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PENTECOST AUGUST 2008

From the Pastor

Rev. Ingo Dutzmann

“You shall be my witnesses...in Jerusalem...”
(Acts 1:8 NAS)

Eleven Years ago, near the end of July, I met with Pastor Walter Reuning to discuss the transition that would take place at the First Lutheran Church of Boston as he was about to retire after 30 years on location; while I was about to be installed as his successor. It was a wide-ranging discussion complete with his carefully typed notes to keep us on track. At that moment I realized my terrifying premonitions were true: a city ministry is a whole different kind of ecclesiastical reality from anything I had previously encountered. Dorothy came to mind in the movie, “The Wizard of Oz” when she declares to her little pooch, “I don’t think we’re in Kansas anymore, Toto.”

Well, here we are after that indelible point in time and I’ll admit, thanks to you all, that my fears have been turned into visions of continuous opportunity for the Gospel of Jesus Christ Crucified, Risen and Coming-again. At the First Lutheran Church of Boston we have an almost unlimited playing field to bring the Good News of hope, peace, forgiveness, and salvation to an ever-growing number of ex-pat Lutherans, Christian-seekers, and the spiritually-yearning. We have found a mix which permits welcoming all of God’s children, regardless of background or pedigree, while insisting on a Biblical consistency in worship and practice. I am very pleased that the Long-Range Planning process and the increasing effectiveness of our Church Council and organizations both bear

out this important reality. We are firm on what Lutherans like to call “Word and Sacrament Ministry” but we are definitely not my father’s German church in Utica, Michigan where sauerkraut ruled and there were 63 confirmands in the class of ‘61’: 54 of them blond.

What will the future hold for us here in the ‘Heart’ of this great city? Certainly there will be challenges we cannot anticipate. However, there certainly is a future we can prepare for. And the better job we do will determine how effective we will continue to be. So, please! As your summer unfolds, give a little thought to this congregation in the city which God has called us to and imagine what it can become. Imagine also what you can contribute in Time, Talent and Treasure to make those imaginings a reality. Needless to say, I look forward to being in this process with you!

Blessed ‘summer of 08’ to you and yours,
Pastor Dutzmann

From the President

By Brian Harms

August greetings to you! Summer is typically a time at FLC when activities slow down and people take time to enjoy the fleeting New England summer. Your Church Council is no exception, having taken a bit of a “breather” in recent months to rest and reflect on our efforts in the first half of the year. I’d like to update you on our July Council meeting, where we underwent a congregational “mid-year review” of our efforts. Each Council member developed a short document for their

area of emphasis discussing the achievements, challenges, and suggestions for improvements they've seen in 2008. There was tremendous discussion and communication about how to position FLC for continued successes through the rest of the year.

In areas of achievement, the Council is pleased to say that our best, most effective efforts are in worship, music, and education. These speak to the importance we place as Lutherans in the proclaiming the Gospel, delivering the means of grace, and congregational catechesis. Educational offerings, in particular VBS, have been excellent!

In the area of challenges and suggestions for improvements, we observed that we haven't yet integrated our congregation's Ablaze outreach goal into the fabric of our Mission Focus Areas. The suggestion was made that as we develop strategic plans for our Mission Focus Areas, all of them should include an intentional outreach strategy.

Let's take a look at what this might look like for our Music Outreach Program, where Bálint is currently leading the development of our strategic plan. In the past year, Bálint has showed us and our concert guests the transcendent beauty of Bach. At the same time, he's learned from us about the "Lutheran-ness" of Bach's thought and musicality. Together, we're working to structure the content and execution of our music program such that it is clear that it is "in the world" (having the highest standards of musical excellence) but not "of the world" (clearly pointing the purpose of Bach's music, and our own efforts, towards Christ).

We can do this through things like choice of concert series programming, Christ-themed program notes, and placing our concerts and Sunday music on our website. (If you're interested in helping purchase the recording equipment to do this, Bálint would be happy to hear from you!) You yourself can play a huge role in our MOP as well—simply by attending concerts and welcoming those we bring to our church via concerts. Overall, the

opportunity is tremendous to get the word out to Greater Boston through music that our church has something unique that we offer: preaching Christ crucified and risen.

Music Ministry

Bálint gets 1st Prize at Bach Competition!



