July 2021

“Dear Pastor”

“It’s quite a paradox isn’t it…”

-Dr. Jim Baneck

News from the PALS Field

Welcome Greenes!

PALS Gatherings

Resources

Preach the Word

Pilot Project: Life Together as Synod

WELCOME NEW PASTORS AND WIVES

A very special welcome to all the new pastors, wives, and families into PALS. The transition from seminary to first call is real! Your PALS facilitators and PALS group are very excited to meet you, and have you become a part of the PALS community.

If you have any questions at all, please contact Jim at james.baneck@lcms.org or Robyn at robyn.armbrust@lcms.org. We are here to serve you!
“IF ANYONE WOULD BE FIRST, HE MUST BE LAST OF ALL AND SERVANT OF ALL.” MARK 9:35

Dear Pastor,

One of my responsibilities in LCMS Pastoral Education is to lead the Synod-wide Church Worker Recruitment Initiative (2019 LCMS Convention Res. 6-01).

The fifth and final strategy of the initiative is to “position church workers as admirable champions of humility and service.” How can one be an admirable champion while being a humble servant at the same time?

A great event took place in Mark, Chapter 9 – the Transfiguration of Jesus! The clothes of Jesus became radiant, intensively white, as no one could bleach them. Not only that, but dead, Old Testament prophets, Elijah and Moses, appeared there with Him. There was Jesus, giving us a glimpse of His great and majestic glory.

Then Jesus, Peter, James, and John went back down the mountain and joined up with the rest of the disciples – these future pastors. As they walked, Jesus said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And when He is killed, after three days He will rise.” This admirable champion will become the humble servant of all.
They’ve seen glimpses of His glory. They heard Him talk about His suffering and dying. They seemed to like the glory thing better! As they traveled on from there to Capernaum, the disciples argued about which was the greatest of them all; which one deserved the most glory over all the others.

Jesus kindly teaches them – and forms them – to be humble servants. Afterall, they will be representing the Servant of all after He ascends into heaven. He said to these seminarians, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”

It’s quite a paradox, isn’t it – the Creator of the world being the Servant of all! It’s quite a paradox, isn’t it – the office of the holy ministry being the “highest office in the land,” and yet being the humble servant of all. And yet, that’s exactly right. Pastors are admirable champions in the eyes of many yet serves in the office with humility and service.

Dear servant of Christ, as you are cleansed in the blood of the Lamb and washed in the waters of Holy Baptism, as you are called by Christ to serve Him in His kingdom, you are an admirable champion of humility and service. Blessings to you in your most holy work – proclaiming the Word of God, feeding God’s people with His blessed Sacraments, and tending His flock like a shepherd. Peace and grace to you in the name of Jesus Christ.

**Thoughts of Contemplation:**

1. In self-reflection, when and how have you displayed yourself as an unworthy man of arrogance rather than an admirable servant of humility?

2. Please take a few minutes to contemplate Christ’s humble service to you and the people you serve that places Him in a position of an admirable champion.

3. What characteristics do you want to exemplify that would cause the boys in your congregation say, “I want to be a pastor!”?

In the name of Jesus,

*Jim*

Rev. Dr. James Baneck, Executive Director of Pastoral Education
NEWS FROM THE PALS FIELD

PALS WELCOME

We are excited to welcome new PALS Facilitators, Pastor Frank and Leigh Greene. The Greenes will serve the Missouri District West PALS group alongside Pastor Wayne and Crystal Huebner who serve the Missouri District East PALS group. Pastor Greene is the senior pastor at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Kansas City, Missouri. Thank you Greenes for your commitment to serve the new pastors and their families in your area.

Recent PALS Activity

PALS Facilitator, Pastor Steve Wagner, led his Texas District PALS pastors through a final virtual PALS meeting this past June. His group discussed chapters 4-6 in Max De Pree’s book Leading Without Power. They also worked through the importance of personal touch as a congregation emerges from COVID, and the challenges of the transition into a new congregation.

Pastor Daniel and Sarah Pool kicked off their new PALS year by gathering their Iowa District East PALS group for a meeting which included special guest, District President Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders. The group enjoyed time in worship, article discussion, lunch and time with President Saunders who discussed pastoral longevity.

STAY TUNED

Our PALS year begins this month! Many of our facilitators are meeting with their new PALS families one-on-one as they take them out to lunch or dinner. They are excited to being gathering as a group in the coming weeks!

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.

Coming out soon – “Catechetical Preaching” by Rev. Peter Bender.

For free access, go to https://www.lcms.org/about/leadership/president/preach-the-word.
“Life Together as Synod” is a 10-module pilot project currently under production. These modules serve as an information video series on our mutual commitment to confession, mission and good order.

Each module includes a 3-minute video accompanied by a Talk Sheet discussion guide.

The ten modules are:

1. Preface
2. History, Confession, Purpose
3. Confessional Position of Synod, Doctrinal Resolutions, Statements, Agreement, and Review
4. Synod Objectives 1-5
5. Synod Objectives 6-10
6. Membership in the Synod
7. Relationships in the Missouri Synod
8. The Office of Pastoral Education (focusing on the Office of the Holy Ministry)
9. Districts of the Synod
10.District Presidents

Modules 1-3 are scheduled to be completed this fall. ALL our PALS groups will be asked and encouraged to view these modules.

PALS participants will be asked to evaluate these videos, with the hope of producing additional modules. An evaluation form will be provided.