


TOGETHER

September 20, 2016

For the final paper, Rev. Daniel Waldschmidt, a 2012 graduate, shared information about a scholarly movement called the New Perspective on Paul. This movement challenges the Reformation's interpretation of justification by faith and offers new interpretations to several key elements of Paul's theology. Waldschmidt, pastor at St. John, Burlington, Wis., shared what these new interpretations are and how they undermine Scripture's chief teaching of justification by faith alone.

He focused everyone by saying, "John the Baptist gives us the hermeneutical key to the Scriptures when he points at Jesus and says, 'Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!' (John 1:29)." And then Waldschmidt encouraged attendees, "as heirs of the Reformation, let us commit ourselves to a deep study of the text. When we read Paul's letters, we will see what Luther saw there: 'Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified' (Galatians 3:1)."


The archive of the symposium is available at <http://livestream.com/wslive>. 

WELS Day with the Milwaukee Bucks announced

The Milwaukee Bucks are inviting all WELS members and their friends to the inaugural WELS Day with the

Bucks. Mark your calendars and join us for the Milwaukee Bucks basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets on Sat., Dec. 3, 2016. Game time is 4 p.m., at the BMO Harris Bradley Center in downtown Milwaukee. The WELS group is invited to arrive early and watch the NBA stars during pregame warm-ups from some of the best seats in the house. Then following the game, all kids will have an opportunity to shoot a free throw on the Bucks court. Details for the exclusive pregame warm-up pass and postgame free throws will be announced closer to the game. Other fan experiences for WELS members are also being discussed and planned. Further details will be released in Together next month.

The Bucks are offering WELS members up to 45 percent off the price of tickets. All WELS members will be seated together in three seating levels. The pricing is Lower Level Corner for \$50/ticket, Upper Level Side Court for \$35/ticket, or Upper Level Corner/Baseline for \$20/ticket. All surcharges and ticket service fees will be waived for WELS members entering the promo code "WELS" in the access and offer box when purchasing your tickets online at www.bucks.com/buckspass.

For more information and to purchase tickets in groups of 10 or more, contact WELS member Josh Schedler at 414-227-2775 or jschedler@bucks.com. The deadline to purchase tickets is Fri., Nov. 11. 

Luther Prep dedicates renovated chapel and organ

This past Sunday, more than 400 people gathered at Luther Preparatory School (LPS), Watertown, Wis., for the dedication of the school's renovated chapel and refurbished organ.

Luther Preparatory School is one of our synod's two prep schools dedicated to training and encouraging young people for the public ministry. In 2015, LPS celebrated 150 years of WELS ministerial education on its campus. Part of that celebration included a special offering of thanks to God for his blessings on the Watertown campus. God's people in WELS gave almost \$700,000, of which \$350,000 was dedicated to the chapel renovation. The results of these gifts include new flooring, new pews, a new baptistry, and new chancel furnishings. The chancel was enlarged, and the stained-glass windows also were refurbished.

The school also determined that its 50-year-old organ needed extensive repairs and hasn't spatially fit the chapel since the chapel's expansion in 1995. Funds to complete the organ refurbishment were provided by special gifts given for that purpose. Only \$25,000 remains for the project to be fully funded.

For 60 years the chapel has played a central role on the LPS campus. It is the place where the Luther Prep family gathers for worship twice each day. These frequent worship opportunities emphasize the importance of the preaching of the Word, the continuing spiritual nourishment of LPS students and faculty, and the use of God-given talents in worship. The chapel is also the scene of a vigorous program of organ instruction, enabling Luther Prep to train more organists for WELS congregations than any other high school. The enhanced organ was dedicated to the glory of God with thankfulness to Prof. Franklin and Mrs. Bethel Zabell. Prof. Zabell served as a music professor on campus for about 20 years, while Bethel Zabell has taught piano and organ there for 44 years.

The psalmist encourages God's people to "sing to the Lord a new song!" As the students and faculty of Luther Prep gather for worship, their songs of praise will be accompanied by an instrument of praise, all to the glory of God. Learn more about Luther Preparatory School at lps.wels.net.

Serving in Christ,
President Mark Schroeder 



To sign up for the e-mail version, visit wels.net/together.

