

The Reformation and the Shortage of Called Workers

As many of us have come to know, there is a shortage of called workers – pastors, teachers, and staff ministers. Many ask the question, why? There may be any number of reasons. Perhaps there are some who honestly know that is not where their gifts lie. They may not be good teachers or speakers, but realize that God can use them more effectively in other capacities.

Not everyone is intended to be a pastor or teacher. Even the Bible tells us in James 3:1: “Not many of you should presume to be teachers, my brothers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly.” The Bible also reminds us that there are many gifts and talents given by the Holy Spirit so that as all people carry out their various duties in the name of Christ, the Christian Church is well maintained both spiritually and physically.

However, there may sometimes be selfish or greedy motives for refusal to go into the called worker ministry. The ministry does not pay enough in the eyes of some people. Perhaps it is a matter of simply not wanting to burden oneself with the difficulties that need to be faced in the ministry, and the demanding commitment it calls for.

In any case, the pastoral shortage is nothing new. Even in Luther’s day it was a problem. Luther made the following observations about the situation at that time:

“If this misfortune is to be prevented, it can be done only by teaching and training our precious youth in the right and Christian manner. Then, when presently we lay down our head and sleep, they will step into our place and will not only set forth right doctrine to the people and impress it with all diligence, but will also uphold it against the sectaries and false teachers. It is a very great grace when the pulpit is supplied with persons who preach the Word aright and purely. But beside these there must be people who defend the doctrine and oppose heretics, so that doctrine is not adulterated by them. For this purpose schools must be maintained; from them come the people who can contend for the doctrine. If, then, a man helps this cause and gives, so that we can have such persons as are able to teach aright, comfort the downcast at the command of Christ, and resist the wolves, and if he also supplies them plentifully with sustenance, he should not consider this merely paying of bills, but should look upon it as a praise and thank offering due God. In addition to this, he should also pray in all earnestness, as Christ bids us do, that he would send laborers into his harvest.” (*Letters II* –Luther’s Works; American Edition Vol 49, 1522-1533).

To this end, may we be encouraged to promote Christian education in our midst. Let us ask God for the wisdom to impress upon our young people the importance of the called worker ministry, and to know how best to encourage them to consider it for their own vocations.

We also ask God to make us good stewards who support our churches, schools, and students financially. As Luther puts it: “We should not consider this merely paying of bills, but should look upon it as a praise and thank offering due God.” What better purpose could there be for our money than to invest in the kingdom of God and the work of the gospel ministry.

Luther would also say: “God must be especially pleased when we are glad to help supply and provide the churches well with ministers; for, in the first place, this work furthers the glory of God and exalts his name. In the second place, people are thereby helped to be rid of the tyranny of the devil and to be saved. But how could we invest our money better and do more good with it? Therefore they must be wretched and blind people

whom God has granted riches but who nonetheless do not assist the Christian work of educating intelligent young boys* who, because of poverty, cannot go on with their studies... The money, too, which one does not

want to use gladly and willingly for such blessed work must be wretched and accursed – money on which little blessing will rest.” (*Sermons II* – Luther’s Works; American Edition, Vol 52, 1522).

The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Pray that God would supply those people, both called workers and faithful lay people, who are willing and able to share the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ with a world lost in sin. May we be equipped with the simple yet profound truth of the Reformation: We are saved by God’s grace alone through faith in Jesus Christ, plus nothing.

God help us to be willing and able to spread this saving message by encouraging the young, by giving our money to support the Gospel ministry, and by sharing Jesus with any and everyone who will listen. Jesus gave his life for us that we may give our lives to him. By his blood we are cleansed from our sin so that we may free others with the message which has set us free.

