



## ***“In Christ: Living Life to the Full”***

**Editorial from Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick  
Chairman, International Lutheran Council**



Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick

Grace and peace be with you, from God our Father and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

This article is written only five weeks prior to the 2009 conference of the International Lutheran Council. The theme for this 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the

ILC is *“In Christ: Living Life to the Full.”* It will be held at the Hanwha Resort in Youngin City, about two hours from the Seoul Incheon International Airport (ICN) in Korea. By this time most of you have finalized your travel plans. I pray for the presence of our guardian angels as we travel many miles from many places to gather together for this conference.

It is my privilege to express in advance of the conference my sincere appreciation to Dr. Hyun-Sup Um, President of the Lutheran Church in Korea, the host church for this conference. For many months significant time and energy have been spent in preparation for our gathering by Dr. Um, ably assisted by Rev. Patrick O’Neal, Strategic Mission Developer for North Asia - LCMS World Mission. Without their efforts and the work of our ILC executive secretary, Dr. Samuel Nafzger, this conference would not occur.

Appreciation is also expressed to Dr. John Eckrich, a retired medical doctor from St. Louis, Missouri, USA, who has a deep concern for pastors and their spouses. Dr. Eckrich has developed a ministry called ‘Grace Place’ to assist pastors and their spouses live balanced lives, with particular emphasis on the holistic health of pastors, their marriages, and ministries.

In the past several years Dr. Eckrich and his wife Kathy have worked together with Dr. David Ludwig and his wife, also named Kathy, in conducting Grace Place retreats for the Council of Presidents and their spouses of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. I believe you will find the ministry we will receive from these four wonderful Lutheran Christian people to be a genuine blessing.

We all are quite well aware of the stresses and pressures experienced by those in the pastoral ministry. As national church body presidents, bishops, or archbishops, we live with the challenges and unique tensions that come from the duties and responsibilities of ecclesiastical supervisors and national church body leaders. In our respective church bodies we, along with our wives, are without peer, which adds a special burden for each of us to carry.

So we prepare to gather in Seoul for worship and in depth study, reflection and meditation on God’s Word. Our time will endeavor to help us achieve proper balance in body, mind, and spirit, with special attention to the importance of proper nutrition, exercise, rest, study, and worship. Our focus will be on *“In Christ: Living Life to the Full.”*

As we prepare to gather together, it is important to recall the Holy Spirit-inspired words of St. Paul to the Christians in Ephesus:

<sup>22</sup>Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup>For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup>Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. <sup>25</sup>Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup>that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup>so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. <sup>28</sup>In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup>For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, <sup>30</sup>because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and

the two shall become one flesh.”<sup>32</sup>This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.<sup>33</sup>However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (Ephesians 5:22-33-ESV)

God’s grace, mercy, power, and peace be with you all!




---

## The Lutheran Church in Korea - Host to the 2009 Conference of the International Lutheran Council

---



By Tae Sung Choi - The Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK) celebrated fifty years of ministry in 2008, but the first Lutheran arrived in Korea much earlier. In July of 1832, Karl Friedrich August Gutzlaff, a Lutheran from Germany,

became the first protestant missionary in Korea. He translated the Lord’s Prayer into Korean and introduced potatoes and grapes to the Korean people.

Gutzlaff’s visit was brief, but sustained Lutheran mission work began in Korea on 13 January 1958 with the arrival of LCMS missionaries: Rev. L. Paul Bartling, Rev. Maynard W. Dorow, and Rev. Kurt E. Voss; who were followed later by Korean-born Rev. Won Yong Ji. They developed mission principles which were: 1) not to compete unnecessarily with the existing denominations in Korea; 2) not to “steal” members from other church bodies in Korea; 3) to be a ‘plus’ to Korean Christendom; 4) to carry out the common tasks of Christians (such as social welfare) in cooperation with other Christians in Korea; 5) to promote the theology of Martin Luther and the heritage of the Reformation.

Following these principles, the Lutheran Church in Korea focused on mission through publishing and mass media. The LCK served the whole Korean Church through the Lutheran Hour, Concordia Publishing House (Korea), Christian Church Communications (700 000 membership), and Bethel Bible Study (which has trained 16 000 pastors and 450 000 lay people).

