we may best serve Him."

Ruth Linnstaedter receives income from the Charitable Remainder Unitrust she created. After her lifetime, the trust principal will be used to create the Ruth J. Linnstaedter Memorial Endowment Fund, which will provide a perpetual benefit to ministries she loves.

"And my mother has been an inspiration to me," she adds.

Linnstaedter's sainted mother, Edna F. Thielemann, also had set up a plan during her lifetime from which she received income. When she was called home to heaven in 1991, the Albert L. and Edna F. Thielemann Memorial Endowment Fund was created for the benefit of two ministries selected by Mrs. Thielemann.

Thanks be to God for those who respond to His love with gifts of God-given accumulated assets through Christian Estate Planning.

"For all of us have received one gift of grace after another from the fullness of His grace" (John 1:16).



THANKS TO GOD—Ruth Linnstaedter of Houston and her sainted mother, Edna F. Thielemann



Lutheran Foundation of Texas

7900 E. Highway 290
Austin, Texas 78724-2499
1-800-880-3733
926-4272 in Austin

35 Years in our Lord's Service



MEDAL WINNER—Susan Haley, member of Grace Lutheran, Killeen, receives the prestigious Clara Barton Volunteer Medal after being named top Red Cross volunteer at Darnall Army Hospital at Fort Hood. Presenting Red Cross' highest recognition is Col. William F. Hughes, hospital commander.

Clara Barton Medal awarded Lutheran Red Cross volunteer

Texas Lutheran Susan Haley has been awarded the prestigious Clara Barton Medal for her volunteer work as American Red Cross chairman at Darnall Hospital on the U.S. Army's huge Fort Hood at Killeen.

As chairman, she interviews and determines placement for all Red Cross volunteers at the hospital, canvassing hospital staff to determine needs that volunteers can fill. The wife of Maj. David Haley, she has seven years previous experience as a Red Cross volun-

teer at other military installations.

She is an active member of Grace Lutheran in Killeen and has been involved in Project Self-Esteem in the city's public schools.

Send your news

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

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

On pastor's mind ...

I'VE MESSED UP

Does God still love me?

by Fred Neumann, pastor
St. Paul Lutheran, Austin

A friend suggested this subject to me as one engaging many Christians. Does God still love me if I am divorced, regularly get drunk or high, entertain lustful thoughts, commit adultery, lose my temper, have belittled others, eat like a pig, am often hateful, have attempted suicide, fantasized homosexual acts, carried through the fantasy, am greedy and love money, neglected my children, killed someone(s), hated my parents, failed at something or everything? Does God still love me?

• God is the same today, yesterday and forever. While we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly. In view of the fact that all people fail in various ways and are deeply flawed, God sent His only-begotten to make an eternal atonement. This never changes. You can take it to the bank or to the grave, with certainty.

By the way, Simone Weil wrote that the reason secular humanists don't want to admit that there is a God is (1) the awesomeness of His being and (2) the terrible burden of being recipients of His love.

• The question then changes from "Does God still love me?" to "What shall I do with my life, in view of the fact that God loves me without regard to my merit?" or "What shall I do with the claim which the love of God has on my life?" Answer: I shall show increasing love, patience and generosity toward others without regard to their merit. Something like that.

From the newsletter of
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Austin



Neumann

Annual Wendish Fest to be held Sept. 24

The seventh annual Wendish Fest will be held Sunday, Sept. 24, at Serbin. There will be an English service at 8:30 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran. Bible class and Sunday school begin at 9:30, during which time a slide presentation on the German-speaking people of Kazakhstan (formerly part of the Soviet Union) will be given.

A German service will follow at 10:30 a.m. conducted by Rev. Otto Brüllinger of Hamilton, Texas.

At noon there will be a typical Wendish meal of sausage and the trimmings at the Serbin picnic grounds. Short-order booths open at 2:30 p.m.

Entertainment will include music by Kovanda's Czech Band of Fayetteville, Texas, with a sing-along. A special 50th anniversary tribute will be made to World War II veter-

ans. Contests will include a coffee cake bake-off, State of Texas noodle cook-off, washer pitching and a cross-cut saw competition.

Demonstrations of various Wendish crafts will include Easter egg decorating, noodle making, sausage stuffing, hog butchering, quilting, crocheting and butter-making.

On display in the Peter Building will be a reproduction of a Wendish costume worn in the Hochkirch area near Bautzen. The costume is owned by Beverly Gotzky of Australia, who will have information about the Australian Wends.

Children's activities will include corn shucking and shell-ing, feeding the geese, a coloring contest and pea shelling.

THE LOVE IN CAN-DO

CAN-DO kids build homes and friendships in Mexico

by Randy Potts

The love of Christ compelled some 80 CAN-DO youth to give of themselves by building homes for six families in Reynosa, Mexico, in this first-ever junior high CAN-DO mission-servant event!

The youth and their adult leaders built relationships with the families as they built the 12-by-16-foot wood frame homes. The families were happy to receive the CAN-DO youth and to occupy their new homes. One of

the women said that she had been praying for a home for a long time. She said, "You are the angels that God sent to build me a home."

CAN-DO youth and adults from the following congregations shared the love of

Christ with the people of the Reynosa colonia: Crown of Life, San Antonio; Our Redeemer, Dallas; Christ, Houston; Redeemer, Austin; Our Savior, McKinney; Immanuel, Hereford; Our Savior, Austin, and Memorial, Katy.

The following families received homes built by CAN-DO workers:

Juan and Elena Rodriguez and 3-year-old Jessica;

Arturo and Tomasa del Angel and Daniel, 8 months old;

Sandra and Antonio Gonzalez with children Luis, 4; Miguel, 4; Julio, 2, and Tania, 1;

Juan and Margarita Navarrete with children Juan, 11; Anna, 10, and Oniria, 8;

Ascension Cervantes, a widow;

Consuelo Gonzalez and children Juan 19, Isabel, 17.

The CAN-DO youth and adults were richly blessed by the relationships that they developed with the families and the love of Christ that was so freely given and received.

Many youth said that this had been a truly life-changing experience for them as they realized the many opportunities to share Christ through deeds of love with those in need.

CAN-DO has begun work in this new colonia in an attempt to share the love of Christ with those in need and to begin a physical presence for the church in this place.



Anne Lindbloom with new friend Consuelo



Vacation Bible school with area children



*Consuelo Gonzalez and family
in their new home*



BOERNE—This new worship and ministry center was dedicated April 16 by Messiah Congregation of Boerne.

New church all-member project

Nearly 300 people were present April 16 as Messiah Lutheran Church of Boerne held services for the first time in its new worship and ministry center.

Messiah broke ground in August 1994 and, with the help of 12 couples from Laborers For Christ, the 13,000-square-foot facility was built over the next seven months. Messiah members worked side-by-side with the Laborers.

"This has been an enriching experience for all of us at Messiah," said Pastor Mark Dankis. "Everyone, whatever their age, had an opportunity to participate in some way: provide meals and refreshments at the site, or assist with a broom, hammer or paint brush. It has been a time to work shoulder-to-shoulder with men and women who are experienced in church building as well as in the work of living a life committed to God."

Messiah began in 1991 and had been worshipping in rented facilities. The new church has a 350-seat sanctuary, 12 classrooms, fellowship hall and administrative offices.

Official dedication of the church will be at 2 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 17.

ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

"I want to pray in a more disciplined way."

Using the prayer structure "ACTS"

Supplication/Requests

The first three parts to our "ACTS" prayer have prepared us for the "Supplication" part.

"Adoration" has impressed upon us how great is our God. "Confession" has impressed upon us our total dependence upon His grace and mercy. "Thanksgiving" has reminded us how He has provided for us and answered our prayers in the past.

We now come to lay our requests before Him in a childlike faith that knows He has both the POWER to grant our requests and also the WISDOM to know what is best for us and for others involved.

Texas District Prayer Ministry Task Force #859

On pastor's mind ...

THE LOTTERY

Where do Christians fit in?

by Rev. Robert Kass

Vacancy Pastor, Peace Lutheran, Texas City

Living in the great state of Texas, I am constantly reminded of the state lottery. As soon as there is a big winner, mention is made of how much an individual has won. But never, ever, is any mention made of the many hundreds and thousands of players who have lost.

THE REASON I feel the lottery and other forms of gambling are wrong is the fact that every one who gambles has the hope within himself to win. No one who gambles hopes to lose. If I hope to win, then of necessity—although I may not express it or even be conscious of the thought within—I hope that others will lose.

Now the Lord Jesus says to each one of us, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." Do I love my neighbor as myself when I hope that he loses in order that I may win?

But do we as Christians really need to discuss gambling? I think so. Today, lottery and gambling in various forms are legalized. The fact that gambling is legalized by our government has legitimized it in the minds of many people, also some Christians.

HOW MANY OF our members buy a few lottery tickets now and then? Some may even voice a prayer, "Lord, help me win." And then some add, "If I do, I'll give some to the church."

Winning and giving some of the proceeds for a good cause doesn't legitimize gambling, nor the fact that the government says that it is legal, makes gambling right.

Suppose a person does win, can he justify his winning by saying, "Well, those who lose know that they might lose." Such an argument is not valid. Gambling is stealing by agreement even as dueling is killing by agreement.

I cannot justify winning just because I hold a winning ticket. If I gain my neighbor's property in a way that only appears right it is contrary to the second table of the law.

HOPEFULLY, MORE and more of our people will realize that gambling is but one manifestation of covetousness or greed and instead of gambling, practice that of which Paul writes to Timothy, namely godliness with contentment that is of great gain.

*Excerpted from newsletter
of Peace Lutheran, Texas City*

THE LORD ADDED ...



NEW MEMBERS—These are the newest members of Peace Lutheran, Garland, received into membership June 4. Pastors are Carl C. Fickenscher II and Scott Quinn.

ADDED—Shelley Taylor, left, and Janice Chambers are adult confirmands received at Bethany, Houston. Janice's children, Christopher and Kristina, were baptized. A third confirmand, Gloria Frances Robles, had just been released from the hospital after major surgery and insisted on being present for the confirmation, but didn't make it for the photo. Pastor is Donn Williams.



GROWING TOGETHER—These new members were accepted May 21 at Redeemer, Beaumont. From left are John Rumsey Jr, adult baptism/confirmation; Gail Luekemeyer, reaffirmation; and the Hahn family, Robert, Suzi, Michelle and Daniel, by transfer. Pastor is Bob Meyers.



LORD'S FAMILY GROWS—These are some of the 23 new members brought into the fellowship of Epiphany, Pearland, June 11. Pastor is Jon Salminen.



INTO THE FAMILY—These are new members of the family of faith received June 4 at Christ Memorial, Houston. Pastor is Mark Kuehnert.



MESSIAH—By transfer and confirmation, these new members were received May 28 at Messiah, Richardson. From left are Kim Page, Shawn Wyatt, Pastor Victor Kollmann and Mindy Bjornson.



TURNING IT AROUND—These are some of the 31 new members received June 4 at Christ Lutheran in Fort Worth by baptism, confirmation, profession of faith and transfer. A year ago, the congregation began "Parish Turn-Around," a specialized ministry developed by Pastor Norm Steinke. Since then, the church has received 55 new members.

PLANO—These are some of the 23 new members joining Lord of Life, Plano, in May. They came by adult baptism/confirmation, profession of faith and transfer. Pastor is Ric McMillian.



GARLAND—These five young people were confirmed at Tree of Life Lutheran in Garland April 30. Pastor is Donald R. Hefta.



CANYON—These are the recent confirmands of St. Paul, Canyon. At left rear is Elenya Starchenko, a student from Kazakhstan at West Texas University, also confirmed. Pastor is Wayne Patk.



ADULTS CONFIRMED—These new members were added to the forever family at St. John Lutheran in Hamilton on Pentecost Sunday, June 4. Of the 16, all 11 of the adults were received as confirmands, with two adult baptisms. Pastor is Michael Buchhorn.

BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOMES AND SERVICES, INC. GOOD SAMARITAN CAMPUS

Lott named employee of the year at Good Samaritan

For her positive attitude and commitment to the residents, Maxine Lott was named *Employee of the Year* at the Good Samaritan Campus of Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc., announced Peter Henning, campus administrator.

Lott is a group home assistant at one of seven Good Samaritan group homes in the Greater Houston area for people with mental retardation.

Lott's co-workers commend her for her positive attitude in caring for the residents. One fellow employee said, "Maxine is very cheerful, outgoing, friendly and caring towards residents

and staff."

"We are fortunate to have quality staff like Maxine," said Dr. A.L. Napolitano, executive director of Bethesda/Good Samaritan.

"It is each staff member's dedication that is the key to our success in sharing the Gospel with people who are mentally re-

tarded and what makes Bethesda/Good Samaritan so special."

Bethesda's seven Texas facilities are located in Houston (two), Cypress (four) and Spring. The 38 Bethesda facilities in 10 states provide Christian care and training for more than 700 children and adults with mental retardation.



Lott

Who benefits from Good Samaritan thrift stores?

Thrift stores benefit people who are looking for quality items at a low price. They also benefit volunteers, giving them an opportunity for Christian fellowship and service. And finally, thrift stores allow people to be good stewards of the gifts God gives us by providing a way to recycle usable items.

But the biggest benefit a Bethesda Good Samaritan Thrift Store offers is an op-

portunity to reach out to people with mental retardation in your community.

Proceeds from five stores in Texas support the Christian education and job training of 44 residents living in group homes throughout the Houston area.

Good Samaritan stores are located in: Houston (two), Austin, Tomball and Grand Prairie.



HOOP IT UP!—Residents and staff of the Good Samaritan Campus are avid basketball fans. Not only do they play the game themselves, they love to watch it on television. Above, Byron, using the perfect form, shoots for two on the new basketball hoop purchased with Campbell Soup labels.

A Special Olympics Day was held at the Good Samaritan Campus recently where residents spent the day competing in various sports including wheelchair races, balloon and ring tosses and a game of basketball. Below, Edwin marvels at his talents in the ring toss competition.





Your help needed

LSSS has family care programs working but can't go it alone

by Kurt Senske

Executive Vice President

The expansion of our children's treatment center program furthers LSSS's long-term goal of establishing a continuum of care for families throughout Texas.

Services LSSS now provides include unplanned pregnancy counseling, adoption, family counseling, therapeutic foster care, the

STAR (Stopping the Abusive Relationship) Program, residential treatment, and the PAL (Preparation for Adult Living) Program.

LSSS cannot operate this exciting ministry alone. We need your help! Each children's treatment center is looking for volunteers to serve on its advisory board, as "Angels" to the young residents, to lead Bible studies and as office helpers.

LSSS also needs your financial support. The Lord has already inspired Don and Pat Bokenkamp to make "challenge pledges" of \$200,000 each for the Corpus Christi and Denton locations. A gift of \$200,000 toward the Katy facility has been made in loving memory of Herman A. and Helen A. Krause by their daughter, Elvira Dell.

Because of extensive expenses and enormous start-

up costs, much more financial support is needed! Those interested in donating money for one of these centers can contact David Kahle at (512) 459-1000. Remember, the Bokenkamps will match your donations dollar-for-dollar up to \$400,000.



Children at the LSSS Canyon Lake facility clown around after school.

More help from LSSS for abused, neglected kids

LSSS has acquired three more facilities to treat 11- to 17-year-old boys and girls who suffer emotional disorders as a result of abuse and neglect. This nearly triples the residential treatment capability of LSSS!

The facilities are located in Denton, Katy and Corpus Christi, Texas. They were purchased from Lutheran General Health Systems of Chicago. "We will soon be able to provide help to about 230 children," says LSSS Family Services Vice President Sam Sipes.

Until now, the agency has been limited to treating up to 42 girls at New Life Treatment Center at Canyon Lake, Texas, and 38 boys and girls in New Orleans at the Bethlehem Children's Treatment Center.

The children treated at the centers have come from homes where they have been subjected to physical and sometimes sexual abuse. They have never really experienced the loving, caring environment of even the most average home.

Executive director named

Martha Flores-Wynn has been named executive director of Children's Residential Treatment at Lutheran Social Services of the South.

"Martha's background in the mental health field and her genuine caring attitude makes her perfect for this new position," said LSSS Vice President of Family Services Sam Sipes, in announcing the selection of Martha to fill the new position. "We are fortunate to have someone of her caliber," he added.

Martha joined LSSS in 1993 as managing director of

New Life Children's Treatment Center at Canyon Lake, Texas. Since that time, New Life has successfully treated and discharged several girls between the ages of 11 and 17, and increased its capacity from 32 to 42 beds.

Since receiving her master's degree in Mental Health Counseling from St. Mary's in San Antonio, Martha has accumulated 15 years of experience in the mental health field, primarily with emotionally disturbed adolescents in residential treatment.



Senske



LSSS also has a children's treatment center in New Orleans.

CELEBRATIONS



THORNDALE—Nine members of the 1945 confirmation class of St. Paul, Thorndale, met May 28 for a 50-year reunion. From left, front, are Dorothy Nell Woelfel Walther, Fayrene Simank Merkord, Ila Mae Becker Jansky, Laura Bell Olbrich Patschke and Bernice Felfe Zieschang. From left, back, Eldee Hengst, Harold Blar, Howard Schneider and John Menzel.



CLASS ACT—Redeemer Lutheran School, Austin, celebrated its 40th anniversary May 21. Many class pictures were made, this being the class of 1979. Many former students still are members of Redeemer. Principal of Redeemer School for all of its 40 years has been Norman C. Stuemke.

THE GRADS—Redeemer Lutheran of Austin honored its spring high school graduates with a dinner. Here they are in their gowns from various Austin and surrounding schools.



AT FESTIVAL—Pastor Otto Brillinger, left, and his wife, Millie, were special guests at the May 6 Mission Festival at Faith Lutheran, Corsicana. They are in ministry in Kazakhstan. With them is Faith Pastor Delton Weiser.

BUSY GOWN—Bradley Earl Keller wears baptismal gown made by his great-great-grandmother. Several other family members have worn it since it was crafted nearly a half-century ago. Holding Bradley are his parents, Paula and Larry Keller of Christ Lutheran, Pattison. Pastor William Schwertlich performed the baptismal rite, witnessed by Bradley's grandparents and great-grandparents.



ALICE—Fred and Nora Fink, members of Trinity, Alice, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary May 13.



PEARLAND—R.H. and Kathryn Saeger, Epiphany, Pearland, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary June 10.



C

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

On Sunday morning, June 11, I had the opportunity to worship with the good folks of Faith Lutheran Church in Georgetown. Earlier in the spring, Pastor John Selle invited me to come and



Siegrist speak to his members about the Church Extension Fund ministry. I gave a brief message in their worship service and also made a presentation during the adult Bible class.

Usually, about every second to third Sunday, I make a CEF presentation in one of the 350 congregations in the Texas District.

The members of my home congregation, St. Paul, Austin, quite often joke with me when I show up there about being a guest or a delinquent member. Since this has been my routine for the past seven-and-a-half years as the CEF director of development, I am confident the members of St. Paul are not overly concerned about my worship attendance.

Now, back to Faith Lutheran Church in Georgetown. I shared with them that, as I travel throughout the district, there are usually about a dozen questions I am asked on a regular basis. Here is a

sample of the questions I am normally asked, along with the responses.

What is the Church Extension Fund?

- CEF is an 89-year-old ministry of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.
- CEF provides low-cost loan funding for Texas congregations to build, expand or renovate.
- CEF provides the opportunity for all members to invest a part of their savings to serve their Lord.

E

What are the benefits of investing in CEF?

- CEF provides the opportunity for investors to be active supporters of the mission and ministry of our church.
- CEF offers investors a favorable rate of return on their investments.
- CEF has a proven and trusted reputation for:
 - Ease of investment;
 - Ease in withdrawing;
 - Providing prompt and courteous service!

How does my church benefit from CEF investments?

- CEF investments help congregations meet the supporting investment requirement (previously known as the earmarked fund requirement).
- CEF offers an Interest Rebate Program for self-supporting congregations with a Texas District CEF loan.

Specifically, How are funds in CEF used?

- Investments, gifts, memorials and bequests in wills provide funding for:
 - Advance site purchases;
 - New mission starts;
 - New construction projects;
 - Renovations and emergency requests;
 - Relocations;
 - Specialized ministries.

What professional services does CEF offer?

- Stephen Block, CEF executive director, provides:
 - Financial counseling for congregation finances.
 - Assistance in preparing and submitting loan requests.
 - Answers to questions about existing loans and renewals.
- Natalie Woolverton, CEF support staff:
 - Assists the CEF congregational representatives with promotional and resource materials, as well as CEF Tracky Stamp

F

Program items.

- Answers questions for potential CEF investors.
- Provides administrative support for Steve Block, Dick Hansen and Bill Siegrist and also serves as liaison for Texas Laborers For Christ.
- Richard Hansen, CEF director of construction, provides:
 - Consultation on building committee formation.
 - Answers to questions related to construction processes and procedures.

—Assisted more than 40 Texas District congregations in their building programs.

- Bill Siegrist, CEF director of development, provides:
 - Proven promotional support.
 - Confidential Christian estate planning.
 - Availability to speak with your congregation to share the CEF ministry.

How secure are my investments in CEF?

- For more than 80 years, CEF has offered investors security, stability and a favorable rate of return on their investments.
- All CEF loans are secured by the mortgaged properties of the Texas District.
- The strength of CEF is directly related to the size of its Capital Fund, which currently exceeds \$7.9 million.

Where do I fit into the picture?

- Remember: When you invest in Church Extension, you make possible a church, a school, a baptism, a confirmation, the Gospel proclaimed!

If you have additional questions, talk with your CEF congregational representative, your pastor or contact me at the district office.

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

Concordia University honors Lutheran Woman of the Year

The Board of Regents of Concordia University at Austin has named Helen Watson of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Worth as the 1995 Lutheran Woman of the Year. She was selected from nominations submitted by Texas District LWML societies.

Watson has served her congregation as a Sunday school teacher, LWML officer, church nursery organizer and care giver. A librarian by vocation, she has been volunteer librarian for St. Paul Lutheran School. A gardener and quilter by avocation, she has planted and tended the flower beds in the St. Paul courtyard and

has been part of a quilting group, which this year made 74 quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Watson also ministers in her community, mending clothes for Lake Worth Rest Home residents and collecting money for charitable organizations. Her nomination letter from St. Paul LWML states that she goes about the Lord's work "...always in her quiet way, never wanting to draw attention to herself, only wanting to serve...."

"I am pleased that Concordia is able to recognize in some small way the remarkable service of devoted women who are God's gifts for the work He has given us," said Dr. David Zersen, Concordia president. "The Lutheran Woman of the Year is representative of the many who give significant offerings of time and talent."

Concordia vice president selected for fellowship

Dr. Edna Aguirre Rehbein, vice president for academic affairs at Concordia, has been named by the American Council on Education (ACE) as an ACE Fellow for 1995-96. She has been assigned to intern under the president of South West Texas State University in San Marcos during her sabbatical year from Concordia teaching.

Rehbein also was a Fellow at Harvard's Institute for Educational Management in the summer of 1994.

The ACE Fellows program is designed to strengthen leadership in American higher education. Thirty-three Fellows were selected this year in a national competition.



OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP—Dr. Edna Aguirre Rehbein has taught Spanish and Mexican-American studies at Concordia since 1984. She and her husband, David, and their three children are members of Our Savior, Austin.



LUTHERAN WOMAN OF THE YEAR—Helen Watson of St. Paul, Fort Worth, received a recognition plaque from Concordia, which was presented to her by her pastor, Rev. John Messmann. She will be a special guest on the Concordia campus during Fall Festival Weekend in October.

Concordia special events Mark your calendars!

Sept. 24	Faculty Recital
Oct. 1	Sneak-a-Peek (high school visitation day)
Oct. 26-28	Fall Drama
Oct. 28	Concordia Council and Concordia Guild
Nov. 2-4	Fall Drama
Nov. 11	Sneak-a-Peek
Dec. 1-2	Christmas Choir concerts
Dec. 9	Winter Commencement
Dec. 19	Application deadline for spring semester
Jan. 11	Faculty Fine Arts Festival
Feb. 11	Christian Art Exhibit
Feb. 24	Sneak-a-Peek
March 8-18	Choir Tour
April 11-13	Spring Drama
April 18-20	Spring Drama
April 19	Field Day
April 23	Student Fine Arts Festival
May 10	Baccalaureate
May 11	Spring Commencement
June 17-21	Church Music Workshop
June 22	Sneak-a-Peek

Call the Concordia Public Relations Office at (512) 452-7661 for information on events.



AAL callers aid in drive

Volunteers from the North Texas—Oklahoma Agency and Gulf Coast Agency of Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) assisted with two phone campaigns recently conducted on behalf of Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas (LOMT) and its facilities.

General Agent Tim Schmidt and six agency volunteers raised \$2,374 on the fourth annual Dallas Phonathon to benefit Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro and LOMT. The 1995 Dallas campaign raised \$13,703 overall, which was the best drive ever conducted.

In Houston, eight representatives from the AAL Gulf Coast Agency helped generate \$1,358 on a special AAL night on that community's phone campaign to benefit LOMT and Camp Lone Star.

The Houston drive netted \$32,758 this year which represents a 21 percent increase over the 1994 campaign.

J.O.Y CAMPS

Registrations are now being accepted for the annual J.O.Y. (Just Older Youth) retreats for Christians 55 and older at Camp Lone Star in La Grange and Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro.

The Lone Star retreat will be held Friday, Oct. 6, through Sunday, Oct. 8, at the Johnson Retreat Center at the camp.

The Texoma J.O.Y. Camp is Monday, Oct. 16, through Wednesday, Oct. 18.

For more information, call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or Texoma Camp at 1-800-926-5968.



ALL SMILES—Looks like fun times ahead as this singles group of Redeemer, San Antonio, meets to plan future activities.

Big Bend retreat awaits singles

Attention singles! Mark your calendar now for the annual LOMT adult Singles Retreat at Big Bend National Park on Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 22-26. Called "Praise in the High Chisos," the event is open to all single adults 18 and older.

Come join in what will be a weekend of fun, fellowship and Christian growth in a

land of timeless beauty.

Space is limited to 20 people, and registration deadline is Nov. 8.

For a registration form or more information, write Texoma Lutheran Camp, Rt. 1 Box 116-P, Pottsboro, TX, 75076 or call 1-800-926-5968.

Lutheran Brotherhood helps LOMT phone campaign

Lutheran Brotherhood volunteers played a key role in the Houston area phone campaign held this past spring in that community to benefit Camp Lone Star and Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas (LOMT).

Altogether, a total of \$5,540 was pledged on two special Lutheran Brotherhood nights that were part of nine campaign evenings that raised a grand total of \$32,758.

The amount pledged includes \$4,445 that was committed on one evening from volunteers from the Texas Gulf Coast Agency in Houston.

Another \$1,095 was raised on a special Lutheran Brotherhood Branch night. Volunteers participated from Central Texas Branch #8533, Five County Branch #8450, and Pasadena Branch #8718.

In addition to the Houston drive, Lutheran Brotherhood callers have participated this year in the Dallas and La Grange campaigns to support LOMT and its camps.

Monies raised from these drives are used to cover 30 percent of the cost to operate LOMT facilities, which cannot be covered by camping and retreat fees.

Orienteering is for everybody

The annual orienteering meet at Texoma Lutheran Camp on Lake Texoma will be held this fall on the weekend of Nov. 10-12. 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.

OUR TEXAS SHEPHERDS



TEMPLE—Rev. Brian Bibler was installed June 11 as associate pastor of Immanuel Lutheran, Temple. Area pastors taking part in a laying-on-of-hands rite were, from left, Revs. Don Ude, John Austin, preacher; Mike Ramming; E. George Becker; Alan Struckmeyer, Immanuel senior pastor and liturgist; Bibler; Alvin Meissner, installer and circuit counselor; Francis Mennenga; Melvin Boehike; Vernon Appel; Kevin Lenz; and Russell Hildebrandt, lector.



BROWNWOOD—Rev. Philip Graf was installed June 25 as pastor of Grace Lutheran, Brownwood. Participating, from left rear, were Revs. Herbert Kluck, Albert Wuensche, Kenneth Holdorf, Timothy Rosenthal, Charles Huffman. From left front, Deacon Gary Caulkins, Graf and Carroll Kohl.



ROCKWALL—Rev. Richard Mayerhoff was installed June 4 as pastor of Our Savior Lutheran, Rockwall. He served previous parishes in Oklahoma and Victoria, Texas. Participating were, from left front, Rev. H. Melvin Symmank, installer; Rodney Mayerhoff; Revs. Richard Mayerhoff; Carl Troval; Hiram Orea; and Walter Huber. From left, back, Revs. Don Berg, Scott Quinn, Carl Fickenscher, Don Hefta and Harold Meissner. Rev. Robert Preece was a participant but had to leave before the photo session.

Champs

The Sealy Tigers won the State AAA football championship. Five of the players are members of **Trinity Lutheran, Sealy**. They are Ryan Ekarius, Bradley Boehm, Chase Schavrda, Heath Novosad and Stephen Stuessel.

Workshop set on whys and hows of Lutheran worship

Pastors, church musicians, elders, teachers and anyone who wants to know more about Lutheran worship are invited to attend an Oct. 6-7 workshop at Trinity Lutheran in Houston.

Sponsored by the LCMS Commission on Worship, the workshop is called *"Real Life Worship"* and is hailed as an excellent opportunity for all to learn more about the "how" and "why" of Lutheran worship.

Some of the church's most knowledgeable and eloquent speakers will be on hand to inspire, educate and answer questions.

The workshop will include a forum where current issues that challenge a Lutheran theology of worship and church music practice will be addressed. In addition, 11 sectionals will deal with liturgy and the life of prayer, lecture/demonstration for organists on how to make the playing of hymns and liturgy "sing," how rich hymnody teaches faith, liturgy and evangelism: are they friend or foe?, the choir in worship, youth and the Divine Service, worship resources, liturgical preaching,

and nurturing children to sing.

Fourteen presenters will include Dr. Roger Pittelko, president of the English District and chairman of the Synod's Commission on Worship; Dr. Richard Resch and Dr. Arthur A. Just Jr., both of Fort Wayne's Concordia Theological Seminary; Mark Bender, St. Paul Lutheran, Des Peres, Mo.; and others.

Registration is \$20 per person. Make checks payable to the Commission on Worship, and mail them with your name, address, phone number and church to:

**Real Life Worship
Trinity Lutheran Church
800 Houston Ave.
Houston, TX 77007
Attn: Michael Held**

For more information, Held may be reached at (713) 224-7265, or by fax at 713-224-0685.

The workshop begins at 6 p.m. Oct. 6. It closes Oct. 7 at the end of a Divine Service II worship, which features Rev. Pittelko as preacher, James Freese as organist and Mark Bender directing a mass children's choir. The service begins at 1:15 p.m.

CELEBRATIONS TEXAS MESSENGER



Anniversaries



FAITHFUL—Joe and Isabel Cirtaus celebrated their golden wedding anniversary July 19. They have been members of Bethany, Houston, for more than 45 years.



BRENNHAM—In July, Rev. Theodore and Trudy Graalman celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary. On Aug. 6, the Lord called Rev. Graalman home. He was pastor emeritus at Grace, Brenham.



ATHENS—Bruno and Alwine Goedel, St. John, Athens, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary July 25. They are the longest-married couple at St. John.



LONG WED—Herbert and Lydia Nitzsche, Our Redeemer, Houston, marked their 61st wedding anniversary June 12.



70 YEARS—Otto and Clara Nitsch, Grace, Brenham, were married 70 years Aug. 22. They are Grace's longest-married couple.

The following couples of the Texas District are celebrating 50 or more years of marriage:

Zion, Pasadena: Anne and John Sillin, 58 years, June 16. They have been at Zion 48 years.

Gloria Dei, Houston: Gil and Boots Scholin, 50 years, June 6; Al and Pat Hemminghaus, 50 years, July 7.

Trinity, Spring: Robert and Irma Richter, 50 years, May 5.

Pilgrim, Houston: Rev. and Mrs. Harold Heckmann, 50 years, July 23.

Hosanna, Kerrville: These couples will celebrate 50 or more years of marriage in 1995: Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Duhr, 58 years; Mr. and Mrs. Tolbert Jones, 53 years; Mr. and Mrs. Ted Porter, 50 years; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Portman, 50 years; Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Rhoads, 57 years.

St. Mark, Houston: Bob and Bess Imler, 51 years, June 3.

