

The Church Door



I had a restful and enjoyable vacation which rejuvenated me

We are glad to welcome Vladimir (Vlado) Simo as our summer intern for 2005. After spending several weeks at Samuel Lutheran he will be at DML until September 8th. He will return to finish his studies at the seminary about a week later.

As many of you know we have a long history of hosting summer interns from the seminary at Bratislava, Slovakia. We also help support a missionary to Slovakia, which the past four years has been Pastor Michnay who has now returned to settle in Muskegon. This October we will begin to support a new (as yet unnamed) missionary in Slovakia.

We feel that part of the mission of the Slovak Zion Synod of the ELCA is to Central and Eastern Europe and this is a very con-

crete way that we at DML can contribute to that mission. Please greet Vlado and show your hospitality by inviting him to spend some time with you and your family.

Don't forget the outdoor worship and pig roast coming soon, August 14th. Our Outdoor Worship has been growing every year and last year we introduced a Pig Roast which was so well received that we thought we would do the same thing again this year. Please join us for our Outdoor Worship/Gospel Songfest followed by a Pig Roast. Dress casually and bring a friend.

After an aborted attempt to host the 2nd Annual Pastor's Bike Ride in May due to inclement weather, we will try again on Saturday, September 17th or 24th depending on when the park might

be available. I am hoping to have the ride on the 17th with the 24th as a rain date. Keep an eye open for more information soon.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Dennis

The Church Door

The "Church Door" title is taken from the "Theses Door" of the Castle Church which has made Wittenberg so famous.

Just as the "Theses Door" was used as a bulletin board for notices in Luther's time, this newsletter can also be used by our members to communicate with each other and to our guests about church events. Published monthly it is available the last Sunday of the month.

Please contact
Cindy Borreson (616.846.2477 or
newsletter@dmlc.org)
to insert articles for next month's
newsletter.



September 5

Vlado Simo—Summer Intern from Slovakia

Hello,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Vladimir Simo (pronounced—Shimo), but just call me Vlado.

I'm studying at the Lutheran Seminary in Bratislava, which is the capital city of Slovakia. This is going to be my final year there. That means the 5th year.

I am now 22 years old and come from Piestany, a little spa town with about 30,000 citizen which is located in Western Slovakia. I have one sister who is now 21 and studies Biology.

My hobbies are: playing guitar and other instru-

ments, computer programming, listening to music, and hiking.

I came to America on June 23rd and am staying until September 13th. The first half of my internship was spent at Samuel Lutheran Church in Muskegon and I'm going to spend the second half at Dr. Martin Luther Church.

I came here to see and learn what the church and it's work and involvement in society could or should look like.

Generally, I am collecting the impressions and experiences for my future ministry.

In the future, I'd like to serve at a church as a Youth Minister because I consider it very important to reach the young people with a good message of the Gospel. I have performed this service the whole time of my studies and also at the high school.

I like my staying here. You have a very nice and peaceful country and wonderful lakes. I am thankful for all the good people I have met here at DML, especially Dave and Rose Justian and Part Dennis Stroh who takes care of me.

Vladimir Simo

Ponder This...

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death... you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep... you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a pocket someplace... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If your parents are still alive and still married... you are very rare, even in the United States and Canada.

If you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world that cannot read at all.



- To Andy Doane for trimmi ng the hedges. They look great and we appreciate your hard work, especially in all the heat!
- To Nancy Ki tchka for pl anni ng/organi zi ng the Annual Church Pi cni c.
- To Lauren Stroh for arrangi ng once agai n thi s year to get the tent for our Pi cni c.
- To Pastor for arrangi ng the purchase of the Keyboard (whi ch we are usi ng for the Outdoor Worshi p). Memori al funds are bei ng used to pay for the keyboard.
- To Dave & Rose Justi an for openi ng thei r home to Vl ado thi s summer. We al l appreciate your generosi ty to hi m (and us).

Financial Information as of July 31, 2005

ASSETS

Cash & Bank Accounts	
Funds for General Operations	
Checkbook	\$185.56
Cash Account.....	\$1,335.00
Savings - Reserve	\$3,128.34
Total Funds for General Operations.....	\$4,648.90
Funds for Special Purposes	
Savings—Designated	
Building (Projects)	\$1,192.22
Church Repairs	\$3,069.88
Hellman Fund	\$74.50
Evangelism.....	\$69.00
Eve Circle.....	\$1,472.77
Kitchen Fund	\$357.55
Men's Club	\$262.91
Youth Group	\$149.39
Total Savings—Designated	\$6,648.22
Savings - Memorial.....	\$6,726.98
Savings - Social Security	<u>\$144.19</u>
Total Funds for Special Purposes.....	\$13,519.39
Total Cash and Bank Accounts.....	\$18,168.29
Investments—Designated for Housing Allowance	
LB Money Market—Cash.....	\$814.30
LB Fund	\$31,790.54
LB Income Fund	\$40,370.33
Total Investments.....	\$72,975.17
<u>TOTAL ASSETS.....</u>	<u>\$91,143.46</u>

LIABILITIES

Roof Loan Liability	\$(1.74)
WH—Federal Tax Liability	\$1,334.48
WH—State Tax Liability.....	\$61.39
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES.....</u>	<u>\$1,394.13</u>

Summary Information—June & July

Average Attendance

June = **73**

July = **67**

Offering Needed to meet 2005 Budget \$7,008.65

Amount Received toward Budget

June	\$8,245.50	July	\$1,111.50
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Worship Assistants

August

Lessons & Hymns

August 7—12th Sunday after Pentecost

Deacon Vlado Simo
 Lector Beulah Justian
 Acolyte Matthew Kitchka
 Nursery Lauren Stroh
 Ushers Mike Sellon & Russ Tilden
 Tellers Tom & Donna Whitehead
 Gordon Eggleton

