

VIEWS & VISION

SUMMER 2006

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 14, 2006 - ELEA Network 4 (Minnesota) - Director's Meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran School in St. Cloud, MN. Contact Brenda Jensen at 507-451-8247 or brendaj@tlcowatonna.org for more information.

August 5, 2006 - ELEA Network 5 (Texas - South) - Teacher and Administrator Conference at Texas Lutheran University, Seguin, TX. Contact Marge Robison at 512-335-1242 or Margaret-robison@sbcglobal.net.

September 16, 2006 - ELEA Network 5 (Texas - North) - Teacher and Administrator Conference at Faith Lutheran Church, Flower Mound, TX. Contact Ann VanLoenen at 972/691-5491 or avanloenen@faithflowermound.org for more information.

October 5-7, 2006 - ELCA/ELEA National Administrator & Pastor Conference in Phoenix, AZ. Contact Gayle Denny at 800-500-7644 or eleanational@cs.com for more information.

October 12, 2006 - ELEA Network 4 (Minnesota) - Director's Meeting at St. John's Child Care, Minneapolis, MN. Contact Brenda Jensen at 507-451-8247 or brendaj@tlcowatonna.org for more information.

October 28, 2006 - ELEA Network 1 (Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon & Washington) Director/Board Conference at First Lutheran in Shoreline, WA. Contact Karen Beasley at 206-546-0320 or kbeasle@comcast.net for more information.

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? SHERRI BISHOP, DIRECTOR CHRIST LUTHERAN CHILDREN'S CENTER COLUMBUS, OHIO

ELEA is about a lot of things. ELEA is about "getting about the business of becoming the best administrators and pastors serving schools and early childhood centers that we can be" to quote Gayle Denny, ELEA Executive Director. ELEA is about serving God in a variety of ways through our Lutheran Schools and planting seeds of faith in our children. ELEA is about developing relationships. It is a privilege to be a part of the ELEA and to be able to meet wonderful teachers, directors and principals who have the same commitment to children and families. I have met people from all around the country by being on the ELEA National Board, and by attending ELEA conferences and workshops. It is about networking and supporting one another and praying for one another when there is a need.

I love being with the other directors of Network 7 (Ohio Early Childhood Centers). We call on one another with questions and needs. We love what we do. It's nice to go outside our immediate circle of influence to meet others who also love what they do. Whenever we meet professionals from other places, there is an immediate connection because we are from Lutheran schools and part of a larger organization, the ELEA. We have a lot in common.

It was great to get reacquainted with old friends at the National Board Meeting in Phoenix this past October. It was also great to meet some newcomers to the Board. One of those was Linda Burrier from Network 12, which includes Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. Last December I was on vacation in Daytona Beach, Florida. In talking to Linda in Phoenix, I discovered that I would be only about 45 minutes from her school in St. Augustine. We made arrangements to get together. It



SHERRI BISHOP AND LINDA BURRIER
ELEA NATIONAL BOARD MEMBERS

was a delight to see her, meet her staff and tour her school. I came back with great ideas which I took pictures of to share with my staff. It is always fun to visit other schools. I would have missed visiting a wonderful school had I not been in ELEA and met Linda. I would have missed seeing fellow Board member Marlene Lund, LSA Executive Director, and visiting her Lutheran Schools Association offices while visiting New York City a few years ago.

It is comforting to know that wherever we go, there would be an ELEA friend close by to help us if necessary or just to visit with. Just think of who you might meet in Phoenix at the Administrator's Conference this coming October 5-7. It might just be your new best friend!

Sherri Bishop serves as Director of Christ Lutheran Children's Center in Columbus, Ohio, and can be reached at sbishop@christbexley.org.

NOTES FROM NATIONAL . . .
 GAYLE DENNY, ELEA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



One of our ELEA early childhood directors, Deacon Sharon Brennen from Christian Preschool in Dobbs Ferry, New York, served as part of a volunteer team from her church, Dobbs Ferry Lutheran, February 18-25, to rebuild 18 - 25 homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina. There is a wonderful reflection on this trip, written by Sharon, on the Metro New York Synod's website - www.mnys.org. It is such a touching story, I want to share a portion of it with you here. For the full story, please visit http://www.mnys.org/headlines/mission_possible_2_19_06.html.

Mission Possible: Dobbs Ferry Lutheran Church sends 10 to rebuild homes of Katrina victims

We arrive to a scene reminiscent of our fallen twin towers. Building after building blown apart. Whole city blocks crushed and flattened. There is an eerie quiet pervading the streets. Crushed cement and drywall litter mile after mile. Pieces of fluttering plastic sheeting dance in the bare branches of trees. Leaves and other greenery have left piles of dry brown mulch covering the ground; many trees are cracked in half and lay with heads bowed toward the ground, leaving jagged "waists" exposed upright, this is our own country that we see in tatters and we are awed into silent unbelief.

As we continue our drive from New Orleans to Biloxi, dots of bright blue pervade the scenery. We realize the blue is from all the tarps that cover roofs of buildings left standing. Many have numbers printed on the tarps for FEMA and some of these homes have messages printed on their sides in spray paint such as "We're O.K.," or "Trespassers will be shot," or "I'm still here."

Arriving at our final destination, St. John's Episcopal Church in Ocean Springs, Mississippi, we meet our contact, Pete

Jones. Pete is the regional coordinator for disaster relief in this area. We have driven by areas in town where other volunteers are staying in tent cities and feeling the unexpected cold in this southern climate. We are so happy to have such great quarters to stay in (a small cottage the church owns) that we don't mind when we're told that we have only one bathroom for all ten of us. Any hardships that we think we are encountering, however, are short-lived. Pete takes us for a ride so we can fully appreciate the storm's effect throughout the region. The first stop is a long cement bridge that once connected Ocean Springs to Biloxi. It is now an accordion of cement slabs with a drawbridge locked in the open position sticking up into the air.

The next morning, we attend worship with our new friends. The church is small with wooden beams, walls, and floors. We sit in pews smelling a little of musk and mildew. I am most struck by words during preparation for Communion, "deliver us, Lord, from presumption of coming to this table for solace only and not for strength; for pardon only and not for renewal." When I hear this I think of how these folks must need this strength and this renewal daily. After worship, we are welcomed by the congregation and thanked many times for coming to help. In fact, we are told that church groups are the primary help. They are not receiving much assistance elsewhere and many of the improvements in the area have been accomplished through work crews sent by different faith communities. It makes us thankful God sent us here and we can't wait to begin to "dig in."

Our first assignment came that afternoon. We were to clear debris from Joseph Hank's house. Only, once we turned down his road, we could not find his house amidst the mounds of debris everywhere. Stopping at one of the few homes still standing, we asked where Joe's home was. They pointed next

door. THERE WAS NO HOUSE. Instead, all that remained were piles of "house" and some of its contents spread all over the property. We began to clear what we could, dragging it all as close to the street as we were able. From there, the Army Corps of Engineers would cart it off. We were becoming aware of just how much work even one small lot demanded. It took us two afternoons to finish clearing the yard. Now we understood what Pete had told us, "You've seen the pictures with your eyes, now you will see it with your heart."

The week flew by. Exhausted, but fulfilled, it was time to return home. We felt such a deep connection to this community that we all want to return again soon. We hope when we do, many more will have been to the Gulf Coast region to continue the work they so desperately need. We frequently hear that each one of us can make a difference. Along the Gulf Coast, where there is so much to accomplish just to enable lives to continue with the basics, each one of us can make a huge difference... even if it is just for a single family. For each house that is repaired becomes part of a rebuilt neighborhood; then an area; then a region; then a living, breathing community of neighbors. This is what God calls us to do. It's as simple as that.

"...Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." —Matthew 25: 37-40
 —Deacon Sharon Brennen

Watch For Registration Materials Arriving Soon!

Join us October 5-7, 2006 in Phoenix, Arizona

For "Live, Learn & Lead in God's Amazing Grace", a conference for all ELCA School and Early Childhood Administrators, Pastors and Christian Ed Directors

Three great keynote speakers, Banquet entertainment including Elaine Lundberg, Humor Therapist, and a host of workshop, worship and networking opportunities with your peers. For more information, visit www.eleanational.org and click the link on the home page



THOUGHTS FROM THE ELCA . . .

DONNA BRABAND, ELCA DIRECTOR FOR SCHOOLS



Just Speaking of...

Did you File your IRS Form 5578? It is the responsibility of each high school, elementary school and early childhood education center of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to file an annual Internal Revenue Service Form 5578. This form tells the federal government, for purposes of maintaining your non-profit status, that you do not discriminate by race, color or national origin.

The Schools and ECE Centers program area sends the 5578 form and the instructions specific to the ELCA to every school and center during the month of August each year. It is then the school or center's responsibility to fill out the form and mail it to the IRS Service in Ogden, Utah.

Most commonly asked questions regarding the filing of IRS Form 5578...

When do I file?

If you are a direct ministry of the congregation and fall under their non-profit status through the ELCA, you would file by the 15th day of the fifth month following the end of the fiscal year of the congregation. That means that if the congregation has a fiscal calendar from January to December, you would file in January but no later than May 15th.

If you are separately incorporated through your state of operation, you would file according to the school year. This means that you would file in August but no later the 15th of December.

How do I know what numbers to fill in on line 1 or 2?

The letter that is sent in August of each year contains an instruction sheet for filling out the 5578 form. The first thing you must identify is if you are a direct ministry or separately incorporated through your

state. You must then know if you have your own IRS non-profit ruling (501(c)(3)) or if you fall under that of the ELCA. You will then be able to determine from the instruction sheet what number to use to fill in the IRS 5578 form.

What line must I use in publications related to enrollment and recruitment?

Because our schools and centers pull their enrollment from local communities and follow racial nondiscrimination policies, the sentence that you must use is as follows: The (name of your school or center) admits students of any race, color, and national origin.

Where do I find the information that is needed to better understand where my school fits into the filing of the IRS 5578 Form?

You should see subsection 2c for information regarding filing and advertising using the racial nondiscrimination policy.

Do I have to include this statement?

Every school must include a statement of its racial nondiscrimination policy as to students in all its brochures and catalogues dealing with student admissions and programs.

Can we accept only Christians or give preference to members of our congregation or other Lutheran congregations?

Yes - you can accept only Christian students or give preference to your congregational members or other Lutheran congregational members if you choose. Religion is not listed in this policy only racial nondiscrimination is covered by this form.

For more information see the ELCA schools Web site at www.elca.org/schools/resources/administrators or e-mail me at donna.braband@elca.org.

DID YOU KNOW THAT LUTHERANS HAVE THEIR OWN CREDIT UNION?

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LCUA offers FREE unlimited credit or debit "Point of Sale" transactions
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and give you an additional 1/2% discount on vehicle financing

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1.800.729.7307
www.lcuu.org

*Some restrictions apply. Proof of U.S.A. membership required. ASE Account limited to \$250,000. By member's choice. See instructions for restrictions.

ELEA's Purpose Statement

The Evangelical Lutheran Education Association promotes and supports quality, Christ-centered schools and early childhood programs of the ELCA.

ELEA'S ANNUAL FUND DRIVE IS UNDERWAY!

The annual budget of the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association is based upon a lot of things - membership dues, resource sales, support from our Benefits Administrator, a grant from the ELCA, and of course, the Annual Fund. We need your help now to make our budget balance and to give the children in your school or center the opportunity to learn about giving.

A few months ago you received a mailing describing this year's annual fund appeal and giving you some great ideas on how to talk with the children in your program, and during your church's children's sermon, about giving. There are lots of ways to give to ELEA. You can:

- ◆ Let parents know that you are collecting money to support your education association and ask for individual donations. Be sure to give them the Thrivent Matching Gift form if they are a Thrivent member or are willing to become an Associate Member;
- ◆ Have a special offering during a chapel time when the children's offering is designated for ELEA - use some of the story/lesson ideas that were mailed to you;
- ◆ Do a temple talk during your church's Sunday service, stressing the importance of ELEA and how the organization supports your program. Again, remind them that their gifts can be matched by Thrivent;
- ◆ Simply write a check from your school or center's budget to support ELEA.

Although we mail materials in the Spring, we obviously accept annual fund gifts at any time during the year, so it's never too late to help!

Many thanks to those who have already given gifts to the Annual Fund this Spring. As of this printing, they are:

- Dr. Alcyone Scott, Fremont, NE
- Marge Robison, Austin, TX
- Steven and Susan Ryan, Peoria, AZ
- Little Ones at Living Word Preschool, Grapevine, TX
- Christ Lutheran Child Care Center, Belfair, WA
- St. Davids Christian Preschool, Masssapequa Park, NY
- Wendell and Rose Moore, Belfair, WA
- Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran School, West Hills, CA
- Michael and Brenda Jensen, Owatonna, MN
- Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Marysville, WA
- George and Mary Ann Pollock, Pasadena, MD
- Alan and Carole Feddersen, Glendale, CA
- Sam Rosen, SMART Tuition Management, Edison, NJ
- Ken and Nancy O'Neal, Arcadia, CA
- Robert Rogalski, Peoria, AZ
- Cross Lutheran School, Pigeon, MI
- Southwest California Synod of ELCA, Glendale, CA
- St. Timothy's Lutheran School, Lakewood, CA



Thank you to the following for recent gifts to ELEA's School Extension Fund as well:

- Trinity Lutheran School, Marysville, OH
- ELEA's Network 1 (AK, ID, MT, OR & WA)

ELEA NATIONAL'S 2006 - 2007 OPERATING BUDGET APPROVED

The Executive Committee of the ELEA National Board approved the July 1, 2006 - June 30, 2007 operating budget for the national office at its March 31 - April 1 meeting in Phoenix, Arizona. This is YOUR membership organization, so be sure to contact one of the board members or Gayle Denny, Executive Director, if you have questions.

Income

Corporate Gifts (NBIS)	12,000.00
Annual Fund	7,000.00
Resource Income	6,000.00
Membership Dues	87,875.00
Grants	
ELCA	5,000.00
Miscellaneous	2,000.00
Interest Income	250.00
Views & Vision Ads	2,000.00
Miscellaneous	1,000.00

Total Income 123,125.00

Expenses

Financial Services & D & O Insurance	1,220.00
Continuing Education	1,250.00
Office Expenses	13,090.00
Member Programs printing/ mailing/ etc.	7,550.00
Views & Vision	2,550.00
On Board/Ask For It Payroll	2,000.00
Director	53,560.00
Staff	12,000.00
Benefits	10,627.20
Payroll Taxes	7,867.20
Miscellaneous	450.00
Synod Assemblies	1,000.00
Utilities	3,000.00
Reserves	2,000.00

Total Expenses 118,164.40

Net Income 4,960.60

Membership dues of \$87,875.00 is based upon 475 paid memberships at \$185.00 each. The Executive Committee was very pleased to be able to approve a budget that balanced without having to raise dues this year. BUT, to make this happen, we need everyone's participation in making sure dues are paid on time and encouraging your fellow administrators to keep their ELEA memberships current.

We also count on you, the members, to solicit new members to the Association. As an incentive, you may participate in the Ambassador Program where you receive \$150.00 in ELEA "credit" towards conferences or resources if three of your referrals who are not currently members join ELEA. Visit the website at www.eleanational.org and click on "Ambassador Program" for more information or call the National Office at 800-500-7644. Let's build up the membership base and stay strong!

NOMINATE AN OUTSTANDING EDUCATOR FOR THE 3RD ANNUAL DONALD A. VETTER EDUCATIONAL SERVICE AWARD

Granting recognition to people highly supportive of Lutheran education is a way for the ELEA to honor outstanding accomplishment. Toward this goal, ELEA established The Donald A. Vetter Educational Service Award in 2004. It is designed to identify persons who have provided extraordinary achievements and contributions distinguished by long-standing commitment to the values of ELEA. The award may be granted annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Lutheran education consistent with Dr. Vetter's own career. The recipient will be deemed a worthy model for those committed to exemplary service in Lutheran education. The award is intended to draw attention to the value of Lutheran schools and early childhood education centers, to identify high standards of excellence, and to inspire others to ministry in such a setting. **[No award will be made to any person currently holding an office on the ELEA National Board or paid position in ELEA.]**

Words from the citation for Dr. Vetter's L.L.D. degree provide a benchmark for the award: "He has been the one person most responsible for the quality, promotion, and development of the Christian Day Schools and Preschools within the church." He displays "... a great love for his Lord, and his family; and a personal warmth and spirit easily overlooked in his humble supportiveness of others."

Donald A. Vetter (1919-2002) devoted his adult life to the ministry of Lutheran schools. His own education began in Fort Wayne, IN at his parish's Lutheran elementary school. He later received a bachelor's degree from Capital University (an ELCA institution of higher education in Columbus, Ohio) and eventually an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California. He served as teacher/principal/organist to Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Marysville, Ohio; Zion Lutheran Church and School in Appleton, Wisconsin; and First Lutheran Church and School in Blue Island, Illinois. Dr. Vetter had the foresight to see the need for a national organization to represent the needs and values of Lutheran schools while administrator at First Lutheran in Blue Island. He was instrumental in establishing the American Lutheran Education Association (ALEA), the predecessor of ELEA. He served as the founding Executive Director of the

organization. His office was based at Wartburg College where he held a faculty appointment and developed a program of teacher preparation for Lutheran school educators.

The ELEA National Board is **seeking nominations** for the third annual Donald A. Vetter Educational Service Award. One nomination may be made from each ELEA Network. If you have a nominee in mind, please coordinate the submission of the nomination through the ELEA National Board member who represents your Network. If you are unsure of your Network boundaries and board member, please visit www.eleanational.org and click on "Networks" or call the National Office at 800-500-7644. Nominations should be submitted to the ELEA National Office by **June 1, 2006**, and should include:



DONALD VETTER

- Name, contact information and current professional assignment of Nominee
- Name and contact information of Nominators
- Biographical summary of Nominee
- A statement of no more than one page of why the nominee should be awarded the Vetter Award prepared by the Nominator(s)
- Relationship of Nominators to Nominee (i.e. former student, colleague, etc.)
- Letters of support of nomination are encouraged and will weigh heavily in the decision

The award will be presented at the October 5-7 2006 ELCA/ELEA National Administrator & Pastor Conference in Phoenix, Arizona. ELEA will pay for expenses for the recipient to be honored at the banquet on Friday, October 6.

MAKING A SIGNIFICANT GIFT TO MINISTRY CAN INCREASE YOUR BOTTOM LINE! BY MAKING A GIFT FOR A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY, FOR INSTANCE TO ELEA, YOU RECEIVE AN INCOME TAX DEDUCTION AND ANNUITY PAYMENT FOR LIFE. PLUS, PART OF EACH PAYMENT IS TAX FREE. CALL YOUR ELCA FOUNDATION REGIONAL GIFT PLANNER OR THE ELCA FOUNDATION AT 800-638-3522, EXT. 2970



MAKING A CASE FOR “PLACE”

JOHN A. NUNES, WHEAT RIDGE MINISTRIES

Evensong is a delicately written novel, delectable to the mind. Since I recommend it, I won't ruin it by giving away the plot. But in the course of the discourse, Gail Godwin, the author, provides us with a definition of vocation that can be applied to educators: “You know something is your calling when it keeps on making more of you.” Does that fit your life? So far in my ministry, God's calling on my life has allowed me to learn that more can be made of my ministry each time I reflect seriously on the meaning of the place to which I'm called. Sometimes we go off track by looking longingly to other schools and churches and forgetting to see the blessings of our specific context.

