

ENGLISH CHANNELS

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Ministry Spotlight

Congregation creatively shares God's love

By Pastor David Tannahill

The members of Grace Lutheran Church in Vine Grove, KY have found an eye-catching way to share God's love with their downtown neighbors. The congregation meets in what was once a popular store.

The century-old shop, which is listed in the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior, has large display windows. These windows provide a wonderful opportunity to share God's love each season in a variety of creative ways.

The design and detailed work has been undertaken by Cathy White, Barbara Jarboe and Anna Bernard.

Last fall the windows were dressed with a fall and Thanksgiving theme, complete with hay bales, colorful leaves, happy scarecrows, pumpkins and chrysanthemums, along with the verse, "You crown the year with your bounty, and your carts overflow with abundance" (Psalm 65:11).

Last Christmas the windows were filled with colorful lights,

Christmas trees, presents and a running electric train set.

At the center of the display was a large unwrapped present with Jesus in the manger and St. Paul's words, "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2 Corinthians 9:15).

One season the windows were transformed into a fishing pond with rods and reels, tackle boxes and scenery and Jesus' words, "Come, follow me ... and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).

A recent congregational trip to the Creation Museum in Petersburg, KY, provided the inspiration for the new display that has just been prepared for this season.

The windows have now become the Garden of Eden, complete with the sun and stars, Adam and Eve, colorful plants, animals of all sorts including a four-foot whale, and



Cathy White makes adjustments to the newest window display at Grace Lutheran Church in Vine Grove, KY.

the opening words of the Bible, "In the beginning God created ..." (Genesis 1:1).

The windows, which enjoy the sunshine by day, are also lit at night.

Folks will often stop on their way down the sidewalk to look in and see the changing displays. The scenes have inspired smiles, questions and even the occasional knock on the glass and a wave.

The members are delighted that they can add to the charm of downtown Vine Grove and also provide an invitation to worship.



Serving in the new way of the Spirit

Have you ever read over a portion of the Holy Bible countless times and then suddenly discovered something new? The title above is an expression of the Apostle Paul that recently was a new discovery for me. We rejoice every time God leads us to new truths in His Word. In Romans 7:1-6, St. Paul talks about being released from the Law ***“...in order that we might bear fruit to God...and serve in the new way of the Spirit...”*** May I suggest one way of serving?

Our Lord Jesus Christ, said, ***“It is more blessed to give than to receive”*** (Acts 20:35). Christian stewardship is the joy-filled response of the child of God. It recognizes that all resources of life are a gift of God (Psalm 24:1), including time, talent, treasures (money & other wealth), and that a Christian cheerfully responds to God’s costly love in Jesus Christ.

A Christian steward is a disciple (follower) of the Lord Jesus Christ who earnestly seeks to live a God-pleasing life as a man or woman of faith who has been given a new heart and a renewed mind in Christ (adapted words of Mr. Ron Chewning, *“Stewards Living A God-Pleasing Life”*).

This quotation on the back cover from the above noted devotional booklet by Ron & Phyllis Chewning describes stewards:

“As new creations in Christ, we no longer live for ourselves. Having been forgiven and redeemed by our gracious God, we now live to do His will and



New Church Workers’ Conference – August, 2011; from left Rev. John & Mrs. Diener (Grace, Wyoming, MI); Rev. David Adams (Jacob’s Well, Fort Wayne, IN); Rev. Brian Westgate (Faith, Butler, PA); and, Rev. Eric Carlson (Our Savior, Norwood Park, Chicago, IL), with Bishop David Stechholz

fulfill His purposes for our lives. Because of what God has given to us and won for us through Christ, we live with new perspectives and priorities. Through faith, we realize that all we are and have are by God’s grace. Acknowledging our identity and purposes as stewards of God’s creation, we strive to please Him through our faithful stewardship.”

Stewardship began at Creation as recorded in Genesis 1: *“Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it and have dominion over the fish of*

the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth” (Genesis 1:28) [Scripture readings from NIV, NKJV, or ESV.]

What about Jesus’ teaching of stewardship?