Messiah, Houston: Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Heine, Sr., 52 years, May 16; Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Leu, 61 years, June 30.

Trinity, Rosenberg: Elton and Hildegard Schroeder, 55 years, June 13.

Redeemer, Baytown: Mr. and Mrs. Art Schneider, 50 years, June 3.

Zion, Alamo: C.B. and Esther Chandler, 54 years, Aug. 10.

Cross, New Braunfels:



61 YEARS—John and Margaret Jenkins, Trinity Lutheran, Corpus Christi, celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary June 23.

Mr. and Mrs. Karl Braddick, 54 years, July 11; Mr. and Mrs. Nolan Triesch, 52 years, July 17; Mr. and Mrs. Harold Poggemeyer, 52 years, July 18.

St. Paul, Bishop: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Richter, 61 years, July 29.

St. Matthew, Westfield (Houston): Herman and Erma Hildebrandt, 55 years, July 13.

Our Redeemer, Dallas: Ronnie and Jeff Flatgaard, 57 years, July 7; Elizabeth and Edward Kappy, 51 years, July 22.

King of Kings, San Antonio: Albert and Grace Baldowsky, 50 years, Sept. 8.

Messiah, Houston: Mr. and Mrs. Leo Harsch, 55 years, July 16.

Trinity, Sealy: Herbert and Earline Blase, 56 years, July 23.

Trinity, Rosenberg: Arnold and Dorris Beissert, 52 years, July 4.

Lutheran Family Television Sunday



Cobbler in "Red Boots"

to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church' and this broadcast will help us do that," explains Rick Krueger, who directs the outreach of Lutheran Hour Ministries in the United States. He says that the program brings the true meaning of Christmas to millions of viewers worldwide and will provide a way for Lutheran congregations to follow-up with unchurched people in local communities.

"This circle is not complete unless we are able to connect people to churches," he says. "This broadcast provides that opportunity for ministry."

An invitation will offer a free "Red Boots" storybook to viewers. Calls will be received and materials sent from St. Louis, Mo. Names of respondents with no church home will be forwarded to participating Lutheran congregations.

Churches that wish to participate in the project will

"RED BOOTS" TV SPECIAL IS A BOOST FOR CONGREGATIONS

Sunday, Sept. 17, has been designated by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the Lutheran Church—Canada as Lutheran Hour Ministries Lutheran Family Television Sunday. This is a yearly event.

"Red Boots for Christmas," a new animated television special to be aired later this year, will give numerous Lutheran congregations throughout North America the opportunity to connect with unchurched people in their communities. This program is part of Lutheran Hour Ministries. Aid Association for Lutherans is providing funding for "Red Boots": a \$100,000 grant is to help Lutheran schools and Sunday schools promote the TV special for this December, and a \$75,000 grant helps offset production cost.

The special is expected to be seen in the top 100 television viewing markets.

"The goal of Lutheran Hour Ministries is 'Bringing Christ

assemble a follow-up team, says Dave VanDermay, who manages media services and works with Krueger. These church members will send invitations to worship services and Bible studies, plus materials to those who wish to know more about the Gospel. VanDermay says participating congregations will receive materials to advertise the broadcasts, follow-up ideas and Gospel materials to distribute.

The follow-up process is critical. "This project opens so many doors for ministry and we want to help churches explore all of those opportunities," VanDermay says.

For more information, call VanDermay at 1-800-944-3450, Ext. 132. (Used by permission.)

REFORMATION CELEBRATIONS

Pastoral advisers of the Lone Star District of the

Lutheran Laymen's League are providing guidance for Reformation celebrations that are being held in three areas of Texas this year. They are Rev. Michael Ramming, Grace, Killeen; Rev. Steve Henze, Trinity, Tyler; and Rev. Henry Biar, King of Kings, San Antonio. Please plan to attend one of the celebration services.

THE SIXTH Central Texas Reformation celebration will be at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 29, at the Bell County Expo Center Exhibit Building under the theme "The Dynamic Word." Retired Admiral Don Muchow, chairman, U.S. Navy Chief of Chaplains, will be the inspirational speaker.

TYLER is the location for the first East Texas Reformation celebration. This service will be on Monday, Oct. 30, at Harvey Convention Center at 7 p.m. Dr. Dale Meyer, Lutheran Hour speaker, will give the inspirational message.

THE FIRST Southwest Texas Reformation Celebration Lutheran Hour Rally will be at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 31, in San Antonio at the Municipal Auditorium. Dr. Dale Meyer, Lutheran Hour speaker, will bring the message.

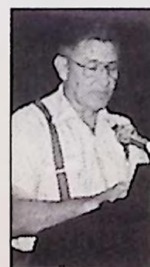
"THIS IS THE LIFE" IN AUSTIN

For many years Franklin Arldt has been doing the chores of receiving, delivering to the station, picking up and returning the "This Is the Life" and "Esta Es La Vida" videos to their next destination. It is through his effort that these two programs are broadcast in Austin. He has never asked for reimbursement for shipment or travel costs.

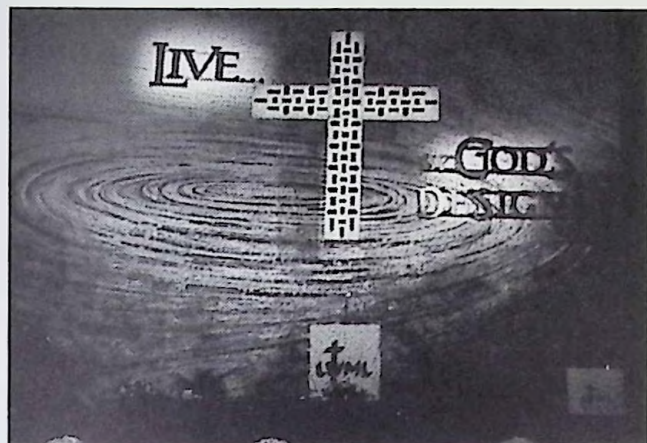
"This Is the Life" is broadcast on ACTV Channel 11 on Sunday at 5:30 p.m. on Cable Max 26, Monday-Friday at 4 p.m. "Esta Es La Vida" is on ACTV 11 on Monday at 5 p.m.

At the June Lone Star District board meeting, Franklin, an Austin letter carrier, took extra time off for his lunch break to tell of his experience with this task. There are times when his son, James, has to take over these duties of delivery and pickup.

Thank you, Frank.



Franklin
Arldt



Stage backdrop at Kansas City ILWML convention

By God's design

Following the theme **LIVE ... BY GOD'S DESIGN**, 6,700 WOMEN met at Kansas City's Bartle Hall on Thursday, June 22, to carry out the goal *"In response to God's mission call, Lutheran women make a significant difference for Him."*

Ida Mall, president of the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League, brought down the gavel at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 22, to open the 26th biennial convention of the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League (ILWML).

Excitement was high, as 40 delegations paraded prior to the opening ceremonies.

The international Mission Projects Committee provided a booth with a walk-through adventure in the Land of Oz.

Dorothy was there to greet each guest with encouragement on the path of mission awareness, with Tin Man, Scarecrow and Lion helping us become more aware of our missionaries and mission efforts.

The Christian growth

booth provided participants the opportunity to weave a six-foot tapestry. The individual strands woven together represent the wonderful network of the LWML, and the results are beautiful to see!

There was an experiential mall. Booths were set up in the hall behind the exhibitors for a hands-on experience to make a variety of items.

Sixty-five people participated in the Servant Event before the convention. They cleaned up a park, sorted food at food pantries and clothes for thrift stores, cleaned up neighborhoods, washed windows, planted flowers and "got their hands dirty" in many ways for the Lord's service.

Rev. Robert Malone of St. John Lutheran said, "events like this have a ripple effect on our people. They become inspired to do things they may have thought were impossible."

Friday morning we were surprised to find Micah in a courtroom bringing a lawsuit against God's people!

The drama pointed out that what God truly desires from His people is faith and obedience.

Rev. Allen Brill wrote the scene "Excess Baggage." Two modern-day women were included, each carrying "excess baggage" that hindered her ability to serve her Lord effectively.

Gloria Edwards, Portola Valley, Calif., was elected the new international president. A mission goal of \$1.14 million for the 1995-97 biennium has been set.

The fall issue of the *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* will have a listing of all new officers with addresses and

the mite projects chosen.

Notable people attending from Texas were Rev. Jerry Kieschnick and his wife, Terry. Each addressed the Texas delegation at caucus with love and encouragement. We appreciate this support.

Dr. A.L. Barry, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, addressed the assembly Friday evening. He encouraged us to "cry for mercy ... that we may see clearly God's blessings poured on the LWML, as well as the challenges."

Mite report

July 1995

1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd July (all sources)	6,176
Rec'd to date (all sources)	152,474
Needed for goal	103,525
Sent to Int'l LWML (July)	1,519
Int'l to date	32,127

Send ALL contributions to Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box 1224, Giddings, TX 78942. **MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO TEXAS DISTRICT LWML.**



Pat Blar, Texas District LWML president, after the procession of banners.

Texas banner

The Texas banner was designed and made by Janet Hurta, Texas District LWML secretary.

She designed a background of blue symbolizing our baptism: God's design to give us His Holy Spirit.

The morning glories arise out of our hearts. By blooming where He plants us, we give praise anew every morning: God's design to share His love, grace and hope.

The convention logo, a basketweave cross is quilted in the background: God's design to restore us to His flock.



From left, Giovannie Torcincio and Stephanie Lanier, new Young Woman Reps, address the Texas caucus.



Executive committee at caucus.



Participants could make their own bookmarks at the Woman's Quarterly booth in the experiential mall. Charlotte Hughes, LWML Texas District public relations/news editor, far right, helps staff the booth.

New officers are needed!

Nominations for officers are needed to lead us from 1996 to 2000.

At the 1996 Texas District convention, officers will be elected to fill the following offices: president, first and third vice presidents, finan-

cial secretary and nominating committee members.

Only societies and zones may nominate. The deadline is Nov. 1.

Send nominations to Shannon Reid, chairman of the Nominating Committee.



Virginia Evers, far right, works at the international booth with some friends. Virginia now serves on the Texas District LWML Public Relations Committee.



Here, President Pat Blar visits with some of the Texas delegation. From left, front, are Blar, Pastor Schroeder. In back row are Katherine Wolf, Clara Snow and Jean Kamper.



The caucus of the Texas District, included from left, front row, Charlotte Hughes, Lora Jones and Betty Discher.



LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1995, Lewisville, TX 75067. Deadline ninth of month. Fax no. 817-491-0105.



'Honor your father and your mother!'

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, President, LCMS Texas District

At Camp Lone Star in LaGrange, Texas, after the annual worship service, a young man, obviously special, came up to me and began a conversation. He wanted to know if I would mention his name in the *Texas Messenger* of THE LUTHERAN WITNESS.

When I asked why he thought I should do so, he mentioned three reasons:

- He is a nephew of Dr. Bill Knippa, co-pastor with Rev. Walter Harms of Bethany Lutheran Church, Austin;
- He recently participated in the Special Olympics in Austin;
- His mother died in March at age 43.

While I was duly impressed by the first two points he mentioned, I was deeply moved by the third. Eighteen-year-old Ben Knippa of San Antonio went on to describe how deeply he cared for and loved his mother and how much he has missed her since her death.

BEN, IF YOU'RE reading this article, please know that at this very moment, you are in the thoughts and prayers of the many other people who also are reading these words. Thanks for having the courage to ask me to mention your name in the *Texas Messenger*!

This true story of Ben Knippa is one of literally thousands that could be told by people throughout the Texas District. We all have stories that could tell of the important relationships and feelings of love we have personally experienced with

our parents.

There are others whose stories would include the tragedy of abusive parental relationships. For those special and painful circumstances, we all

grieve and pray for strength and healing in the lives of those affected.

BEN'S STORY, along with many of our own, serve at least in some small way as testimony to the keeping and obeying of the Fourth Commandment: "You shall honor your father and mother." That's the way the commandment is written in Luther's *Large Catechism*.



Pastor Kieschnick

simply to love our parents but also to honor them. With respect to brothers, sisters and neighbors in general, He commands nothing higher than that we love them. Thus He distinguishes father and mother above all other persons on earth and places them next to Himself. For it is a much greater thing to honor than to love. Honor includes not only love but

Luther writes, "To fatherhood and motherhood God has given the special distinction, above all estates that are beneath it, that He commands us not

however lowly, poor, feeble and eccentric they may be, they are their own father and mother, given them by God. They are not to be deprived of their honor because of their ways or their failings. Therefore, we are not to think of their persons, whatever they are, but of the will of God, who has created and ordained them to be our parents" (*Large Catechism*, The Book of Concord, pp. 379-380).

LUTHER WRITES

MANY more words of explanation of this commandment in his *Large Catechism*. I commend them to you for your edification.

In addition, I commend you for your careful attention to this important commandment, the ignoring of which is regularly and viciously encouraged by Satan, the world and our flesh, in subtle and in sometimes not-so-subtle fashion.

THE IMPORTANCE of prayer and faithful obedience of this command from God Himself should never be underestimated, either by parents or by children. For God has surely created a marvelous privilege and an awesome responsibility in the roles of parenthood.

Thanks, Ben Knippa, for your powerful and sensitive tribute to your mother, Cindy, given to me at Camp Lone Star and herein shared with the members of the congregations of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

The Fourth Commandment

Actually, long ago in the "Dark Ages" I memorized these words: "Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth" (Luther's *Small Catechism*).

In response to the good Lutheran question "What does this mean?," I learned to say, "We should fear and love God that we may not despise our parents and masters, nor provoke them to anger, but give them honor, serve and obey them, and hold them in love and esteem."

IN HIS *Large Catechism*,

also deference, humility and modesty, directed (so to speak) toward a majesty hidden within them. It requires us not only to address them affectionately and reverently, but above all to show by our actions, both of heart and of body, that we respect them very highly and that next to God we give them the very highest place. For anyone whom we are whole-heartedly to honor, we must truly regard as high and great.

"Young people must therefore be taught to revere their parents as God's representatives and to remember that,

TEXAS CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

W A N T E D



Amalle Long
from St.
Paul,
Monahans



**Frank (not
pictured) and
Colleen Groce**
from Trinity,
Borger



**Gene and Helen
(not pictured)
Harman** from
Good Shep-
herd, Pasadena



**Ernie and Mary
(not pictured)
Eulert** from
Salem, Tomball



**Ernestine
Jackson** from
Calvary,
Houston



**Arlyn and Anna
(not pictured)
Maloy** from
Messiah,
Boerne



**Bob (not
pictured) and
Kathryn
Ziegler** from
Pilgrim,
Houston



**Marvin and
Bernelle (not
pictured) Arldt**
from Concor-
dia, Houston



**Terry (not
pictured) and
Karen Reitz**
from Good
Shepherd,
Round Rock



**Jim and Hazel
(not pictured)
Buffaloe** from
Redeemer,
Austin

Unique characteristics abide in CEF congregational reps

As a boy, I remember going to the post office and seeing the "mug shots" of the FBI's 10 most wanted criminals. My curiosity always led me to read about their backgrounds and the crimes they had committed. Of course, as soon as I left the post office, I gave everyone the "once over" to see if they fit the photograph and description.



Siegrist

In the Church Extension Fund ministry, we also have some "mug shots" you might recognize on this page. No, these good folks are not criminals, but rather serve as CEF congregational representatives. Unfortunately, we do not have enough space to include a picture of all CEF representatives.

Just in case we did not include a photo of your CEF congregational representative, here are several of the unique characteristics that might help you identify your representative.

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 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, a good example for others.

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 Heroes of the Faith 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. Next year it will be held Feb. 16-18 at the Austin Wyndham Hotel.
- Your CEF rep makes calls and personal contacts with members of your congregation to encourage investments and gifts for CEF.

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.

Call or write:

**Texas District Church Extension Fund
Bill Siegrist**

7900 E. Highway 290

Austin, TX 78724-2499

(512) 926-4272 or toll-free at 1-800-951-3478



Texas District Mission News

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



Rev. Ken
Hennings

District-to-congregation distance narrowed

The structure to support the Texas District's strategic ministry plan came a step nearer completion July 25 when district directors elected two men as mission and ministry facilitators. They are John Goeke of Austin and Paul Krentz of Edina, Minn. Both have accepted the positions.

The district's ministry plan is built around a resolution passed in district convention that asks for closer relationships and increased resource sharing from the district to local congregations.

Under the plan the district will have four mission and ministry facilitators, one assigned to each of the four vice presidential districts. Two already are in place. Goeke and Krentz began their duties in October.

Goeke is a 1962 graduate of Concordia College, Seward, Neb., and recently was lead consultant for Pathway Lutheran Ministries. For 17 years he was vice president and chief operating officer in Austin for

Mechanical Reps., Inc., a supplier of air-conditioning equipment. For two years he was a missionary in Japan, heading the development office of alumni relations for the American School there and serving as its director. He was a director of Christian education (DCE) for seven years at St. Paul Lutheran in Fort Worth.

Krentz also graduated from Seward's Concordia College and is completing a master's degree in educational leadership. He was a DCE at Cross View Lutheran Church in Edina, Minn. for more than nine years. He also has served DCE positions in four other congregations: St. Paul, Trenton, Mich.; Faith, Appleton, Wis.; Redeemer, Rochester, Minn.; Our Redeemer, Moorhead, Minn. He has led annual marriage retreats, parenting classes, a number of support groups and an annual mission trip while at Cross View.

The men were selected by a district search committee.

The two mission and min-

istry facilitators already on staff are Dr. Keith Loomans who is the district's executive director of parish services, and Rev. Ken Hennings, the district's execu-

tive director of missions. A third facilitator will be sought to begin in fall 1996, at which time Hennings will shift his emphasis to coordinating facilitators, pastoral vacancies and missions.

Living Letters

You're Christian; who knows?

by Rudy C. Herbrich, pastor
Grace, Arlington

While I did not wear my clerical collar on the beach in Corpus Christi on July 4, an incident occurred that was both surprising and amusing. Karen and I were poolside at the Sandy Shores Motel on Corpus Christi Beach taking pictures of a banana tree when a woman walked by. I greeted her, spoke a few words about the weather (very windy) and then she said, "You're a pastor, aren't you?" She was a bit embarrassed to approach me this way but asked for prayer for relatives having serious health problems.

Well, I surely don't know why she would identify me as she did, but I thought it surely would be great if every Christian could be identified by strangers for who they are. What if you were approached tomorrow at the supermarket by someone who said admiringly, "You're a Christian, aren't you?"

I believe this happens more than we think. As we work, as we react to crises, as we play, people notice our language, our actions, our attitudes. Hopefully they say, "You're a Christian, aren't you?"

We are *living letters* that are read by others and bring glory to God. Folks around us are blessed and we bring encouragement and joy into their lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.

NEWS

Texas District churches find the on-ramp to information highway

Several Texas District congregations have found their way onto the information highway via Worldwide Web (WWW), an interconnected library of electronic documents on computers around the world.

At least three district congregations in the Dallas area and one in the Houston area can be found on WWW.

These congregations have "pages" on WWW with information about the congregation, its schedule of services, programs and activities, as well as statements of what Lutherans believe.

Carl Kalbfleisch, a member of Lord of Life, Plano, has been instrumental in getting his church, along with Messiah, Richardson, and Cross of Christ, DeSoto, on the web. Director of Christian Education Craig McCourt, Christ Lutheran, Houston, has worked with

the *Houston Chronicle* in getting that congregation on the web.

Lord of Life pages on the web receive as many as 20 "touches" a day, meaning that on 20 occasions someone in the world elected to look at the material in that congregation's web document as he or she "cruises" the information highway.

For information, Kalbfleisch can be reached at his work phone (214) 407-7481 or at home at (214) 238-8652. McCourt can be reached at Christ Lutheran at (713) 458-3231.

District sets up family ministry task force

Delegates to last year's district convention in Galveston challenged the district to develop a more effective ministry to families.

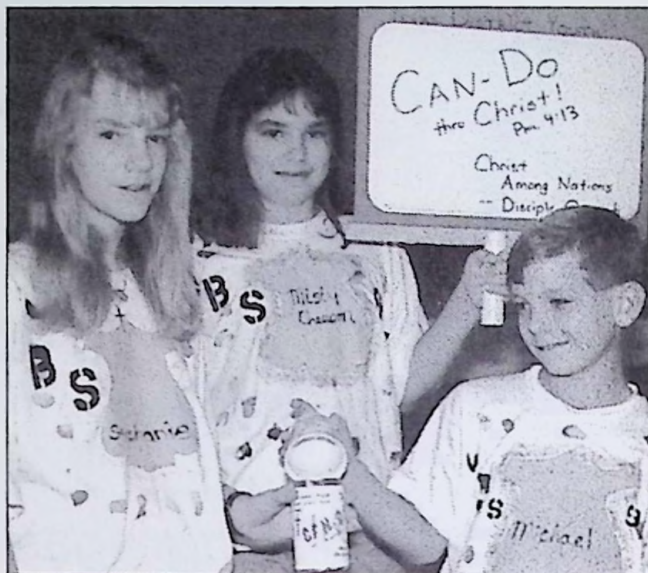
To that end, a family ministry task force has been established. Members include Ed Kasper, Sylvia Rohde,

David Rahberg and Mary Wehmiller. Tom Couser, district parish services associate, will represent district staff.

The task force is developing a survey to use in identifying resources currently being used by district congregations. The list will be

shared with all churches.

The task force also will host a family ministry conference in early 1996. Congregations with dynamic family ministry programs will be invited to attend, with a goal of enhancing those programs and serving as teaching congregations for others.



CAN-DO BOOSTERS—These members of vacation Bible school at First Lutheran, Lufkin, deposited weekly VBS offerings for the Texas youth mission program, CAN-DO. From left are Stephanie Teer, Misty Chesson and Michael Teer.

ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

Confidence in Prayer

God's promises give us great confidence when we pray.

First, He assures us that

we are His children! (1 John 3:1)

Second, we have so much *help in our prayers!*

Jesus pleads for us before the Father (1 John 2:1-2).

The *Holy Spirit* not only *encourages* us to pray, but also *intercedes for us as we pray* (Rom. 8:26-27).

As a child comes to his loving father, we can ask for anything and know His wisdom will direct His answer!

God delights in our asking and in giving to us, His children! (Matt. 7:7-11).

TRUST IN THAT WHEN YOU PRAY!

Keep 2/10/96 open!

Texas District Prayer Ministry Task Force #0610

Sniffing out a problem

At least one member of Hope Lutheran, Austin, has a serious problem with asthma that is aggravated by her allergy to perfume. According to the Hope newsletter, perhaps others have the same problem.

"We don't know of any perfect solution for this problem, but perhaps we can help," the newsletter continued.

"One way is by being careful not to overdo the use of perfumes out of consideration for others."

The newsletter said that "another possibility is that we ask those using any perfume not to sit in the front rows of the church in front of the pulpit and reserve these for those with allergy problems and others who do not use strong perfume.

"Whatever we can do to help will be appreciated by those concerned."



She's 18

Erin Leigh Bullock of Colleyville, where she is a member of Crown of Life Lutheran Church, was one of the recipients of the first Youth Health and Hope Award presented July 1 at the LCMS Youth Gathering in San Antonio. The award is given by Wheat Ridge Ministries of Itasca, Ill.

The award goes to young people of faith who demonstrate leadership skills and are serving their Lord and His ways in their church, school and community. Bullock, 18, was selected along with 19 other outstanding young people from a field of nearly 150 nominees from around the world.

BULLOCK IS ACTIVE in a number of service areas, which include organizing a student mentoring program for at-risk students in a nearby elementary school, conducting neighborhood vacation Bible school for unchurched children in a disadvantaged section of Brownsville as well as at a mission church in Matamoros, Mexico; dealing with racial tensions in her high school by attending special training and subsequently administering the program in her school; serving as president of her church youth group; and coordinating the CAN-DO project at her church.

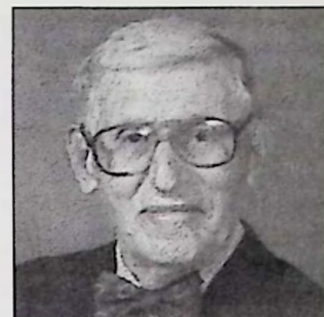
BULLOCK'S MOM, Edith Bullock, who nominated her daughter, said,

"Erin has a heart for service to her fellow man and to God. She feels deeply for those in need, whether the need is physical, social, emotional or spiritual."

Wheat Ridge, donor of the award, is a not-for-profit Lutheran agency that provides start-up funding and resources for new ministries which affirm its mission of providing health and hope, in the name of the healing Christ.

OTHER OUTSTANDING Texas District youth nominated for the award included Brett Hintze, Beautiful Savior, Arlington; Joanna Kieschnick, St. Paul, Fort Worth; Leslee Kiesling, Trinity, Eden; Lyndee Kiesling, Trinity, Eden; Eric Marks, Trinity, Eden; Angie Nichols, Holy Cross, Dallas; Jeremy Waller, Crown of Life, Colleyville.

Serving the Lord at any age



He's 93

William Nielsen of Stephenville, Texas, received the 1995 Church Worker Alumnus of the Year Award from Concordia College, Seward, Neb. *He's earned it.*

A MEMBER OF Faith Lutheran in Stephenville, Nielsen teaches catechism to seventh- and eighth-graders. Never mind that he's 93.

Born Nov. 12, 1901, he entered Concordia College, Seward, Neb., in 1915 and got a Lutheran Teachers Diploma in 1920. He accepted a call to St. Paul Lutheran in Aleman, Texas, and taught there by himself for the first two years. He had 65 pupils.

In the 50 years that followed, Nielsen served three different Lutheran schools in Texas. He retired in 1970.

BY A LONG SHOT, retirement didn't end his church work. At Stephenville he was organist for Faith Lutheran for 10 years. He also joined the Sunday school staff and, at 93, teaches their catechumens.

After his wife's death in 1983, Nielsen became interested in ministry to the blind. He studied braille for a year and became a volunteer transcriber. He has transcribed Sunday school lessons for preteens and will complete transcribing more than 300 additional pages of braille this year.

THE AWARD WAS given Nielsen at Concordia's annual alumni reunion July 29 in Seward.



UNTIRING SERVICE—Sandra Massie and Chuck Intravala were honored in the worship hours and with a special reception June 25 by Prince of Peace Congregation, Carrollton. Sandra has been primary organist/pianist since 1978. Chuck has served as choir director, handbell director and sound board technician since 1979. On a special banner, the congregation expressed its sentiments of appreciation and affection: "Thank you for helping us praise the Lord!"

Chaplain Discher awarded St. Martin of Tours Medal

Chaplain Gerald R. Discher of Navasota has been awarded the St. Martin of Tours Medal. The presentation was made at the recent Texas District theological convention by Texas District President Jerry Kiechnick on behalf of the Commission for Ministry to the Armed Forces. Discher has been a Civil Air Patrol chaplain for 20 years and has the rank of lieutenant colonel.



Discher

The bronze medal recalls the tradition that Martin of Tours cut his cloak in half and shared it with a freezing beggar. Later, according to the tradition, he had a dream in which he saw Christ wearing the half of Martin's cloak.

Discher is assistant chaplain of the Texas Wing of the Civil Air Patrol, an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force. He is emeritus of the Texas prison chaplaincy.

10 district congregations confirmed or baptized 35 or more adults in 1994

Ten congregations of the Texas District baptized or confirmed 35 or more adults in 1994, according to the Synod's Board for Evangelism Services.

Building teens for Christ conference set

The Texas District Youth Committee will host a "Building Teens for Christ" conference Nov. 3-4 at the Red Lion Hotel in Austin. The conference is aimed at lay youth counselors and youth leaders.

There will be separate tracks for youth and adults. Teens will be trained in the new "Teens Building Teens" program.

District Lutheran Youth Federation representative Angie Nichols and Courtney Manus will be leaders. Adults will move through a basic youth ministry training course.

Congregations have been asked to send teams of three youth and one counselor.

Gloria Dei of Houston led the Texas District with 76 adults either baptized or confirmed.

Others on the list were these:

Trinity, Klein, 72.
Concordia, San Antonio, 68.
Salem, Tomball, 55.
Bethany, Austin, 43.
Redeemer, Austin, 41
Prince of Peace, Carrollton, 40.
Peace, Hurst, 40.
Cross of Christ, DeSoto, 39.
Christ the King, Kingwood, 38.

Champion firefighter is Lutheran—and female

There may be some folks around who believe that a woman's place is in the home. Lisa Millman's place is at the firehouse.

When the Regional Firefighter Combat Challenge was held July 8 in Austin, more than 200 firefighters from Texas and Louisiana competed. Purpose was to showcase physical fitness within fire departments and display ways to identify and improve firefighters' fitness levels.

Winner in the women's division was Austin firefighter Millman, a member of Christ Lutheran in Austin.

On pastor's mind ...

God and Oklahoma City

by Rev. Arthur E. Graf
emeritus, Lubbock

While not all questions being asked in connection with the Oklahoma City bombing can be answered, the Bible does give answers to some.

Was God there?

Yes. He is present everywhere (Psalm 139).

Is God responsible for the bombing?

No. All such acts of hatred, murder and other sins are the work of the devil and of his followers (John 8:44).



Graf

What was God doing at the time?

He was sending His holy angels to take to heaven the souls of those who had put their trust in Christ (John 3:16).

Is there comfort for those whose loved ones were taken so suddenly?

"All things work together for good to them who love God" (Rom. 8:28 KJV).

What about those who died but did not believe in Christ as their Savior?

"He that believeth on the Son has everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36 KJV).

What lessons should come out of Oklahoma City?

For the believers in Christ: "Let not your heart be troubled.... I will come again and receive you unto Myself" (John 14:1-3 KJV).

For those who are not now followers of Christ: "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2 KJV).

For the Christian church: "Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city... and compel them to come in, that My house may be filled" (Luke 14: 21, 23 KJV).

*From Letters to the Editor
Lubbock Avalanche Journal*

Wearing full gear and an oxygen mask, Millman:

- Carried a 42-pound hose to the top of a five-story tower.
 - Hoisted a 45-pound weight to the top of the tower.
 - Hammered a 165-pound beam until it moved five feet.
 - Carried a charged hose line 75 feet.
 - Dragged a 175-pound mannequin 100 feet.
- Her time for the challenge course was but one second off the national record.

CELEBRATIONS TEXAS MESSENGER



MISSIONARY—Rev. Dennis Kitzmann was ordained and commissioned as missionary to Roanoke, Texas, June 25 at Keller's Messiah Lutheran, which called him to plant a church in Roanoke, a growing city five miles north of Keller. Participating in the ordination and commissioning rites were, from left, Revs. Robert Hill; Henry Wied; Kitzmann; Glenn Huebel, circuit counselor; Robert Preus, preacher; Roger Neeb; and David Joeckel, Texas District vice president.

REJOICE!



NEWEST CONFIRMAND—Rev. Loren DuBols, Zion Lutheran, Bonham, presents a confirmation certificate to the newest confirmand, Daniel Carter. With them are Daniel's grandparents, Minnie and Raymond Ryser.



SAN MARCOS—Rev. Bruce A. Peffer was installed June 25 as pastor of Grace, San Marcos. Participating, from left, were Revs. Jim Linderman, circuit counselor; Paul Hartfield, Texas District vice president; Peffer; and M.J. Meyer.



GENERATIONS—Bertie Fielder, St. Paul, Kingsville, recently celebrated her 85th birthday. Four generations were on hand to help celebrate. They were Bertie's daughter, Thelma Fielder-Ferguson; Thelma's daughter, Vikki Christoff; and Vikki's daughter, Taylor Christoff.



BROUGHT TO ZION—On June 25 Zion Lutheran of Walburg welcomed Mitchell and Julie Allen; and Neil, Gall, Andrew and Bethany Lindhal by transfer; Ralph and Susan Johnson by adult confirmation; and Jonathan and Caleb Johnson by baptism. George Becker, center back, is interim pastor.



WESTFIELD—This is the confirmation class of St. Matthew, Westfield, brought into communion fellowship as they renewed their baptismal vows May 7. From left, front, Lindsay Day, Trisha Wisnoskie, Cheryl Oller, Jamie Pitman and Frank Turney. From left, back, Kristi Guhlén, Matthew Pall, Pastor Richard Schroeder and Jennifer Hicks.

Zion, Dallas, hosts retreat for Germans

Zion Lutheran Church, Dallas, hosted a retreat for 12 German youth and two pastors July 28-Aug. 12. The Germans are from an independent Lutheran church body in Germany called the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church.