The LCK established Luther University/Seminary (LTU), which now has seven departments serving both undergraduate and graduate students. LTU supports the church by training pastors and talented young Christian students for service in the church and the world.

The LCK also has a shelter and soup-kitchen for homeless people as well as local children day care-centers for helping children whose parents are low income.

Currently a new building totaling 29 stories is being constructed. The rental income from this building will be used to fund church planting, scholarships, as seed money for overseas mission work, and to fund the pension of retired pastors.

The LCK has 43 congregations and about 6 000 members and has set a goal of growing to 500 congregations by the time it celebrates its centennial anniversary in 2058.



LCK President  
Dr. Hyun Sub Um

Rev. Dr. Hyun Sub Um has served as the President of the Lutheran Church in Korea since 2005. President Um is excited for the LCK to host the 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the International Lutheran Council in Korea, from 26 to 31 August 2009, under the theme “*In Christ: Living Life to the Full.*”

---

## Ablaze! Faith-sharing Counter Exceeds 10 Million

---

LCMSNews - No. 37 - by Paula Schlueter Ross - The Web-based “counter” that tracks the number of times LCMS Lutherans have shared their faith with others as part of the *Ablaze!* movement hit 10 006 997, as of 29 April 2009.

That figure includes some 310 000 additions from the Synod’s Southeastern District, which has been recording Gospel-sharing events for three years and last month added them to the *Ablaze!* website.

Sally Hiller, who has been overseeing the district wide *Ablaze!* emphasis, says "people are becoming more comfortable in seeing and seizing the opportunities to share their faith" and now the initiative is "beginning to gain momentum" in the district. With a little more than eight years left until *Ablaze!* culminates on 31 October 2017, the movement is one-tenth of the way toward its goal of reaching 100 million people worldwide with the Gospel.

"I wish we were further along than where we are right now, but I think that we're making a good start," says Rev. Scott Snow, director of national outreach for LCMS World Mission.

Snow says that resources designed to help individuals, congregations, and schools reach out to others in faith are available on the *Ablaze!* website at [www.lcms.org/?14747](http://www.lcms.org/?14747). Listed are a number of "Personal Evangelism Tools" such as John 3:16 coins, *Ablaze!* bracelets, and a pocket-sized New Testament.

---

## **LCC Task Force Recommends Closer Seminary Ties**

---

LCC-News - Lutheran Church Canada's (LCC) Board of Directors received an interim report from the Task Force on Cost-efficient Seminary Education and accepted three recommendations for immediate implementation.

As funding is a major issue for both Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catharines (CLTS), and Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton (CLS), the first recommendation asks their Boards of Regents to establish finance committees. This will give the boards ongoing oversight of the institutions' financial situations.

The second recommendation involves the seminaries and Concordia University College of Alberta. Following LCC's adoption of a new constitution in 2002, a Higher Education Advisory Council replaced the Board for Higher Education. With the recent changes in presidents of all three institutions, the council, comprising the three presidents, has not met recently. The task force asks the council to meet before the fall of 2009 and determine where the institutions can work together "to achieve great cost efficiencies, particularly in areas such as shared administrative services, academic support, development or other services."

With distance education common in most post-secondary institutions, the task force's third recommendation is that the seminaries provide at least one course by this method by the end of the 2009-10 academic year. Plans are already in

place to share an Old Testament course in the autumn, taught from CLS.

The task force will meet again in September and is scheduled to deliver its final report to the Board of Directors in 2010 in time for the 2011 synodical convention.

---

## **The Presence of Christ in the Divine Service**

---

### **SELK/Roman Catholic Consultations**

---

selk-news - For the third time representatives of the Roman Catholic Johann-Adam-Möhler-Institute for Ecumenical Affairs, Paderborn, Germany and of the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LThH) of the Independent Evangelical-Lutheran Church (SELK) met in Oberursel, Germany on 27 April 2009.

These consultations, planned to take place over a period of three years, were agreed on in October 2007 between representatives of the Council for Unity of the Vatican and the SELK.

After Dr. Werner Klän, professor at the LThH Oberursel, had at the previous meeting in Paderborn given a paper about the ecclesiastical self-understanding of the SELK, there now followed the presentation of the Roman Catholic understanding of the church by Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Thönissen, Paderborn. In addition, SELK Provost Gert Kelter, Görlitz, gave a paper on the topic "The Presence of Christ in the Divine Service according to the confession of the Lutheran Book of Concord."

