



Participants of the Latin American Regional ILC Conference.

---

## Regional ILC Conference Debates Lutheran Identity

---

Presidents of six Lutheran Churches of Latin America attended the Latin America regional conference of the International Lutheran Council (ILC). Another fifteen representatives of churches and seminaries also attended. One of the goals of the regional conferences is to better get acquainted with the work done by the member churches in their countries.

The meeting was held at Lutheran University of Brazil (ULBRA) in Canoas from 19 to 23 August. The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB) was represented by its president, Rev. Paul Moses Nerbas, and its secretary, Rony Ricardo Marquardt. Both welcomed the visitors and gave them a presentation about the IELB.

The studies of the conference were led by Rev. Dr. Douglas Rutt, professor at the Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, USA, and its theme was "Lutheran Identity." Rutt emphasized that the identity of Lutherans comes from the justice of God.

The official document of the meeting, signed by the presidents, reinforces the doctrine

of justification as the main mark of Lutheran identity and the preaching of the theology of the cross to confront the widespread syncretism in Latin America.

---

## 2009 International Lutheran Council Conference to be Held in Seoul

---

Asia *Ablaze!* Newsletter - The Executive Committee of the International Lutheran Council (ILC), which convened on 17 July in Seoul, Korea, decided to hold its next Conference in the Korean capital from 26 August to 1 September 2009.

Some hundred participants from Lutheran Churches around the world are expected to attend the conference.

The ILC Executive Committee meeting was attended by eight members from five continents, including ILC Chairman President Dr. G. Kieschnick from the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS), USA, and President Hyun-Sub Um of the hosting Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK).

The Executive Committee decided to look for theological common points with the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) and assigned Prof. Jin-Seob Eom from Luther University in Korea as a delegate to the Asian Executive Committee of the Theological Conference.

LCK President Um said, "Next year's ILC General Assembly will be an opportunity to introduce the activities of the LCK, which has served for fifty years, to leaders of Lutheran Churches all over the world."

---



---

## A Blessed Thanksgiving!

Editorial by Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick  
Chairman, International Lutheran Council

---



Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick  
Photo: H. Hoeller

This edition of the International Lutheran Council Newsletter coincides with the season of Thanksgiving in many countries of the world, including that which I call home - the United States of America. News reports these days are replete with stories that raise anxieties, create fears, and cause worries across our

country and throughout the world. These realities lead many people to wonder about the future and what it holds in store. At such times, some people are less likely to focus on giving thanks to God for all His blessings, while other people respond to uncertainties and fears by doing just the opposite - giving humble and hearty thanks to God for His many blessings.

Holy Scripture is full of beautiful references to the spirit of thanksgiving that I know is characteristic of each of us in the International Lutheran Council, the members of our families, and the people of our churches. I can think of no more powerful or appropriate way to encourage each of you to spend this Thanksgiving season doing just that - giving thanks to God for all His blessings - than to share with you in this column some of those passages of Scripture that speak to the blessing of giving thanks to our great and gracious God! Listen carefully as God speaks to us through His Holy Word:

### Psalm 95

- <sup>1</sup> Oh come, let us sing to the LORD!  
Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.
- <sup>2</sup> Let us come before His presence with **thanksgiving**.  
Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.

- <sup>3</sup> For the LORD *is* the great God,  
And the great King above all gods.
- <sup>4</sup> In His hand *are* the deep places of the earth;  
The heights of the hills *are* His also.
- <sup>5</sup> The sea *is* His, for He made it;  
And His hands formed the dry *land*.
- <sup>6</sup> Oh come, let us worship and bow down;  
Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.
- <sup>7</sup> For He *is* our God,  
And we *are* the people of His pasture,  
And the sheep of His hand.

### Psalm 100 A PSALM OF THANKSGIVING.

- <sup>1</sup> Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands!
- <sup>2</sup> Serve the LORD with gladness;  
Come before His presence with singing.
- <sup>3</sup> Know that the LORD, He *is* God;  
*It is He who* has made us, and not we ourselves;  
*We are* His people and the sheep of His pasture.
- <sup>4</sup> Enter into His gates with **thanksgiving**,  
*And* into His courts with praise.  
Be thankful to Him, *and* bless His name.
- <sup>5</sup> For the LORD *is* good;  
His mercy *is* everlasting,  
And His truth *endures* to all generations.

