

THE GOOD NEWS

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July 2007

"We're Listening Now"

by Pastor Loescher

It's been my impression that we all have so many messages, emails, mailings, memos, voicemails, newsletters, text messages, etc. that we cannot possibly process everything we read and hear much less remember it. I know that I can't take it personally when it's obvious that people have no recollection of a message I've sent, an article I wrote, a sermon I've preached; a letter, a card, or an email. It seems like it has to be a message of prime importance for it to stand out among the flood of messages we receive every week. When it's about something that is going to affect us personally and harm something we love and hold dear, then we listen.

Well, start listening. This message is about our synod and the work we have done together for decades. It has been a gem of doctrinal purity and pious work in the name of Jesus. It isn't over, but we are finally starting to realize how critical our situation is.

Do you know why you can count on your pastors to preach the truth to you weekly? It's because our worker training schools have remained strong and vibrant. A standard for excellence in language training has always been high. The core of our pastors can work with the Greek and the Hebrew and preach a message that brings out what God intended the text to tell us. That excellence in language training started in the prep schools. Those students were fed to a college that held the students to a standard that would insure ability to work in the biblical languages. The college fed the seminary graduates who were prepared to carry on higher education in doctrine, biblical studies, education and sermon presentation. Much the same thing can be said about why we have excellent teachers and grade schools to train our children.

This is a system that we cannot afford to allow to fall apart. But that is exactly what is starting to

happen. Congregational giving is not keeping pace with the high costs of education, and it has become critical to the point of the Synodical Council recommending the closure of Michigan Lutheran Seminary, one of our two preparatory schools.

Please also realize that it isn't just the prep schools that are affected. The drastic reduction in our funding of our worker training college, Martin Luther College, has caused the school to increase tuition costs dramatically. That increase has in turn adversely affected enrollment. Students are looking for less expensive ways of pursuing their education degrees. The increase is also driving students to take out loans that put them in sizable financial burdens by the time they reach the Seminary. The Seminary costs have also risen accordingly with the result that these students are looking at unmanageable debts and a career that will not offer them a lucrative opportunity to pay off their debts. We have to do something.

The only answer to this crisis is for individuals to assess their priorities, and without taking from another ministry of God's church, increase our support of what we do together as a synod. This world wide effort and training of faithful ministers is our ministry. We aren't talking about the generally bemoaned increase in education costs. We are talking about maintaining a system that is largely responsible for keeping up the doctrinal purity of our synod. Watch for a special Walking Together service at the end of the month, the weekend prior to synod convention. At that time, you will have further opportunity to prayerfully consider this opportunity the Lord has placed before all of us.

For more information go to www.wels.net. Look for "the Twelve Districts". Click on SEW district, and then find "2007 crisis documents".



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!!!

*Junier Ehlke ..7/9/1922..85 yrs. old
Carl Schramm..7/11/1922..85 yrs. old*

GREETERS FOR JULY 2007

- July 1, 2007 7:45 Ralph & Elaine Gerner
 9:30 Dan & Denise Butzke
- July 7, 2007 5:00 Brian & Pam Lee
- July 8, 2007 7:45 Kathleen & Bonnie Bublitz
 9:30 Robert & Rachel Fuller
- July 14, 2007 5:00 Paul & Chris Nader
- July 15, 2007 7:45 Joel & Linda Pless
 9:30 Tom & Jane Neuman
- July 21, 2007 5:00 Cindy Oonk
- July 22, 2007 7:45 John & Nelda Clemens
 9:30 Cliff & Doris Koeller
- July 28, 2007 5:00 Harold & Jan Ehlke
- July 29, 2007 7:45 Tony & Lynn Gromacki
 9:30 Tim & Charlette Tearney

SAVE THE DATE On **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3rd**, the Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study Group will host a retreat. If you would like more information, please contact Charlotte Kison 677-2389.

THE WEDNESDAY WOMEN IN GOD'S WORD GROUP

The Wednesday Night Women's Bible Study Group will continue our study of Pastor Mark Paustian's book, "Prepared to Answer." We meet at 7pm in the school IMC. Our meeting dates are: July 18 and August 15.

THE CHURCH BUILDING COMMITTEE

would like to thank Tony Gromacki on behalf of the entire congregation for his donation of time and talents to prepare a land survey of the David's Star property. This donation of the survey is a great cost savings to the church and will enable the architects to prepare the drawings for the church building project.

PARISH NURSE NEWS

Ozaukee County Announces Wanderer Registry For Dementia Residents

The Ozaukee County senior publication titled, "Facts for Senior's", tells us of a new program that addresses the concern for people with dementia who may wander. Over 60% of people with dementia will wander at some time according to the Alzheimer's Association. Most wanderers do not go far but rarely will they respond when called by name even when they are lost. If a person is found wandering, the local police department can access the Wanderer Registry to help determine who the person is and help return them home safely. The Registry will include a description of the person with dementia, including a picture and emergency contacts. Persons listed must have a medical diagnosis of dementia and live in Ozaukee County. A registration form is available from any Ozaukee County police department or the County Aging & Disability Center (284-8120).

