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A message from Pastor Quinn

Jaroslav Vajda: See This Wonder in the Making

Jaroslav Vajda was a contemporary Lutheran hymn writer and pastor of Slovak descent. His grandparents immigrated to this country from Slovakia in the 1880s. His father, John Vajda, was a Lutheran pastor who served congregations in Ohio, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Indiana. Jaroslav was born in 1919 while his father was serving his first congregation. Vajda attended a one-room, German-language, Lutheran elementary school. He later attended Concordia College in Fort Wayne, Indiana and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri in preparation for the public ministry.

As a pastor, Vajda served a bilingual (Slovak and English) congregation in Pennsylvania, a congregation in Indiana, and another bilingual congregation back in Pennsylvania. In 1963 he moved to St. Louis to become editor of *This Day* magazine and also served as assistant pastor at St. Lucas Lutheran Church. When *This Day* stopped being published in 1971, Vajda served as an editor and developer for Concordia Publishing House. Throughout his ministry he served his church body in various positions and was widely recognized for his many contributions both in Lutheran circles and beyond. In 1988 he was made a fellow of The Hymn Society of America. He was also a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies. Vajda died in May of 2008.

Vajda's tremendous contribution to contemporary Lutheran hymnody is found both in his translation of Slovak hymns and his own original compositions. He became familiar with Slovak hymns as a teenager, which, years later, he translated into English. He also began writing poetry as a teenager encouraged by a prominent literary figure in his church

body to continue to develop his "authentic gift for poetry". Vajda's first hymn which drew major attention was his text "Now the Silence" (CW 231) which appeared in a 1969 worship supplement. Though his first hymn of note did not appear until Vajda was 49 years old, he wrote quite prolifically for the rest of his life. When he died at the age of 89 he had written or translated over 200 hymns, eight with which we are familiar from Christian Worship (Where Shepherds Lately Knelt CW 54; Up through Endless Ranks of Angels CW 172; Then the Glory CW 218; Now the Silence CW 231; See This Wonder in the Making CW 300; Go, My Children, with My Blessings CW 332; Amid the World's Bleak Wilderness CW 342; and God, My Lord, My Strength CW 450).

This month we will take a look at Vajda's baptism hymn, "See This Wonder in the Making". In beautiful language this hymn displays the miraculous activity of our Savior God in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism as by water and the word he makes a sinful child his dear, forgiven, newborn child. The hymn helps us ponder the significance of our own baptism and marvel at God's grace therein.

*See this wonder in the making:
God himself this child is taking
As a lamb safe in his keeping,
His to be, awake or sleeping.*

*Miracle each time it happens
As the door to heaven opens
And the Father beams, "Beloved,
Heir of gifts a king would covet!"*

*Far more tender than a mother,
Far more caring than a father,
God, into your arms we place him,
With your love and peace embrace him.*

*Here we bring a child of nature;
Home we take a newborn creature,
Now God's precious son or daughter,
Born again by Word and water.*

Coming Up In August

- August 1-5 VBS, 6 to 8 PM
- August 2 Board of Trustees, 7 PM
- August 9 Church Council, 7 PM
- August 13 WELS Pig Roast and Concert at St. John's in Saginaw
- August 23 Board of Elders, 7 PM

President's Report Mike Krueger

The July Voters' meeting was held on Tuesday, July 19th, at 7 PM. In addition to membership transactions, the agenda included a recommendation from Council to accept the Elders recommendation to change how we administer our Christian Relief Fund (CRF). The vast majority of requests we have received for financial assistance come from cold calls from non-members. Due to the very limited funds in the CRF greater than 95% of those requests are eventually denied frustrating both those calling for money and those administering the CRF. It is also very difficult to meet the goal of administering the CRF to also share the gospel as part of the process. The revised guidelines approved by the Voters rely on our members to communicate the need for relief. This will help us involve our Pastors and others that may be able to help and provide the spiritual support as a part of the CRF process. Members are asked to contact the Pastors, church office or any of the Elders to bring requests on behalf of members or non-members.

The Voters' received a very encouraging financial report. The general fund offerings for the six months of 2011 were approximately \$10,000 over what is needed to meet our budget. This has allowed us to reduce our general fund deficit from just over \$68,000 a year ago to just under \$34,000. If we can continue this trend the general fund deficit that has

accumulated over the last several years could be eliminated in about another year! At the same time we have also completed and paid for the heating and air conditioning system work!

Per the approval of the Voters' at the April meeting, the president has appointed a committee of Ron Daniel, George Klement, Gale Krueger, Jeff Pitt and Dan Wamhoff to develop a facility expansion (including building and parking lot) plan that will fit our membership, budget and short term and long term ministry needs.