Both presentations provided helpful opportunities for recognizing numerous common aspects in the area of the theology of the Sacraments and the doctrine of Church and Office.

Existing differences were not ignored, and both sides acknowledged that they needed to strive anew in putting theological insights into practice.

With Dr. Robert Rosin, professor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, USA, a representative of the International Lutheran Council (ILC) took part in the consultation for the first time.

The theme of the next meeting, planned for autumn 2009 in Paderborn, will be "Baptism and Justification."

---

## **"What Unites Us"**

---

### **SELK Holds General Pastors Convention**

---

selk-news - On the premises of the Evangelisches Johannesstift in Berlin-Spandau, Germany, where the 2005 conference of the International Lutheran Council took place, the

11<sup>th</sup> General Pastors Convention (GPC) of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) assembled from 11 to 15 May 2009.

The GPC consists of all ordained office bearers of the SELK. Retired pastors and vicars may take part in the convention in an advisory capacity

The task of the GPC is inter alia to advise on the situation, way and business of the church and on its doctrine, divine service and practice.

In view of these tasks the Church Council had prepared the main theme: "What Unites Us - with regard to I Theology and Confession, II Divine Service, Mission and Social Work and III History, Conflicts and Processes of Unity."

Moreover the ca. 150 participants heard the report of Bishop Hans-Jörg Voigt and discussed a document called "Biblical Hermeneutics", presented by the Theological Commission of the SELK. Also on the agenda were, the topic of women's ordination, the question of divorce of pastor's marriage, and reports of the hymn book commission and the Theological Commission.

Divine Services and devotions were part of the daily proceedings.

---

## **French - German C o n s u l t a t i o n**

---

selk-news - On 8 and 9 June 2009 President Jean T. Haessig of the Evangelical Lutheran Church - Synod of France (ELCSF) met in Woerth, Alsace, with Bishop Hans-Jörg Voigt and Provost Gert Kelter of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) in Germany for an inter-church consultation. Also present were some members of the Alsatian Pastoral Conference and Prof. em. Dr. Wilbert Kreiss.

The French church had some questions with regard to new developments in the SELK. Discussed, among other topics, were the ecumenic contacts of the German church, especially with the Lutheran World Federation, the United Evangelical Lutheran Church in Germany (VELKD) and the Roman-Catholic Church. Also discussed were the resolutions of the General Pastoral Convention of the SELK with regard to the ordination of women and the so called "Hermeneutics Paper" as well as the inter-church relationship between the SELK and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Baden.

The French participants in the talks on their part informed about current developments in the congregations of the ELCSF.

Both sides agreed to intensify the existing church fellowship and good relationship.

The SELK as well as the ELCSF belong to the International Lutheran Council.

---

## **New Church Workers For Central America**

---

LCC News - Members of the Iglesia Luterana Sínodo de Nicaragua (ILSN) celebrated the graduation of fourteen theological school students on 28 March this year. Five pastors and nine deaconesses have completed three years of training coordinated by Dr. Roger Humann of Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary in St. Catharines, Ontario.

Of the five pastoral candidates, three will be ordained into the public ministry as pastors by ILSN president, Pastor Luis Turcio. This is the first ordination for the president who was elected at the ILSN's founding convention in January 2008. Two candidates will return to Panama where the Lutheran Church of Panama will ordain and place them into congregations. The three Nicaraguan pastors will continue serving the congregations where they served their vicarages.

"There is no greater honor in this fallen world than to be permitted to stand up before people week by week and to point the way to heaven," said Rev. Robert Bugbee, president of Lutheran Church-Canada (LCC) in a letter to the graduates. "He has placed into your hearts and mouths the one message that takes the load of sin off the backs of people, and sets them free." He went on to congratulate the graduates and assured them of prayers and support from LCC.

Eight ILSN congregations will each receive a deaconess who will take responsibility for ministry to women and children along with Christian education. The ninth deaconess will return to Panama for placement.

Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan, LCC's interim mission executive and retired president, has participated in the two previous graduations and preached at the service. Dr. Roger Humann also participated in the graduation ceremonies. Dr. Jorge Groh, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod's Area Mission Director for Central and South America, was also present.

LCC began proclaiming the gospel in Nicaragua in 1996. Since then, the Canadian church has trained pastors and deaconesses to serve the Lutheran churches in Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rico and Panama.

