

## REPORTS AND MESSAGES

### FROM THE PRESIDENT –

**GREETINGS** to everyone in this New Year! As I am writing this it is already February, getting closer to **Spring!** That sounds so nice after all the snow and frigid weather we have had. Also April is not far away and that means **Guild Day** will be here which usually brings nice sunny weather.

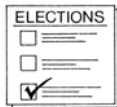
**HARVEST DAY** went quite well, 84 members registered, coming from 19 churches in Canada and the U.S.

**THE GUILD EXECUTIVE** thanks the CSSA for their invitation to the Christmas dinner on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. The food and fellowship was enjoyed by all. The Guild provided monies for the hams for dinner, and \$20 gift cards were given to all the students.

**OUR FIRST EXECUTIVE MEETING** of the New Year was held on Wednesday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at the Seminary. As your groups are making plans for the coming year, we ask that you consider adopting a student, remember the Food Pantry needs and set aside **April 18<sup>th</sup> for Guild Day** and **October 17<sup>th</sup> for Harvest Day**.



**GUILD DAY** – Please join us for Guild Day on **Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup>**. You will find the **Registration Form** and **Agenda** at the end of the newsletter. **Registration time begins at 8:30 a.m.**, with refreshments being served by **Grace, Oshawa**. **All Registrations and money are due by Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, MAIL ONLY**. Any registrations received after **April 11<sup>th</sup>** is subject to an additional **\$4 late fee**. If you would like to pay for your adopted student or any student, please make a note on the Registration Form, and include only the luncheon cost. Our speaker will be Dr. William Mundt.



**ELECTIONS** - Elections for **President** and **Vice-President** will be held and Carol Nagel will lead the process. A **Nomination Form** and **Job Descriptions** are included in this newsletter. If you have a nominee in mind, please consult the person to submit their name. Also, if you yourself are interested, please list your name on the Nomination Form. If you are asked to serve, look at this as a little nudge from the Lord to serve in His Kingdom, and prayerfully consider it.

**PROJECTS** – There are two projects that come as a recommendation from the Guild Executive: 1) painting the Chapel, and 2) a new vacuum cleaner.

**STUDENT ADOPTION AND MEMBERSHIP FORMS** – Your **Student Adoption Form** and **Membership Form** are included with this mailing. Your **Adoption Form** can be mailed as soon as completed. The **Membership Form** is from **May 1, 2009 to April 30, 2010**.

**THE GUILD'S PURPOSE** is threefold: 1) to stimulate interest in the Seminary in our home congregations, 2) to provide information to tell about the Seminary and students, and 3) to cooperate with the Seminary in helping the students and their families.

**I INVITE YOU** to bring a friend or a prospective Guild member with you when you come to the Seminary for **Guild Day, April 18<sup>th</sup>**. May our enthusiasm for the Lord's work swell our ranks with new members for 2009-2010.

**CERTIFICATION AND CALL SERVICE** will be on **Saturday, May 9, 4:00 p.m., at Christ Lutheran Church**. A reception hosted by the Seminary Guild will follow the service.

**IN CLOSING**, I pray that the positive support and love we have received from you, the Guild members, will continue in 2009, and I thank each and every one of you. Most of all, thanks to our loving God and Father for all our continued blessings.

*With Christian Love,  
Judith A. Zastrow John 14:27*

**BULLETIN NOTICE:** *At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What Is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.*

**INTERESTING STUFF:** *Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only..Ladies Forbidden' – and thus the word GOLF entered into the English language.*

**THINGS TO REMEMBER:** *If you worry, you didn't pray. If you prayed, don't worry.*

#### **FROM THE TREASURER –**



**TREASURER'S REPORT** as of the Executive Meeting, January 21/09: **Opening Balance** at the beginning of the fiscal year - \$12,533.87. **Income:** Memberships/Donations - \$2,375.15, Harvest Day - \$1,149.59, Receptions - \$431.77, Food Pantry - \$55, and Projects \$379.96 for **Total Income** - \$4,391.47. **Transfer in from U.S. Savings** - \$1,233. **Expenses:**

Paper/Postage/Copy/Phone - \$229.92, Harvest Day - \$1,051.32, Receptions - \$225.73, and Projects – Amplifier/microphone - \$1,096.40, Bike rack - \$487.55, Seminary Bookstore Gift Certificates - \$300, Chapel Chairs - \$3,529.56, Christmas Grocery Cards - \$521.60, and Thank-You gift card - \$25. **Total Expenses** – 7,467.08. Currently there is a **Balance** in the **Chequing Account** of \$10,691.26 which includes \$779.12 in the Food Pantry Fund not yet disbursed. The **U.S. Account** has a **Balance** of \$738.42.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Bonnie Stephenson*