The purpose of the retreat, besides spiritual growth for the participants, is increased cultural awareness and getting to know The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the United States.

The visitors lived with host families of Zion, attended cultural and sporting events that included soccer, ice hockey and softball.

The youth ranged in age from 15 to 21. The pastors were Jorg Ackermann and Scott Morrison, the latter a native of Dallas and former member of Zion.



COMPUTER ABC's—Students at the early childhood center of St. Andrew Lutheran Church in Houston begin their journey to computer literacy.

Little guys getting byte of the future

Students at St. Andrew Lutheran Early Childhood Center in Houston are getting a byte of the future.

The youngsters, starting as young as 3-1/2, are learning the ABC's of the computer on their way to becoming computer literate, thanks to an extracurricular activity provided by an educational service called CompuQuest.

The service provides certified instructors, computers and curriculum. Once a week, for up to 45 minutes, the St. Andrew students do computer work. The computer class is op-

tional, with parents deciding if their child will participate, said the center's director, Cindy Hadley. The cost is \$7.50 a class.

CompuQuest emphasizes three main points: social interaction, computer literacy and basic education reinforcement. The firm operates in Houston and Dallas/Fort Worth. Its director of education, Stacie Hermann, is a member of Trinity Lutheran in Houston. Her phone number is (713) 744-2223.

Another Lutheran school that uses the program is St. Timothy, Houston.

Generous Texans double goal in Books for Brazil drive

The goal of 30,000 donated books was exceeded and more than doubled by generous Texans who contributed more than 60,000 books to the Books for Brazil drive, according to Dr. M.J. Stelmachowicz, coordinator of the campaign who represents the Lutheran University of Brazil (ULBRA) in the United States.



Stelmachowicz

In a letter to the editor of the *Texas Messenger*, Stelmachowicz wrote, "On behalf of ULBRA and the thousands of students attending Lutheran schools in Brazil, I wish to thank all those who contributed books and/or dollars in support of this effort.

"Special thanks also to LWML members who so effectively publicized the campaign in their local congregations and to the many Concordia University students at Austin who volunteered services in sorting, boxing and loading books. The students' work was coordinated by Norman Holmes, librarian; Bill Driskill, dean of students; and Chris Winkler, director of student activities. Aaron Goeke served as chairman of the student com-

mittee.

"The collection received a big boost in the Houston area when St. Mark Lutheran Church agreed to serve as a collection site for that area under the leadership of Margaret Goodson and Linda Wimberley.

"Last but not least, thanks also to the pastors and the *Texas Messenger* for keeping this cause before the people. The project is a fine example of what can be accomplished with good teamwork under God's blessing."

*Sincerely in Christ,
Dr. M.J. Stelmachowicz
ULBRA Ambassador to USA*

The books arrived in Brazil Aug. 1 and will be distributed this fall to nine Lutheran elementary schools, five high schools and six college extension campuses operated by ULBRA throughout Brazil. Some of the books will remain in the university library at Canoas in southern Brazil near Porto Alegre.

Statistics for the Wisconsin drive, which was conducted simultaneously with the Texas drive, are not yet available.



Fort Wayne sends five sem grads to Texas

Sixty-two graduating students of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind., have received their calls into the pastoral ministry. Five have come to Texas District congregations.

- Matthew A. Boarts, who vicared at Concordia, San Antonio, has become associate pastor of Mount Olive Lutheran, San Antonio.

- John A. Diaz, Faith Lutheran, Laredo.

- Philip J. Graf Sr. to Grace Lutheran, Brownwood.

- Scott A. Sundbye to associate pastor, Our Savior Lutheran, McKinney.

- Dennis M. Kitzmann to Messiah Lutheran, Keller, where he will be missionary-at-large in the Roanoke area.

In addition, two third-year students have received vicarage assignments in the Texas District. They are Martin J. Kaufmann, St. Paul Lutheran, Waco, and Mark E. Wagner, Christ Our Savior, Lago Vista.

Eighth-grader Dave Von Stroh is bee sharp

Eighth grader Dave Von Stroh, St. Paul, Harlingen, qualified for a third straight year in the state Geography Bee. The competition in Fort Worth resulted in Dave battling long into the championship round and finishing second, narrowly missing the chance to compete in the national bee in Washington, D.C.



TEXAS-BOUND—These graduates and third-year vicars of Concordia Seminary in St. Louis have received calls to Texas. With their wives, they are from left, front, Scott Herbert, called to Christ, Amarillo; Rhonda Herbert; Texas District President Jerry Kieschnick; Mark Louderback, vicar, Crown of Life, Colleyville; Bill Helthold, vicar, St. Paul, Big Spring. Second row, Paul Schneider, St. Paul, Fort Worth; Karen Schneider; Sandy Strom; Cyndi Heithold. Third row, Clint Plueneke, vicar, Holy Cross, Arlington; Paul Willweber, Redeemer, Odessa; Terry Strom, El Buen Pastor, McAllen. Fourth row, Sandra Brouwer; Tom Brouwer, St. Peter, Gun Barrel City; Vivian Jobst; and Jim Jobst, Resurrection, Spring.

Texas has largest mission program in Synod

(The following is the report of Texas District President Jerry Kieschnick to the synodical convention in July in St. Louis.)

The Mission of the Texas District is to strengthen congregations to reach the lost, disciple the saved and care for God's people—locally and globally.

District missions and ministries: 65 ministries are receiving financial support from the largest mission program in the Synod (budget of \$2,216,000).

Synodical mission offerings: 40.7 percent of district receipts (\$2,442,000 pledged in 1995).

History: organized in 1906.

Geography: More than 250,000 square miles (the entire state of Texas except El Paso County).

Baptized members: 136,295

Congregations: 350

Circuits: 39

Pastors: 450

Educators: 1,000

Day schools: 110

High schools: five

University: Concordia, Austin, enrollment 700

Social service agency: Lutheran Social Services of the South (\$27 million budget).

Outdoors ministry: Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas (two camping/retreat facilities).

Church extension: Texas District Church Extension Fund (\$51 million investments; \$7.5 million capital fund).

Foundation: Lutheran Foundation of Texas (\$19,314,966 under management).

KEY CONCEPTS, GOALS

1. Congregations reaching, caring, discipling.
2. Members in mission and ministry.
3. Church professionals as equippers-leaders.
4. Decision-making that enhances mission and ministry.
5. Information that is open and free-flowing.
6. District with visionary leadership.
7. District staff as catalysts and facilitators.
8. District with well-managed resources.

THE VISION

The vision for the Texas District is that, by the 100th anniversary of the Texas District in the year 2006, the congregations of the Texas District are mission-driven, touching and winning those who do not know Jesus, enriching and empowering those who do.

Koop Center opened

More than 300 people attended the dedication of the Arnold Koop Memorial Activities Center July 30 at Camp Lone Star in La Grange.

This new multipurpose building can accommodate up to 300 people for a conference and 500 for an assembly.

A high quality facility, the Koop Center is air-conditioned, heated, carpeted and features a stage for use in worship, skits, lectures, workshops or video presentations.

The ceremony was conducted by Rev. Jerry Kleschnick, president of the Texas District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The center was dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of Arnold Koop, a charter member and longtime president of the M.G. and Lillie A. Johnson Foundation of Victoria. The Johnson Foundation provided major funding for the new center.

Several members of the Koop family attended the dedication including Anita Koop, widow of Arnold Koop, and Dick Koop, Koop's son.

The dedication was part of the annual Lone Star Barbecue held each July at the camp. The outdoor worship service, barbecue dinner and auction followed the



More than 300 people attended the Koop Center dedication at Camp Lone Star July 30. Ron Lammert (right), LOMT board president, served as master of ceremonies.



Among those participating in the dedication were, from left, back, Ron Lammert, LOMT board president; Dick Koop, son of the late Arnold Koop and a board member of the Johnson Foundation. Front, Rev. Marvin Lehnhardt, Johnson Foundation board member; Anita Koop, widow of Arnold Koop; and Rev. Jerry Kleschnick, LCMS Texas District president.

dedication ceremony, and more than \$22,000 was raised as part of this year's events.

Information of scheduling a retreat, conference, meet-

ing, Lutheran family reunion or other events at the new Koop Activities Center or Camp Lone Star is available by calling 1-800-362-2078.

Big jobs for teens open

Workshop slated in December for junior camp staffers

The workshop for teens interested in serving as junior staff members at Lutheran summer camp during 1996 will be held Dec. 1-2 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 on June 1, 1996, are encouraged to attend the workshop.

A registration form is available by calling Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 or Texoma Lutheran Camp at 1-800-926-5968. The fee is \$30 and the deadline is Nov. 24 at both camps.



The annual Camp Lone Star auction was held this year in the new Koop Center after the dedication. More than \$22,000 was raised from bids and contributions to benefit the ministry and camp.



NUMERO UNO—This is the first confirmation class instructed in Spanish in the Hispanic ministry in Dallas. From left, front, are Marcy Saavedra, Azael Carreon, Claudia Jaramillo, Erika Jaramillo and Jose Jaramillo. In back row are Thomas Sanchez, Brenda Saavedra, Monica Johnston and Elmer Johnston. Pastors are Hiram Orea and Harold Meissner.

Dallas confirmation class is instructed in Spanish

Nine people were confirmed in the Christian faith and received into membership in Trinity Lutheran Church of Dallas in a service of worship and first communion June 16. More than 100 people attended on this joyful occasion.

This is the first class of confirmands instructed by Pastor Hiram Orea in Spanish.

Since there is no incorporated principally Hispanic congregation, class members expressed the desire to join Trinity where they meet every Friday evening with approximately 60 other Hispanic people for Bible study, songs, hymns and refreshments.



BACK HOME—John Phillip Graf was ordained June 11 at his home congregation, St. Paul, Kingsville, after his seminary graduation. Participating, from left, back, Revs. Gilbert Franke, Clifford Larson, John Sproul, Chaplain Ben Hanson. From left, front, Revs. William Schuster, ordainer; Graf; and Rev. John H. Elser, preacher. Graf was installed June 25 as pastor of Grace Lutheran, Brownwood.

On pastor's mind ...

PROFANITY

by Chad Lueck, pastor
Emmanuel Lutheran, Littlefield

There is a disturbing happening in our society. It has to do with our use of profanity. Now it is no secret that you can hardly go to the movies anymore without a good dose of it. But now we see it being allowed more and more on television and in newspapers and magazines. The use of God's name in vain is especially tolerated.

Not long ago I wrote *Newsweek* about this, but got the standard reply: "We are reflecting society."

IT SEEMS FINALLY that people are beginning to notice. A recent letter-writer to the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal* had this to say about a movie many of us have seen and approved of. "They used God's name in vain so many times I lost count.... I was grieved and ashamed when I realized what our idea of entertainment has come to." Then she added this that got me to thinking: "...Everyone said, it's the story, the acting, the faith of Forrest Gump that was so moving. So we overlook or really don't care about what we have been taught. 'Thou shalt not take the Lord thy God's name in vain.'" How many of us have fallen into the same trap?

COLUMNIST ANDY Rooney wrote about this in a recent piece. "The strange thing about the common use of obscene language is that while the movies are filled with it, there is (less) in our newspapers. People who don't give a second thought to going to a movie liberally sprinkled with the f-word wouldn't buy a newspaper if it used the same language. Why? It helps that it's dark in the movie theaters, and I've often wondered if they'd show the same scenes if the lights were on. Movie producers say their work is merely a reflection of society, but I think they've been leaders, not mirrors."

What should we do? First, let us recall Scripture. Proverbs says, "He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin" (Prov. 13:3). The Lord through the writer James has these words. "If anyone considers himself religious and yet does not keep a tight rein on his tongue, he deceives himself and his religion is worthless" (James 1:26). And how can we forget the words of a prayer we say regularly, "Our Father who art in heaven, **HALLOWED BE THY NAME.**"

Second, we can take action either by curbing our own use of profane language or kindly letting others know we don't appreciate it, as I did with *Newsweek* and as I have had to do in public at a ballgame or just walking the streets.

Why not make a difference. Let your Christian light shine. Jesus will bless us as we do. He's worth it, isn't He?

PRAISE HIS NAME AND REFLECT HIM IN YOUR SPEECH!

From the newsletter of
Emmanuel Lutheran, Littlefield

CONCORDIA



INTRODUCING—The Concordia admissions staff includes, from left, Paige Cantrell, Rachel Meissner, Lonnie Gonzales, Jay Krause and Kristi Kasper.

The Concordia admissions staff —coming to a city near you!

The admissions counselors of Concordia University at Austin are packing their bags, getting ready to travel the state telling prospective students about the advantages of Christian higher education. They will attend college fairs at high schools and visit with interested young people and their parents. They will be available not only to talk about Concordia, but also to counsel about other college-related concerns, including financial assistance.

"I hope that our adult Texas Lutherans will encourage the young people of their congregations to come hear the Concordia story," said Jay Krause, Concordia's vice president for enrollment services. "Though we can't visit every city, we hope to be within driving distance of almost everyone. Next to a campus visit, this will be a student's best opportunity to get to know the university."

Who are these people who spend their days (and nights)

promoting Concordia University at Austin?

Krause is in his second year of directing admissions activities. He came to Austin from Concordia University Wisconsin, where he directed admissions and taught in the psychology department. He earned his bachelor's degree at Concordia College, Seward, Neb., and master's degree at the University of Wisconsin, where he is a Ph.D. candidate.

Rachel Meissner, associate director of admissions, is in her fifth year of recruiting for Concordia. She holds a bachelor's degree from Concordia College, St. Paul, Minn., and worked in the admissions office there before coming to Austin.

Even though admissions counselor Paige Cantrell did not graduate from Concordia, Austin, she has close ties to the university—her husband Tommy is a 1992 graduate. Because Paige's major in home economics was not of-

fered at Concordia, she completed her bachelor's degree at the University of Texas. She is in her third year in the admissions office.

The newest admissions counselor is Lonnie Gonzales, a May graduate of Concordia, with a bachelor's degree in Mexican-American studies. Lonnie plans to be a Lutheran pastor and will enter the seminary after a year of admissions work. His wife, Joy, and his father, Jesus, are both Concordia graduates, the latter from the junior college.

While a student at Concordia, Lonnie was elected campus favorite and was president of student government.

Although she doesn't go "on the road," office manager Kristi Kasper probably has contact with more prospective students than do the other staff members, because she is usually the one who answers the telephone questions. For the past two years she has worked almost full

time in the admissions office while continuing her studies at Concordia. She will graduate in December with a bachelor's degree in history.

Look for a CUA counselor at these College Fairs

- Oct. 4 McAllen High School (HS)
 - Oct. 4 San Benito HS
 - Oct. 5 Brownsville HS
 - Oct. 5 Harlingen HS
 - Oct. 6 Raymondville HS
 - Oct. 16 Katy ISD
 - Oct. 17 Lee HS, Houston
 - Oct. 17 Fort Bend HS
 - Oct. 18 Bellaire HS, Houston
 - Oct. 24 Edna HS
 - Oct. 24 Victoria HS
 - Oct. 25 Wharton County Fair
 - Oct. 25 Pasadena ISD
 - Oct. 30 Alamo Heights, San Antonio
 - Oct. 31 Harlandale HS, San Antonio
 - Nov. 1 San Antonio Community College
 - Nov. 16 Fort Stockton HS
 - Nov. 16 Ector County Fair
 - Nov. 16 Bell County Fair
 - Nov. 27 Cleburne HS
 - Nov. 28 Burleson HS
 - Nov. 29 Richland HS, Fort Worth
 - Nov. 29 Carrol HS, Dallas
- Contact the high school or school district office for College Fair times.

Weekday Sneak-a-Peek

Wednesday, Oct. 11
9 a.m.-2 p.m.

Sit in on classes, attend chapel, eat in Texas Hall, meet students and faculty.

Call (512) 452-7661 to RSVP.

CELEBRATIONS TEXAS MESSENGER



GOLDEN COUPLE—George and Helen Banke celebrated their golden wedding anniversary June 23. He is a retired public school teacher. Helen taught kindergarten at Zion Lutheran School in Fort Worth for 27 years. Both are members of Zion.



BROWNWOOD—Lorine and Lawrence Schulz, Grace Lutheran, Brownwood, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 19.



COMMISSIONED—Ted and Gloria Seaworth, center, were commissioned July 2 by their congregation, Divine Savior, Devine, and sent off to be Laborers For Christ. Ted is retired from AT&T. Their first project will be in Lubbock. At right is Mandy Ferrelra, another member, who was commissioned to serve with T.I.M.E. for Christ (Mexico Ministries) where she spent two weeks with this Christian medical ministry. At left is Pastor David L. Londenberg.

HE'S AN EAGLE—William Schwerdtfeger, a member of Zion, Walburg, received his Eagle Scout certification May 21.



Anniversaries

The following couples of the Texas District are celebrating marriages of 50 years or more:

St. Paul, San Antonio:
William and Alice Hartman, 69 years, July 8.

Redeemer, Odessa:
Clem and Edna Hebel, 65 years, Aug. 17; Ray and Jutta Warrington, 54 years, April 26; Ernest and Maurine Schur, 54 years, June 7; Rex and Juanita Galloup, 53 years, July 26; Walter and Dona Bea Schneider, 51 years, Jan. 15; Bob and Rose Smith, 50 years, June 29.

Messiah, Houston (Roy St.): Darlene and Leo Harsch, 55 years, July 16.

Gethsemane, Houston:
Jim and Jimmie Blauert, 50 years, July 16; Glenn and Thelma Smith, 52 years, July 17.

Living Word, The Woodlands: Rev. Gerhard P. and Ruth Dobberfuhl, 50 years, July 29. They came to The Woodlands (Houston) after retirement in Detroit, Mich.

Immanuel, Houston:
Chrest and Ruthie Johnson, 51 years, June 3; Melvin and Merle Kleb, 51 years, June 25; Robert and Florine Lester, 50 years, July 7; Alfred and Irene Brinkmeyer, 51 years, Aug. 15; Bennett and Sidonia

Horn, 55 years, Aug. 24.

Our Redeemer, Dallas:
Katherine and Richard Boone, 54 years, Aug. 23.

Grace, Arlington: Leroy and Edith Ewing, 54 years, Aug. 3.

St. Matthew, Westfield:
Joseph and Sophie Beke, 56 years, Aug. 24; Herman and Erma Hildebrandt, 55 years, July 13.

Cross, New Braunfels:
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Dodd, 51 years, Aug. 18.

Hope, Austin: Rev. and Mrs. Reinhard Wuensche, 56 years, Aug. 20; Mr. and Mrs. Otto Teinert, 53 years, Aug. 29; Mr. and Mrs. Bill Woodward, 51 years, Aug. 29.

Gethsemane, Houston:
Joe and Edna Mae Barnes, 54 years, July 28.

Mount Olive, San Antonio: Ernest and Beatrice Muniz, 57 years, Aug. 3.

St. Mark, Houston: Clarence and Suella Kaiser, 54 years, Aug. 9; Mel and Elme Post, 53 years, Aug. 26.

Trinity, Sealy: J.D. and Melba Sloane, 54 years, Aug. 18.



WE LOVE IT HERE—Russian official Natalya Kononova visits with Russian children adopted by Texans.

Tough times for kids

Natalya Kononova, education ministry vice president of Russia's Yaraslov region, painted a gloomy picture. Kononova told a gathering of LSSS Family Service staff that hundreds of Russian children have been abandoned or given up by their parents over the past 12 months. Why? "Because," she explained, "they can no longer support the children. The economy is bad; many factories have closed."

She said six more orphan-

ages have been established in the Yaraslov region, bringing the total number there to 20.

Kononova came to Texas to learn how we deal with social problems. She explained that Russia does not have a network of nonprofit social service organizations like we do.

Another reason for her visit was to see how Russian children adopted by Texans were doing. According to Kononova, some Russians are "suspicious" about foreigners adopting that country's children.

During a visit with some of the adopted children, her worries were quickly forgotten. Kononova was very pleased with what she saw. "I will report the truth," she said. "I can see that they are very happy here. Adults can act like everything is fine," she said, "but a child's face shows the truth; and these children are very happy."



Church representatives to boost LSSS influence

by Kurt Senske, LSSS Executive Vice President

I am excited to announce that Lutheran Social Services of the South has initiated a new program to train church relations representatives (CRR). This program is designed to better link the congregation and LSSS.

In this program, a member of each congregation is asked to be the designated CRR and is expected to know, receive and share information about LSSS with their congregation and with

the community-at-large.

The CRR will learn how LSSS programs and services can help individuals in their congregation and the community by participating in training seminars, attending meetings and receiving relevant information by LSSS.

The CRR will serve his or her congregation by providing LSSS materials to appropriate sources in the congregation, keeping the pastor

and church staff up to date on what is occurring at LSSS, arranging to have special speakers from LSSS and informing LSSS when there are critical social ministry needs in their congregation.

This program is currently being implemented in Central Texas. Plans call for it to be implemented throughout other regions of Texas in 1996. If you would like to become a CRR, please call (512) 459-1000.

Family center in new home

Friends of LSSS joined agency staff at the dedication of new offices of the Family Caring Center (Centro De Compadrazgo) recently.

This ministry, established to help prevent child abuse and neglect, had been in a building owned by Rio Grande Regional Hospital. However, a new federal law made it necessary to move.

Part of the relocation cost

was defrayed as a result of the dedicated effort of LSSS McAllen advisory board member Neil Norquist. The hospital agreed to donate \$25,000 to the center.

The center's new building was constructed on land belonging to El Buen Pastor Lutheran Church in McAllen. We have a five-year, rent-free lease with the church, and it is re-negotiable after the five years.



IT'S OPEN—Taking part in the ribbon-cutting ceremony in McAllen are, from left, advisory board members Neil Norquist and Shere Vasburg, Area Director Iris Hernandez, El Buen Pastor Church President Arturo Pena and builder Dan Rodriguez. LSSS President Bob Greene is partially hidden behind Norquist.



JOIN THE FAMILY—Our Savior, Austin, welcomed 13 new members into its fellowship in July through adult and infant baptism, confirmation and transfer. Pastor is Gordon H. Albers.



DEVINE'S DIVINE—Twenty new members were welcomed into Divine Savior Lutheran of Devine July 9. Recently installed Pastor David Londenbergh and his family were among those received. Also received were three families by reaffirmation of faith. They are David and Wendy Ferreira and five children, Patrice Nabors and four sons, and Jim and Dorothy Danner.



COPPERAS COVE—The Lord added eight new members by transfer, reaffirmation of faith, adult confirmation and adult baptism to the family of Immanuel, Copperas Cove, July 23. Pastor is Gerhard Grabenhofer.



FIRST-DAY FRUITS—The fruits of his ministry began on the day of his installation as pastor of Grace, San Marcos, when Rev. Bruce Peffer baptized four infants and one adult. Placed in the arms of Jesus through Holy Baptism were Trevor John Latchford, son of Wayne and Cheryl Latchford; James Keith Brady, son of Walter and Victoria Brady; Gage Tyler Russell, son of Mike and Ann Russell; and Hunter Douglas Osburn, son of Todd and Laura Osburn. Walter Brady, father of James, also was baptized.



JOYFUL START—Rev. Richard Mayerhoff welcomes Bonnie Dieken at Our Savior, Rockwall, on June 11, Pastor Mayerhoff's first Sunday as the new shepherd of Our Savior. Bonnie was his first new member.

YOUTH

Our awesome kids ...

Those awesome young people at **Grace, Orange**, took on the service project of furnishing weekly meals for a month for a family in the church whose head-of-the-household was recovering from major surgery.

Kathy Klager, **Zion, Bonham**, sings in the church choir on Sundays, but on school days she's the new captain of her high school's drill team. She's in the National Honor Society and U.S. Achievement Academy. She plans to be an Aggie and pursue a career in marine biology.



Kathy
ior, Austin, who along with a teammate won the National Science Olympiad at Indiana University. The school awarded her a \$3,000 scholarship for after high school.

More bright kid honors for Stephanie Moore who was her high school senior class valedictorian. She is a member of **Zion, Alamo**.

He made history by becoming the first member of **St. Timothy, Houston**, to achieve scouting's highest rank, that of Eagle, in the



KEYBOARD WHIZES—These three young piano-playing Lutherans all received superior ratings at the Junior Musical Festival in Orange. From left are Christa Scheler, Ruth Kunkel and Beth Kunkel. The latter two frequently play in church—Grace, Orange—and Christa soon will. With them is their teacher, Tricia Scheler, wife of Grace's pastor, Eddie Scheler.



WINNERS—These are members of the computer programming team of Lutheran High in Dallas which was fourth place winner in the annual national contest at Concordia University in River Forest, Ill. Lutheran High South of St. Louis was first. The students were asked to solve problems using computer skills. From left are Mike Zimmerman, adviser, and team members Tim Christopher, Anthony Frum, Jon Lees and Morgan Hamilton.

church scout troop. Jerry Eubanks is troop chaplain and is contemplating a career in the ministry.

Those kids at **Evangelists Lutheran, Kingsbury**, have scarfed off a barrel of achievement awards. UIL honors went to Megan Henderson, sixth place in ready writing; Joey Fuentes, honorable mention in one-act play; and Katie Shupe, fourth in State Mathematics League; Arthur Stautzenberger, recognized in the Duke University Talent Search; Michelle Stautzenberger, national science merit award; Jodi Stautzen-

berger, Health Occupation Student of the Year.

Matthew Preece, **Zion, Dallas**, was the leading performer June 30 in an every-pitchers-dream-come-true. He threw a no-hitter in the North Texas summer league made up of high-schoolers sharpening their skills for next season's varsity team. In the seven-inning game, he struck out seven, walked five and needed only 87 pitches. He had to pitch well. His team won only by 1-0. Preece's dad is Robert Preece, senior pastor of Zion.

Robert Larkin Gentry, **Ascension, Cleburne**, was awarded his Eagle Scout rank Aug. 19.

Danny Baugh, **Grace, Mart**, was chosen Student of the Year by the faculty of Mart Middle School. He was cited for responsibility to academics, cooperation, conduct, courtesy and grooming. He is the son of Pastor William and Tina Holzer.



Danny

Bright kid honors at **St. John, San Benito**, go to Alan Brown, first in number sense in UIL competition; Anna Brown, first in storytelling, and Shannon Galloway, inducted into the National Honor Society and the National Vocational Honor Society.



SOCK IT TO ME—Vacation Bible school students of First Lutheran, Lufkin, donated pairs of socks to the Christian Information and Service Center as their back-to-school project. The students included Collin Mayfield, Chelsea Blehle, Priscilla Bryan and Daniel Green.

Kids have ideas about care center—if they could run it

Doreen Bohrer, executive director of Bethany Lutheran's Child Care Center in Austin, wondered one day what might happen if the kids ran the show.

She asked some after-school-age children (fourth- and fifth-graders), "What would you do if you were school director for a day?"

Sophia said, "Read the children stories about God." Lee said, "Teach the children not to be mean to each other."

Jack would make an impact. He said, "I would fire some of the teachers." Jessie was more charitable. She said, "I'd give everybody

\$100 and a cupcake."

Mike had the best interest of his peers in mind. He said, "I would let the children have a pool and a big-screen TV." Ron was on the same track by saying, "I'd let all the little kids have splash day three days a week." Jim was charitable, too. He said, "I'd let everyone have one day off."

Tom was for status quo. He said, "Just a regular day."

Bohrer didn't say she'd implement any of the kids' suggestions, but admitted she'll keep an eye on Kathy who said, "I'll control the place."

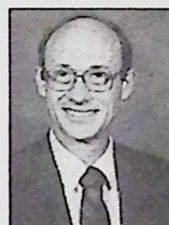
On pastor's mind ...

HALLOWEEN SPOOKS

by Gilbert A. Franke, pastor
St. Paul Lutheran, Bishop

One of my favorite lines from William Shakespeare is from Hamlet in his discussion with Horatio after their encounter with the ghost of Hamlet's father, when he says, "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy." For a lot of us there is no room in our philosophy for evil spirits, witchcraft, demons and the like.

AT FIRST THE subject of demons and witchcraft, evil spirits and Satan worship may seem rather out of date and not very relevant to our lives today. Yet on the other hand it is true that more and more movies and television shows deal with exorcisms and possessions and other phenomena of the occult. In fact, fortune-telling, supernatural magic and spiritism are really popular these days. *The London Times* reported several years ago that there were more than 8,000 practicing witches in Great Britain. In San Francisco, the First Satanic Church has more than 10,000 carefully screened members. More than 40 million Americans actually trust the power of the stars to control their lives!



Franke

All of this comes at a time when scientific, rational people have put behind themselves all those unnatural and uncanny things. In our enlightened and enlightening age, spirits and demons are often dismissed as foolish and frightening imaginings. C.S. Lewis in his *Screwtape Letters* warned, "There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. They themselves are equally pleased by both errors and hail a materialist or a magician with the same delight."

I'M NOT SURE exactly what I think about a lot of the strange, supernatural things I hear reported, but I do know one thing: There is a lot to be said for the old medieval legends about the cross in dispelling demons, vampires and draculas. As the apostle Paul wrote in his letter to the Colossians, "On that cross, Christ stripped the spiritual rulers and authorities of their power; He made a public spectacle of them by leading them as captives in His victory procession."

I'm not going to underestimate their power, but neither am I going to give them a power over me that Christ has taken from them! And that, dear Horatio, is my philosophy for Halloween.

*From the Witness, newsletter
of St. Paul Lutheran, Bishop*

CAN-DOers: that's them all over, sharing Jesus

by Greg Rommel

DCE, Lamb of God, Humble

San Rafael, Mexico, is the hole-in-the-wall they were told to expect. A small-town truck stop on the road to Mexico City, it houses prostitutes, drug dealers, poor farm workers—and a Lutheran pastor. After a week of work and worship there, 57 Texas missionaries had grown in their appreciation for both hot showers and God's kingdom work.

This is just one of a hundred stories told by participants in Project CAN-DO's six mission events last summer. The youth-led outreach has positively affected more than 850 people from more than 150 congregations in Texas and thousands of people around the world.

CAN-DO means Christ Among Nations—Discipleship Outreach. This motto has been faithfully followed, and the results are tremendous!

COMMENTS FROM participants tell about the excitement of short-term missions. "To go from wary stranger to fully embracing friend was exhilarating! When giving an old woman a Bible, she said she had nothing to give me but a kiss. So I got one!"

Other scenes made an impact, like the enthusiasm shown when receiving the Scriptures, the pride of a young boy attaching tiles to a wall, acts of love outweighing the devastation of poverty and hunger, and God's presence moving worshippers to cry in joy.

Texas District President Jerry Kieschnick was so excited about his experience in San Rafael that he has recommended that each member of the district board

of directors try to visit a CAN-DO site next summer.

ONE YOUTH summed it up well: "Before I went, I thought all the world was equal and had the gifts I had. I soon found out only a few have the opportunities I do. I went with a smile and a laugh, and returned with a tear and an ache."

Nearly \$1 million has been given for God's work through Project CAN-DO. This year's funding provided supplies to complete a 40-by-90-foot multi-use building in San Rafael and a 30-by-70-foot sanctuary in Mercedes, Texas. It paid for materials to build six houses (12-by-16 foot) in Reynosa, Mexico; improve and repair church property in Brownsville, Texas and Matamoros, Mexico; remodel a house church and improve a food and clothing pantry for Dallas' Hispanic mission; renovate Sunday school rooms and a future seminary in St. Petersburg, Russia, and more!

BESIDES THE construction work, several vacation Bible schools were held around the world. More than 60 children attended in St. Petersburg and 40 in Reynosa. Two full weeks of outreach were completed in Mercedes. Participants also shared the Gospel by handing out more than 3,000 Bi-



KIDS MEET—Youngsters of CAN-DO build relationships with Mexican children in San Rafael.

bles and catechisms in St. Petersburg; worshiping with children in San Rafael; and developing community outreach in Dallas, Brownsville and Matamoros.

PLANS ARE FOR Project CAN-DO's ministry to continue in 1996 and beyond. The Texas District Board of Directors has entered into a partnership with the Synod's mission board resulting in a \$100,000 investment in each of four mission fields for this year—Mexico, Guatemala, Panama and Brazil.

The Project CAN-DO Task Force will plan and carry out short-term missions to put Texas youth and adults on-site, connecting congregations and individuals directly to their mission fields. The goal is 550 participants in 1996. Task force members are evaluating which sites need what kind of ministry, and scheduling trips. Infor-

mation will be available this fall.

