

# CHS Helps Teachers Achieve LCMS Roster



## HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK

by Rev. Dr. Wayne Wilke  
Director Concordia  
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One of the goals for the Concordia House of Studies is to work with teachers in Lutheran schools who want to take additional coursework that meets the requirement for certification as a teacher on the roster of the Missouri Synod. In addition to their state teaching certificate, these teachers will earn a Lutheran Teaching Certificate which makes them eligible to be enrolled on the LCMS roster as a commissioned minister-teacher.

Teachers in Lutheran schools have the thrilling opportunity to help students grow spiritually by sharing with them the Good News of their salvation in Jesus Christ. The classes required to earn a Lutheran Teaching

Certificate provide additional tools that teachers can use in the important work of educating their students about the love of God.

Wendy Clark, a teacher at St. Luke's Lutheran-Oviedo, has just completed the CHS curriculum and will be receiving her Lutheran Teachers Certificate this summer through the CHS partnership with Concordia-Bronxville. I have asked her to share her experience with the program.

### Wendy, could you share a little bit about your background?

I was born in Pahokee, FL. I moved to Oviedo when I was 5 and attended St. Luke's from K-8<sup>th</sup> grade. I attended Oviedo High School. After graduation I went to the University of Florida where I majored and graduated in Elementary Education. I then attended Florida State University and received my Master's in Early Childhood Education. I worked in Hendry, Brevard and Duval Counties before moving back to Oviedo.



Wendy Clark

### What led you to enter full-time church work? What factors informed your decision that the Lord was calling you into full-time service as a Lutheran Teacher?

I worked in the public school system in various counties for six years. I was moving back into the area and had a job working in Brevard County when a position came available at St. Luke's. I interviewed for the job and accepted it. I had interviewed right after college for a position at St. Luke's and was not hired, so I had never really considered interviewing again. Then this position as a kindergarten teacher became available and I began thinking that it would be wonderful to be around my family and also have my child attend St. Luke's. The door was just opened up to me without me even realizing it.

### You have served as a teacher at St. Luke's for six years. What led you to begin taking courses with the Concordia House of Studies?

A co-worker asked if I would take the Old Testament with her, and I told her I would like to. I had just completed the Old Testament Bethel class and thought it would be great way to reinforce and complement what I had just studied. After finishing the

class I decided to complete the courses because I enjoyed taking these religion classes.

### What do you value most about your experience in the Concordia House of Studies?

Seeing how God's plan for our salvation began in the Old Testament times and continues to this very day. With that, the way the church has continued to teach the Gospel throughout difficult times and will continue to do so.

### Would you encourage others to enroll in the Concordia House of Studies?

Yes, these are the best courses that I have ever taken. They have been very meaningful to me.

### You have a full-time job, you have children at home and you participate in local church activities. Do you have any advice for others who may be considering taking CHS courses?

The instructors realize this. There is a lot of flexibility within

the classes. Once you begin the classes continue them to completion, because each course complements every other so you don't want to miss one.

Wendy was able to fulfill her dream of being certified as a Lutheran teacher right here in the Florida-Georgia District. The Concordia House of Studies makes it possible for students to complete their church work certification alongside their state university education.

*NOTE: CHS classes will begin again in August both in Orlando and Gainesville. In Orlando, students will be able to choose from REL353, Church History, or REL115, The Literature and History of the Old Testament. In Gainesville, The Literature and History of the Old Testament will be offered. If you would like more information about these courses, or about becoming a Lutheran teacher, contact Dr. Wilke in Orlando locally at 407-457-5556, ext 5, or toll free at 877-457-5556, ext. 5, or via e-mail at [wwilke@flga-lcms.org](mailto:wwilke@flga-lcms.org).* □

## Lutheran Haven Couple's Generosity Benefits LWML

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Rewa of Oviedo, FL, left \$50,000 from their estate to the afternoon Lutheran Women's Missionary League of St. Luke's-Oviedo meeting monthly in the Fellowship Hall at Lutheran Haven.

The bequest will be used to establish an endowment, the yearly proceeds of which will support a mission grant and a social ministry chosen by the group.

Loretta Rewa was very active in LWML and in sewing for Head Start. She received recognition for her work from Lutheran Social Ministries of Florida as well as numerous awards from organizations in the Orlando area. □

## Mission Support Emphasized at Zone Rally

Lutheran Women's Missionary Leaguers of the SW Florida Zone met at Trinity Lutheran-Cape Coral on Saturday, March 25, to reemphasize the League's commitment to the support of missions, missionaries and mission projects.

Featured speaker Wanda Weinert shared the suspenseful events which unfolded for an Afghanistan woman after her conversion to Christianity and her eventual immigration to the United States.

The Bible study focused on discipleship, especially as it involved LWML members.

During the business session, Zone President Irma Broders of Zion-Fort Myers reminded participants that each society should elect two delegates to the September 22-24 LWML District Convention. Revised by-laws were adopted, and Grace-Naples issued an invitation to attend the Fall Rally there on October 28.

"Highlighting the Zone's mission focus were two proposals reminding the group of the continuing needs of Gulf Coast Lutheran churches still in recovery from Katrina's devastation," reported Elaine Reimans, Zone second vice president.

"Sunday School materials will be gathered to help three Mississippi churches' education departments whose buildings were blown away. An LCMS church near the French Quarter of New Orleans is seeking New Testaments to include in evacuation packets which are being prepared in case of another needed evacuation."

A third proposal presented at the Rally involved sending used devotions, magazines and other Lutheran materials to a media ministry in Ghana West Africa. □

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