

THE GOOD NEWS

2740 David's Star Drive
Jackson, WI 53037
(262) 375-1843 or (262) 677-2412
www.davidsstar.org

August 2008

Volume XIV, Number 12

"What Do You See in the Mirror?"

By Pastor Woldt

People diagnosed with anorexia nervosa (an eating disorder) will often experience body image distortion. Driven by an intense fear of becoming fat, affected individuals will look in the mirror and see themselves as grossly overweight, when in reality they are bone thin and wasting away to nothing. Some suggest that air-brushed images of superstar models have contributed to unrealistic expectations for physical perfection. I'll be the first to admit that I don't fully understand this complex condition. How can what a person sees in the mirror be so far from reality?

What do you see in the mirror when you look at your body? No, I'm not referring to your physical form! I'm speaking of the "body" of believers you are a part of here at David's Star. When we examine our "body" we are often quick to find flaws. We are far from being the poster child of the perfect Christian congregation. We could do better in many areas. In fact, there is not one area of congregational life where we have the luxury of saying, "There's no more room to improve! We're doing everything exceptionally well!" We could do better in worship and bible study. We could do better in stewardship and reaching out with the gospel. We could do better in expressing our fellowship of faith and encouraging each other in our walk with Jesus. We could do better involving the whole congregation in ministry. We could do better as we instruct our youth. We could do better in praying for each other and supporting ministry outside our congregation. With God's help we will continue to grow in faith, worship, education for all ages and the expression of our fellowship in the Lord.

However, let's not focus so much on our shortcomings that we develop a distorted body image! Thanks to the blessings of a gracious God, we have a lot going for us here at David's Star. Just recently I had the opportunity to speak with two families who were looking to relocate to our area from out of state. Why did they want to come? Because of all the spiritual blessings we enjoy here, particularly the blessing of fulltime Christian education. They marveled that a

congregation like ours can maintain a Lutheran elementary school and also support a high school like Kettle Moraine Lutheran. If I could read between the lines, both of those families were saying, "You don't realize what a tremendous blessing you have here! We want this for our family!"

Christian education is not the only blessing we share at David's Star. I can't tell you how many times people have commented that "this congregation really sings." Another member who had been away from David's Star for a while said, "I really missed the worship. I took it for granted before! It's such a blessing to be here."

The foremost blessing we share here is, of course, the gospel. Our ministry is based on the good news that Jesus came to save sinners! Through his life and death we have been declared perfect in God's eyes! When God looks at us, he sees nothing but perfection because he sees Jesus! God forbid that we ever take that blessing for granted.

If we, like the anorexic, look in the mirror and see only our congregational faults, we may be tempted to follow a destructive path away from the gospel. It's happened before. People can be drawn to a worship setting which seems more exciting or a different fellowship which appears to be more caring. However, unless that fellowship is fully committed to the truth of God's Word and the administration of the Holy Sacraments, souls are put at risk. In love, the Lord admonishes us to "watch out for those who cause divisions and put obstacles in your way that are contrary to the teaching you have learned. Keep away from them" (Romans 16:17).

Yes, we have our faults, but the next time you look in the mirror at your "body" of believers here at David's Star, make sure the image isn't distorted. Remember all the good things God has given us! I pray that God blesses us with the kind of spiritual health that allows us to grow in faith and worship while clinging to our blessed Savior Jesus!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY SENIORS!!!

Walter Behling...8/3/1921...87 yrs. old
Esther Moldenhauer...8/5/1919...89 yrs. old
Anita Eulert...8/9/1919...89 yrs. old

HOT LUNCH DRIVERS NEEDED

If you are interested in driving for our Hot Lunch Program for the next school year, please call Chris Feldschneider, 677-3416. This is a paid position, it takes less than 1 hour and the pay is \$11/day. The food is picked up in Jackson at 10:15 and delivered directly to school. We still need to fill the Thursday slot.