A helpful resource for individuals with dementia and their families!



**REMINDER!!!!
BLOOD DRIVE
SATURDAY, JULY 14th**

The blood mobile bus will be arriving for our air-conditioned comfort in front of the church from 8am to 1pm.

Call Sue Bolha @ 675-2672 for an appointment or walk-ins are welcome. The need for blood during the summer usually goes up and the number of units donated in the summer goes down. Let's see if David's Star can help with an important need!

DONATE BLOOD; IT DOES MORE GOOD THAN YOU KNOW!!!

Blessings of a healthy body, mind, and spirit,
Sue Bolha RN, Parish Nurse

Pastor's Report**(Pastor Loescher, Telephone # 677-0919)**kloescher@davidstar.org**(Pastor Woldt, Telephone # 377-1019)**woldt@nconnect.net

The pastors and other called workers are attending a SEW District Called Workers conference today and tomorrow. Pastor Woldt is serving on a floor committee for this conference as is attending meetings tonight. Randy Watts is serving as a delegate to this year's synod convention. Pastor Loescher will be attending WLS Summer Quarter at the end of the month. Pastor Woldt is completing a small writing assignment for Northwestern Publishing House. Summer is also a time for review of the past and planning for the future. If you have any ideas for the good of the ministry here at David's Star, please share them with the pastors.

Pastor Loescher also went through the WELS Ministry in Crisis slides. Pastor presented a sobering evaluation of the financial situation within the WELS. The closing of Michigan Lutheran Seminary may be the first of several cuts within the Pastoral or Teacher education programs. There are a variety of reasons for the financial crisis, however, no matter what the reason is, there is a crisis. Members of all congregations are encouraged to pray, have information meetings, personal examinations of offerings, and express their concerns to pastors and lay leaders. It is possible to recover from this crisis, but it will take careful consideration of Congregation Ministry Offerings, prioritization of the Synod Convention to build up core ministry rather than dismantle it. We also need honest and brotherly input to synod leaders. We need to have positive movement on offerings to synod to resolve some of the crisis before the WELS budget is adopted in August, 2007. We have encouraged the Stewardship Committee to see what we can do at David's Star to help raise our CMO.

President's Report**(Randy Matter, Telephone # 376-1585)**matters@nconnect.net

- Building Committee—The Building Committee is reviewing the final drawings of the new building program on Wednesday, June 13 at 6:30 p.m. in the IMC. They also expect to have cost estimates developed for the project as a whole and for the various phases. I encourage all council members to attend and become fully informed before they take this to the congregation.
- Secretarial Help—An announcement has been in the church bulletin for a number of weeks asking for anyone from the congregation that is interested in filling the 2-1/2 day per week church/school secretarial position. So far, no candidates have developed for the position. If anyone has any names of potential candidates that we could contact, please provide them to me or Mr. Gustafson.

- Background Check Policy—After our last meeting's discussion, I incorporated most of the input I received to strengthen the administrative aspect of the policy. The revised policy is attached to this report for your consideration before the Council meeting.
- David's Star Connection—At our May meeting, we discussed making regular presentations to the congregation about our ministry. In the past, I have referred to this effort as our "David's Star Connection". I put together a tentative schedule for all of our areas of ministry to make these presentations at times when I thought their work would coincide with the year. Please review the attached schedule for discussion and reworking at our meeting.
- A letter was received to the congregation president that warned of the danger of letting the garlic mustard weeds that are spreading in the woods. This is an invasive species and have been known to take over a whole woods and we might need to address this. It was suggested that Buildings and Grounds look into this with Arbor Night and/or involvement of the Pioneers.

Buildings & Grounds**(Kurt Henning, Telephone # 677-2797)**klh@nconnect.net

- Sign update. We are getting closer to having the sign completed and the final landscaping around it will be donated.
- There was some leaking in the Second Grade room and that needs to be addressed.
- Discussed the Church woods and suggested that those who are volunteering to help keep

Board of Elders**(Dennis Bell, Telephone # 677-2248)**dandmbell@sbcglobal.net

- The Pastors will be getting new desktop computers for their offices. These will replace units that are estimated to be seven years old.