Bálint Karosi in the winner's circle, third from the right

As you may have already heard, we're proud to announce that our Minister of Music, Bálint Karosi, won first prize for organ at the Bach Competition in Leipzig this July. Below he shares some of his journal of the experience. We praise God for allowing Him to express the love of Christ through Music around the world!

When I arrived in Leipzig, I received a competition brochure that listed all the other competitors in the faculties of organ, voice and cello with pictures and a short bio in German. I recognized some of my fellow competitive organists from other competitions. Many highly qualified young organists were present; all of them had won other organ competitions. I knew then, reading the accomplishments of some of these players, that I have to play my very best from the first note to the last in order to advance. As I counted on the registration paper, only sixteen of the twenty-one organists listed in the brochure actually came to Leipzig, they

might have been scared away by the huge amount of difficult repertoire, or simply decided to take a break.

The first round was in Rötha, about twenty miles from Leipzig. I had two hours of practice time, on Tuesday the 8th July, starting at noon. For the first round we had two hours to prepare the roughly twenty minute long program. There was a choice of three different sets of pieces that the competitors were allowed to choose from, less choice was left in the second round, and slightly more in the Finals, but everything was selected carefully to demonstrate the skills or the defiance of the organists. I chose to play the program variant "C"; Mendelssohn's Sonata in D Minor, (a set of variations on the hymn tune "Our Father from Heaven Above"), J. S. Bach's trio on "Herr Jesu Christ" and the Prelude and Fugue in C Minor BWV 537. The organ was a two manual original Silbermann built in 1737. The organs built by Silbermann are considered to be the Stradivarius' amongst organs. I was very pleased with the instrument; it had an incredible sound and sensitive touch, and was quite comfortable to play, except the pedalboard which was a note higher than usually, so where I am used to play a C there was a B. It had beautifully voiced principals though; they became singing on the top of the keyboard. I used them for the trio. The Posaune was soft and beautiful, full of foundation pitch. The organ had a very masculine trompette in the pedal, which was almost like a French reed; I used it for the Fugue.

My audition went well on Thursday, I played flawlessly, and my Trio was particularly beautiful. One of the judges, Wolfgang Ruebsam told me later that it was unparalleled in the whole competition. I was not so happy with it, I felt it was too nervous and maybe too fast, but I could not verify it on the recording.

The next day, in the BMW on the way to my first round audition in Rötha, I was riding with Ilpo Laspas from Finland. Ilpo was scheduled to play after me. He had won the

second prize in Harpsichord two years ago, and now he was going for the first prize in organ. (Everyone was). He is very intelligent, and after hearing him play in three rounds (he played always after me, I do not know exactly what system they used to determinate the order of passage of the competitors) I can assure that he was one of the most talented players amongst all of us. He had his ups and downs though; I heard him play once so beautifully that I was almost in my tears, other times his playing was quite boring and slow, though always musical and expressive. His touch was refined due to a lot of harpsichord playing, and he was the most exciting Bach player in the Final round. I want to have him for a concert at FLC in the future.

The announcement of the results was advertised at 4:00 p.m. on Friday the 11th July in the competition office. I arrived at 4.30 p.m. because at the registration they had given me an apparently out-dated sheet of paper that listed 4:30 p.m. I was happy to find out immediately that I was in the next round, without having to wait much longer, as it was the case for the other two rounds. Then I met Andrew Dewar, a friend of mine from England, whom I met last year at St. Albans. He greeted me warmly, I was not so happy to see him there, for I knew how well he played.

Cheryl [Ryder] arrived the next day, on Saturday and I invited her to an organ concert by the Thomas-organist Ulrich Böhme, and his wife in the Thomas church. After the concert, I asked Ulrich Böhme, whether he would be available for a concert in Boston, for Bach's 325th Birthday, March 21st 2010, and he said he was. I was very pleased with that day.

