

# CNH District-LCMS

October 25, 2011

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### Words from the President

Rev. Dr. Robert Newton  
Trust Restored

*But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me. (2 Timothy 1:12)*

Does God trust you?

That's probably a question we do not ask ourselves very often. But it's one that's very important. Does God trust us? We know that He loves us. The Gospel itself begins with that fact: God so loved the world . . . God most certainly loves us, but does He trust us?

The question is very important in understanding our relationship with God, or better, His relationship with us. The entire story of God's relationship with us turns on the fact that God not only loves us, He trusts us. When we speak of God's love we picture ourselves as the object of His affection. God loves us and we receive His love with gratitude. When we speak of God's trust, however, it changes the picture slightly but significantly. Not only does He trust us, He entrusts to us those people and things that are precious to Him.

For example I love my children very much. They have been the object of my devotion and affection from the moment they were conceived. They know that I love them; that I would give them anything and everything that they truly need even at the point of personal sacrifice. While they depend on my love to grow up and grow strong in their own ability to love, at some point in their lives they also need to know that I trust them. How pleased my children were when each got behind the steering wheel of the family car for the first time. Even though they had a lot to learn about driving, they knew that I had confidence in them being able to drive and do it safely. They were even more pleased when they got their driver's licenses and were allowed to take the family car out on their own. They knew that I *trusted* them, because I *entrusted* into their care something very valuable to me. Having my trust as well as my love played a large role in them growing to mature adulthood.

Now let's say that one of my children did something irresponsible with my car and as a result smashed it up pretty good. I wouldn't stop loving him. In fact, I would run to his aid and protection. But would I still trust him? That is, would I entrust to him my car to use again?

The question, "Does God trust you?" is not only very important, it is also very difficult for us to answer, especially when we consider the many times we break trust with God. We sin daily and greatly. Each sin betrays the trust

that God places in us. We trace that betrayal all the way back to our first parents, Adam and Eve. Consider the trust God placed in them when He entrusted His creation to them to rule and serve it in His behalf. Consider what their personal rebellion against God did to that trust. They chose to misuse and discard that which God had entrusted to them. Inheriting their sinful nature, we, too, prove ourselves untrustworthy of the treasures God has entrusted to our care, be they spouse, family, friends, neighbors, vocation. You fill in the blank.

Thanks be to God, however, that His grace triumphs over our sin. God's grace not only moved Him to make us His own once again but it moves Him to continue trusting us with His treasures. As we daily awaken to our vocations as spouse or parent, sibling or friend, boss or worker, we do so as forgiven children of God, trusted by Him to serve in His stead and with His promises. His choosing to continue "entrusting" these treasures to us speaks a holy absolution as powerful as His words, "I forgive you for my Son's sake."

It also gives us courage to do what He has entrusted to us to do. More often than not we doubt ourselves and our ability to follow through on what God has assigned to our care. We probably have good reason, especially when we look at our long list of failures in the past. But God asks us not to base our confidence, or lack thereof, on our failures but on Him alone. Can we learn to be confident of His trust in us when we are unable to trust ourselves? Furthermore, He stands alongside us with the grace needed to honor the trust He has placed in us. He makes it His responsibility to enable us to live and serve according to His heart's desire. Thus St. Paul can look back at his own life and ministry and confess with all confidence, *"I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to me."*

So, does God trust you? How we answer that question speaks volumes about our understanding and confidence in the grace of our loving God and what He has made us to be in His Son.

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## **Watoto Children's Choir Performing at Grace, Modesto**

Submitted by: Terra Mitchell, Staff member at Grace

The Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda, Africa will be performing a FREE concert on Sunday, November 6th @ 7pm at Grace Lutheran in Modesto, CA and you're invited. No tickets necessary.

Watoto Children's Choirs have travelled internationally since 1994 as advocates for the estimated 50 million children in Africa, orphaned as a result of HIV/AIDS, war, poverty and disease.