In Christ,
Pastor Jeffrey A. Bovee

**Although Luther was speaking specifically about the pastoral ministry here, the note added is a reminder to us that we need men and women to serve in the gospel ministry -- teachers as well as pastors.*

The Calling of God

We have extended a “call” for a man to be our new pastor. We say this is a “divine call.” But what do we mean by this? Do we mean to say that God has extended the call to this person and he must take it or he is despising God’s will? And what is really meant by the “call?” Does this mean that the person is being called directly by the Holy Spirit? And if so, why should we bother to extend such a call instead of simply advertising that we need someone to serve as our spiritual shepherd and allow him to come to us as God directs him?

To begin with, we need to understand that the Bible uses the word call in at least three different ways. First, there is the universal call of the gospel. Jesus expressed it when he said in Matthew 22:14: "For many are called, but few are chosen." (NKJV) God’s gospel invitation goes out to all people, calling them to repent of their sins and to believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Sadly, not everyone receives it. Some reject in unbelief.

However, there are those who receive it by faith. To them the Bible extends the second use of the word “call” – the *effectual call* of the Christian. This is the call for the believer to live a sanctified life to the glory of God. St. Paul expresses it this way in Ephesians 4:1: “I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” Because we have been called by God to bear the name Christian, and to be his children, we are also called to live to his glory in order to hallow his name.

Then there is the third use of the word call. It is the divine call or the call into the public ministry. As the writer of the book of Hebrews points out in chapter 1, in the past God revealed his word and called people in various ways, sometimes calling them *immediately*, that is, he spoke to them directly without a mediator. He did this with many of the Old Testament prophets such as Isaiah (Is 6:7-9), Jeremiah (Jer 1:4-10), and Samuel (1 Sam 3).

However, as we see in the New Testament, when the Twelve Apostles called an individual to replace Judas Iscariot, they called him *mediately*, that is, through a body of believers. They still sought the Lord's guidance, but the call was extended through the Church to certain men who were qualified for the office. Likewise, we hear of a similar thing happening in Acts 6 when seven men were appointed by the church in Jerusalem to oversee the distribution of food to the widows; and again St. Paul refers to such a calling when he says to Titus 1:5: "Appoint elders in every town, as I directed you."

These people who were called did not take the office or call on themselves. Rather as the writer of the book of Hebrews says of the high priesthood of the Old Testament in Hebrews 5:4 "No one takes this honor upon himself; he must be called by God, just as Aaron was." So it is with the called worker who is called into *The Ministry* or the public ministry, as we refer to it. The pastor, for example, is called by the congregation. The church extends the call spelling out a particular scope of ministry. The duties of some calls may be more encompassing than others. Some calls are more narrow or limited. Still other calls may be temporary and the individual is called for a particular task until the duty is completed and may end if the ministry or mission comes to a close.

However, the person does not seek the call, but the call seeks the person. It is true that men train to become pastors by going to college and also to seminary in order to learn the Word of God in more depth and the necessary skills to serve God's people. The Bible also teaches in 1 Timothy 3:1: "Here is a trustworthy saying: If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task." God does put a desire into the hearts of certain people to want to serve as pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and leaders in the Church. But the person is not called into the public ministry just because he or she has a desire to serve as a called worker. The call must be extended to them through a calling body, that is, a congregation, a school or college, or through another organization such as the synod, in order for them to have a legitimate divine call.

God uses means. He uses the Bible, Baptism, and the Lord's Supper in order to impart his blessings of grace to us. God uses people to proclaim the gospel to a world lost in sin. God could have done it in a different way, but that is the way he chose to do it. God could call people directly or immediately into the gospel ministry, but that is not the way he chose to do it. God calls through the Church, certain individuals who are qualified to serve in such a capacity to serve his people.

When the person receives such a call, he must decide if he will accept it. Of course, in the Bible there are such people as Jonah whom God forced to take the call. But for us, there are times when there is a decision between two calls. When a pastor receives a call he may decide to stay where he is, or he may decide to accept the new call, in which he leaves the former call he had and takes on a new position in God's service.

How does he know which call to take? He seeks God's counsel in prayer, and weighs his gifts against the ministries that are beckoning to him. He will make a decision based on where his gifts are needed most, and where he believes he can have the greatest impact on the kingdom of God.

