

Church Simple: What does it mean to be church in this culture?

“And God said to them ...” (Gen. 1:28).

The paradigm is shifting in the American church. A marked decline in denominationalism challenges every one of us to rethink what it means to be church in the 21st century.

To rethink anew what it means to be church is OK. It is actually proper for God’s people of all time and in every place to do so in order to

regain not only focus but also to realign itself around its centering focus: Jesus Christ and His Word. This is necessary as the church is ever wobbly, losing its balance either by wayward teaching or unholy living.



Rev. Randall Golter

By the time you read this article, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will have met in Houston for its 64th convention. How does the

Synod fit into this church talk? Is the Synod church, or is it merely a human organization that is run only and strictly by constitutions and bylaws? If the Synod is merely a human organization, ought it therefore to have no churchly aspects to it?

I propose to you that unless we get to a deeper understanding of what it is to be church in this culture, no number of evangelism or stewardship programs will matter one bit in terms of the Missouri Synod. And it likely won’t matter either when it comes to the local church. If there is no thinking through on the matter of church, especially at this time of our existence—both individually and corporately—then I will predict each of us will lose our saltiness. And, if one loses the essence of what it is to be a child of God, then what good is any one of us for Christ in His mission to the lost (Matt. 5:13)?

At the heart of the matter, according to the above Bible verse in Genesis, church is God speaking to His creatures, Adam and Eve. “God said to them,” the text reads. God speaks and His creatures hear. Church simple is as simple as that. Church is God speaking His words to those who have ears to hear.

Fundamentally, God speaks His will toward His creation. “I have loved you with an everlasting love” (Jer. 31:3). Of course, for God to speak means that He wills to speak, that is, He desires to speak to His creation.

He could remain silent, but God’s silence signals death for His own. His words offer and give life (John 6:63b).

God’s work in His congregations and schools through His church workers in the Rocky Mountain District is essentially this simple: Letting God speak to people through His Word of Law and Gospel.

Next month, Church Simple will focus on God’s initiative to act.

*Rev. Randall Golter
District President*

Karen Burns retires

Karen Burns, administrative assistant to Rocky Mountain District President Randy Golter, retired at the end of May.

In 1977, Karen was hired as a secretary in the office of what was then the Colorado District under President Ralph Phipps. The Colorado District became the Rocky Mountain District in October 1983. Karen subsequently served with President John Petersen from 1985 to 1993, President Roger Krause from 1993 to 2003, and President Golter since 2003.

Karen’s husband, Rod, also plans to retire soon. They have two children, Doug and Shelley. Retirement will give them time to travel and visit their families.

District communications previously addressed to Karen may now be sent to Monique at monique@rm.lcms.org.

May our gracious Lord, who blessed Karen with the abilities and talents to serve His workers for these many years, now bless Karen and Rod with contentment and safe travel in their years of retirement.



After 32 years of faithful service working with four district presidents, Karen Burns retired this past May. Well done, thou good and faithful servant!

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MISSION FOCUS

Ethiopian Ministry in Aurora, Colo.

History of the Lutheran Church in Ethiopia

Ethiopia was one of the first Christian countries in the world, having adopted Christianity as the state religion in the fourth century. At the turn of the 19th century, Ethiopian Christians began proclaiming the Gospel with the help of Lutheran and Presbyterian missionaries in Ethiopia. From these joint efforts, the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) was instituted as a national church in January 1959. EECMY is the largest Lutheran church body in Africa, and the second largest in the world, with more than 6,600 congregations and more than 5 million members.

Between 1974 and 1991 the communist-controlled government closed every Christian church with the exception of the Lutheran Mekane Yesus ("House of God"). Mekane Yesus was spared because of its emphasis on educating the young. Many of the churches that were closed went underground and began to be re-established once the communist rule fell.



Tomas Bayou

Tomas Bayou is a young, dedicated Ethiopian immigrant Christian who has sensed God's call to ministry. His great-great-great-grandfather was one of the founders of the Christian mission movement in Ethiopia. Although his father was a communist, through the faithful influence of his mother Tomas was raised as a Lutheran Christian. In his late teens, through the sponsorship of his uncle living in Irvine, Calif., Tomas

had the opportunity to leave his Third World country and attend school in America. He became a naturalized citizen in his senior year of college.