We often hear that one-fourth of our Lord’s words in the Gospels were and are about giving of time, talents, and treasures. *“Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”* (Matthew 6:21); *“No one can serve two masters...You cannot serve God and mammon (money)”* (Matthew 6:24); *“Leave her alone. ...Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me (Mary’s anointing of Jesus at Bethany). Wherever the Gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her”* (Mark 14:6, 9); *“Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down...For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you”* (Luke 6:38); *“I have set you an example that you should do as I have*

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Channel Markers (continuation)

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done for you. ... Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them" (John 13:15, 17).

Our Lord taught by word and example. He challenged His followers to a life of faith and service. Many other stewardship passages or stories are found in the Gospels.

The Apostle Paul also spoke about stewardship. But for now let me encourage you in your stewardship, your living a holy, faith-filled, and godly Spirit-guided life.

Stewardship and the Joy-filled Life of Giving

Fund-raising activities in a church are good, but stewardship is something different. Too often God's people confuse bake sales, car washes, and other fund-raising activities as stewardship, which is far more inclusive of all of the Christian life of faith and commitment. Planned giving and leaving a legacy through a will or living trust are also a part of stewardship principles, but again are not a substitute for living the sanctified life of a Christian steward today (right now).

As to managing your financial life, we suggest a simple **10-80-10 plan** – Give a tithe (10%) away to



Pictured on Sept. 23 in Philadelphia are (from left) Eva Fronk, Pat and Lou Gilde, and Bishop Dave Stechholz — all members of District 100th Anniversary Committee.

church and charities; live on and within 80% of your income; and, save 10%. In the Old Testament, a tithe was required. We are neither bound nor limited to a tithe. One may wish to give 12, 15 or 20% to the work of the Lord. 10-80-10 is simply a useful personal or family budgeting model.

Your stewardship is a life-style in relationship to God. God bless you as you live life cheerfully in response to His love for you.

Lutheran Women's Missionary League English District 35th Biennial Convention April 20-22, 2012 Tucson, Arizona

It is the great honor of the women of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, English District, Arizona Zone to host the 35th Biennial English District Lutheran Women's Missionary League Convention, **Rejoice...Bloom...& Shout for Joy!**, in Tucson, Arizona, April 20-22, 2012. Watch for more details and registration information coming soon in The Accent and online! Find us on Facebook at LWML English District Convention 2012. The Sonoran Desert awaits you!

The desert and the parched land will be glad; the wilderness will rejoice and blossom. Like the crocus, it will burst into bloom, it will rejoice greatly and shout for joy. Isaiah 35:1-2a (NIV)

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Chapel of the Cross, St. Peters, MO youth traveled to a Navajo Reservation on their annual mission trip. The week of service included constructing concrete pads for a basketball court for the local community center as well as rebuilding a home for a local woman which had been destroyed by fire a few weeks prior to their arrival. After cleaning up debris caused by the fire, the foundation was laid for the new home which will be a Hogan (traditional eight-sided Navajo dwelling). The trip also included visits to the Painted Desert, Petrified Forest National Park and Grand Canyon.



Brian P. Westgate (third from right, left photo) was ordained on Sunday, June 5, at Zion, Detroit, MI. He was installed

the following Sunday, Pentecost, at Faith, Butler, PA.

Delegates to the 34th Biennial Convention of **the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML)** convened in Peoria, IL, June 23-26, 2011. More than 4,600 women from across the nation gathered to conduct business, renew friendships, and rally around God's Word. The organization adopted a mission goal of \$1.825 million for the 2011-2013 biennium.

The newly elected LWML Executive Committee met recently and announced the theme and scripture verse for the 35th Biennial LWML Convention that will be held June 27-30, 2013 in Pittsburgh, PA. The theme "Quenched! By the Water" is based on John 4:14 [Jesus said] "...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."



Rev. Joshua Gale was installed (left) August 7, 2011 at **Gloria Dei, Blue Bell, PA** as Missionary Developer of

the Northeast Philly Project with **Philadelphia Lutheran Ministries**, a joint ministry of the congregations of the Eastern and English Districts.

