

20th European Lutheran Conference

From 10 to 13 June 2008 sixteen delegates from the six member

churches of the European Lutheran Conference (ELC), (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Portugal, United Kingdom) and seven official guests from six other churches (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Spain, Czech Republic, USA) met in the new church centre of the Gratia Kyrken (Church of Grace) of the "Evangelical Lutheran Free Church in Denmark" (ELFKiDk) in Aarhus, Denmark.

Each member church sends a pastor (normally its president) and a lay delegate. The

Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) in Germany can send up to four pastors and four lay delegates.

The first surprise: with the exception of one German man, all the lay delegates were women this time. Was it due to the conference's topic: Family and Children?

The second surprise: nine of the participants - pastors or lay delegates - were not born in the country whose church delegated them to the meeting. This reflects the moving populations in the European Union, but also the readiness of the churches to welcome and integrate foreigners.

The focus of the meetings of the ELC is always on the practical life and work of the local congregation. "Our aim," said ELC president Jean Thiébaud Haessig, France, in his opening address, "is to give congregations material, so



Participants of the 20th European Lutheran Conference in Denmark

1st row (from left to right) : Pres. Walter Ralli (Spain), Mrs Lolita Natter (France), Mrs Sanne Emme (Denmark), Mrs Elvira Six-Tausen (Belgium), Mrs Maria Crede (United Kingdom), Mr Mansur Kurmanbakeev (Kyrgyzstan), P. Alexei Shashlivi (Kazakhstan), Bishop Stanislav Pietak (Czech Rep. / Silesia), P. Botobaev Kenjibek (Kyrgyzstan), P. George Samiec (United Kingdom) **2nd row:** Pres. Gijsbertus van Hattem (Belgium), Mrs Veronica van Hattem (Belgium), Miss Rebeca Flor (Portugal), Pres. Jonas Flor (Portugal), Pres. Jean Thiébaud Haessig (France), Pres. Leif Jensen (Denmark), Mr Gottfried Heyn (Germany), P. Brent Smith (USA), **3rd row:** Mrs Michaela Krieser (Germany), P. Matthias Krieser (Germany), Mrs Ute Brückmann (Germany), Chairman Reginald Quirk (United Kingdom), P. Elijs Godins (Latvia), Bishop Hans-Jörg Voigt (Germany).

that they can continue to reflect on concrete practical areas of their life. In Berlin (Germany, 2002) it was about the *Youth Work* in the church, in Antwerp (Belgium, 2004) the *Diaspora of the Church*, in Hoddesdon (United Kingdom, 2006) *My Contribution to my Congregation's Life*, and this time it is about *Family and Children*." Therefore the presented papers were summarized in a final communiqué addressed to the congregations.

Several papers were presented and discussed in groups and in the plenary assemblies: "God's Plan for Families and the Real World of Europe" (Matthias Krieser, Germany), "Issues of Care for Patchwork Families" (George Samiec, United Kingdom) and "For Single Parent Families" (Jean Thiébaud Haessig, France), "Marriage" (Jonas Flor, Portugal) and "Parenting in a Time When Anything Goes" (Gijsbertus van Hattem, Belgium).

Eight worship services and devotions opened and closed the days with sermons on texts pertaining to the general theme. There were also many opportunities to meet the hosting congregation of President Leif G. Jensen, whose members did a great service to make the participants feel well in their midst.

With the exception of the vice-president, Rev. Detlev Budniok, Germany, who asked not to be re-elected, the executive committee of the ELC was returned to office. Rev. J. Th. Haessig, France remains president of the the ELC, and Rev. George Samiec, United Kingdom its secretary. The new vice-president is Jonas Flor of Portugal.

The 21st meeting of the ELC is planned for 2010 in Portugal.