There may be some situations where the pastor must remove himself from a bad situation, in which case he would probably be advised or even mandated to leave his former call. However, it is usually not a matter of right or wrong, but a decision between two good choices. The pastor brings his petitions before God, prays for humility and wisdom, and using his best sanctified judgment, makes a decision which he asks God to bless; and God does. Come what may, God uses every call to lead both the called worker and those he serves to a closer relationship with Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

With that in mind, let us pray for the pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and others we have called to serve in the public ministry. Let us ask God to grant them the courage and wisdom to preach and teach his Word in its truth and purity, and to remain faithful to him.

We especially pray for Pastor Dan Baumler as he deliberates over the call we extended to him to be our pastor at St. John's. May God give him the wisdom to know where he will best serve God's kingdom. May God also give us patience as we wait for the person God will use most effectively to serve his people here in New Ulm. For the call is truly divine, and in the end, God directs the decision of those who seek his will. He promises to answer our prayers.

In Christ,
Pastor Jeffrey A. Bovee

From Your Staff Minister

Missionary Michael Duncan will be here the weekend of November 4th & 5th. He will be preaching for all four services. There will be a potluck lunch in the fellowship hall following the 11 am service.

“On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, ‘If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.’ (JN 7:37)

Staff Minister Kelly Emde

Archives

Education Connection (Continued)

The subject for this month is, again, Christian education, specifically, St. John's connection with Minnesota Valley Lutheran High School. That only goes back to 1979, MVL's first year. Prior to that many of St. John's members made use of Dr. Martin Luther High School or Academy. The growing enrollment of Dr. Martin Luther College led to the Synod deciding to move what was primarily a worker preparatory school to Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin. Information in the archives (bulletins, newsletters, congregational minutes and reports) varies in detail—especially in regard to enrollment of St. John's members and comprehensive reports from MVL for some of the earlier years. However, the following does indicate St. John's connection to and interest in Christian education. The following was gleaned from what could be found in St. John's archives with help from the MVL staff.

1986-87, Pastor was Norval Kock; Tod Hauf was Director of Christian Education. Principal at MVL was Jerome Birkholz. Enrollment was 187. St. John's budget for 1987 included \$21,000 for support and \$12,240 for capital expenses. A special drive for capital funds and debt reduction, titled “Together We Stand,” was in progress.

1992-93, Pastor was David Kolander; David Zabel was Director of Christian Education. John Schultz was MVL Administrator. Enrollment was 215. According to the 1992 annual report St. John's contributed \$20,527 for general support and \$7,477 for capital expense.

2007-08, Pastors were Jeffrey Bovee and Wayne Laitinen; Administrative Teacher was James Dretske. MVL Principal was Tim Plath. New teachers: Beth Tess, Heath Dobberpuhl and Jeff Koepsell. Enrollment for the year was 245. Support from St. John's for 2007 was \$56,910.

2016-17, Pastors were Jeffrey Bovee and Wayne Laitinen; Administrative Teacher was James Dretske. Tim Plath was MVL's principal. New faculty: Dave Wendland, Emily Timmermann, and Laurel Utecht as emergency teacher. Enrollment was 195. Special support from St. John's for 2016 was \$47,510. A campaign to deal with debt was titled Faith, Family. Jim Hahn began his work as Development Director in January, 2016.

As with St. Paul's School there's more to St. John's relationship with MVL than just names and statistics but a continuing and important commitment to Christian education.

Bob Krueger

Divine Call

On Tuesday, September 12, St. John's extended a divine call to Pastor Daniel Baumler, who currently serves Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in El Paso, TX. He is the father of 3 children: 22, 19 and 15 and is married to Ellen (nee Zgonc).

Please remember Pastor Baumler in your prayers as he deliberates this divine call placed before him by our congregation in the name of Christ our Savior. May the Lord grant him the wisdom to choose how his talents and gifts will best be used for the sake of the Kingdom.