**BULLETIN NOTICE:** *Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 p.m. – prayer and medication to follow.*

**INTERESTING STUFF:** *The percentage of Africa that is wilderness is 28%. The percentage of North America that is wilderness is 38%.*

**THINGS TO REMEMBER:** *Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape.*

#### **FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN –**



**MEMBERSHIPS** received and recorded to date are 932, just slightly up from last year's figure of 930. Let's aim for 1,000 during the next year. Many thanks for the efforts and time spent by all the Contact People as they work for the Guild in their individual congregations. See you on Guild Day.

*Your sister in Christ,  
Carol Nagel*

**BULLETIN NOTICE:** *The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.*

**INTERESTING STUFF:** *The first novel ever written on a typewriter was “Tom Sawyer.”*

**THINGS TO REMEMBER:** *When we get tangled up in our problems, be still. God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot.*

#### **FROM THE SPIRITUAL ADVISOR –**

The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord

Dear Guild Members, sisters and brothers in Christ,

**AS I WRITE TODAY** the world is paying half-hearted, humorous attention to Warton Willie, Shubenacadie Sam, Punxsutawney Phil, and other rodents with the miraculous ability to predict the future. They all saw their shadows today, guaranteeing us six more weeks of Winter. I suppose this is remarkable for a groundhog, but anyone can read a calendar and see that Spring is about six weeks away (though in Canada that would be an early Spring, not a late one!).

**THE ORIGINS** of this harmless fun apparently lie in an old Scottish proverb, “If Candlemas Day is bright and clear/There’ll be two winters in the year.” Candlemas is an even older festival, at which the end of the 40-day Christmas season was marked by receiving blessed candles at church. And behind that stands a real biblical event: that the Holy Family appeared in the Temple 40 days after Jesus’ birth. This was to observe the requirement of Leviticus 12 that a sacrifice had to be made before the new mother could return to the Lord’s worship and of Exodus 13 that every firstborn male was committed to God.



**IT MAY SEEM IRRELEVANT** to us that these Old Testament laws had to be observed. But look what they brought about: Jesus, the Son of God, appeared in the house dedicated to His worship. This reminds us that our God isn’t some distant spirit, but comes to be with us in the flesh. Our churches are His dwelling place as His Word is preached and His Body and Blood is given out. We confess this when we sing the words first sung at Jesus’ Presentation: “Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace...” Like Simeon, we take Jesus up into our arms, and believe that nothing, not even death, can truly harm us now. Simeon and Anna are such remarkable models of faith for us, that even after all hope seemed pointless, they clung to God’s Word and waited for the Messiah. Their faith was like Mary’s and Joseph’s, who believed that God could knit a Child in the womb of a Virgin.

**THE WORK OF THE SEMINARY** and its Guild is not just a labour of love, but of faith. We believe what we cannot see, that God will use us all to accomplish His purposes, to bring His Word to His people, to redeem His children. We believe that He is among us all along; we are not alone. Our future is secure because it’s in His hands, even if we don’t quite know what it will look like.

**I PRAY THAT GOD** will keep your faith strong, and I thank you on behalf of the whole seminary community for your dedication and support.

*Peace and joy in Christ,  
Rev. Dr. Thomas M. Winger  
Acting President*

**BULLETIN NOTICE:** *Ladies, don’t forget the rummage sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.*

**INTERESTING STUFF:** *Which day are there more collect calls than any other day of the year? Father’s Day.*

**THINGS TO REMEMBER:** *Growing old is inevitable, growing up is optional.*

## FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE –



**THE POSITIONS OF PRESIDENT AND VICE-PRESIDENT** are up for election this Guild Day. Please consider these important positions in the Executive and volunteer to let your name stand to serve in one of these capacities. A **Nomination Form** is included with the newsletter and remember, if you submit someone's name **they must be asked if they wish to stand for the position**. Please fill out the **Nomination Form before the deadline date of April 11<sup>th</sup>** and mail it to Bonnie Stephenson.