Lessons

1 Kings 19:9-18
 Psalm 85:8-13
 Romans 10:5-15
 Matthew 14:22-33

Hymns

#469 Lord of All Hopefulness**
 #467 Eternal Father Strong to Save
 #213 I Come, O Savior to Your Table
 #543 Praise to the Lord, the Al-
 mighty**

August 14—13th Sunday after Pentecost

Deacon Vlado Simo
 Lector Rose Justian
 Acolyte Becky Stroh
 Nursery Jan Ward
 Ushers Emily & Bill Kitchka
 Tellers Randy & Cindy Borreson
 Polly Eagle

Lessons

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8
 Psalm 67
 Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
 Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-
 28

Hymns

Gospel Hymn Fest

August 21—14th Sunday after Pentecost

Deacon Rose Justian
 Preacher Vlado Simo
 Lector Lauren Stroh
 Nursery Donna Whitehead
 Ushers Emogene Cotal & Jan Wolf
 Tellers LaVern & Irene Borreson
 Bill Kitchka

Lessons

Isaiah 51:1-6
 Psalm 138
 Romans 12:1-8
 Matthew 16:13-20

Hymns

#781 My Life Flows on in Endless Song**
 #746 Day by Day
 #706 Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup
 #754 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

August 28—15th Sunday after Pentecost

Deacon Vlado Simo
 Lector Lauren Johnson
 Acolyte Bethani Eggleton
 Nursery Alice Doane
 Ushers John Moore & Tom Proksa
 Tellers Tom & Betty Proksa
 John Moore

Lessons

Jeremiah 15:15-21
 Psalm 26:1-8
 Romans 12:9-21
 Matthew 16:21-28

Hymns

#558 Earth and All Stars
 #561 For the Beauty of the Earth
 #364 Son of God, Eternal Savior
 #221 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

Worship Assistants

September

Lessons & Hymns

September 4—16th Sunday after Pentecost

Preacher Vlado Simo
 Deacon Jan Wolf
 Lector Ron Heiss
 Acolyte Emily Johnson
 Nursery Polly Eagle
 Ushers Mike Sellon & Russ Tilden
 Tellers Tom & Donna Whitehead
 Gordon Eggleton

Lessons

Ezekiel 33:7-11
 Psalm 119:33-40
 Romans 13:8-14
 Matthew 18:15-20

Hymns

#651 Shine, Jesus, Shine
 Lord, I Lift Your Name On High
 #713 Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil
 Shout to the Lord
 Open the Eyes of My Heart

September 11—17th Sunday after Pentecost

Deacon Cindy Borreson
 Lector Shane Garrow
 Acolyte Matthew Kitchka
 Nursery Lauren Johnson
 Ushers Emily & Bill Kitchka
 Tellers Randy & Cindy Borreson
 Polly Eagle

Lessons

Genesis 50:15-21
 Psalm 103:[1-7] 8-13
 Romans 14:1-12
 Matthew 18:21-35

Hymns

#245 All People That on Earth Do
 #312 Once He Came in Blessing
 #212 Let Us Break Bread Together
 #486 Spirit of God, Descend upon My
 Heart

September 18—18th Sunday after Pentecost

Deacon Laurie Tilden
 Lector Jeff Ward
 Acolyte Becky Stroh
 Nursery Nancy Johnson
 Ushers Emogene Cotal & Jan Wolf
 Tellers LaVern & Irene Borreson
 Bill Kitchka

Lessons

Jonah 3:10--4:11
 Psalm 145:1-8
 Philippians 1:21-30
 Matthew 20:1-16

Hymns

#389 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus
 #385 What Wondrous Love Is This
 #197 O Living Bread From Heaven
 #383 Rise Up, O Saints of God!

September 25—19th Sunday after Pentecost

Deacon Tom Whitehead
 Lector Michelle Ward
 Acolyte Andy Doane
 Nursery Beulah Justian
 Ushers John Moore & Tom Proksa
 Tellers Tom & Betty Proksa
 John Moore

Lessons

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32
 Psalm 25:1-9
 Philippians 2:1-13
 Matthew 21:23-32

Hymns

#165 Holy, Holy, Holy
 #406 Take My Life, that I May Be
 #492 O Master, Let Me Walk with You
 #368 I Love Your Kingdom, Lord

What's Happening at DML

Dorcas Circle

Resumes on September 12 at 10:00 am in the Lounge. All women of the congregation are invited to attend.

Contact Irene Borreson or Ann Hamil for more information.

EVE Circle

Eve Circle meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm.

Everyone is invited to join in.

Contact Betty Proksa if you have any questions.

MEN'S CLUB

Saturday
September 10

Breakfast at Mickey's

Please contact
Tom Whitehead
(231) 798-4454
with any questions.



Gospel Hymn Fest

Pig Roast

Sunday, August 14

Please join us for the Pig Roast and time of fellowship immediately following our Outdoor Worship and Gospel Hymn Fest..

Games and good times will be provided.



*Pastor John Adam
(former DML Pastor)*

*Robert Carey
(Kris Garrow's grandfather)*

*Brett Cavanaugh
(Clif Hellman's nephew)*

*Beryl Connelly
Millie Fredrick
Stephen Hellman*

Ann Hulka

Beulah Justian

Vicki Peterson

*Nancy Rizzo
(Ann Markgraf's daughter)*

*Paul Suchovsky
Lowell Tambling*

Remember those in the military

Kevin William Sellon (*Mike & Carol Sellon's son*)

United States Army
Stationed at Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Sgt. Kenneth W. Hawkins (*Tom & Betty Proksa's nephew*)

United States Army
Stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington

AJ-3 Lisa Pepera (*Virginia Kolarik's granddaughter*)

United States Navy
Serving on the USS Kitty Hawk

E1 Lynzie Heiss (*Ron Heiss's daughter*)

United States Army
Stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington

Rob Borreson (*Randy & Cindy Borreson's son*)

United States Army Reserves—Rob has returned home from Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood.