October Sermon Texts

Oct. 1	Matthew 18:21-35	Forgive from the Heart
Oct. 8	Matthew 20:1-16	Is God Always Fair?
Oct. 15	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32	God Does Not Delight in Punishment
Oct. 22	2 Corinthians 6:1-13	Now is the Day of Salvation
Oct. 29	Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23	God Will Rescue You

Council Digest - August 2017

The St. John's voters met for a call meeting on September 12. Pastor Daniel Baumler, currently serving Christ Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in El Paso, TX, was called as our administrative associate pastor. He is the father of three children ages 22, 19 and 15 and is married to Ellen (nee Zgonc). Please remember Pastor Baumler in your prayers as he deliberates this divine call placed before him by our congregation in the name of Christ our Savior. May the Lord grant

him the wisdom to choose how his talents and gifts will best be used for the sake of the Kingdom.

The Church Council met on September 19. A summary of reports and action from the meeting not reported elsewhere in the *Fortress* follows:

Membership changes

Transfer Out

Amy Santelman to St. Paul's, New Ulm, MN

Transfers In

Timothy and Erika Grundmeier; Emma, Ryan, and Haddie from Trinity, Temple, TX

Ministrations

Baptism

17 Sep Hazel Louise Price

Funeral

26 Aug Terry Marks

7 Sep Jean Johnson

11 Sep Patricia Gutzke

12 Sep Ted Hartwig

Treasurer Paul Gunderson provided a preliminary report on preparation of the congregation's proposed budget for 2018. Various board chairmen contributed to the process. The budget will be finalized in time for the October council meeting and presented to the voters' assembly for consideration at its quarterly meeting on October 24.

The October quarterly voters' meeting agenda also will include elections and appointments to various congregational boards and committees. A Nominating Committee has been organized under the direction of Vice President Greg Diersen. This group is responsible for preparing a slate of candidates for the various elective positions in preparation for that meeting. A report from the committee showed the need to fill the following positions beginning January 1, 2018, due to the expiring terms of the current office holders:

- Treasurer (current treasurer Paul Gunderson is eligible for another term)
- Elders (the second term of chairman James Rathje is expiring; member Claus Sieh is eligible for another term)
- Evangelism (current chair Bill Pekrul is eligible for another term; member Paul Grubbs is eligible for another term)
- Stewardship (current chair Josiah Stoering is eligible for another term; member Roger Klockziem is eligible for another term)
- Trustees (the second term of chairman David Rausch is expiring; delegate Brandon Filzen is eligible for another term)
- Finance Committee (the second term of Mark Micheel is expiring; David Stoering, Jeremy Berg and Gerald Steffen are eligible for another term)
- Endowment Committee (the second term of chair Chuck Enter is expiring; member Lance Hartzell is eligible for another term)
- Education (current chair Steve Balza is not running for another term)
- MVL Delegates (the second term of alternate Gerald Woodley is expiring)

Board chairmen are elected to their positions by the voters; other positions are filled by appointment upon recommendation of the church council and ratified by the voters. If you are an eligible voter and interested in serving the congregation in one of these capacities (or would like to nominate someone else for service) please contact Nominating Committee Chairman Greg Diersen as soon as possible.

The Board of Stewardship chairman Josiah Stoering provided an update on Mission Festival Plans for the weekend of November 5, including a potluck meal following the 11 am service.

Board of Trustees Chairman David Rausch reported that plans to improve wheelchair accessibility at the drive through portico and install a gutter on the backside of the portico to prevent ice buildup during the winter are in place for some time yet this fall.

Board of Education Chair Steve Balza noted the need for additional Sunday School teaching stations and the improvement of several of the existing rooms. The latter is being addressed in cooperation with the Trustees. Mr. Balza presented the case for another member to serve the board. The council approved the addition of another member through the appointment process effective January 1, 2018.

Elders Chair James Rathje, acting upon the recommendation of Professor emeritus Wayne Wagner, recommended that the congregation enter into a contractual agreement with Grandall and Engen LLC, of Maple Grove for the tuning and upkeep of the organ over the next year. The recommendation was approved.

The next Church Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17, at 7 pm. The next quarterly voters' meeting has been rescheduled for Tuesday, October 24, at 7 pm.

Steven R. Thiesfeldt,
Congregational Chairman

St. Paul's School

School Website: www.splnewulm.org/school

Opening Service School began on Tuesday, September 5th with an Opening Service. Pastor Scharf fed us spiritually in worship focusing on the theme, "Grace-Faith-Scripture." It is based on Ephesians 2:8-9: *"For it is by Grace you have been saved, through faith"* joining the Synod's emphasis on celebrating the 500th anniversary of Luther's posting of the 95 these.

Mrs. Kate Carlovsky has been hired as an aide to help Mrs. Heidi Meyer in the sessions of PreK which have 15 students enrolled. There are presently 48 children in PreK. There are a total of 271 students enrolled in Grades K-8 bringing the total to 319 students in the school. Mrs. Chandra Lang began her professional semester as a teacher candidate in Mrs. Jill Morgan's classroom on the first day of school. She will work with the 3rd and 4th grade classroom until November.

Updates at School BOCD (Bd for Child Discipleship)

Curriculum Changes Mr. Plocher has started the STEM course "Design and Model" in grades 7-8. We are using the course through a Project Lead the Way (PLTW) component called Gateway to Technology. Equipment, training, and licensing have been paid for from our school's curriculum and continuing education funds.

After School Care God has blessed us with the realignment of Mr. Tim Plocher who had been serving as a helper to the ASC program for the past few years. He is now serving as the new director of the after school care (ASC) program. The After School Care program is continuing with a new name. It will now be known as Raider Kids Care.

Self-Study and MNSAA Accreditation Renewal Progress continues on the self-study. The steering committee has asked the sub-committees to complete their research and submit their narratives by the end of the 2017 calendar year. Steps that remain include writing a new school strategic plan and a school profile. The MNSAA site visit will be April 11-13, 2018. We are thankful for the faithful efforts of the sub-committees as we work together to renew our school accreditation.

Fundraisers-Up on the Roof (St. Paul's School Building Project) Over 400 supporters of St. Paul's School visited the St. Paul's School campus on September 9th between 4 and 6:30 pm to participate in many activities connected with the "Up on the Roof" Event. A fair number of people participated in the "Devotion and Doughnuts" the next day following the return to ground level. Pastor Scharf reminded those attending how God motivates people to give gifts back to him using Philippians 4 example of how the Christians in Philippi supported Paul in the ministry of the early church. How awesome that God continues to motivate the members of St. John's and St. Paul's congregations to support the ongoing Christ-centered instruction at St. Paul's School. The report in the bulletin showed gifts totaling over \$22,000, but additional gifts have continued to come in. Up-to-date totals will be stated in the weekly bulletins. Praise God from whom all blessings flow!

Ministry Scholarship Fund Envelope If you haven't used the envelope in your offering envelope box for Ministerial Education Scholarship Fund (September), consider using it this month. The gifts in September/October will go toward the sons and daughters of our congregation who are students preparing for ministry at MLC and male students who are preparing for the public ministry at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Gifts to freshmen and sophomores are being matched through the MLC Partnership Grant Program which began last year. Gifts from congregations for these grants need to be a minimum of \$250 and can be as large as \$1,000. Last year an amount was taken out of undesignated funds to reach the minimum amount to make use of this program. The hope was that this year the word would get out so that enough would come through the envelopes to apply for the MLC Partnership Grants without tapping into other funds. Please give this your prayerful consideration.

Teacher In-Service The WELS Minnesota Teachers Conference will be held at MLC on Thursday and Friday, October 19-20. There will be no school on those dates.

MAP Testing St. Paul's School will be using the **M**asures of **A**cademic **P**rogress Testing this fall to assess the academic levels of the students as they begin a new school year. Testing will make use of computer technology the school has built up over the past five years. Students in grades 5-8 will be using their classroom Chrome Book computers to complete the test. The new online test format has many advantages. There is immediate feedback for teachers to see the results of the tests. This feedback will help teacher focus on the needs of their students. The testing will be given three times throughout the year. The battery of tests will include Language, Reading, and Math. The tests are untimed so students will not be rushed to put guesses down when running out of time. The faculty is excited about the advantages of this type of testing and has been going through training to proctor these tests the first time before October 6th. We have been very blessed to have the resources to maintain a high level of learning at St. Paul's School.

Calendar

Sep. 25-Oct 6	MAP Testing
Oct 8	Junior Choir sings: 8 am
Oct 19-20	NO School: MN District Teachers' Conf.
Oct 27	1st day of Friday classes for Kindergarten
Oct 29	Grades K-4 sing: 11 am service

Respectfully Submitted,
James Dretske, SJ Administrative Teacher jdretske@splnewulm.org

Your Synod at Work

JOINT MISSION COUNCIL

The Joint Mission Council oversees mission opportunities that are the operational responsibility of both the Boards for World and Home Missions. The members of the council are the elected chairmen and

administrators of both boards, the director of Missions Operations, and a representative designated by each board.

The focus of the Joint Mission Council is to:

1. Coordinate the future expansion of multi-cultural ministries to enhance reaching more lost souls both in North America and the homelands of those being served;
2. Continue to work on developing a structure that will best facilitate the mission outreach of those areas of ministry;
3. Coordinate the actions of World Missions and Home Missions in situations where normal ministry responsibilities of both boards overlap; and
4. Provide resolution of conflicts to opportunities between the two boards as a result of overlapping ministries.

The Joint Mission Council is looking ahead with their outreach activities. For example, with the ever-growing outreach efforts to reach the people groups within Vietnam (both Hmong and Vietnamese), they are working closely with "Friends of Vietnam," which is a ministry out of Peace in Jesus, located in Boise, Idaho. The ministry plan comes out of Peace in Jesus' efforts to share the gospel with the Vietnamese in and around Boise with the goal of reaching back into Vietnam through those individuals and their families. With God's blessings, these efforts will work to reach out through supplying English as a Foreign Language teachers to universities in Vietnam and assisting students who desire to come of the United States to study at WELS schools. Through these two areas of outreach, new opportunities to share the gospel to the Vietnamese people are now available in Vietnam starting in both Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City.

Looking further down the road, there will be a focus on developing various training opportunities in Russia, Vietnam, and Liberia while supporting the ongoing training efforts in East Asia, Nepal, Cameroon, and Nigeria.

Gerald Woodley

Library News

A new addition to the religious section of the library is title "Know the Bible Now." It records 120 stories of the Old and New testament which tell the story of God's plan of salvation. It has many illustrations and visual aids as well as summaries of the various biblical books. Paul L. Maier writes "Whoever reads this book will be rewarded with a more comprehensive understanding of Holy Scripture. Readers will see how it all fits together in a masterpiece of creative unity, as revealed by its ultimate author."

"Forgiveness - Received From God, Extended to Others" is a Bible study written by Donna Pyle. It has 8 lessons which are divided into 5 days of Bible study. It can be used individually or as a small group Bible study. It has many biblical references and an application section for each lesson. The author writes, "Left alone, unforgiveness produces bitter fruit that shows itself in

angry thoughts, words, and deeds. Eventually, it will destroy us from the inside out."

A recent donation to the library is the collection of books in the Mitford series. They are written by Jan Karon. She uses humor to tell the everyday happenings of life at the Lord's Chapel. It is the fictional story of Father Timothy, the Episcopal rector of the Lord's Chapel and his parishioners.