GREETERS FOR AUGUST 2008

- August 2 5:00 Vincent, Marilyn & Leah Schneider
- August 3 7:45 Rick & Nancy Ebeling
- 9:30 Tim & Rachel Gustafson

- August 9 5:00 Gary & Holly Heckendorf
- August 10 7:45 Bill Bublitz & family
- 9:30 David & Emily Zarling

- August 16 5:00 Fritz & Omi Mahnke
- August 17 7:45 Dave & Nichole Miller
- 9:30 Brian & Pam Lee

- August 23 5:00 Mark & Laurie Bublitz
- August 24 7:45 Kathy & Bonnie Bublitz
- 9:30 Paul & Beth Steinbrenner

- August 30 5:00 Emilie Steinbrenner
- August 31 7:45 Michelle & Brianna Brandt
- 9:30 Jim & Carla Volz

MISSION FESTIVAL

On August 17, 2008 we will be joining with Morning Star for our Joint Mission Festival Service in the church woods. Service time is 9:30. Pastor Joel Heckendorf a son of David's Star Lutheran Church and the son of Mel and Eunice Heckendorf will be our guest preacher. Pastor Heckendorf is currently serving at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Greenville, WI. Following the 9:30 service we will be having a luncheon in the church woods (weather permitting). Please check the sign-up sheets in the narthex for ways to serve for this event.

PARISH NURSE NEWS

Fast Food, Smart Choices...

If summer travel finds you stopping for quick meals, remember these guidelines:

- Choose coffee with low-fat or fat free milk rather than a latte or mocha with whole milk
- Choose low-fat or fat free milk or water rather than sweetened fruit or soft drinks
- Choose a grilled chicken, turkey or child sized hamburger on whole wheat bread rather than a jumbo double-patty burger with bacon and cheese. Avoid tuna or egg salad or added mayo or sauce on a fried chicken or fish sandwich.
- Order a side salad with light dressing or a fruit salad rather than fries or potato salad.
- Eat slowly and chew thoroughly to allow our God-given ability to feel full to occur.
- Eat smaller meals with healthy snacks in between to keep from over eating. I try to pack some fresh fruit for a snack in the car and a cooler with ice-cold bottled water.

You'll find that eating lighter while traveling makes for a more enjoyable trip! Hope you are taking time away to rest and relax with your family and your Lord, while we have this beautiful summer weather!

Prayers for safe travel,

Sue Bolha RN, PN

Council Meeting minutes not received as of the date the newsletter was printed. Items were included in the Voter's meeting minutes.

Quarterly Voters Meeting July 10, 2008

The meeting was opened with devotion by Pastor Woldt. The meeting was called to order by congregational meeting chairman Rod Kison.

A motion was made and carried to approve the minutes from the April voter's meeting.

The agenda was adopted by the voter's

Membership Report (since April Meeting)

Incoming: Strupp, Bridget; Benjamin, Jared,
Spencer, Tyler, & Zachary
Transfer from Peace, Hartford, WI
Nader, Judy
Adult Confirmation
Rose, Chris
Profession of faith

Outgoing: Belongia, Paul & Tracy
Transfer to Good Shepherd, Beloit, WI
Brandt, Connie
Transfer to Hope, Manhattan, KS
Cortwright, Alicia
*Transfer to Mighty Fortress,
Red Deer, Alberta, CA*
Kwiatkowski, Shandra
Transfer to St. John's, Lannon, WI
Shrimpton, Timothy & Karen
Transfer to Zion, Mobridge, SD
Thierling, Charles
Release from membership
Woldt, Joseph
Transfer to Zion, Greenleaf, WI

Signing of Constitution by new voters

No new members were present

Pastors' Report

**(Pastor Loescher, 677-0919, kloescher@davidstar.org
and Pastor Woldt, 377-1019, woldt@nconnect.net)**

Both pastors attended the District Convention. Pastor Woldt was elected Circuit Pastor for the next 2 years. There is a synodical movement to reduce \$22 million of debt through a Jubilee Year of Debt Reduction. There is a WELS Ad-hoc committee looking at different types of ministry opportunities with a report to be completed and presented next year.