However, in time it became apparent that his uncle's household was not a good place for him spiritually. So Tomas traveled to San Jose, and there was introduced to an Ethiopian (non-Lutheran) church and pastor. While at San Jose, his pastor discussed with Tomas his possible calling to serve the church. (This senior pastor eventually converted to the Lutheran faith and left to attend Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.)

Meanwhile, Tomas was called by the Ethiopian Evangelical Church (a non-Lutheran church) in Denver, Colo., to serve as a youth pastor. During the months he served there, he recognized that something

was missing in the church's theology, particularly regarding Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper. At this time he reconnected with his Lutheran roots and, with the encouragement of his Lutheran pastor friend, he decided to return to Irvine to attend Concordia University in order to study for the Lutheran ministry in a special program (Cross-cultural Ministry Center) conducted in partnership with Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

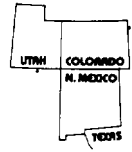
A new Ethiopian ministry in Aurora

Two years later, Tomas returned to the Denver area and met with Rev. Mark Larson, then mission executive for Rocky Mountain District, to discuss the need for Lutheran Ethiopian immigrant ministry. There are many reasons to establish such a ministry in Aurora, the most compelling being that the Ethiopian population in the Aurora area numbers around 25,000. Many of these immigrants, who are well-acquainted with Lutheranism from their homeland, first settled on the East and West Coasts where their sponsors were located. A second generation of Ethiopians lives within the Ethiopian immigrant culture but speaks English. Job opportunities and lower cost of living have made the greater Denver area a more desirable place to live than either of the coasts. Today, Denver joins Washington (D.C.), Los Angeles, Houston, and Atlanta as the fastest-growth areas of Ethiopian population.

Tomas is currently in the third year of his four-year program of study, one especially designed as an alternative route to ministry that equips candidates for cross-cultural church planting. He attends two 10-day classes each summer in Irvine and, through Distance Education, takes 12 credit hours of classes each semester through the remainder of the year. At the end of the four years, he will have his master of arts in theology and a certification for ordination. This will make him eligible to become a rostered LCMS pastor.

Tomas serves as vicar at Peace With Christ Lutheran Church in Aurora under the supervision of Pastor Michael Hiller. While on his vicarage, he is connecting with people and planning his future ministry in Aurora. He also is meeting once a week in Boulder with a growing group of Colorado University students from Ethiopia for a Bible study at University Lutheran Chapel.

Upon completion of his vicarage in this coming year, Tomas will need new sources of financial support. It is his desire to begin his ministry by establishing an early



childhood center that will welcome all but focus especially on the Ethiopian immigrant population of Aurora. Tomas would minister to all the families who come to the center, both addressing their felt need for safe and affordable child care, as well as filling their even greater need to hear the Christian Gospel.

Please keep Tomas and his ministry in your prayers. He is ready and willing to speak at district congregations about this open door of mission opportunity. He can be reached at Peace With Christ in Aurora. Specifically designated gifts of financial support can be directed to the attention of Rev. Thomas Schoech, development director, at the Rocky Mountain District, 14334 E. Evans Ave., Aurora, CO 80014.

Pastor from Bethlehem, Palestine, to visit Denver in September

Dr. Mitri Raheb, pastor of Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem, Palestine, will be in Denver Sept. 21-24 and will present a number of open forums.

Bright Stars of Bethlehem (BSB) will hold its annual area and local representative conference in Denver on the 23rd and 24th. BSB promotes awareness of and support for the Lutheran ministries in Bethlehem.



Dr. Mitri Raheb

Several opportunities to hear Pastor Raheb will be available during this time. On Tuesday evening, Sept. 21, a community and interfaith forum will be held at Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church, Denver, where he will give a presentation on “keys to understanding the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.”

On Wednesday morning, the 22nd, Pastor Raheb will lead clergy in a discussion and dialog of the Kairos Document, a “prayerful call of Palestinian Christians to end the occupation.” This gathering will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church, 4500 E. Hampden Ave., Denver.

Thursday evening will see a presentation of the ministries sponsored by the Lutheran church in Bethlehem, including the Dar al-Kalima (“House of the Word”) College. This will be held at the conference hotel, a site yet to be chosen.

