

News & Notes

Schedule change: Next Sunday, August 12, our worship time will be 10:30am instead of 9:00am. Pastor Fleischman (589-4662 home, 589-1840 church) will be filling in for Pastor Bitter (920-583-3008) who will be visiting family from August 11 to 18.

After Church Social: If you want to provide refreshments for after Sunday worship, the sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

August Ushers: David Joos (capt.) Ed Boettcher, Scott Boettcher, Harvey Flaten, Doug Nelson, Justin Nelson

August Cleaners: Dave & Connie Paul; Jerry & Carol Logan

WELS News: The 59th Biennial Convention of the WELS was held July 29 to August 3 at Martin Luther College in New Ulm.

Pastor Mark Schroeder, 53, was elected WELS President. He currently was serving as president of Luther Preparatory School in Watertown, WI. He had previously served as pastor in Fond du Lac, WI and in Maitland, FL.

The delegates voted to keep Michigan Lutheran Seminary open and increased the 2008-2009 budget for Ministerial Education by \$2 million to pay for it. The World Missions budget was increased by \$600,000. With inflationary factors and other spending authorized by the convention, former president Gurgel said the convention-approved budget requires an increase in Congregation Mission Offerings of \$3 to \$4 million.

To fund the increase, the resolutions call for a special stewardship effort to emphasize long-term spiritual growth, and direct the Conference of Presidents to maintain and enhance current funding efforts, and authorize a special offering to reduce synodical debt.

"It's a huge challenge the delegates have ascribed to themselves," says Gurgel. "It's not a huge challenge for God. Trusting God and working together as brothers and sisters, we can achieve this huge challenge that we've laid out."

If necessary, the convention has directed the Synodical Council to make adjustments to the 2008-09 budget primarily from Ministry Support, internal borrowing repayment, or Parish Services, and that every effort be made to retain budgets for the Board for Home Missions, the Board for World Missions, and the Board for Ministerial Education.

"My belief is that even though the problems ahead are daunting, we have a renewed resolve to work and walk together," says Pres. Schroeder.

Prayer

Lord, teach us how to pray aright
With rev'rence and with fear.
Though dust and ashes in your sight,
We may, we must draw near.
Give deep humility; the sense
Of godly sorrow give;
A strong desire, with confidence,
To hear your voice and live.

(Christian Worship 412:1, 3)

The Tenth Sunday after Pentecost August 5, 2007

Worship Focus: *Prayer*

Order of Service: *Service of Word and Sacrament*, p. 26

Hymns: 243, 410, 409 & 411, 478:1, 2

God's Word

First Lesson Genesis 18:20-32

Abraham prays persistently with the boldness of faith that the Lord is merciful and will do what is best.

Psalm 6, p. 66

Prayer begins with confession. Only because of God's forgiveness in Jesus is our prayer accepted by him.

Second Lesson Colossians 2:6-15

Sin blocks our prayers. But Jesus took away our sins, nailing them to the cross in his body. Faith in Jesus prays boldly because he has risen from the dead in victory.

Gospel & Sermon:

Luke 11:1-13

Pray without Shame

A. Because the Father has adopted you

B. Because your Father promises you the best