Do Not Be Anxious

Editorial by Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick
Chairman, International Lutheran Council



Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick
ILC Chairman
Photo: H. Hoeller

"Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span

of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble." (Matthew 6:25-34)

Around the world, people live in anxious times. Death and destruction from natural disasters, uncertainty from political unrest, financial pressure from increased costs of fuel and food - all these and more are factors that cause people to watch, to worry, and to wonder about the days, weeks, months, and years ahead. Add to these realities the decline of moral values in many parts of the world, including continued attacks on the divinely instituted lifelong relationship of marriage between one man and one woman, and, indeed, it becomes very difficult not to be more than concerned about the quality of life in the future.

In times like these, to whom do we turn for comfort, assurance, and hope? The words of Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount, written in Matthew 6, provide the comfort, assurance, and hope we all need in times of anxiety. Using examples from life, including life itself, birds, and flowers, Jesus assures us that there is no need to worry about food, longevity, or clothing. Our heavenly Father is aware of all our needs, even before we ask Him to provide for them.

The Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer, with Luther's explanation, addresses the same topic in these words: "Give us this day our daily bread." What does this mean?

Answer: To be sure, God provides daily bread, even to the wicked, without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that God may make us aware of his gifts and enable us to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Answer: Everything required to satisfy our bodily needs, such as food and clothing, house and home, fields and flocks, money and property; a pious spouse and good children, trustworthy servants, godly and faithful rulers, good government; seasonable weather, peace and health, order and honor; true friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

And Jesus concludes with these words: "*But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added*

to you. Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

So, my dear friends in Christ, we are faced with life's joys and sorrows, difficulties and blessings, victories and defeats. And as human beings we are often inclined to worry about the things we need to sustain our body and life. But we have Christ's promise of our gracious Father's provision for those who seek first His kingdom. By His grace and forgiveness, we do so, trusting His promise through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God's grace, mercy, power, and peace be with you all!



Bugbee New LCC President



LCC President-elect
Robert Bugbee

LCC-InfoDigest - Delegates to Lutheran Church-Canada's 8th convention elected Rev. Robert Bugbee, 52, to serve as the church body's third president in its 20-year history. The pastor was elected on the first day of the church body's convention in Winnipeg, Manitoba, 6 June.

Rev. Bugbee, a native of Toledo, Ohio, currently serves Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kitchener, Ontario. Before accepting the call to Holy Cross in 1994, he served congregations in London, Ontario, and St. Catharines, Ontario, and Albertville, Minnesota.

The pastor is no stranger to the administrative side of the church, having served on LCC's first Board of Directors from 1988-89 as a vice-president and also as a vice-president of LCC's East District from 1994-2000.

In his acceptance speech Pastor Bugbee said it was both "heartwarming" and "a little frightening" to be elected to the church body's top post, a position he "did not hope for."

A 1981 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, the pastor said he feels "a certain grief" in leaving his life as a full-time pastor and

asked for prayers as he faces "a steep learning curve" as LCC president.

He described LCC as a "small family" in a vast land, charged with the "huge" task of reaching out with the Gospel among Canadians who "are growing more secularized."

The president-elect will take office in September, succeeding Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan, who did not seek re-election after serving four three-year terms.

Bugbee will be installed on 28 September at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kitchener, Ontario. Retiring president, Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan will conduct the rite of installation.

President-elect Robert Bugbee and his wife Gail have four children.

Japan Lutheran Church Holds 14th Convention

On 5 and 6 May 2008 the fourteenth regular convention of the Japan Lutheran Church (JLC) was convened in Tokyo, Japan.

During the convention, the JLC selected the theme for this term as "Church, going forward as the body of Christ" based on 1 Corinthians 12:27. As keywords for moving forward "community" and "training the workers" were chosen.

Rev. Yutaka Kumei was elected and installed as the new president of the JLC, and, though he will continue to serve as pastor of Center Lutheran Church in Sapporo, Japan, he has already begun his term of service. Along with the newly elected and appointed members of the JLC board of directors, he is joined by Rev. Shinri Emoto, JLC vicepresident, and Rev. Jun Yamato, JLC mission secretary.