---

## **International Luther Symposium in Brazil**

---

Seminario Concordia, Sao Leopoldo, RS, Brasil hosted the Third International Luther Symposium from 7 to 10 July 2009.

The Symposium focused on Luther and Christian Worship.



---

## Six Deacon Candidates Pass Exam

---

From 3 to 4 March 2009 six deacon candidates of the Paris-Poitou region in France have passed their final examination according to the internal policies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church – the Synod of France (ELCSF). The examination board consisted of Professor em. Wilbert Kreiss, Woerth; Pastors Roger Jones, Paris and Francois Poillet, Mulhouse as well as the president of the ELCSF, Pastor Jean Thiébault Haessig.

The candidates had prepared projects about child instruction, establishing missionary posts, leading bible studies, and writing for the internet, magazines, radio programs, etc. They were also examined on the main teachings of the Bible.

All candidates requested to receive additional training in order to improve their knowledge and practical skills. The first of such training sessions took place in June.

---

## ELCB Celebrates Double Jubilee

---

On Trinity Sunday (7 June 2009) the Antwerp Holy Trinity parish of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Belgium (ELCB) celebrated a double jubilee: 70 years of adherence to the Lutheran Confessions and 45 years of the dedication of its church building.

In the sermon on the Gospel of the day, John 3:1-17, pastor Gijsbertus van Hattem explained how God builds and nurtures his church through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and how the Triune God has blessed the work in Antwerp and Belgium in the past 70 years.

For the occasion the choir of the congregation sang "Holy, holy, holy" from Schubert.



The festivities concluded with a reception and banquet for members and guests.

The ELCB has congregations in Antwerp and Brussels

and is a member of the International Lutheran Council since its 2005 conference in Berlin, Germany.

---

## IELB: 105 Years of Worship

---

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB) celebrated 105 years of existence with a festive worship service at Novo Hamburgo, RS, on 28 June 2009.

At the pavilion of the FENAC in the city center, about 2 000 persons remembered the formation of the IELB on 24 June 1904. After the worship service, there was a procession through the main streets of the city.

---

## Zehnder Accepts Call as Executive Director

---



LCMS World Mission - Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) World Mission is pleased to announce that Dr. Thomas R. Zehnder, who has been serving as interim executive director of LCMS World Mission since November 2008, has accepted a call from the Board for Mission

Services to continue his service as executive director. The Board extended the call at its 15 April 2009 meeting in St. Louis, USA. Their action removes the "interim" title from Dr. Zehnder's position and serves as an endorsement of his continuing leadership of LCMS World Mission.

The Board decided to call Zehnder to the post on a more permanent basis, and put on hold its search for a new executive director. Zehnder's proven leadership abilities are key for LCMS World Mission at this time, especially considering possible structure changes that may be authorized by the 2010 LCMS convention.

Zehnder, 72, of Baileys Harbor, Wisconsin, USA, succeeds Dr. Robert Roegner, who resigned in November 2008, citing his desire to return to "a more hands-on ministry." Roegner, 55, had served as executive director since November 2001. He recently accepted a call to serve as a mission developer for the English District in the Riverview area of North St. Louis County, Missouri.

A 1961 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Zehnder and his wife, Jacquelyn, served as missionaries in Japan for nearly a

decade. From 1987 to 1997, Zehnder was president of the LCMS's Florida-Georgia District. He has also served as pastor to congregations in Columbus, Georgia; Stuart, Florida; and Williamsburg, Virginia.

---

## Philippines: North Luzon Highland District Celebrates Growth

---

*Asia Ablaze!* Newsletter - While falling short of its *Ablaze!* goal of establishing eight new congregations by this time, the North Luzon Highland District of the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP) did accept and recognize four newly established congregations at its district conference in April this year.

At the same conference, 26 new mission and preaching stations were also recognized as official mission stations of the district. It is hoped that in two to three years these mission stations will become official congregations.

One of the factors that led to this growth in the district is the great involvement of the laity, many of whom attended the *Ablaze!* Summit held two years ago in the district.

---

## IELB President Receives Honorary Degree

---

Paulo Nerbas, president of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB), received the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity. This honor was bestowed upon him by the Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri, USA on 22 May this year.