### Philippians 4

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say, rejoice! <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to all men. The Lord *is* at hand. <sup>6</sup>Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with **thanksgiving**, let your requests be made known to God; <sup>7</sup>and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

### Revelation 7

<sup>9</sup>After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, <sup>10</sup>and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation *belongs* to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>saying:

"Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, **Thanksgiving** and honor and power and might, *Be* to our God forever and ever. Amen."

A blessed Thanksgiving to you all!

## Hurricane Devastates Lutheran Church in Haiti

LCC Info - *Although no longer in the headlines, Haiti has been hit by four storms since mid-August, killing hundreds and destroying homes and crops. Rev. Revenel Benoit of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Haiti (ELCH) reports how tropical storm Hanna severely damaged church properties and the businesses the church operates to generate its own operational funds. He writes:*

"When we first heard that a new hurricane named Hanna was on its way to Haiti, there wasn't much time to prepare. It started with heavy rains, but then there was a lull so that things did not look that bad. Three hours later things got serious with very heavy rains and winds that took off over 60% of the corrugated metal roofs from the houses in Gonaives. Goats, cows, donkeys all floated by in the water.

Not long thereafter, the water was up to the roofs of many of the houses. My house has the only concrete roof in the area, so many people climbed onto my roof to keep from being washed away like many of their neighbors. I had my family and myself to take care of and we all climbed to the safety of our roof. The water destroyed everything we had! We were all on the roof for over 14 hours. There wasn't any food available and I was in trouble because I am diabetic and must have food or my blood sugar can drop to dangerous levels. Being on the roof with five kids and about 50 hungry neighbors while it was raining was not fun.

This morning I went into town to see the damage done by the hurricane. The scenes I saw were awful. Dead bodies of people and animals were lying all over the streets. The flooding was even worse than four years ago and extended to over ten other towns in Artibonite county. Over 75% of house walls and roofs are destroyed and about 70% of the trees are gone. People are using small boats to get through the city. Even the UN trucks and tanks cannot get through the water because it is so deep.

So far 500 people have been reported dead as that is the number of bodies they have found. In the ELCH we have not yet been able to assess loss of life, but we do know that lots of our ministries have been damaged or destroyed.

The walls of our orphanage have been destroyed; our medical clinic walls are gone along with all the medical equipment and supplies inside it. The orphans in the orphanage no longer have clothes and shoes. The water even took the kitchen utensils. All windows were destroyed by the wind and lots of water got into the computers.

Our bakery equipment is lost and most of the bakery walls are destroyed. At least two vehicles were damaged. We have now over 300 people in the four-story church building. They all came to find shelter in the three upper stories because the sanctuary on the first floor is filled with water. Rev. Gaston Hyppolite, a lay pastor assistant, had his house completely destroyed.

It's like everything we have worked for has been destroyed. When we'll get through this situation I don't know; only God knows. We all feel cut off from the rest of the world and need lots of help."



Paula Schlueter Ross

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) President Gerald Kieschnick, left, talks to Rev. Marky Kessa, President of the ELCH at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis. The ELCH will distribute \$15 000 in emergency grants from the LCMS to victims of back-to-back hurricanes in Haiti.

Photo: LCMS REPORTER

## "Luther Decade" Opens in Germany

selk news - On 20 und 21 September 2008 the "Luther Decade" was opened in Wittenberg, Germany. Almost simultaneously the fall conference of the Luther Society took place under the theme "Perceptions of the Reformation. What is Going to be Celebrated in 2017?" The participants in the Luther Seminar dealt with aspects from different areas and developed interesting perspectives for perceiving the reformation. Very informative was a paper with the topic: "To the significance of the hermeneutics of the Reformation for the present interpretation of the Bible."

Professor Dr. Johannes Schilling (Kiel), the re-elected chairman of the Luther Society, looked back at the jubilees of 1617, 1717, 1817 and 1917 and formulated challenges for the commemorative year 2017 and the decade preceding it. He pointed out that the reformation with its new approaches in many areas is a

development of world historical importance. Among other things he reminded of the understanding of God, people and world and of the new understanding of freedom, but also that it must nevertheless always be kept in mind that the reformation is preceded by 1 500 years of common history in the occident.

