

PenPALS

NEWSLETTER

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"... the three most important words ever..." -Dr. Jim Baneck

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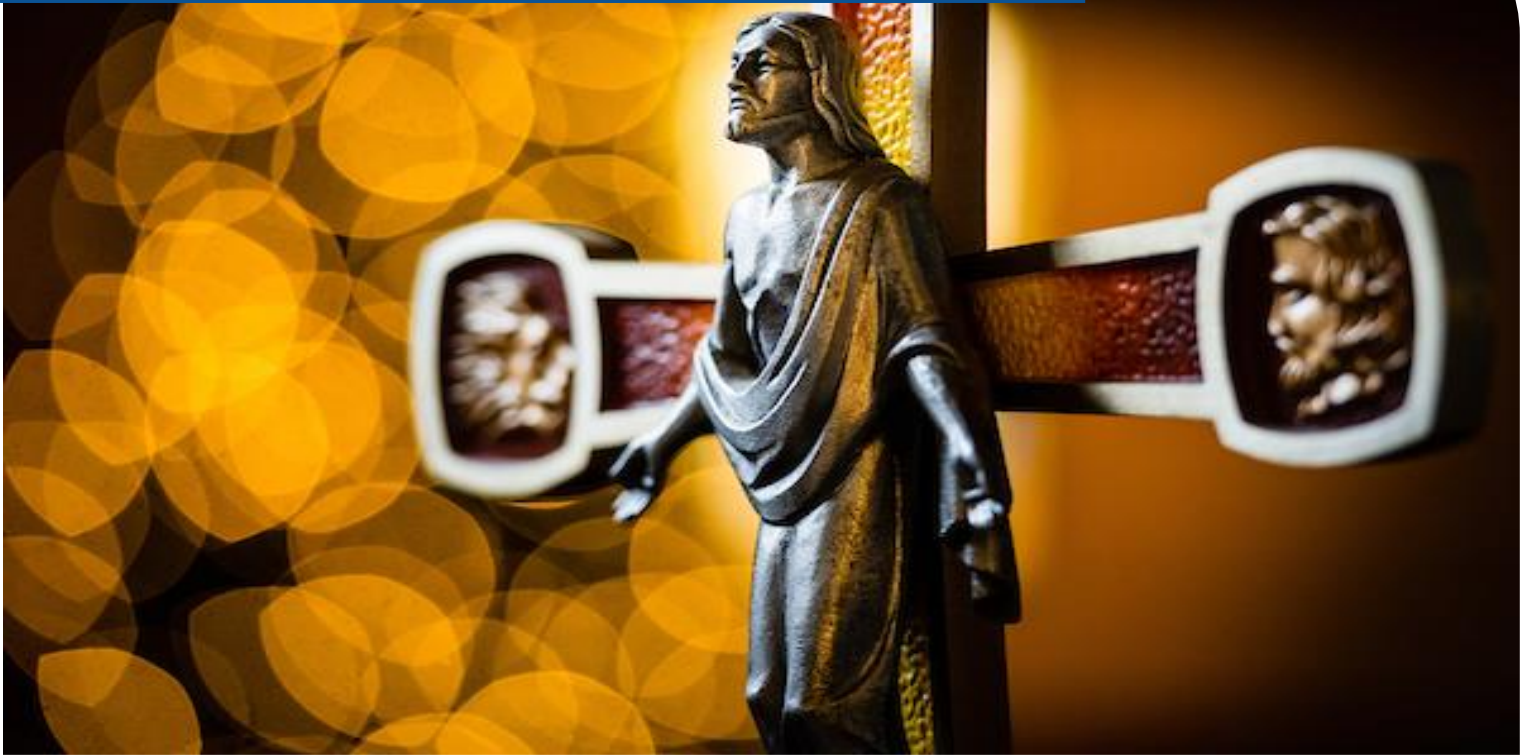
Dear Friends,

I cannot begin to express my deep gratitude for all your prayers, messages, and concerns during my recent hospitalization due to COVID. Your thoughts and prayers were truly a strength to me, and I cannot tell you how much I appreciate it. I am home now, recuperating and gaining strength. The Lord be with you all – giving you health and salvation.

Jim Baneck

James.baneck@lcms.org or 314-996-1258

Our Preaching and Our Faith is Not in Vain!



***AND IF CHRIST HAS NOT BEEN RAISED, THEN OUR PREACHING IS IN VAIN
AND YOUR FAITH IS IN VAIN. I CORINTHIANS 15:14***

Dear Beloved Friends in Christ,

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

A few weeks ago, the Church assembled throughout the world, bursting forth and proclaiming that Christ has risen from the dead. In a recent article by LCMS Mission Advancement Executive Director, Mark Hofman, Mark reminds us that these are the three most important words ever: “Christ is Risen!”

Not only are we celebrating Easter this month, but we are once again rejoicing with the Church in the issuing of 108 calls into the holy ministry. This means 108 additional pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod! God be praised!

These men will receive their calls, experience the excitement of becoming a pastor, move, and begin Word and Sacrament ministry. They will arrive with zeal and joy, as they are ready to join the ranks of prophets and apostles before them.

Dear veteran pastors (especially our beloved PALS facilitators), this is where you come in. While these men are highly talented, prepared, and charged with their duties – their own flesh, the world, and the devil will strive to tear them down and destroy them. Afterall, they are sent to preach “Christ is Risen,” (the three most important words) but the world and the devil will hear nothing of this!

