Happy Ordination

*Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophesy when the council of elders laid their hands on you. I Timothy 4:13-14*

Let the ordinations begin! How exciting it is for our 2018 seminary candidates to receive their first call and now be ordained by the Church with the laying on of hands. How exciting it is to receive your first stole! How exciting it is for the many congregations preparing for this joyous day as the Lord heard their prayer and now delivers a shepherd to their flock. Ordination – a day of joy, family, congregation, food, cake, pictures, pastors, gifts, and excitement!

**But what is Ordination?**

Ordination, the laying on of hands, is an ancient and laudable practice in the Church, but not commanded by God. However, as you know, the Apology states, “But if ordination is understood with reference to the ministry of the Word, we have no objection to calling *ordination* a sacrament. (Ap XIII 11, KW).” We also confess, “For wherever the Church exists, there also is the right to administer the gospel. Therefore, it is necessary for the Church to retain the right to call, choose, and ordain ministers” (Tr 67, KW). C.F.W. Walther writes, “According to God’s Word there is certainly no doubt that even today *ordination* is not an empty ceremony if it is connected with the faithful prayer of the Church, based on the glorious promises given in particular to the preaching office.”

Ultimately, ordination is the whole Church’s recognition and confirmation of a man entering the holy ministry. Through ordination, the whole Church attests that this man has been properly trained, examined, and called. Ordination is a public testimony to the whole Church that this man is ready – as the church has prepared him – to teach, exhort, preach, administer the sacraments, and shepherd God’s people according to the Word of God.

The day of Ordination is a mountaintop event, kind-of-like Transfiguration before heading to Calvary. On the day of my ordination, my catechizing pastor said tongue-in-cheek, “Enjoy today; it will be the best day of your ministry.” After 31 years, I now know what he meant. While ordination is a glorious event of joy and achievement, the stole being placed on you is the burden of the cross. THIS IS WHERE PALS COMES IN – to help you with the transition from seminary to first call, which includes helping you process your first years of ministry under this glorious suffering cross of Christ.

Happy Ordination and welcome to the apostolic office of the Holy Ministry! Oh, BTW, we at PALS would love to hear about your ordination day. Send us a quick note at [james.baneck@lcms.org](mailto:james.baneck@lcms.org) or [Robyn.Armbrust@lcms.org](mailto:Robyn.Armbrust@lcms.org). Really, we’d love to hear from you! You are in our thoughts and prayers.

*Jim*

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

Our **New England District** PALS group enjoyed a Spring Retreat!

Thank you to **Pastor Jonathan and Deaconess Tiffany Manor** for planning and leading this wonderful retreat!

**Pastor Nate and Sarah Reichle** led a spring retreat for their **North Wisconsin District** PALS group.

They enjoyed presentations made by guest speaker Dale Meyer, president, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

We WELCOME **Pastor Daniel and Sallie Pool**, **Iowa East District**, to the PALS Facilitator Family! We are excited to have them serve with us beginning in July 2018.

**Pastor Wayne and Crystal Huebner** join our **Missouri District** team of PALS Facilitators. They will serve alongside **Pastor Fran and Kay Lieb** who began serving in 2008!

**Pastor Tim and Susanna Heath** joined our PALS Facilitator family. They serve with **Pastor Mark and Lynn Boxman** in the **Kansas District**.

We thank God for our district presidents, who provide us with such qualified and gifted facilitators.

NEW PALS Course Materials Available September 2018

- NEW ADDITION to our PALS library: **Responding to Sexual Temptation in a High Tech Society** by Ambassadors of Reconciliation has been added to our curricular library for use within a PALS meeting.
This comprehensive six-lesson Bible study explores what the Bible teaches about the dangers of sexual temptation from computer, television, cell phones, and more. It provides healing through the power of the Gospel and Christian accountability. Because we live in a sensuous society, this study is for all teens and adults, not just for those who currently struggle with these temptations. "Announcing God's Grace" pamphlet is included with each Bible study guide.

To view a trailer regarding this study, insert this link in your browser: http://www.hisaor.org/web-content/ViewVideo.html

The Responding Leader’s Pack includes a Bible study and flash drive with videos, PowerPoint material and more. We have purchased 2 sets of the Leader’s Packs and multiple copies of the Bible study books. The Leader’s Pack and Bible study books can be checked out by PALS facilitators beginning in September 2018. All materials (including Bible Study books) need to be returned for use by other PALS groups.

- CPH will be making a short presentation at this summer’s PALS Facilitator Training Conference of the new Confirmation instruction series and will offer a free copy of Timeless Truth: An Essential Guide for Teaching the Faith to our facilitators. They are also offering the book in a free ebook format by signing up at www.cph.org/timelesstruth. When you sign up, you’ll receive a free planning guide.

**PALS Facilitator Training Conference**

Our PALS Facilitating Couples will gather next month 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.

**Connections**

From Rev. Tim Yeadon, LCMS New England District President

As a District President I can affirm that new graduates have lots and lots of great excitement - but to think they “are done” with growing and with education because the seminary days are behind them…. um…

In many ways for those first few years of ministry: “The growing has just begun” - and that’s where PALS to me is invaluable!!!