Ain’t it great to be Missouri Synod!

“Rejoice always.” 1 Thessalonians 5:16

In his white paper leading up to the Synod convention this July, President Harrison chose 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24 as his biblical foundation. A portion of that text reads, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Harrison lists several “joys,” in the Lutheran Church: Joy in the Incarnation that God becomes flesh, the Joyous Gospel of Grace Alone, Joy in Baptism, Joy in Absolution, and Joy in the Lord’s Supper. Then he writes, “Pastors are servants of Christ, and for the Joy of His people.”

It was such a joy for me to attend this year’s call services in Ft. Wayne and St. Louis. Joy abounds in these services with the liturgy, hymns, choral pieces, reading of Holy Scripture, and the preached Word. In these services, God’s people gather around the Word and then rejoice with all the pastoral candidates for the announcement of their first call into the holy ministry. Every call night, we celebrate with the whole Church men called into the holy ministry in this most biblical confessional church body called The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

In his May 13, 2019 International Center chapel service, Rev. Dr. John Sias said, “Along with 1 Cor 12—the Lord’s will that the diversity of gifts be put to the good of the whole—our Synod’s founders chose this chapter of Acts as a reason for congregations to band together, a ‘reason for the forming of a synodical union,’ the example of the apostolic church, Acts 15:1–31. These remain to this day the first words of our constitution, setting forth why our congregations would bother to be part of a synod.”

Bumps, bruises, crosses, scars, and sins – we are the Missouri Synod, “the example of the apostolic church” (Preamble), “organized to work in support of and on behalf of congregations to assist them in carrying out their ministries as they seek to serve our Lord Jesus Christ, the members of His body, and the world which stands in need of the Word and the impact of His redeeming love.” (1.1.1)

As we welcome the new candidates joining the ranks of the holy ministry (and PALS!), we continue to ‘band together’ in this one holy Christian Church, and yes, even The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod for the sake of the beloved Gospel! Welcome new PALS brothers in Christ, soon to be a ‘member of the Synod’ as we band together to proclaim eternal salvation to all God’s people through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

WELCOME TO PALS!

Pastoral Candidates and wives – when you arrive at your first call this summer, your PALS facilitators will soon be in contact with you. Their names were provided in the folder given you at the PALS Seminary dinner. I pray this will be the beginning of three great years in PALS!

If you have any questions (any at all!), please do not hesitate to contact the PALS office at robyn.armbrust@lcms.org. Welcome to the holy ministry!

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

Spring PALS Gatherings

As we prepare to close out the PALS year this June, many are already preparing for the opening meetings to welcome in the newest PALS pastors and their families to their groups.

In the meantime, here’s what we’ve heard from our facilitators hosting spring PALS events throughout the country this past April and May!
Our PALS Facilitators are
dedicated, committed,
caring servants of Christ.
We thank God for them!

DOX and PALS

Your experience in peer learning, mentoring, and mutual support through PALS has already taught you that ministry is not a solitary vocation. Consider extending your collegial learning experience by enrolling in the DOXOLOGY program this year or next. Click the registration tab at the DOXOLOGY website. While you’re there, review the multiple videos of lectures from some of the best pastoral theologians in the world. You can view short clips of these lectures, then select the ones you want to put on your list for viewing or discussion with a ministry colleague or during your circuit winkle meeting.

Joined Together

I would encourage you to pause life and read the following with careful thought. This, in part, is what every pastor vows at his ordination and every installation. Quite remarkable, really! -JB

On the very first page of the Constitution of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is the Preamble and first few articles.

Preamble

Reason for the Forming of a Synodical Union

2. Our Lord’s will that the diversities of gifts should be for the common profit. 1 Cor. 12:4–31.

Following the Preamble, Article I states the name of this Synodical Union and the incredible confession in Article II.

Article I Name

The name of the synod organized under this constitution shall be: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Article II Confession

The Synod, and every member of the Synod, accepts without reservation:

1. The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament as the written Word of God and the only rule and norm of faith and of practice;
2. All the Symbolical Books of the Evangelical Lutheran Church as a true and unadulterated statement and exposition of the Word of God, to wit: the three Ecumenical Creeds (the Apostles’ Creed, the Nicene Creed, the Athanasian Creed), the Unaltered Augsburg Confession, the Apology of the Augsburg Confession, the Smalcald Articles, the Large Catechism of Luther, and Small Catechism of Luther, and the Formula of Concord.

As a reminder, the Constitution of the LCMS can be found at the beginning of each convention handbook. -JB