



Volume 25 Issue 6

July 2009

## A message from Pastor Quinn

### The Minor Prophets: Nahum

Comfort. Where do you find comfort in a world, in a country, where everything seems to be going wrong? How can the oppressed and downtrodden be comforted in their earthly plight? Is there any comfort for those who face difficult circumstances beyond their control? The prophet Nahum, whose name means *comfort*, offers just such assurance. He offers this comfort by reminding his listeners of the most comforting news there is: God is in control.

In the seventh century B.C. the northern kingdom of Israel had already been destroyed. The southern kingdom of Judah was the only part of the promised land still possessed by the tribes of Jacob's sons. The Assyrian Empire was the scourge that had left God's people in a seemingly helpless situation. It was the Assyrians who in 722 B.C. had carried off the northern kingdom into exile. Though, Judah itself never became a province of Assyria they certainly felt the mighty wrath and cruel treatment of her armies many times. The Assyrians were brutal war mongers who liked to make examples of those they conquered. Their cruel practices are laid out in the history books. As they travelled up and down their empire to make war with Egypt they made use of Judah's roads. They also attempted to take Judah's capital, Jerusalem. They had not yet succeeded, but the threat was imminent. In this time of fear Nahum came to the people of Judah with a message: God is in control for his people.

As you read Nahum's prophetic book you might find something a little confusing. We have said that this is a book of comfort for God's people in Judah. However, you will find that the vast majority of the book is addressed to the Assyrian capital city of Nineveh and her king. That king was most likely Ashurbani-

pal, the last great king of the Assyrians who wielded significant power. He was a ruthless king who pressed Judean men into service in his army as he fought with the Egyptians. He was more than willing to spill the blood of those who were members of his vassal states to increase and protect his empire. Judah was no match for Assyria. The people of Judah had no power to defend themselves against this world power. The oppression had no end in sight. But God's prophet received a message. It's doubtful that this message was ever read to the Assyrian king or the people of Nineveh, but the content was very much about them. The purpose of the letter, however, was the comfort of God's people. Nahum announced that the great and powerful Assyrian Empire had stirred up the LORD's wrath with its haughty arrogance and swollen pride. Now Assyria would have to face God's terrible judgment. This nation which the LORD once used as a scourge to punish his straying people would themselves be under God's punishment. In a short time, Nahum proclaimed, the Lord of history would wipe Nineveh off of the map. Those oppressed by her would be set free. Nahum's message brings this comfort: God even controls unbelieving nations for his people.

What Nahum proclaimed by the command of the LORD, came to pass according to God's will. The Assyrian Empire didn't just naturally fade off the scene. The Lord God brought it to ruin. Many will pass over the words of Nahum's prophecy as something meant for a different people of a different time. Christians today would do well to read it and take it to heart. Nahum provides us with an explicit and definite example of how the LORD works everyday in history. The LORD is the God of history. He controls the destinies of all nations. Even the most powerful in this world must answer to him. Those who resist the will of the LORD will never succeed. That

is just the message that we as God's people in this day and age need to hear. This is our comfort: God controls all things for the eternal good of his people.

We can be sure of that truth from the many examples of his care and control on the pages of Scripture. We can be sure of that truth because in his rule over history and his control of dates and times we find him carrying out his plan of salvation. *"When the time had fully come, God sent his Son..."* Our God who sent Jesus to be our Savior controls the world to make us secure in that salvation. He even protects us from all of our enemies. That was Nahum's message to an oppressed people. *"The LORD is good, a refuge in times of trouble. He cares for those who trust in him, but with an overwhelming flood he will make an end of Nineveh; he will pursue his foes into darkness"* (Nahum 1:7-8). That's still God's message for us. Take the opportunity to read through the book of Nahum and find the comfort that the LORD wants you to have.

### Coming up in July

July 4	Fourth of July Holiday
July 17-18	MLS Volunteer Weekend
July 21st	Voters' Assembly
July 27-31	Synod Convention

### Volunteers Needed

MLS needs volunteers for two important events coming this month: Volunteer Weekend and Synod Convention Week

This will be the Third Annual MLS Volunteer Weekend and will be held Friday and Saturday, July 17 and 18. The day will start off at 8:00 am and ending with supper. Meals and snacks, along with this year's t-shirt will be provided. Please join if you possibly can.

There will be much to do in the days leading up to the convention.