Board for Elementary Education**(Patrick Steele, Telephone # 677-7673)**Patrick.Steele@wlc.edu**(Principal Tim Gustafson, Telephone # 338-3992)**tgustafson@davidstar.org

- Church Picnic was a success.
- School Board has drafted revisions to the background checks

Evangelism Committee**(Paul Steinbrenner, Telephone # 675-0832)**pstein@howardcompany.com

- Planning on some changes to the Festival of Friendship after this year. It was felt that the Evangelism Committee felt that they could better focus on "Evangelism" issues in the years ahead.
- The service this year will be in the Church woods, weather permitting.

- Randy Matter brought up an issue for the committee. Char Kison called about the The Women's Retreat. They would like some help from Evangelism Committee to advertise it as a community event.

Spiritual Growth Committee
(Mark Otte, Telephone # 306-3521)
motte@kmlhs.org

- July 30th to August 2nd 2007, Family Bible Week
- Ten volunteers have agreed to teach Bible Studies next year, not including the Pastors

Stewardship Committee
(Todd Backus, Telephone # 677-4016)
todd.backus@prodigy.net)

- Pastor L. opened with a stewardship devotion from II Corinthians.
- Still looking for a replacement for Shannon Leitzke.
- "The Treasure of Every Treasured Soul" studies continue and should be complete around August.
- June 17th Fellowship event – all members can attend. Kevin to pick up at Hansen's, Rod to make coffee. Todd and Rod to coordinate services for short funding appeal update talk following each service.
- Budgeting Process – talked about general timing.
- Funding Appeal Bar chart presented – will include in bulletin for June 17th weekend.
- Evangelism new member packet letter (near completion)
- New member visits and funding appeal – Todd to discuss with Evangelism.
- One-year anniversary letter (completed and mailed).
- Time and Talent Update
- Pastor to research Shepherd's Staff capabilities before any work to be done.
- Stewardship Communication
- Todd to publish next article, "what envelopes are used for"
- Kevin to summarize CCFS information for newsletter.
- Planned Giving
- Planned Giving and Stewardship committee recommending changes to program and available funds. Jody to summarize changes for Council approval.
- Planned Giving seminar(s) being planned.
- Other items
- Faith Focused Finances - Bethlehem, Menomonee Falls on 9/22/07 recommended for attendance for Stewardship Committee (conflict with Worship Conference).
- Looking at potential envelope changes for Christian charities.
- David's Star Website - stewardship section being planned.
- Walking Together Sunday – potential August timetable.
- Pastor L. to review materials discuss with Pastor W. and recommend agenda.

Treasurer's report
(Dan Bolha, Telephone # 675-2672)
bolha@netwurx.net

The May 31, 2007 ending balance in our operating fund shows a deficit of \$120,376.60 This compares to a deficit of \$106,565 as of April 30, 2007 and a deficit of \$89,790.29 on May 31, 2006. Year to date operating fund receipts are \$311,297 compared to \$324,289 last year and this year's budget of \$351,275. Our Foundation Built on the Rock funding appeal has received year to date receipts of \$78,656.

Vice President Report
(Jeff Morgan, Telephone # 377-7532)
jmorgan@milwpc.com

No report.

A motion was made and carried to accept all reports except those items that needed separate action under old or new business.

Old Business

- Building Project Update
- Background Check Policy
- Randy Matter and Patrick Steele will meet to merge their two documents into one policy
- Faculty/Staff Policy Handbook
- Congregational Directory
- Church Picnic for 2008*

New Business

- David's Star Connection
- Stewardship recommendation on restructuring the planned giving program
- The Stewardship committee recommended eliminating the Building Trust Fund and the Properties Improvement Trust Fund. Any monies in these funds were to be transferred to an appropriate fund.
- In addition, the Church Operating Endowment Fund would be clarified. Instead of stating that this fund would help cover Christian Charities, it would be changed to say this would only happen if the David's Star Operating Fund is positive.
- Finally, they were looking to amend the Future Called Workers Assistance Trust Fund to be an endowment fund. This would mean that only the earnings on the principal can be used. This will make the disbursements much more consistent on a yearly basis.
- Bring ideas for addressing our budget deficit

Items for Voters

None

The next scheduled Council meeting will be at **The Church Parish Center on Tuesday, July 10, 2007 at 7:00 pm.**

A motion was made and carried to adjourn. The meeting was closed with prayer.

Respectively submitted,

Patrick W. Steele, Recording Secretary pro-temp

WELS NEWS UPDATE

FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The Southeastern Wisconsin District of the synod met on June 12 and 13 at Wisconsin Lutheran College. The theme for this year's conference was "Understanding the People We Serve".

Find information on the WELS "Ministerial Education" and the WELS "Missions" Endowment Funds by calling 1-800-827-5482 or go to www.wels.net/mcg.

WELS President Karl Gurgl has announced that he will decline nomination for re-election at this summer's synod convention in New Ulm, MN. Gurgl has been serving as president since 1993.