Our old friend and previous Pastor, John Adam, has taken ill from complications of diabetes. You may send him cards at: 13 Kingswood, Danbury, CT 06811-2810

Do you have a someone special you would like included in the prayers or added to our prayer list? Please contact Cindy Borreson at 616-846-2477 or by email at newsletters@dmlc.org and she will see they are included.

Others

By Hazel Cook

Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self forgetful way,
That even when I kneel to pray,
My prayers will be for others.

Help me in all the work I do,
To even know that all I'd do for you,
Must need be done for others.

Let self be crucified and slain,
And buried deep, and in vain.
May efforts be done rise again,
Unless to live for others.

And when my work on earth is done,
And my new work in Heaven's begun,
May I forget the crown I've won
While thinking still of others.

Others, Lord, yes, others.
Let this my motto be,
Help me to live for others,
That I might live like thee.

Submitted by Mary Panozzo



Calendar Observances—August and September

Monday, August 8

Dominic, priest, founder of the order of the Dominicans, 1221

Dominic was a Spanish priest who preached against the Albigensians, a heretical sect that held gnostic and dualistic beliefs. Dominic believed that a stumbling block to restoring heretics to the church was the wealth of clergy, so he formed an itinerant religious order, the Order of Preachers (Dominicans) who lived in poverty, studied philosophy and theology, and preached against heresy. The method of this order was to use kindness and gentle argument, rather than harsh judgment, when bringing unorthodox Christians back to the fold. Dominic was opposed to burning Christians at the stake. Three times Dominic was offered the office of bishop, which he refused so that he could continue his work of preaching.

Wednesday, August 10

Lawrence, deacon, martyr, 258

Lawrence was one of seven deacons of the congregation at Rome and, like the deacons appointed in Acts, was responsible for financial matters in the church and for the care of the poor. Lawrence lived during a time of persecution under the emperor Valerian. The emperor demanded that Lawrence surrender the treasures of the church. Lawrence gathered lepers, orphans, the blind and lame. He brought them to the emperor and said, "Here is the treasure of the church." This act enraged the emperor, and Lawrence was sentenced to death. Lawrence's martyrdom was one of the first to be observed by the church.

Amid the concerns for the institutional church, reflect on what we consider the treasures of the church today. If the people on the margins of life are treasured in God's eyes, consider ways a congregation can sharpen its vision for social ministry.

Saturday, August 13

Florence Nightingale, 1910; Clara Maass, 1901; renewers of society

When Florence Nightingale decided she would be a nurse, her family was horrified. In the early 1800s nursing was done

by people with no training and no other way to earn a living. Florence trained at Kaiserswerth, Germany, with a Lutheran order of deaconesses. She returned home and worked to reform hospitals in England. Nightingale led a group of thirty-eight nurses to serve in the Crimean War, where they worked in appalling conditions. She returned to London as a hero and there resumed her work for hospital reform. Clara Maass was born in New Jersey and served as a nurse in the Spanish-American War, where she encountered the horrors of yellow fever. She later responded to a call for subjects in research on yellow fever. During the experiments, which included receiving bites from mosquitoes, she contracted the disease and died. The commemoration of these women invites the church to give thanks for all who practice the arts of healing.

Monday, August 15

Mary, Mother of Our Lord

The church honors Mary with the Greek title *theotokos*, meaning God-bearer. Origen first used this title in the early church, and the councils of Ephesus and Chalcedon upheld it. Luther used this same title in his writings. The honor paid to Mary as *theotokos* and mother of our Lord goes back to biblical times, when Mary herself sang, "from now on all generations will call me blessed" (Luke 1:48). Mary's life revealed the presence of God incarnate among the humble and poor. Mary's song, the Magnificat, speaks of reversals in the reign of God: the mighty are cast down, the lowly are lifted up, the hungry are fed, and the rich are sent away empty-handed.

Hymns to commemorate Mary as *theotokos* might include "Sing of Mary, pure and holy" (WOV 634) or a paraphrase of the Magnificat, such as "My soul proclaims your greatness" (WOV 730).

Saturday, August 20

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153

Bernard was a Cistercian monk who became an abbot of great spiritual depth. He was a mystical writer deeply devoted to the humanity of Christ and conse-

quently to the affective dimension of spirituality. He was critical of one of the foremost theologians of the day, Peter Abelard, because he believed Abelard's approach to faith was too rational and did not provide sufficient room for mystery. Bernard's devotional writings are still read today. His sermon on the Song of Solomon treats that book as an allegory of Christ's love for humanity. Bernard wrote several hymns, five of which are in LBW. Singing his hymn "Jesus the very thought of you" (LBW 316) could be a way to commemorate this monk at gatherings within the congregation today.

Wednesday, August 24

St. Bartholomew, Apostle

Bartholomew is mentioned as one of Jesus' disciples in Matthew, Mark, and Luke. The list in John does not include him but rather Nathanael, and therefore these two are often assumed to be the same person. Except for his name on these lists of the twelve, little is known. Some traditions say Bartholomew preached in India or Armenia following the resurrection. In art, Bartholomew is pictured holding a flaying knife to indicate the manner in which he was killed.

In Bartholomew we have a model for the way many Christians live out their faith: anonymously. Like Bartholomew we are called by name to follow, though much of what we do in faith is quiet and unrecognized. Today we can look to the example of Bartholomew and pray for strength and guidance as we continue to live as disciples of Christ.