Six presidents of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod colleges recently signed “Memorandums of Under-

standing” with Dar al-Kalima College that will involve the exchange of students and faculty, online courses, master’s degree programs, and other activities. Dar al-Kalima is the only Lutheran college in the Middle East.



Bright Stars of Bethlehem promotes awareness of and support for Lutheran ministries in Bethlehem, including Christmas Lutheran Church, shown above.

Dr. Raheb also is director of the Diyar Consortium, a group of ministries which includes a school (kindergarten through 12th grade); a wellness center and clinic; parish nurse, senior, family, and youth programs; and a leadership training program for young adults.

More details will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. For additional information, contact Pastor Arnie Voigt at 303-798-7887 or arnievoigt@msn.com.

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*When possible, send photos digitally,
in JPEG format, 300 dpi.*

TEACHERS HONORED

Lemke named LEA Outstanding New Lutheran Elementary Teacher

Julie Lemke is the 2010 Outstanding New Lutheran Elementary Teacher. She was serving as middle school teacher and technology resource adviser at Christ Lutheran School in Albuquerque, N.M., at the time of her award. In late spring, she accepted a call to St. John's Lutheran School in Denver, Colo., and will begin teaching there in the fall.



Shown with Julie after she received the Outstanding New Lutheran Elementary Teacher award are Rev. Neal Groeling, pastor of Christ Lutheran Church; Mark von Soosten, principal of Christ Lutheran School; and Jonathan C. Laabs, executive director, Lutheran Education Association.

Ms. Lemke is a 2007 magna cum laude graduate from Concordia University Wisconsin, where she also earned a place on the President's Honor List and served as Student Government Association Leader.

In addition to teaching at Christ Lutheran, Ms. Lemke led Bible study, worked with the youth group, and was involved in the choir, hand bell choir, Joyful Noise Praise Team, vacation Bible school, and Lutheran Women's Missionary League. In the community, she coached and judged the English Expo team and participated in the Air Force Research Laboratory La Luz Academy Teacher Institute, where she worked with other teachers to develop lessons that use science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Ron Brandhorst receives prestigious award

Concordia University Nebraska, Seward, conferred the Master Educator Award to Ron Brandhorst at its commencement ceremonies on May 8. The Master Educator Award is presented to teachers, directors of Christian education, and school administrators who

have distinguished themselves through prolonged superior service in educational ministry and who typify the many superior educators in our congregations.

Ron graduated from Concordia in 1966 and has served his entire ministry with Lutheran High School in Denver, Colo. During that time he filled many roles, including teaching in the science and English departments, coaching track, and leading service clubs. Although officially retired, Ron can still be seen around the school, teaching a class some semesters, working with the alumni association, or offering a helping hand wherever needed.



Ron Brandhorst received the Master Educator Award from Concordia University President Brian Friedrich at commencement ceremonies in Seward, Neb.



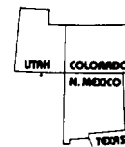
Offering Ron congratulations are Concordia University faculty members (Denver Lutheran High alumni) Kevin Kromminga ('85), Becky Kromminga ('85), Bernie Tonjes ('70), Rob Hermann ('83), and Lon Jungeman ('74).

After commencement ceremonies, Ron was congratulated by the many Denver Lutheran High graduates who are on staff at Concordia University Nebraska and alumni who graduated during commencement ceremonies. Their joy at seeing Ron receive this award is a



tribute to his love for and service to students and the Lord throughout his career.

Mark Samuels ('98), a track coach at Concordia, recalls his years as a runner on Ron's track team at Lutheran High.



Concordia University graduates who took time after their own commencement ceremonies to congratulate Ron were Brittnie Besel, Megan Koziel, and Jenna Lindemann. Brittnie was named Outstanding Primary Teacher at graduation. Read more about her in the following article.

Congratulations, Ron, and thank you for your many years of service to our Lord and our students in the Rocky Mountain District!

At what price the call?