The next round was a full, one-hour long recital program on the huge Ladegast organ at the Merseburg Cathedral, for which each competitor (12 organists advanced to this round) had only two hours of rehearsal time. When I arrived on Sunday morning at the church, it was after service, and I heard the organist Michael Schönheit play this magnificent instrument. I was very impressed with what I heard. I took my 100 feet long

jack cable along with my flash recorder; I used this device to listen to the balance of my registrations from that distance, where the judges would be listening. This proved to be a success; I came up with registrations that nobody else dared to use, for the organ sounded very different from where I was sitting than from the church. It was particularly hard to find real romantic registrations for the two Liszt pieces on that huge instrument, where Liszt himself played and composed these pieces once upon a time. Especially hard was to control the “ventils” that needed to be on or off in order to control valves for each division (manuals and three pedal windchests). The action was particularly hard on this instrument, the bigger the mechanical organs are, the more wind pressure they have, that holds against their larger surface of valves, which of course means more power is required from the player’s fingers to open them. When the player is playing more than one keyboards at the same time, (that is called coupling) the power required from the player adds up even more.

I was not so happy with my playing at the second round, I played rather plain and straight, it felt like a fight for survival to me, a fight with this wonderful but overwhelming instrument. I was prepared for the worst at the announcement of the results: a real nightmare.

To be continued... [although you already know the ending!]



The Boston Contingent in Leipzig: Balint, Cheryl Ryder and Michael Culbertson

New Pictorial Directory

by Mary Reuning

We are excited to announce that we are going to create a new pictorial directory of our First Lutheran Church family. The directory will help us to connect names with faces. It will be an ideal outreach tool and will capture the history of our church congregation.

Please participate! All we ask is that you have your picture taken by the professional Photographer and meet with a Portrait Consultant at the church. For the next several weeks, we will be making appointments after services at the church. Please sign up as soon as possible to get the best appointment to fit your schedule.

- Every participating family/household that selects a pose for the directory will receive a free directory and a complimentary 8x10 Custom Natural Portrait.
- You will come to the church only once for photography and for portrait viewing.
- The program is available at no cost to the church budget.
- You will have the opportunity to order additional portraits during your scheduled appointment time.
- If you wish to purchase extras, the portraits come with a 100% Satisfaction Guarantee.
- Whether you decide to dress formal or casual, you will want to make the most of this opportunity.

The three Scheduled Dates for Photography and Portrait Viewing Are: Friday, August 22nd, 3pm - 9:30pm, Saturday, August 23rd, 10am - 5pm, and Monday Sept. 8th, 3pm - 9:30pm.

If you have any questions please contact me at marydaisy@netzero.net or at 781-255-2050. If you would like to assist with the coordination of this project let me know. I would like to have help with appointment

scheduling, follow up phone calls, post card mailing, and check in on photography days.

Group leaders, you will no doubt want to submit a photograph of the members of your organization to be included in the directory. Elders, Ushers, Council, SYA, BLW, Brazilian Mission, Altar Guild, Education/Sunday School, Choir, Crucifers & Acolytes, Music Committee, Concert Committee, Trustees, Stewardship Committee, Social Ministry, etc. If you can gather your group, I will be happy to take the photograph, or just send me a digital image to the e-mail above.

Those who are unable to participate in any photography session can submit a photograph to be added at the back of the directory.

We look forward to seeing everyone in the directory--our new pictorial directory just won't be complete without you!

Writings on the [Pastor's] Wall

By Bethany Tanis, Historian

This month we are beginning a new newsletter column entitled: Past Pastors of FLC; or, Who are Those Old Guys with the Funny Hair Hanging on the Wall by the Bathroom? Our first two pastors do not have pictures up on the wall. Actually, they weren't even officially pastors of a Lutheran congregation in Boston. Nevertheless, they were fundamental in founding the congregation that later became FLC. Both served Boston-area German Lutherans in and before the year 1835.

Rev. Dr. Wilhelm (William) D. Strobel, 1835

William Strobel was born in Charleston, South Carolina in 1808. At age 14 he entered a mercantile house and in 1827 he was confirmed in the Lutheran church and entered Hartwick Seminary in New York. After graduating two years later he served as a missionary for the South Carolina Synod until he received a call to St. James's Church, New York in 1831. In 1835 Strobel began working

with Rev. Lewis Smith to organize a congregation of German Lutherans in Boston, Massachusetts. Six years later he returned to Hartwick Seminary as a Principal and Professor, but in 1844 he received a divine call to Valatie Church. Strobel later served churches in Red Hook, New York, Middletown and Williamsport, Maryland, and Rhinebeck, New York. In addition to working as a parish pastor and seminary professor, Strobel also served on the Foreign Missionary Committee, as a trustee and member of the board of Hartwick Seminary, as the president of the New York Ministerium, as the president of the New York and New Jersey Synod, and (after 1879) as the president of the General Synod. Strobel passed away at his home in Rhinebeck in late 1884.¹