Why do all this? Project Director Randy Potts says, "We want to give more and more youth and adults hands-on experience. It changes people's lives. Attitudes about missions become more Christ-centered and fruitful. Real-life connections are made with mission fields the Texas District directly supports. It will be a great faith-building experience for congregations and individuals who participate in 1996 and beyond, just as it has been the last two years."





Lonny Rees

Lutheran Foundation chooses director of development

Lonny Rees has been chosen as director of development by the Lutheran Foundation of Texas (LFT) and began his work Sept. 1. Lonny is a blessing to the Foundation and to Lutherans in Texas in that he will devote full time to assist individuals and families in their Christian estate planning.

In announcing the addition, LFT Executive Director Glenn Pittsford said, "The Lutheran Foundation of Texas exists both to serve Lutherans and to assist them in supporting Lutheran ministries. Lonny is a welcomed addition to our staff, and he will work with congre-

gations and individuals throughout the Texas District.

If you have any questions or desire assistance in any way, call the foundation at 1-800-880-3733 (926-4272 in Austin). The entire foundation staff is dedicated to providing you the best in loving, caring, professional service."

Rees has been a highly respected financial planning professional for the past seven years. He and his wife, Melody, and their children, Justin, Matthew and Amanda, are members of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Austin.



New director brings financial background to planned giving

by Lonny Rees
Director of Development
Lutheran Foundation of Texas

We at the foundation appreciate the many opportunities in planned giving that God has kept open to all Americans. Our government realizes that it cannot fund all colleges, schools, hospitals and churches. With this in mind, there are many different planning opportunities utilizing appreciated real estate, stocks and other God-given accumulated assets.

In creating such gifts, there are many advantages that can be received, including minimizing income or estate tax. But even greater is the opportunity to help accomplish wonderful works of God that will be realized by people long after we have gone to heaven. This is how we will share Christianity and Lutheranism with all future generations.

In my new role as director of development, I look forward to serving you. I bring seven years of financial planning experience to the foundation and its great mission in Texas, and I look forward to working with Glenn Pittsford, Sandra Schneider and Peggy Turnipseed. This is an incredible team, as we all work together for the glory of God. With God's blessings, we will work hard and be a blessing to you and to Lutheranism in Texas.

All of this is made possible by the support of our Lord and also the wonderful support of my family. I look forward to having the opportunity to visit with you soon.

HAPPENINGS

PEOPLE, PLACES, & EVENTS

The temperatures weren't the only things in the 90s last summer at Immanuel, Houston. Esther Conroy turned 96 on June 17; Anna Theiss became 92 on June 26, and Ella Kleb celebrated her 95th birthday. Congratulations!

An adoption awareness center in San Antonio for Lutheran Social Services of the South has received a \$1,000 New Connections grant from the Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation.

Two Texas District congregations have new pastors. Rev. John Diaz was ordained and installed July 9 at Faith Lutheran, Laredo. On July 23, Rev. Bill Reagan was installed at San Esteban, San Antonio.

A local merchant who went out of business in Pasadena, Texas, gave all his office paper and catalogs in his warehouse to Zion Lutheran School, Pasadena. A number of Zion members pitched in to get the paper to a recycler. The paper gen-

erated more than \$5,000 in one week for the school!

The 25th anniversary of ordination of Chaplain Bert Klein was celebrated July 23 at Hope, Austin. Klein is chaplain at St. David's Medical Center in Austin under the auspices of Lutheran Social Services of the South and the LCMS Texas District.

Douglas Urban, a teacher at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran School, San Antonio, was one of 215 teachers nationwide chosen to attend a two-week workshop at Johnson Space Center in Houston. Selected by a national panel, participants were offered information on the latest aeronautics and space projects and shared teaching strategies with their colleagues while engaging in science, mathematics and technology-related activities.

Faith Lutheran, Grand Prairie, will celebrate its 50th anniversary May 25-26, 1996. Celebration planners



GO FIGURE—Lariat, Texas, has a population of 25. Since Jan. 1 this year, St. John Lutheran of Lariat has added these 21 new members. Ten came by transfer, eight by adult confirmation and three by adult baptism. Pastor is Edward Greenthaner—who obviously has a large lariat!

are looking for photos, church history memorabilia and current addresses of former members. Send them to the Anniversary Committee, Faith Lutheran, 2200 S.W. Third, Grand Prairie, TX 75051. The phone is (214) 264-2511. Fax number is (214) 264-2512.

Brian Bestian was installed Sept. 10 as associate pastor of Trinity, Houston. He was called from Holy Cross, College Station.

Bruno and Irene Kadilis were on their way home from services at Immanuel, San Antonio, July 23 when a pick-up truck ran a red light and broadsided their van. The van spun around and flipped over on its top. The Kadilis' were left hanging upside down in their seat belts. They were stiff and sore but not badly hurt. Praise the Lord!

Lutheran High School South, Houston, received a \$5,500 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) to enable several teachers to complete graduate courses or attend workshops for

professional development.

Congratulations to Sigrid Wilson, Hope, Winnie, named Woman of the Year by the women's auxiliary of Winnie Medical Center.

Rev. Lynn Stroud was installed Aug. 13 at First Lutheran, Texarkana, as chaplain at the Federal Correction Facilities there.

Jennifer McGrath, Grace, Denison, was a contestant in the Miss Deaf Texas Pageant. She was named first runner-up.

Rev. David Grassley is the new pastor of Redeemer, Fort Worth. He accepted a call from Memorial, Houston, where he was associate pastor.



HONORED—Bryan Kriegel, St. Paul, Kingsville, was honored by the local branch of Aid Association of Lutherans for his 65 years of service to St. Paul in nearly every capacity. A live oak tree was planted in the church yard to honor Kriegel (standing).

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



Pastor Neumann

Fred Neumann retires from active ministry

Rev. Fred Neumann preached his farewell sermon Aug. 6 as pastor of St. Paul, Austin, following his announcement of retirement because of his deteriorating physical condition. Dr. Ray Martens has accepted the position of vacancy pastor while continuing his full-time responsibilities at Concordia University. Dr. Michael Stelmachowicz continues as assistant pastor.

A reception after late service Oct. 22 will celebrate Neumann's 30 years in the ministry. Also to be honored is Lavon, his wife.

Neumann has been at St. Paul 18 years. After seminary graduation in 1965, he ministered in Gulfport, Miss., and in 1968 accepted a call to serve the triple parish of Lamesa, Post and Andrews in Texas. He was there four years, then took a call to Norman, Okla., from where he came to St. Paul in 1977.

Blessed with a resonant voice, he sometimes sang portions of hymns during his sermon presentations.

He served the Texas District on its stewardship and mission boards.



Theodore H. Graalman

In his 60 years in the public ministry, Theodore H. Graalman served nine parishes, all in Texas. Pastor Graalman died Aug. 5 of complications from a hip broken in a fall. He was 84.

He ministered to congregations in Brenham, LaGrange, Big Spring, Midland, Odessa, Monahans, Pecos, Corpus Christi, San Antonio and in his retirement was visitation pastor of Grace, Brenham, where funeral services were held Aug. 8.

He is survived by his wife, Gertrude (Trudy).



SEM ENROLLEES—From left, Allan Eckert, Zion, Fort Worth; Paul Hasselbring, Hope, Pearland; and George Draper, Christ, Jacksonville, Texas, have enrolled in the master of divinity program at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., heading toward LCMS ordination. With Draper is his wife, Gerl.

Oesch to retire, gets seminary president stint in his parish

Rev. Eugene Oesch, for 39 years the pastor of Memorial Lutheran in Houston, will retire March 1, 1996. He is scheduled to preach his farewell sermon at Memorial Feb. 25, then plans to take a month's vacation.

Oesch has been on the Concordia Seminary Board of Regents (St. Louis) for nine years and currently is its chairman. He repeatedly has urged that seminary faculty members spend some time in local congregations as full-time pastors.

To this end, Dr. John F. Johnson, president of the St. Louis seminary, has agreed to spend his six-month sabbatical serving as full-time



Oesch

pastor of Memorial. The congregation will provide housing but no salary since professors on sabbatical receive full salary from the seminary.

Oesch told the Houston Lutheran he "hopes that Dr. Johnson's example will set a precedence for other faculty members, particularly those with little or no parish experience, to spend their sabbaticals in a similar manner."

Seven Texans elected to key LCMS positions

Delegates to the synodical convention in St. Louis in July elected several members of the Texas District to key positions in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Ed Trapp Jr., Dallas, was elected to the Synod's Board of Directors. Trapp was a member of the Texas District Board of Directors, a position he has resigned since he cannot constitutionally hold both slots.

Laurence Meissner, Austin, was elected to

the commissioned minister position on the Synod's Board for Mission Services.

Rev. Steve Wagner, Carrollton, was selected for a clergy position on the Concordia University Board of Regents, Austin. Named to the commission position was Wayne Charles Kramer, Houston. Laypersons of the Texas District elected to the regency board were Derrell Bulls, Jim Burghard and Puddin' Krueger.



Reformation celebrations

As pastoral advisers of the Lone Star District Lutheran Laymen's League have been providing guidance for the Reformation celebrations to be held in Central Texas, there also were laymen involved in the planning. Many others also will serve at the celebrations. Please plan to attend one of these services.

The U.S. Navy Chief of Chaplains Donald K. Muchow will be the speaker Sunday, Oct. 29, at the fifth annual Central Texas Reformation Rally in Belton.

Missouri Synod churches of central Texas (Circuits 17 and 19) and their Lutheran Laymen's League chapters are sponsors of the rally that will begin at 4 p.m. in the Bell County Expo Center in Belton on I-35 just south of Temple.

The theme of the event is "The Dynamic Word."

Rev. Don Ude of Belton, event co-chairman, said, "The celebration is planned to honor the Lord Jesus, celebrate our Reformation heritage and motivate each other to greater efforts in mission and ministry."

Rev. Al Meissner, Belton, the event's other co-chairman, said, "As in past years, everyone is invited. We are fortunate to have Chaplain Muchow as our guest. He's an exciting speaker with plenty of exciting 'sea stories' to share."

Muchow also is a member of the International Lutheran Laymen's League Board of Directors.

THE FIRST East Texas Reformation Celebration will be at 7 p.m. on Monday,

Oct. 30 at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2001 Hunter St., in Tyler. Congregations of the circuit will sponsor this event. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, Lutheran Hour speaker, will give the message.

A LUTHERAN Hour Rally/Reformation Celebration will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 31 in San Antonio at the Municipal Auditorium.

Dr. Dale Meyer, speaker of the Lutheran Hour, will deliver the message.

Flags of the countries where "The Lutheran Hour" is broadcast will be in the processional. Veterans of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam wars will carry the flags.

John Dallmann of Redeemer is the chairman. Bob Mathys of Mount Calvary is vice chairman. Ray Smith of King of Kings is the secretary/treasurer, and Betty Weltnack of King of Kings is chairman of publicity. Rev. Kim DeVries, Mount Calvary, has the responsibility for the worship program, liturgy and music for the evening.

Letters have been sent to all Missouri Synod congregations within a three-hour driving distance. Letters of welcome also have been sent to Evangelical Lutheran Church in America congre-



Adm. Donald K. Muchow

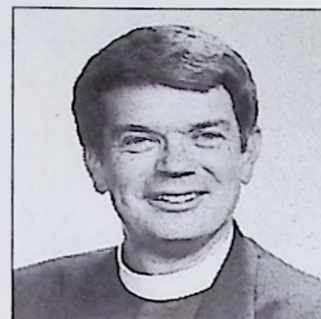
gations, plus leaders of other denominations, welcoming their people to hear Meyer's message of salvation in Christ Jesus.

Lutheran Hour celebrates 65th anniversary year

The pioneer of all Lutheran Hour Ministries, "The Lutheran Hour," marks its 65th anniversary in October. However, this radio ministry is not ready for retirement and continues to reposition for new ministry.

Along with this celebration, Honorary Lutheran Hour Speaker Dr. Oswald C.J. Hoffmann marks his 40th year of association with this radio ministry. "This is a significant double anniversary," says Don Bennett, president for Lutheran Hour Ministries. "Dr. Hoffmann hasn't retired to his patio and is a marvelous example of the vitality of 'The Lutheran Hour.'"

"In thanksgiving to God, we celebrate the founding of a worldwide media ministry which is reaching new frontiers of Gospel witness through the current 'Go ... tell a NEW generation' campaign," says Bennett. (Used by permission.)



Dr. Dale Meyer

New ministry logo

Without Christ, the Vine, Christians who are His branches cannot "Bear Fruit." Lutheran Hour Ministries will be "Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church" under the theme of the convention "Bear Fruit" in Grand Rapids, Mich.



Supporters of Lutheran Hour Ministries are following the convention theme bearing fruit. That work is manifested through programs and resources provided by our Lord. His Spirit uses this work to spread the Word throughout local communities and across North America and the world.

LLL news

Send your LLL news to Irene Teinert, Information Coordinator, 1501 Barbara, Austin, TX 78757.



Through my eyes

I had the distinct honor of attending my first International Lutheran Women's Missionary League convention as one of the two Young Woman Representatives (YWR) for Texas.

Imagine 7,000 women assembled in one place to praise our God and conduct the business of the organization. It was exciting to listen to all those voices singing, praying and pledging their commitment to Him.

There are many things that I have learned.

Votes were cast electronically. This, too, facilitated answering questions during the Bible study led by Rev. David Buegler. Answers were then shown on giant screens.

The Bible study was broken up into seven parts: Called; On Trial; Face the World; Victory; Responding to; Celebrate; and Sent by God's Design. The section that was most special to me was the trial. Tapes were made of this, and if you have the opportunity to hear a copy, I highly recommend it.

Besides what I learned from sitting on the convention floor, I want to share the enormity of the experiential mall. The mall consisted of 40 booths that had wonderful things to experience. Participants could make a bookmark, write to a missionary or mark Bibles for convicts.

Meal times also were a learning experience. It was spectacular to see how they handled a seated meal for so many. We met people from

all across the United States and other countries, sharing information about our own LWML societies and where we lived.

Approximately 70 YWRs participated and were kept busy with several activities.

We met and prepared a devotion for the convention body. But what stands out most in my memory was the insight event.

We were taken to The Lighthouse. This old monastery was converted into a home for unwed mothers. After lunch and a tour, we went to work. Yards were mowed, hedges trimmed, closets organized and rooms painted. In a matter of a few hours, we had accomplished quite a bit, and it was hard to leave!

Learning to live by God's design means not only being in the Word, but also going out into the community and doing something meaningful for others. This is how we live by God's design.

Others look to us to set the example of service. We have been commissioned to bring God to those who do not know him and to use all our talents for His service.

Many young women think because they are not homemakers they have no place in the LWML. God does not care if you can bake a pie from scratch. We all have talents that can be used to His service.

I challenge our established members to help young women feel that they have a place in our church



On right, Gloria Edwards, new International LWML president, with Giovanne Torcincio, Young Woman Representative from the Texas District LWML.

family and in the LWML. I encourage all societies to examine their membership and determine whether you are "young woman friendly."

Together we can build God's kingdom and live by God's design.

Giovanne Torcincio
Young Woman Rep
Texas District LWML



Mite report August 1995

1994-95 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd August (all sources)	6,599
Rec'd to date (all sources)	159,073
Needed for goal	96,926
Sent to Int'l LWML (August)	1,604
Int'l to date	33,731

Send ALL contributions to
Shirley Lorenz, P.O. Box
1224, Giddings, TX 78942.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE
TO TEXAS DISTRICT
LWML.

New officers needed!

Nominations for officers are needed to lead us from 1996 to 2000.

At the 1996 Texas District LWML convention, officers will be elected to fill the following offices: president, first and third vice president, financial secretary and nominating committee.

Only societies and zones may nominate.

The deadline is Nov. 1.

Send nominations to Shannon Reid, chairman of nominating committee. Her address is in the last convention manual. Contact the district news editor if you need help.

LWML news

Send your LWML news to Charlotte Hughes, Editor, Texas District LWML, P.O. Box 1152, Lewisville, TX 75067. Deadline ninth of month. Fax (817) 491-0105.



Wedding fashions modeled at Cross of Christ, DeSoto, by LWMLers.

News from around the district

This year's Mother/Daughter Tea sponsored by the LWML, Cross of Christ, DeSoto, centered on wedding memories and fashions.

Approximately 150 attended May 6 to hear the stories of 11 members and view the gowns. Weddings represented marriages from three years to 44.

Some of the dresses were modeled by young women of the church. Edna Kloeber serves as president.

Grace, Lamesa, held a Mother/Daughter Dinner March 24.

An Italian theme was carried out with food, decorations, games and prizes.

The skit "What is a LWML Woman" was presented by current and future leaguers.

There were 22 women and two preschoolers in attendance.

Still sporting the beard he grew during the winter in St. Petersburg, Russia, Cliff Olsen of Huntsville gave a slide presentation to his home congregation which was sponsored by Faith Lutheran Women LWML.

Olsen is a retired prison chaplain who recently spent two and one-half months in Russia assisting the LCMS Board for Mission Services to initiate a prison ministry in the St. Petersburg area.

Olsen is available as a zone rally speaker and may be contacted at 341 Elkins Lake, Huntsville, TX 77304 or phone (409) 295-9242.

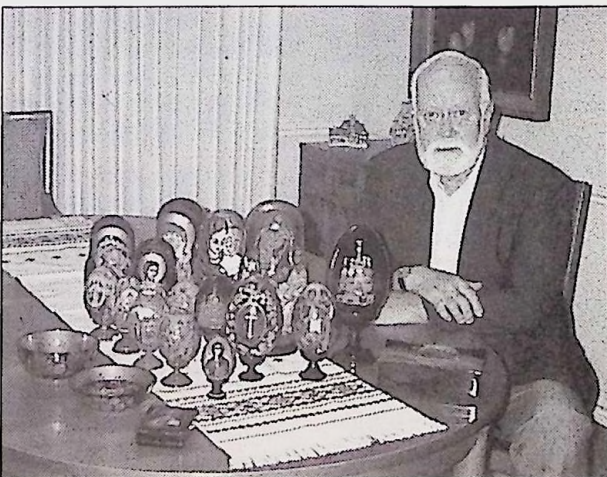
Evelyn Olsen serves as president.



From left, Elle Wilson, Irene Keune, Karyn Doederlein, Edna Huse, Evelyn Heins and Stacy Menix present the skit "What is a LWML Woman" at Grace, Lamesa.



Quilters for Lutheran World Relief at Mount Calvary, San Antonio.



Rev. Cliff Olsen with art objects brought back from St. Petersburg, Russia.



The Fifth Commandment

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, President, Texas District, LCMS

This commandment has long intrigued me. Four simple words, yet so many complex ramifications. As Luther describes in his *Large Catechism*, it's not just a commandment in which God forbids the taking of life, but also a commandment that expresses "God's real intention that we should allow no man to suffer harm, but show to everyone all kindness and love. And this kindness is directed ... especially toward our enemies. To show kindness toward our friends is but an ordinary heathen virtue, as Christ says in Matt. 5:46-47."

Truthfully, I wish that Luther had dealt in detail with contemporary issues like abortion, euthanasia, as well as with capital punishment, war, self-defense and suicide, including the assisted variety. But, for whatever reason, he chose to speak more generally rather than specifically and more briefly rather than lengthily, as was normally his routine.

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has spoken in recent years and on many occasions about these issues, in documents and resolutions that are too numerous and too voluminous for this brief column. Call your pastor if you have specific questions about these issues.

A few of Luther's comments about the Fifth Commandment:

"In this commandment we leave our own house and go out among our neighbors to



President Kieschnick

learn how we should conduct ourselves individually toward our fellow men. Therefore neither God nor the government is included in this commandment, yet their right to take human life is not abrogated.

"We must not kill, either by hand, heart or word, by signs or gestures, or by aiding and abetting. Anger, reproof and punishment are

bodily harm or injury.

"What this commandment teaches, then, is that no one should harm another for any evil deed, no matter how much he deserves it. Not only is murder forbidden, but also everything that may lead to murder.

"He wants us to keep this commandment ever before our eyes as a mirror in which to see ourselves, so that we may be attentive to His will and with hearty confidence and prayer commit to Him whatever wrong we suffer. Then we shall be content to let our enemies rave and rage and do their worst. Thus we may learn to calm our anger and have a patient, gentle heart, especially toward those who have given us occasion for anger, namely, our enemies.

though he has the opportunity, fails to prevent, protect and save him from suffering bodily harm or injury. If you send a person away naked when you could clothe him, you have let him freeze to death. If you see anyone suffer hunger and do not feed him, you have let him starve. If you see anyone condemned to death or in similar peril and do not save him although you know ways and means to do so, you have killed him. It will do you no good to plead that you did not contribute to his death by word or deed, for you have withheld your love from him and robbed him of the service by which his life might have been saved.

"Here again we have God's Word by which He wants to encourage and urge us to true, noble, exalted deeds, such as gentleness, patience, and, in short, love and kindness toward our enemies. He always wants to remind us to think back to the First Commandment, that He is our God; that is, he wishes to help and protect us, so that he may subdue our desire for revenge."

God's blessings to you, my friends in Christ, as you join me in the challenging task of showing kindness and love to everyone, especially toward our enemies.

"Thou shalt not kill"

the prerogatives of God and his representatives, and they are to be exercised upon those who transgress this and the other commandments.

"We must live among many people who do us harm, and so we have reason to be at enmity with them. Briefly, God wishes to have all people defended, delivered and protected from the wickedness and violence of others, and He has set up this commandment as a wall, fortress and refuge about our neighbor so that no one may do him

"We should not use our tongue to advocate or advise harming anyone; we should neither use nor sanction any means or methods whereby anyone may be harmed; our heart should harbor no hostility or malice toward anyone in a spirit of anger and hatred. Thus you should be blameless toward all people in body and soul, especially toward him who wishes or does you evil.

"This commandment is violated not only when a person actually does evil, but also when he fails to do good to his neighbor, or,

THE LORD ADDED ...



GREAT JOY—Received Aug. 20 into the family at Our Savior, Rockwall, are, from left, Pastor Richard Mayerhoff; Barry, Debbie, Barry and Travis Whitfield; John, Jessica and Ty Janosko; Ramon, Jennifer and Infant Bailey Leal; Marilyn Mayerhoff; David Dormier; Gary, LaDonna, Dylan and Joseph Gray. Pastor Mayerhoff is in his third month of service as pastor for this congregation.



RECEIVED—The members of Resurrection Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg rejoice in the reception of new members. On Aug. 20, 10 new members took their membership vows during divine services. The new members are Mark, Jonathon and Jessica Phlan; Bud, Jennifer and Jonathon La Prarie; Nicole O'Neal; Betty and Laurence Scheck.



THE LORD ADDED—These people were received as members of Peace, Rockport, on Aug. 20. Included among them were three adults who were baptized.



SUGAR LAND—Pictured are the newest members of Fishers of Men, Sugarland. On Aug. 13, 19 new members were added: two youth confirmands, five adult confirmands and nine transfers consisting of adults and children, and three adults by affirmation of faith.



GREAT JOY—These new members were accepted at Concordia, San Antonio, through baptism, confirmation and transfer. These wonderful Christians were received into membership Sunday, Aug. 27.

Send your news to Bill

Send your photos (color is OK), stories and newsletters for THE LUTHERAN WITNESS to:

Bill Wagner, Editor
7900 E. Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499



Texas District Mission News

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



Rev. Ken
Hennings

International evangelistic arm

A special arm of Christ's body, the Church, has been extended across the Rio Grande into Mexico. Our mission congregation of Cristo El Salvador, in Del Rio, has taken the Great Commission seriously and is serving people on both sides of the border. Ciudad Acuña, Mexico, has a population of approximately 200,000. Of that number, about 150,000 people do not understand the meaning of "Christ crucified" for them.

Our mission on the border continues to grow both spiritually and numerically. This summer the second vacation Bible school was held at the home of Mercedes Gutierrez, a member in Del Rio, who lives in Ciudad Acuña. This summer 60 students gathered for one week outside her modest home. These students saw the video "Jesus" in Spanish, sang songs and studied God's plan of salvation for them. Through the serious efforts and evangelistic outreach of Mercedes, several weekly Bible studies also are held at that location.

There are 16 adults at-

tending Bible study on Thursday evenings. Pastor Gary Martin and parish lay worker Irene Torralva lead the discussion. On Saturdays, Salomé Antú of Del Rio leads a junior high Bible study with 16 to 20 students. Velia Garza of Cristo El Salvador, who also lives in Acuña, and Mercedes are the teachers for the younger children. Mercedes recently quit her job in a factory to be able to visit women and invite them to learn about Jesus.

Several families in Mexico are making payments on a plot of land that they hope will someday have a building for worship and Bible study. This plot of land is in a new, humble neighborhood where 75 families have plots of land on which to build their homes. Our Lutheran presence will enable us to share God's Law and Gospel with them.

Meanwhile, the outreach and inreach evangelism in Del Rio

continues to grow. In June attendance reached 105, and in August, attendances were 123 and 95. There is a great response to the Gospel, and equipping the saints for ministry is our goal and challenge. It is a struggle most of the way. It is not easy, but it is important and rewarding to work in the Lord's vineyard.

It also is great to be working as a congregational team. There is so much we lack, and we are weak in

some areas, but we give thanks to the Lord who has fitted us for this task. We covet your prayers of intercession and thanksgiving.

As one pastor to Hispanics put it, "The church of Jesus Christ marches forward—on its knees." It is a joyful privilege to extend the arm of Christian outreach across the border!

Article submitted by
Rev. Gary Martin
El Cristo Salvador
Del Rio



These children were part of the 60 students studying God's plan of salvation for them at the mission congregation of Cristo El Salvador.

Would Jesus have used a cellular telephone?

By Bill Siegrist, Director of Development, Texas Church Extension Fund

For one possible answer to the above question, allow me to quote from one of my favorite books, *Jesus The Man Who Lives*, by Malcolm Muggeridge.

Jesus Himself, even in His obscurity, dreaded the gathering of crowds and where possible avoided them. **Everything in Christianity that matters is from individual to individual**; collectivities belong to the devil and so easily respond to his persuasion.

The devil is a demagogue and sloganeer; **Jesus was, and is, concerned with individual souls**, with the Living Word. What He gives us is truth carried on the wings of love, not slogans carried on the thrust of power.

Building personal relationships with others seemed to be significant to our Savior throughout His ministry. Jesus instructed His disciples, "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me" (Luke 9:23).

For many years, I wondered how to apply these words to my life. Several years ago, my friend and former pastor, Rev. Fred Neumann, shared with me the following diagram:



Neumann explained to me that for us to take up our cross daily means to use our God-given gifts to help meet the ongoing crying needs of the world. Where these intersect can be the area where we can make a significant impact. This divine intersection frequently occurs in the midst of our re-

lationships with others.

The Church Extension Fund places a high value on the relationships that have been built with the congregations and investors of the Texas District during the past 89 years of its ministry.

At the September Board for Church Extension (BCE) meeting, Karl Young, member of Zion Lutheran Church in Dallas and BCE chairman, discussed this relationship with the other board members and the CEF staff. Young stated his ongoing hope for the CEF ministry is to continue to "develop partnership relationships with congregations."

He further stated that CEF will remain committed to serving congregations, with the ongoing message of "We are going to go down this road with you!"

This task of building relationships is one shared by other Church Extension Fund ministries throughout The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. For 90 years, our sister district to the north, the Michigan District, has stated its commitment to building relationships with this mission statement: "Church Extension is a ministry of involving fellow Christians in providing low-cost loans and other funds to congregations and agencies of the Michigan District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, in support of carrying out the Great Commission."

Back to our opening question, "Would Christ have used a cellular telephone?" I don't have a definite answer, but His life and ministry were certainly committed to building close personal relationships with others. Investments in the Church Extension Fund ministry provide congregations throughout the Texas District with the needed funding for their building needs.

Come join us in providing the place and space where God's people can come together, build personal relationships and discover opportunities for sharing their God-given gifts with those who are in need of the gracious message of the Gospel.

For more information, contact your congregational representative, pastor or Bill Siegrist at the Texas District office.

Church Extension Fund
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724
(512) 926-4272
or toll free
1-800-951-3478



Siegrist



Philanthropic efforts honored

Four Texas branches of the Lutheran Brotherhood fraternal benefit society were presented the 1994 Philanthropic Organization of the Year award from the National Society of Fund Raising Executives (NSFRE), Greater Austin Chapter.

Texas Lone Star Branch of central Austin, Friendship Branch of southeast Austin (primarily Williamson County), Monument Hill Branch of southeast Austin (principally Fayette and Lee counties) and Hill Country Branch of western Austin (primarily Gillespie, Mason and Kerr counties) were honored for financial support of more than \$125,000 since 1990 and for community service projects.

The award is presented annually to a civic or service organization that demonstrates outstanding commitment to its communities and nation through financial support and encouragement, and motivation of others to further community involvement and philanthropy.



Randall Mays, right, center, president of Junior Achievement of Austin, presents Robert Beglau, left, center, head of Lutheran Brotherhood agency in Austin, with the 1994 award.

Help wanted: experience minimal

This ad for choir members was found in the newsletter of Lamb of God, Humble:

Positions open: soprano, alto, tenor and bass sections of the adult choir.

Physical qualifications: Must be able to carry a choir folder with a stack of music in it and have vision enough to see the choir director 10 feet away.

Experience required: Must have sung, whistled or hummed a tune at work or in the shower at some time in your life.

Beginning wages: Guaranteed satisfaction and joy in the service of Jesus Christ.

Fringe benefits:

1. You always are sure of a good seat, where you can see everyone, even at Christmas and Easter.
2. Scientific studies have proved that choir singers live longer than average because they breathe vigorously and inflate their lungs more deeply than other people.
3. We can assure the security of social fellowship, fun and teamwork with other choir members.

Requirement: After your voice reaches the place where it can hit two notes at once, you can file for Musical Security and sit in the congregation and listen to others.

On pastor's mind ...

This little 'antique' Gospel light of mine shines for Christ

by Rev. Gregg A. Stanton
St. John, Cypress

"In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it" (John 1: 4-5).

There it was. Hidden under a table in an antique mall in Huntsville, Ala.—a mint-condition gas light, circa 1890. I had to have it. The price was nearly a give-away. And besides, it would serve as a great memento of our visit to mom's house the week after Christmas. It was mine.

As I was cleaning this brass treasure from a bygone time, I wondered what it must have been like to illuminate a house with such a thing. Even a large gas flame gives little light compared to our modern light bulbs. Still, it must have been a real improvement over those oily, smelly kerosene lamps.

The Bible is rich in comparisons of light with darkness. In our time, that comparison seems less vivid, however, because we do such a good job of lighting up our world. Our homes are ablaze with light. Our streets and cities are so well lit that people sometimes forget to turn on their headlights. Not so in days gone by. I well recall driving through an Amish settlement while in seminary at Fort Wayne, Ind. It was nighttime, and as we glanced at darkened farm houses untethered by electric lines, an occasional window, illuminated like a picture of light against velvety darkness, revealed more often than not an entire family gathered around a single lamp.

That's the picture formed in my mind by John's inspired description of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Dear friends, make no mistake. You and I are surrounded by darkness—a darkness that thirsts for our souls and is constantly seeking inroads into our lives. As believers, we gather around our Lord who surrounds us with the light and the warmth of His love through the Gospel. His lamp illuminates the family table set with His own body and blood. We are bathed in that light even as the water of Holy Baptism cleanses us of the darkness of sin.

As we live in the light of Jesus Christ, and as that light fills our hearts, we are called to invite all people out of the darkness and into the brilliance of His presence. As the wonderful little children's hymn puts it, "This little Gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine!" May God richly bless all of you as you let His light shine forth from your lives!

*From The Eagle, newsletter
of St. John Lutheran, Cypress*

NEWS



Alma Lovelace, oldest member of St. Paul, Groves, where Rev. Jay Simonsen is pastor, celebrated her 95th birthday Aug. 2. Her two children hosted a reception in her honor, attended by almost 200 friends. She's an active member of the Ladies Aid, lives alone and drives her own car.

Pucker power?

In his book, *The Positive Power of Praising People*, author Jerry Twentier describes the findings of a study by German researchers designed to uncover what specific behaviors contribute to people's longevity and success Twentier describes some of the study's unusual findings:

"German researchers revealed that those who kiss their partners every morning have fewer accidents on their way to work. In addition, good-morning kissers are absent less often due to illness than non-kissers. Even more amazing, kissers earn from 20 to 30 percent more and live approximately five years longer."