JLC members celebrated the three-year term and service of president emeritus Kimio Takano as new initiatives submitted by the former board of directors were approved, including a recruitment effort for new pastors, and a reconfigured program for Luther House, the JLC seminary student dormitory.

Lehenbauer Accepts Call to Head CTCR

Dr. Joel D. Lehenbauer of Union, Missouri, USA, has accepted the call to become executive director of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Commission on Theology and Church Relations, effective 1 July 2008.

Lehenbauer, who has been associate executive director of the CTCR since 2004,

succeeds Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger as executive director. On 1 July, Nafzger became director of church relations - assistant to the president, a new position which he accepted last fall.

The CTCR voted unanimously at its 12 to 14 May 2008 meeting in St. Louis to issue the call to Lehenbauer.

Lehenbauer, 49, is a 1984 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, from which he also received S.T.M. and Ph.D. degrees in 1991 and 2004, respectively. He joined the CTCR staff in 1991 as assistant executive director, after serving five years as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hillsdale, Michigan.

Also at its meeting last month, the CTCR adopted "a special expression of thanksgiving to God" for the ministry of Nafzger, who has been its executive director since 1975, two years after he joined that staff.

Noting that his time on that staff has spanned the terms of five Synod presidents, the CTCR's "expression of thanksgiving" points out some ten areas in which Nafzger "has served with distinction, providing leadership, guidance, and direction for the work of the commission."

LCC President-Elect Names Interim Mission Executive

LCC-InfoDigest - Lutheran Church-Canada's President-elect Robert Bugbee has asked current president Rev. Dr. Ralph Mayan to assume the duties of LCC's mission executive for a maximum of one year. Dr. Mayan will supervise the mission activities from an office in Vancouver. The president-elect noted that Dr. Mayan "may be asked to vacate the post somewhat earlier if we are successful in procuring a permanent replacement for the position."

LCC's Board of Directors had agreed to call Dr. Mayan as the interim mission executive pending ratification by the new president.

When Dr. Leonard Harms retired from the mission executive position in 2006, President Mayan assumed the responsibilities.

Lutheran Church-Canada works with indigenous church bodies in Ukraine, Thailand, and Nicaragua, undertakes mission work in Costa Rica and Honduras, and supports theological education in Cambodia.

LCMS: Black Ministry Convocation in D.C. Area

Under the theme "Radiating the Flame," from Jer. 20:9, the 2008 Black Ministry Family Convocation of the Lutheran Church - Missouri

Synod (LCMS) takes place from 31 July to 3 August at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City in Arlington, Virginia, USA. The four-day convocation will include daily worship services, business sessions, inspirational messages, performances by Lutheran choirs and musicians, and workshops on topics such as "Loving Parents, Loving Dads," "Conversational Evangelism," "Vacant - and Still Ablaze," "Walking the Talk: Lessons in Outreach," "The Role of a Deaconess," and "Addressing Conflict and Disagreements in the Church Family."

This is the first Black Ministry Family Convocation to be held in the Washington, D.C., area, even though it is rich in African-American history and has a strong LCMS Black-ministry population, according to Dr. Phillip Campbell, executive director of the Board for Black Ministry Services, which sponsors the biennial gatherings.

Planners are expecting more than 600 people to attend the convocation.

Addressing the theme as keynote speaker will be Gill Hill, former president of the Detroit City Council and a former Detroit city police detective who played the role of Inspector Todd in the "Beverly Hills Cop" films.

Also speaking will be LCMS First Vice President William Diekelman, who will build on the convocation theme and bring words of encouragement to participants.

A separate youth program will offer Bible studies, fellowship activities, and a trip to Six Flags amusement park.