As a mandate for the next years, Schilling called for more intense work with the texts of the time of reformation to unlock their interpretation potential for the present challenges in the Protestant churches, the ecumenical movement, and for society and state. With access to the sources the rich treasure of the reformation would be revealed once again.

In addition to the scientific lectures and discussions, the opening of the Luther Decade, which is organized by the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), was the focus of the conference. A beginning was made with the Luther Garden, in which 500 trees are going to be planted by Lutheran churches worldwide during the next years. Prelate Stephan Dorgerloh, who is appointed by the EKD and responsible for the Luther Decade, was installed in the castle church.

The previous bishop of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK), Dr. Diethardt Roth, Melsungen, took part in the events as a member of the Luther Society. Also present was Pastor Dr. Wilhelm Torgerson, the leader of the International Lutheran Center in Wittenberg.

Torgerson emphasized the call for mission as connected with the Lutheran reformation. In an interview with selk-news he expressed the importance of the development of the old Latin school next to the town church in Wittenberg as a Lutheran meeting center. Through this project, which is financed by the Mission Board of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, USA, he hopes that many mission impulses will emanate for the citizens of Wittenberg, of which 82% are not baptized.

---

## International Guests Mark Installation of LCC President

---

lcc-news - Worshippers from as far away as Germany joined Lutheran Church–Canada for the installation of its third national president. In a music-filled evening service, Sunday 28 September at St. Matthews Lutheran Church in downtown Kitchener, Rev. Robert Bugbee, 53, elected in June, accepted his new responsibilities. The Rite of Installation was conducted by presidents emeritus Rev. Dr.

Edwin Lehman (1988-96) and Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan (1996-2008).

Participating in the service were clergy from British Columbia, Alberta, Ontario, and Germany. Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Torgerson, from Wittenberg, Germany is a Canadian-born pastor responsible for the development of a Lutheran visitor's information centre in the city where the Reformation began in 1517. He was representing Bishop Hans-Jörg Voigt of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany.

Reflecting the tradition in the European church, President Bugbee preached the sermon during the Installation Service. His words to the church and to Canada centered on the theme "Jesus Christ is Lord." He told the congregation of more than 500, "The Christian Gospel is not some modern message of 'acceptance' or 'inclusivity' where God always says 'Yes' to anything people choose to think or do or believe. This Gospel is the concrete, liberating Word of God's Christ, whose real life and real death and real resurrection cover over the sins of humankind."



LCC President R. Bugbee being installed by former LCC Presidents R. Mayan (left) and E. Lehman  
Photo: LCC-news

The service featured musicians from Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kitchener where Rev. Bugbee served for 14 years. Two choirs, soloists and a band and string quartet performed specially chosen music.

Almost 100 viewers across Canada and in Germany watched the event on-line, a first for Lutheran Church–Canada.

Joining the Toledo, Ohio-born president at the service were his wife, Gail and their children Lauren, Jill and Nathanael. Son Ian is currently at sea serving in the US Navy.

In addition to the president, LCC's three vice-presidents and members of the Board of Directors were installed.

---



---

## Inter-church Meeting in Vilnius

---



---

selk-news - On 20 July 2008 Bishop Mindaugas Sabutis of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Lithuania (ELCL), President Wladimir Meyerson of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Belarus (IELCB), and Bishop Hans-Jörg Voigt of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) in Germany met in the Lithuanian capital Vilnius to discuss the possibility of ordaining those deacons in the IELCB who have already served as pastors for a long time.

Belarusia is church-historically closely connected with the former grand principality Lithuania. This is why bishop Sabutis signaled also his readiness to be part at such ordinations. He offered the assistance of his church also in other areas, for instance the training of pastors.

Bishop Voigt said about the meeting: "In the end the Belarusian brothers and sisters must find and determine their own way for their church. Whatever is possible with the limited abilities of the SELK should be offered as help. Particularly meaningful will be any help for self-help. To build church relations never indicates to construct spheres of influence, but is always connected with the aim to strengthen the unity of the church in the truth of Christ."