You can now watch big decisions as they happen on WELS' Internet media network streams (<http://streams.wels.net>). Live coverage of synod convention begins July 30 and continues through August 3.

The Synodical Council met in Milwaukee April 27-28 and approved the balanced operating budget for each year of the 2007-09 biennium. The approved budget includes a gift from an anonymous WELS donor of approximately \$2.5 million per year for five years. In the first year of the biennium, the council chose to use the gift to offset \$2.3 million in cuts planned for World Missions, Home Missions, and Parish Services. In the second year, about half of the gift will be used to reduce budget cuts in the same area, and the other half will be used to strengthen the synod financially by repaying internal borrowing debt. The council is hopeful that efforts by the Conference of Presidents to increase Congregation Mission Offerings will bear fruit and that those additional monies can be used to eliminate the remaining budget cuts to the areas of ministry in fiscal year 2008-09. The Council of Presidents is encouraging all of us as individuals and as congregations to review and renew our commitment to the Lord's work.

The council also affirmed its recommendation to close Michigan Lutheran Seminary, one of the two prep schools that the synod operates, after the 2007-08 school year.



FINANCIAL REPORT FOR May 2007

	Current Month Offerings	Average weekly offerings	Offerings Received thru 5/31/07	Offerings Budgeted thru 5/31/07
Operating	\$52,655	\$13,164	\$311,297	\$351,275
Missions	\$6,430	\$1,608	\$30,707	\$35,075
KML Operating	\$3,179	\$795	\$19,275	\$22,760
KML Building	\$684	\$171	\$4,536	\$7,075
"Together Shining Like the Stars..."	\$1,260	\$315	\$22,149	\$14,645

The deficit in our Operating Fund is:
\$120,377

The deficit at the end of May 2006 was:
\$89,790

The deficit at the end of May 2005 was:
\$89,320



FAMILY BIBLE WEEK

Come and join the crew of "Eagle Express" Flight 40:31 and learn what it is like to fly a real airplane.

FAMILY BIBLE WEEK will be offering four days of Bible stories, crafts, music, food and fun! Each day a new flying lesson will lead us into Bible study.

"Eagle Express" will arrive on July 30th and depart on August 2nd. Meals will be available before flight starting at 5:30 pm and ending around 6:15 pm. Singing and lessons will begin at 6:15 and end at 8:00.

All ages are welcome. Childcare will be provided. Please make "Eagle Express" a part of your summer plans.

Help is needed!! Please call Lynn Gromacki (375-9257) if you can help in the kitchen, as a teacher helper, decorating, or making desserts.

Why Do We Have So Many Different Offering Envelopes? And What Are They For?

I know it can be confusing when you see all the different offering envelopes in your packet each week. The following will explain what each of them is for.

Weekly Envelopes

There are four different areas that your offering can benefit: David's Star Operating Fund, Synod and Missions, David's Star Building & Improvement Fund, and Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School Operating Fund. The monies that are designated to Synod supports mission work and called worker training. These four are very important ministries that need weekly support.

Monthly Envelopes

The **Our Foundation Built On The Rock** envelope is to support the project of David's Star to build a new worship facility that includes classrooms, cafeteria and much needed offices for the school. This project will enable David's Star Church and School to better reach out to our community and spread the Word of God through various ministries available at our church and school.

The **Together Shining Like The Stars** envelope is for the pledge that David's Star made when it's daughter congregation Morning Star in Jackson was created. This mission work in Jackson is very important with the huge population growth Jackson is experiencing. These new people need to have a WELS Church and school available to them to learn the Word of God.

The **Restricted Building Fund** envelope uses the money received to help fund any new building project at David's Star.

The **Time To Grow** envelope is KML's Building Fund. They have had some big expansion projects over the past few years and have more planned in the future. We need to continue to support them in order to offer the best we can to our high school students.

The **WLCFS (Wisconsin Lutheran Children & Family Services)** envelope supports this synod program that manages senior living residences, and provides family counseling.

The **Wisconsin Lutheran Institutional Ministry** envelope supports a synod program that provides chaplains devotions and bible studies to hospitals, nursing homes and prisons.

The **David's Star Tuition Assistance Fund** envelope helps assist families that are sending their children to KML.

The **WELS Student Assistance** envelope helps assist people that are attending a WELS worker training school such as the seminary and Martin Luther College.

The **Synod Relief** envelope supports the synod's program that helps congregations recover from a natural disaster such as hurricanes, tornadoes or floods.

Each month you will have a **Mail Back** envelope that will have David's Star address preprinted on it. If you are unable to attend a church service, you may place your check in the envelope and mail it to the church. We are excited about this way of allowing you to participate in David's Star ministry even if you are unable to attend the service.

As you can see there are a lot of different ministries that need your support to continue offering their services. Please consider each one of these envelopes when you see them throughout the coming year.