The Rocky Mountain District Scholarship Committee was formed for the purpose of collecting funds and distributing scholarships to financially assist district LCMS college and seminary students undertaking church-work majors. Through the RMD Scholarship Fund, they hope to raise up and support Lutheran pastors, teachers, DCEs, and deaconesses who will share the Gospel and, through the Holy Spirit, bring unbelievers to faith in our Savior, Jesus Christ. In this article the committee will attempt to demonstrate the need for funding and offer multiple opportunities for you to respond to that need.

The cost of college

Did you know the average annual cost of tuition, fees, room, and board at the Concordia universities responding to our survey for 2009-10 was \$28,920? While costs vary, the average in-state cost for services at public universities in Colorado and Utah was \$15,742. The disparity between the cost of attending a Concordia University and a state university can be attributed to state budgetary support. The 2010-11 cost to attend Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is \$41,538.

While students receive scholarships and grants, the amount of unmet financial need is significant. For the 2009-10 academic year, the RMD Scholarship Committee acted upon applications from 41 RMD university and seminary students demonstrating unmet financial need of \$597,076. To offset this, the committee was

able to award only \$30,000. Clearly, the need for your help is great.

Public teacher salaries vs. RMD salary guidelines

The incremental cost of obtaining a teaching degree from a Concordia University versus a state university is only part of the issue. Another “cost of the call” is found in what a new graduate in education can expect to earn. According to *Teacher Portal*, the average starting salary for new public school teachers in Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah range from a low of \$26,521 in New Mexico to a high of \$35,086 in Colorado. While adjustments need to be made for housing allowance, local conditions, etc., the RMD salary guideline for a starting teacher is \$30,453.

Responding to the call

Despite the prospect of paying higher tuition and potentially earning a lower wage, many of our talented youth are responding to God’s call. Brittnie Besel states well the motivation to respond to God and her thankfulness to RMD Scholarship Fund supporters when she writes, “When it came time to figure out where I would be going to college, the decision was easy for me. I knew what a great place Concordia was as far as academics were concerned, but I had no idea how much it would prepare me for the rest of my life. Coming from a family of church workers, I had no idea how I was going to pay for it, but I learned early on in life that God provides for our every need.



Brittnie Besel

“He did not prove me wrong because quite a few things just seemed to fall into place for me, including the scholarship that I received from the Rocky Mountain District. Without this scholarship, I would have had more loans than anyone can manage and may have had to sacrifice the incredible experience that I had at Concordia. Now I

not only have a degree in elementary education, a Lutheran Teachers Diploma, and a concentration in health education, but I have grown as a person, developed incredible relationships, and have been blessed with the gift of faith in Christ that is constantly growing deeper and deeper.

“The financial aid that was given to me by the Rocky Mountain District is what made this possible for me when attending college. I am truly grateful for this

(Continued on Page H.)

AROUND THE DISTRICT

Good Shepherd, Leadville, members celebrate 50 years of God's grace

On Sunday, June 6, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church of Leadville celebrated its 50th anniversary. Pastor Bernhard Seter of North Dakota, a son of the congregation, preached at the morning service. He talked about serving in Kenya and India with LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Drawing on his experiences, he reminded the congregation that faith shows love to the neighbor.

At the afternoon festival service, Pastor Christian Rasmussen, who has served the parish since 2001, offered the faithful the Blessed Sacrament. Pastor Dwight Hellmers of Golden, Colo., pastor of the parish from 1976 to 1979, preached.

Taking an idea from the area's mining history, Hellmers reminded the congregation that at their altar, pulpit, and font they find the true gold of the Holy Gospel, not the fool's gold that others offer. Vicar Brian Westgate assisted, and members from Christ in Breckenridge, Colo., helped serve dinner.



Participating in the afternoon festival service were Vicar Westgate, Pastor Rasmussen, and Pastor Hellmers.

Brooke Ortmayer takes national honors

Brooke Ortmayer, a sixth-grader at Trinity Lutheran School, Franktown, Colo., captured first place in the nation in the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) writing contest. The contest's theme was "America, Land of Opportunity," and the title of Brooke's essay was "The Brave Move."

In addition to Brooke's outstanding essay, Justin Vaughn (fifth grade), Shelby Burris (sixth



Pictured are, from left, Kathy Fonda, DAR representative; Brooke Ortmayer; and Dr. Ken Palmer, principal.

grade), Michael Sims (seventh grade), and Amalia Helmkamp (eighth grade) all received second-place honors in Colorado.