President's Report

(Randy Matter, 376-1585, matters@nconnect.net)

Personal use of David's Star accounts (Sysco and Piggly Wiggly) – Council established a policy restricting use of David's Star accounts to only church and school business. Some members within the congregation were occasionally using the accounts to order personal items. This is not an issue of non-payment or abuse. As far as we know, they all pay for what they order. Concerns we have include "school or church discounts" that individuals might receive that are intended for the church or school and avoiding sales tax on personal purchases by using the church's accounts.

Morning Star Offerings – I communicated with Paul Meschke, president of Morning Star, regarding offerings we received that are designated for them. We were told that they "would not accept" our donations because our commitment had been fulfilled. Paul was very understanding of our situation after I explained that these were special gifts that we treated like any other designated offering. He will clear this up with their council. I have already instructed Patty to forward the offerings we had received that had been held.

Laymen's Council Retreat – Council is considering an idea that was proposed during the 2007 Council retreat; that of expanding our retreat concept to include other area congregations. This would expand our individual ministry horizons and we could learn from other area congregations as we work together for spreading the Gospel. Paul Meshke and I are contacting the other area congregations to ask about their interest. We might try to arrange this for Spring 2009.

DNR's NR-151 Nutrient Management Plan – The DNR passed an administrative rule that became effective March 10, 2008 requiring schools that fertilize more than 5 acres to have a written nutrient management plan available for inspection by the DNR if requested. This plan must be written by a professional and explain how we handle fertilization of our turf. Penalties for non-compliance can be stiff - \$10 to \$5,000 per day. I contacted Randy Vogel for his input and insight.

KML Head Delegate – Tim Knight has resigned from being our head delegate to KML. I am looking for names. These lay delegate positions have been very difficult to fill. Thanks goes to Tim for his diligent work in keeping us up to speed.

Movie Publicity – Original plans called for the church woods to be used by Signal Fire Films starting in early June for a night, and several other nights in August. I contacted the Executive Producer Sean George to ask about the status. They have had some minor delays in shooting. He will be getting back to me with a revised schedule of dates. Dave Zarling has agreed to pick up the ball on using this opportunity for any kind of publicity campaign for the church/school.

Summer Fellowship – Thanks goes to Jeff Morgan for setting up and organizing our Council Boards and Committees for our between services summer fellowship. Also, thanks to a donor who thought of David’s Star when a lot of juice became available and he had it donated to us.

Thanks to Char Kison and the Picnic Committee for their work on the Church Picnic this coming weekend. Thanks to collaborative efforts in congregation for expanded ministry opportunities.

Treasurer’s Report

(Dan Bolha, 677-3485, bolha@netwurx.net)

The March 31, 2008 ending balance in our operating fund shows a deficit of \$157,799. This compares to a deficit of \$151,985 as of May 31, 2008 and a deficit of \$135,769 on the same date last year. Year to date operating fund receipts are \$402,870 compared to \$370,734 last year and this year’s budget of \$434,075.

Board of Elders

(Dennis Bell, 677-2248, dandmbell@sbcglobal.net)

The report was given by Mel Heckendorf.

Ren Kremer has agreed to take the position of Mixed Choir Director.

Our board has purchased a replacement computer for the Church Office from our equipment budget.

We purchased a picture as a token of our appreciation to Barry Washburn for his 17 years of service, and presented it to him at the school graduation service.

The Parish Nurse Program has been very busy over the past quarter with blood pressure screenings, as well as attending workshops. This month’s blood drive has been cancelled, as listed in the bulletin.

In May, there was an instructional meeting for the ushers held and we picked up several new, mostly father and son combinations.

The Called Workers’ Care Committee will start their interviews of the staff shortly. This is the first time we will have used man and wife teams. The teams consist of: Bevan & Diane Grueneberg, David & Von Martin, David & Jeanie Martin, and Mel & Eunice Heckendorf. They were trained through the use of DVD’s and manuals supplied through the synod. The goal for this committee is to have all interviews completed before the start of the next school year.