Sunday, August 28

Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, 430

Augustine was one of the greatest theologians of the Western church. Born in North Africa, he was a philosophy student in Carthage, where he later became a teacher of rhetoric. Much of his young life was a debauched one. As an adult he came under the influence of Ambrose, the bishop of Milan, and through him came to see Christianity as a religion appropriate for a philosopher. Augustine was baptized by Ambrose at the Easter Vigil in 387. He was ordained four years

Calendar Observances (continued...)

later and made bishop of Hippo in 396. Augustine was a defender of the Christian faith and argued, against the Donatists, that the holiness of the church did not depend on the holiness of its members, particularly the clergy, but that holiness comes from Christ, the head of the church. Augustine's autobiography, *Confessions*, tells of his slow move toward faith and includes the line, "Late have I loved thee."

Sunday, August 28

Moses the Black, monk, c. 400

A man of great strength and rough character, Moses the Black was converted to Christian faith toward the close of the fourth century. Prior to his conversion he had been a thief and a leader of a gang of robbers. The story of his conversion is unknown, but eventually, he became a desert monk at Skete. The habit, or characteristic robe, of his monastic community was white, though Moses is reported to have said, "God knows I am black within." The change in his heart and life had a profound impact on his native Ethiopia. He was murdered when Berbers attacked his monastery.

Wednesday, August 31

John Bunyan, teacher, 1688

John Bunyan had little schooling but became one of the most remarkable figures of seventeenth-century literature. He was a lay preacher who made his living as a tinker. After the restoration in England he was ordered to stop preaching, but he refused and was jailed several times. His spiritual pilgrimage is revealed in his works, particularly *The Pilgrim's Progress*. It is an allegory of a person's experience from his first awareness of sin, through a personal conversion to Christ, then on to the life of faith and then finally to the "Celestial City," the true and eternal home. His commemoration and his own journey offer strength for people to continue their own quest for spiritual truth.

Friday, September 2

Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, 1872

Grundtvig was one of two principal Dan-

ish theologians of the nineteenth century; the other was Søren Kierkegaard. Grundtvig's ministry as a parish pastor had a difficult start. He was officially censured after his first sermon, though he did receive approval a year later to be ordained. He served with his father for two years but was unable to receive a call for seven years after that. In 1826 he was forced to resign after he attacked the notion that Christianity was merely a philosophical idea rather than God's revelation made known to us in Christ and through word and sacrament. This belief would be a hallmark of Grundtvig's writing. He spent the last thirty-three years as a chaplain at a home for elderly women. From his university days he was convinced that poetry spoke to the human spirit better than prose, and he wrote more than a thousand hymns. Eight of his hymns are in LBW.

Sunday, September 4

Albert Schweitzer, missionary to Africa, 1965

Schweitzer was a philosopher, theologian, and an ordained Lutheran minister. He wrote *The Quest for the Historical Jesus*. He was also an organist who published a study of Johann Sebastian Bach. But he set aside careers as a university lecturer and musician, went to medical school, and became a missionary in the Gabon province of French Equatorial Africa. He believed that the solution to the world's problems was simple: have reverence for life. His style of practicing medicine shocked some, but he was a humanitarian who served Christ by serving his neighbors in need.

Now that school is resuming in many places, parishes can hold up Schweitzer as an example of someone who used vast knowledge for service and ministry to others.

Friday, September 9

Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, 1654

Peter Claver was born into Spanish nobility and was persuaded to become a Jesuit missionary. He served in Cartagena (in what is now Colombia) by teaching and caring for the slaves. The

slaves arrived in ships, where they had been confined in dehumanizing conditions. Claver met and supplied them with medicine, food, clothing, and brandy. He learned their dialects and taught them Christianity. He called himself "the slave of the slaves forever." Claver also ministered to the locals of Cartagena who were in prison and facing death.

Claver's advocacy on behalf of the rights of slaves is a witness to a gospel that is for all people. Pray for contemporary ministries and for persons who offer care and compassion to people living in substandard living conditions.

Tuesday, September 13

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407

John was a priest in Antioch and an outstanding preacher. His eloquence earned him the nickname "Chrysostom" ("golden mouth") but it also got him into trouble. As bishop of Constantinople he preached against corruption among the royal court. The empress, who had been his supporter, sent him into exile. His preaching style emphasized the literal meaning of scripture and its practical application. This interpretation stood in contrast to the common style at the time, which emphasized the allegorical meaning of the text.

Chrysostom's skill in the pulpit has led many to describe him as the patron of preachers. This week at gatherings of parish groups, include prayers for pastors and all who proclaim the gospel through preaching.

Wednesday, September 14

Holy Cross Day

Helena, the mother of Constantine, made a pilgrimage to Israel to look for Christian holy sites. She found what she believed were the sites of the crucifixion and burial of Jesus, sites that modern archaeologists believe may be correct. Here Constantine built two churches. The celebration of Holy Cross Day commemorates the dedication of the Church of the Resurrection in 335.

This day gives the church a chance to celebrate the victory of the cross with a festivity that would be out of place on

Calendar Observances—August and September

Good Friday. Today alleluias are sung in thanksgiving for the tree of the cross, which Andrew of Crete described as "the trophy of God's victory." This week sing the hymn "Lift high the cross" (LBW 377).

Friday, September 16 **Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, c. 258**

Cyprian worked for the unity of the church and cared for his flock in North Africa during a time of great persecution. During Cyprian's time as bishop many people had denied the faith under duress. In contrast to some who held the belief that the church should not receive these people back, Cyprian believed they ought to be welcomed into full communion after a period of penance. Cyprian insisted on the need for compassion in order to preserve the unity of the church. His essay "On the Unity of the Catholic Church" stressed the role of bishops in guaranteeing the visible, concrete unity of the church. Cyprian was also concerned for the physical well-being of the people under his care. He organized a program of medical care during a severe epidemic in Carthage.