President Meyerson emphasized that he would like to build closer relations to the ELCL and said, that relationships with other churches are of special importance for the IELCB in its present situation.

The SELK bishop reported in Vilnius of a recent meeting between him and the Commissioner for Eastern Europe of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD), Senior Church Councillor Michael Hübner, with an intensive and fertile exchange of thoughts including the situation of the church in Belarus.

---



---

## IELC Celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

---



---

Asia *Ablaze!* Newsletter - The India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) commemorated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an

independent church body during Golden Jubilee celebrations held from 18 to 20 June 2008 at Concordia Theological Seminary in Nagercoil, India.

The Golden Jubilee coincided with the annual Pastors' Refresher Course and brought together hundreds of church leaders, pastors, and lay people from across India. The three-day celebration was an opportunity for the IELC to share its exciting vision for the future while taking pause to honor past leaders.

IELC President Dr. J. Samuel and his fellow church leaders are seeking to foster a renewed focus on evangelism and outreach. The church body is also taking steps to improve its capacity for growth by expanding educational options at Concordia Seminary in Nagercoil through the inauguration of a Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) program.

The new undergraduate degree will attract students and faculty from across India and has even garnered interest from other Asian countries. President Samuel shared that the seminary had overcome many hurdles to get the B.D. program started and that its inauguration was the fulfillment of years of prayer and planning.

---



---

## 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Lutheran Mission in Korea

---



---

Asia *Ablaze!* Newsletter - 2008 is a very special year for the Lutheran Church in Korea (LCK). In 1958, three missionaries sent by the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS), USA started a mission that led to the foundation of the LCK.

To commemorate its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the LCK is putting together a large-scale celebration. Part of the commemoration is the construction of the new Luther Building which will be called "50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mission Building - Luther Hall".

The LCK chose 26 October as the Fifty Years of Mission Memorial Day when Lutherans from throughout the country came together for a large-scale celebration including a joint worship service, music performance, and a scholarly conference.

Leaders from the LCK's partner churches - the LCMS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, Germany, and the Lutheran Church-Canada, were also invited to participate.

The slogan for the anniversary was Luther's famous quote, "Here I stand."

Through this anniversary celebration, the LCK is planning to become a leading church in the field of world mission, laying the foundation for its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

---



---

## LLC Elects New President

---

The Lanka Lutheran Church (LLC) in Sri Lanka held a special election and called Rev. G. Nadaraja as their new President. Over the past two years, the church has brought in a new administration, with Rev. S. Devanesan as the LLC Treasurer.

---



---

## CTS Professor Elected Co-president of International Löhe Society

---

The Rev. John T. Pless, assistant professor of pastoral ministry and missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, USA was elected co-president of the International Löhe Society at its meeting on 26 July in Neuendettelsau, Germany. Pless succeeds Dr. Craig Nessian of Wartburg Theological Seminary, Dubuque, Iowa who served as co-president since 2005. Pless will share leadership of the International Löhe Society with Dr. Dietrich Blaufuss of Erlangen, Germany. Prior to his election as co-president, Pless had served as the secretary for the English language section of the organization since 2005.

The International Löhe Society met in Neuendettelsau for its triennial conference from 22 to 26 July this year in observance of the bicentennial of the birth of Wilhelm Löhe, a German pastor whose work in liturgics, pastoral care and missions would have deep impact on the Lutheran church throughout the world. Löhe was instrumental in the founding of Concordia Theological Seminary in 1846. Professor Pless was one of several scholars from Australia, Germany, and the United States who presented papers at the conference. The conference included participants from Germany, Brazil, the United States, Italy, Congo, South Africa, Australia, Indonesia, South Korea, and Hong Kong.

The next meeting of the International Löhe Society is scheduled for July 2011 on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

---



---

## Concordia Seminary Begins 170<sup>th</sup> Academic Year

---

St. Louis - On 7 September 2008, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, USA began its 170<sup>th</sup> academic year with a special worship service in The Chapel of St. Timothy and St.

Titus on the Seminary campus. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, served as preacher and officially opened the new academic year.