Pictured above are all the Trinity Lutheran School award winners (from left): Justin Vaughn, Michael Sims, Amalia Helmkamp, Brooke Ortmayer, and Shelby Burris.

Seminary candidates, vicars, and deaconesses assigned to our district

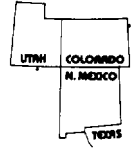


During Call Day services on April 27 at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, 111 pastoral calls, 88 vicarages, four deaconess assignments, and one deaconess internship were announced. Those assigned in the Rocky Mountain District, pictured with spouses and the district president, are (front row) Adam Hengst, Sue Lozano, Mario Lozano, RMD President Randall Golder, (back row) Dawn Timm, and Gary Timm.

AT RIGHT—Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, candidate Elisha Lietzau (shown with his wife, Joy) received his pastoral assignment to Faith in Christ, Albuquerque, N.M.



AT LEFT—CTS student Chadwick Potts received his vicarage assignment to Good Shepherd, Leadville, Colo. He is shown with his wife, Michelle, and their sons: Ezekiel, Joshua, Noah, and Seth.



Rocky Mountain District calendar

August

- 9-10 RMD Board of Directors meeting
- 10-12 Circuit Counselors Conference, Denver

September

- 14-16 Rocky Mountain District Older Adult Gathering

October

- 6-8 Professional Church Workers Conference, Breckenridge, Colo.
- 24 Denver area Reformation Festival, Peace, Arvada, Colo.

Calls in the district

2010 spring candidate placements and vicarage assignments for the Rocky Mountain District

CANDIDATES

- Elisha J. Lietzau, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, to Faith in Christ, Albuquerque, N.M.
- Gary Timm, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Gethsemane, Northglenn, Colo.
- Mariano Lozano, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Mission, Las Cruces, N.M., as Hispanic Ministry missionary.
- Daniel Vanderhyde, Concordia University, Irvine, Calif., to Denver LHS, Denver, Colo.
- Michelle Fischer, Concordia University, Portland, to Bethlehem Lutheran School, Lakewood, Colo.

VICARS

- Adam Hengst, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, to Bethlehem, Lakewood, Colo.
- Chadwick Potts, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, to Good Shepherd, Leadville, Colo.

CALLS EXTENDED

- Zion, Tobias, Neb., to Jessica Leseburg, Messiah, Longmont, Colo.
- Lutheran Central School, Brownstown, Ind., to Matthew Frick, Salt Lake LHS, Salt Lake City, Utah.
- South Wisconsin District to Mark L'Heureux, Immanuel, Loveland, Colo., as education executive.
- Faith, Buena Vista, Colo., to Rev. Dan Muecke, Dearborn, Mich.
- Trinity Lutheran School, St. George, Utah, to Janet Cloeter, Alta Loma, Calif.
- Messiah Lutheran School, Longmont, Colo., to William Busacker, Grace, Sandy, Utah.
- Trinity Lutheran Church, Garden City, Kan., to Jim

Nash, Trinity, Sterling, Colo.

- St. Luke's Lutheran School, Santa Rosa, Calif., to Michael Glowinski, Northglenn, Colo.
- Grace Lutheran School, Sandy, Utah, to Kristine Marlatt, Sandy, Utah.
- Grace Lutheran School, Sandy, Utah, to Lyn Stennett, Sandy, Utah.

CALLS ACCEPTED

- Rev. David Boyd, to Faith, Las Cruces, N.M., as intentional interim minister.
- Rev. Charles Ransdell Jr., to Faith, Port Huron, Mich.
- Jessica Leseberg, Messiah, Longmont, Colo., to Zion, Tobias, Neb.
- Sarah Andrews, Concordia University Nebraska, to Farmington, N.M., as director of Christian education (DCE).
- Julie Lemke, Christ, Albuquerque, N.M., to St. John's, Denver, Colo.
- Mark L'Heureux, Immanuel, Loveland, Colo., to South Wisconsin District as education executive.
- Lisa O'Brien, Christ, Murray, Utah, to Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale, Ariz.
- Matthew Frick, Salt Lake LHS, Salt Lake City, Utah, to Lutheran Central School, Brownstown, Ind.
- Rebekah Dorn, Appleton, Wis., to Immanuel Lutheran School, Albuquerque, N.M.
- Rev. Dan Muecke, Dearborn, Mich., to Faith, Buena Vista, Colo.
- Michael Glowinski, Northglenn, Colo., to St. Luke's Lutheran School, Santa Rosa, Calif.