### DUTIES OF THE PRESIDENT:

#### The President shall

- 1) preside at all meetings of the Guild assembly and Executive;
- 2) appoint the chairperson of all standing committees – newsletter editor, hosting coordinator, historian – subject to the approval of the Executive board;
- 3) appoint special committees as needed;
- 4) sign cheques jointly with the Treasurer;
- 5) fill all unexpired terms of office with the ratification of the Executive Board;
- 6) consult with the Seminary President and Dean of Student Affairs on programmes of assistance to the Seminary and students, and
- 7) be an ex officio member of all committees.

#### Secondary Duties of the President over the year:

- 8) address new students on Orientation Day in September, welcoming students and explaining the function of the Guild;
- 9) assist in any way she can at all social functions, such as the receptions that follow the Opening Service, Call Service, etc.;
- 10) prepare an article for each Newsletter and assist with the organizing and mailing of same. Invite faculty and staff to include a message in one of the newsletters (optional). In the Spring (May) newsletter she may also ask a student for a short message;
- 11) accept invitations to speak about the Guild to interested groups. Over the years the President has spoken at the Spring and Fall Rallies of the LWML-C. She has also been asked to speak at the East District Conventions;
- 12) encourage local area groups to make visits to the Seminary and become involved with the students;
- 13) help promote ideas to raise monies for Guild projects;
- 14) organize a cleaning day for the student kitchen each Spring, and
- 15) direct the Bookstore Manager in the Spring to purchase the Book of Concord (where needed) to be distributed on Orientation Day.

### DUTIES OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT:

#### The Vice-President shall

- 1) take the place of the President in her absence or upon her request;
- 2) perform any duties or functions the President or Executive Board deem necessary, and
- 3) be in charge of obtaining speakers for both Guild and Harvest Days.

**BULLETIN NOTICE:** *The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the church basement Friday at 7 p.m. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.*

**INTERESTING STUFF:** *It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.*

**THINGS TO REMEMBER:** *We do not remember days but moments. Life moves too fast so enjoy your precious moments.*

## GUILD DAY NEWS



**GUILD DAY WILL BE HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2009**, at Concordia Seminary. We look forward to meeting and greeting fellow Guild members, as well as students, faculty and staff. At our Business Meeting we have a couple of projects to be voted on as well as the positions of President and Vice-President to elect into office (duties of each is included in the newsletter).

**WE ASK THAT YOU MARK YOUR CALENDARS** and plan to come and help us make God—pleasing decisions as we continue to support the students and the work of the Seminary. Also included in the Newsletter are the **Registration and Nomination Forms** (sent to Bonnie Stephenson at Concordia Seminary before the **deadline date of Saturday, April 11** to avoid an extra **late fee charge of \$4**). Also included in the Newsletter are the **Membership Form** (sent to Carol Nagel) and the **Student Adoption Form** which has been slightly revised (sent to Concordia Seminary) as soon as you have the opportunity to complete them. Look forward to seeing you on Guild Day.

## GUILD DAY AGENDA

8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.	<b>REGISTRATION</b> and Coffee Fellowship
9:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.	<b>HYMN SING</b> in the Chapel <b>WELCOME</b> by Dr. Thomas Winger, Acting President Concordia Seminary
9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.	<b>BUSINESS MEETING</b> Reports – Election of Officers Installation of New Officers
(As time allows)	<b>HYMN SING</b>
10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	<b>CHAPEL SERVICE</b>
11:00 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.	<b>GUEST PRESENTATION</b> Dr. William Mundt, Chairman of Systematic Theology Topic: “Saving the Gypsy Soul – Reflections on Evangelical Outreach in the Early 1800’s”
11:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.	<b>INTRODUCTION OF STUDENTS</b>
12:15p.m.	<b>LUNCHEON</b> at the Seminary Catered by Ernie Green, Seminary Student

**BULLETIN NOTICE:** *The sermon this morning “Jesus Walks on the Water.” The sermon for tonight is “Searching for Jesus.”*

**INTERESTING STUFF:** *It is impossible to lick your elbow. At least 75% of people who read this will try to lick their elbow!*

**THINGS TO REMEMBER:** *Be more concerned with your character than your reputation. Your character is what you really are, while your reputation is merely what others think you are.*

### HELP ME, LORD

Help me to remember, Lord,  
When I feel lost and small  
That I am held within your arms,  
And You won't let me fall.  
Help me not forget, dear Lord  
When hope seems far away  
That I am always in Your care  
And You won't let me stray.  
Help me hold within my heart  
The knowledge of Your care,  
Each venture starts and ends with You  
And always You are there.

*Margaret Ingall  
Friendship Book, 2009*