Board for Elementary Education (vacant)

The report was given by Tim Gustafson.

The year ended well with services in the church woods. 17 of 21 eighth graders will attend KML.

School enrollment for 2008-2009 stands at 144-145. Preparations for next year are underway with summer preparation classes.

We will possibly be having two student teachers this year. We will be likely looking for accommodations for these teachers. Please watch your bulletins for details.

Spiritual Growth Committee

(Mark Otte, 306-3521, motte@kmlhs.org)

The report was given by Pastor Woldt. He encouraged people to attend Family Bible Week on behalf of the Spiritual Growth Committee.

Evangelism Committee

(David Zarling, 674-1094, david.zarling@gmail.com)

Current active members of the committee include: Beth Steinbrenner (New Member Integration Coordinator), Kathryn Smith (Evangelism Focus), Diane Kowalske (Evangelism Focus), Nelson Erdman (Publicity Coordinator), Lindsay Schultz (Publicity Coordinator) and Pastor Loescher (Guidance).

Second quarter activities include:

Formal committee meetings on the first Tuesday of each month at 7PM.

Pictorial directory will be sent to publisher by July 15th.

Ongoing greeter program.

Ongoing new member integration program.

Creation of New Member Integration Subcommittee with Beth Steinbrenner as the lead coordinator, and Emily Zarling as the New Member biographer.

Creation of Publicity Subcommittee with Nelson Erdman as the lead coordinator and Lindsay Schultz as a committee member.

New member biographies are appearing in the narthex and will be appearing in a newsletter color insert starting in October.

Ongoing review of visitor welcome and information obtainment.

Implementation of Event/Promotional Calendar.

Increased use of website, email, PSAs, and free press for community and member publicity including publishing the confirmation class picture, a church picnic reminder via email notification, and website highlights of the church picnic and Family Bible Week.

Working relationship with the Board of Ed established for coordination of school publicity.

Future focus plans include:

Continued focus on New Member Integration with a New Member Welcome & Orientation scheduled for September 21 instead of Bible Study.

Continued focus on publicity efforts.

Further review of visitor experience.

Stewardship Committee

(Todd Backus, 677-4016, todd.backus@prodigy.net)

Time and Talents – We are using Shepherd’s Staff to store data (one central database). Reports have been

distributed. Working on ideas to better utilize volunteers. Working with Evangelism to get members involved.

Funding Appeal – Q2 pledge statements have been prepared and have been distributed with offering statements. Total funds received appeal to date through 6/30/08 = \$850,247 vs. total pledged for 3 yr. appeal of \$1,415,535, or approximately 60% of total pledged have been received. Deficit reduction tree – Working on deficit reduction tree and other ideas to bring attention to the deficit.

Heart N Focus Financial Course – In the planning stages of offering this course again in early 2009.

Communication has included the Stewardship section of David's Star website, newsletter articles, and we are looking for additional ways to communicate stewardship concepts to members.

Board for Buildings and Grounds

(Kurt Henning, 677-2797, klh@nconnect.net)

School gym roof was completed between all the heavy rains.

Gym floor was resealed.

All plantings and flowers for the new sign on David's Star Drive were donated by the golf committee.

A new water meter was installed to monitor the output of our well by the DNR

Matt Hartwig installed rip-rap on the south parking lot to prevent washing out of the pitch. The labor was provided by Matt, and the trucking by Greg Dencker. The stone was donated by Lannon Stone Products.

Arbor Night had a huge turnout with so many to thank – Arborscape, Liesener Soils, Spring Valley, Miller Monument, and so many from our congregation.

Our new sign was vandalized on David's Star Drive. All the lighting was smashed and wires torn out. They have been replaced.

A new water heater was installed in Pastor Loescher's house.

Tree trimming was done by WE Energies on Western and Church Roads.

Cemetery Committee (Wally Miller)

No report.