From Grace-Denison newsletter

Twice retired

Pastor Richard Nelson has retired for a second time!

Nelson retired from Trinity Lutheran Church in Weatherford approximately four years ago, but did not have a long retirement. Redeemer Lutheran, Fort Worth, had a need for a vacancy pastor, and Nelson filled that need for more than three years.



TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, Brownsville, "All-Star" softball team recently finished in second place in the local church league.



Pastor Richard and "Miss Ellie" Nelson

Grant awarded to Homeless Helpline

Wheat Ridge Ministries has awarded \$45,000 to Homeless Helpline, Foundation for the Homeless of Austin.

The grant is designed to meet the needs of homeless people by providing timely assistance through a network of churches and social service agencies.

Volunteer response teams from three local congregations will gather and record client data, obtain resource information and make appropriate referrals, serving as a

model of how churches, working as partners, may multiply effectiveness in meeting human needs.

Wheat Ridge is a not-for-profit Lutheran agency that provides start-up funds for new ministries which affirm its mission of providing health and hope in the name of the healing Christ.

The Austin grant was one of 11 ministry projects approved by Wheat Ridge directors, totaling \$334,800.

On July 30, the congregation gave Pastor Nelson a going-away party and roast. However no one could come up with anything but praise for the Nelson family. A lot of love prevailed for Pastor and "Miss Ellie," as his wife is affectionately known.

Pastor Nelson participated in the installation of Redeemer's new pastor, Rev. David Grassley, Sept. 17.



MARCH FOR JESUS IN AUSTIN—Twenty members of Christ, Austin, participated in the fifth "March for Jesus" May 27. A crowd estimated at 10,000 to 12,000 paraded through east Austin with banners and songs of praise. Pastor Allen Sielk (second from right), associate for Hispanic ministry, accompanied the members of Christ Lutheran.



50th ANNIVERSARY—Alfred and Irene Buscha, members of St. Paul, Serbin, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary June 10.



C.A.R.E. group cares

Two members of Lord of Life Lutheran in Plano found a UPS driver apparently suffering from heat stroke in the church's parking lot on the evening of Aug. 4.

Janice Whirley and Jan Maisel, who had just arrived for the Solo Singles C.A.R.E. Group meeting, called 911 and an ambulance soon arrived with medical help. They also telephoned the UPS office to inform them of the incident and to ask what should be done about the delivery vehicle. The UPS office sent personnel to handle arrangements for the vehicle and for resuming delivery of parcels.

Unfortunately, Jan and Janice did not get the name of the stricken driver. The church members have been remembering the driver in their prayers, however, and have sent a get-well card to the UPS regional office.

Thanks go to Jan and Janice for demonstrating the care in "C.A.R.E."

REDEEMER, BEAUMONT—
Pictured are new members received by adult confirmation, profession of faith and transfer Aug. 20. Pictured are Mike Campbell, Doris Sullivan, Paul Schlesler, Pastor Bob Myers, Victor Kuritz, Gloria and Dustin Chaney, and Russell Vogel.



The value of a wooden shingle

A wooden shingle by itself has little value. Place that shingle together with hundreds of others and you have a roof for your house.

That single shingle can preach us a sermon. We may not be like a pillar or an inspiring window in a church, but we can each be a faithful shingle. We can reach out and join our efforts with what others are doing.

The shingle speaks a word for team ministry. When we stick together and help one another, we serve more effectively. We become a roof of Christ's church.

Remove one shingle and you have a problem. Each of us has an important place to fill in the ministry of the church. Our Lord values us. With His own life Christ bought us and made us members of His kingdom to serve HIM.

As shingles, we may seem to be "on top of things" but we are called to be servants, just as Christ was a servant to us. We have been chosen by the Master Carpenter to be in the place He has put us to perform an important work. Therein lies our glory.

So today, celebrate our "SHINGLEHOOD" by becoming involved in the life and mission of Immanuel. The Lord needs each and every one of you at Immanuel. Christ redeemed us to be shingles for HIM!

From Immanuel-San Antonio newsletter

The ministry of car repair becomes a spark-plug of an idea

Trinity Lutheran of Houston has come up with a car maintenance ministry to help the people of the congregation and community in a new, yet much-needed, way.

Many people have no one to help maintain their car and keep it running smoothly. For others, there is simply no place to change the oil and check the tires. For some, the cost of maintenance can be prohibitive.

Under the leadership of Wil Eickenhorst and Jim Marshall, men of the congregation have made this ministry a reality at Trinity.

At a site across the street on a specified Saturday morning, Trinity men will help change oil and make visual inspections of cars. Oil is available at 50 cents a quart.

There's also a place for a car wash.

A satisfied customer writes:

A letter to Immanuel Lutheran in Temple, Texas:

Dear Pastor and Youth,

More than a month ago, the youth and sponsors from St. Paul Lutheran in Minden, Neb., attended a church service at Immanuel. During this time I was in the hospital with a dislocated knee-cap.

I would just like to thank you with all my heart for everything you did for my youth group at this time. The group felt very welcomed in your church.

Thank you for taking the youth to the "youth house" and letting them relax and have some fun until I got out of the hospital.

Also, thank you for letting us use one of your wheelchairs in San Antonio. I don't know how I would have made it without the wheelchair!

We are so lucky to have people like you in this world! Thank you so much for everything once again. It was greatly appreciated!

God bless,

Crystal Burgess

Minden Youth Counselor

CELEBRATIONS

Lillian Klein named Volunteer Teacher of the Year

Lillian Klein of St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Westfield (Spring) is the Texas District Volunteer Teacher of the Year for 1995.

Tom Couser, parish services associate for the Texas District, presented the award to Klein during a worship service Aug. 13. Klein was the guest of honor at a congregational dinner in the parish hall after the service.

Klein has taught Sunday school for 39 years. Currently she teaches the fifth- and sixth-grade class but she also has taught at the third- and fourth-grade level. She noted that she enjoys teaching at the fifth- and sixth-grade level because of the interest and enthusiasm those children have.

Klein and her husband, Erwin, are lifelong members at St. Matthew.

In presenting the award, Couser noted that Klein represents the hundreds of volunteer educators who minister to children and adults throughout the district.

"They serve as Christ's representatives carrying out the nurturing part of the Great Commission," he said.

Lillian was selected from among 18 candidates who were nominated by their congregations for the award. Nomination forms are sent



Lillian and Erwin Klein

to each district congregation in the spring of each year.

Thirty years of ministry celebrated

The members of Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Houston joined in special worship Sept. 10 to give thanks to God for Pastor Eugene E. Heckmann's 30 years of ministry at Gethsemane. The guest speaker during the service was Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, president of the Texas District. A luncheon reception followed the service.

Dittloff appointed chairman

The 150th anniversary celebration of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is scheduled for 1997. Pastor Todd Dittloff of Christ Lutheran, Houston, has been appointed chairman of the anniversary celebration effort in the Texas District.



Eleanor and Paul Cesander of Faith, Gainesville, celebrated 50 years of marriage Aug. 9.



The following couples of the Texas District are celebrating 50 or more years of marriage:

King of Kings, San Antonio: Al and Grace Baldowsky, 50 years, Sept. 8; Bill and Dorothy Megan, 54 years, Sept. 27.

* * *

Mount Olive, San Antonio: John and Lillian Woods, 52 years, Sept. 5.

* * *

St. Matthew, Westfield: Elton and Eleanor Jandrey, 51 years, Sept. 30.

* * *

Grace, Arlington: Pat and Claire Panzer, 62 years, Sept. 30; Earl and Gladys Hare, 56 years, Sept. 23; Alden and Lillian Johnson, 54 years, Sept. 8.

* * *

Trinity, Sealy: Mike and Mildred Shelburne, 56 years, Sept. 16.

* * *

St. Mark, Houston: John and Evelyn Matthews, 51 years, Sept. 9; Harry and Willien Plackemeier, 50 years, Sept. 22.

* * *

St. Paul, San Antonio: Robert and Mary Westphal, 62 years, Sept. 10.

* * *

Gethsemane, Houston: Raymond and Marie Pechacek, 55 years, Sept. 7.

* * *

Messiah, Houston: Mr. and Mrs. Walter Nimtz, 63 years, Sept. 25.

* * *

Trinity, Rosenberg:

Charles and Annie Ludwig, 51 years, Sept. 8; Elton and Hildegard Schroeder, 55 years, June 13; Arnold and Dorris Beissert, 52 years, July 4.

* * *

Hope, Austin: Jack and Clara Welch, 50 years, Sept. 2; Hudson and Alma Powell, 55 years, Sept. 1.

* * *

Our Redeemer, Dallas: William and Mildred Koepp, 55 years, Sept. 28.

* * *

Redeemer, Baytown: Mr. and Mrs. Herman Choler, 61 years, Sept. 30; Mr. and Mrs. E.R. Kieke Jr., 55 years, Sept. 7. Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Davis, 53 years, Sept. 25.

* * *

Bethlehem, Palestine: Elbert and Nora Lee Horton, 55 years, Aug. 4.

* * *

Redeemer, Austin: Rev. Louis and Dolores Pabor, 50 years, Oct. 2.

* * *

Faith, Gainesville: Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Davis, 50 years, Sept. 4.

* * *

Cross, New Braunfels: Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Schmidt, 55 years, Sept. 18; Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Roper, 57 years, Sept. 22.

* * *



One hundred gallons and still going strong



Pastor Lawrence Kelm, accompanied by his wife, Joanne, received his blood donor T-shirt Aug. 25.

Lawrence E. Kelm, pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Houston, is the second 100-gallon blood donor in the United States and reached this mark Aug. 25 at the Houston Blood Center, LaConcha Facility.

Since 1960, he has given more than 800 times (170 of these donations were platelets) and potentially has touched more than 1,300 patients.

Lawrence began donating blood during Thanksgiving holidays in 1960 during his study for the Lutheran ministry in Fort Wayne, Ind. He continues to donate blood because "it's only right to pass on God's wonderful 'gift of life' to others in need; after all, that's what Jesus, my Savior, did in a far greater way."

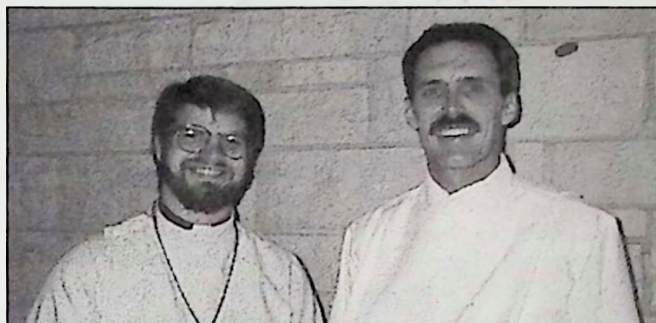
Workshop on distinctively Christian caring ministry

On Saturday, Nov. 11, Christ Memorial Lutheran Church will host the Stephen Caring Workshop from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring presentations on Ministry to those Experiencing Grief; How to Care in a Distinctively Christian Way; and The Stephen Series System of Lay Caring Ministry.

This workshop will provide both immediately usable skills and tools, as well as an introduction to the most successful lay caring ministry program ever.

The Stephen Series is a complete system for training and organizing laypeople to serve as caring ministers in and around their congregations. Almost 5,000 congregations from 70 denominations are enrolled in the Stephen Series. It is estimated that these congregations have trained more than 200,000 laypeople to serve as caring ministers. The Stephen Series Caring Ministry Workshop will be led by Mark Werner, a member of Christ Memorial trained as a Stephen leader in 1990.

All are invited to the Stephen Series Caring Ministry Workshop. Costs are \$15 per person or \$50 for a group of four or more from the same congregation. For more information or to register to attend, contact Kathy Herbrich or Mark Werner at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church at (713) 497-0250.



Seminarians Scott Heltschusen, left, and Dale Snyder, longtime members of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston, conducted worship services Aug. 6. Heltschusen led the liturgy, and Snyder delivered the sermon. They were welcomed back by friends and family. Heltschusen is in his fourth year and Snyder his second year at the St. Louis seminary.



Rev. Carlos Segovia was installed Aug. 12 as assistant pastor to Peace/missonary-at-large to San Pablo and St. Peter Lutheran Churches in Houston. Participating in the installation were, from left, Rev. Alfred Scholz; Claudio Perez; Segovia; Rev. Eugene Heckmann, Texas District first vice president; Rev. Richard Schuller; and Rev. Jesse Gonzales.



Chaplain Bert Klein was recognized by his congregation, Hope Lutheran Church in Austin, on the 25th anniversary of his ordination in the ministry July 23. He is shown, at left, with his wife, Eileen, and Rev. John Ellwanger, pastor of Hope. Klein has served as chaplain at St. David's Medical Center in Austin since March 1992 under the auspices of Lutheran Social Services of the South and the Texas District.

What can older adults do to help children?

by Ralph Barkin, Chairman, Older Adult Committee, Texas District

A very large percentage of today's children live hundreds of miles from their grandparents. Their parents may think this is a good thing since the children won't be spoiled by doting grandparents.

Maybe they are right, but I remember learning so much valuable information from my grandparents that I think there is a lot of mentoring going to waste.

One solution would be for children to stay near home after they are married. That is no longer realistic! It is common today for people to have children and grandchildren scattered all over the country and the world.

What can older adults do to help in this matter? I submit that there are many children without available grandparents and many grandparents without available grandchildren who live next door to each other or at least attend the same Christian congregation.

The vast majority of fami-

lies rely on two incomes for existence today, and when the parents come home after a hard day's work, they have little time or energy for answering some of the "why, what and how" questions that young minds are constantly producing as a result of stimulation in school. The teachers also have limited time to cover material and cannot give children the extra time often necessary.

I believe that the older adult members of our respective congregations can and should start a grandparent-child mentoring program where we could match children who need the mentoring of a Christian grandparent with grandparents whose own grandchildren are grown or live far away.

There are many programs already in place in the community which use the services of seniors and others to tutor children who are having trouble keeping up with their classes in reading and

writing skills. These children are helped at their schools. How about an after-school program at the church? How about Saturday morning classes?

If you have any ideas for

implementing such a program or know of any programs already in place, write Ralph Barkin, The LCMS Texas District, 7900 E. Highway 290, Austin, TX 78724-2499.



At the July Texas District Board of Directors meeting, President Jerry Kieschnick recognized the 10-year service anniversaries of Peggy Turnipseed, left, and Shirley Brown, workers at the district office. Peggy served more than seven years with Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas before accepting the position of executive secretary for the Lutheran Foundation of Texas. Peggy has been with the Foundation for two-and-a-half years. Shirley has served in the district business office for 10 years, handling CEF investor and congregational accounts.



On Sept. 6, Lonny Rees was installed as director of development of the Lutheran Foundation of Texas during the morning chapel at the district office in Austin. Lonny is pictured with his wife, Melody, and their three children, Justin, Matthew and Amanda. Joining Rees and his family are Texas District President Gerald Kieschnick, left, and LFOT Executive Director Glenn Pittsford, center.

AAL helps Texas residents

A total of \$2.9 million in fraternal assistance was provided to Texas residents in 1994 by Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL).

The funds came through a number of programs designed to benefit individuals, institutions and communities in the Texas District.

AAL's 64,750 members in Texas are organized into 357 local volunteer groups called branches. The branches are provided with resources to support education and help projects in their communities. Activities range from health fairs to caring for the elderly.

The branches also do local fund raising, supplemented by AAL, to assist individuals or congregations.

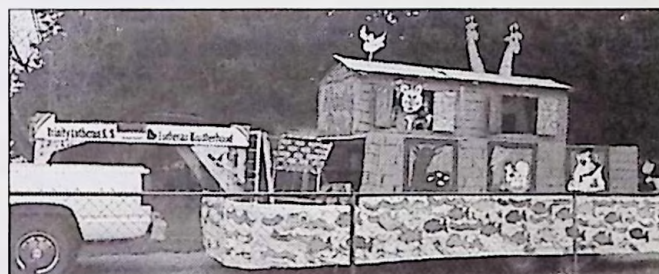
AAL gives direct grant assistance to Lutheran high schools, colleges and seminaries, and helps congregations celebrating significant anniversaries. Thirteen Texas District congregations received \$8,500 in 1994 for this purpose.

CELEBRATIONS TEXAS MESSENGER



CONFIRMANDS—St. John Lutheran, Wharton, received these junior confirmands into its fellowship June 4. Front row from left: Jennifer Boerger, Olivia Burgess, Jarrett Baca, Daniel Breland, Jenna Smith, Cheryl Kuretsch. Back row from left: Bryan Kubena, Jeffrey Hunter, Rev. Barry Sharp, Dale Young, Derek Bollom and Wade Zahn.

RIESEL—"The Picture of Noah's Ark" was the Trinity (Riesel) Sunday School float in the annual Riesel Fair parade. The entry, sponsored by Lutheran Brotherhood, took first place in the float category.



ZION, WALBURG—Michele Jaroszewski, Christy Sowers, Tammy Gottschalk, Kristel Overfelt, Christopher Arldt, Steven Gill, Phillip Noack, Don Paul Ischy and Paul Klepac (not pictured) were confirmed April 9 at Zion, Walburg.

ST. MARK, HOUSTON—The King's Choir, under the direction of Mary Mountford, sings the national anthem at the Astros' game in the Astrodome July 23. This was part of Lutheran Day at the Dome activities.



Eagle Scout awarded

Ryan Finnerud, Redeemer, Nacogdoches, received his Eagle Scout Award at a court of honor ceremony Aug. 6. His service project consisted of planning and organizing the construction of picnic tables for Redeemer's playground area and involved both Boy Scouts and youth group members. Ryan is a member of the National Honor Society, "Who's Who," student council, chorale and Redeemer's youth group. He is also junior assistant scoutmaster for his Boy Scout troop, co-president of Nacogdoches High School's Fellowship of Christian Athletes and an offensive lineman on the varsity football team.

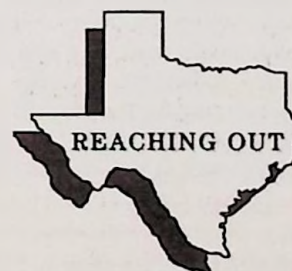


Ryan

Baptism and anniversary celebrated

On Aug. 6 Pastor A. Dean Kelm, Redeemer, Odessa, baptized Bao-Tram Du, daughter of Linh Mai Du and Huyen-Tran Thi Ngo. This day was doubly special because it marked the 20th anniversary of the arrival of the infant's grandfather, Thoi Tau Ngo, in Odessa.

In 1975, he was one of the Vietnamese refugees Redeemer sponsored. In 1989, Redeemer helped Thoi Ngo get his wife and five children and one grandson out of Vietnam and to the United States.



OUR AWESOME KIDS

Anderson named valedictorian

Jessica Anderson, **Trinity Lutheran Church, Rosenberg**, was the 1995 valedictorian at B.F. Terry High School in Rosenberg, Texas.

Along with her academic achievements, Jessica has been involved in many extracurricular activities. She



Jessica

served as president of the National Honor Society and participated in varsity sports, including tennis and softball.

Jessica is attending the University of Texas as a scholarship student majoring in English and plans to become a secondary English teacher.

Texan elected to LYF chair

Angie Nichols of Carrollton has been elected national chairperson for Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF). Elections were held in San Antonio during the national LCMS Youth Gathering.

Angie was one of 12 young people nominated for the LYF Board. As the top vote getter, she assumes the position of chairperson.

Angie is a senior at R.L. Turner High School in Carrollton. She is a member of

the district youth committee and the Project CAN-DO Task Force. She has served Texas youth as the district LYF representative for three years. She also was a member of the steering committee for the "River of Light" Youth Gathering held in San Antonio.

Tom Couser, parish associate for youth ministry, stated, "Angie Nichols has some real leadership skills which have been and will continue to be a blessing to the church. We're excited that she will have the opportunity to serve the church-at-large in this way."

In addition to leading the annual LYF district chairpersons conference, Angie will be a member of the Conference of Congregational Services. She also will represent the LYF on other youth-related issues.

Angie is the daughter of Randy and Ann Nichols. She is a member of **Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Dallas**. Angie is planning a career in professional church work.

Kroll leads cemetery cleanup as eagle project

Barrett Kroll selected the cleanup of St. John Lutheran Cemetery at Battle, Texas, as his service project to attain his Eagle Scout award.

It was a daunting task as the plot had grown up in weeds, grass, trees and brush. A sagging barbed-wire fence surrounded the little cemetery.

On Aug. 12, Barrett's family, a large group of Boy Scouts and their leaders and members of Lutheran churches in the area, gathered at the site to tackle the

project. By day's end, the cemetery was not only visible, it was clean and ready for the next step, which is the erection of a chain link fence.

Lutheran Brotherhood Branch 8223 of Clifton will give a "Friends in Deed" materials grant toward the fence. Aid Association of Lutherans Branch 2752 also will give a grant toward the fence and donations from interested central Texans have assured the erection of fencing and gates.

Bahn first chair cello

Tim Bahn, **Holy Cross, Arlington**, attended the University of Arkansas Orchestra Camp in July where he was first chair cello and had a short solo in the final concert.

Way to go, Tim!

Dancer judged 'High Point'

Sarah Bourassa, **Holy Cross, Arlington**, danced

in the American Talent Showcase National Dance Competition July 2 in Houston. Bourassa's clogging dance with the senior company took second place in their division. They also won first place "High Point" (98 percent accuracy) over the 22 other large groups in tap, ballet, jazz and clogging. Bourassa also did a clogging dance, "Kick a Little," with her junior company.

All-Star selected

Waylon Themer, **Hope, Dallas**, was chosen for the Forney Dixie League 12-and-under All-Stars after playing second base and leading the Forney Rangers in hitting. Waylon also helped the Forney fifth-grade academic team win first place in the U.I.L. meet by scoring 100 percent in music memory. He also captured third place in maps and charts.

Waylon is the son of Don and Vivian Themer.

Texas District congregations make more than 30,000 crosses for youth gathering

It is the custom for the host district to present each gathering participant with a gift welcoming them to that state. Yet with 28,000 coming to San Antonio for "River of Light," many thought this would be too costly. Still, Texas District Lutherans found a way.

In a project coordinated by Rev. Wayne Braun of Texarkana and Rev. Bill Shupe of Kingsbury, members of congregations all over Texas made more than 30,000 cross necklaces to be given out at the gathering. Indeed, one family, the Barbers of Texarkana, Ark., made 14,000 crosses!

The idea was to give each participant a gift that would say, "We're glad you're here," and would remind them and others of God's love which brought us all together on the *River of Light* in San Antonio. The cross necklaces were handed out (one to each participant) during the communion service on Monday night.

A special *thank you* goes to each congregation that contributed crosses to this project.



Kids' news

Zion, Fort Worth: Turah Herbel, Zion, Fort Worth, again has been selected in open auditions to dance in the North Central Civic Ballet production of Tchaikovsky's "The Nutcracker." This is her second year in the production. Performances this year will be Dec. 1-3 at Fort Worth's Will Rogers Theater. The talented 8-year-old is the daughter of Damon and Debby Herbel and the granddaughter of Lee Roy and Beverly Schmedthorst, Peace, Garland.

* * *

King of Kings, San Antonio: The Senior High Youth Group held elections for this year's youth group officers. This year's officers are President Kevin Cook; Vice President James Woelfel; Secretary Priscilla Guitron; Treasurer Matthew Walnack; Assistant Treasurer Billy Feuquay; and Christian Growth Chairman Sharon Flowers.

* * *

St. Luke, Olney: Sunday school perfect attendance awards were presented to Emma Jeske, Krista Tubb, Thomas Tubb, Phil Jeske III, Will Jeske, Erin Jeske, Heather Givham, Rhonda Jeske and Scott Neal for not missing a single Sunday school class last year.

* * *

Trinity, Navasota: Jason Hildreth has had perfect Sunday school attendance for the past three years!

* * *

St. Paul, San Antonio: Sarah Wenck attended the Belia Karoyli Gymnastic Camp in New Waverly for one week last June, where

she brushed up on her gymnastic skills.

* * *

Redeemer, Beaumont: Check it out—the summer reading program ended with the following top readers: Jon Rathjen, 10-year-olds; Dustin Daigle, 8-year-olds; and Lauren Holt, 7-year-olds.

* * *

Hope, Winnie: Cody Bauer recently participated in the Babe Ruth World Series in British Columbia. His team won the Southwest Regional Tournament to play the series.

* * *

Zion Lutheran School, Pasadena, was presented the 1995 Environmental Excellence Award by the Houston Corporate Recycling Council for its efforts in paper recycling.

From March through July, the 212 students collected more than 25,000 tons of newspapers, magazines, business paper and cardboard for recycling.

Spearheading the drive was Richard Ball, grandfather of Zion seventh-grader Shane Morris. He was assisted by William Leimbach, fourth-grade teacher.

* * *

Desiree Prinz, Trinity, Corpus Christi, knows how to cope with the high cost of higher education.

The high school valedictorian had a grade point average of 106.744 which earned her these college scholarship offers:

\$18,000 to Tulane;
\$24,000 to Southwestern;
\$8,000 to Trinity;
\$12,000 to the University of Texas.

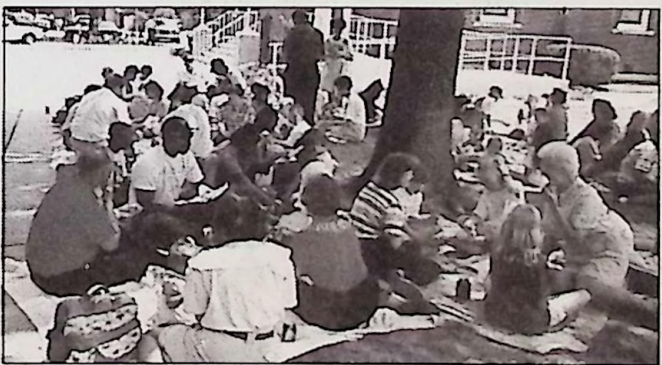
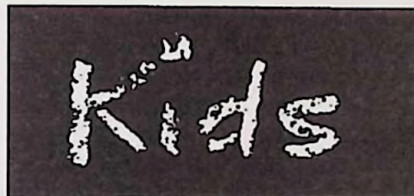
She attends the University of Texas and is majoring in chemical engineering.



KIDS ON CAMPUS—Texas Aggies and members of Bethel, Bryan, are shown with children and parents attending the second annual international vacation Bible school held at the married student housing area at Texas A&M during the week of July 31. The theme for the week was "Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World."



GOD'S SPECIAL AGENTS—Crown of Life, Colleyville, hosted 45 youths at vacation Bible school the week of July 31. As "God's Special Agents," the youth went sleuthing through the Bible, played games and created arts and crafts in discovery of Jesus as our Savior and Friend. Thanks to Nancy Olsen who organized the VBS event.



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN, WHARTON, concluded its 1995 vacation Bible school program with a picnic on church grounds for the 70-plus children and teachers in attendance. Children invited parents to the picnic, which enabled the event to serve as a mission to the community.

Adoption and the onion

Peeling an onion! The first thing most of us think of is how the pungent odor burns our eyes and makes us cry.

For LSSS case manager Jean Warren, peeling the bulb of the herb has taken on a new meaning. The Austin-based social worker has developed a workshop about special needs adoption based on the layers of skin found on onions.

To Jean, each layer represents one of several issues which affects special needs children and their adoptive parents. For example, one layer may represent birth problems, like being born addicted to alcohol or drugs. That is a possibility when the birth mother is an alcoholic or addicted to drugs.

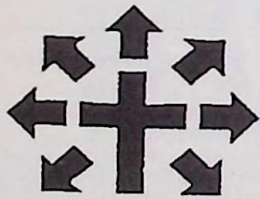


Jean Warren with her "special" onion.

Another issue is foster care. Often, children are moved from one foster home to another several times as they grow up. That situation causes all sorts of problems, including behavioral and emotional. A child can feel unloved and insecure.

It is difficult enough for a child who is taken away from its birth parents or given up for adoption. But it's even harder when that child has special medical and/or emotional needs. Thankfully, LSSS has a special needs adoption program which finds loving parents for those children and helps them learn to deal with the unique issues involved.

Jean has presented her special workshop to groups of professional counselors and social workers around Texas. She also made a presentation before the National Association of Social Workers in Philadelphia last October.



New growth at New Life

Growth at New Life Children's Treatment Center near Canyon Lake now includes gardening. The Neil Kruse Garden Project was made possible by donations from Dr. Neil and Jane Kruse, Hill Country Nursery and Carpenter Hardware.

The staff at New Life uses the garden to teach the young residents about anger management, productive behavior, problem solving and working as a team.

The building behind the garden was renovated to replace the old trailer, which served as the center's office for two years.

Volunteers in His service

Once a week Bryan Swan would look forward to the exercise class he helped lead at Lutheran Home of West Texas. Bryan and his mother, Coral, began volunteering at the facility about a year ago. Coral says they were simply looking for a way to do something good for others.



Happy birthday, Bryan!

The LHWT residents who attended the class simply adored Bryan. They say it was like the Lord had sent a little angel to brighten their lives each week. Bryan got to know his "classmates" personally. But now, they have to do without him. You see, Bryan recently turned 5 and has to attend school.

At a very early age, Bryan discovered that he could make a difference in the lives of others. He may not fully understand the concept, but Bryan, taught by his mom, was honoring and worshiping the Lord by sharing his time with those who gave so much of themselves in years past.

To show their appreciation, the exercise class gave Bryan a surprise birthday party.

Clinic receives grant

Every month, the Health for Friends Clinic in Lubbock helps approximately 300 people keep an eye on some basic, but serious, health issues. This year alone more than 4,000 people will be served.

The Health for Friends Clinic provides blood pressure screening, glucose screening for diabetics, and nutrition and healthy-eating counseling. "The idea is to help people to avoid long-term care," says LSSS Lubbock R.N. Joan Bronstad. "We do this by assisting them before a problem becomes too serious."

To help meet the cost of this ministry, United Way of Lubbock has awarded the clinic a \$61,655 grant for 1996.



Growth at New Life Children's Treatment Center.



A Christian legacy

By Glenn Pittsford, Executive Director, Lutheran Foundation of Texas

Then the King will say to those on his right, "Come, you who are blessed by my father; take your inheritance, the Kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world" (Matt. 25:34).

As Lutherans and as Christians we have a special opportunity to honor our Lord by developing a Christian estate plan for the benefit of ourselves, our loved ones and the ministries we love.

Through the stewardship of our tangible and intangible blessings, we can leave a perpetual legacy of faith in our Lord Jesus. We do so by passing on integrity, initiative, devotion to the Lord and His Church, as well as tangible blessings to our loved ones. We also have the opportunity to remember the ministries we love by providing for a perpetual endowment or outright gift during or after our lifetime from our God-given accumulated assets.

The Lutheran Foundation of Texas is celebrating its 35th year in service to our Lord and to the Lutherans in Texas. The Foundation assists individuals and families with:

- Family endowments
- Charitable trusts
- Wills planning
- Insurance gift programs
- Estate executorship
- Current gifts of real estate, stocks and bonds



The Lutheran Foundation of Texas assists Christians in passing tangible blessings to their loved ones.

Please allow the Foundation to assist you in developing or updating your Christian estate plan. Consult with your pastor or contact the Foundation to find out more about how you can leave a Christian legacy.



"For those who passed on the faith to us, we give thanks, O Lord; also for those yet to come, we pray God to help us faithfully proclaim His kingdom in Christ."



LUTHERAN FOUNDATION OF TEXAS

7900 E. Highway 290 Austin, Texas 78724-2499

800-880-3733

512-926-4272

Family reunions are successful at Camp Lone Star and Texoma Lutheran Camp

It is common knowledge that many families stretch across the United States, and it takes a concerted effort for all the members to get together. Location and cost are two of the biggest concerns in the planning stages of a family reunion. Many families already have taken advantage of the modern cost-effective facilities at Camp Lone Star in La Grange and Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro.

Camp Lone Star and Texoma Lutheran Camp have air-conditioned and heated hotel-style housing accommodations. The difference the camps provide is a distinctly Christian aspect to a family gathering, from the Christian symbols in and around the buildings and grounds to the staff. When requested, the camp staff will lead the family in singing, devotions, Sunday worship or Bible studies.

The Arnold Koop Memorial Activities Center, the newest building addition at Camp Lone Star, is an air-conditioned, carpeted meeting hall. The amenities include a stage, sound system, video presentation capabilities and wheelchair accessibility. Floor-to-ceiling room dividers create smaller meeting spaces.