CALLS DECLINED

- Janet Cloeter, Alta Loma, Calif., to Trinity Lutheran School, St. George, Utah.

CHANGE OF STATUS

- Don Weidner, St. John's Lutheran School, Denver, Colo., to non-candidate status.
- Sharon Kembel, Trinity, Fort Morgan, Colo., to non-candidate status.
- Rev. Andrew Byars, non-candidate to candidate status.
- Margaret Hinchey, Our Father, Centennial, Colo., to candidate status.
- Dr. Donald Hinchey, Our Father, Centennial, Colo., to emeritus.
- Robbin Kitashima, Denver, Colo., to non-candidate.
- Emilie Meyer, Albuquerque, N.M., to non-candidate status.

OPPORTUNITIES

AT WHAT PRICE THE CALL?

(Continued from Page E.)

scholarship fund, and I pray that future students will be given the same opportunities that I was blessed with. I trust that God will continue to provide for His servants through this scholarship fund.”

How can we honor those responding to the call?

If we as individuals and churches value the training of church workers, then are we not compelled to willingly support those who respond to God’s call? How can we do this?

A) In keeping with Ephesians 4, Galatians 6, 1 Thesalonians 5, and 1 Timothy 3, we can pay and care for our staffs appropriately.

B) We can directly support our universities and seminaries with financial gifts.

C) We can contribute directly to the RMD Scholarship Fund to support students like Brittne.

Current gifts will be used to support students in the current year, while legacy gifts will be managed by the LCMS Foundation and annual earnings thereon will be awarded in the current year.

Your gifts may be directed to Doug Ullmann, RMD executive administrator, at the district office. If you would like to discuss the work of the RMD Scholarship Committee, please contact Pastor Chris Matthis at 303-781-5887. Thank you for your financial and prayerful support.

Reformation Festival coming soon

I love the word “festival.” It’s a word that usually denotes that something special, something celebrative is happening. And the thing that makes any festival great is when the following three things are involved: God, people, and food!

The Denver area Reformation Festival will begin at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 24, at Peace Lutheran Church in Arvada, Colo. Rev. Alfonso Espinosa, senior pastor at Living Word Lutheran Church, The Woodlands, Texas, will be the guest speaker. The service will feature

incredible music, a mass choir, Denver Lutheran High School choir, a children’s choir, great fellowship, and great food!

Food, you say?

Yes, for the first time in recent memory, the festival will feature



catered brats, sauerkraut, hot dogs, and chips, along with a time of fellowship in Peace’s parish hall immediately after the service.

So make this service a priority. Let’s fill the sanctuary! Let’s celebrate our heritage! Let’s enjoy each other’s company! Let’s enjoy great food!

Come one and come all to the only service that brings Christians together from Lutheran churches all over the Denver area! We will see you there!

Pastor Dave Ahlman

Reformation Service Committee Chairman

Something to think about

Without student financial aid, most students could not afford to attend college. According to recent U.S. Department of Education estimates, 80 percent of all full-time undergraduate students receive some type of financial aid. These students face average costs close to \$22,000 per year and average nearly \$13,000 per year in aid.

In addition, a master of divinity student will attend seminary for three years plus his vicarage year. According to Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, in the 2010-11 school year, most students will receive between 40 and 50 percent of their tuition as gift aid directly from the seminary. Tuition, books and supplies, room and board, and health insurance will cost about \$34,700. Even with a 50 percent gift aid for tuition, students still incur a \$23,700 obligation per year. If the student is married with one or more children, which many candidates are today, the cost can go up another \$5,000 to \$8,000 per year.

With figures like those stated above, it is easy to see how anyone completing seminary training can end up with quite substantial educational debt. The district’s Debt Assistance Program exists to help our pastors repay that debt. Please consider a gift to the Debt Assistance Program, either for current use or for investment in the endowment fund for future use. Above all, please pray for all our pastors and the work they do.

“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Rom. 10:14).

