Integrity

For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.

Proverbs 2:6-7

I just returned from five glorious days walleye fishing at Shining Falls, Manitoba, Canada. The fishing, weather, fellowship, and food were all great! Each morning, we packed our lunch, gathered our gear, started our 20-horse motors, and headed across the lake to our favorite fishing spot. As we motored across the lake, we left a wake behind us.

In his book, Integrity, Dr. Henry Cloud talks about the “wake” we leave behind us in our lives. Granted, this book is about integrity in the business world, but the analogy works for pastors and the Church as well. Cloud states, “The wake is the results we leave behind.” Consider what that means for the pastor in his preaching, teaching, pastoral care, the way he conducts himself at a council or elder’s meeting, how he deals with the school staff or Sunday School teachers, how he interacts out in the community, and so on.

The early years of ministry are vital years to “trim your motor,” and within your control, determine the “wake” you want to leave behind. Men (and pastors!) often think about the legacy they want to leave behind. This is “wake” language.

As a man in the pastoral ministry thinks about his “wake” – integrity is key! Integrity has to do with “being honest and having strong moral principles; a man of moral uprightness.” The first three years of ministry is a great time to set your course for pastoral integrity: Scriptural integrity, Confessional integrity, Pastoral Care integrity, Visitation integrity, Compassion integrity, Work Ethic integrity, and the list goes on and on.

No doubt, the wake we leave behind us is sometimes choppy, turbulent, back and forth, and uncharted. Within your pastoral wake, however, is the ever-constant cross of our Savior Jesus Christ, bringing redemption to our lives, reconciliation into our broken relationships, along with forgiveness, peace, hope, guidance, and direction.

Consistent with our nautical theme – the comfort, peace, and joy of us all is Jesus Christ, who continues to pilot us. In the words of Edward Hopper, “Jesus, Savior, pilot me over life’s tempestuous sea; unknown waves before me roll, hiding rock, and treach’rous shoal. Chart and compass come from Thee. Jesus, Savior, pilot me.” (LSB 715:1).

Jim
Rev. Dr. James Baneck, Executive Director of Pastoral Education
Happy New PALS year!

The PALS year runs from July through the end of June. Several of our groups are already making plans to meet later this summer. PALS participants, if you have not already been contacted by your facilitator - stay tuned! PALS facilitators - we’re excited to start the year. Let the PALS office know what you need to get started!

PALS Facilitator List by District

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Exciting News from the PALS Field

On June 1, Pastor Bill and Janis Hessler’s Michigan District PALS group visited three historic LCMS churches in the Saginaw Valley as part of a "Steeple Chase": St. Lorenz, Frankenmuth (1845); Holy Cross, Saginaw (1849); and St. John, Amelith (1852).

The Oklahoma District PALS group, led by Pastor Jonathan and Emily Meyer, enjoyed a retreat hosted by a gracious couple in their congregation. Their home was a wonderful site with room (and a pool!) for kids to play and space for the group to meet. The group also enjoyed “Porch Talk with the President” as District President Rev. Barrie Henke joined them for dinner, discussion and worship.
PALS Facilitator Training Conference July 31-August 1

Many of our PALS Facilitating Couples will gather this month at the Annual PALS Facilitator Training Conference to encourage one another through: fellowship, sharing PALS meeting tips, reviewing curriculum, and receiving presentations by Kansas District President Rev. Peter Lange and his wife Marcia, CPH author Pete Jurchen, a PALS participants panel, and LCMS Communications.

We appreciate the time set aside by our PALS Facilitators during their busy summers. We are excited to begin a new PALS year connected, encouraged, and strengthened through this opportunity for training and fellowship.

NEW PALS Wives Bible Studies

We are pleased to announce that New England District PALS Wives Facilitator, Deaconess Tiffany Manor, has prepared several Bible studies for use with pastor’s wives during a PALS meeting.

Deaconess Manor serves as the Director of Worker Support for the New England District. PALS Facilitating wives will receive both hard copies and electronic copies later this summer. We are truly blessed by gifted Facilitators who continue to share their insight, experience and wisdom with their PALS groups! What a gift to these families, and the congregations they serve.

NEW Confirmation Curriculum: For people with intellectual and developmental disabilities

Downloadable Bible lessons written for all ages on several major Christian topics. Materials written at a grade 3-4 reading level for concrete understanding. Ideal for disability ministries, small group ministries, classrooms, confirmation classes, families and new Christians. Each unit comes with a set of pre-printed Communications Cards (mailed separately). All units can be found at www.cph.org/bethesda

Connections

From Rev. Dr. Benjamin T.G. Mayes, Assistant Professor of Historical Theology, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

"The new unabridged translation of Walther's Pastoral Theology is the most complete source for Lutheran pastoral practice and casuistry in the English language. It brings the wisdom of three centuries of faithful Lutheran teaching to bear on difficult cases."