Convention help will be needed from Monday – Friday, July 27 – 31. We have varying shifts and levels of activity needed. If you are able to help, please choose a day or days, give me the times you are available and also what level of activity you are able to do. We are looking for people who can be here every day, only one day, or anything in between.

The main qualification for the synod convention work is a smiling face and a servant's heart – MLS has a wonderful reputation for being warm and welcoming and you are an important part of it! Thank you in advance for your willingness to help!

### Breakfast

6:00 AM – 10:00 AM shifts

**Lunch** (Monday through Thursday, Friday to be announced)

11:00 AM – 3:00 PM – serving – lots of moving and action

10:45 AM – 1:45 PM – watching tables, busing tables, attending to individual needs, lighter activity level

**Supper** (Monday through Thursday)

4:15 PM – 8:00 PM – serving – lots of moving and action

4:45 PM – 6:45 PM – watching tables, busing tables, attending to individual needs, lighter activity level

If you know of someone who would love to be a part of either of these volunteer events, please pass on the information. We will be making further announcements in our local churches, but word of mouth is a wonderful tool in spreading this request.

Please contact Laurie A. Starr, MLS, Volunteer Coordinator by phone, email, website or fax.

Phone 989-793-1041 ext 222

Fax: 989-793-4213

Email [lss@mlsem.org](mailto:lss@mlsem.org)

Website <<http://www.mlsem.org/>>

### Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School this year will be held August 3rd through the 7th each evening from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. This year's theme will be **Dive In!**

MR. AND MRS. MICHAEL KRUEGER  
REQUEST THE HONOUR OF YOUR PRESENCE  
AT THE MARRIAGE OF THEIR DAUGHTER

**Rose Carol Krueger**

TO

**Kurt Walther Shrader**

SON OF REV. AND MRS. JAMES SHRADER

SATURDAY, THE FIFTEENTH OF AUGUST

TWO THOUSAND NINE

AT THREE THIRTY O' CLOCK

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

304 MONROE AVE.

NORTH MANKATO, MINNESOTA

RECEPTION FOLLOWING AT SIX O' CLOCK

OLD MAIN VILLAGE

301 S 5<sup>TH</sup> STREET

MANKATO, MINNESOTA

RSVP TO MIKE & PAM AT 835-9467 BY JULY 15<sup>TH</sup>

### **Pregnancy Counseling Center News**

Due in part to the current economic situation in Mid-Michigan, we are seeing record numbers of clients at our centers. For example, on June 15<sup>th</sup>, the Saginaw Center was open from 10:00am to 3:00pm and we had 1 client come for a pregnancy test and 8 more clients in for material assistance. Some brought family members or friends with them so we had the opportunity to share Jesus with 12 people in one day! It was awesome! And it is so easy to do.

As we take down basic information about each client, including their children's birth dates etc, it's natural to ask if their kids have been baptized. Explaining the reason we all need baptism (that we are all born sinful, spiritually dead and enemies of God) and then sharing the blessings of Baptism (how God washes away our sins and adopts us into his family) is a simple way to share the love of Jesus with these clients. What could be more natural?

They are coming to get things their kids need and we have the privilege of giving them what they need the most, God's Word. Not only do they hear God's word in the Center, we also have free Bible and Bible studies that are offered to all who come to us. Is that something you would like to be a part of? If so, we

have good news. Mary Shaffer, our Director of Training, is organizing some training sessions over the summer months.

Here are just a few of the opportunities for service that are available:

**Receptionist** – Greet clients and make them feel welcome. Answer the phone and help keep records.

**Hotliner** – A stay-at-home job! Calls are sent to your home or cell phone after office hours. With a quiet compassionate voice, you can assure callers that help is available and set up an appointment for them to see a counselor.

**Lay Counselor** – Work directly with clients, sharing God's truth about the baby they are carrying and God's will for their lives.

Please consider how you can play a role in this life changing ministry. Pray for the Lord's guidance and see if there is an area where you can serve.

For more information contact Pam Krueger 989-835-9467 or Mary Shaffer 989-835-5669

**Who will go? Send me, send me.**

Special thanks to Elaine Lorince for her 12 years of volunteer service as a receptionist. You will be missed.

### **Saginaw Pregnancy Counseling Center's Wish List**

The following list shows the number of clients who are on our waiting lists for specific items. These needs will only be met if the items are donated to the PCC by people like you. With every physical need we fill, we also get the opportunity to share the gospel, so please share this info with your family and friends.