Rev. John Diener was installed as Pastor of **Grace, Wyoming, MI**, on Aug. 14, 2011 (photo at right).

On Sunday, August 21, **Faith, Butler, PA** dedicated a "new" cross that is hung over the main entrance to the sanctuary. The cross, made by the late Harold



"Bunkie" Newman, had originally hung on the door of the congregation's first worship space, commonly called "The Shepherd's Shed."

On Sunday, August 28, the **Penn Hills Campus of Redeemer Lutheran School and Church, Oakmont, PA** was dedicated. LCMS President Rev. Matthew Harrison was the preacher. Bishop David Stechholz, Parish Services Executive Tim Ewell and LCMS Director of Schools Bill Cochran also spoke. An open house and dinner followed the very well-attended dedication service which included recognition of faculty members. The first day of school, Monday, August 29 included the start of the high school program (ninth grade). This ministry expansion is one of eight new school starts and/or ministry grade level expansions in the English District for the 2011-12 school year.



School News

Little Praisers enjoy fun-filled summer

By Alicia Levitt

A fun-filled summer has ended for the children at Little Praisers in Fort Wayne, IN. School-age students enrolled in the day camp program at Little Praisers had a busy and exciting schedule. They visited museums and toured local businesses, went bowling and miniature golfing, and attended a Fort Wayne Tin Caps baseball game at Parkview Field.

A typical week at day camp included an afternoon at a nearby splash pad, a picnic at one of Fort Wayne's wonderful parks, and another special field trip. Day Camp leaders this year were Joshua Schultz, a student at Concordia Theological Seminary, and Roxana Becher.

In addition to their planned activities, some of the students started a band called the Pixie Stix. The band wrote and performed songs, including "God is Great and God is Good", for the younger children at Little Praisers' weekly chapel and music times. It was a true highlight of the summer to see and hear the children share their talents and

praise God!

Little Praisers Preschool and Child Care is in its 12th year of ministry. A variety of programs are offered to meet the needs of area families, including part-time preschool, full-time childcare, before and after school care, and summer camp. Little Praisers has a current enrollment of 188 children from six weeks old to 12 years old, and is an outreach ministry of Praise Lutheran Church on Fort Wayne's northwest side.



A big welcome!

Abounding Love Preschool and Parents Day Out, a ministry of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Lee's Summit, MO, is the newest preschool in the English District and opened this fall with 25 students. Lead Teacher LaNette Sunnquist is pictured teaching the children entrusted to her care.

May the peace of the Lord be with you!

Feature

Volunteer Educator of the Year recognized

Lynda Ellis, a Sunday school teacher for 39 years at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sarnia, ON, has been named one of two co-recipients of the 2011 Lumen Christi Award: English District Volunteer Educator of the Year. Tim Ewell, Executive for Parish Services, presented Lynda with the Lumen Christi Award during the worship services at Redeemer Lutheran on Sunday, September 11. It was a “surprise” presentation for the recipient.

Ewell states, “Lynda Ellis has faithfully and fruitfully served the Lord and His little lambs for 39 years as a Sunday School teacher. Her strong love of the Lord and His children and passion for teaching the Word are so evident. Praise God! She is truly a master teacher who so effectively serves the Master Teacher, our Lord Jesus Christ.”



Lynda Ellis is presented with the Lumen Christi Award by Executive for Parish Services Tim Ewell.

Lynda is the wife of Redeemer pastor Rev. Dr. Roger Ellis.

Also on September 11, Redeemer Lutheran installed their Sunday school teachers for the 2011-12 program year and celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the English District – LCMS.

Each year, nominations are sought from the congregations and schools of the English District for this recognition of a servant volunteer educator.

The other co-winner, Arlene Koprivnik, a Sunday School teacher at Our Savior Lutheran Church, Chicago, IL was recognized earlier this year. There is also a Lumen Christi Award for the English District Professional Educator of the Year. For 2011, Cheryl Ehlers, principal of Christ Lutheran School, Phoenix, AZ, was selected for this recognition. The Lumen Christi Awards were established in 1992.