Dr. Dale Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary St. Louis (left) and IELB President Paulo Nerbas

As president of Seminario Concordia, Professor Nerbas headed the new Pastoral Theological Formation Program for the IELB. When the IELB decided in convention to merge the two theological seminaries in Sao Paulo and Sao Leopoldo in 2002, he was key in assisting in this transition. Under his leadership, the merging

of faculty of these theological institutions continued to provide sound theological training and formation for their students. Nerbas has served as pastor and missionary in Portugal and several Brazilian parishes. He was professor of theology at the theological seminary in Sao Paulo (1985-1989), and at the seminary in Sao Leopoldo (1992-2006). From 1994 to 1998 he was director of courses of theology and philosophy at the Lutheran University of Brasil (ULBRA).

During his visit to the USA, President Nerbas also visited the Administrative Center of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) in St. Louis, where he had talks with LCMS Director of Church Relations - Assistant to the President, Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger.

---

## Former SELK Bishop Roth Honoured

---



An extraordinary honor was rendered to Dr. Diethardt Roth, the former bishop of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) in Germany. On 20 April 2009, the bishop of the Evangelical Church of Electorate-Hesse-Waldeck, Prof. Dr. Martin Hein,

presented the second highest distinction of his church, the Martin-Medal, to Dr. Roth in appreciation for many years of teaching as religious instructor at a high school in Melsungen.

Through the encouragement of Roth nearly fifty of his students have studied theology and are today pastors in their state church. Many of them were present at the ceremony to show their appreciation and reverence.

---

## Honorary Degree for IELC President

---

In recognition of his services done for the Church and the Society in various capacities for more than three decades, Rev. J. Samuel, President of the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) received the Doctor of Divinity degree from the Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai, India on 18 July this year.

On announcing the conferring of the honorary degree, the secretary of the IELC, Rev.

J. M. B. Sudhakaran, said "We thank God for giving us a President in the person of Rev. J. Samuel and for the innovative and bold steps he initiates for the cause of God's Kingdom to bring stability and progress in the church and the society as well."

---

## **Korea: Dobong Lutheran Church Celebrates 50 Years**

---

19 April 2009 was a very special day for the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK), as Dobong Lutheran Church in Seoul celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Dobong Church, founded in 1959, just one year after the arrival of LCMS World Mission in Korea, is the oldest Lutheran congregation in Korea.

Some 300 people, including missionaries from abroad, Lutheran pastors and church members, attended the worship service celebrating the anniversary in the packed church.

---

## **Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina**

---

LCMS President's Letter to Pastors - In 1905, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS), USA, responded to a God-given mission opportunity by sending missionaries to northeastern Argentina, where they took the Gospel to Russian-German immigrants in the farm areas there. The work took root and grew. In 1928, the Argentine mission field became one of the LCMS's districts. Another 58 years later, in 1986, the LCMS convention granted partner-church status to the Argentine District.

The Iglesia Evangélica Luterana de Argentina (IELA) now strives to meet changing ministry needs throughout the country. Formerly an immigrant church, the IELA today is an indigenous church that works in Spanish, using church planting, leadership training, and social ministry as tools for spreading the Gospel.

When the IELA celebrated its centennial in 2005, it gave thanks to God for His many blessings, despite years of hyper-inflation, political instability, and lack of government continuity in Argentina. It has more than 28 000 baptized members in 265 congregations and is served by 72 pastors. The IELA operates a seminary in Buenos Aires, and its school system has some 4 200 students.

The IELA works in partnership with LCMS World Mission, which has sent missionaries to Argentina in recent years to fill a number of

specialized roles. The IELA also works with LCMS World Mission by receiving LCMS deaconess interns as missionaries and by sending missionary pastors to Spain.

---

## **Lutheran Training in the Philippines**

---

*Asia Ablaze!* Newsletter - This spring the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP) held two training seminars as part of their ongoing effort to equip pastors and the laity for ministry.

The first training was part of an ongoing Pastoral Training and Continued Education of LCP pastors. The second training was for about 67 laymen and pastors held in Baguio City in the highlands of Luzon in the Philippines. These elders, deacons and evangelists of the LCP gather twice a year as a large group, as well as weekly or monthly with their local supervisors for on-going Theological Education by Extension.

The LCP has 96 congregations, 32 mission stations, and 29 ordained pastors.

