**Love and Respect**

*I can remember July 14, 1984 very well. Thirty-five years ago, my bride was beautifully adorned for her husband. Walking down the aisle in Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Upham, ND, Myrna and I became husband and wife. What do you remember of your wedding day?*

Thirty five years and… eight houses, four cities, two calls, a few disagreements, five dogs, four children, one miscarriage, family vacations, trips to go see the parents, thirty five Advents, thirty five Lent and Easters, four children off to college, four children married as of this coming fall, empty nest, four grandchildren later… and we’re still practicing that Ephesians 5 love and respect thing.

About fifteen years into marriage, I can remember coming home one night after another evening at church. We had four children about 10 and under, I was gone two weeks at a time studying for my DMin, and my wife was a full-time teacher. That night Myrna met me at the door and quietly said, “Do you know that you’ve been gone the last ten nights in a row?”

Being a husband and wife is enough work in and of itself. Add on top of that being a pastor and a pastor’s wife (and all that goes along with that). Luther calls marriage “a glorious estate and preaches about how God richly blesses this estate which is both His work and has His Word” (AE 57:82). And yet, while marriage is a true blessing and children are a gift from God, marriage and family in a fallen world is not always easy.

Dear pastor, love your wife. This is what God commands and it is what she needs in the marriage. Dear pastor’s wife, respect your husband. This is what God commands and what he needs in the marriage. But there is more…

As you know, Ephesians 5 is *really* talking about Christ and His Church. “This is a profound mystery, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.” Jesus Christ loved us all, His holy bride, that He gave His life and shed His blood to make us pure and holy in His sight. He bore the bride’s sins in order to give the bride His purity and righteousness *(that’s you!)*. And the holy Bride, His Church, submits to Him, not under compulsion, but in love for her Redeemer. This, then, is the perfect picture of a Christian marriage, including that of a pastor and his wife – *you and your spouse.*

So, whether your anniversary is in the popular months of summer or any other time of the year – may God bless and protect you, may He give you joy and forgiveness, peace and reconciliation – in your marriage and family *every day!*

In Christ,

*Jim*

Rev. Dr. James Baneck, Executive Director of Pastoral Education
Exciting News from the PALS Field

PALS Gatherings

Our Indiana District PALS groups enjoyed a May PALS outing!

Pastor Mark and Susie Pflughoeft met with each group separately during the month of May to accommodate the distance between their PALS families. What a blessing it is to have such dedicated facilitators who creatively plan for their meetings and retreats.

As the PALS year comes to a close, to date PALS facilitators led a total of 89 gatherings, some of which included meetings over the course of several days in a retreat setting.

2019 Annual PALS Facilitator Training Event June 25-26

What a joyous gathering! Facilitating couples met with the PALS office, Wyoming District President John and Angela Hill, and current PALS participants for a few days of fellowship, study, PALS planning and evaluation.

We thank the Baneck’s for hosting a wonderful dinner in their home, and for all who took time to join us as we continue to encourage one another in our support and efforts to strengthen the PALS program.

DOX and PALS

We are pleased to share that we are offering scholarships for five facilitators to attend DOXOLOGY this coming year. It is our goal to use this opportunity to strengthen and encourage these men as pastors, as facilitators, and allow them this experience in order to also strengthen and encourage the PALS pastors in their care.

“We’re delighted to learn that the 2020 fiscal year PALS’ budget has made provisions for training five of the PALS facilitators. We applaud your commitment to equip your facilitators with advanced skills in caring for souls. We’re also confident that each of the pastors will benefit personally and professionally from countless dimensions of the experience and will enjoy genuine spiritual refreshment, as well!”

-Beverly K. Yahnke, Ph.D., Executive Director for Christian Counsel, DOXOLOGY
“I have already been through the Doxology program. It is great that you are sponsoring scholarships for it. It was the most beneficial thing that I have done for my ministry since seminary. It will be a great blessing for those who get it and for their congregations.”

-Pastor Steve Lutz, Ohio District PALS Facilitator

Facilitators will attend one of two DOXOLOGY offerings this year:

- November 4-7, 2019 Donaldson, Indiana
- June 8-11, 2020 Schuyler, Nebraska

To date, 3 of the 5 scholarships have been granted. Facilitators, there is still time to apply! Please email Robyn at the PALS office ASAP if you are interested.

**Joined Together**

As you know by now, The Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, having received 51.76 percent of the votes cast, is the president-elect of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for a fourth term of office, 2019–2022.

The role of the Synod President is described in the Synod Handbook Constitution (Article XI.B) and Bylaw 3.3. As a summary, the Synod President is entrusted with Ecclesiastical and Administrative powers and duties according to the Handbook.

In regard to the convention, the Synod President shall see to it that the resolutions of the Synod are carried out, he gives a report of his administration to the Synod Convention, and he conducts the sessions of the convention so that all things are done in a Christian manner and in accord with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Synod.

We pray the Lord’s presence, guidance, and wisdom upon President Harrison, all newly elected persons at the convention, and upon our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as we are joined together to form the Synod and relate to one another through it (1.3.1).

**Connections**

**From Rev. Michael Newman, President, Texas District**

“Post-seminary Applied Learning and Support (PALS) connects seasoned pastors with new graduates in order to provide encouragement and care as they become acclimated to the rigors and nuances of pastoral ministry. It is a joy to have PALS as a foundational resource for pastoral wellness and continuing education for new graduates and their families in the Texas District.”