

THE *Pen* PALS



pals@lcms.org | 800-248-1930, ext. 1254

Volume 9, Issue 10 | May 2018

A Whirlwind!

And behold, there came a voice to him and said, “What are you doing here, Elijah?” I Kings 19:13

Dear Pastor Elect,

The seminarian’s life is like a “whirlwind!” How many times have you moved in the last eight years? You moved to college, moved to seminary, moved to vicarage, moved back to seminary. Now you’re going to move again!

Fourth year of seminary is also a whirlwind. Interviews, forms to fill out, presentations from every Synod entity under the sun, call service, making arrangements with your calling congregation, graduation, and completing papers and assignments.

The whirlwind continues. Pack up the apartment, close all local accounts, get the oil changed, get the kids finished with school, visit Mom and Dad, plan the ordination and installation, make connections with the new DP, and REPLY TO YOUR PALS FACILITATOR.

The whirlwind continues... Soon you will meet a whole new congregation for the first time. You will be their pastor for the first time. Everyone will be curious as to how you look and talk, what kind of car you drive, and where you shop. You’ll experience your first council meeting and voters meeting as pastor. You learn the roads, find new doctors, and figure out who pays the cell phone and internet. Your wife will miss her mother and your dog marks out his place on the new parsonage carpet. At your first Winkel all the pastors will look at you like a newbie... because you are!

LET THE CHURCH BE REMINDED OF ALL THE EXCITING, JOYFUL, SCARY, NEW, AND WHIRLWIND TRANSITIONS THAT ARE GOING ON IN THE BRAND-NEW PASTOR’S LIFE!

And in all this whirlwind, the Lord speaks to you in His still small voice, “Behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:20). Anxiety, changes, and transitions – it’s all the Lord’s plan. It’s all His doing. It is His call to you to be a pastor in His Church to His dear people. He will never leave you or desert you. He is always with you. This is His promise through the blood, death, and resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Life continues to be a whirlwind for us all. The promise holds true for all His baptized children, “Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” The presence and peace of Christ be with you all.

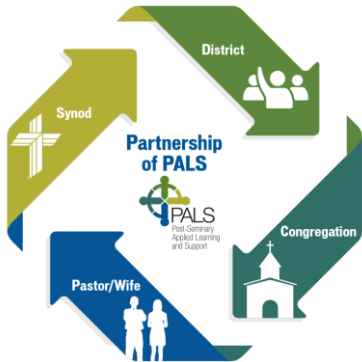
Jim

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



WELCOME TO PALS!

To seminary graduates and pastors receiving this newsletter for the first time-WELCOME! The PenPALS newsletter is a monthly communication between the PALS office and our PALS participants, districts, and facilitators. Please know you are in our prayers as you enter full time service as a parish pastor. Your PALS Facilitator will be in contact with you in the coming weeks. -the PALS Office



What's PALS all about?

The goal of the Post Seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) is that newly-placed pastors faithfully, competently, and joyfully apply and further develop their knowledge, skills, and person in relation to those they serve in the specific context of their ministries, and that pastors' wives are aided and supported as both make the transition from life in the seminary to life in the parish.

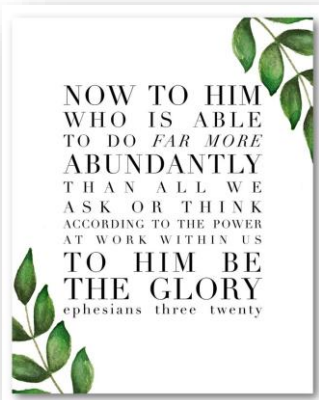
"PALS has provided me with a valuable life-line in the day-to-day struggle unique to the family of the pastor."

-PALS Participating Pastor

Newly placed pastors meet periodically (up to 6 times/year) in small groups and participate in learning activities. PALS facilitators develop learning communities of collegial pastors and provide guidance as the new pastors begin the work of pastoral ministry.

Blessed by their Service-To Him be the Glory!

We are truly blessed to have gifted, dedicated, caring servants serving as PALS facilitators. As the PALS year comes to a close next month, we will say good bye to several PALS facilitating couples who are ending their time serving PALS, yet continuing to serve where the Lord has placed them in their families and congregations.