Kettle Moraine Lutheran High School (vacant)

The lay delegate position is vacant. Mel Heckendorf presented information on the KML Foundation that provides tuition assistance. Encouraged planned giving through estate planning. Also commented on Heritage Society that currently has 39 members that have identified KML in their will.

Building Committee (Randy Vogel)

The subcommittees of the Church Building Committee have been moving forward with the information that is

currently available to move the building project forward. As an example, the construction subcommittee had identified \$250,000 of savings that may be realized by utilizing volunteer labor and other cost saving measures. The Church Building Committee has been unable to move forward in other areas due to information that is not currently available. The major question at this time is how much treasure will God move our congregation's members to give to continue our work of spreading the Gospel at David's Star in an updated worship and education structure.

The newly-formed fundraising committee, which will build on the current funding appeal, plans to have a preliminary report of anticipated funds by the end of July or early August. Please pray for the success of these members as they contact the congregation members for the fund appeal. Please also pray that God will move you to support the building project according to His will. Is he asking you to be a church builder? After the Church Building Committee receives the initial report from the Fundraising Committee, we will review the funds received, and the projected funds that will be available. We will compare the money available to the projected cost of the project and make a recommendation to the Church Council. Information regarding the recommendation will be communicated to the congregation. The recommendations will likely be acted upon at a special voters meeting in late August or early September.

Thank your for your continued prayers as we move forward, seeking to do His will.

Funding Campaign (Gary Heckendorf)

The report was given by Dave Nunez. John Clark from the James Company will be working closely with the Fundraising Committee. There is an Advanced Commitment committee being formed right now, and will start to make contacts in the near future.

A motion was made and carried to accept all reports.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Brian Lee and Bob Heider were nominated for completing the vacated 6-month term of Patrick Steele for Chairman of Board of Education. There were no other nominations. It was also made known that Bob Heider would serve the remaining term of Brian Lee if he was chosen for the Chairman position. Motion made, carried, and approved to accept nominations as presented. Vote taken and Brian Lee was the winner, and Bob Heider was appointed to his vacated term for the next 6 months.

Discussion ensued about the need to repair the road between Western Avenue and the Pastors' cutouts along with the need for two lifts for the road repairs – one that would be done now with the pulverizing of the current road, and the second that would be completed after the construction project. The expenditure at this time would not exceed \$50,000 from the Building and Improvement Fund. Comment was also made that the construction entrance would be Spring Valley Road, and not Western Avenue. Motion made, carried, and approved to move forward with the repairs as presented.

Announcements

Next quarterly meeting is October 9, 2008 at 8PM.
Church picnic this Saturday, July 12, 2008.

The meeting was adjourned.

The Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and Benediction by Pastor Woldt.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Rehm substituting for Kevin A. Behm, Recording Secretary (kevinbehm@att.net)

**FINANCIAL REPORT FOR
JUNE 2008**

	Current Month Offerings	Average weekly offerings	Offerings Received thru 6/30/08	Offerings Budgeted thru 6/30/08
Operating	\$67,556	\$13,511	\$376,440	\$398,665
Missions	\$ 7,098	\$ 1,420	\$40,093	\$ 42,580
KML Operating	\$ 4,156	\$ 831	\$26,730	\$ 28,250
KML Building	\$ 1,130	\$ 226	\$ 7,967	\$ 7,500

The deficit in our Operating Fund is:
\$157,799
The deficit at the end of June 2007 was:
\$135,769
The deficit at the end of June 2006 was:
\$105,650

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOUSING

KML is seeking homes within the Federation to house students from South Korea or China. We have accepted three international students for the fall of 2008. It is an excellent opportunity to help connect our new students with your church life. Contact Pastor Randy Hughes at KML 262.677.4051 rhughes@kmlhs.org

KML FAMILY HOUSING NEEDS

We also are seeking a home for a KML student whose family has moved from the KML Federation. Pastor Jeff Bolwerk and his wife would love to see their son Robert continue in Christian education at KML. Daughter, Sasha, ('07) graduated from our high school. Contact Pastor Randy Hughes at rhughes@kmlhs.org or Jerry Zeamer gzeamer@kmlhs.org