Thanks be to God for our PALS facilitators who stand ready to mentor, console, guide, and lead their peers through the first three years of the new pastor's ministry. This is a brotherly and sisterly love with which our facilitators care and walk beside our new pastors and their wives.

Through PALS, our new pastors are encouraged and strengthened through the Word of God. The worship element of PALS is key and vital – it is where we continually proclaim, “Christ is Risen!” for the saving faith and life of the pastor, his wife, and family. Accompanying this Word is Christian care, listening, and guidance that takes place through discussing specific ministry topics, casuistry, and fellowship.

Our preaching is NOT in vain. Our saving faith is NOT in vain. These are what we cling to for life and salvation! And whether we are seasoned pastors, PALS facilitators, or brand-new pastors – we join in praying for, clearing the way, and supporting all of our pastors as they proclaim these three most important words without interruption or doubt: “Christ is Risen!”

In Christ,

Jim

Rev. Dr. James Baneck, Executive Director of Pastoral Education





PALS Facilitator Training Event Date Set

We are excited to announce our annual PALS Facilitator Training Event has been set for August 3-4, 2021. This event will be held at the St. Louis Airport Hilton Hotel. We were able to hold 2 virtual training events last summer-and look forward to once again being able to gather together! Agenda and registration details coming soon.



Prayers of Thanksgiving for the McLellans

We thank God for the faithful service of **Pastor Duncan and Alissa McLellan** as PALS facilitators to the **Iowa District West**. We will miss their mentorship in the Iowa West District as Duncan recently took a call to serve a congregation in Minnesota.

Recent PALS Activity



The **Minnesota South District** PALS pastors met for study, fellowship, and casuistry. The group was led by **Pastor Stefan Wismar** who lead a discussion on the book Teach Like A Champion and PALS course, *Leading Positive Change*.



The **Rocky Mountain District** PALS group met for a winter retreat at Sky Ranch Horn Creek in Westcliffe, Colorado. **Pastor David and Ginny Vanderhyde** facilitated a wonderful gathering including study, worship, fellowship, games, and casuistry. The books Faith to Follow by Kate Meadows and Canoeing the Mountains by Tod Bolsinger were used for discussion. Ample time for sharing, encouraging, and devotion were greatly enjoyed.



The **Nebraska District** PALS group met this month for a 2-day PALS retreat at Mahoney State Park. PALS pastors traveled many miles for this opportunity to join together. The group was led by **Pastor Charles and Brenda Schmidt**. The group enjoyed worship, devotion, study, meals, and recreation (disc golf, mini golf, paddle boats, zip line and hiking!).

Pastor Steve and Rita Wagner hosted a Virtual PALS gathering for the **Texas District**. A blessing to have this time for devotions, discussion surrounding the call process/transition to a new congregation, cross border work, terminal degree work, and the church emerging from the COVID crisis.

The **Kansas District** PALS group gathered for worship, Bible study, casuistry, and enjoyed the study of PALS course *Dealing with Trouble and Conflict in the Pastoral Office*. Thanks **Pastor Mark and Lynn Boxman** for gathering, hosting, and leading!

RESOURCES

PREACH THE WORD



Preach the Word (PTW) helps pastors work together to improve their preaching through video modules with accompanying resources and by interacting with seminary professors and fellow preachers.

There are now NINE completed Preach the Word modules and more on the way!

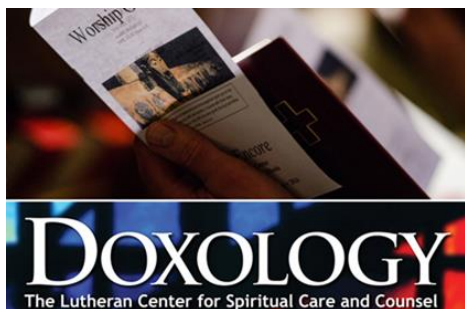
For free access, go to <https://www.lcms.org/about/leadership/president/preach-the-word>.

How about checking out **Module 7: Preaching the Baptized Life — Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing?**

“The Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing emphasizes both Baptism and life, since God links them together. Luther says that Baptism provides enough for a Christian to study every day. Baptism is a daily reality for each Christian, who lives out the reality of God’s gifts received in Baptism.”

Invite a couple pastor friends to join you for this enlightening Preach the Word module!

DOXOLOGY

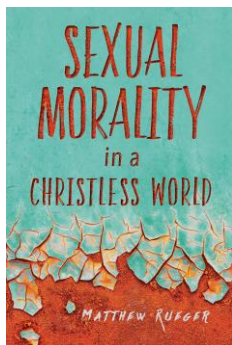


Recently, several PALS/DOXOLOGY grants have been awarded to PALS graduates!

There are still several more PALS/DOXOLOGY grants available for all PALS grads. This grant covers half of the tuition for the Classic DOXOLOGY program. (<https://www.doxology.us/>)

Contact the PALS office (Robyn.Armbrust@lcms.org) for a grant application.

INCENTIVE



To the first year new PALS pastor who notifies Robyn.armbrust@lcms.org, informing her you’ve read this entire newsletter, we will send a copy of the book Sexual Morality in a Christless World by Matthew Rueger. This book is in our PALS book study course library.

This offer does not apply to those who have already received an incentive from a previous PenPALS edition.