Bassinets	2
Cribs	23
Infant car seats <5 years old	6
Toddler car seats <5 years old	6
Booster car seats <5 years old	10
Changing tables	1
Small dressers	4
Pack N Play's (playpens)	3
High chairs	6
Double strollers	3
Strollers	15
Toddler beds	10
Swings	6

Exersaucers/Walkers 10  
Potty chairs 2

Other items regularly needed at the Center include: diapers, wipes, formula, baby clothes up to size 2T, maternity clothes, baby blankets, crib bedding, baby bathtubs, safety gates, nursing supplies, new or used bassinets, changing tables, cribs, baby food, high-chairs, safety gates, and children's bible story books.

Items can be dropped off at the Pregnancy Counseling Center, 1803 N Michigan Ave, Suite 1, Saginaw MI 48602. Please call ahead to check our hours, 989-752-7664.

In addition to distributing your donations of baby items free of charge to those in need, the Pregnancy Counseling Center has the dual objective of 1) offering positive, God-pleasing counseling to help women make and maintain pro-life decisions and attitudes; and 2) sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ with our clients and their family and friends.

Thank you for your support.

### **Voters' Assembly**

The July Voters' Assembly will meet at 7:00 PM on July 21st. Many things are decided at the quarterly Voters' Assembly. If you are a voting member, please plan on attending. If you cannot attend then please excuse your absence by calling President Mike Krueger or Secretary Steve Umphrey in advance.

### **Special Voters' Assembly**

On Tuesday, June 23rd a special voters' assembly was called for the purpose of calling a teacher for the 6-8 grades of our LES. A Divine Call was extended to Mrs. Rebecca Seeger to serve as our 6th-8th grade teacher for the 2009-2010 school year. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Krueger, our congregational president or any of the other councilmen whose names are posted on the bulletin board.

## **Scripture Readings for July**

### **July 5—Pentecost 5**

Job 38:1-11  
2 Corinthians 5:14-21  
Mark 4:35-41  
Psalm 46

### **July 12—Pentecost 6**

Lamentations 3:22-33  
2 Corinthians 8:1-9, 13, 14  
Mark 5:21-24a, 35-43  
Psalm 30

### **July 19—Pentecost 7**

Ezekiel 2:1-5  
2 Corinthians 12:7-10  
Mark 6:1-6  
Psalm 143

### **July 26—Pentecost 8**

Amos 7:10-15  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:7-11  
Psalm 78

## **Our Shut-Ins**

Please call the church office for contact information

## District Grapples with Issues

Meetings have been held in nearly every district of the synod to discuss the important issues that will be considered at the synod convention later this month. In some districts, those meetings have been full district conventions involving pastors, teachers, staff ministers, and lay representatives. In other districts, district wide pastor/teacher conferences have been taking place. In still other districts, regional conferences have been held.

These meetings were an attempt to keep the grassroots members—called workers and lay leaders alike—fully informed and to give them an opportunity to provide additional input and direction for the delegates to the synod convention. The two primary topics of discussion were the recommendations contained in the report of the Ad Hoc Commission and the budget proposed by the Synodical Council.

As the scope and impact of the budget reductions become clearer, questions are being voiced: “What can we do to reduce the scope and impact of these reductions on our mission fields and on our ministerial schools? Are there other options available that can be considered?” Ideas and suggestions were in plentiful supply, and many of these will likely be forwarded to the convention for consideration.

Regardless of what the final convention’s decisions may be, any mission program of the synod will be supported primarily by Congregation Mission Offerings (CMO).

Congregations have already made commitments for the year, and the proposed budget is built on those commitments. For that reason it is absolutely essential that all congregations meet or exceed the commitments they’ve made. Since Congregation Mission Offerings are the foundation of our synod’s financial support, a shortfall in CMO could result in even more extensive reductions in our mission efforts.

Throughout the synod, prayers have been offered for the faithful missionaries, pastors, professors, and lay workers whose positions have been eliminated. On a positive note, we are happy to report that five world and home missionaries have received calls to congregations. In some home missions, creative ways are being considered to retain pastors whose funding from the synod has been reduced or withdrawn. Commendably, some home mission pastors have indicated they would find a way to stay with their congregations even without full salaries provided by synodical

funding. A number of world missionaries have also chosen to remain in their fields of service beyond the time when funding for their positions has ended. Thank God for these faithful and committed workers!

We also continue to pray for the unassigned graduates of Martin Luther College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. We are pleased that several unassigned candidates from both schools have recently been assigned and that several more assignments are in the process of being made.

