

# SHALOM

SOUTHWEST WISCONSIN ASSOCIATION  
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

VOLUME XXVIII, ISSUE 13, OCTOBER, 2009

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## FROM YOUR ASSOCIATION MINISTER

The Southwest Association just hosted 11 guests from our partner church district (association) in Germany – the Moers Church District. We have been in partnership since 1986, so we are within striking distance of 25 years. During this time we have had pastoral changes, numerous youth trips with the Young Ambassadors, adult trips to Italy, Russia and the former East Germany. We have had German Pastors serve our congregations for a year, had had a pastor in residence in the conference for 6 months and had one of our pastors serve a parish in Germany for almost 2 years. It has been a rich experience. Last week we met at Pilgrim Center and under the leadership of Mark Yurs, we studied the book of Acts. Mark let us into Acts 6:1-6 with questions about the nature of the pastoral office. It was a lively and important discussion, one that again underlined our need for each other. We have the same concerns and frustrations and indeed, deep hope. This was spoken numerous times from both the German and American folk. We have received much in this partnership, listen to this prayer shared by Hans Wilhelm Fricke-Hein of the Moers Church District:

“Eternal god, you spoke and the heavens and earth, all life, was created through your word.  
You spoke and Sarah and Abraham left for the promised land.  
You spoke and prophets – men and women together – proclaimed your justice.  
You spoke and your Word was made flesh in the unique face of Jesus Christ.  
Send us your Spirit, that we may not only listen to your word of peace but also make peace with our neighbor.  
Send us your Spirit, that we may listen to your word of justice  
And that it may become reality in our love for those who long for justice.  
Send us your Spirit, that we may not only listen to your word of creation but that we may care for earth and its creatures.  
Eternal God, thank you for the presence of your word among us, for your eternal love, and for the privilege of your call to serve your people everywhere.”

Hans Wilhelm Fricke-Hein

### **LISTENING SESSIONS SET TO DISCUSS NEW STRUCTURE**

Members of the Board of Directors of the Conference will hold listening sessions to hear people's reactions to the proposed new structure for the conference. There was one in late October in Windsor. There will be two others in November, one at Plymouth UCC in Dodgeville on the 15<sup>th</sup> at 2 p.m.; and one on Nov. 27<sup>th</sup> at Evansville at 7 p.m. There are listening sessions in each of the associations and you are welcome to attend any of these gatherings:

Nov. 9            Kaukauna Immanuel UCC at 7 p.m. (SE)  
Nov. 19          Ripon First Cong., 7 p.m. (SE)

Each church has received a copy of the proposal.

### **DISTRICT MEETINGS IN NOVEMBER**

We meet to discuss the lectionary Gospel lesson for the upcoming Sunday, to pray and to discuss a theological paper. This month we'll be looking at a chapter in a book by Walter Brueggemann entitled "The Word Militant...Preaching a Decentering Word." The chapter is entitled, 'Preaching as Reimagination.' We'll send you a copy in early November.

We'll meet:

District IV	Evansville	November 17 9 a.m.
District I	Dodgeville	November 18 8 a.m.
District III	Portage	November 18 12:30 p.m.
District II	Madison	November 25 8 a.m.

### **READING GROUP TO BEGIN NEW BOOK IN DECEMBER**

The Contemporary Theology Reading Group will read a book by Borg/Crossan, entitled "The First Paul." If you'd like a copy, contact the Association Office. We'll decide the December date at a meeting in November.

### **IN OUR PRAYERS**

We give thanks for the healthy birth of Jonah Aaron Partington of Lake Mills.

For our Congregations at:

Monticello Washington Reformation – Mary Gafner, Pastor  
Monticello Zwingli – Larry Balleine, Pastor  
Mt. Vernon Zwingli – Brad Brookins, Pastor

### **CONGREGATIONS TO BE SEEKING**

Madison Lake Edge – Lisa Schoenwetter, Interim  
Whitewater Congregational – Craig Jan-McMahon, Interim

### **CONGREGATIONS PRESENTLY SEEKING**

New Glarus Swiss – John Jewell, Interim

## **LAKELAND COLLEGE MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY COURSE OFFERINGS**

### **TH: 535 History of Christian Thought II: From the Reformation to the Modern Age**

A study of Christian theology in its cultural and institutional context. (Continuation of TH 530)

Beginning with the Protestant Reformation to the 16<sup>th</sup> century, special emphasis will be given to the rise of humanism, Protestant and Catholic orthodoxy after Trent, Pietism and the missionary impulse, modern understandings of scripture and authority in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Readings, discussions, oral reports on assigned readings.

Dr. Richard L. Christensen

Tuesday evenings, 5:30-8:30 p.m.

12 January 2010

### **TH: 570 Seminary in Biblical Hermeneutics**

The goal of this course is to help students become more knowledgeable and thoughtful interpreters of the biblical texts by leading them to critically consider various methodological approaches and perspectives and through that encounter to reflect upon and deepen their own understandings of the nature of Scripture. The course will assist students in further developing their exegetical skills; treat in more detail several hermeneutical methodologies, and examine and discuss the issues of biblical authority, inspiration and canon with the aim of enabling students to see how an interpreter's approach to the biblical texts reflects and are shaped by his or her view on thee related issues. **Prerequisite:**

**TH 510 or TH 520**

Dr. Karl Kuhn

Thursday evenings, 5:30-8:30 p.m..

14 January 2010

**NOVEMBER 2009 SHALOM**

- 2 Calvin Colloquy, Pilgrim Center, 10 to 3
- 4 Periodic support Consultations, Association Office, 12 Noon
- 5 Ministerial Development Group (MDG), Verona, 9:30 a.m.
- 5 Pre-Retirement Seminar, DeForest, 10 a.m.
- 5 Executive Committee of the Association, 5 p.m.
- 6 MDG, Madison Lake Edge, 9:30 a.m.
- 9 Wisconsin Conference Staff Meeting, DeForest, 9 a.m.
- 10 Division on Lay Life & Leadership, Association Office, 5:30 p.m.
- 11 Division on Christian Education, Association Office, 5:30 pm.
- 12 MDG, Evansville, 9:30 a.m.
- 12 Contemporary Theology Study Group, Assoc. Office, 2 p.m.
- 12 Division on Church & Ministry, Association Office, 5 p.m.
- 15 Listening Session for Conference Restructure, Dodgeville, 2 p.m.
- 17 District IV, Evansville, 9 a.m.
- 17 Barth Study Group, Association Office, 1 p.m.
- 17 Listening Session for Conference Restructure, Evanville, 7 p.m.
- 18 District I, Dodgeville, 8 a.m.
- 18 District III, Portage, 12:30 p.m.
- 19 MDG, Verona, 9:30 a.m.
- 19 Social Concerns Meeting, Association Office, 12:30 p.m.
- 19 Women's Author Study Group, Association Office, 2:30 p.m.
- 20 MDG, Madison Lake Edge, 9:30 a.m.
- 25 District II, Madison, 8 a.m.
- 26 THANKSGIVING DAY!

**DECEMBER**

- 2 Periodic Support Consultations, 12 Noon
- 3 MDG, Verona, 9:30 a.m.
- 4 MDG, Madison Lake Edge, 9:30 a.m.