---

## **Oberursel Students Visit Westfield House**

---

By Roland Johannes - It has become a well-loved tradition for the students from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Oberursel, Germany to exchange yearly visits with the students from Westfield House in Cambridge, England. This year the Oberursel students were the ones to make the trip to Cambridge from 29 May to 2 June 2009.

As always the trip was a great success. New friends were made and old friendships renewed. In discussions and theological debates the students had the opportunity to gain new and interesting perspectives on present-day issues within the Lutheran world.

The group from Germany consisted of nine students, all studying in Oberursel: four members of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) in Germany, four members of the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA) and one from the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) in the USA.

Westfield House currently has a total of seven students: four from the LCMS, one from the FELSISA, one from the Lutheran Church in Rwanda and one from the Lutheran Church in Nigeria. The lecturers in Westfield House come from the USA (LCMS), Canada (Lutheran Church-Canada), Australia (Lutheran Church of Australia) and of course England (Evangelical Lutheran Church of England). With people from

so many different countries, the weekend almost resembled a full-blown ILC conference!

Besides enjoying fellowship, engaging in theological discussions and attending lectures the students from Oberursel had an opportunity to visit the traditional Anglican Choral Evensongs, sung by the fabulous college choirs. A visit to Ely Cathedral on the last day was the perfect end to a fantastic trip.

The students hope that this tradition can be upheld for many years to come.



For the sixth time the students from Oberursel remained unbeaten in the traditional soccer match, beating their English counterparts by six goals to three.

---

## India: Rebuilding of Inadequate Chapels

---

Because of the rapid expansion of congregations in the India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC), many are rebuilding their facilities.

The policy is to expect the congregation to build up to the roof level, and the IELC Trust Association then provides funds to complete the chapel.

The needs have far outstripped the resources of the Trust Association, and some donors in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, USA have stepped forward to help through the *Ablaze!* "Fan into Flame" fund.

---

## Postal Administrations Honor Luther Sites as World Cultural Heritage

---

selk-news - On 7 May 2009 the German Finance Ministry issued a special postal stamp of the Luther sites in Wittenberg and Eisleben. The stamp shows - framed by Luther's houses of birth and death in Eisleben - the Luther house, the door of the theses at the castle church and the Melancthon house in Wittenberg.

At the same time the postal administration of the United Nations in Vienna issued a stamp with the same subject within the series "World Cultural Heritage of the UNESCO".

Both stamps were presented to the public on 8 May in Wittenberg, Germany by the state secretary of the German finance ministry, Nicolette Kressl, and the leader of the postal administration of the United Nations, Robert Gray, New York, USA.

Dr. Wilhelm Torgerson, Wittenberg, of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) in Germany was invited to the solemn presentation. Torgerson is the director of the International Lutheran Welcome Center in Wittenberg, which is being set up by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, USA and the SELK, its German sister church.

---

## Keep the Connection

---

LCC-Info - Our family hadn't ordered from a national pizza chain for about a year. Last week we received a postcard, printed one side, addressed to us with the simple request "Come back!" It offered a \$10 discount on our next order.

How many members on your church rolls haven't you seen in a year? What would the simple message "Come back!" mean to them? First, it would indicate you noticed their absence. Second, it would provide a personal invitation. With today's economic challenges, people are feeling a level of uncertainty. A solid faith in our Lord can provide a foundation for troubled times. Make plans now to touch the lives of your inactive members and ask them to "come back!"

---

ILC News is published quarterly to provide information for and about churches associated with the International Lutheran Council. Articles for publication and requests for additional copies of the publication (free of charge) should be sent either to the editor or to the executive secretary of the Council.

Editor: Rev. Peter Ahlers, Wittenberg, P.O. Box 758, 2380 Piet Retief, Republic of South Africa; phone: +27-17-8210807 and +27-79-5229930; e-mail: felsisa@cinet.co.za.

Executive Secretary: Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, Missouri, 63122-7295, USA; phone: 314-965-9000, Ext. 1430; fax: 314-996-1119; e-mail: samuel.nafzger@lcms.org.

ILC News is also available via the internet from the Council's web site <http://www.ilc-online.org>.

Published at Wittenberg, South Africa. Future publications dates: 1 November 2009, 1 February 2010 and 1 May 2010. Articles to be received at least four weeks prior to publication dates.