9th ANNUAL THUNDERBOLT OPEN

THUNDERBOLT OPEN REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE SEND ONE CHECK PER FOURSOME OR FOR AS MANY GOLFERS AS YOU ARE REGISTERING. FULL PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY REGISTRATION FOR IT TO BE RECORDED. *Please add all email addresses so that I can forward this info. to you every year.*

1ST GOLFER'S
NAME _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS

PHONE #

2ND GOLFER'S NAME

E-MAIL ADDRESS

3RD GOLFER'S NAME

E-MAIL ADDRESS

4TH GOLFER'S NAME

E-MAIL ADDRESS

COMPLETE GOLF/CART/DINNER PACKAGE IS \$70 PER PERSON

GOLF ONLY IS NOT AN OPTION

DINNER ONLY IS \$15.00 PER PERSON.

NAMES OF THOSE ATTENDING ONLY THE DINNER:

SEND YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO **DAVID'S STAR** AND SEND IT TO:

GLENN RUSCH
1157 SPRING VALLEY ROAD
JACKSON, WI 53037

DATE: Saturday, September 6, 2008

Time: 12:00 PM Registration
1:00 PM Shotgun Tee off-Scramble Format
DINNER (6:00-7:00 AT WEST BEND LAKES)
FREE SODA AND BEER AFTER GOLF
PRIZES AND SILENT AUCTION TO FOLLOW

MONEY RAISED FROM THIS OUTING WILL GO TOWARDS ITEMS THAT ARE NOT BUDGETED AT DAVID'S STAR LUTH. SCHOOL!

PLACE: WEST BEND LAKES / HWY. 33 IN WEST BEND

**COST: GOLF/CART/DINNER
PACKAGE.....\$70.00
DINNER ONLY.....\$15.00**

**ALL GOLFERS MUST BE 16 YEARS OLD OR OLDER.
GOLF CART RENTAL IS MANDATORY.
IN CASE OF RAIN, RAIN CHECKS WILL BE GIVEN FOR GOLF ONLY.
DINNER WILL BE HELD RAIN OR SHINE!**

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE: ON A FIRST COME BASIS!
LIMITED TO THE FIRST 144 PAID GOLFERS!**

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE A DOOR PRIZE, PLEASE CALL ONE OF THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

JODY HANSEN	387-1154	GLENN RUSCH	377-3067
TERRY KOTH	677-4247	TODD JAHNS	677-0366
KURT LIESENER	677-4360	KURT HENNING	677-2797
SHANNON LEITZKE	677-2944		

WHAT ARE YOU DOING SEPTEMBER 9?

Our David's Star church choir has been a wonderful part of our worship in the past, and God willing, it will continue to be so in the future. No doubt, by now you know that we are always searching for new volunteers to join our already great group of singers. In case you were wondering what type of commitment is involved, perhaps I could share some specifics.

- David's Star Church Choir is intended for anyone in the congregation who wants to praise God in a special way. Past experience is not necessary. Love for singing is. We need the powerful voices and youthful tones of the high school students. We need the strong, steady sound of the college students and our young adults. And we also need the firm voices and valuable experience provided by our mature members.
- Our choir will rehearse **every OTHER Tuesday** from 7:30-8:45 PM in the church balcony. If you would like to see a copy of next year's schedule, I will be happy to e-mail you the list of practices and singing dates.
- The music I have chosen is easy, yet very fulfilling. Every choir member is given a CD of the songs, so you can review them at your convenience.

Yes, it's a commitment. Yes, it does take some work. But that is far outweighed by the joy and satisfaction of sharing God's marvelous message with those around us, and by the knowledge that we are praising our Creator with the best we have to offer.

Why not join us on **September 9 at 7:30 PM**? Try us out. It may be the best decision you've made this year. If you have any questions, feel free to call me anytime. (Home: 262-251-7141; Work: 262-783-5200; E-mail: info@kremerpublications.com.)