The Seminary community gave thanks for 154 new students who enrolled at Concordia Seminary this fall in programs preparing them to serve as pastors and deaconesses in The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS).

The service included the installation of new faculty and staff members and marked the public launch of the *How Will They Hear?* Campaign. *How Will They Hear?* is designed to secure \$77 million in gifts and commitments for the three major interconnected components essential to a Christ-centered theological education in the 21<sup>st</sup> century: *Pastors* (tuition grants and scholarships); *Place* (renovations to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis campus); and *Promise* (endowment funds for future endeavors, including student aid).

Concordia Seminary remains one of the 25 largest seminaries of any denomination in the United States. Since its humble beginnings in Perry County, Missouri, in 1839, more than 12 000 Concordia Seminary graduates have served as pastors, deaconesses, missionaries or chaplains throughout the world.

---



---

## Papua New Guinea: Dedication of New Testament in Ipili Language

---

*Asia Ablaze!* Newsletter - The Ipili language translation of the New Testament was dedicated and launched on 13 August. The launching marked the culmination of many years of work. Rev. Terry Borchard from the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS), USA was the primary translator, working with Ipili colleagues Rev. Mandita, Kandata Opopo, and others. The LCMS, Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT), and the Summer Institute of Linguistics supported the translation project.

The launching took place in Porgera, Enga Province, Papua New Guinea, with 3 000 people in attendance. The program was organized by the eleven churches in the Ipili Council of Churches.

Bishop David Piso of the Gutnius Lutheran Church conducted the rite of dedication. Rev. Harvey Kath and Rev. Ron Rall, former LCMS missionaries to the Ipili people, along with Rev. Borchard, each shared words of thanksgiving and encouragement.

When Rev. Mandita read several verses from the New Testament, people were visibly moved to hear the Word in their own tongue.

Following the dedication, copies of the Ipili language New Testament were distributed to representatives of the Ipili churches and hundreds of other copies were sold.

The 26 000 Ipili speaking people live in the western portion of Enga Province in the central highlands of Papua New Guinea. The only major town, Porgera, is dominated by a gold mining company, while other Ipili people live in remote communities scattered throughout the rugged jungle. Literacy programs have been in place for several years in anticipation of people needing to be able to read the New Testament in their own language. Plans are already underway to translate portions of the Old Testament into the Ipili language as well.



Rev. Terry Borchard (center) and Bishop David Piso (right) present a copy of the Ipili language New Testament to a member of the local Ipili-speaking community

---

## European LWF Leaders Meet in Germany

---

LWI - "Called to Grow, Lead and Nurture" was the theme of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) European Church Leadership Consultation which took place in mid-September in Greifswald, Germany.

At the invitation of the Evangelical Church of Pomerania (Pommersche Evangelische Kirche - PEK) and the LWF German National Committee (GNC), around 90 church leaders from Europe discussed the common challenges and difficulties in church life for the region's LWF member churches. The 11 to 16 September meeting was organized by the Europe desk of the LWF Department for Mission and Development (DMD) and the host church.

The European church leaders also shared experiences on successful models used in response to the emerging social and religious demands as a result of Europe's transformation. While globalization and secularization have an impact on both church life and society, there is also a growing interest in spirituality. Against this

backdrop, participants focused primarily on diverse church leadership models and different forms of mission.

On 14 September bishops, of churches in which Pomeranian-born reformer Johannes Bugenhagen (1485-1558) established the church order, joined in a special service in honor of the Bugenhagen Jubilee in the St. Nikolai Cathedral in Greifswald. After the service, the GNC/LWF chairperson and presiding bishop of the United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (VELKD), Bishop Dr. Johannes Friedrich, Munich delivered a celebration address about Bugenhagen.

The consultation agenda included preparations for the next LWF Assembly to be held in Stuttgart, Germany, in July 2010.

---

## Once Again: German Days at Concordia Seminary

---

St. Louis - The Center for Lutheran Theology and Public Life (CLTPL) in St. Louis, Missouri, USA hosted a unique conference called "German Days at the Sem" on 24 and 25 October 2008 on the campus of Concordia Seminary. The two-day event marked the second of a series of ten significant events, which will be held every fall leading up to the 500-year anniversary of the Reformation on 31 October 2017.