The Johnson Retreat Center is a multi-use facility with hotel-style housing accommodations, meeting rooms and dining service under one roof. Guests also can relax in the hot tub while looking out over the lake or at the stars.

Another choice in facilities includes air-conditioned and heated cabins that can ac-

commodate up to 12 people. Each cabin has its own restrooms and showers.

Texoma Lutheran Camp has five miles of waterfront on Lake Texoma, thus having access to a variety of water activities, including swimming, canoeing, boating and paddle boats. Families can enjoy other activities like hiking, fishing, pingpong or archery.

The air-conditioned and heated Nazareth units provide hotel-style housing accommodations. The Jericho and Capernaum cabins are air-conditioned, can accommodate up to 12 people and have built-in restrooms or an attached bath house. Other cabins are not air-conditioned. To add a more rustic camping perspective to the family gathering, stay in the screened-in shelters.

Buffet-style dining services are provided in the Jerusalem Center. The dining hall can double as a meeting room with a large fireplace and screened-in porch that overlooks Lake Texoma.

The Bethlehem Center has a large meeting room that is easily divided into smaller rooms. The amenities include a screened-in porch, sound system, large screen television and video presentation capabilities.

Whether the next family reunion or special family gathering is for a weekend or one week in the spring, summer, winter or fall, consider Camp Lone Star or Texoma Lutheran Camp and explore the unique atmosphere and enjoyment these facilities can provide. Call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 and Texoma Lutheran Camp at 1-800-926-5968.

Texas River Reunion—the experience continues

Did your youth group join the other 28,000-plus who attended the River of Light National Youth Gathering in San Antonio this year?

Make plans to experience the thrill and enthusiasm of the Texas River Reunion at Camp Lone Star in La Grange. The statewide youth gathering reunion will continue the momentum and exhilaration started in San Antonio. The event will rejuvenate and fortify your love and reliance on Christ.

The activities being planned—like the Challenge Course (on display in San Antonio), a variety of games and Bible studies—will enhance and strengthen your prayer life, communication skills, knowledge of nature and your self confidence.

The Texas River Reunion begins the evening of Friday, Jan. 19, and concludes Sunday, Jan. 21, 1996. The cost is \$60 per person, which includes all meals and lodging. Call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 Ext. 22 for registration information.

Lutheran camps host junior staff workshop Dec. 1-2

Where can a young person have an experience that provides spiritual, emotional and physical growth?

Join the Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas team as a junior staff member during summer 1996. Junior staff members usually make a two-week commitment to serve at one of the camps. During those two weeks, junior staff members work alongside other energetic and motivated young people to complete a variety of projects. Some projects include repairing and improving the campgrounds, preparing and serving meals, and helping supervise younger campers. Junior staff members also participate in Bible studies and enjoy an assortment of recreational events. Most junior staffers say the experience has a strong impact on their faith in Christ and strengthens their prayer life.

To apply for junior staff positions, all interested young people are encouraged to attend the Junior Staff Workshop, Friday, Dec. 1, through Saturday, Dec. 2, at Camp Lone Star in La Grange or Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro. All future junior staffers should be at least 15 years of age by June 1, 1996. Participants should attend the workshop at the camp they choose to serve.

The \$30 fee includes lodging and meals. Participants should bring a sleeping bag, pillow, Bible, soap and towel and clothes that can get "roughed up." The registration deadline is Nov. 25. To receive additional information or request registration materials, call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 Ext. 20 or Texoma Lutheran Camp at 1-800-926-5968 Ext. 14.



Project CAN-DO wraps up great year and shares plans for 1996

by Randy Potts

Project CAN-DO is completing its second year as the Youth Great Commission Project of the Texas District. Chartered with the twofold purpose of youth adopted/funding mission fields and youth missionary leadership training through hands-on mission events, the CAN-DO project is achieving its goals.

For example, last summer 37 youth and adults from congregations across Texas participated in short-term mission projects in St. Petersburg, Russia. The teams built relationships with the Russian people and the missionary staff as they renovated churches and a Christian school.

Those serving on the 1995 CAN-DO Russia team were:

From Messiah, Corpus: Rev. Kelly Crabbe, Cheryl Moehring, James Burns, Sasha Ringgenberg, David Roznovsky, Robert Kunkel, Heather White. **From Crown of Life, San Antonio:** Susan Miller, Bethany Wiatrek. **From Zion, Abilene:** Joseph Krause. **From Messiah, Richardson:** Denise Schulze, Sandy Rahberg. **From Our Savior, McKinney:** Dale Costello. **From Prince of Peace, Belton:** Aaron Camp, Jennifer Wright. **From Concordia, Garland:** Scott Boswell. **From Faith, Aransas Pass:** Rev. Bill Schuster, Vera Schuster. **From Redeemer, Austin:** Stephanie Nun, Kristi Wendt. **From Our Savior, Austin:** Melissa Sjolander. **From Beautiful Savior, Arlington:** Heidi Hintze. **From St.**



The 1995 CAN-DO Russia mission team.

Mark, Lake Jackson:

Catherine Schulz, Erin King, Carl Brewer. **From Zion,**

Walburg: Bonnie Hobratsch, Jerry Overfelt, Matthew Allen, Jessica Hobratsch. **From El Calvario, Brownsville:** Cynthia Da'vila. **From Lord of Life, Plano:** Annette Vystcil.

From Memorial, Katy:

Karen Rylander. **From St. Paul, Big Spring:** Kirsten Williams. **From Abiding Presence, San Antonio:** Keleigh Reynolds. **From Grace, Denison:** Nicole Dieterichs. **From King of Kings, Round Rock:** Molly Potts, Randy Potts.

There are a variety of opportunities for CAN-DO short-term missions in 1996. The CAN-DO committee has expanded to offer opportunities for senior youth, junior youth and college age. Please see below the site and dates of CAN-DO hands-on short-term missions for 1996. Contact the CAN-DO office for more information or to join a CAN-DO mission team.

INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS for senior high youth and adults:

Country

GUATEMALA

SLOVAKIA

RUSSIA

MEXICO

(San Rafael, July 14-20; Potosi, LaBoca, July 21-27; Huachichil, July 28-Aug. 2)

MEXICO (Guadalajara)

July 5-13

MEXICO for junior high

youth (Reynosa) June 23-29

MEXICO for college age

(San Rafael) March 10-16

TEXAS PROJECTS for

senior high youth and adults:

DEL RIO June 1-8

(Cristo El June 8-15

Salvador) June 15-22

July 6-13

BROWNSVILLE June 1-8

(El Calvario, June 15-22;

Matamoros, June 22-29)

TEXOMA June 23-28

CORPUS July 13-20

(St. John) July 20-27

Because of what God has been saying to me, I plan to:

- Come back next year, after I graduate and spend a year here as a missionary, or some other job working with Sasha (Russian pastoral intern).

Aaron Camp

- Witness more often and be God's faithful servant.

Heidi Hintze

- Live my life with the joy and assurance that I am a child of God who has been greatly blessed and in return my heart is filled with the hope of knowing that I have a gift to share with others — that they may feel the same.

Jessica Hobratschk

- Share my faith more effectively with those dear to me and the ones who don't know God's love. I am also thinking of sharing my faith all the time as a full-time servant of the Lord our God.

Joseph Krause

- Love as Christ loved and see as Christ saw me.

David Roznovsky



BETHESDA LUTHERAN HOMES AND SERVICES, INC GOOD SAMARITAN CAMPUS

A day at the Dome to remember

Summer has come and gone. Shoulder pads and footballs replace catchers' mitts and baseballs, and though we may forget which games were won or lost, the residents at Bethesda Good Samaritan group homes will always remember the day they spent cheering for the Astros at the Dome.

Thanks to Lutheran supporters and special donations, Good Samaritan residents were able to join 480 Lutherans for Lutheran Day at the Dome.

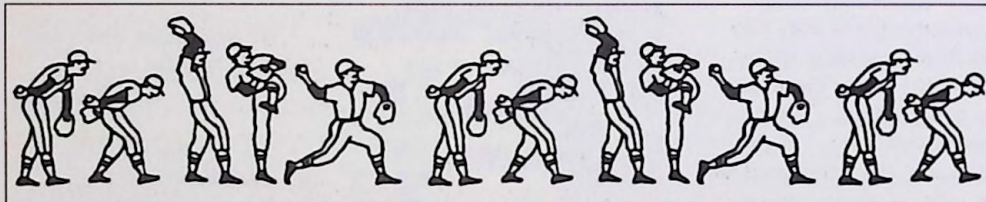
"It was a great way for people to get to know residents from our seven Houston-area group homes," said Dr. A.L. Napolitano, Bethesda's executive director. "We are grateful to those who participated and encourage others to join us next year."



Above, Patricia, Andrea, Kimberly and staff joined 480 Lutherans at the annual Lutheran Day at the Dome. Cheering from their seats, they turn to show their Astros spirit for the camera. Residents were able to attend the game through special donations from Lutheran supporters.

The annual event benefits more than 40 residents living at Good Samaritan group homes in Houston. The

group homes are operated by Bethesda Lutheran Homes and Services, Inc., headquartered in Watertown, Wis.



Join Bethesda Good Samaritan for an evening of fun and fellowship

You are invited to share an evening of fun and fellowship Nov. 11 at the Good Samaritan Campus, Cypress, for Bethesda's annual banquet.

The local banquet will be linked through interactive video with three other Bethesda campuses: Faith Village, near Kansas City; Aurora, northwest of Chicago; and Watertown, west of Milwaukee.

The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Special entertainment, a brief business discussion, video highlights of Bethesda's year and the presentation of awards will follow.

Reservations are \$10 per person and can be made by calling Linda Loesch at the Good Samaritan Campus (713) 351-4911.

Thank you, golf tournament sponsors!

The 1995 Good Samaritan Charity Golf Tournament was a huge success and couldn't have been done without caring sponsors. A warm "thank you" from Bethesda Good Samaritan and residents goes to these folks:

Seitel, Inc.; Aid Association for Lutherans; Lutheran Brotherhood; All American Trophy; DeLange, Hudseth & Pitman; Kaiser Marine, Inc.; AAL Branches 4329 (St. Philip) and 787 (Trinity); Lutheran Church Supply of Texas; and Kay Nettles, Bruce Adams, Dennis Wichman, Dale Henry, Ross Albers, Mark Steinbruecker, Jerry Roth, Dean Rager, Robert Leshikar, Bill Broeschel, Fred Hemann, Don Hemann and Fred Tonn of AAL; Alma Goddard; LeBocus, Wittenmyer and Underwood.

To be a sponsor for next year's tournament, contact Linda Loesch at the Good Samaritan Campus.



Eight store managers from Good Samaritan's Tomball Thrift Store went on a "thrift trip," visiting other thrift stores in Texas to share ideas, compare prices and have some good ol' thrifty fun. After three hours of comparison shopping, the group felt the Good Sam stores had higher calibre used items at very reasonable prices.



Creating a caring church: seek someone in need

"If you have a friend who is in need of food and clothing and you say to him, 'Well, good-bye and God bless you; stay warm and eat heartily,' and then don't give him clothes or food, what good does that do?" (James 2:15-16).

Is yours a church of factions or a church of actions?

Is yours the church of wood pews or the church of Good News?

How does your community view your local church?

As the affluent church?

As the cloistered church?

As the church with a school or day care?

As the church with a dynamic pastor?

As the church of the Sunday morning and Monday mourning?

Does your local community even know that your church is there?

If you have a vision of your congregation being known as the CARING CHURCH, the Human Care Ministry Committee of the Texas District has compiled a list of ideas that, if implemented, could help you attain that goal.

- *Caring for the Homebound.* Homebound members are contacted by the congregation at least three times a month. One week they receive a visit by a lay member who belongs to the homebound visitation committee; one week they receive a phone call from a lay member; and the other week they are visited by the pastor who brings them communion.

- *Caring for the Sick.* All members of the congregation who are hospitalized

are visited three to five times a week by the pastor, parish nurse or other staff member. They also receive a visit from a lay member of the visitation committee. After discharge from the medical facility, the member receives a follow-up phone call by a lay member and the parish nurse, if one is available.

- *Coats for Kids.* Collect warm clothing in September or October in time for the winter weather and give to a local social service agency that distributes clothes to the needy.

- *Helpmates*—a Christian singles support group for divorced, separated or widowed people. For more information, contact Helpmates, 6418 Bradley, Woodridge, IL 60517; (312) 969-0679.

- *"Love for Others" fund.* Print special envelopes for this fund and make them available to all members of the congregation. The purpose of this fund is to provide short-term financial assistance to people who can demonstrate a need.

- *Food Closet*—for fellow members or others.

- *Caregivers' Support Group.* Provides emotional support and/or educational programs for members and nonmembers who care for a disabled spouse or an elderly parent, relative or friend.

- *Community Health Fair.* Offer free health screenings for the community. Enlist the volunteer help of members with medical/dental training. Ask the American Heart Association, American Cancer Society,

your local hospital and others to set up exhibits.

- *Mentor Program for First-time Mothers.* Assign an older, experienced mom to each first-time mother to serve as her resource person.

- *Save the Children.* Become involved with your local pregnancy care center. Collect maternity clothes, baby clothes and used cribs or assemble layettes to give to each mom who chooses life for her baby. Volunteer to be a counselor or prayer partner.

- *Help a Schoolkid.* As-

semble school supply packets in early August. Make them available to your local public schools for needy children.

- *Blood Drive.* Sponsor a blood drive three or four times a year.

These are but a few ideas to help motivate your congregation into letting its light shine more brightly for Jesus and developing its reputation as a CARING CHURCH. For more information, contact the Texas District Human Care Ministry Committee at 1-800-951-3478.

People aren't looking for a friendly church; they're looking for a friend in church

by Rev. Ken Mitschke, St. Philip, Houston

Among our unchurched and under-churched friends, there is an almost universal distrust of the church as an institution. Around 75- to 100-million unchurched Americans, 85 percent of whom were once church members, are looking for a church that will accept them, meet their personal and family needs and bring spiritual meaning and hope to their lives. Most of these seekers want someone to help them fill this inner need.

You may be the only one who can help! You may be the only one that your unchurched acquaintance will trust enough to overcome their distrust of church.

How can you help?

- Initiate friendships with people who are not churched. *Your work, neighborhood, school and community groups are the best places to look.*

- Take time to build your relationships with unchurched friends. *Accept them and value them for who they are.*

- Look for opportunities to serve your friends. *Find ways to show you care about them and their family.*

- Pray for an opportunity to share your faith and/or an invitation to visit your church. *Expect the opportunity to come quickly!*

- Bring your friend to church. *Help them through the worship and introduce them to your church friends.*

You can expect one out of two of your friends to accept your invitation and one out of four eventually to join your church family! What a joy it will be to see how God can work through you to make an eternal difference in people's lives!

CONCORDIA

Concordia University at Austin welcomes new faculty for 70th year

Concordia University at Austin opened its 70th academic year—its first year as a university—with a worship service Aug. 27. President David Zersen preached the sermon, based on Concordia's theme for the year, "Walk in the Light." The choir from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Cedar Park provided special music.

New faculty members were installed or inducted as part of the service. Concordia welcomed the following to the university family.

Edward Lorentzen is assistant registrar. He is a graduate of the University of Texas (master of arts in geography) and George Washington University (master's in public administration). He retired as a colonel from the U.S. Army after a 26-year career and then worked one year for Texas state government before coming to Concordia.

Robert Malzahn is assistant professor of education. Before coming to Concordia, he was principal for 13 years of Baltimore Lutheran

School. He is a doctoral candidate at Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Richard Lewis is associate professor of business. He taught at La Tourneau University and East Texas Baptist University before coming to Concordia. He holds a doctor of business administration degree from Louisiana Tech University.

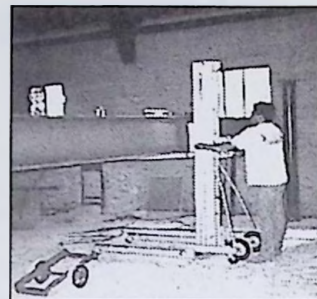
Debra Allen has taught history at Concordia since 1993, but completed a colloquy program in 1995 to receive Lutheran teacher status and was installed at the opening worship service. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois.

Phillip Hesterman is assistant professor of music and directs the Concordia-sponsored Austin Children's Choir. He has served as teacher and music director at Lutheran schools and churches in Sheboygan, Wis.; Chaska, Minn.; and Janesville, Minn. He received a master of church music degree from Concordia University, River Forest, Ill.

Daisy Diaz-Aleman is assistant professor of education and director of Concordia's new Adult Degree Program. She holds a Ph.D. in adult education and human resource development from the University of Texas. She taught previously at Park College and Austin Community College and served as acting assistant commissioner for access and equality for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Michael Butterfield is vice president of resource development. He served in a similar capacity at Wisconsin Lutheran College in Milwaukee before coming to Concordia. He is a certified fund-raising executive and currently is president of the nationwide Association of Lutheran Development Executives. His master's degree was earned at Mankato State University in Mankato, Minn.

These new Concordia faculty members, along with returning faculty and staff, will celebrate 1995-96 as "The Year of the University."



CHAPEL RENOVATIONS—Work continues on the renovation of Birkmann Chapel. The workman prepares to hoist a beam that will support a greatly enlarged balcony. Other improvements will include wood refinishing and new lighting, flooring and seating.

Attention, high school seniors

High school seniors, it's not too early to begin looking for a college home for fall '96. You can get a feel for life at Concordia University at Austin on Sneak-a-Peek Day, Saturday, Nov. 11.

On Sneak-a-Peek visitation day, you will spend time on the Concordia campus, meeting students and professors, touring the campus, finding out about courses and majors. You will even be treated to a "Taste of Concordia" reception.

Your parents also are invited—they will be especially interested in attending the financial assistance session.

Additional Sneak-a-Peek days are scheduled for Feb. 24 and June 22.

Call the Concordia Admissions Office at (512) 452-7661 (Austin area) or 1-800-865-4282 (toll-free long distance) for more information and to make reservations.

See you at Austin!



WELCOME TO CUA—New faculty members at Concordia University at Austin are, from left, Ed Lorentzen, Robert Malzahn, Richard Lewis, Debra Allen, Phillip Hesterman, Daisy Diaz-Aleman and Michael Butterfield.



A sewing fantasy

Imagine 28,000 kids from last summer's Youth Gathering each asked to bring fabric for Lutheran World Relief. It was supposed to be 18-by-18 inches, to be made into a quilt. Many brought finished tops, some several yards for backing. I can honestly say that I've never seen so many different fabrics in one place at one time!

I watched them come with their squares. They would find 11 other squares and bring them to me to sew together. Others tore fabric for the backs and fillers. Some made a stack—a bottom, a filler, a top. Then in minutes they tied the 63-by-83-inch unit at the corners and centers of each square. Then they were gone and new faces came with their squares. The 10 sewing machines just couldn't keep up with them. Quilts stacked up to be finished—a prayer was said to ask for blessing on those who would eventually receive these gifts. Then they were gone.

The women at Mount Calvary in San Antonio carried all the boxes home when the Convention Center closed. They sorted, counted, sorted again, boxed and counted again.

During the gathering, 138 quilts were finished. But they brought enough fabric to make 755 more tops! And 90 of these had found their way to my house. Our youth are going to re-create this servant event at Cross Lutheran. After I find women to sew the 12 pieces together for the top and find old sheets, clean old blankets or even clean curtains for the centers, and get enough time backing (63-by-83 inches for 90 quilts), we'll get our kids busy tying.

How can *you* help? Ask hotels to donate old sheets, sew a few squares, look for bargain fabric for backing.

Help us sew in the harvest field!

Kathy Schwartz

Editors note: If you would like to help, please write Kathy at Cross Lutheran Church, 169 S. Hickory, New Braunfels, TX 78130.

ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

Prayer doesn't have to take a long time

Seven Minutes With God

30 seconds: Be Still Before God

Pray to the Lord to prepare your heart.

Ask for hunger and understanding of His word.

4 Minutes: Read the Bible

Read some passages with the intent of

MEETING JESUS.

Ask: What is God saying to ME?

How can I apply this to MY life?

2-1/2 Minutes: Prayer, Praise, Fellowship with God

Pray your own words or read or sing a hymn.

End by committing the day to God.

PRAYER SEMINAR IN HOUSTON 2/10/96!

TDPMTF #9511



WEDDING ANNIVERSARY WITH A TWIST: Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lester, right, celebrated their 50th anniversary with Rev. and Mrs. Elmo Miertschin at Houston, Immanuel. This is the 10th golden wedding anniversary Miertschin has attended with couples for whom he officiated at their weddings!

Lutheran habitat home dedicated

Dedication ceremonies for the first Austin Lutheran Habitat for Humanity house were held Saturday, Sept. 9, at 12:30 p.m. The house is at 6200 Walker Lane in the Montopolis area of south Austin.

Austin area church members were invited to go to the half-hour ceremony and then walk through the new house and inspect this remarkable endeavor. Approximately 500 volunteers from more than 20 Lutheran churches in the Austin area built this house over a four-month period.

Keys were handed over to the owner who himself put in 400 hours of "sweat equity" on the house and other habitat houses. He will make regular monthly payments on the \$40,000 cost of the house. Instead of a ribbon-cutting, there was a board-cutting. Remarks were made by representatives of Habitat and the Lutheran churches.



How to become a billionaire

During the course of a recent 90th birthday celebration, it became evident just how much grace is crammed into 90 years.

—32,972 days (including 22.5 leap year days)

—795,340 hours

—47,720,400 minutes

—2,863,224,000 seconds.

*Contributed by Pastor Alvin G. Meissner
of Prince of Peace, Belton*

News from the LLL convention

Members of the International Lutheran Laymen's League met for their 78th convention Aug. 12-16 in Grand Rapids, Mich., under the theme "Bear Fruit."

Activities of the convention began with a communion/worship service at 8 a.m. Dr. Wallace Schulz, associate Lutheran Hour speaker, told the conventioners at the Sunday morning worship service how the Gospel dispels discouragement and noted how it impacted and revolutionized a depressed, disrupted society.

There is always hope with the Gospel. The Gospel will take root, and there will always be results. This is our hope; the power of the Gospel cannot be held back.

May we be empowered at this convention to go back with more power and conviction—empowered to "Bear Fruit." We have great joy in the opportunity to bring the light of hope to others.

BEAR FRUIT BIBLE STUDY: PLOWING

While we as Christians would rather be there to harvest the fruit, plowing—the act of preparing the soil for the seed—is perhaps the most important part of Gospel proclamation, according to Dr. Paul Maier, who led the Sunday morning Bible study.

Maier noted that there are many souls in our world today which are like hard, rocky soil. The job of the plow is to turn that soil and



This banner displays the theme of the convention.

convert it into fresh, good soil.

Maier noted that there are different types of "human soil." To work them up, we need good tools. Outside of the Bible, God has given us the tools of historical records and archaeology which most often verify the Biblical record.

"Christianity is not only theological, it is also logical," said Maier, who noted that other world religions do not have the wealth of historical data to verify their teaching the way Christianity does.

FIRST SESSION EXPLORES THEME

"If your corn grows knee-high by July 4, you'll have a good crop. When it's hot in August, the corn will survive because it is maturing with roots that are deep," Rev. James Gullen, international pastoral adviser, said in the convention's opening devotion. Gullen compared the importance of roots to bearing fruit.

Rev. Don Matzat, KFYO radio personality, delivered the keynote address. "Bearing Fruit" is a wonderful theme, especially in western Michigan, a fruit-bearing

area with apples, cherries and blueberries ... or our Christian lives or our work through ministry.

"Today we look back nearly 2,000 years and say, 'Jesus, where are you today? Where are You to motivate us with Your Spirit? Where is the Jesus who will help us 'Bear Fruit'?"

Matzat explained how Christ's sacrifice and open tomb tell of the virtue that motivates us to bear fruit.

SUNDAY CELEBRATION

Dr. Dale Meyer, Lutheran Hour speaker, gave the main address following a procession of the parade of nations flags representing lands in which Lutheran Hour Ministries have shared the Word of God.

Meyer, dramatically acting out a story near the free-standing microphone at mid-stage, showed how a little boy with bat and ball in hand exclaimed, "I'm the greatest baseball player of all time," then threw the imaginary ball in the air and took a swing with the bat, only to miss.

After three misses, with exclamations of how great the young man believed he was, he finally paused and said, "Wow! What a pitcher!" Meyer added, "O God, give us the exuberance of such a boy ... an exuberance that will bear fruit!"

Meyer continued, "None of us came here with the exuberance in ourselves. It comes from God: 'I choose you to bear fruit.' All over the world the Gospel is bearing fruit and growing. Jesus chose you because God

loves you. A lot of times God is the only one who loves you. But God loves every one of you and awakens you each morning to a new day in His love. He is quietly there to hear your prayers and offer you His love and hope. God loves you and you are the apple of His eye (Deut. 32:10).

"God hit a home run in bringing His people out of Egypt. A song in praise of God ... that's what you are today," Meyer said. "We have received love from God so we might spread that love to those who do not know."

To conclude his presentation, Meyer picked up his imaginary ball and bat and simulated a swing and a tremendous hit! "Hit a home run ... and you're hitting it because you are the apple of His eye!"

RED BOOTS

Those who attended the Int'l LLL convention in Grand Rapids, Mich., had the pleasure of premiering the "Red Boots for Christmas" video. This video will bring the true meaning of Christmas to millions of viewers worldwide.

Please watch for news media announcements of broadcast times and then tell your friends and neighbors.

LLL news

Send your LLL news to Irene Teinert, Information Coordinator, 1501 Barbara St., Austin, TX 78757.



Smiles share God's love

I read recently that there is power in a smile. I think that is true. A smile may seem like a little thing, but it can have a powerful effect on everyone around us. We may not think that our facial expression would be so important, but it is. It would be good for all of us to start smiling for more than a photograph.

Start the day with a smile. Each morning decide to share a friendly smile with your spouse, children and others. Begin your day and their day right.

Share a smile with a stranger. Wherever we go we often see lonely, discouraged people. Our smile can lift their spirits. During a thunderstorm at an amusement park, I once smiled at a frustrated looking stranger and began a conversation with him. I discovered he was a businessman from France. This was the beginning of a friendship that has lasted more than 15 years and brought him to our house several times. Friendship starts with something small like a smile.

Smile at your co-workers and neighbors. Instead of a reputation as a grump or grouch, earn a reputation as pleasant and approachable.

Frequent smiles help in that transformation.

Put a smile in your voice. A harsh, unpleasant tone repels people. Instead begin smiling as you speak. It will give your voice an inviting, soothing sound. It's hard to be rude when you are smiling.

Come to church services and LWML meetings with a smile. When you put on your clothes, accessorize with a bright smile. A smile makes any outfit look better and the wearer truly beautiful.

While at church, make smiling at guests and visitors a priority. You will cause them to feel welcome and gain a friendly reputation both for yourself and your church. Smiling can be the first step in a personal evangelism program. Smile at longtime members, too. Everyone likes to be noticed and acknowledged.

Smile as you pray. During your daily devotions, do not just focus on your problems. Take time to count your blessings. Your blessings will be a smile to your face and joy to your heart.

At times we all have bad days when it is hard to smile. Yet the presence of Christ in our heart does bring us an abiding joy. A good way to express that joy is by smiling throughout the day. As we do, we will be rewarded by the positive reactions of other people and our own joyful attitude toward life. Such is the power of a simple smile.

*Pastor Kim DeVries
Pastoral Counselor
Texas District LWML*



Heidi Handrick, scholarship recipient, says, "I sincerely appreciate your help with the generous financial scholarship toward my education at Concordia University at Austin. I will work hard in keeping my grades and participation at Concordia high."



Kimberly Richter, scholarship recipient, says, "I would like to thank the LWML Scholarship Committee for selecting me as a recipient. My first two years at Concordia University have been very challenging but, with hard work, prayer and support from my husband and family, those challenges have been met."



LWML scholarship recipients

The Texas District LWML Scholarship Committee, with the Lord's guidance and blessing, has chosen two young women for the fourth annual LWML Scholarships.

Heidi Yvonne Handrick of Wichita Falls and Kimberly Ann Richter of Thorndale will receive \$900 each for the 1995-96 school year at Concordia University in Austin.

Both women are pursuing degrees in education. They plan to serve as Lutheran school teachers.

Heidi is a member of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wichita Falls. She is studying for a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education. She was the president's page at the Texas District LWML Convention, Wichita Falls. Her parents are Rev. Thomas and Sally Handrick.

Kim is a member of St. Paul Lutheran, Thorndale. She is an honor student and plans to graduate in May 1997 with a degree in education.

Kim is married to Bruce Richter, and they have one son, Aaron.

She is active in her church and represented the Capital Zone in 1992-94 as the Young Woman Representative.

It is with great joy the LWML gives scholarship assistance to these young women. We ask God's blessings as they continue their education.

With joy in Jesus—

*Debra Curry, Secretary
Scholarship Committee
Texas District LWML*

LWML

News from around the district

• **Bethlehem LWML** (William Penn) Brenham celebrated its 50th anniversary July 2.

The LWMLers were entertained by a short program presented by the husbands of members.

A catered meal was enjoyed by all.

* * * * *

• **The North Alamo Zone** held its fall rally Oct. 1 at Cross, New Braunfels.

The rally theme "Anyone for Tea?" was carried out in decorations with teapots and provided the setting for the ingathering for SOS food pantry.

Members were asked to bring items of food from a list. The skit "Finding God in the Grocery Store" was presented at the time of the ingathering.

The North Alamo Zone Players (volunteers at the meeting) performed "Overflowing Love." Both skits are from the new catalog.

Kathy Schwartz serves as Christian growth chairman, and Jean Kamper is zone president.



Mite report

September 1995

1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd Sept.	
(all sources)	\$11,688
Rec'd to date	
(all sources)	170,607
Needed for goal	85,392
Sent to Int'l LWML	
(September)	2,905
Int'l to date	36,637

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 month. Fax No. 817-491-0105.

New catalogs

Beautiful new LWML catalogs are available from the St. Louis office.

They are 8.5-by-11 inches, on slick paper. The sections have been reorganized and items are much easier to find.

One of the new items being offered is a 1995-97 program planner in a calendar format to help you plan programs that help women live by God's design.

An LWML personal planner also has been developed for a two-year period. In addition to the calendars, note pad, pen and pockets, there are blank sections and special sections for goals, prayers, etc.

The catalogs sell for 50 cents each.



CHARTER MEMBERS of Bethlehem LWML, William Penn, are Johnnie Mae Lueckemeyer and Amanda Holle.

LWML Scholarship Fund

What a joy it was to select the two recipients, Heidi Handrick and Kimberly Richter, to receive the 1995-96 LWML scholarships.

Thanks be to God that we have so many young women willing to serve their Lord by studying to be full-time professional church workers in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Funds for these scholarships are provided by interest earned on contributions to the LWML Scholarship Endowment Fund through 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 original goal has been met, but additional monies may be added at any time to create more scholarship funds for students.

Scholarships again will be available for the 1996-97 school year.

Current members of the scholarship committee are Margaret Goodson, chairman; Debra Curry; Ethel Mickan; and Rev. Francis Schroeder, counselor.

Support the LWML Scholarship Fund with your prayers, gifts and memorials.

May God continue to bless the work of the LWML.

*Ethel Mickan
Scholarship Committee
Texas District LWML*



Some would make 'merry Christmas' politically incorrect

by Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, President, LCMS Texas District

It seemed appropriate, due to the season upon us, to take a one-month break from the series of articles on the Ten Commandments. We'll continue next month with the Sixth Commandment.

Christmas will soon be here! Just the day before this article was written, I heard the first announcement of its kind this year: "Only 64 shopping days 'til Christmas!"

The article's author, William Raspberry, writes for the *Washington Post*. While there is insufficient space here to reprint his entire article and while I don't agree with everything in it, there are a few excerpts I'd like to share with you.

"I sincerely wish that you may enjoy the holiday and/or celebration of your religious, ethnic or socio-political choice over the coming weeks whenever it/they may fall and whatever it/they may be so named..."

"Now if this card still makes someone angry, the heck with 'em."

"When a friend of mine sent the card bearing that message, I thought it was funny. Now I'm not so sure. 'Merry Christmas,' it seems, is turning out to be bad form.

"The stores are full of cards that, while not as circumspect as the specimen cited above, are careful to eliminate the last vestige of meaning, religious or secular. No manger, of course, but also no Santa Claus; not even a holly leaf, lest that evoke the dread Xmas.