Rev. Lewis Smith Jr., 1835

Lewis Smith was born around 1814. He was licensed by the New York Ministerium in 1833 and then worked as a missionary among the German Lutherans in Newark, New York. In 1834 he was called to serve as the pastor of the German Reformed Church of New York and was ordained in 1835. Later that year Smith traveled to Boston in order to help found a German Lutheran congregation. President A. Wackehagen announced to the New York Ministerium convention that,

in the course of the summer I learned from letters and other sources that the tide of emigration from Germany had even reached the city of Boston, and deposited in that place a considerable number of German of different religious persuasions, Lutheran, German Reformed and Roman Catholics. I have been told that

¹ *Minutes of the Fourteenth Annual Convention of the Synod of New York and New Jersey* (1885), 53-54; and *Geschichte des Evangelisch-Lutherischen Ministeriums vom Staate New York und angrenzenden Staaten und Ländern* (New York: New York Ministeriums, 1888), 172, 186-187.

many of them have, some time since formed themselves into a religious society, and are in the habit of meeting at stated times for the purpose of religious worship. An active member of our Missionary Committee [Strobel?] has paid those people a visit not very long since, who I hope will give you more information on this highly interesting subject than I have it in my power to impart. Our young Brother L. Smith, also, has lately been in Boston and preached for those people in the German language, administering to a goodly number of them the Lord's Supper. Our prospects there are, I am persuaded, great and encouraging. May it please God to designate to us a man of his own heart, to become useful in that new portion of the Lord's vineyard. An earnest application from Boston has been made for a competent minister.²

While the Ministerium and Boston congregation searched for a full-time minister, Smith preached to the German immigrants in the mornings in the Boston school house, "where people tended to hold their meetings," and in the afternoons in Dr. Adams's Congregational church. He counted 67 communicant members among his Boston flock. Soon, however, Rev. Heinrich Immanuel Schmidt was called to serve the Boston congregation as a full-time pastor. Tragically, Smith passed away only two years later in 1837. His death from pulmonary consumption at age 23 was considered a great loss by his colleagues.³

² *Minutes of the Fortieth Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Ministerium of the State of New York and Adjacent Parts* (New York: Henry Ludwig, Printer, 1835), 21.

³ *Lutheran Observer* (April 21, 1837); and *Geschichte des Evangelisch-Lutherischen Ministeriums vom Staate New York und angrenzenden Staaten und Ländern* (New York: New York Ministeriums, 1888), 186.

Education: VBS Recap

By Polly Brown, coordinator

PUPPET SHOW SPECTACULAR



A few VBS puppeteers and their puppets

This June's Vacation Bible School, "Friendship Trek, Jesus is your Forever Friend!" was a great success. A plethora of volunteers from different parts of the congregation worked together seamlessly to provide a wonderful VBS experience for the children of the congregation. The two-year old class was precious! The preschoolers were perfect! The older kids were enthusiastic! The music, skits, crafts, games, decorations, and snacks were marvelous!

A particular high point was the final day's presentation of a puppet show, depicting Jesus raising his dear friend Lazarus from the dead. A script (produced by FLC members) was both funny, true to the Scriptural record, and reverent. What a feat! The puppets (produced by the VBS kids, with assistance from multiple volunteers) were astonishing. The scenery (produced by FLC members) and the theater (produced by FLC members) were marvelous. And the kids themselves did a super job presenting the story, manipulating their puppets, and managing to be loud enough to be heard even at the back of the space. We were enormously proud of them.

Another thing that contributed to the joy of the puppet show was the fact that the space

was packed with attentive and appreciative audience members. Thanks to all of you for coming down the stairs to support the children in their endeavors. You were a great audience!

Heartfelt thanks again to the VBS volunteers! (For a list of names, please see your July newsletter.) Anyone interested in participating in next year's VBS, please contact Polly Brown at polly_brown@verizon.net.