Brazil: IELB Starts TV Broadcasting of Divine Services

ielb/selk-news - In the 104th year of its existence, the Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB) undertook a further step in the media world: beginning 22 June 2008, divine services are recorded in the chapel of the Lutheran University of Brazil (ULBRA) and broadcasted by the ULBRA TV channel.

The program is called "Touch of Life - Sunday special" and is broadcasted every Sunday morning from 8:00 to 9:00. Four million people in the states of Rio Grande do Sul und Santa Catarina are able to receive ULBRA TV and thousands more in all Latin America via satellite and the internet.

"Touch of life" is a six minutes program broadcasted daily by ULBRA at 8:00 am and 11:50 pm. This program is now extended by a one hour long divine service on Sundays.

The IELB has 225 000 members in just under 1 400 congregations.

LCC Mission Agencies Form New Association

Following the Convention of the Lutheran Church–Canada (LCC) in June this year, representatives from ten of LCC's twelve mission-oriented Listed Service Organizations and three auxiliaries met to create an umbrella organization focusing on supporting LCC's mission and ministry. Under the name CLAIM (Canadian Lutheran Agencies in Mission) the group's vision is to "work together in unity sharing the concern of reaching the lost with a love and concern for all people." They also committed to "co-operating, for the sake of the Gospel, in assisting Lutheran Church–Canada in engaging and deploying its members to proclaim more effectively the triune God."

Heading the organization on an interim basis are Rev. Dr. Edwin Lehman, Rod Ludke (executive director, LAMP) and Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer, mission executive for the ABC District. The district and synod mission executives are part of the organization in an advisory capacity.

SELK: Lutheran Theological Seminary Turns Sixty

selk-news - On 15 Juni 2008, the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) of the German Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) celebrated its 60th anniversary in Oberursel with many visitors.



Partical view of LTS Campus in Oberursel

After the festive sacramental service in the St. John's church of the local SELK congregation, there was an opportunity for words of greeting. At this occasion a new pamphlet about the LTS was presented. A historic film and a display board with photos from both the past and the present gave guests reason to remember and talk about their experiences.

The day culminated in the inaugural lecture of the freshly installed professor for church history, Prof. Dr. Gilberto da Silva.

Advanced Theological Training in Belorussia

selk news - On invitation of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic Belarus (IELC-RB) and in agreement with the church council of the Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church (SELK) in Germany, Professor Dr. Werner Klän (Lutheran Theological Seminary, Oberursel) and Rev. Dr. Albrecht Adam (Cologne) held an advanced theological training seminar in Minsk from 22 to 25 May 2008.

President Wladimir Meyerson of the IELC-RB had asked for such advanced training of pastors, deacons und congregation leaders during his visits to Germany.

The three-day seminar took place in the conference house "Koinonia", which is run by an orthodox lay fraternity and is open for events of ecumenical partners.

Seminar participants were pastors, deacons and congregation leaders of the IELC-RB as well as guests from other Lutheran congregations and mission fields in Belorussia.

The two lecturers gave introductions to important themes of Lutheran theology as The Word of God, Divine Service, Baptism, Church, and Office of the Church. They were presented especially with the decisions of the Lutheran reformation as laid down in the Book of Concord of 1580.

A further seminar is planned for the European fall with the topics Confirmation, Ordination, Wedding, Funeral, and Church Order and Structure.

Should these projects prove to be meaningful, further seminars of this kind are envisaged.

IELE Holds National Assembly

From 21 to 23 Mach this year, the Spanish Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELE) had its annual national assembly. This took place in a Dominican monastery in Ocaña, Toledo. Thirty-four people attended the meeting. They came from all over Spain: Barcelona, Zaragoza, Madrid, Toledo, Seville, and Córdoba.

Nine children attended the assembly and had the opportunity to study the fundamental points of God's grace. The children also

practiced two songs, which they sang in the worship service.