Bishop Stechholz preaches on worldwide TV

Assisting Lutheran Ministries Media (LMM) starting its 31st year of television ministry and in celebration of the English District’s 100-year anniversary, the Rev. Dr. David Stechholz preached on the only Lutheran worldwide television worship service “Worship for Shut-Ins” on Sunday, October 2nd. Bishop Stechholz, the president of the English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod preached on the theme “Always Abounding in the Work of the Lord”, which is the District’s anniversary theme.

Based on I Corinthians 15:58, President Stechholz challenged the viewers no matter what station in life they are in, to be abounding in the Lord’s work. After all, we are all “sent forth by God’s blessing,” he goes on to say. Then Rev. Stechholz emphasized, “We have the message of reconciliation and love for the world of fellow sinners, including those who at this time reject the grace of God and the truths of the saving Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. We have the message of grace, hope and peace with God.”

The current “Worship for Shut-Ins” is not only coast to coast but throughout the world via four satellites on the Total Christian Television (TCT) network. In addition, LMM puts its weekly programs on its website. The TCT network can be seen on DIRECTV Channel 377 and shows “Worship for Shut-Ins” at 11:30 am Eastern time; 10:30 am Central time; 9:30 am Mountain time; and 8:30 am Pacific time.

It also is in over 40 local TV markets which are listed on their **continued on page 8**

Praise youth take mission trip to New York

By Sandy Wright

The junior high youth from Praise, Fort Wayne, IN, arrived at their New York City destination late Monday evening, July 25, 2011. Go Ministries made all the arrangements, including the mission projects, housing at a Brooklyn church, and their guides Mike and Hannah who greeted them when they arrived. Mike and Hannah went everywhere with them, providing safe routes and information. The entire group wore their various "Praise" shirts everywhere they went.

The youth visited a senior center where the residents were delighted to see them. They helped with the seniors' exercise class, sang karaoke, and helped with lunches. They also returned to the center later in the week. During the week, they spent their afternoons at an inner-city park playing with the children using the supplies they brought which included a pinata, face paints, coloring books, crayons, markers, bubbles, Play-Doh, finger nail polish, and water spraying toys. They also formed small groups and headed to different areas for prayer walks. Sometimes they stopped to pray where something bad had happened or where activities were going on, or they would just go up to people and ask if they could pray for them. Some simply said, "No, thank you", but many were happy to accept and thanked them. They worked hard to prepare lunch at a homeless shelter and picked up trash in a low-income housing community. Some of the residents, as well

as some of the people who worked at the property, came out to thank them.

During the day, the group walked to their destinations. In the evening they took some

time to do a little site-seeing while witnessing/evangelizing, going by bus, subway or water bus. They saw the Statue of Liberty, Times Square and the Freedom Tower at Ground Zero. Friday, they dropped off Mike and Hannah at the airport. It was a little hard to say good-bye after spending the week with them sharing God's love.

The youth and chaperones all saw a way of life to which they were not accustomed. Serving others in various ways, witnessing to and praying for complete strangers, opened their eyes and hearts and arms to those in need. This is what Christ would do; this is what Christians can and should do. This is what the group from Praise will always remember.



100th Anniversary Cookbook

"The Great Potluck Across the English District"

The date to order a 100th Anniversary Cookbook has been extended. Please order by Nov. 1 to insure delivery of your Christmas presents. Fill out the order blank and mail it to the English District office with your check made payable to the English District – LCMS in the amount of \$14.00 U.S. funds per book. Please include the name of your church and the cookbooks will be mailed to your church office.

Name: _____

Church Name, City, State: _____

Address: _____

Phone: () _____

Email: _____

Number of books: _____

Total (\$14 x # of books): _____

Check made payable to English District LCMS (U.S. Funds)

Mail to: **English District – LCMS, 33100 Freedom Road, Farmington, MI 48336**

English District Official Acts

Pastors Ordinations/Installations/Initial Membership

The Rev. John Diener, Installed, Sole Pastor, Grace, Wyoming, MI, August 14, 2011; *Candidate Martin Erhardt*, Ordained, Chapel at the Breeze Park, St. Charles, MO, September 16, 2011, Installed, Sole Pastor, Messiah, Princeton, NJ, September 24, 2011