Laura Stoffel leading songs with the preschoolers

VBS Thanks

I'd like to thank all the people who provided Christmas trees to the VBS backdrop area for helping us create a beautiful forested area and campfire scene. Thank you to Mary Reuning for the "campfire" so I could all the frying pan, eggs, and pancakes to the decorations. I would especially like to thank David Harney for his volunteer help. I created 4-3 1/2 by 8" scene changes for the puppet stage and I could not have finished in time without his helping me to draw in the lines by marker and paint in the colors with acrylic paints. He made a wonderful artist.

--Betty Pohl (pictured below with backdrop)



Students & Young Adults

By Karin Denison

For Sunday mornings this summer, all are encouraged to join the general Bible study class in the sanctuary during the summer. On Monday evening at 7 p.m., we are studying "The Lord's Prayer," by Martin Chemnitz—stay tuned for the next topic coming up soon. As always, meeting begins with dinner in the FLC undercroft, followed by a 7:30 p.m. study. Contact Jason heindl@fas.harvard.edu with questions. Also stay tuned for a back to school SYA lunch for some fall planning; an email will be sent out with more details.

Long Range Planning Committee

By Troy Prehar, chair

Greetings from the Long Range Planning Committee!

Our June Workshop was well attended, allowing us to wrap up the initial two phases of our planning process. Thanks again to all those who attended and continue to participate in our efforts. We need your help, without your input and prayer, our efforts cannot proceed--thank you again for your ongoing participation.

Here are the final Strengths, Weakness, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) we agreed upon at the end of our Workshop:

Strengths

Sound, Orthodox Doctrine
 Location
 Relatively Young Lay Leadership/
 Congregational Profile
 Music Program/Significant Friendship-
 Relational Groups

Weaknesses

Communication
 Overly Ambitious-lack of focus
 Virtual Pastor
 Weak Community Connection

Opportunities

Young Families/Single Parents
Needs of the Urban Church
E-exposure/additional communication
Strengthening Relational Groups

Threats

Leadership/Volunteer Burnout
Transient Congregation
Financial Sustainability

These 'SWOT' traits will be used in Phase IV to take help determine what we can do and how we might approach the ideas generated during the 'visionary' Phase III.

So, Phase III needs your help. We are using a 'values' survey as a catalyst to generate discussion on what FLC could and should be. Phase III is the fun part of the Long Range Planning process. This is where we encourage dreaming of just what all the Holy Spirit might be calling First Lutheran to become and/or achieve in Greater Boston.

There will be several upcoming opportunities to participate in these discussions, but we kindly ask that you complete the 'values' survey to help us plan for these sessions. The Survey Questions are available from any LRP member or they can be obtained via the office and Elaine Laaser. Please feel free to call/ask myself any questions related to our efforts and I encourage you to strike up a conversation with any of the LRP members.

In HIS service,

Troy Prehar
LRP Committee Chair

Community Tidbits**Coffee Hour Themes: all are invited!**

We're trying something different and fun at FLC for coffee hour: during the month of August, there will be a theme for each Sunday and all are invited to bring something related to the theme. Weather permitting, the coffee

hours will be in the courtyard after the 11AM service.

August 3: Blueberry Bonanza
August 10: Starts with a "c"
August 17: The Great Jello-off
August 24: Homemade salsas and dips
August 31: Peaches A-Plenty

And a special note of thanks to Vincent James, who has diligently seen to it that coffee hour happens each & every week for the better part of this past year so our FLC family can continue a great tradition of fellowship!

Job Opening

Cheshire Lutheran Church at 660 West Main Street, Cheshire, Ct 203-272-5106 is seeking a part time Director of Music. Desires a skilled organist/choir director familiar with liturgical tradition. Position includes direction of 2 voice choirs and bell choir. Send resume and references to church address or e-mail Rev. Gustafson at office@cheshirelutheran.org

LCMS DVD debut

"Children Making Music" highlights music as a gift from God that can enrich life in the church and beyond. If as a result just a couple of students at each institution are motivated to study music, it could mean that several thousand additional musicians would be able to lead congregations in song in the future.

"Music plays a tremendous role in worship," said Rev. Jon Vieker, assistant director for the LCMS' Commission on Worship. "We want today's children to have an appreciation for music and the important vehicle it is for the proclamation of the Gospel."

Anyone interested may request a free copy of "Children Making Music" by writing to worship@lcms.org. For more information, visit www.worship.lcms.org.

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