We thank the following couples for their faithful service:

Rev. Phill and Monica Andreassen, Iowa West and Minnesota South District (2014-18)

Rev. Andy and Nikki Becker, Missouri District (2015-18)

Rev. Jim and Sally Bender, Kansas District (2017-18)

Rev. Mark and Christy Leckband, Iowa East District (2009-18)

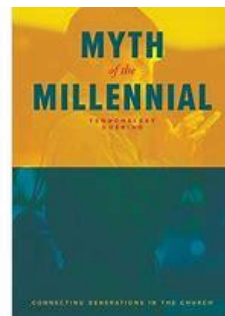
Rev. Alan and Linda Struckmeyer, Florida/Georgia District (2008-18)

Exciting News from the PALS Field

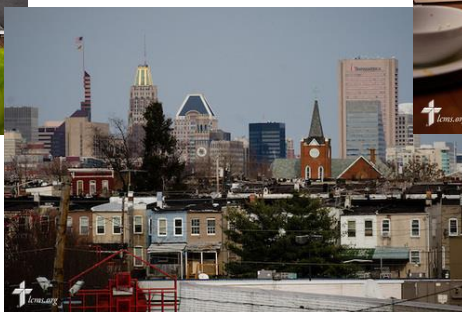
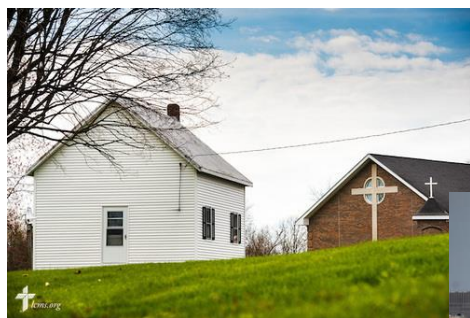


- Pastor Bill and Janis Hessler enjoyed an upper peninsula PALS gathering at Tahquamenon Falls in Michigan. The Hesslers have been serving faithfully since 2010! We appreciate their commitment to PALS and their PALS families.

- Our PALS facilitators will receive **Myth of the Millennial, Connecting Generations in the Church** by Ted and Chelsey Doering at the upcoming PALS Facilitators Conference. The book will be added to our PALS curricular library as a resource for use as a book study. Each chapter closes with discussion questions and will be a terrific addition to our PALS library.



- We WELCOME **Pastor Daniel and Dianne Ritter (MNS), Pastor Wayne and Crystal Huebner (MO), and Pastor Duncan and Alissa McLellan (IW)** to the PALS Facilitator Family! We are excited to have them serve with us beginning in July 2018.
- **Kansas district Facilitators would like to thank** Thrivent for sponsoring part of their recent PALS meeting by granting a \$250 prepaid Visa card. The funds were used to support their PALS families as they met for a BBQ lunch, as well as sponsored activities for the children as they focused on PKs-and their support. Many thanks to the Boxmans for their terrific stewardship and use of the gifts offered by Thrivent.
- **NEW 2018-2019 PALS courses are in production** over the summer months. We are excited to work with Rev. Dr. Jim and Myrna Baneck to produce a course on the *Pastor's Life of Prayer*. Rev. Todd Kollbaum and Rev. Dr. Steve Schave will co-author a course on *Transition: Seminary to Urban/Inner City and Rural Ministry*.



New Feature

Our *Connections* feature is a new addition to our newsletter. This feature connects PALS, Districts, Seminaries, and Congregations sharing insight from a variety of servants involved in the life of a new pastor and his family.

Connections

From Dr. Jeff Gibbs, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

As we live and move and have our being under the cross, Paul reminds of that the goal of our Christian life is the resurrection from the dead. In Phil 3:12, Paul says of that final goal, “Not that I have already attained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own.”

Part of the Christian life’s “pressing on” is continuing, growing, supporting others and being supported in the Holy Ministry. The PALS opportunities can be a wonderful way to press on together with other pastors and pastoral families, helping one another to serve humbly and faithfully as we long for Christ’s return.

It’s all about believing Christ and His promises, and seeking to invite others to believe Him as well. May God bless your experience and learning under the umbrella of the PALS program!