A four-part series of presentations focusing on God's grace was presented to the attendees. The first, "God's grace in a sinful world," was presented by missionary Walter D. Ralli in the sermon that was preached during the Good Friday worship service. The second was presented by Catechist Javier S. Ruiz, entitled, "God's grace and the church." The third, "God's grace and me," was presented by Catechist Juan Carlos García Cazorla. The fourth and last presentation, "God's grace and my neighbor," was given by missionary Gustavo Lavia, in the Resurrection Sunday service's sermon.

Canadians Assist First Youth Event in Nicaragua

LCC-InfoDigest - A Canadian team headed to Nicaragua at the end of April to help Iglesia Luterana Sinodo de Nicaragua (Lutheran Church - Synod of Nicaragua) (ILSN) organize its first youth gathering. Under the leadership of Melanie Kuhn and Lynn Gergens the 26-member group worked side-by-side with members of ILSN.

About 250 young people from Nicaragua, Honduras, Costa Rica and Guatemala attended the event in Chinandega. "The goal was not to conduct the gathering," said Lynn Gergens, "but to be a resource to the ILSN as its members organized and hosted the event."

Concordia Seminary's First DIT Student

Concordia Seminary News - St. Louis - On 22 April, Concordia Seminary's first Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT) student, Alan Rork, along with approximately 150 candidates for the pastoral ministry and five deaconess candidates, received his first call to serve in The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS), USA.

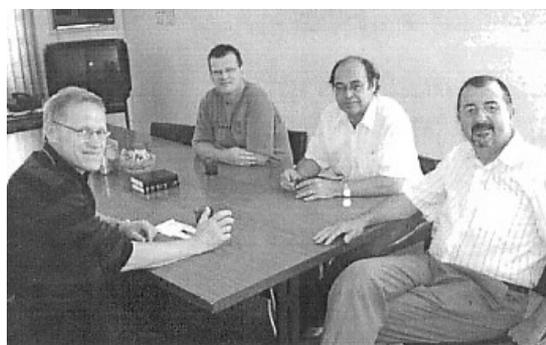
The Deaf Institute of Theology (DIT) provides an alternative route to ordination for deaf and hard of hearing members of the LCMS. The seminary-level program was created in 2004 to provide an opportunity for a deaf person to become a pastor. The curriculum provides the necessary broad foundation for missionary pastoral students. The DIT seminary-level program uses online classes with sign language video clips and mentoring by a local pastor. Annual on-campus seminars are also required. Beginning winter 2008, there will be ten DIT students.

President of Lutheran Church of Denmark Visits Brazil

IELB Noticias No 137 - Pastor Leif G. Jensen, President of the Free Lutheran Church of Denmark (EFLD) paid a visit to the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Brazil (IELB). He came to Brazil accompanied by his daughter who will spend three months as a voluntary worker at the Holy Trinity Institute, Gramado, Rio Grande do Sul.

On 8 April Jensen was received at the administrative center of the IELB in Porto Alegre, RS by IELB President Paulo Moises Nerbass and pastors Mario Lehenbauer and Adilson Schunke, where they had time to exchange ideas and information about the work of the Lutheran churches in both countries.

The Free Evangelical Lutheran Church of Denmark is small, with four congregations and three pastors. The work of the Lord is concentrated in finding lost sheep. There is a small growth in the number of members. Only since the eighties has the ELFD got Danish pastors. Until then an US-American missionary used to serve the congregations.



L.t.r.: President Jensen, pastors Schunke and Lehenbauer and President Nerbass

Golden Jubilee of IELC

Asia *Ablaze!* Newsletter - The India Evangelical Lutheran Church (IELC) celebrated its Golden Jubilee as an independent church body on 19 June 2008. Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) Fifth Vice-President Rev. David Buegler was the featured LCMS representative.

The event was part of the annual Pastors Refresher Course, to which pastors from the Lanka Lutheran Church in Sri Lanka also attended.

India was the first mission field for the LCMS in 1895.