"Friends who used to give you a hearty 'merry Christmas!' now offer a generic 'season's greetings' or, if they're super careful, 'have a good one.' It's too much.



Rev. Jerry Kieschnick

"Of course, I know Christmas is a specifically Christian holiday and this country, being home to adherents of every religion and of no religion, should be careful not to enforce a particular view on anyone. Still it does seem to me that there is some difference between 'merry Christmas' and religious intolerance.

"What I'm talking about may be as much a matter of etiquette as of constitutional law. It is a poor host who, no matter how agnostic, cannot allow his guest to offer a pre-dinner grace; it is an ungrateful guest who, however irreligious, would challenge his host's quiet thanksgiving. And it is a hopeless sorehead who would take offense at a hearty Christmas greeting. My only requirement would be no argument, no proselytizing. It is bad manners, not a noble affirmation of faith, to make one's friends and colleagues uncomfortable.

But it is a species of intolerance to require the religious to make a secret of their beliefs. After all, the constitutional requirement is that the government not 'establish' religion, not that it root out religion.

"But the question goes beyond the Constitution. Virtually every commentator on the current scene bemoans the increased violence, lowered ethical standards and loss of civility that marks the American society. Is the decline of religious influence no part of what is happening to us? Is it not just possible that anti-religious bias masquerading as religious neutrality is costing more than we have been willing to acknowledge?

"Dennis Praeger, a Jewish talk show host, has proposed a test for those who insist that religion serves no useful public purpose. Imagine that you round a corner one dark night and come face to face with four or five strapping young men. Can you honestly say you wouldn't feel safer if you knew they had just left Bible study?

"Why is it such a difficult thing to be tolerant of someone else's religious beliefs without abandoning one's own? Why is it so hard to understand that having a core of beliefs—including religious beliefs—is not a bad thing?

"Why, to return to my friend's clever card, has it become politically incorrect to say a simple 'merry Christmas'?



"Merry Christmas!"

Those words come from the pen/word processor of a secular writer. Again, I don't agree with everything in the article, but Raspberry does make a point. And I, for one, am sick and tired of being made to feel, by anyone, that it is inappropriate to treat Christmas as the uniquely Christian celebration it long has been in our country.

What a blessed opportunity is ours as Christian people, as Lutheran Christian people, to fully and publicly rejoice in the birth of Jesus Christ, God's only Son, Savior of the world and Lord of the universe!

As the angel said to the shepherds, "Fear not! For behold I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11).

A blessed, merry, hope-filled, Christ-filled Christmas to you all!

People, places, events



STAFFERS—In a special afternoon service Aug. 13, members of Immanuel, Houston, installed new staff members and rededicated returning staff members. From left, new workers are Theresa Bourgeois, day-care director; Rosalind Matteson, DCE intern; Pamela Tamburello, director of music; Debbie Schmalz, second-grade teacher; Brenda Burdick, third-grade teacher; Erik Smith, sixth-grade teacher. Not pictured is Leroy Hohle, interim principal. Pastors are Timothy Carr and Louis Konz.

Members of First Lutheran in Texarkana operated a booth at the Four States Fair in September. They passed out tracts and Bibles, gave away gifts that tell about the love of God in Jesus Christ and sold food and drink. On both Sunday mornings of the fair, they held a worship service for carnival workers.

* * *

The school of Christ Memorial, Houston, is recruiting grandfriends to share time and talent with the students. Job description for grandfriends calls for them to mentor the youth, sharing wisdom, experience and time that includes reading, storytelling, sharing childhood experiences and relating how God is at work in their lives. One hour a week.

* * *

Immanuel Lutheran, Houston, is completing a new early childhood center that will house four classrooms for kindergarten and preschool. Pastor Timothy Carr says, "This inner-city church is thankful for the increased enrollment which necessitated the new construction."

* * *

Hosanna Lutheran, Kerrville, celebrated the

10th ordination anniversary of its pastor, Rev. John



Kretzmann Treude

Treude, and the 40th ordination anniversary of its member pastor, Rev. Otto Kretzmann, with a special service and dinner Sept. 10.

* * *

Emma Michalk, oldest member of Mount Calvary, La Grange, celebrated her 95th birthday Oct. 26.

* * *

Talk about faithful servants! Leona Scott has been a choir member 45 years. And St. Paul Lutheran, Wichita Falls, thanks God for the joy she brings through the gifts He has given her.

* * *

St. John Lutheran, Hamilton, will celebrate its 60th anniversary next August.

For the seventh year, Peace Lutheran, Texas City, will give its community the Christmas gift of "Journey to Bethlehem." Members erect a replica of the little village to offer the true story of Christ's birth and how people lived 2,000 years ago. Thousands have viewed the presentation in years past. This year's journey is Dec. 2-3.

* * *

Zion Lutheran, Fort Worth, celebrated its 50th anniversary with a special worship service and luncheon Oct. 22.

* * *

Rev. Brian Bestian, formerly of College Station, was installed as associate pastor of Trinity Lutheran, Houston, Sept. 10.

* * *

Trinity Lutheran, Waco, celebrated its 50th anniversary Nov. 5. A special worship service was followed by a noon barbecue. The afternoon was filled with a special program of music and memories and a display of memorabilia and photos.

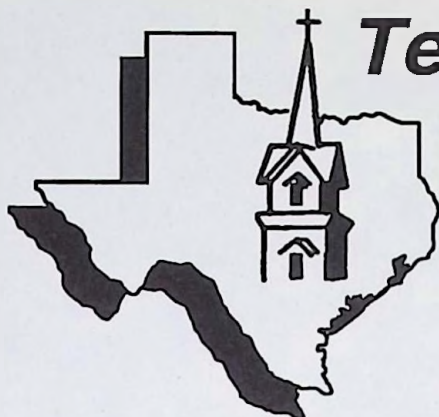
* * *

Mission Emmanuel, Mercedes, dedicated its new sanctuary Oct. 22.

Michael Griffin, St. Mark, Lake Jackson, has been given the Lamb Award by the LCMS Board for Youth Services. The citation goes to volunteers who have given a minimum of 10 years of volunteer work in youth programs. Bill Wetsel, Trinity, Amarillo, was granted the Servant of Youth Recognition, given for a minimum of five years of volunteer work.

Why we do what we do

This is the mission statement of Grace, Arlington: "To bring people of our community and of all nations into a vibrant, growing relationship with Jesus Christ and His Church through the power of God's Word and sacraments, by caring for and equipping one another to be faithful witnesses for the Word."



Texas District Mission News

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



Rev. Ken
Hennings

Endowment fund grows; your help is needed!

CHURCH PLANTING FUND

During the 1988 district convention, Resolution 7-3-88 was adopted, establishing the Texas District Mission Planting Endowment Fund. The whereases stated that the opportunities to start new mission ministries would continue to increase, especially in the area of ethnic ministries.

The resolution also stated that new ways to fund these starts would need to be established to meet the financial demands of the future.

The fund was established in August 1988 with a \$50 gift by a district family. Other gifts from a CEF account were added to bring the total at the end of 1989 to \$6,372.

The fund has been growing slowly since its beginning. One early year showed an increase of \$6,500, but most years have been below that. The banner year of the fund was in 1994 when almost \$11,000 in gifts were added.

This year has a good chance of breaking that record. At the beginning of

1995, the balance in the fund was \$31,282. There is a real possibility of the fund exceeding \$50,000 this year because of a \$15,000 gift.

INTEREST ONLY

The mission board uses 90 percent of the interest earned each year from the fund. Ten percent of the interest is added to the principal to assist in the growth of the fund. With only the interest being used, the fund produce more mission support each year.

As the fund grows, more dollars will be earned for new mission starts in Texas. The district mission budget will receive about \$1,000 this year from the interest earned during 1994. A \$50,000 fund would double this amount. A \$100,000 fund would produce around \$5,000 a year for a new mission start at the present interest rate, and a \$1 million fund would generate enough money to begin one new mission each year, just from the endowment income.

HISPANIC FUND

The Otto E. Theime family established an endowment to benefit Hispanic minis-

tries in the Texas District. This fund has been a blessing for the district. The interest from this fund has helped congregations, workers and students over the years.

Since other people in the district also wanted their gifts to support Hispanic ministries, the district board of directors established the Texas District Hispanic Endowment Fund in 1992. Even though this endowment at present is small, \$6,700, it too is generating support for Hispanic ministries.

YOU ARE NEEDED

If endowment funds are to grow, every member of the Texas District needs to play a part. The amount of the gift, the age of the person or the type of church group does not matter when it comes to supporting the funds. Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools, church boards, organizations, families and individuals can contribute. Recently a 100-year-old man sent in a gift. Others have remembered anniversaries, birthdays and special people through gifts and me-

morials. All these gifts begin generating funds immediately for mission expansion in Texas.

For the funds to make an even larger impact in mission expansion, the district needs you to consider making an investment in the future for missions starts.

Send your gifts to the Texas District designating the gift for one of the endowment funds. Or contact my office or the Lutheran Foundation of Texas for ideas on ways you might give a major gift in support of these funds.

TOMMORROW

The growth of these endowment funds along with the regular mission support of congregations will help provide financial resources for a steady and increasing outreach to all people in Texas.

Mission and Ministry Services Office:

1-800-951-3478

Lutheran Foundation of Texas Office:

1-800-880-3733

District Office Address:

7900 E. Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724

YOUTH



Our awesome Lutheran kids

Pin a blue ribbon on Danielle Monsalvo. She won first place in the 1995 essay contest sponsored by the U.S. Army. Monsalvo is a member of **Concordia, San Antonio**, and is in the first freshmen class of that city's new Lutheran High School. Her essay on what the Army means to her said in part, "The U.S. Army has a magnificent history. From the Revolutionary War to Desert Storm, our country's Army has fought bravely, just like it always will. The brave men and women who have served and are serving are the GEM of our nation."

* * *

Those wonderful Sunday school kids at **Concordia, Houston**, collected Bibles and Christian books and devotions which they sent directly to Rev. Saimon K. Schirwa at Gospel for Children Ministry in Malawi, Africa.

* * *

Congratulations to two bright musicians from **Our Savior, Dallas**, who won honors with the All-City Orchestra. They are Keri Hughes, fourth chair cello, and Brett Scrabeck, third chair violin.



BEACH BUNCH—These are the young people of Redeemer, San Antonio, who attended the third annual beach camp for high schoolers Aug. 6-8 at Port Aransas. There were games, devotions, sand castles and lots of sun screen.



A CAN-DO BUNCH—Zion Lutheran of Walburg gave strong support in 1995 to CAN-DO, the Texas District's youth mission program. These young people and their adult leaders participated: from left, bottom row, Anna Schwerdtfeger, Jessica Hobradsch, Matt Allen, Stacy Horton; second row, Phil Noack, Jerry Overfelt, Sherlyn Almazon, Travis Swenson, Chris Ardit; third row, Sara Merslovsky, Amanda Noack, Priscilla Pitts, Angela Albers, Jeremy Hobradsch; back row, adults, Teresa Howard, Jim Albers, Bonnie Hobradsch, Dennis Hobradsch. Not in photo, Darren Almazon.

Bright kid honors go to Tom Brezinsky and Ryan Miller, **Crown of Life, San Antonio**, both National Merit Scholarship semi-finalists.

* * *

Scott Linebrink, a sophomore at Concordia University in Austin, was named to the all-tournament team at the AAU national baseball tournament in Florida. Linebrink pitched and played third base for the Baseball Academy of

Texas which finished third in the 38-team event. Linebrink is a member of **Our Savior Lutheran, Austin**.

* * *

Bright kid honors for Kirk Duncan of **Christ, Amarillo**, who was inducted into the National Junior Honor Society.

* * *

To Tim Garner goes the honor of winning the first medal in athletics at **San An-**

tonio's new Lutheran High School where 40 students make up the first freshman class. Tim placed ninth in a field of 40 contestants at the cross-country run in Pearsall.

* * *

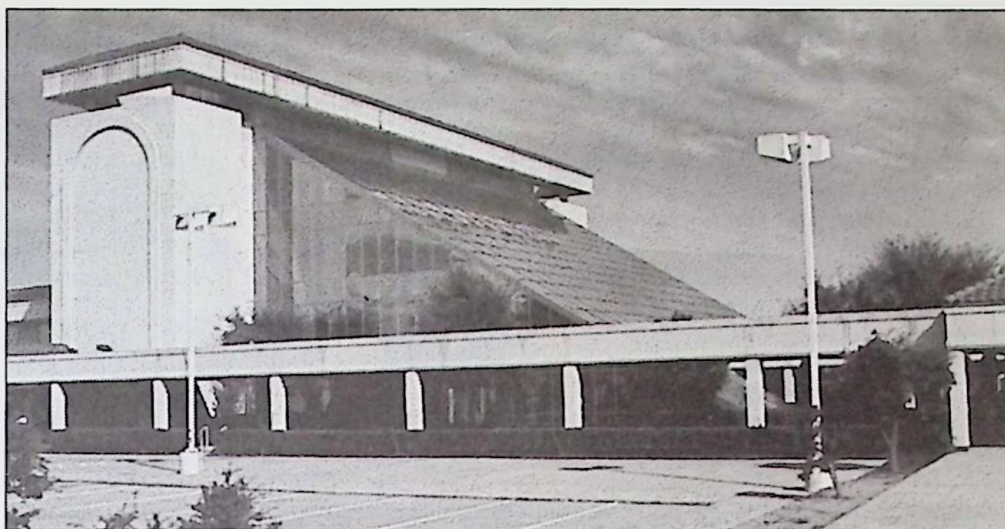
Merileigh Wuthrich, **Our Redeemer, Wichita Falls**, will never have to worry about getting a hunting or fishing license in Texas. Merileigh won lifetime licenses by winning the Texas Wildlife Expo '95 poetry contest. She received her prizes at an Austin banquet from celebrity hosts Nolan Ryan and Dr. Red Duke.

* * *

Congratulations to Kristin McDonald, **Grace, Orange**, who made her eighth-grade volleyball team and was elected vice president of her school's National Honor Society.



DONE DEAL—Congregational President Alan Fonner of Prince of Peace Lutheran, Carrollton, signs documents to purchase former auto mall.



FROM CARS TO CHRIST—This is the four-story atrium showroom of what once was the world's largest car mall. It has been purchased by Prince of Peace Lutheran of Carrollton. The showroom will serve as initial worship space that can be retrofitted to accommodate 900 worshippers on the main floor and first balcony.

Acres of automobiles give way to Lutheran worshippers

What once was the largest auto mall in the world is now a Lutheran church.

The 25-acre property at Midway and International drives in Carrollton was purchased Sept. 15 by Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Carrollton, to serve as the new location for its church and school.

- Designed to accommodate acres of automobiles, the development was said by its builders to be the largest auto mall in the world in the late 1980s. Prince of Peace members envision a time when the parking lots of the facility will be filled once more—this time with cars of worshippers.

Three years ago a long-range planning committee of church members formalized what many already knew was true. The church and school had outgrown the current facility and would have to set aside most future expansion plans unless it could be relocated.

- In 1994, a 30-acre site was purchased in Carrollton, a northern suburb of Dallas. However, in 1995 the auto mall became available to the congregation. The 30-acre site (across the street from the auto mall) is being retained for future development.

The auto mall offers 225,000 square feet under roof on a campus setting. It also provides more than 1,400 parking spaces. The school will complete its expansion through the eighth grade. A high school extension will be considered.

- Other current children's ministries will be enlarged as well as new programs

started. Space for additional education, recreation and counseling ministries is readily available. Administrative space for pastoral ministry staff and support staff is plentiful.

The church is near the newly completed North Dallas tollway extension and state Highway 190, now under construction.

- Senior Pastor Steve Wagner said, "At our present location within a 20-minute drive we are serving a population of approximately 250,000 people. In our new location, that population expands to 1.2 million people."

"Interestingly enough," Wagner said, "this popula-

tion is also among the most unchurched in Texas with more than 50 percent without a church home. We are pleased to be in a strategic location for the witness and work of our Savior and the growth of His kingdom."

The church hopes to worship at the new location by Christmas. The school will move to the new site at the end of the school year in May 1996.

- At a simultaneous closing, the Carrollton/Farmers Branch Independent School District purchased the former Prince of Peace facility. The district intends to use the building as a special learning center.

Young Texan volunteer missionary to Argentina

Lorri Roberts has gone where no man—or in this case, woman—has gone before.

Lorri is the first LCMS volunteer missionary to San Vicente, a remote town of 3,000 in Argentina. It is her music talents that Lorri will offer in six Lutheran congregations in the area. She will train organists and work with

choir directors and choirs.

Lorri and her family are members of Good Shepherd Lutheran in Mount Pleasant. She is a graduate of Concordia University in Austin and served in the Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas at Texoma Lutheran Camp as program coordinator.

Hey, River gang! Relive the San Antonio experience

Experience the rejuvenation, exhilaration and energy associated with a gathering of fellow Lutheran teenagers in an outdoor setting.

The Texas River Reunion allows Texas participants of the 1995 national LCMS Youth Gathering to come together again. Encourage your youth group to attend the retreat together.

Use this opportunity to rekindle friendships developed in San Antonio. Between school, extracurricular activities, family obligations and perhaps a part-time job, there is not a lot of time to keep in touch with friends and acquaintances in other cities.

River Reunion activities will improve your communication skills, increase your knowledge of the world God created, strengthen your prayer life and enhance your self confidence. These goals are accomplished through a variety of games, the challenge course and Bible studies.



Roundtable discussions will take place on topics of concern to young people. Adult facilitators will lead the open forum, but participants are encouraged to come with issues they want to discuss.

Subjects to be discussed may include, but are not limited to, living a Christian life in a secular world, gathering the courage to share your faith, family stress, creating balance in your life, suicide, life threatening diseases, career choices or global issues.

Plan to arrive at Camp Lone Star at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 19. The event concludes after lunch Sunday, Jan. 21.

The cost is \$60 per person. A \$25 non-refundable per person deposit is required to secure your place. Registration deadline is Monday, Jan. 15, 1996.

Among the items you need to bring are a sleeping bag, pillow, blanket, Bible, flashlight and personal items. For information, call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 ext. 30.

Submit application now for a summer counselor position

Attention college students: Are you looking to work in the fields of social work, public health, teaching, legal aid or some other area where you work with people for an extended period of time? If you are, then consider applying for a summer counselor position at one of the Lutheran camps in the nation. This could be the experience you have been waiting for, if you enjoy working with young people ages 5-18.

• As a counselor you help these enthusiastic, energetic and curious young people grow in their relationship with Christ. This is accomplished through improving their understanding of the world around them, playing games and singing with them, taking nature walks or swimming in the lake or river and conducting evening campfire devotions. Some of the campers you supervise will make a lasting

impression on you. As a counselor and role model, you can and will make an impact on the campers' lives.

Applications are being accepted now and personal interviews are conducted during December and early January. You need not limit yourself to the Lutheran Outdoors Ministries of Texas (LOMT) sites of Camp Lone Star in La Grange and Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro. Through LOMT's participation in the National Lutheran Outdoors Ministry Association's (NLOMA) joint recruitment program, your application file will be reviewed by camp directors across the nation.

• Prospective applicants should be at least 19 years of age and/or completed at least one year of full-time college studies by the time they start counselor training in May. Certification as a lifeguard or Red Cross first aid is desirable, as is any

other water craft certification. You need an attitude of service to Christ and others. Possessing skills of diplomacy, motivation, leadership, support and encouragement are vital to the counselor position.

• To request an application, call Garland Midgett, Camp Lone Star director, at 1-800-362-2078 or Keith Lund, Texoma Lutheran Camp director, at 1-800-926-5968.

Camp Lone Star singles retreat

Spend a weekend sharing the company of fellow single Lutheran adults. Take time to share the joys and frustrations of single life.

The focus of the weekend is on resolutions and new starts. The schedule includes large-group presentations, small-group discussions/interaction and plenty of recreational activities.

Lori Bachmann, director of Christian education at El Calvario Lutheran Church, Brownsville, will be the primary presenter. She has been involved with single adult ministry since 1978 and coordinated those activities for the Texas District from 1984 to 1992.

Pastor Kevin Westergren, a son of Trinity, Houston, and currently associate pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Austin, will lead the Sunday worship.

The weekend retreat is Friday, Jan. 19 through Sunday, Jan. 21, 1996. The registration deadline is Tuesday, Jan. 16, 1996. The cost for the retreat is \$76.50 and a nonrefundable \$25 deposit is required. To request registration materials, call Camp Lone Star at 1-800-362-2078 ext. 32.



Pastor Michael Ramming, Grace, Killeen, leads worship with guitar in hand.

It's Feb. 16-18

Come join us in Austin for the Eighth Annual CEF Conference

Attention pastors and church extension fund (CEF) congregational representatives: Mark your calendars! The eighth annual CEF District Conference is coming!

WHERE: Wyndham Hotel, Austin (new location!)

WHEN: Feb. 16-18, 1996; Friday evening through Sunday noon.

WHO: All CEF representatives and their spouses.

PURPOSE: To provide specialized training and fellowship for CEF congregational workers and guests, 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 occurs only once a year. If your congregational leaders change at the beginning of the year or you do not have

an active CEF representative, now is the time to take action!

Please contact Natalie Woolverton or Bill Siegrist at the district office for registration materials.

Texas District
Church Extension Fund
7900 E. Hwy. 290
Austin, TX 78724
(512) 926-4272
or toll-free at
1-800-951-3478



Norma Sielk, CEF representative and stamp representative for Christ, Austin, enjoys visiting with other CEF reps.



From left, Wes and Puddin' (not pictured) Krueger, CEF reps from Gethsemane, Houston; Ken (not pictured) and Dodie Heckmann-DeYoung, CEF reps from Resurrection, Spring, and Elmer and Eva (not pictured) Zoch, CEF reps from Trinity, Houston, enjoy fellowship during a break.



Betsey Price, CEF rep from Zion, Bonham, listens closely for helpful tips.



Arlyn (not pictured) and Anna Maloy, CEF reps from Messiah, Boerne, attended the dedication of Messiah's first worship facility Sept. 17. Funding was made possible by a loan from the Texas District Church Extension Fund.

Believe in miracles

Some people may believe in coincidence or luck, but Viera Buzgova believes in miracles. She considers it a miracle from God that she was able to register as a freshman student this fall at Concordia University at Austin.

The 18-year-old student from Slovakia comes from a Lutheran family who kept their faith alive even during Communism. Her grandfather, in fact, was a Lutheran pastor. After the fall of Communism and the so-called Velvet Revolution, which split Czechoslovakia into the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, religion again began to flourish, and Viera was able to attend a Lutheran high school sponsored by the Missouri Synod. She began to dream about attending a Lutheran college.

The first step in Viera's journey to Austin was taken when she was selected for an exchange program to the United States. She spent the last five months of her senior year in high school in Santa Rosa, Calif. After graduation she began seeking scholarships to allow her to attend college in the United States. One of several letters she wrote asking for assistance and advice was to an officer of the International Lutheran Laymen's League.

In the meantime, a couple in Georgetown, Texas, Herb and Eleanor Nelson, were speaking with Concordia President David Zersen about setting up a scholarship in honor of Eleanor's parents, Rev. George and Susan Kozelnicky. Since Rev. Kozelnicky was of Slovakian heritage, the scholarship was designated for a Slovakian Lutheran student. Because the scholarship was established in mid-August, it was not anticipated that a recipient could be located for the fall semester. However, just a matter of days after the scholarship fund was established, the International Lutheran Laymen's League contacted Zersen about the letter sent by Viera.

Obviously Concordia would not want to award a scholarship to a student without some investigation of the person's qualifications and character. Another crucial miracle occurred here—Zersen's sister happens to live in California, within a 30-minute drive of Santa Rosa. She consented to drive to interview Viera and quickly became her advocate. Hasty arrangements were made, and Viera was able to move into a Concordia dormitory at the end of August and register for fall classes.

"It must be true that God wants me to be at Concordia or so many miracles could not have happened," Viera says.

Viera Buzgova is an intelligent, vivacious young woman who speaks almost flawless English, with just enough accent to make her pronunciation charming. In addition to speaking English and Slovak, she has studied Czech, Russian and German. She is a talented pianist who has begun organ studies with Concordia Professor Harold Rutz.

She and the Nelson's have met, and she has spent week-



THANKS FROM VIERA—"I want to thank everyone who made it possible for me to study at Concordia-Austin. I hope others from my country can have the same opportunity."

ends in their home. Eleanor Nelson speaks some Slovakian, so Viera has been able to thank her in that shared language.

Viera has chosen to major in business management, with the hope that she can serve the Lutheran Church in Slovakia in a business capacity. Her real dream, however, is that Slovakia will someday have a Lutheran college where she could teach.

And for Viera Buzgova, dreams seem to have a way of coming true.

'Year of the University'

During Concordia's first year as a university, several cultural events under the theme "Year of the University" have been planned for the local community and members of Texas Lutheran congregations.

Through Dec. 20, the Lutheran Brotherhood Collection of Religious Art will be on display in The Gallery at Concordia, in the Louise T. Peter Center. On Dec. 7-8, best-selling author-historian Dr. Paul Maier will present the lectures "Learning in the First Universities" and "The First Christmas."

In February, Concordia will host its first Madrigal Dinner, featuring a catered medieval feast and music by Concordia's Early Music Consort.

Other "Year of the University" events will include a judged Christian art exhibit and a travel program to the lands of Luther, led by President David Zersen and his wife, Julie.

For information about these and other cultural events, call Laura Arldt at Concordia, (512) 452-7661.



Clean Language Spoken Here!

All that *#@!*%# language is not cool!

Concerned about the increasingly common use of profanity, specifically the Lord's name taken in vain, a group in Waco has taken on the task of getting people to clean up their language.

The group is Nurses for Christ, and one of their strong supporters is Trinity Lutheran School where Principal David House voiced his outrage that "children are growing up bombarded with language that is both vulgar to the masses and offensive to Christians without even knowing it is wrong."

To help raise the consciousness of his students to the vulgarities that permeate their lives daily, House has placed stickers around the school proclaiming "Clean Language

Spoken Here."

The clean language project was begun by Chick Lewis, a nurse at Waco's VA Medical Center. She and other volunteers helping jail inmates left the jail with their ears burning. "It wasn't aimed at us," she said. "It's just that in our country people think it's cool to use vulgar language."

She pointed to rap lyrics and family movies as major offenders.

Lewis has bumper stickers, decals, T-shirts and buttons proclaiming "Clean Language Spoken Here." Her address is 5831 Caldwell, Waco, TX 76710. The phone number is (817) 772-7744.

Servant events at Texoma camp

The LCMS Board for Youth Services has chosen Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro for two youth servant events in 1996.

During spring break time, young people from across the United States will descend on Texoma Camp to provide services for the elderly and needy, and conduct camp repair projects.

From July 12 to 20, youth volunteers will be at camp to conduct vacation Bible school, develop a meditation site and repair camp facilities.

Texoma Lutheran Camp is sponsored by Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas.

Sure, you appreciate your pastor; Beaumont elders offer ideas on how to show him

In the October (Pastor Appreciation Month) church newsletter, the elders of St. John, Beaumont, asked themselves and the rest of St. John members, "Have we have done all we can to support and encourage Pastor Douglas D. Rathgeber and his family?"



Rathgeber

tions:

Pray for him daily.

Buy him a new car.

Tell him you liked his sermon.

Give him bundles of \$100-dollar bills.

"Just as with the Levites in the Old Testament," the elders wrote, "we are charged with supporting Rathgeber financially, physically, spiritually and prayerfully."

For those who might not know how to do this, the elders had these sugges-

Offer to help him in some way.

Pay off his house loan.

Tell him you appreciate his being there for you when you need him.

Bring him a church full of people.

Give him an all-expense-paid vacation.

Volunteer for committees without being asked.

Buy him Ben-Gay for his softball injuries.

Give him telephone gift certificates for Karen's calls to Wendy.

Or give him gift certificates for a night out.

Or take him out to eat.

Finally, tell him he's doing a good job.

The elders admitted some of these might be out of reach, but said, "Let us all do something special to let Pastor Rathgeber and Karen know how much they mean to us as friends and spiritual leaders!"



THE EXODUS—Members of Living Word in The Woodlands begin a two-year exodus.

Congregation borrows Jewish celebrations to mark its own exodus

Like the children of Israel, Living Word Lutheran Church of The Woodlands began a two-year exodus marking the sale of its former church building. The congregation will spend time in its "tent" until the new church structure is built.

To help mark this joyous time, two Jewish celebrations were borrowed to help the congregation say goodbye to its old church and welcome to its new temporary home.

The Feast of Succoth was celebrated Aug. 20 with the first part of the service being conducted on the home church property. Then, as members watched, all the altar furnishings were carried out of the church, and a caravan of 60 to 70 vehicles proceeded to a community park for the conclusion of

the service. Then the congregation had a barbecue dinner, the first of many meals on the exodus.

The following Sunday, Aug. 27, the congregation celebrated Simchah Torah (Rejoicing in the Word of God). Worshiping for the first time in its temporary quarters, the congregation held another special service, seeing their altar furnishings returned, singing special music and blessing the children under a prayer shawl.

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

On pastor's mind...

How too many see it

Christmas—an event after Thanksgiving

by Rev. Raymond Reich, pastor
Cross, New Braunfels

More than 1,999 years ago, on a day we now observe as Christmas, there was born in Bethlehem of Judea a tiny babe who was given the name Jesus. His birth was hailed by some as the coming of the King, foretold by prophets. But the conditions surrounding His advent were far from kingly. The stable in which we first see Him has no resemblance to a king's palace.

THE FIRST Christmas was vastly unlike what the people of that day thought it would be. It is still so today. The passing of the century has not freed us from the pagan practices that have been thrust upon Christmas. The secular world thinks of Christmas as an event shortly following Thanksgiving. From then on people jostle each other in streets and stores, preparing for the King's birthday.

That is the tragedy of the days before Christmas. The Christ Child of lowliness and poverty came for greater things than gaiety and merriment. His concern was for a world steeped in selfishness and hatred, from which springs the deadly sins of war and bloodshed. He came as God's Prince of Peace, the Divine Deliverer, the Savior of our sinful world.

ONLY CHRIST can help us right our wrongs. He alone can give newness of life. He alone can bless our world with peace. What all the world needs, He alone possesses. Advent urges us to prepare room for Him. We must realize that beyond tinsel and tinsel, He alone can right our lot—individually, nationally, and globally.

May the Prince of Peace bring peace of heart this Advent and Christmas time.



Reich



From the newsletter of
Cross Lutheran, New Braunfels



DOUBLE VISION—Ruby Schulze Symank, left, and her twin sister Edna Schulze Huse celebrated their 80th birthdays Aug. 26. They are lifelong Lutherans, born in Walling in Hill County. They were baptized and confirmed at Salem Lutheran in Malone, Texas. Now the twins live in Dallas. Ruby attends St. Paul, Dallas, and Edna attends Cross of Christ, DeSoto.

Why we do what we do

Mission statement of Hope Lutheran Church, Austin:

The mission of Hope Lutheran Church is to actively share the good news of Jesus Christ with its members, community and the whole world.

Honorary doctorate awarded Elder McCants

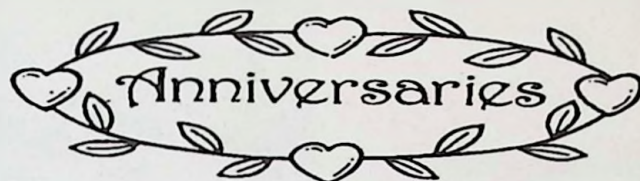
Rev. Elder McCants who began Community Lutheran Church in San Antonio in 1982, the only LCMS church in that city founded purposely to reach out to the area's 80,000 blacks, has been awarded an honorary doctor of theology degree by the American International Seminary in Austin. It is the seminary's first doctorate award to a clergyman outside its denominational ranks.

The citation accompanying the degree cited McCants' "visionary leadership in the east San Antonio community, his worker/priest ministry at Community Lutheran, academic excellence and contribution to education among all races, his pastoral care in churches, hospitals, schools and nursing homes, and his creation of a new radio ministry "

He served Community Lutheran until last July 31 as a worker/priest, also teaching in a middle school. The Community congregation has become multi-racial, serving black, Hispanic and Anglo families in the Alamo City area.

Since leaving the Community pastorate, McCants has begun a new radio ministry called "Christ's Love Ministry," which brings the Gospel message with its Law and Gospel emphasis from a Lutheran perspective to more than 60,000 people in San Antonio, Houston and Austin. It originates each week at 7:30 a.m. Sunday on San Antonio's KSJL, 96.1 FM on the dial.