Also on the agenda was a proposal from the Scholarship Committee to set the amount of the scholarships to be given to members of Good Shepherd enrolled at our synod's ministerial education schools at \$200 for MLS and \$400 for MLC and WLS. The scholarships are to encourage the students to prepare for full-time work in the teaching or preaching ministry of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Currently that includes: Kayla Fournier, David Delu, JB Pitt, Cheyenne Lehman, Aaron Pretzer, Tosha Arthur, Sarah Fournier, Grace Johnson, Jessica Riggs and James Westphal at Michigan Lutheran Seminary; Tyler Glessner, Abbie Gawel and Michael Schwab at Martin Luther College and Paul Krueger and Joe Gawel at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. The amount of the scholarships are set in July based on the number of students enrolled, the amount of money in the Scholarship Fund and the cost of education at the schools. The scholarships are paid in August so the recipients have the funds in time for their first payments to the schools in the fall. Gifts may be made to the Scholarship Fund at any time by designating the amount to go to the Scholarship Fund on your envelope or check.

The starting time for the second service in the non-summer months was changed from 10:45 AM to 10:30 AM. The recommendation was made to be able to complete services before noon in the non-summer months.

The Voters' increased the size of the Board of Elders from five members to six members to help fulfill the duties of the Elders, especially to cover communion Sundays during the summer. The president will appoint an elder to serve until the elections in December. With the release of Mike, Amy and Danielle Browning the president will also be appointing another member to serve on the Board of Education until the elections in December.

The Voters' received Paul Krueger and Ryan Tarrant as voting members of Good Shepherd. All male communicant members 18 years of age are invited to become voting members of the congregation by making a request to one of the pastors or a church officer.

Gale Krueger was elected as Good Shepherd's delegate to the Pastor-Delegate Conference of the Northern Conference of Michigan District. The Conference is Sunday October 2nd in Cadillac and is for disseminating information from the Synod Convention which was held July 25th through 29th.

Extra copies of our Synod's publication Forward In Christ are available. This magazine has some very good articles for all members. Please take a copy and see if you would like to sign up for a subscription to this magazine every month. Or take a copy and give one to a friend or neighbor!

New Service Time Beginning in September

The last Sunday we worship with our summer service schedule (8:00 AM and 10:00 AM) will be the Sunday before Labor Day, September 4th. Our regular service schedule begins on the Sunday after Labor Day, September 11th. The Voters' have approved a new start time for the late service beginning on Sunday, September 11th. **Our regular Sunday service schedule will now be 8:00 AM and 10:30 AM.** Our Bible Class/Sunday School hour will take place from 9:15 AM to 10:15 AM. Please make a note of this change. This new service time will also be communicated through the bulletin and verbal announcements.

Scripture Readings for August

August 7 Trinity 7

Isaiah 62:6-12
Hymn 65
Romans 6:19-23
Mark 8:1-9

August 14 Trinity 8

Jeremiah 23:16-29
Psalm 18
Romans 8:12-17
Matthew 7:15-73

August 21 Trinity 9

Proverbs 16:1-9
Psalm 119b
1 Corinthians 10:6-13
Luke 16:1-9

August 28 Trinity 10

Jeremiah 7:1-11
Psalm 42-43
1 Corinthians 12:1-11
Luke 19:41-48

Ladies Guild

After summer vacation, Ladies Guild will begin in September. Marilyn Schwab will assume the office of president for the 2011-2012 year. Norma Lewis will be vice president. Diana Johnson will be secretary and Joyce Tafel will assume the job of treasurer.

Meetings begin at 6:45 PM in the fellowship hall at Good Shepherd with refreshments and fellowship followed by a Bible study and then our regular business meeting.

We can always use more members. You are welcome to sit in on a meeting to see if this is how you want to do a little more participating in the work of our church.

Guidelines for Administration of our Good Shepherd Christian Relief Fund

The Good Shepherd Christian Relief Fund (CRF) is dedicated to following Christ's example of ministering to human needs spiritually, physically, and emotionally, by providing support through charitable giving, education, and preaching the gospel. Earlier this year the Board of Elders conducted a review of our CRF program and agreed some changes in administration were needed. The basic problem was very limited funds and an ever growing number of callers from our community and beyond calling Good Shepherd asking for purely financial support. Unfortunately, the vast majority of callers were left waiting for the Board of Elders to review their request, only to be told, no financial support would be provided. The process, which normally took several days, left all involved feeling frustrated.

Over the course of several months, the Elders reviewed options to improve our CRF program and remain true to the foundational quote from Galatians 6:10 "Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." With that in mind, the Elders agreed we can best administer our Good Shepherd CRF Program through members of Good Shepherd.

The result is that consideration of CRF support, both financial and spiritual, are to be made available to members of Good Shepherd, and to any others in need, who are sponsored by members of Good Shepherd.

