

THE GIFT

A CHRISTIAN PUBLICATION
BY ST. JOHN LUTHERAN

www.stjohnmassbach.org

OCTOBER 2007

SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING ROSTERED LEADERS

At the recent Synod Mission Gathering, and again at the Professional Leaders Conference, Bishop Gary Wollersheim spoke about the need to support and encourage Rostered Leaders. Rostered Leaders are pastors, diaconal ministers, and associates in ministry, the professional leaders who serve the various churches and ministries of the synod and are kept on an official list, or a roster, by the secretary of the synod.

Fourth involves an annual review of salary guidelines. While most pastors find the process of salary review and subsequent congregational vote mortifying, it is critically important to meet or exceed synod guidelines, for a whole host of reasons.

Fifth, and related to the fourth reason above, is assisting with seminary debt retirement. Bishop Wollersheim described this item as "giant." Graduates

Bishop Wollersheim offered 10 points, or topics, or ways, in which congregations can support their rostered leaders.

First, and perhaps most importantly, is prayer. It might sound unconventional, or blindingly obvious depending on your point of view, but Bishop Wollersheim strongly encourages people to pray for their leaders regularly. Before worship, before meetings, and as a part of daily prayer were some suggestions that were made.

Secondly, the Bishop wants to promote supportive communication. This includes things like not triangling the from seminary have, on average, \$30,000 of educational debt, for a minimum of 8 years of college education. Pastor Andersen has about 50% more than that. Bishop Wollersheim pointed out that educational debt reduction is a common practice for various other professionals, using doctors and teachers as examples.

Sixth is keeping the parsonage in good shape. For congregations that provide housing to pastors, it is an

pastor, keeping the pastor informed directly about issues, and being respectful in conversation.

Third would be establishing sabbatical policies. It would be wonderful if every congregation were to offer their pastor the opportunity to take a sabbatical every 5-7 years in order to be refreshed, renewed, and reinvigorated. Pastoral ministry is one of the most stressful occupations in the United States, and sabbaticals should accordingly be designed to renew pastors rather than to retrain them.

issue of hospitality that congregations maintain that housing in a safe and comfortable fashion.

Seventh, Bishop Wollersheim held up respecting time off. Considering that some pastors still only receive one day off a week, work every weekend, every holiday, and are on call twenty-four hours a day/seven days a week, then respecting time off, not calling on the day off, or expecting the pastor to

attend meetings on the day off, is significant.

The eighth item is the Pastor's family, and being considerate of their needs. Clergy and their families live in a metaphorical fish bowl. Respecting their privacy, and respecting their boundaries, is not only a way to support a rostered leader, it is being a good neighbor.

Ninth is remembering special occasions. Keeping in mind primarily anniversaries, things like anniversaries of ordinations, or anniversaries of call to a congregation, or birthdays and other special opportunities that provide an

opportunity to say to your leaders "we value you."

Finally tenth, last but by no means least, is becoming a partner in ministry. This can involve things like doing visitation with, or in addition to your pastor; being part of a staff support committee; or being a part of the ministry of the congregation in any number of ways, rather than expecting the pastor to be the one who does the ministry. In conversation, it was brought up that healthy, supportive congregations have a view of the pastor as a leader / mentor / coach to the congregation

instead of as the church's "employee."

Now I don't think anyone, certainly not Bishop Wollersheim, expects to see all of these items adopted by every congregation immediately, but they are suggestions, and recommendations for congregations and individuals to consider. Perhaps you have other ideas about how you can support and encourage the synods rostered leaders?

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Andersen

HEY! WHAT DID YOU DO LAST WEEKEND?

Is that all? You TOTALLY missed it! The youth group went to Chestnut and went Alpine sledding, it was awesome! We had a blast. Last month, we had a bonfire and played "Ghost in the Graveyard" 'til Pastor's legs gave out. This month we're going to the Haunted House in Lena...I know! I can't wait. Wanna go? We're going on Sunday, October 21st. Yeah...it's cool, you can bring your friends. Call Sandy if you have questions...yeah, that loud singer lady. See ya!

SMOKE FREE ILLINOIS!

The following was received from the JoDavies County Health Department:

The State of Illinois has concluded that there is no risk-free exposure level to secondhand smoke. The only means of eliminating health risks associated with secondhand smoke exposure is to eliminate all smoking activity indoors. Therefore,

Smoke Free Illinois will go into effect on January 1, 2008!

So, now would be a great time to quit smoking! Quitting is hard work and a lot of effort, but you can quit smoking! The Illinois

KITCHEN SUPPLIES ARE IN!

Kitchen supplies have been purchased for the church and there are plenty of them. Not all of the supplies would fit in the cabinet in the kitchen, so if you can't find enough of what you need, contact Sandy Andersen. Thanks.

ELBOW GREASE WANTED!

Are you interested in helping tidy up the storage room in the basement? If so, visit the sign-up sheet in the narthex so that you can be contacted to set up a clean-up date. Ideas on how to arrange the storage room to make it conducive to all would also be appreciated.

Department of Public Health has a toll-free *Quit* line – 866 QUIT YES (1-866-784-8937). The *Quit line* service is available Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 7 PM CST. The staff can answer questions, assist with quit plans, or help revise plans and provide tips while offering support and encouragement in the smoking cessation process.