Sunday, September 18 **Dag Hammarskjöld, peacemaker, 1961**

Dag Hammarskjöld was a Swedish diplomat and humanitarian who served as Secretary General of the United Nations. He was killed in a plane crash on this day in 1961 in what is now Zambia while he was on his way to negotiate a cease-fire between the United Nations and the Katanga forces. For years Hammarskjöld had kept a private journal, and it was not until that journal was published as *Markings* that the depth of his Christian faith was known. The book revealed that his life was a combination of diplomatic service and personal spirituality, a combination of contemplation on the meaning of Christ in his life and action in the world.

To commemorate Hammarskjöld, pray for the work of the United Nations and for all peacemakers. Here is an example of a person whose quiet contem-

plation led to visible action in the world.

Tuesday, September 20 **Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, 1996**

Trout was born in Columbus, Ohio, and attended the Evangelical Lutheran Theological Seminary in Columbus. Ordained in 1952, he served parishes in Montgomery, Alabama; Los Angeles, California; and Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Trout also served in staff positions with the American Lutheran Church, Lutheran Social Services of Dayton, and the Columbus seminary. In 1983 Trout was elected bishop of the South Pacific District of the American Lutheran Church, the first African American to serve in such a capacity.

Wednesday, September 21 **St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**

Matthew was a tax collector for the Roman government in Capernaum. Tax collectors were distrusted because they were dishonest and worked as agents for a foreign ruler, the occupying Romans. In the gospels, tax collectors are mentioned as sinful and despised outcasts, but it was these outcasts to whom Jesus showed his love. Matthew's name means "gift of the Lord."

In the gospels Jesus tells his disciples to treat notorious sinners as Gentiles and tax collectors. That has often been taken as a mandate for the church to avoid such people. But Jesus brought his ministry to these very people. In what ways might the church not shun "tax collectors" and sinners but extend its ministry to them and see them as gifts of the Lord?

Sunday, September 25 **Sergius of Radonezh, Abbot of Holy Trinity, Moscow, 1392**

The people of Russia honor Sergius as the most beloved of all their saints and a model of Russian spiritual life at its best. At the age of twenty he began to live as a hermit, and others joined him. From their monastery in the forest, Sergius led the renewal of Russian monastic life. His monastery, the Monastery of the Holy Trinity, was a center for pilgrimage where people came to worship and re-

ceive spiritual support. Sergius was also a peacemaker whose influence stopped four civil wars between Russian princes. Sergius left no writings, but his disciples founded seventy-five monasteries and spread his teachings.

The commemoration of Sergius is an opportunity to consider the Russian church and the traditions of Russian Orthodoxy. For example, one or more icons could be displayed in worship this morning, and a discussion could begin about the place of icons in Orthodox spirituality and ways icons can find a home among other Christians.

Wednesday, September 28 **Jehu Jones, missionary, 1852**

A native of Charleston, South Carolina, Jones was ordained by the New York Ministerium in 1832, and was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor. Upon returning to South Carolina he was arrested under a law prohibiting free blacks from reentering the state, so was unable to join the group of Charlestonians he had been commissioned to accompany to Liberia. For nearly twenty years Jones carried out missionary work in Philadelphia in the face of many difficulties. There he led the formation of the first African American Lutheran congregation, St. Paul's, and the construction of its church building.

Thursday, September 29 **St. Michael and All Angels**

On this festival day we ponder the richness and variety of God's created order and the limits of our knowledge of it. The scriptures speak of angels who worship God in heaven, and in both testaments angels are God's messengers on earth. They are remembered most vividly as they appear to the shepherds and announce the birth of the savior. Michael is an angel whose name appears in Daniel as the heavenly being who leads the faithful dead to God's throne on the day of resurrection. In Revelation, Michael fights in a cosmic battle against Satan.

Sing "Ye watchers and ye holy ones" (LBW 175) in gatherings today. The hymn delights in the presence of the

Calendar Observances (continued...)

whole heavenly host of seraphs, cherubim, thrones, archangels, virtues, and angel choirs all led in praise of God by Mary, the "bearer of the eternal Word."

Friday, September 30

Jerome, translator, teacher, 420

Jerome is remembered as a biblical scholar and translator. Rather than choosing classical Latin as the basis of his work, he translated the scriptures into the Latin that was spoken and written by the majority of people in his day. His translation is known as the Vulgate, which comes from the Latin word for "common." While Jerome is remembered as a saint, he could be anything but saintly. He was well known for his short temper and his arrogance, although he was also quick to admit to his personal faults.

Thanks to the work of Jerome, many people received the word in their own language and lived a life of faith and service to those in need.

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August

1 Give thanks for the links in faith and witness that emerge in the companion relationship between the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church and the ELCA Delaware-Maryland Synod.

2 Offer praise for the ministries of Pastor Jeremy Shih and the people of First Taiwanese Lutheran

Church. Located on the west side of Houston, Texas, First Taiwanese is redeveloping an outreach ministry among a rapidly growing Chinese population. Pray for inspired leadership and continued progress.

3 Praise God for the young adults who give one year of their lives in service to the church around the world.

Pray for those completing their service in social ministry settings in the United Kingdom, particularly Olivia Troup, Jared Williams, and Elissa Zoerb.

4 Thank God for the vital ministry Dale Linder provides as an ESL teacher with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Cameroon. He teaches at the College Protestante.

5 Ask that God bless and inspire the congregational teams that have gone through the ELCA transformational ministry process. These teams are dedicated to becoming more faithful disciples of Christ by learning new ways of thinking about the relationship between their congregation and their community. They are looking outward rather than inward.