It has also been gratifying to see that the district discussions are characterized by sincere concern for the work of the synod and a desire to find solutions to our difficult challenges. There has been anguish and heartache over the painful choices before us, to be sure, but there has been no anger. The people of our synod, it seems, have been led by God to look to him in faith in this difficult time and to work more closely with each other as brothers and sisters in Christ. In this time, we are reminded again that God has promised that he will use all things to work for the good of those who love him and that he will allow nothing in this world to prevent his Word from accomplishing his purpose. Those promises, not human resolve or solutions, will continue to be the source of our hope and confidence in the weeks and months ahead.

Serving in Christ,  
Mark Schroeder  
WELS President

## Birthdays and Anniversaries

People love to have their birthdays and anniversaries remembered. How about sending a card to someone in July?

### Birthdays

July 1	Kelly Schoch
July 2	Joe Shaffer
July 2	Hayden Farquharson
July 7	Danielle Browning
July 8	Lovell Kain
July 16	Joe Cummings
July 16	Theresa Lehman
July 20	Ethan Peil
July 25	Debbie Marquardt
July 26	Don Schwab
July 26	Abigail Ross
July 26	Dee DeLong
July 30	Paula Pretzer

## Anniversaries

July 17 Bob and Amy Lindesmith

July 28 Rod and Annette Gunsell

## Principal Tim Thies Accepts Call to Port Orchard, Washington

Our former principal, Mr. Timothy Thies is now in his new location, Port Orchard in Washington State.

A picnic-potluck was held at the home of Mike and Pam Krueger on Sunday, June 28th. Mr. Thies put in many extra hours seeing to it that our hot lunch program was running smoothly, that we had an active athletic program in place and other things too numerous to mention. While we wish him much success in his new endeavor, we are sorry to see him go. He was a blessing to our school and our congregation.

## Choir Members Needed for Synod Convention

The music department at MLS is looking for individuals interested in singing for the opening communion service for the 60th Biennial WELS convention on Monday, July 27, at 9:00 AM. Rehearsals for the service are Sunday, July 26, 6:30-8:00pm and Monday, July 27, 8:00 am. All interested singers should come to rehearsal at St. Paul's Saginaw, on Sunday night, July 26th.

## Cardinal Classic Golf Outing

The MLS Foundation is pleased to invite you to the **6th Annual Cardinal Classic Golf Outing on Saturday, July 25th, 2009 at Apple Mountain Resort, Freeland, MI.** Come and show your support for the very important ministry that continues at MLS—training future pastors and teachers for WELS congregations. The proceeds from this year's golf outing will benefit student assistance.

This is a great way to kick off the MLS 100th Anniversary Year! Synod Delegates have been invited to golf with us. Registration begins at 9:00 am. Shotgun start at 10:00 am. The day will conclude with a great dinner in the clubhouse. If you cannot join us to golf, come just for dinner. Cost to golf is \$125 (\$500 for a foursome) which includes golf, cart, lunch, dinner and a donation to MLS Student Assistance. Cost for the dinner only is \$20. Information and registration forms are available on the MLS website. If you have questions, we'd love to be able to answer them

for you. Call us at 989-793-7511 or send email to [foundation@mlsem.org](mailto:foundation@mlsem.org)

## Looking for Some Summer Fun?

### Fourth of July Celebration

Saturday, July 4, 2009 at Chippewassee Park there will be music and fireworks. The schedule is as follows:

- 6 to 7 pm Chemical City Band and Vocal Jazz Class from Midland Center for the Arts
- 7 to 8 pm Guy Louis, Chautauqua Express
- 8 to 10 pm The New Reformation Band
- 10:00pm (approximately) **Fireworks!**

### Tunes by the Tridge

Take a quilt or your lawn chair and spend Thursday evenings listening to bands near the Tridge this summer. These evenings are FREE to everyone. The bands will play from 7 to 9 pm. Food and beverage vendors will be on-site.

July 9	Matt King, Elvis/Roy Orbison
July 16	The Sinclairs, Classic Rock
July 23	The Resonators, Percussion
July 30	Steel Wheels, Country
August 6	Battle of the Bands, Rock

### Band Concerts

Enjoy the Chemical City Band at Central Park each Wednesday evening at Central Park's Ted Nicholson Band Shell. The music begins at 8:00 pm. These concerts are free. Seating is provided.

**Behold I am with thee,  
And will keep thee in all places whither thou goest.  
Genesis 28:15**