Embracing Your Place

For the sake of argument and of this article, let's say that there is a contrast between *space* and *place*: “‘place’ implies finite locatedness and ‘space’ infinite or indefinite extension.” A specific classroom in a school is a *place* with a feel to it, with an ambiance, with coherency, with relationships, with a historical memory of the learning that has happened in that place. *Space*, on the other hand, is more abstract, like sprawling metropolitan areas, where the beginning and ending boundaries are blurred, where relationality is peripheral and strategic. There are some who say they love people, but are irritated quickly by most of the individual people with whom they come into contact. But for us the love of Christ moves us on to love proximately (2 Corinthians 5:14)—*caritas Christi urget nos*: the redeeming death and resurrection of the Lord Christ is proof positive of God's love for us and all humanity. That prods us on.

Floating in the Solution

In his daring book, *Up from Slavery*, Booker T. Washington tells the story of a large sea vessel that sent out several emergency signals calling for help. To paraphrase this story, when this incoming vessel spotted another ship it sent out immediately this emergency message: “Help! We need water.” “Please send water for drinking. We're dying of thirst.” Each time the reply was “Cast down your bucket where you are.” What the crew didn't realize was that their ship had already sailed into fresh water. The solution they were floating in was their solution. This is an incarnational principle that can be applied to any context or classroom in which we find ourselves. Knowing we are called by God to a specific place gives us confidence to drop our bucket in our own wells. We can trust that God has deposited wellsprings of resourcefulness and

creativity for us to discover in every neighborhood, every school, every family, and every individual child.

“Lost in Space”

A biblical narrative highlighting this distinction - showing us the danger of getting lost in space - is the Parable of the (so-called) Prodigal Son. I say “so-called” because *prodigal* means “overflowingly extravagant.” The father's lavish love greatly exceeded even the son's lavishly errant path, as does our heavenly Father's love go way beyond where we go off track. But the point is, the son moves from *place* to *space*, from the definite to the indefinite, from personal accountability to an impersonal anything-goes-ism, from a narrow context of restraint to a destructively wide way of recklessness, from a particularized community to the universalized commodity mentality—where human worth is directly related to net worth and people are valued only for what people can produce or how much they can pay for what they consume. Sound economics needs a biblical anthropology for human flourishing to happen. In Luke 15, this younger son first demanded his portion of the property, his part of the *place*, and then he left that place behind and traveled away to a χώρον μακρὸν (verse 13) “distant country” (NRSV). This was an ungodly vocation, to use Godwin's measure, because the move he made diminished his humanity, made not more, but less of him. It doesn't take much interpretive license to get to the conclusion that this boy's problems began when he ripped himself out of the grip of his particular family (*place*), his linkages of love, and relocated himself to a world of cold unfamiliarity, of a strange, morally and geographically unbounded, engulfing vast openness (*space*). There, he is tormented, tempted and tortured by people who may have cared about what he possessed, but did not care about the image of God which possessed him. Soon, he is on his knees, desperately overwhelmed by the vulnerability of rootedlessness. Attention to *place* can save lives.

Place Puts the Extra in the Ordinary

Sometimes smaller schools can think of themselves as inferior or insignificant in our world where bigness is equated with being better. Sometimes inner city or rural schools can feel alienated from the mainstream. No matter how marginalized or isolated a community of faith might feel, they can know, for sure, that God is present always in Word and Sacraments. Now to bend a Lutheran aphorism, the ultimately infinite (who is God) is fully capable of being present in the finite

(*topos*), John 1:14. Of Christ's presence, we can say with Luther: “Nothing is so small, but that God is still smaller; nothing is so big, but that God is still bigger; nothing is so short, but that God is still shorter; nothing is so long, but that God is still longer; nothing is so broad, but that God is still broader; nothing is so narrow, but that God is still narrower; and so on.” That tells me that Jesus is really present, in, with and under the commonplace things of life. And wherever Jesus is, there is hope, a future, a purpose, meaning, dignity, worth and value. Just like baptism, when ordinary water connects to God's extraordinary promises, there is power. Going beyond even a committed Christian educator's commitment, God has invested himself tangibly. Don't forget, no matter how bad it gets, God cares more. At the Eucharist, we receive a Christ, who though Ruler of all things, from God's right hand, cared so much that he sacrificed his body and blood. God promises to place himself in a specific place of grace, common bread and common wine. God puts the *extra* in the *ordinary*.

