

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank You, Pastor!



LIFE LINES
Gerhard C. Michael, Jr.
District President

the Word of God in a society in which that Word is often treated as irrelevant. He is called to help us discern the Lord's will that we may follow it rather than simply imitate the world around us. His is the duty to call us to love as Christ has loved us; to witness to that love with words that impart grace to those who hear; to be generous with the resources God has entrusted to us; to be honest and fair in our dealings with others; to be God's kind of people, no matter the cost.

His even more important duty is this: to help us see and believe in Jesus as the one who has completed his mission from God, that we may find in his life the strength we need for our lives. That proclamation is a pastor's highest privilege and greatest joy!

In view of that kind of challenging assignment, it is easy to get discouraged. If the people do not respond to his urgings, if they do not take to heart his Scriptural admonitions, if they do not support the Lord's work with generosity, the pastor

While clergy and their co-workers are expected to be mature and carry out their duties in a selfless manner, simply because God has called them,

program, volunteering to serve as a greeter, assisting in clean-up after a social event, or even better sending him the signal that you are genuinely trying to

The pastor's even more important duty is to help us see and believe in Jesus as the one who has completed his mission from God, that we may find in His life the strength we need for our lives. That proclamation is a pastor's highest privilege and greatest joy!

the reality is that they are like you and me. They need to receive words of appreciation, too. It cheers them up and nudges them to keep on plugging. Just as the cheers of a crowd can raise the play of an athlete to a new level, even so the encouragement that comes from a parishioner or his congregation can motivate a pastor to do even better!

How should that encouragement be given? I'd like to suggest that seeking to do something concrete and specific can be a most meaningful gesture. Send your pastor a card; call him on the telephone to express a word of appreciation; send an Email with similar words, or just stop by sometime and sincerely ask him how he is doing. "Is there anything that you would like me to pray for?" "My husband and I would like to take you out to dinner." By doing something specific, the appreciation moves from being just a thought to an action that communicates. October would be a

live out your Christian calling on the job, in your family, with your bridge partners or golf-mates, you will let your pastor know that he is not serving by himself, but you are in the ministry with him. By such partnership in the Gospel, the pastor senses that his work is truly worthwhile!

Send your pastor a card, call him on the telephone to express a word of appreciation, send an Email with similar words, or just stop by sometime and sincerely ask him how he is doing.

October has been designated "Clergy Appreciation Month." I am not sure of its origin, but I believe it has a purpose that we need to heed. Being a pastor today is not an easy job, if it has ever been.

hospital, consoled you on the death of a loved one, counseled you how to deal with a difficult issue. Such words of gratitude are welcome and encourage a pastor in his ministry.

October has been designated "Clergy Appreciation Month." I am not sure of its origin, but I believe it has a purpose that we need to heed. Being a pastor today is not an easy job, if it has ever been. He has been called by God to help us hear and follow

can easily wonder whether his ministry is effective and appreciated.

The same is certainly true for other called workers in the church: teachers, deaconesses, directors of Christian Education, outreach, family life, music ministry and the like. Given their high calling, high expectations can easily go unmet.

October would be a great month to do something! And while this month singles out clergy, its application can be expanded to include other called workers as well.

great month to do something! And while this month singles out clergy, its application can be expanded to include other called workers as well.

I know that some of our congregations have expressed this kind of appreciation by providing the wherewithal for the pastor to take his wife along for this year's pastoral conference, when its venue was a Caribbean cruise (actually not any more expensive than a typical pastors' conference). I thank you for this act of loving support. It is appreciated by our pastors! A tangible act like this illustrates how one can make his expression concrete.

My sincere hope is that observing Clergy Appreciation Month in some concrete way will be a stimulus to doing what can really make a pastor's heart glad: having people who sincerely join with him in ministry. By getting involved in the evangelism

In writing to the Roman Christians, Paul reflects this kind of teamwork, "For I am longing to see you so that I may share with you some spiritual gift to strengthen you—or rather so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine." (1:11f) This is the two-way giving and receiving that makes for joy in a congregation!

are lay people who can organize and administer, if those are not his strong suits. Through each exercising the gifts Christ has bestowed, the church can remain healthy and carry out its mission effectively.

Thus, we need help to get into the Word to discern God's will for us in the world, and more than that, we need the support that can come from knowing we are not alone on this mission. Through a pastor's ministry we can be helped to sense the wisdom of God's way and the power for it in the good news of what God has already done for us in Jesus Christ. By a holy partnership between a pastor and his congregation, both can be strengthened for their unique calling, whether as a pastor or as a parishioner!

May Clergy Appreciation Month be an encouragement for all of us to work toward such mutually beneficial relationships!

-gcm



Every congregation is a church in mission, and every member is a missionary; with all of us working together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, empowered by His Gospel to share His love.

Lutheran LIFE is the official newspaper of the Florida-Georgia District/Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Lutheran LIFE is designed to inform LCMS church and school members of the activities, the personalities and resources offered by the Synod and the District. Lutheran LIFE may also provide a forum for Lutherans to express their views and ideas on a wide range of topics. We welcome and encourage editorials, emphasizing that the views and opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by the editors or District or Synod personnel. Lutheran LIFE is published monthly, with occasional combined bimonthly issues. Editorials, press releases and photos are encouraged and must be received at Lutheran LIFE publication offices no later than the 10th of the month prior to the publication date. While we make every attempt to use submitted information in the next issue of LIFE, space considerations prevent us from guaranteeing that stories will be used immediately. Advertising is welcome; information is available from our production office. Changes of address or new subscriber information should be directed to our production office as well.

District President Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael Jr.	Publisher, Executive Editor and District Public Relations Director John List
Florida-Georgia District Office: Lutheran Ministries Center 7207 Monetary Drive Orlando, Florida 32809-5724 Telephone: (407) 857-5556 FAX: (407) 857-5665 www.flga-lcms.org	Editor-in-Chief Eileen Bishop
Lutheran Life Editorial & Publishing Office: 75 SE Third Street Boca Raton, Florida 33432 Telephone: (561) 417-5605 FAX: (561) 417-5606 e-mail: LutheranLife@aol.com	Art Director & Layout Coordinator Chris Utech
	<i>Serving, Assisting, Encouraging Congregations in Ministry</i>

In Memoriam: Robert Grunow

Rev. Dr. Robert A. Grunow, 82 of Spring Hill, FL died after a brief hospital stay and Hospice care on Thursday, October 5.

Born in Modesto, CA, he came to Florida more than 30 years ago. He was the co-founder and visitation pastor of Forest Oaks Lutheran Church. He previously served as pastor for Our Savior-Plantation, FL; Estate Planner for the Florida-Georgia



District, Development Officer at Lutheran Haven-Oviedo and Director of Seminary Relations for Concordia Seminary-St. Louis.

Survivors include his wife, Dorothy (Schroeder) Grunow; sons, Robert (Barbara), Brentwood, TN, