



CONCORDIA
DEACONESS
CONFERENCE
Lutheran Church—Missouri
Synod

BLUES News

BLUES NEWS

An official publication of Concordia Deaconess Conference—Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (CDC). Distributed six times a year, it serves our members by circulating professional submissions, devotional thoughts and articles, and member announcements.

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OUR CONFERENCE

Concordia Deaconess Conference is a free association of certified and LCMS rostered deaconesses, who subscribe to and live by the confessional position of the LCMS and who hold membership in a congregation or partner church of the same. As a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, CDC works to provide opportunities for spiritual, personal, and professional growth and fellowship for deaconesses and support for diaconal service in Christ.

Donations for the work of the conference, a 501(c)(3) organization, may be mailed to

Deaconess Kim Schave
Saint Paul Lutheran Church
5433 Madison Rd
Cincinnati, OH 45227-1507.



HOLY SPIRIT

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FROM THE BLUES NEWS EDITOR: THE WORD IS HIS

After I graduated from a state university, I moved to a big city—and in with my sister—and set about putting down my roots. I mentioned looking for work over coffee hour after our first service at our new congregation and was blessed to hear about an open-entry-level position. Ultimately it meant working for a certain Lutheran theological journal, with one of my former pastors, no less, who had become active in missionary work for Russia!

I could not have imagined how well things could work out. It was a scary time for me, fresh out of college with my roots up sunning themselves in the air! But God provided for me through such simple things as talking about my need and asking others for a little input.

I learned a lot from that job and time in my life, but the lesson I value most is that God is not divided when it comes to me. The Gospel includes a loving Father who sent His Son, and a gracious Spirit who is the Lord and Giver of life. Likewise, the Law is not simply a father's anger or set of arbitrary rules. The Law comes from He who creates, redeems, and gives life. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit created the world. They spoke among themselves and all agreed, "Yes! Let us make man in our image. Let them have dominion. Let us bless them!" (Genesis 1). Together they speak Law and Gospel.

In Scripture, we see their unity. In the flesh of Jesus, we see their dedication and determination. In the godhead of the Father, we see the undeserved, creative love, yet we can only experience this by the life given and sustained in the Holy Spirit. Toward us, they work together. Toward us they are united.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit speak God's Word: a united Word from them and to us. They do not intend to confuse us and send mixed messages. Certain parts of the Bible were not written behind the proverbial back of any members of the Trinity!

The fact of the matter is that sometimes we try extra hard to get the Spirit's attention. I do not know why churches in the last few hundred years have singled Him out from His Trinitarian counterparts, but we seem to expect a different word from Him. We expect signs and new revelations. Perhaps we look for just a little bit extra to apply to our own personal insecurities.

Let us affirm that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in how God comes to us: in Law and Gospel and in

the Means of Grace! We truly are free from trying to earn separate loyalties. We truly are free from struggling to understand one apart from the rest. Our freedom is in Christ and the Gospel: the Father who gave His Son; His Son who lived, died, and lives again; and the Holy Spirit, who gives us this life and eternal life in the world to come!

I have heard it said that the Holy Spirit is the shy member of the Trinity: He always points us to the others. I think another way to put it is that the Holy Spirit is not sneaky! He does not wait until He has us alone to tell us what He really thinks. He does not tell some, but not others. He does not wait so that our actions can catch His roaming eye. And, this is great news! This is liberating, relieving, fantastic and applicable stuff! Christians really are free to take God at His Word: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in the very text and grammar given to us in their holy Scripture.

When I learned this lesson, put so simply in an issue, I was struck by how firmly our Lord has us in His hands. He knows what He wants. He gave what is most Precious to have it, and every aspect of Him now treasures us, even as dirty and selfish and arrogant as we can be.

When I put down those tentative roots back in my early twenties, parts of me held back. Now that God has planted me elsewhere, and my roots are getting stronger, there is still plenty of self-conflict within! But not so with God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit made me His own in holy Baptism, grants me forgiveness, life, and salvation in the holy Supper, and will bring me into the world to come! United, they give me life, root, and fruit, and they do it gently, through the written, spoken, and heard Word. Thanks be to God!

Mary J. Moerbe

NOMINATIONS

Call for 2013 Nominations

This year at our annual conference, we will have the opportunity to elect a Vice-President, Treasurer, Member-at-Large for Conference Logistics, and Member-at-Large for Membership.

Please study the duties and prerequisites for each position in our By-Laws. If you need a copy of our Constitution and By-Laws, please feel free to contact our CDC Secretary, Jennifer Phillips, or you may print a copy off of our CDC website.

According to our By-Laws, all nominations must be received 60 days prior to the beginning of our business meeting June 19, 2013. Therefore, **all nominations must be submitted prior to April 20, 2013.**

Nominations may be submitted to nominating@concordiadeaconesslcmcs.org or by mail to Deaconess Lauren Olsen 6821 Main St. Union, IL 60180.

Serving as your Nominating Committee: Lauren Olsen (Chairman), Liz Borth, and Jane Obersat.

FREE ONLINE SHEET MUSIC RESOURCE

You have likely heard of wikipedia. It is a website where people add and edit pages themselves, resulting in a free encyclopedia.

In a related move toward free access, people have been gathering and donating free sheet music to www.cpd.org, calling it the "ChoralWiki, home of the Choral Public Domain Library!" The pieces are either public domain or licensed such that one can use them free of any charge or need to ask permission! It is a large site, and well worth visiting.



SPECIAL NEED PARENTING

Mary J. Moerbe

About 6 million kids in the United States receive special education, according to the U.S. Department of Education. One out of every 10 children under the age of 14 has some type of special need, which includes any physical, cognitive, or medical disability, or chronic or life-threatening illness.

Last year, I read an article by Maria Lin titled "7 Things You Don't Know About A Special Needs Parent" from the Huffington Post (March 9, 2012). It outlined in secular terms some of the joys and challenges she has experienced as a "special needs parent."

She elaborates on the following seven things:

1. I am tired.
2. I am jealous.
3. I feel alone.
4. I am scared.
5. I wish you would stop saying, "retarded," "short bus," "as long as it's healthy..."
6. I'm human.
7. I want to talk about my son/ It's hard to talk about my son.

She commented that in very real terms she is like every other parent. She has good days and bad ones, and moments better than others. She points out that it is important to her that others remember she is human. Yes, she is rising to challenges, and, yes, she has grown tremendously,

but she also enjoys moments of escape and personal daydreams. She is her own person, even as she dedicates herself and her family to the situation they have been given.

I really appreciated how well she distinguished between well-meaning people who unintentionally say hurtful things. She answers for us, and all who say, "As long as it's healthy?" "What if it's not healthy?" . . . you will be OK. You and your child will still have a great, great life.

I cannot say from personal experience anything about what it is like, or what it means, to be a parent to a child with special needs. I can say that it has been suggested to me as a good practice to focus on nouns. There are parents and children, and though they may be challenged by different things than others, they are human beings, people for whom Christ has died and been risen! They are not "specials," they are not abbreviations of "normal" human beings. They are body and soul as alive and worthy of love and care as any of us.

Lin closes her article with these two paragraphs:

Raising a special needs child has changed my life. I was raised in a family

that valued performance and perfection above all else, and unconsciously I'd come to judge myself and others through this lens. Nothing breaks this lens more than having a sweet, innocent child who is born with impairments that make ordinary living and ordinary "performance" difficult or even impossible.

It has helped me understand that true love is meeting someone (child or adult, special needs or not) exactly where he or she is -- no matter how they stack up against what "should be."

"What if it's not healthy?" You will be OK! You and your child can still share a great life!

Raising a special needs child shatters all the "should bes" that we idolize and build our lives around, and puts something else at the core: love and understanding. So maybe that leads me to the last thing you don't know about a special needs parent... I may have it tough, but in many ways I feel really blessed.

How much more the church can recognize and honor both parent and child in the lives given to them by our gracious God! Yes, there are terrible burdens and seemingly impossible crosses, but may we all take comfort that, in Christ, we are loved apart from our accomplishments or strengths, with the fervent and dedicated love of our Father!



LETTER FROM OUR SPIRITUAL COUNSELOR

Rev. Kevin Loughran

Dear friends in Christ,

Christ is Risen! He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

Lutheran Christians have long been accused of ignoring the Holy Spirit by our brethren in other parts Christendom. Such accusations are unfair. As in all areas of the Faith once delivered to the Saints we strive to confess what the Holy Triune God gives us to say in His Word, the Bible. And so, what is predicated of any person of the Trinity may be said of the other persons with the exception of certain aspects of the Incarnation that were ceded to the Son by the Father and the Spirit.

That, however, does not mean that all three persons of the Trinity were not at work during the time that the Son, Jesus, made His dwelling bodily on the earth.

In fact, we know that the angel was sent by the *Father* to Mary and that the *Holy Spirit* came upon her so that what was in her should be called, "the Son of God."

After His birth, the Christ child grew in the *Spirit*. The Father and the Spirit manifested themselves at His Baptism and both departed in the hour of His death as Jesus said, "Father into your hands I commit my Spirit." Truly in that moment of time God the Son was dead for you, specifically for your forgiveness, your eternal life and the forgiveness and life of all other people as well.

The Holy Spirit has a role in the Easter story too, although a typically "behind the scenes" one. And, yes, I know there are those who might be thinking, "there you go again, suppressing the Spirit," but to think such is to ignore

Biblical truths.

Remember that Jesus Himself said, "When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority" (John 16:13). And again, "He will glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you" (John 16:14).

Indeed, it was the work of the Holy Spirit that opened the eyes of the women, and later the disciples, to see by faith that Jesus had risen from the dead on that first Easter day.

Likewise it is the work of the Spirit that opens your eyes to see Him present for you by means of the Word and the Sacraments. That is exactly why St. Paul wrote that he was, "set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised . . ."

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CALENDAR

April 15th—Deadline for May issue: Grief and End of Life

April 20th—Nominations for Vice-President, Treasurer, Member-at-Large for Conference Logistics, Member at Large for Membership close

April 23rd—Deadline to send excuses to Heidi Bishop for missing conference.

May 18th—Deadline for conference registration.

June 15th—Adoption issue

CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

On behalf of LCMS Office of National Mission, I am pleased to inform CDC members that scholarships are available to attend the annual CDC conference in Fort Wayne, Ind, for those sisters who have financial constraints. The amount will be determined by the need of the individual. If you are interested in availing yourself of this opportunity, please email or call me before **April 30, 2013**. Please know that confidentiality is maintained in not revealing the names of recipients. Scholarship money is distributed on a first come, first served, basis. Thank you for your humble services to the Lord.

In Christ,
Grace Rao

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help at Synodical

Convention: Are you going to attend the Synod Convention in St. Louis this summer? Do you live in St. Louis and want a reason to check out the convention? Do you *want* to go to St. Louis this summer? If so, we need your help to host the CDC exhibit and raise awareness with convention attendees of deaconesses and ways we serve.

From **Saturday, July 20 to Thursday, July 25**, CDC representatives will be at the convention to highlight the work we do every day. This is a great chance to spread the word about deaconesses, discuss the benefits of having a synodically trained deaconess, and how the CDC serves our Synod.

Please consider sharing your time in St. Louis to help us. Please contact Doris Snashal at snashal@pacbell.net if you are interested. We hope to get enough volunteers to take shifts at the exhibit.

Purdue University Higher Things Exhibit

Ladies, how many of you will be attending the Higher Things Conference at Purdue University July 9-12? We are looking at the possibility of hosting an exhibit table if there are enough of us going that we could take turns staffing it without neglecting our youth. Please e-mail Kimberly Fetz by **March 30** at deac.kimberly@gmail.com if you are planning to attend and would be willing to take a table shift or two.



CDC OFFICERS

President:
Cheryl D. Naumann

Vice President:
Sara Lemon

Secretary:
Jennifer Phillips

Treasurer:
Kim Schave

Membership:
Heidi Bishop

Conference Logistics:
Jana Peters

Spiritual and Professional Growth:
Sandra Bowers

QUICK CONTACT INFORMATION

Spiritual Counselor:
Reverend Kevin Loughran
(loughran_kevin@yahoo.com, c: 727-612-9782)

Prayer requests can be emailed to the prayer coordinator at cdcprayers@comcast.net.

Digital pictures can go to photos.cdc@gmail.com for publication or other conference uses.

Newsletter submissions and suggestions can be sent to editor.bluesnews@concordiadeaconesslcsms.org.

Members may purchase extra cross pins (\$10) or insignias (\$7) from Heidi Bishop at 101 N. Spring St, Elgin, IL 60120.

LETTER CONCLUSION AND A SEASONAL QUOTATION FROM LUTHER

“ . . . beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord...” (Romans 1:1b-4).

Blessed be our God, the Holy Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, that He works in unison for us! As you bask in the joy of Jesus' Resurrection this Easter season, pray for an extra measure of God's Spirit that your joy would be to know nothing more than Jesus Christ and Him Crucified and Risen for you and all the people whom you meet.

Your Servant in Christ,

Pastor Loughran



“In the bonds of Death He lay
Who for our offence was slain;
But the Lord is risen to-day,
Christ hath brought us life again,
Wherefore let us all rejoice,
Singing loud, with cheerful voice,
Hallelujah!”

Martin Luther

“En los lazos de la Muerte ponía
Quien por nuestra ofensiva fue
muerto;
Pero el Señor ha resucitado hoy
en día,
Cristo nos dio vida de nuevo,
Y por eso nos regocijamos,
Cantando alto, con voz alegre,
¡Aleluya! “

Martin Lutero