Accompanied by a team of adults, the choir presents Watoto's vision and mission through their stories, music and dance. Watoto choirs act as ambassadors to raise awareness about the plight of the orphaned and vulnerable children of Africa.

Each of the children in the choir has suffered the loss of his or her parents either through war or disease. They live in Watoto children's villages modeling every aspect of life on Christ. Come enjoy the music and fellowship! We hope to see you there!



## **La paternidad de Dios y el hombre or CNH Hispanic Round Table**

Subirte bey: Rev. Enrique Vallejo, First Immanuel, San José

**Mesa Redona** - "Consejo Hispano" Distrito California-Nevada-Hawái

12 del mediodía del viernes 2, a 2:00 p.m. del sábado 3 de diciembre de 2011.  
En las oficinas del Distrito en Livermore (ver dirección más abajo)

Orador principal: Profesor Marcos Kempff. Valor de la inscripción: \$65.00 por persona. (Cupo limitado) (Incluye alojamiento por una noche en un hotel cercano a las oficinas del Distrito, mas 4 comidas)

Hacer cheque a nombre de "C-N-H District-LCMS" y enviarlo antes del 15 de noviembre a Charlotte Elliot, 2772 Constitution Dr. Suite A, Livermore, CA 94551. Si tienen preguntas por favor llamar a pastor Vallejo, (408) 406-1715.

The CNH Hispanic Round Table begins on Friday, December 2, at 12:00 noon and ends on Saturday, December 3, at 2:00 pm. The Round Table will be held at the CNH District Office.

The guest speaker is Professor Marcos Kempff.

Cost is \$65.00 per person (includes meals and lodging). Registration is due by November 15. Please make your check payable to "C-N-H District – LCMS" and mail to CNH District, Attn: Charlotte Elliott, 2772 Constitution Drive, Suite A, Livermore, CA 94551.

Contact Rev. Enrique Vallejo at (408) 406-1715 should you have any questions regarding the CNH Hispanic Round Table.

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## Notes for Convention and Election of Officers

Rev. Standley, CNH District Secretary

**Nominations for District President** are due no later than October 27th, 2011.

**Election of the Synod President** will be by votes cast by the elected delegates *that have attended* their District Conventions. Congregations should consider electing alternate Lay Delegates to ensure their vote in case the elected delegate cannot attend.

**For Circuit Counselor Elections**, biographies and consent of nominees are to be made available to the Circuit Counselor before the Circuit Forum to verify that the candidate is willing and eligible to serve. Nominations from the floor may come only from the names suggested by the District President.

**As the District and Synod conventions draw near, there will be ongoing clarification from Synod.** *If you have any questions, contact me and I will do my best to provide answers.* Rev. Standley: [revstandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:revstandley@sbcglobal.net) or 919-363-5687.

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## Fall Pastors' Conference

Submitted by: Rev. Norm Milz, Shepherd o/t Sierra, Carson City, NV

The pastors of the CNH District met in Stockton last week for the Fall Pastors' Conference. Dr. Larry Harvella, from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne was the major presenter to about 130 of the District's pastors. Dr. Harvella spoke to pastors under the theme: Revitalizing Preaching for Veteran Preachers". Our opening service was at St. Andrew, Stockton, with Dr. Harvella as the preacher, followed with a reception beautifully provided by the women of St. Andrew! There were also presentations from different Synodical agencies and at the conclusion of the President's Dinner, pastors with anniversaries were acknowledged.

Because of the size of the District, the fellowship of pastors was a true joy. Wednesday afternoon many of the pastors played golf or had free time for fellowship.

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## CNH Conflict Resolution Committee

What happens at the Fall Pastors' Conference usually stays at the Fall Pastors' Conference.

Back row: Rev. Tom Sharpe, Rev. Stace Rollefson, Rev. Terry Chan, Rev. Chris Ng, Rev. Mark Kliewer, and Rev. Allan Hilton. Front row: Rev. Pon Chanthaphon, Rev. Rick Rice, Don Busse, Rev. Eric Robinson, Rev. Tom Norris, Rev. Dan Deuel, and Rev. Ron Youngdale.



## Understanding Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, and Memory Loss

Submitted by: Lois Brauer, Member of Town & Country, Sacramento

The Sacramento Valley Chapter of Lutherans for Life invites you, your family, friends, and acquaintances to an educational event on Understanding Alzheimer's Disease, Dementia, and Memory Loss. It will be held at Town and Country Lutheran Church, 4049 Marconi Avenue, Sacramento, CA. Check-in will start at 3:30 p.m. and the event end at 6:00 p.m. THERE IS NO FEE.

The speaker, Denise Davis, is the Program Director of the Greater Sacramento Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. After the presentation, there will be time for questions and answers.

Learn the warning signs of dementia and understand the difference between dementia & Alzheimer's disease. Discover how Alzheimer's disease is diagnosed and its progression. Familiarize yourself with the latest in research and how to access the resources.

We encourage pre-registration on-line at [www.lfl-sac.org](http://www.lfl-sac.org) by November 5. Bulletin inserts and publicity flyers can also be down-loaded from this website. Light refreshments will be served. If you should have any questions or comments, please send them via e-mail to [info@lfl-sac.org](mailto:info@lfl-sac.org) or call Lois Brauer 916-543-8533.

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## Consecration Service for Sierra Lutheran High School

Submitted by: Brian Underwood, Executive Director of SLHS

On October 17, Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval commended Sierra Lutheran High School's strong academic program and its overall approach to education during his special address at the school's Campus Consecration & Open House event.

Before an estimated audience of over 400 students, parents, and community members, Sandoval traced SLHS's success to the words of Matthew 7:24, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock."

The Governor also cited SLHS's example of educational excellence as a blueprint for what needs to take place to ensure the state's future. "It's been said that young people make up 25 percent of the population," Sandoval remarked. "But they make up 100 percent of the future."

About Sierra Lutheran High School. With the opening of its new campus, located at 3601 Romans Rd., in Carson City, Sierra Lutheran High School becomes the first Christian high school in the greater Carson City area. SLHS offers a comprehensive curriculum that observes 99 percent of its graduates go on to college, 75-percent to four-year colleges and universities. Current enrollment for the 2011/2012 school year is 85 students with an average class size of 13 students. With the completion of Phase One, SLHS has the capacity to grow to 150 students, with a projected enrollment of 600 students over the next several years. To learn more about Sierra Lutheran, visit [www.slhs.com](http://www.slhs.com).



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## Generational Transition . . .

Submitted By: Brian Hyde, Gift Planning Counselor

I am going to ask that you reread my article/email that was published in the September 13, 2011 ENews and then read the rest of the attached article. This was information that was supplied to me by my boss, Terry Gerdts. Terry is the VP of Gift Planning for the Foundation, and I believe that the Pew Research Center Report that he has supplied puts an exclamation mark on what I wrote several weeks ago.



PLEASE take this information to heart and prayerfully consider some kind of action, even if you just call me and say, "Brian, you and your article are all wet!" We so often wait until it is too late to act and I pray that this is not one of those times.

If the current economic crisis wasn't enough, it is taking place during the most significant generational transition in history.

The 74 million Baby Boomers born between 1946 and 1964 are retiring. According to a Pew Research Center Report, the current retirement rate of 10,000 per day will continue at that level for the next 17-19 years.

In 2010, Baby Boomers accounted for 70% of all income being earned in America. They also gave over 90% of the total \$303 billion charitable gifts given by individuals that year. This is to be contrasted by the fact that 20% of total income was generated by Generation X (the 46 million born between 1965 and 1980) and 5% from Generation Y (the Millennials – those born between 1980 and 2000).

By the year 2016 a major shift will occur that will dramatically impact non-profits. In that year, 20% of all income in American will be earned by Baby Boomers, 25% by those representing Generation X, and 55% by Millennials.

Based on past percentages of giving, Baby Boomers would represent 22% of all individual giving in 2016, 10% would come from those representing Generation X and 9% from those representing Generation Y. This would leave a 59% shortfall, or in terms of actual dollars, approximately \$136.2 billion.

Non-profits who find they are receiving the majority of their income from Baby Boomers have reason to be concerned.

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## Boldly Moving Forward With You!

Submitted By: John Wagenbach, CEF VP



To finish our series on the building process, first let's review our steps to date. First and foremost we must consult God's will in the project. Once done, the next step is to gain an understanding of our community, what it needs and where we fit into it along with our church's congregational make-up. Based on the answers to these questions we will come to the decision of which type of building to plan. Once that is done we urge the use of an outside professional architect or design engineer to help with the planning of the building, its most efficient use and adherence to local codes. Next, we assess the affordability of the building type, how much we can raise through a capital campaign and how much we can afford to borrow based on a comfortable payment that does not take away from our ability to do ministry. The final step then is project management.

Project management is probably the most tedious and least creative part of the process; however, it also may be the most important.

There are a number of ways to manage a project which include the use of member experts, utilizing your architect and relying on CEF for help. Most of our projects utilize a combination of all of these. Proper and thorough project management helps to keep ultimate costs under control and gets the building built on time.

Look again at 2 Chronicles. Solomon acted as the project manager on the building of the temple; "**Solomon made sure that all the work related to building the Temple of the Lord was carried out, from the day its foundation was laid to the day of its completion.**" (2 Chronicles 8:16) It says here that he made sure all work was done. That is project management.

For CNH District projects, CEF provides experts to interface with the contractors, architects and other professionals to help the church monitor building progress. CEF meets with the professionals, contractors and church representative once per month to evaluate, confirm and approve draw requests. In doing this, analysis and opinion can be made as to whether the project is on budget or any delays are possible.

The key to project management is consistent communication between all parties involved to avoid any surprises. We have found that well managed projects go up faster and generate more positive feeling in the congregation that many times leads to greater overall participation in the capital campaign. Projects that languish lose steam not only from a building perspective but also from an enthusiasm perspective.

Once the project has been managed to completion there is only one thing left to do. Dedicate a brand new building to God's work and then put it to use doing God's work.

**If you are considering a building project any time in the future, please let CEF know as early as possible. There are many ways in which we can work with a congregation to design, evaluate cost and affordability and offer advice as to how to fund a project. The earlier we are involved, the more effective we can be for the congregation.**

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## **Blurbs, Bumps & Bonus**

**Kimble organ:** A small Kimble organ is available for free but must be picked up. Contact Rev. Dr. John Geach at Hope, San Leandro, 510-351-7410, for more details.

**Reminder from the District Secretary - 2012 CNH District Convention:** In keeping with our District Bylaws, nominations for the office of District President are due no later than October 27, 2011. If you do not have a nomination form, one is available online at the District Website under 2012 District Convention. Should you have any questions, please contact CNH District Secretary, Rev. John Standley, 916-363-5687 or [revstandley@sbcglobal.net](mailto:revstandley@sbcglobal.net).

**Me, a Pastor? Me, a Deaconess?:** If you have found yourself asking this question, now is the time to discuss your future! Rev. Neil E. Ray will be in the CNH District on October 27<sup>th</sup> & October 28<sup>th</sup>. Come and explore the possibilities! Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, Our Savior, 1230 Luther Way, Salinas, CA 93901. Contact: Rev. Scott Klemsz (831) 422-6352 and Friday, October 28<sup>th</sup>, First Immanuel, 374 S. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, San Jose, CA 95112. Contact: Rev. Gabriel Vallejo (408) 292-5404.

**Brain Health and Alzheimer's:** Breakthroughs in Communication as Alzheimer's Advances workshop will be presented on Saturday, November 5, 2011 from 9:00 am to noon (registration and refreshments at 8:30 am) at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 38451 Fremont Blvd., Fremont CA 94536. Attendance at this event is free, but please reserve your spot today by e-mailing us at [healthybrainatpop@gmail.com](mailto:healthybrainatpop@gmail.com). You may also direct any questions you have to this address or call Faye Hall at 510-797-3219.

**South Asia in November:** November 27 - December 4, 2011, join Transforming Churches Network and Dr. Robert Newton for an exciting personal experience of a Book of Acts-style movement in South Asia! For more information, including cost information, visit the [TCN website](#). We hope to have you join us in South Asia in November for this life-changing experience!

**Reformation Supplies Available:** For posters, bulletin blurbs, requests for envelopes, or other information regarding the 2011 CNH Reformation Offering, please visit [www.resurrection-brentwood.org/ReformationOffering](http://www.resurrection-brentwood.org/ReformationOffering) or contact Carlie Watney, Resurrection Lutheran Church, Brentwood at [cwatney@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cwatney@sbcglobal.net) or 235-634-5180.

**Attending Chico State University?** You are invited to the Divine Service at Redeemer Evangelical Lutheran Church, Chico to receive Christ's gifts in Word and Sacrament each Sunday. Monthly dinner and Bible study for college students and young adults is offered. Parents, pastors, and students are encouraged to make referrals and contact with Pastor Donald Jordan, (530) 342-6085 or [www.redeemerchico.org](http://www.redeemerchico.org).

**Bethesda Lutheran Communities:** The Religious Life and Church Relations Department of Bethesda has a full-time Ministry Consultant position available for work in Fresno, Clovis, Visalia, Porterville, and Bakersfield. "Empowered by the love of Christ, a Ministry Consultant advocates for and ministers to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families, their support staff, congregations and communities, through visiting, teaching, consulting, resourcing, and training." Bachelor's degree required (preferably in religious education, social work, special education, etc.) Applicant must be a member in good standing of a Lutheran congregation. Leadership experience in a church-work profession and experience in intellectual and developmental disabilities, or in special education are helpful but not required. Send your résumé to Ms. Sarah Luedke, Corporate HR and Employment Coordinator, [sarah.luedke@mailblc.org](mailto:sarah.luedke@mailblc.org). In the subject line, please state "Ministry Consultant-CA." For more information, please visit [www.bethesdalutherancommunities.org](http://www.bethesdalutherancommunities.org).

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## **New Prayer Requests**

### **Congregations:**

Hope, Daly City, CA; Bethel Grace, San Francisco, CA; Canaan, San Francisco, CA; Holy Spirit, San Francisco, CA; Shepherd of the Hills, San Francisco, CA; Zion, San Francisco, CA.

### **Calls:**

Rev. Dan Buringrud, Greenhaven, Sacramento, CA has been extended a call by St. John, Allegany, NY as pastor.

Rev. Ken Harste, Family of Christ, Ham Lake, MN has been extended a call by Trinity, San Rafael, CA as pastor.

Rev. Doug Williams, candidate status, has been extended a call by Calvary, Oroville, CA as pastor.

### **People:**

Rev. Sergei Koberg, Dublin, CA, pastor emeritus, recovery from stroke.

Marian Zutz, wife of Rev. Alfred Zutz, pastor emeritus, Fairfield, CA, denial of kidney replacement request.

Joshua Zelt, nephew of Rev. Dr. Tom Zelt, Prince of Peace, Fremont, CA, recovery from auto accident

## **Contact Us**

We welcome your comments and article submissions. Please email In Touch Editor, Shelly Alba at [newsletter@cnh-lcms.org](mailto:newsletter@cnh-lcms.org), or phone 925-245-4000 for further information.



**CNH District-LCMS**

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