In 1996, McCants plans to publish a collection of sermons called *Messages for Those Who Hurt*.



The following couples of the Texas District are celebrating 50 or more years of marriage:

Trinity, Rosenberg: George and Edna Szymczek, 51 years, Oct. 3; Herbert and Gertrude Hartman, 51 years, Oct. 12.

* * *

St. Paul, Wichita Falls: Alvin and Mildred Jentsch, 51 years, Oct. 3.

* * *

Grace, Arlington: Ted and Marie Jahns, 58 years, Oct. 10; Herman and Esther Sosebee, 52 years, Oct. 1; Harmon and Dorothy Jacobs, 52 years, Oct. 30.

* * *

Grace, Denison: H.P. and Irma Adams, 54 years, Oct. 30.

* * *

Crown of Life, San Antonio: Frederick and Wini-



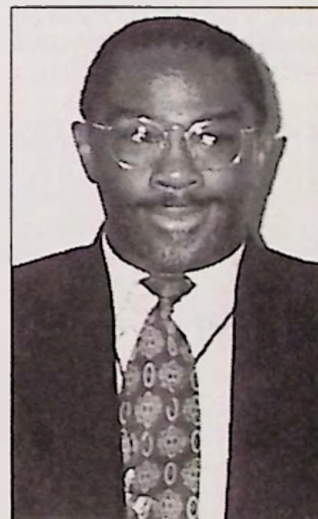
GAINESVILLE—Gerald and Ella Davis, members of Faith Lutheran, Gainesville, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary this year.

fred Trott, 54 years, Sept. 20.

Ascension, Cleburne: Wylie and Emmie Jansky, 50 years, Oct. 22.

* * *

Hope, Austin: Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Luedke, 50 years, Oct. 16; Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Koslan, 53 years, Oct. 18.



Dr. Elder McCants

THE LORD ADDED...

IMMANUEL—Eleven new members were welcomed into the ranks of the faithful Aug. 27 at Immanuel Lutheran, Houston. Pastors are Timothy Carr and Louis Konz.



FAMILY OF FAITH—These are some of the new members who joined the family of faith Sept. 10 at Christ Memorial, Houston. Pastor is Mark Kuehnert.



BROWNSVILLE—Sept. 10 was a big day in the life of Trinity, Brownsville, when a large group was received into membership by instruction, transfer and holy baptism. Pastor is George Price.



ST. ANDREW—This handsome group is made up of members of Pastor Tom Handley's recent instruction class. The church is St. Andrew of Houston, where 33 people were added to church membership from January through August.



BISHOP—These youth and adults became members of St. Paul Lutheran, Bishop. They are Mr. and Mrs. Philip Felder and Tim and Matthew; Buddy Jones; Shirley, Julie and Emily Whitlow. Belinda and Kelly Tijerina; Cody McCarty; and Leslie Motes are not pictured. Gilbert A. Franke is pastor.



SAN ANTONIO—These Christian people were received Sept. 24 as members of Concordia Lutheran, San Antonio. Senior pastor is William G. Thompson.

LIVING WORD—Forty adults and children joined the forever family Sept. 17 at Living Word Lutheran in The Woodlands.



Largest group ever received at Living Word

The largest single group ever received into membership at Living Word Lutheran in The Woodlands joined Sept. 17. There were 40 adults and children.



AUSTIN—Redeemer Lutheran of Austin received these new members Aug. 20. Pastors are David Schroder and Kevin Westergren, who is pictured with the new members.

Even in a temporary facility

RICHARDSON—The Lord continues to bless Messiah, Richardson, with new members. These were received July 30 by reprofession of faith and transfer. Pastor is Victor J. Kollmann.



What makes this event more remarkable is that Living Word currently worships in a temporary facility, having sold its former church to Baptist neighbors. It expects to be in a new building in two years.



MISSION MINDED—A missionary partnership meeting at Camp Lone Star included, from left, Rev. Keith Brda (Mexico); Thomas McWilliams (Guatemala); Merrell Wetzstein (Panama); Rev. Johannes Gedrat (Brazil); Rev. Ken Hennings, mission and ministry facilitator, Texas District.

CAN-DO linked to mission partnership

by Randy Potts

Thirty leaders met in August at Camp Lone Star to explore a unique mission partnership agreement among the Texas District, the LCMS Board for Mission Services and four designated mission fields: Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico and Panama.

The exploration group was composed of leaders representing a variety of ministries including the Texas District LWML, circuit counselors, district vice presidents, several district staff including President Jerry Kieschnick, Hispanic congregations, LCMS World Mission staff, missionary representatives from Brazil, Guatemala, Mexico, Panama and several CAN-DO steering committee members. The group gathered to consider the shape of the proposed mission partnership and to develop relationships with each other.

It was an exciting three days of exploring the opportunities and challenges of such a partnership.

Project CAN-DO leaders expressed positive comments on the possibilities that this partnership holds for expanding mission awareness and activity among the congregations of the Texas District. CAN-DO is looking forward to further defining how it can provide personalized hands-on mission connections for the congregations of the Texas District with the above designated mission fields. (The Texas District has designated a sum of \$100,000 for each

of these four mission fields in the annual budget.)

Probably the highlight for everyone present was the opportunity to meet and hear of the mission opportunities from the missionary representatives. The following missionaries shared about their respective mission fields:

Rev. Keith Brda, Guadalajara, Mexico.

Thomas McWilliams, Guatemala City, Guatemala.

Rev. Merrell Wetzstein, Panama City, Panama.

Rev. Johannes Gedrat, representing Brazil

CAN-DO has scheduled hands-on short-term missions into Guadalajara, Mexico and Guatemala City, Guatemala for summer 1996.

Plans are to expand into Panama and Brazil during summer 1997. The goal is to provide support for the missionaries in the field, as well as hands-on personalized connections for Texas District people and congregations.

The mission partnership agreement is in the development phases with many exciting possibilities for Texas

congregations. Watch for more information in upcoming articles.

Project CAN-DO is especially excited to participate in this mission partnership, to provide a vehicle for congregations to become personally involved in the designated mission fields.



Wagner to help train pastors in Kazakhstan

A Texas District pastor has been selected for a key role in a strategic conference to be held in Kazakhstan, a former state of the Soviet Union.

Rev. Steve Wagner, senior pastor of Prince of Peace, Carrollton, will be a keynote speaker at the conference April 24-May 5.

The conference is designed to train pastors and church leaders in Kazakhstan.

The conference is sponsored by Missions International, a ministry based in Nashville, Tenn.

Other keynote speakers will be Dr. Kent Hunter, president of the Church Growth Center in Corunna, Ind.; Dr. Art Vincent, director of Advancing Renewal Ministries, Charlotte, N.C., and Rev. Mark Zehnder, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Omaha, Neb.

The church growth conference is strategic, leaders point out, because Kazakhstan pastors and leaders will be trained to evangelize and train other leaders, plant churches and develop mission strategies to penetrate nearby China, Iraq, Iran and Turkey.

The teaching team has invited 50 pastors and lay leaders to accompany them on the trip. Workers are needed for prayer support, help in organizing the conference, teaching elective sessions, distributing resources, and preaching and teaching in local churches.

For more information about the trip, call 1-800-626-8515.



The gift of a lifetime

by Lonny Rees, Director of Development

As Christians, we have many ways to give to ministries we love. Some methods are fairly simple and pretty straightforward, such as leaving a bequest in a will or making a gift through a trust.

Donating appreciated assets provides tax and income benefits. Setting up endowments to be paid out long after our lifetime to ministries also may be desirable. Life insurance is a fantastic but an under-discussed option.

One of the easiest ways to give life insurance is to change the beneficiary of an existing life insurance policy, naming a ministry as a partial or complete beneficiary. To accomplish this, all you need to do is contact your local insurance agent and ask him or her to send a beneficiary change form for you to complete. You may designate any percentage of a current insurance policy for the ministry of your

choice.

For example, assuming a \$100,000 life insurance contract, you could designate 10 percent of the contract for the benefit of the ministry of your choice upon your going to heaven. This gift can be provided for the ministry in

Another way to give to a ministry you love is to purchase a new life insurance contract, utilizing an irrevocable life insurance trust at the Lutheran Foundation of Texas. You may select one or any number of ministries to receive the insurance pro-

ceeds after your lifetime. You give funds to the trust in the amount of the premiums due the life insurance company, and the trustee pays the premiums to the life insurance company. After your lifetime, the insurance proceeds pass through

the trust to the ministry or endowment you select. In recent years, the life insurance industry has introduced many new products including survivorship life policies, which pay upon the death of the surviving spouse. Thus, the cost of such insurance is reduced from the typical whole life insurance policy, allowing you to make large future gifts by making relatively small insurance premiums.

When considering a charitable gift of insurance, it is good to talk with your insurance professional or qualified financial planner to determine the best plan for you.

Life insurance is becoming more and more popular as a method of charitable giving and allows the donor to make definite plans for such gifts. Contact me at the Foundation for more information on life insurance as a charitable gift.

Life insurance is becoming more and more popular as a method of charitable giving.

a lump sum after your lifetime, or an endowment can be created with the gift which will provide monies to the ministry or ministries of your choice long after your lifetime. This type of gift is revocable and there are no tax benefits to such gifts.

ceeds after your lifetime. You give funds to the trust in the amount of the premiums due the life insurance company, and the trustee pays the premiums to the life insurance company. After your lifetime, the insurance proceeds pass through



Lonny Rees

☐ Please send me information on how to use life insurance to give to the Lord's work.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Telephone Work _____

Telephone Home _____

MAIL TO: Lutheran Foundation of Texas
7900 East Highway 290
Austin, TX 78724-2499
1-800-880-3733 (toll free)
926-4272 (Austin)

Reflecting His love throughout the year

*"'Twas the night before Christmas and all
through the house, not a creature was stirring,
not even a mouse..."*

Of course, we know that in the real story of the night of Christ's birth there most certainly had to have been some stirring. Imagine the anticipation, excitement and perhaps anxiety felt that night by Mary and Joseph. After all, it meant the Son of God was actually going to be there! Christ Jesus was finally coming to save us from death through His personal sacrifice!

But our Savior did more than that. He showed us through His Word and example how we should love, care for and serve one another. That is why we as Christians have social as well as spiritual ministries. That is why Lutheran Social Services of the South exists—to reflect His love, caring and service to "the least of these," our brethren.

This month we share with you some photos of those who serve and are served by your LSSS ministry.





PASTORS-TO-BE—These young Texans are fall enrollees at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. From left are Jim Sturgis, Good Shepherd, Cedar Park; George Shaffer, Grace, Killeen, and Paul Ferguson Jr., Our Redeemer, Dallas. Total enrollment for the seminary's 150th academic year is 311, a 4 percent increase over 1994.

Conference seeks to build more Texas men of integrity

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Nassau Bay will host the Men of Integrity Conference Jan. 27, called "Launch HIS Mission." Focused on building men of integrity in the church and the world, the conference expects 1,000 men to attend, encouraging them to act out God's Word.

Participating are eight speakers who will discuss God's mission for men of today. Young men in their teens are invited and a special break-out session is planned for them. Conference attendees' spouses and friends are invited to the evening sessions. All men in the Texas District are encouraged to attend.

The eight speakers are:

- Jacob Aranza, youth communicator, family counselor and author of more than 200,000 books in print.
- Dan Brandenstein, former astronaut and chief of the NASA Astronaut Office.
- Adolph Coors IV, with Evangelistic Association, Inc. and board member of Family Ministry of Campus

Crusade for Christ.

- Rev. Jerry Kieschnick, president of the LCMS Texas District.
- Rev. John Kieschnick, senior pastor at Gloria Dei and a leader in church growth and stewardship programs.
- David Leetsma, astronaut and veteran of three space flights who graduated first in his class at the U.S. Naval Academy.
- Robert Reid, former Houston Rockets basketball star, now with Houston Astros Community Outreach Program.
- Rev. David Roberts, Gospel minister and youth director of Houston's city-wide youth crusade.

To make your reservation, send \$25 to Men of Integrity Conference, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 18220 Upper Bay Road, Houston, TX 77058. Deadline is Dec. 31.

Cost at the door, if space is available, is \$30. Women wishing to attend the evening session may do so for \$5. Youth may attend the breakout session only for \$2.

On pastor's mind ...

Grouchy season upon us

by Rev. Fred Neumann, emeritus
St. Paul, Austin

The only solution for dealing with people is kindness, especially at this time of year.

At Christmas and New Year's Day people tend to be grouchy for reasons not even they know. One reason is the closing off of possibilities. Once they could have been a future president, a future Miss America, a future world famous scientist, a quarterback or valedictorian. Once they could have traveled around the world and learned seven languages and been a Rhodes scholar. The passage of time has closed off the possibilities one by one. We remember the days when our mother was the most beautiful woman and our father the strongest man on earth, and everything was possible for us.

PEOPLE FIND themselves angry and disappointed as events have delivered a life to them that was far from ideal and exciting. Disappointed at God, at others, and in themselves.

Every change that occurs is a reminder to us that we are dust and will return to dust, humanly speaking. All change then becomes an enemy which reminds us of our lost youth and of our mortality. One can't help noticing that the smallest change in the church will raise the ire of many people for emotional reasons, even though the arrangements and compositions in the church which are of human origin were just somebody's good idea at another time. They do, however, remind many people of their youth and time of limitless possibilities. Change them, and people feel they have suffered a loss.

BACK TO THE subject. People are touchy, angry and depressed around this time of year for reasons they themselves are not rationally aware of. This is a fallen world of failed expectations and people have suffered many disappointments. Handle them with care. Be especially kind and forbearing.

Why are people disappointed at God? Because we tend to assume that we know what is best for us. To avoid pain, we seek pleasure.

FOR EXAMPLE, we have a hard time understanding that the Ten Commandments were given to us out of the love of our heavenly Father. They enjoin us against swearing, leering, rebelling, hating, lusting and gossiping which all seem pleasurable to us.

Only through Christ and the Gospel do we learn that what the Father sends us—all of life including losses, pain and death—will be best for us in terms of our emotional well-being.

You are just the way your Father in love intends you to be. Be kind to yourself in this season, too.

*From the newsletter of
St. Paul Lutheran, Austin*

Lord nudges young camper into pulpit

by Terry Rawe

In 1991, I had a life-changing experience in our Lord at an Lutheran Outdoors Ministry of Texas (LOMT) camp.

In the fall of that year, I attended a men's club retreat which is held annually by our church at Texoma Lutheran Camp in Pottsboro.

IT WASN'T my first trip to Texoma. In fact, I had gone to youth events at the camp just about every year since I was a young child growing up at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Arlington, Texas. I always had fun at camp and enjoyed being with other kids and learning about Jesus.

This time, however, I went at a moment when I was really struggling in my life. I was 19, taking classes at a local junior college and really unsure as to what God wanted me to do with my life. I had many thoughts and ideas, but nothing seemed to click.

THAT EVENING at the campfire devotion, I suddenly and unexpectedly had the feeling that maybe I should become a pastor.

Now this wasn't the first time this thought had occurred to me. As a youngster, I liked and admired my pastor and felt it would be great to grow up and be just like him; but these feelings always passed. The feeling I had now, however, was dead serious and overwhelming.

Later that weekend, I

asked my pastor how he knew he had been called to the ministry. He said his own experience was that one day the idea came to him, and he just knew that that was what the Lord wanted him to do.

AFTER WE returned from camp, we talked some more in his office. He told me to pray about it and read several Bible verses including Proverbs 3 and Psalm 27. He said the Lord would lead me to do the right thing.

I continued to think and pray about it, and the answer kept coming back that, yes, I should become a pastor.

Feeling this is what our Lord wanted, I applied to Concordia University in Austin to enter its preseminary program the following year.

I also did one more thing. In spring 1992, I signed on to be a counselor that summer at Texoma Lutheran Camp.

OF ALL MY experiences in the Lord, the time I spent as a counselor at Texoma turned out to be the best. For eight weeks, I saw how our Lord touched the lives of countless kids. You could see how through the means of the outdoors and the Christian programs and activities that the Gospel came alive to many of them for the first time.

I remember one youngster in particular. Unlike most kids who come to camp, his parents were not Christians, and it was apparent that he had a rough home life. It



OUTDOOR REVELATION—Terry Rawe, left, says he was called to be a pastor while attending a men's retreat at Texoma Lutheran Camp. He has served as a camp counselor for the past four summers.

didn't seem like he wanted to be at camp when he first arrived. But almost immediately he began to read the Bible we gave him, and his whole attitude changed. He was hearing the Gospel for the first time and wanted to know all he could about Jesus.

BY THE END of the week, he was singing camp songs he learned and didn't want to go home when the time came. Knowing his situation at home, this may have been the only opportunity he would ever have as a youngster to hear the good news.

I could also see how the Lord uses Texoma Lutheran Camp and also Camp Lone Star to minister to kids.

IN FACT I'VE found that camp is really the easiest place to teach youngsters about Jesus. All of the programs and facilities have been built for them as kids for the sole purpose of strengthening their relationship with the Lord. It's only natural that you're going to have better results doing

this if you have kids for 24 hours a day instead of just one or two hours in a given week.

IN JANUARY 1993, I began my studies at college as a preseminary student. I will graduate in December 1996 and then enroll in the seminary the following year.

For the past three summers, I also have gone back to Texoma and served as a counselor. Through this, I've really come to believe that LOMT is one of the most important ministries in the church today. Each year, thousands of kids are strengthened in their faith through the fellowship.

IT'S BECAUSE of this that I hope you will include LOMT and its camps on your Christmas gift list this year. A cash donation of any amount would be appreciated and put to good use.

I also encourage you to send your kids (or grand-kids) to summer camp next year at Lone Star or Texoma. A brochure and registration form is available by calling 1-800-362-2078.



NEW SIGN—Members of Bethlehem Lutheran, Houston, together with their pastor, Richard Lofgren, gathered in worship Sept. 24 to dedicate the new church sign. At the same time, members and visitors also celebrated the congregation's 55th anniversary.



WACO—Trinity Lutheran, Waco, dedicated its new Family Life Center June 4. The event coincided with the first two 50th anniversary celebrations. The center has a gymnasium, kitchen and office space on the first floor. The second floor has three classrooms and a computer lab and library. The Texas District Church Extension Fund financed the center which will expand Trinity's education and parochial school ministries. Donald L. Olson Jr. is pastor.



EDEN/MENARD—Frank Koessel was installed Aug. 6 as pastor of the dual parish of Trinity Lutheran, Eden, and Grace Lutheran, Menard. Participating were, from left, Deacon Gary Caulkins and Revs. Philip Graf, Herbert Kluck, Koessel, Albert Wuensche and Charles Huffman.



PASTOR INSTALLED—Rev. David A. Grassley was installed Sept. 17 as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran, Fort Worth. Participating were, from left, back, Rev. Dennis Kitzmann; Rev. Glenn Huebel; Vicar Clint Pluenneke; Revs. David Bahn; Terry Beltz, circuit counselor and officiant; Rudy Herbrich. From left, front, Revs. Norman Steinke; Richard A. Nelson, preacher; Grassley; David Jung; Mark Rossington; David Joeckel, district vice president.

PRAYER SEMINAR

CELEBRATE THROUGH PRAYER

PRAY - PLAY - GIVE THANKS



PRAY - PLAY - GIVE THANKS

CELEBRATE THROUGH PRAYER

PRAYER MINISTRY SEMINAR II

Sponsored by the Houston Area Lutheran Prayer Ministry
& the Texas District Prayer Ministry Task Force
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Houston, Texas
February 10, 1996 - 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

CELEBRATE FAITH THROUGH THE POWER & GIFT OF PRAYER

Dr. Richard W. Bimler
THE SCRIPTURAL COMPONENTS OF PRAYER

Dr. Eugene W. Bunkowske

Congregation: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Registration fee: \$20.00 - Individual
\$35.00 - Couple (1 Workbook)

Total enclosed: \$ _____

Check Paid to: Texas District Prayer Task Force
& Return to: 7900 E. Highway 290
Austin, Texas 78724

Number choices of sectional 1, 2 & 3 below (#3 - Alternate). When couples register, husband 1, 2 & 3 - wife A, B, & C. The committee will assign the time slots for your two sectionals.

- () Stronger Family & Marriage Ties Through Prayer
- () Starting A Prayer Ministry In Your Congregation
- () Getting Excited About Your Time With God
- () When Your Prayers Don't Go Past The Ceiling
- () Praying Your Way Through Crisis
- () The Implications Of Prayer For Evangelism

- () When Children Chat With God
- () Young Adults Pray
- () The Pastor & His Prayer Life
- () Our Seasons of Prayer
- () Pray, Play & Give Thanks



SONS IN MINISTRY—Eight of the nine former members of Peace, Garland, who have entered the LCMS holy ministry were on hand July 9 for Peace's 40th anniversary celebration. Scott Sundbye also was ordained. From left are Revs. Chad Miller, Delton Weiser, Russ Nebhut, Kirk Miller, Gerald Epperson, Daniel Hawkins, Scott Sundbye and fourth-year seminarian Mark Anderson. Peace pastors are Carl C. Fickenschier II and Scott Quinn.

Parish nursing: 'big in Texas!'

by Julie Zersen, Texas District Human Care Ministry Committee

More than 100 people (nurses, clergy, hospital administrators and laypeople) gathered at Concordia University at Austin (CUA) Oct. 6 for the Parish Nurse: Getting Started workshop. What was to have been a gathering of people from the greater Austin area brought people from as far away as Ohio and Louisiana, as well as across Texas. Several denominations were represented.

Presentations on the history and philosophy of parish nursing (Dr. David Zersen, president, CUA) and the four roles of the parish nurse (Lynne Anderson, parish nurse and nurse educator, Belleville, Texas) provided a background for the panel of three parish nurses (Phyllis Griffith, Rose Wesch and Phil Krotzer) who shared their models of ministry.

Tables filled with resources for the parish nurse rounded out the workshop offerings.

The workshop was a collaborative effort between the Texas District Human Care Committee, Lutheran Social Services of the South, Catholic Diocese of Austin and the Nurse Oncology Program. A follow-up workshop is slated for spring 1996.

For information on what's happening in Texas in parish nursing, contact Julie Zersen, Texas District Human Care Committee and parish nurse/distance learning consultant, by phone or fax, (512) 219-5677.

Laziness

We need a commitment to saving souls. We may think someone else can do the work.

Cash and noncash contributions of \$250 or more

With year end approaching, it may be helpful for everyone to be reminded that since 1994, the Revenue Reconciliation Act requires congregations to provide certain information to donors for certain types of donations. Cash and non-cash contributions of \$250 or more, which are given at one time, can no longer be substantiated by the donor's canceled check. Rather they must be substantiated by a statement or receipt prepared by the organization receiving the donation. This statement must meet the following requirements:

1. Identify the donor by name.
2. For contributions of noncash property valued by the donor at \$250 or more, it must describe the property. No value should be stated.
3. Must show separately each individual contribution of cash or noncash of \$250 or more.
4. Must state whether or not the church provided any goods or services to the donor in exchange for a contribution or, if the only goods or services the church provided were intangible religious benefits, it must contain a statement to that effect.
5. Must be received by the donor by Jan. 31 of the following year.

Many churches have added the necessary statement about goods or services to the statement of contributions form they currently use, which already lists contributions separately by week regardless of amount. Financial secretaries can find additional information on this in the congregational treasurer's manual which is available through my office at the Texas District. The congregational treasurer's manual also explains the quid-pro-quo contributions or more than \$75. If you need additional information, please don't hesitate to call my office.

*Martys Erickson, Treasurer, Texas District
1-800-951-3478*

ENCOURAGING YOU IN PRAYER

When you pray a request of God, how do you wait for the answer?

Trustingly? Anxiously? Happily? Fearfully?

In Ps. 5:3, the psalmist gives us a new way to wait. He waits in expectation!

As a child watches his mother make cookies, he already sees them crunchy and brown and tastes their sweetness in his mouth. So we, too, can picture God's answers in our mind, and watch in expectation for the surprises He often

gives in His answers. We trust His wisdom!

Texas District Prayer Ministry Task Force #9512

Meet Zona May Your new Christian sister

Zona May Click was born Dec. 24, 1911. Her parents were strict members of the Mormon church and raised their children in compliance with Mormon teaching.

Zona married and remained with her husband for 55 years until his death. Since her husband did not believe in going to church, Zona and her family never went to church during those 55 years.

All her life Zona had a sense that she was missing something. Her Mormon background did not satisfy the questions she had. She wondered how God could love a sinner such as she.

During the years after her husband's death, Zona never went to church, but she did receive a message of hope through the voice of "The Lutheran Hour." Her daughter, Jo Nell, had married a fine Christian man, Mel Britt. Jo Nell became a Lutheran Christian. She and her husband now belong to Resurrection Lutheran Church in Fredericksburg.

They witnessed to Zona for 20 years without apparent effect. They prayed fervently for Zona that she might come to the knowledge of the truth.

Meanwhile, opportunities arose for Zona to receive ministry from Rev. H.W. Schroeter, former pastor of Resurrection, and Rev. Lee R. Kunkel, current pastor. She began to connect the caring ministry she had received with the message of hope she heard during her

life from people like Dr. Walter A. Maier, Dr. Oswald Hoffmann, Dr. Wallace Schulz and Dr. Dale Meyer on "The Lutheran Hour."

During April, May and June, the Holy Spirit worked the miracle of faith in Zona May. Family members and Kunkel helped her learn the basic teachings of the Bible according to Luther's *Small Catechism*.

The Lord brought Zona May into his family through Holy Baptism June 21 at age 82. She also confirmed her faith on that day. Since Zona is home-bound, the ceremonies were held at her home in Kerrville. Her most fervent wish today is that she might someday be physically able to go to church.

Working together with the resources of the local congregation, Lutheran Hour Ministries has made a tremendous difference in the lives of countless people around the world with its message of hope in Jesus Christ. Zona May no longer fears death and hell. She now lives in the confidence that Jesus has done everything necessary to ensure that when she dies she will go to heaven.

Zona might never have received that message and believed it if it had not been for the media ministries of Lutheran Hour Ministries.

The folks at Resurrection have been rejoicing greatly over this lost sheep that was found and brought into the flock. Rejoice with us and with the saints before the angels in heaven that this

God uses Lutheran Hour Ministries



Pastor Kunkel and Zona May Click

soul was led to repentance and into a relationship with God by cooperation of our beloved Lutheran Hour Ministries with the local congregation. Lutheran Hour Ministries are truly bringing Christ to the nations—and the nations to the church.

(Submitted by
Pastor Lee R. Kunkel)

NEWS FROM NEW BRAUNFELS

Gene Dodd, president of the LLL group of Cross, New Braunfels, presented a



Gene Dodd presents a check to Pastor Raymond Reich.

check for \$3,000 to Pastor Raymond Reich for Cross Congregation to become a partner in Lutheran Hour Ministries' "Go...Tell a NEW Generation" challenge. This is the first check for this three-year challenge.

They urge all layman to challenge their congregations to become partners so they, too, can share the joy of giving. This is not just one person's donation, but several.

There is no television station in New Braunfels, but there is a radio station. They met with the station manager and presented tapes of "Woman to Woman." Since Sept. 7, KGNB, 1420 AM, has been airing "Woman to Woman" at 6 p.m. Saturdays.

BIBLE OUTREACH

In 1995 the Lone Star District LLL has provided 7,411 highlighted New Testaments to Christians or potential Christians. Of these, 5,796 were English and 1,615 were Spanish versions of the New Testament.

Through this program the Texas District has supplied these New Testaments to camps Lone Star and Texoma, CAN-DO, Hispanic Action Team and the Seamen's Centers in Houston and Corpus Christi.

The goal for 1996 is to provide 11,000 highlighted New Testaments: 7,000 English and 4,000 Spanish versions.



'And there came to pass in those days...'

In the late 1980s I served as vacancy pastor of First Lutheran Church in Texarkana. I conducted its Christmas candlelight service which ended at 12:15 a.m. Christmas Day. By the time my car was packed, the time was 1 a.m. One hundred miles separated me from my family in Sulphur Springs and a restful bed.

My heavy eyes began to take their toll 40 miles into the trip. I exited at a truck stop and entered the 24-hour cafe. It was filled with people who didn't want to be there on Christmas. Truckers away from their families, waitresses serving customers when they would rather be at home preparing a meal for their families and finally me, seated on a stool at the counter. I paid no attention to the knives and forks scratching against the china and glasses being filled and emptied. My thoughts were elsewhere.

I felt the hand of a person upon my shoulder. As I turned I saw the face of the waitress who asked, "Father, may we hear the Christmas story?" I viewed the faces of the unshaven truck drivers, the coffee-stained aprons of the waitresses and the distant eyes of the travelers.

I rose and read the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke. A brief prayer was spoken and tears fell when "Silent Night" was sung by all.

We were strangers in a strange place, but no more than Jesus was when He was born in Bethlehem—our God becoming flesh to be born in a first-century garage and placed into a feeding trough. Imagine the depths our God will descend to be **WITH US!**

This month hear the Christmas message with joy and attentiveness. May our journey culminate at His manger, at His cross and at His empty tomb.

*Francis Schroeder
Pastoral Counselor
Texas District LWML*

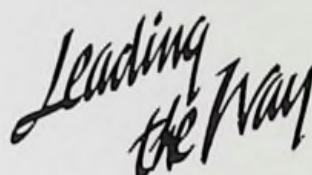


"Prepare to Serve!" is a continuing education video series designed to help equip Christians for their many roles—their many *works of service*. It can be used for small groups in homes, for workshops or retreats. It enhances training for church officers, caring ministries, shepherding groups, professional staff, LWML groups and other organizations.

Each of three video units is presented in five sessions (a total of 15 sessions). Each session requires about 90 minutes, including time to view the video segment, study the topic using workbook and Scripture applications and group discussion. This insightful, instructional video series, developed by the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League, helps people build their relational or *people* skills and identify their special strengths and abilities so they can better serve their Lord.

The entire package (including materials for five participants) can be ordered from International LWML offices for \$159.95. The Texas District LWML has a copy of this series available for groups who wish to preview these materials. They are available on loan from Eloise Kuhlmann,

Texas District LWML second vice president. Her address can be found in the district convention manual, or contact the district news editor.



Effective society planning gives direction

Is your society goal-oriented? Do the women have direction and purpose? Does anyone know what you'll do next?

If you answered "no" to any of those questions, your society needs a pick-me-up! You need an organizational tonic! You need **ESP**.

Effective Society Planning (ESP) helps eliminate confusion, lethargy and disorganization. With proper use, your society will have clear vision, increased energy and concrete goals to accomplish. This amazing program is available to all societies (and zones) upon request and comes with a trained instructor! This offer good only in the Texas District. No expiration date. Service rendered gladly and with a smile.

For further information, contact Shannon Reid. Her address and telephone number are in the district convention manual, or contact the district news editor.

News from around the district

• A first-ever Christian growth retreat hosted by **Post Oak Zone** was held July 28-29. Bluebonnet Zone was invited to share the event.

The Bible study was held at the Ledbetter Bed and Breakfast.

More than 30 women were inspired and uplifted through the "Living Waters and The Word" Bible study led by Carolyn Dorsey, Post Oak Zone Christian growth chairman.

• Pat Biar, president of the Texas District LWML, was guest speaker for the **South Plains Zone** fall rally Sept. 10, at Grace, Lamesa.

Biar shared an inspiring Bible study on "Living the Legacy." Using Philippians 4, she reminded all "not to be anxious about anything but pray with thanksgiving, enjoy His peace and share it."

• "Sent Forth by God's Blessings" was the theme for the **White Oak Zone** fall rally Oct. 8 at Mount Calvary, Houston.

Mike and Cindy Rode-wald, Lutheran Bible translators, served as guest speakers.

Mike and Cindy have been Lutheran Bible translators for approximately 10 years. For the past two years they have worked in Botswana and prior to that in Liberia.



Members of the Post Oak Zone gathered for a quick photo at the July retreat.



Bluebonnet Zone members enjoyed the retreat's fellowship.



Mite report	
October 1995	
1994-96 Goal	\$256,000
Rec'd October	
(all sources)	14,334
Rec'd to date	
(all sources)	184,941
Needed for goal	71,058
Sent to Int'l LWML	
(October)	3,485
Int'l to date	40,122
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 ninth of month. Fax to 817-491-0105.

Pat Biar spoke at the South Plains Zone fall rally.