The theme of this year's "German Days II" was "Faith and Politics in Luther's Land - and Here" and addressed a theme pertinent in this USA election year - the impact of religion on public life.

Moderator of the conference was CLTPL director Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto. Its keynote speakers were Dr. Hans Apel, Germany's former Finance and Defense Minister, and Minnesota Supreme Court Justice Barry Anderson. Other presenters included Rev. Christian Meissner, national executive secretary of the Protestant caucus of Germany's governing Christian Democratic Union; Rev. Larry Nichols, a leading Lutheran expert in cults and Satanism in the United States; Professors Irving Hexham and Karla Poewe of the University of Calgary in Canada, Dr. Mark Ruff, associate professor of history at St. Louis University; and Professor Michael Rutz, editor-in-chief of *Rheinischer Merkur*, one of Germany's most distinguished newspapers. Several Concordia Seminary faculty and staff members also participated.

The Center for Lutheran Theology and Public Life is the successor of the Concordia Seminary Institute on Lay Vocation. CLTPL is an affiliate of the Seminary. Its mission is to project Lutheran thought to the secular realm.

---



---

## **“We Believe” is LCMS Youth Gathering Theme**

---

LCMSNews - No. 28 - Planners of the 2010 National Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) Youth Gathering announced its theme, “We Believe,” for the 17 to 21 July event in New Orleans.

This will be the third National Gathering to take place in New Orleans, following others there in 1992 and 2001. The 2007 Gathering was first planned for New Orleans, but then moved to Orlando in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The 2007 National LCMS Youth Gathering in Orlando included some 27 500 participants from about 1 800 congregations. In addition, a first-time concurrent Adult Gathering there drew more than 250.

---



---

## **Reconciliation Efforts Bear Fruit**

---

*Asia Ablaze!* Newsletter - A program to work reconciliation in the Gutnius Lutheran Church (GLC) in Papua New Guinea has seen positive results in bringing about unity and peace among the pastors and leaders. These improvements started at the congregational level and have grown to also include meetings at the district level where pastors have come back together after many years of opposition.

At a recent meeting of the GLC Executive, several pastors who were leaders in the “Reform Movement” returned to seek brotherhood again with the GLC and were welcomed back with much joy. May these renewed relationships bring full reconciliation in the church in the days to come.

---



---

## **If Walls Could Talk 500-year Anniversary of SELK Lutheran Youth Guest House**

---

selk-news - In 1508 Landgrave Wilhelm II ruled in Hesse, Martin Luther was professor at the Wittenberg University and Michelangelo painted the Sistine Chapel.

At the same time one of the oldest houses of Homberg, Germany was built in Bergstreet, which is today’s youth guesthouse of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK). The 500<sup>th</sup> birthday of the time-honored, three-storied, half-timbered building was celebrated on 23 and 24 August with many

guests visiting the old walls. Since 1985 the monument protected house, which was enlarged in the middle of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, is the center of the SELK youth work and the seat of its youth ministry.

The meeting place for young people and education center offers comfortable accommodation for thirty people. A kitchen and games cellar as well as group and conference rooms equipped with modern media technology are at the disposal of its guests, while the half-timbered ambiance brings about a particularly cosy atmosphere.

---



---

## **Forty-six New Missionaries Commissioned**

---

LCMS World Mission - Forty-six new missionaries, including sixteen career missionaries and vicars, received certificates of completion to commemorate their recent completion of Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod World Mission orientation at the Oswald Hoffman School of Christian Outreach on 26 June. The commissioning service was held in the Graebner Memorial Chapel at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA and served as the formal conclusion to this year’s two-week missionary orientation.

These new missionaries accepted the call to serve in 17 different countries around the world. Including new, extending, and ongoing long-term missionaries, 72 people are serving together to support the global mission team, further strengthening regional partnerships and ministry.

---



---

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@pixie.co.za.

Executive Secretary: Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, Missouri, 63122-7295, USA; phone: 314-965-9000, Ext. 1433; fax: 314-996-1116; 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 February 2009, 1 May 2009 and 1 August 2009. Articles to be received at least four weeks prior to publication dates.