6 Ask that God guide Pastor Hector Garfias as the Latino Ministries Coordinator of the ELCA Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Pray that God bless the efforts of Chicago Latino leaders in their shared ministry.

7 Pentecost 12
We pray for the people of Canada and the United States of America:

for the young and old; for women and men; for the hungry, the poor, the broken and unloved, and for those who live with plenty; for those hurting and those who heal; for those who live without hope and those who bring meaning to life; we ask that your mercy and loving-kindness may abound.

8 Pray that the Holy Spirit guide all those meeting at the 2005 ELCA Church-wide Assembly in Orlando, Florida, to discern God's will. Help them to make wise decisions for this church.

9 On this International Day of the World's Indigenous People, pray for churches around the world that serve indigenous people, who often are second-class citizens in their own land.

10 Pray for Heidi Torgerson as she begins service in Mexico City through the Lutheran Center, where she will facilitate immersion experiences for ELCA members. May she open the hearts and minds of participants to the reality of people living in poverty and to the wealth of faith, strength, dignity, and culture Mexicans can share with our churches in the United States.

11 Pray for Pastor Sandra Jewell and Trinity Lutheran in Kankakee, Illinois, as they work together to reach out with the gospel in a multicultural context.



12 Praise God for the mission zeal that emerges from the companion relationship between the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lithuania and the ELCA Grand Canyon Synod.

13 Pray that the ELCA Virginia Synod responds generously to the “Committee of 100+.” This outreach project, sponsored by the ELCA Lutheran Men in Mission, enlists participants who are willing to make an annual gift of \$100.00 for the support of new and developing mission congregations within the synod.

14 Pentecost 13
God of creation, we thank you for the awesome beauty of the land and sea in Aotearoa New Zealand and Australia, for the rich diversity of peoples, and for your sons and daughters who seek to live your will.

15 Ask God to lift up Spirit-filled, passionate leaders—clergy and lay—to serve as mission developers for the 55 sites ready for new ELCA congregations. Pray that the obstacle of finding leaders to start congregations where they are needed may be overcome.

16 Pray for Pastor Robin Morgan and the people of Faith Place, a Synodically Authorized Worshipping Community in St. Louis, Missouri. This multicultural, community-based ministry is the first new mission begun by Lutherans in the urban core of St. Louis in 70 years.

17 Give thanks for Jean Wahlstrom and Marv Kananen, serving at the Maasae Girls Lutheran Secondary School in Tanzania. Jean is a Christian education developer and pastoral counselor and Marv teaches English.

18 Thank God for the solidarity in witness and service that has developed through the companion relationship between the Lutheran Church in Nicaragua (ILFE) and the ELCA South Dakota Synod, both of which are led by women.

19 Pray for the staff and those involved with Phebe Hospital and School of Nursing in Liberia. Give thanks for all the revitalization of health care ministries that has been made possible through European and North American church partners, contributions, and volunteer efforts.

20 Pray for the Lutheran Church in Great Britain and its companion synod relationship with the ELCA Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod.

21 Pentecost 14
We thank you, O God, for the people of the Pacific Island nations and Papua New Guinea, who risked their lives in spreading the good news, and whose faith through the years gives reason to celebrate your goodness.

22 Pray for Pastor Tony Mendez and the people of La Resurrección Lutheran Church in Garden City, Kansas. They have recently paid for their first building, yet continue to struggle financially. The members work in the meat processing plants and come from many different countries.

23 Give thanks for the teaching ministry of Sister Ruth Ellen Rebelein at Senior Flierl Seminary near Finschhafen, Papua New Guinea. Sister Ruth engages students and teaching colleagues in Bible study and prayer. Pray also for the students and faculty as they learn and witness God’s love together.

24 Pray for the Inter-unit Staff Team on Ministry Among People in Poverty and Wealth as it prepares a strategic plan for ways that the ELCA may address poverty during the next five years.

25 Thank God for the more than 100 years of relationship between ELCA congregations in South Carolina and the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church, and for the continued companion synod relationship that brings the whole South Carolina Synod into a deeper relationship with the church in Japan.

26 Rejoice in the ministry of Cristel Churchill, serving with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Papua New Guinea (ELC-PNG). Cristel is a certified public accountant working with the finance office of the ELC-PNG.

27 Pray that Pastor Jon Mapa and the people of Atonement Lutheran Church, Rapid City, South Dakota, continue to live out God’s vision and mission for them. Atonement is relocating in order to provide evangelical outreach ministry in a new setting.

28 Pentecost 15
We praise you, God of the islands, for the warm welcome and hospitality experienced by Christian visitors to churches in the Indian Ocean island nations of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Seychelles.

29 Pray for the new mission personnel who are being deployed this summer to many corners of the world. Give thanks for their service to Christ's Church and their devotion to mission in God's world.

30 Give thanks for the impact on everyday ministry of the relationship between the Mahajanga Synod of the Malagasy Lutheran Church and the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod.

31 Thank God for the witness of the 37 participants in Young Adults in Global Mission who just completed orientation and are now moving into one-year positions in Argentina, Egypt, Germany, India, Kenya, Thailand, the United Kingdom, and the Ukraine. May God guide and keep them as they work side by side with companions in ministry and remain open to the many lessons they will learn in their new context.

September

1 Ask for God's love, support, and guidance for all ELCA seminary students. Pray that these future congregational leaders develop the skills and knowledge they will need to be passionate about starting new congregations and revitalizing existing ones.

2 Pray for Pastor Guy and Renee Redfield, parish pastor of the American Lutheran Church (ALC) in Oslo, Norway. Pray also for the successful upgrade of the ALC's building, which offers a meeting place for various community and church groups. The renovation begins this fall and will prepare the facility for a new era of ministry in a multi-cultural context.