Grace for Every Face

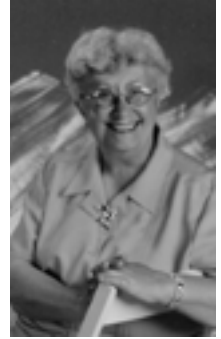
Teachers can become accustomed to seeing a sea of faces and may forget to see the individual child. That's the purpose of God's gift of grace: individual people. The source of this grace is the altars and pulpits and fonts from which we are all called; sent, to get out of our stained-glass ghettos, re-created to go out toward local, real places, to real people in real pain, with real pathologies. God's mercy is lived out locally, by being in touch, in relationality toward the disgraced, the dishonored, the disconnected, the disheveled, the dispossessed, the discriminated against, and the just plain “dissed”—but these all have names we remember, addresses we know, and faces we recognize.

Our primary purpose then, our “chief end,” is to be in deep, eternal relationship with God and authentic relationship with one another. What is splintered by sin, God restores through Christ's reconciling commitment to a place, a cross, even unto death, in order that more than can be made of us, as Godwin writes, more than we ever dreamt, forever more! There's something to be said about the ordered embrace of a place for the sake of grace spread to every real human face. Rhyming is fun and can be true too!

John Arthur Nunes is Assistant Professor, Systematic Theology, Concordia University, River Forest and Research Associate for Urban Ministry, Wheat Ridge Ministries

RETIRED - NOW WHAT???!!!

MARGE ROBISON, ELEA NATIONAL BOARD SECRETARY



When an administrator/teacher reaches that magical age of retirement - NOW WHAT? Even though many of you dream of that time and can hardly wait for it to happen, yet at first there is quite an adjustment to this new lifestyle. Before long there are a number of opportunities that begin to present themselves. So, you find yourself moving from a feeling of being at loose ends to being involved in many things. The pleasure of being involved in some things is the fact that you can CHOOSE which ones you are interested in doing.

For those that have been involved in education and active in the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association, there is a need to still be involved after retirement. It's important to know about what is happening in your area and across the country with Christian education. You are a valuable resource because of your wealth of experience in Christian education.

Let's just explore a few ways in which you can still serve the Lord and His little ones through ELEA. The first one that comes to mind is to be active in the Network in which you live.

Some opportunities in your Network are:

- ◆ Being a committee member to plan conferences and workshops for area teachers and assistants;
- ◆ Present workshops on areas of expertise at local conferences;
- ◆ Assist Network Representative with mailings and communication within the network;
- ◆ Being an officer in the network;

- ◆ Becoming involved and receiving training on assisting schools and early childhood centers with accreditation.

Opportunities for National ELEA involvement include:

- ◆ Being a network representative - a vital connection between the area you live in and the national organization;
- ◆ Being a member of the ELEA National Board;
- ◆ Being a committee member on the National Board;
- ◆ Making friends from all around the country (A real blessing);
- ◆ Being an officer on the board.

I'm sure you can even think of more ways in which you can be involved with ELEA. SO, get UP out of your Lazyboy and come and give us your support and help. You will be blessed as well as being a blessing to the Lord.

Marge Robison is a retired Lutheran educator who has served as an elementary teacher, elementary principal, early childhood teacher, early childhood program administrator, and continues to serve in a variety of volunteer capacities within her congregation and Synod as a rostered A.I.M., as well as a leader in ELEA at both the National and Network levels. She is truly a volunteer extraordinaire!

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