The benefit of this approach ensures that The Board of Elders and our Pastors will be able to fully engage with members and sponsored non-members to help them in a meaningful way. This may include financial support from our Good Shepherd CRF monies, or possibly some combination of financial support from other community resources. With members and member sponsorship we can also share the gospel, and achieve the goals originally intended by the Voters of Good Shepherd for our CRF program.

If at some point, you learn of someone or some family of Good Shepherd that is having financial difficulties, or if you have other family or neighbors that may have financial emergencies, but are not members of Good Shepherd, and you want to help them get support, contact an Elder or Pastor of Good Shepherd. While our Good Shepherd CRF monies are very limited, together we may be able to help that someone or some family in need.

This revision to the Good Shepherd CRF Program was reviewed and approved by our Church Council, then presented on July 19th at the Good Shepherd Voters Meeting. After the CRF background and issues were discussed the Voters approved the revised guidelines for implementation.

In His Service,
Ronald Daniel
Chairman,
Board of Elders

Our shut-ins

Please see your paper copy of the newsletter, or call the church office for information about our shut-ins.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Make somebody's day. Send a card!

Birthdays in August:

August 3	Effie Bauer
August 5	Megan Marquardt
August 9	Mike Schwab
August 10	Andrea Butler
August 10	Brady Wirth
August 19	Norma Lewis
August 20	Dorothy Retzloff

Anniversaries in August:

August 4	Irvin and Dee DeLong
August 25	Ron and Mary Shaffer
August 31	Jeff and Mischael Pitt

If we don't have your birthday or anniversary listed it's because we don't have that information. Please call the church office and give us the dates and we will be sure that it gets in the newsletter. Thank you for your help.

Something to think about from *The Great House of God:*

I've seen you walking in the mall, walking the aisles, searching for that extra special gift. Stashing away a few dollars a month to buy him something special you know he's been wanting. Staring at a hundred rings to find her the best diamond. Staying up all night Christmas Eve, assembling the new bicycle.

Why do you do it? So the eyes will pop. The jaw will drop. To hear those words, "You did this for me?"

And that is why God did it. Next time a sunrise steals your breath or a meadow of flowers leaves you speechless, remain that way. Say nothing, and listen as heaven whispers, "Do you like it? I did it just for you."

News from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

The 2012 Symposium on Lutheran Schools will be held on September 19 and 20. This is the twelfth annual symposium hosted by the seminary for the continuing education of WELS pastors. Over the years the symposium has addressed topics such as holy baptism, Christian vocation, Christian stewardship, and Christian worship.

“The symposium provides a common space where veteran pastors, seminary students, and professors can meet together every year to work through contemporary issues facing the church,” explains Professor Paul Wendland, seminary resident.

This year’s symposium seeks to re-evaluate the Lutheran school in the ministry of WELS congregations, to assess its value and contribution to the spiritual life of our members, and to seek and suggest new opportunities to promote and share its blessings. The presenters will be:

Dr. Mark Braun, Wisconsin Lutheran College, who will speak on “What Our Fathers Taught Us about Lutheran Schools”

Professor Mark Zarling, Martin Luther College, whose focus will be “What the Mission of the Church Teaches Us about Lutheran Schools.”

Pastor Don Patterson, Holy Word Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas, who will address “What Practical Experience Teaches Us about Lutheran Schools.”

All three are graduates of the seminary.

Seminary Professors John Brenner, Stephen Geiger, and Michael Quandt will provide reactions to the essays and attendees may discuss the issues raised by the presentations. A fellowship opportunity follows the Monday session and a festival service begins the session on Tuesday.

All WELS and ELS active and retired pastors are invited to the symposium. This year, principals of our elementary and secondary schools are also invited. Registration materials will be sent out mid-summer. More details about the 2011 seminary symposium can be found online.

Assignments

Family and friends gathered on campus for the call and graduation services that marked the end of the 2010-2011 school year. At the call day service on Thursday 50 men were assigned to various fields of ministry through the synod’s assignment committee. Forty-one graduates from the class of 2011 received their first calls into the public ministry. Five were assigned as tutors. Thirty five were assigned to parish ministry. One was assigned to a world mission field.

Two men trained through the Pastoral Studies Insti-

tute and one graduate from 2010 received assignments.

Please keep these newly assigned men in your prayers that they may bring the blessings of the gospel wherever they are go and however they serve.

The vicar year, similar to a one-year internship, allows students to work with experienced pastors in congregations across the country and in Canada, honing the skills they have learned and acquiring new ones. President Paul Wendland said, “The importance of the vicar year in training pastors cannot be overestimated. It allows the student a year in which he can put what he has learned in the seminary classrooms into practice in real life. We are grateful for all the congregations that partner with us in preparing the next generation of pastoral leaders.”

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