The IELC has approximately 50 000 members, with over 200 active pastors and deaconesses. The church works in six states of India and in six different languages.

The IELC has 82 schools, including eight high schools, serving about 4 000 students. The church also has eight institutions for the handicapped.

This work is key to much of the church's *Ablaze!* goal to reach 20 million souls by 2017.

LWF Council Meets in Tanzania

(LWI) - Around 170 participants attended the 25 to 30 June Council meeting of the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) in Arusha, Tanzania, hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania (ELCT). Its theme was "Melting Snow on Mount Kilimanjaro - A Witness of a Suffering Creation."

The Council is the LWF's governing body meeting between Assemblies held every six years. The current Council was appointed at the July 2003 Tenth Assembly in Winnipeg, Canada. It comprises the President, Treasurer and 48 persons elected by the Assembly. Other members include advisors, lay and ordained persons, representing the different LWF regions.

Feuerhahn Retires After 22 Years at Seminary

Concordia Seminary News - St. Louis - Dr. Ronald R. Feuerhahn, professor of historical theology and Seminary archivist at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, USA, retired at the close of the 2007-2008 academic year after 22 years of distinguished service. With his retirement, a distinguished career of international service to Lutheran church bodies on several continents is brought to a formal close.

Feuerhahn, a 1963 graduate of Concordia Seminary, was ordained at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He has served both the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England (ELCE) and The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) extensively. From 1963 to 1967, he served as a missionary in England and Wales. He also served as pastor at St. David's Lutheran Church, Cardiff, Wales, from 1964 to 1970 and at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Cambridge, England, from 1970 to 1977. From 1977 to 1986, he was preceptor at Westfield House, the seminary of the ELCE, in Cambridge, England. He joined the Concordia Seminary faculty in 1986.

Feuerhahn became Seminary archivist in 1999 and has served on numerous committees and boards, including the LCMS Commission for Doctrinal Review, the LCMS Commission on Worship, and, while in Britain, the ELCE Board for Overseas Missions, the ELCE Lutheran Free Conference of Great Britain and the ELCE Executive Council.

LBTC has New Leader

Rev. Dr. Glenn Schaeffer, Board Chair of Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada (LBTC) announced that the call to lead the organization has been accepted by Rev. David Maffett of Halifax.

Rev. Maffett served as an evangelistic missionary to Togo (West Africa) for 12 years. He learned the local language and culture, planted churches, trained leaders and worked very closely with a Wycliffe Bible translation team. For most of those years, he was the field supervisor helping to establish the Lutheran Centre for Theological Studies in Dapaong, Togo which trains French speaking pastors from seven African countries.

Lutheran Bible Translators of Canada is a Christian charitable organization with the goal of helping to bring people to faith in Jesus Christ through Bible translation and literacy work. It is recognized as a listed service organization with Lutheran Church-Canada and as having an agreement of understanding with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada and other Lutheran church bodies in Canada.

China Lutheran Seminary Dedicates New Building

Asia Ablaze! Newsletter - China Lutheran Seminary (CLS) in Taiwan has completed the largest building project ever undertaken in its 40-year history. A 26 April service of thanksgiving and praise accompanied the dedication of the new eight-story seminary building.

The service brought leaders from Lutheran church bodies around the world to Taiwan. Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod (LCMS) World Mission Asia Regional Director, Rev. John Mehl, brought greetings on behalf of LCMS.

The building construction was completed in late 2007 and parts of the building have been in use since that time. LCMS Fan into Flame gifts provided \$200 000 toward construction.

The building includes an underground parking lot, library, cafeteria, auditorium, classrooms, offices and dormitories.

The seminary started as a small mission station, grew to a training center and then became the present seminary. Located in Hsinchu, Taiwan's bustling silicon valley, CLS offers Master's programs in Luther studies, Divinity, and Counseling, along with a Bachelor's degree in Theology.