For more information on quitting smoking, visit <http://www.idph.state.il.us/> and click on Illinois Smoke-Free Communities at the bottom of the screen. Or, you may call the JoDaviess County Environmental Health Department at 815-777-0283 or email us at environmentalhealth@jodaviess.org.

LUTHER COLLEGE TO HOST WRITING FESTIVAL

HEAR OUR PRAYER

Raymond and Florence Steffes, Kevin Meiners, Lucille Groezinger, Kay Gipe, Warren Parker, Allison Hillen, Jim Krohmer, Donna Wurster, Dennis Ulicny, Bailey McMannus, Robert and Jeanette Yeager, Warren Dailey, Joan Bonvillain, Dan Koester, and the men and women serving in the world's armed forces.

* Updates Appreciated*

THOUGHTS OF GRATITUDE

Travel to Decorah, IA November 2-4, 2007 for the first-ever Lutheran writing festival! *Called to Create: A Lutheran Festival of Writing* is open to all and will bring together writers of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry who have been shaped by the Lutheran tradition. Over 20 award-winning authors will read their work and talk about how this writing aims to illuminate lives. For complete information about the festival, presenters, and how to register, visit <http://programming.luther.edu/luthcranwriters/>

“CONCERTS AT THE CASTLE”

Wartburg Theological Seminary is hosting some musical entertainment in the upcoming months:

Friday, October 19 @ 7PM in Loehe Chapel:

“Archiglas” - Russian Acappella Ensemble

No charge, however, freewill offering will be collected

Sunday, December 9 @ 5PM in Loehe Chapel:

“Advent at the Castle” – A service of Lessons and Carols

Friday, January 25, 2008 @ 8PM in St. Raphael's Cathedral:

“The Luther College Nordic Choir” – Sponsored by Wartburg Seminary

Adults \$15, Students \$8
Call 563-589-0300 for tickets

A great big “thank you” to all you wonderful people at church for all the help you gave me when I passed out. We found out how many great nurses, EMTs, and other helpers we have at St. John's. Thank you to Daylon for driving to Derinda to tell Peggy; to Mildred, a great daughter-in-law, for abandoning her mother whom she brought to church, to ride with me in the ambulance to the hospital; and to Peggy and Ron who took care of their dad, and are still helping out; and to any others who looked after him.

I apologize to Pastor for interrupting his service and thank him gratefully for his visits and prayers.

The doctors couldn't find anything wrong with me, so maybe it was a wake-up call. God Bless each and every one of you.

Raymond is back in the hospital with a cracked knee. We wish to thank all who have sent cards, made phone calls, visited, brought flowers, delivered tapes and bulletins, and mostly for your concern and prayers. This has been a rough year, but God will see us through. We were never promised a rose garden, but we have enjoyed some great years together.

Blessings, prayers, and our love be with you all.

Raymond and Florence Steffes

FEEDING THE LESS FORTUNATE

The Stockton Food Pantry was very pleased to receive the food and monetary donations from St. John Lutheran Church. They were very appreciative. I would like to thank everyone who helped me by donating to this cause.

SAVE THE DATES!

October 28th – Confirmation Sunday with reception following and Sunday School Halloween Party

November 11th – Worship with Bishop Wollersheim and fellowship to follow

TAKE ADVANTAGE!

Pastor Andersen is offering opportunities for you to explore and strengthen your Lutheran faith:

- ✓ Book Club every Thursday at 7:30 PM or Saturday at 3:00 PM
- ✓ Office Hours on Wednesday afternoons from 3-5 PM
- ✓ Individual confession and absolution on Wednesdays from 5-7 PM
- ✓

END OF THE YEAR SCHEDULE

Treasurer's Helper:

- October - Daylon Scheele
- November – Vicki Wurster
- December – Calvin Klopf
- January 2008 – Julie Yuswak

Michael Carroll

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St John Lutheran Church of Massbach,

On behalf of the Stockton Food Pantry, I would like to thank your congregation for your food collections and money donations. Your generosity is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Irma Zueger
Food Pantry Coordinator

GIFTS FOR GREG

A small care package is currently being assembled for Greg Klopf, a St. John member currently serving in Iraq. Please be sure to sign the card in the narthex or drop one in the box marked "Greg." Anyone wishing to donate items may also place them in the box or monetary donations toward DVDs may be given to Jen Johnson by October 14th.

Ushers:

October – Pat and Meredith Townsend, Ken and June Eden

November – Steve, Jake, Sam, and Tom Eden

December – David Albrecht; Jody, Michael, and Matthew Carroll

January 2008 – Joe Dvorak, Sandy Andersen, Carl and Sam Albrecht

START YOUR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING EARLY!

Don't forget there are still 150th Anniversary items available – pictorial directories, crocks, cookbooks, mugs, and commemorative DVD's coming soon!

QUIZ TIME

Did you know...

- ❑ In Japan, you can rent a dog. It costs 500 yen, or about \$4 for a walk around the block.
- ❑ An elephant's tooth can weigh as much as a bowling ball.
- ❑ It gets so cold in Siberia that your breath can turn to ice in midair.