Cards of Caring

Our volunteers will meet Saturday, October 7, 2017, from 9 am until noon in St. John's Fellowship Basement room to make cards for our homebound members for birthdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

You are welcome to join us as your schedule allows for fun and fellowship. This includes Martin Luther College students. Contact Lois Willems at 359-7403 with questions.

Vintage Postcards of Eisenach, Germany and Wartburg

In honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation we thought it would be interesting to display some of the 100 year old postcards that were recently found in a family collection.

You may find them in the glass case by the office area. Some postcards were postmarked 1917, so it is thought the people sending them from Eisenach back to Milwaukee, WI, must have attended the 400th anniversary of the Reformation. Enjoy!

Women of St. John's

The Women of St. John's met on September 5, 2017, at 7 pm. We began by singing hymn 386 "Now I Have Found the Sure Foundation." Pastor Bovee's devotion was based on Psalm 27. There is a theme throughout the Bible: Jesus is our firm foundation – He atoned for our sin. All people have regret, but do not confuse regret with guilt. Jesus did not die for regret. He took away our sin. He lived and died for us, reconciled us to God. He is our refuge, our foundation, a mighty fortress, a living God.

Our presenter for the evening was Melanie Mohror who gave an update on the Southern Minnesota Crisis Nursery also known as "The Ivy House." Melanie is on the board and is also a volunteer. They were able to purchase and renovate a house this past year and fund the program through generous donations, both public and private, and through fund raisers and grants. Besides monetary donations, many people have also donated their time, talents and materials. The Crisis Nursery obtained its license around Memorial Day after two years of planning and opened its doors in June. The opening was announced publicly around the beginning of July and has had a steady stream of children ever since. The Crisis Nursery offers temporary 24-hour care of children ages 0-12 whose families are experiencing a crisis. The "crisis" may be anything from a need for temporary childcare to respite, or any situation that is a crisis to a family. Children may remain at the Ivy House for up to 72 hours at a time and for a total of 30 days in a year. There are many ways a person can volunteer, including: watching children, offering transportation, sorting donations, and cleaning. More information can be found at www.smncrisisnursery.org or on Facebook and Twitter.

You are invited: Our next fellowship gathering will be supper at **the New Ulm Country Club** on **Tuesday, October 3, at 6 p.m.** The meal is \$9.75 and includes either a hamburger or chicken sandwich and a salad. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you plan to attend. Invite a friend! It will be a great opportunity to connect and reconnect with other women.

MLC Ladies' Auxiliary

The fall meeting will take place October 14th on the campus. Registration begins at 8 am in the Luther Student Center and includes refreshments. Lunch may be purchased in the cafeteria.

A variety of presentations as well as the business meeting will occur.

Please come and learn about the Auxiliary, how it supports MLC and how you may become involved in that support and encouragement for the students.

The meeting lasts until approximately 3 pm. If your schedule allows for attending only part of the day, you will still learn much about the Auxiliary.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Jeneane Thiesfeldt
359-7018 or thiesfjm@gmail.com.

Stewardship

Dear members of St. John:

St. John's requested that we be given the privilege of hosting a mission speaker near the month of October, which is historically when our church puts a focus on missions and stewardship. Pastor Michael Duncan, our WELS missionary to Nepal and Pakistan, has agreed to come to St. John's on November 5, to preach

and present on our synod's mission work to Nepal. We are eager to learn more of what we are able to do to spread God's Word to others.

Pastor Duncan will preach and present in the Saturday and Sunday services. After the 11:00 service, we will join together in the basement for a potluck meal, during which we can enjoy fellowship and welcome Pastor Duncan individually. If you plan on attending, please bring a dish to pass. We will post sign up sheets in the narthex so you can see what types of food are needed. If you are willing to assist in facilitating this meal, there will be a sign up sheet for that as well.

Please join us for a church service on November 5 to hear about our ministry on the other side of the world!

Josiah Stoering
Stewardship Chairman