3 Give thanks for the ministries of Rosie and Daniel Kameo at Satya Wacana Christian University, Central Java, Indonesia. Rosie teaches English, and Daniel teaches economics and directs the Graduate School. Pray also for the country of Indonesia, particularly for understanding between Christians and Muslims.

4 **Pentecost 16**
Loving God, we give thanks for the diversity among the Caribbean nations. We pray for the poor and disadvantaged that they may have hope; for justice and the observance of human rights; for goodness in the midst of the beauty of the region; and for all people that they may live full lives as your children.

5 Give thanks for faculty and staff at the 28 ELCA colleges and universities. Pray that the Spirit energizes and guides them as they begin a new academic year.

6 Pray for all who serve God and live out their faith as teachers of children and youth in the early childhood centers and schools operated by ELCA congregations and in all public and private schools.

7 Praise God for the work of Pastor David and Mary Kuck in Jamaica. David is resuming teaching at the United Theological College of the West Indies after a sabbatical at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Philadelphia; Mary is resuming her work as an English teacher at an international school. Pray for the companion synod relationship between the ELCA Florida-Bahamas Synod and ministries and churches in Jamaica, Haiti, Suriname, and Cuba.

8 Pray for Pastor Pedro Portillo at Santa Maria Lutheran Mission, Irving, Texas. This Hispanic/Latino outreach ministry continues to grow and is ready to construct a Ministry Center. Pray that

they find Mission Partners and that the way is clear for the first phase of construction.

9 Give thanks for Lay Mission Developer Don Egan and for all who support his ministry of spiritual witness and prayer in parks, coffee shops, train stations, and other public venues in Jersey City and Hoboken, New Jersey.

10 Pray for John and Joy Friberg who serve with World Concern in community development work in the rural areas of China. We pray for all who work for the sustainability of social, economic, and environmental well-being of the human family.

11 **Pentecost 17** **God of justice, bring to the people of Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico, especially those living in poverty, the hope and truth that you give to all your children through your Spirit.**

12 Pray that God will enlighten the hearts of all those who are beginning another year of adult education and moral deliberation as they seek to deepen their understanding of their faith and its relation to daily life in society.

13 Praise God for the strength in witness and mission that comes through companion synod relationships, such as that between the Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras and the ELCA North/West Lower Michigan Synod. Pray especially for the CLCH's new president, Armino Schmechel.

14 Pray for Pastor Samuel Nieva and his wife Ana of Iglesia Luterana Pueblo de Dios in Compton, California. Give thanks for this mission congregation's program for recovering alcoholics.



15 Thank God for the service of Kim Erno, who directs the ELCA Immersion Program at the Lutheran Center in Mexico City. Pray for him and those who come for the immersion experiences offered through the center.

16 Pray for Iglesia Luterana Fe y Esperanza in South Gate, California, and Pastor Marina Kings and her husband Joseph as they plan for new outreach opportunities in their community.

17 Thank God for the service of Lindsey Mack, who serves the Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras in its youth work, and also coordinates English-speaking communications with delegations, guests, and its companion, the North/West Lower Michigan Synod. Praise God for the recent surge in youth leaders, following the successful National Youth Assembly held earlier in 2005.

18 **Pentecost 18**
God of peace, we lift up to you the people of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama. Watch over them with your love and grant them the strength to rise with the sun to meet each day.

19 Give thanks for the ELCA leaders who are participating in the natural church development coach training scheduled for September 21–22, at Wartburg Seminary (Dubuque, Iowa).

20 Praise God for the continuing witness and service of Alyson and Pastor Jeff Jacob-

son, who serve Union Church, a congregation in San Salvador, El Salvador. Jeff recently completed several months of service as a military chaplain in Iraq, and will again lead the congregation of mostly expatriates in ministries to serve Salvadorans in need.

21 Pray for the ministry of Nathan and Sharonette Bowman as they serve with the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church. They share God's love and grace in Kumamoto, Japan, where they work with JELC social services for the elderly and children and serve a local congregation.

22 Pray for Pastor David and Karla Schick, who serve the Bratislava International Church in Bratislava, Slovakia, and for their expanding work among African and Iraqi refugees seeking asylum in Slovakia.

23 Give thanks for the mutuality and solidarity that comes from the companion synod relationship that exists between the Salvadoran Lutheran Synod and three ELCA synods: Greater Milwaukee, Sierra Pacific and Metropolitan Washington, D.C.

24 Guide the members of the Task Force for ELCA Studies on Sexuality as they meet this weekend. Pray that they may discern God's leading as they develop the initial materials toward a social statement on human sexuality.

25 **Pentecost 19**
Gracious God, we know that the people of Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela face a multitude of challenges in their daily lives. Grant them the peace and protection of your warm embrace.

26 Give praise and thanks to God for the life and wisdom of Lutheran theologian Joseph Sittler (born on this date in 1904) who made us aware of the importance of ecology and the natural environment long before they were popular causes. Pray that all people may care actively for God's creation.

27 Thank God for Pastor Judy McGuire, who divides her time between the Christian Education Department of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guyana, and St. Matthew's Parish, where she serves five congregations as pastor. Pray also for the companion synod relationship between this church and the ELCA Florida-Bahamas Synod, that they may continue to deepen their ministries together.

28 Pray for Pastors John and Valerie Peterson, for their ongoing ministry as they serve the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Hong Kong. Valerie leads a ministry of outreach to Filipinas who live and work far from home and need support in their daily lives. John works with local congregations focusing on interim ministries.