Ren Kremer

WELS NEWS FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

WELS Committee on Relief has completed its assessment of flooding damage to church buildings and members' homes throughout the upper Midwest, and has released \$105,000 in disaster aid. WELS Relief has released \$70,000 in aid to 10 Wisconsin congregations and an additional \$10,000 to Winnebago Lutheran Academy in Fond du Lac, where one teacher's home was destroyed by an explosion from a gas leak caused by flooding. WELS Relief has released \$25,000 in aid to three congregations in Iowa. Since most WELS members who suffered flood damage have insurance, most of the aid goes to help with basic needs, cleaning supplies, and other needs in the community.

The annual convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary Society was held in July in Tucson, AZ. For three days, approximately 1,200 women (and more than a few men, too!) gathered to hear directly from WELS missionaries, missionary wives, and missionary members from around the world.

"Year of Jubilee", the new synod-wide offering designed to reduce WELS' debt of \$22.4 million, was launched with special presentations at each of the 12 district conventions in June. Nearly \$30,000 in gifts has been received from delegates themselves at eight of the district conventions.

This year's National Conference on Music, Worship, and the Arts held July 28-31 in St. Peter, MN, had a record number of attendees and presenters – almost 1,000 people. In addition to the 1,000 people from the U.S., two people from Sweden and three from Canada attended the conference, which featured more than 60 workshops, exhibits, corporate worship opportunities, and concerts – including a performance by the conference's largest high school honor choir of more than 130 WELS students nationwide.

About 450 people – including public and Lutheran school teachers, principals, pastors, and school board representatives – attended the 2008 National School Leadership Conference in June. Several video-taped presentations from the conference are now available on streams:

<http://streams.wels.net/video/?series=leadership-conference>.

GOD CALLS US TO BE HIS WORKERS

In spite of our foolish and sinful ways, God calls us to be His workers. Scripture tells us that Jesus did not pick people from society's elite when He chose his workers. Jesus' disciples were peasants, fishermen, and even a tax collector. Paul wrote, "*Brothers, think of what you when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. He chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things . . .*" (1 Corinthians 1:26-28). The majority of God's work was done and continues to be done by the lowly and oppressed people.

Certainly, God can use celebrities and very successful people in His work. However, we need to remember that, even though we may not have accomplished anything of worldly significance, broken any records, or won any awards, God can use and transform us into effective workers in His kingdom. "*I can do everything through Him Who gives me strength*" (Philippians 4:13). Society gives many accolades to those who succeed, but there is no greater honor or privilege than to be chosen as God's vehicle to spread the Gospel. As John states in his Gospel, it is Jesus Who does the choosing. "*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit*" (John 15:16).

So why does God elevate the foolish and the lowly to be His workers? A reason may be found in 1 Corinthians 1:29: "*so that no one may boast before Him.*" It is only by God's grace that we are saved, called, and equipped to be in His service. If we come into God's work with impressive credentials, we risk taking the glory and credit for ourselves. God desires the weak and the lowly. As Paul said, "*Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong*" (2 Corinthians 12:9-10). God uses ordinary people to do extra-ordinary things. Are you ready for duty?

The Stewardship Committee

A NEW PAPERBACK BOOK

Glorified! What the Bible Says about Death, Resurrection, and Eternal Life

Authors Reynold Kremer and Rev. George Ferch present many insights into subjects that have perplexed Christians for ages. The book researches such topics as What happens when a person dies?, What are the signs of the end times?, What will the angels do on judgment day?, What will heaven and hell be like?, What will take place on judgment day?, What can God's people can look forward to in eternity? and much more. The 117 page book includes nearly 300 Bible references. It will serve as a great study for all ages, an informative book for any Bible student, and a comforting friend for the mature, ill, or those who have lost a loved one. Purchase price is \$10.99 plus \$.56 tax. If you are interested in purchasing a copy, you can order it at Kremer Publications (262-783-5200) during daytime work hours. (Credit Card purchases, please.) Your book will be shipped to you at no extra cost.