Showing Christian love in Louisiana

Hurricane Katrina and its resulting floods devastated New Orleans and the surrounding area in August 2005. Crown of Life, New Orleans, felt that devastation firsthand. Yet, God has worked through that disaster to bless Crown of Life's ministry in new and different ways.

Rev. David Sternhagen served Crown of Life at that time. He says, "Most of Crown of Life's members lived in that area. We lost most of our possessions, and most people lost their jobs. There was no electricity for four months. No water for three months. Most of our members were living in Houston, Dallas, Atlanta, and across the country. Homes couldn't be repaired because there was no one in the area to repair them. Our church, fellowship hall, and the parsonage all were likewise affected. That is why Builders For Christ, Kingdom Workers, and Christian Aid and Relief volunteers were so important. They came in and gutted houses and rebuilt the church, fellowship hall, and parsonage along with about 25 houses of members and non-members."

Thousands of WELS members also contributed to the effort by praying for those affected and donating for relief efforts.

"With the love of God shown through so many of our brothers and sisters in Christ and with the help of Christian Aid and Relief, not

only have buildings been restored, but they are more beautiful and capable than before," says Rev. Jonathan Kehl, Crown of Life's current pastor. "Our congregation, able to return quickly after the storm—albeit in smaller numbers for a time, has been able to show that same love to those who come to worship with us."

"We had an opportunity to be a witness that we probably wouldn't have had otherwise," adds Sternhagen.

New families in the community have joined Crown of Life and are inviting their neighbors and friends. In particular, the development of a community garden by Crown of Life has become a bridge for spreading the gospel to the church's neighbors.

Crown of Life is inviting all the volunteers and WELS members who supported its ministry following Katrina to a celebration for the 10th anniversary of the rededication of its church on Oct. 30.

"There were so many people who put a lot of work into Crown of Life to get us to the point where we are now," says Kehl. "We want to thank God for how he has preserved and continued his ministry in New Orleans and how he has done it through our Christian family."

Meanwhile, WELS members at Cross of Glory, Baton Rouge, La.—and even some members from Crown of Life—are struggling with the severe floods that destroyed thousands of homes and businesses this past

August. Christian Aid and Relief, in cooperation with members and pastors at the two congregations, recently completed an assessment of the damage. It is committing all of its available flood relief funds to help refurbish as many members' and neighbors' homes as possible. In October, Christian Aid and Relief is also partnering with Builders For Christ, a division of Kingdom Workers, to send drywall specialists, specialty craftsmen, and contractors to oversee the work. To learn more about this volunteer opportunity, contact Mr. Mark Vance, director of operations for Christian Aid and Relief, at mark.vance@wels.net. To donate to the effort, visit wels.net/relief. ☪

Annual symposium at the seminary

More than 350 people attended Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary's annual fall symposium from Sept 19-20 in Mequon, Wis. Pastors from across the U.S. and Canada heard three papers presented on hermeneutics—the vital work of interpreting the Bible. They were reminded that the apostle Paul encourages them to "do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15).

In a 21st-century world where words and their meanings are constantly being bent, ignored, or challenged, three presenters helped

pastors stay focused on correctly handling God's Word.

Rev. Steven Lange, class of 1997, began the symposium with his paper "The Value of Hermeneutics." Lange, who is a pastor at Hope, Louisville, Ky., reminded attendees that, every day, we all interpret and understand the myriad messages that come to us from myriad sources. What makes biblical interpretation unique is that the Bible is not just some message sent by some person. It is the actual Word of God and is inspired by God. That is why the "value of hermeneutics is being able to understand God's message to us in his Word in the way that he intends, in spite of the barriers of language, culture, and time that stand between us and the original text. It is sitting at our Savior's feet like Mary and listening as he himself reveals his truth to us."

The second paper, presented by 2006 graduate Rev. Benjamin Tomczak, discussed hermeneutics and the Confessions. Tomczak, pastor at Bethel, Sioux Falls, S.D., addressed how the Lutheran church can be a sola Scriptura church—a Scripture alone church—and believe, teach, and value the Confessions at the same time. "We call them a witness and testimony. We call them confessions of faith. We call them symbols. We say they summarize the Scriptures," he says. "They have authority, but derived from Scripture. They are water drawn from the well. . . . They restate, they repeat, they reproduce in miniature what the Scriptures say."