29 Give thanks for Kryssis Bjole and Ellen Cuteny, leaders of In the City for Good (ITCFG), and their pioneering work with ELCA congregations and ecumenical and interfaith partners in the western Michigan area in and around Muskegon. Pray that they continue to be expressions of hope in their rapidly changing communities.

30 Pray for the Holy Spirit's continued guidance for the congregations of the Big Spring Lutheran Ministry Cooperative in the Newville area of Pennsylvania. Ask for the Holy Spirit's guidance and wisdom as they continue to discern the future shape and mission of their ministries.

Show and Tell

A kindergarten teacher gave her class a "show and tell" assignment.

Each student was instructed to bring in an object to share with the class that represented their religion.

The first student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Benjamin and I am Jewish and this is a Star of David."

The second student got up in front of the class and said, "My name is Mary. I'm a Catholic and this is a Rosary."

The third student got in up front of the class and said, "My name is Tommy. I am Lutheran, and this is a casserole."

Submitted by LaVern Borreson

THIS KIND OF STUFF HAS GOT TO STOP IN OUR COUNTRY We Must Stop This Immediately!

Have you noticed that Stairs are getting steeper? Groceries are heavier.

And, everything is farther away.. Yesterday I walked to the corner and I was dumbfounded to discover how long our street had become!

And, you know, people are less considerate now, especially the young ones. They speak in whispers all the time! If you ask them to speak up they just keep repeating themselves, endlessly mouthing the same silent message until they're red in the face! What do they think I am, a lip reader?

I also think they are much younger than I was at the same age. On the other hand, people my own age are so much older than I am. I ran into an old friend the other day and she has aged so much that she didn't even recognize me.

I got to thinking about the poor dear while I was combing my hair this morning, and in doing so, I glanced at my own reflection.....Well, REALLY NOW-even mirrors are not made the way they used to be!

Another thing, everyone drives so fast these days! You're risking life and limb if you happen to pull onto the freeway in front of them. All I can say is, their brakes must wear out awfully fast, the way I see them screech and swerve in my rear view mirror.

Clothing manufacturers are less civilized these days. Why else would they suddenly start labeling a size 10 or 12 dress as 18 or 20? Do they think no one notices that these things no longer fit around the waist, hips, thighs, and bosom?

The people who make bathroom scales are pulling the same prank, but in reverse. Do they think I actually "believe" the number I see on that dial? HA! I would never let myself weigh that much! Just who do these people think they're fooling?

I'd like to call up someone in authority to report what's going on -- but the telephone company is in on the conspiracy too: they've printed the phone books in such small type that no one could ever find a number in here!

All I can do is pass along this warning: We are under attack! Unless something drastic happens, pretty soon everyone will have to suffer these awful indignities.

Submitted by LaVern Borreson

August 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 NO Dorcas Circle 6:30 pm Parish Education Committee	2 7 pm Finance Committee	3 5:30 pm Property Committee	4	5	6 9 am Men's Club at Mickey's
7 12th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist	8 6:30 pm Congregation Council <i>Dominic, priest, founder of the order of the</i>	9 6:30 Eve Circle	10 <i>Lawrence, deacon, martyr, 258</i>	11	12	13 <i>Florence Nightingale, 1920; Clara Maass, 1901; renewers of society</i>
14 13th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist - Gospel Hymn Fest Church Picnic/Pig Roast	15 <i>Mary, Mother of Our Lord</i>	16	17	18	19	20 10 am Worship & Music Committee <i>Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux, 1153</i>
21 14th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist	22	23	24 ST. BARTHOLOMEW, APOSTLE	25	26	27 9 am Ministry Committee @ Mickey's
28 15th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist <i>Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, 430</i> <i>Moses the Black, monk, c. 400</i>	29 6:30 pm Evangelism Committee	30	31 <i>John Bunyan, teacher, 1688</i>			

September 2005

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1	2 <i>Nikolai Frederik Severin Grundtvig, bishop, renewer of the church, 1873</i>	3 9 am Men's Club at Mickey's
4 16th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist <i>Albert Schweitzer, missionary to Africa, 1965</i>	5 Labor Day	6 6:30 Parish Ed Committee 7 pm Finance Committee	7 5:30 pm Property Committee	8	9 <i>Peter Claver, priest, missionary to Colombia, 1654</i>	10
11 17th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist	12 10 am Dorcas Circle 6:30 pm Congregation Council	13 6:30 Eve Circle <i>John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople, 407</i>	14 HOLY CROSS DAY	15	16 <i>Cyprian, Bishop of Carthage, martyr, c. 258</i>	17 10 am Worship & Music Committee
18 18th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist <i>Dag Hammarskjold, peacemaker, 1961</i>	19	20 <i>Nelson Wesley Trout, bishop, 1996</i>	21 ST. MATTHEW, APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST	22	23	24 9 am Ministry Committee @ Mickey's
25 19th Sunday after Pentecost 9 am Choir Practice 10 am Holy Eucharist <i>Sergius of Radonezh, Abbot of Holy Trinity, Moscow, 1392</i>	26 6:30 pm Evangelism Committee	27	28 <i>Jehu Jones, missionary, 1852</i>	29 ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS	30 <i>Jerome, translator, teacher, 420</i>	

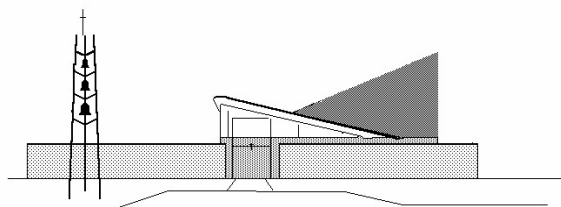
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The Church Door

*The Newsletter of Dr. Martin Luther
Evangelical Lutheran Church*

*August & September
2005*



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