The seminary sends a number of outreach teams each year to serve throughout Taiwan, Asia, and other parts of the world. The seminary also offers branch courses in five locations throughout Taiwan and evangelism training for laymen in fourteen locations also in Taiwan.

New technology available in the building includes virtual internet teaching, which allows students to take courses from Concordia Lutheran Seminary in the USA merely by connecting to the Internet. They can see and hear the teacher and fully participate in class.

The total number of students served in all of these programs is about 375, all of whom also serve in local congregations.

UK Lutheran Chaplains

By Paul Landgraf - The number of Lutheran student chaplains within the United Kingdom (UK) has declined in recent years, but the organization still exists for Lutheran university students to benefit from a Lutheran chaplain during their time in the UK.

Rev. Jennifer Welsh, student chaplain at the International Lutheran Student Centre in central London (and part of the Lutheran Church in Great Britain), has moved on to a pastoral position within the Church of England.

Rev. Paul Landgraf, pastor at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Coventry, continues to be student chaplains' coordinator for the Evangelical Lutheran Church of England. Part of this position is to help guide incoming Lutheran students to their nearest and most appropriate Lutheran chaplain. For more details, visit the website at: www.universitylutheran.co.uk or www.freewebs.com/universitylutheran/

"Touch the Bug"

Asia *Ablaze!* Newsletter - "When working with kids, we need to reach the parents. When working with parents, we have to be engaging the kids." These were the sentiments of Rev. Dr. Allan Yung, President of the Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS), regarding the combination of two call-in programs which are now run by the LCHKS.

"Touch the Bug," a call-in program of the Lutheran Hour in Hong Kong which receives

25 000 to 30 000 calls a month, officially came under the management of the LCHKS for its ongoing operation in June.

Dr. Yung noted that this is a great opportunity for the LCHKS to combine the two programs into one. As part of the *Ablaze!* effort in Hong Kong, the LCHKS launched a call-in program for parents of students in its schools in Hong Kong. It has been a growing program and continues to expand.

By adding the "Touch the Bug" program, the LCHKS hopes to connect with more kids and youth. Dr. Yung has set a goal of 60 000 calls a month and hopes that this new connection between the "Touch the Bug" children's program and the LCHKS parent's program will also help in the follow-up with both parents and children.

More Than 500 Attend LCP Youth Camps

Asia *Ablaze!* Newsletter - The four districts in the Lutheran Church in the Philippines (LCP) held their annual youth camps at different dates in April, and a total of 550 young people joined this important youth ministry event, with most being first time attendees.

This year's camp theme was "Empowering Youth Toward Church Involvement, Spiritual Fitness, and Involving Ourselves in Building up the Body of Christ."

Youth camps are fertile grounds for preaching the Gospel among young people who are sometimes reluctant to attend church. Three young men were recruited at the camp and are now enrolled as first year students at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Baguio City.

Almost all of the LCP clergymen attended these youth camps in the different districts. They served as devotion leaders, Bible Study teachers and lecturers.

ILC News is published quarterly to provide information for and about churches associated with the International Lutheran Council. Articles for publication and requests for additional copies of the publication (free of charge) should be sent either to the editor or to the executive secretary of the Council.

Editor: Rev. Peter H. F. Ahlers, Wittenberg, P.O. Box 758, 2380 Piet Retief, Republic of South Africa; phone: +27-17-8210807 and +27-79-5229930; e-mail: felsisa@pixie.co.za.

Executive Secretary: Dr. Samuel H. Nafzger, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd., St. Louis, Missouri, 63122-7295, USA; phone: 314-965-9000, Ext. 1433; fax: 314-996-1116; e-mail: samuel.nafzger@lcms.org. ILC News is also available via the internet from the Council's web site <http://www.ilc-online.org>.

Published at Wittenberg, South Africa. Future publications dates: 1 November 2008, 1 February 2009 and 1 May 2009. Articles to be received at least four weeks prior to publication dates.