Teachers - Commissionings/Installations/Initial Membership

Jana Horn, Commissioned/Installed, Commissioned Minister, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI, May 14, 2011; *Ellyn Heicher*, Commissioned/Installed, Commissioned Minister, Hales Corners, Hales Corners, WI, May 14, 2011; *Kate Phillips*, Commissioned, Christ, Bouton, IA, July 24, 2011, Installed, Commissioned Minister, Christ, Phoenix, AZ, September 6, 2011; *Sarah Krieger*, Commissioned/Installed, Commissioned Minister, Christ, Phoenix, AZ, August 14, 2011; *Andrew Hulke*, Installed, Commissioned Minister, Christ, Phoenix, AZ, August 14, 2011; *Donna Plumb*, Installed, Commissioned Minister, Christ, Phoenix, AZ, August 14, 2011; *Grace Yuen*, Commissioned/Installed, Commissioned Minister, West Portal, San Francisco, CA, August 21, 2011; *Ashlea Weston*, Installed, Commissioned Minister, Our Savior, Hartland, MI, August 21, 2011; *Korey Danley*, Installed, DCE, Beautiful Savior, Lee's Summit, MO, August 21, 2011; *Theron Jenkins, Jr.*, Commissioned, Christ, Phoenix, AZ, August 28, 2011, Installed, Commissioned Minister, Christ, Phoenix, AZ, September 6, 2011; *Emily Woock*, Installed, Director of Parish Music, Redeemer, Elmhurst, IL, September 11, 2011

Calls Received / Accepted / Declined

The Rev. Mark Biebighauser, Sole Pastor, St. John's, Pulaski, WI (North Wisconsin District), declined;

The Rev. Jonathan Fisk, Associate Pastor, Bethany, Naperville, IL (Northern Illinois District), accepted; *The Rev. Robert Roegner*, Sole Pastor, Peace, O'Fallon, MO (English District), pending; *The Rev. Neil Ray*, Administrative Counselor, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN (Indiana District), accepted

Change of Status

The Rev. Peter Berg, Active to Candidate Status, October 17, 2008; *Carl Hoppe*, Active to Non-Candidate Status, August 1, 2011

Transfers In

Emily Woock, July 31, 2011, Indiana District; *Andrew Hulke*, August 1, 2011, Rocky Mountain District; *Donna Plumb*, August 1, 2011, Pacific Southwest District; *Korey Danley*, August 7, 2011, Pacific Southwest District; *Ashlea Weston*, August 8, 2011, Indiana District; *The Rev. John Diener*, August 14, 2011, Nebraska District; *Rolf Zersen*, Candidate/Commissioned Minister, August 22, 2011, South Wisconsin District; *Suzanne Zobel*, Candidate, Commissioned Minister, September 12, 2011, Michigan District

Transfers Out

John Router, June 15, 2011, Northern Illinois District; *Elaine Moses*, August 1, 2011, Ohio District; *James Pacey*, August 1, 2011, Kansas District; *Charles Novak, Jr.*, August 1, 2011, Northern Illinois District; *Anna Ying na Hu*, August 1, 2011, California-Nevada-Hawaii District; *Heather Culli*, August 15, 2011, South Wisconsin District; *Michelle Annas*, August 15, 2011, Michigan District; *The Rev. Neil Ray*, August 22, 2011, Indiana District; *The Rev. Stephen Zehnder*, August 24, 2011, Florida-Georgia District

Worldwide TV (continuation)

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website, www.worshipforshutins.org, or by calling toll free to 888-286-8002.

Located on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary since August 1, 2010, LMM broadcasts 52 programs a year with no reruns and no commercials. Five Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastors share the pure Gospel message on a rotating basis. The traditional format

has the Bible readings for the day, the Apostles' Creed, the Lord's Prayer, a sermon, and up to four musical selections that are largely the old-time favorites of the viewers. It is largely a traditional service.

If you or your homebound members or friends don't have access to the program through the above outlets, contact LMM's office and ask about their new initiative called "Reach & Preach".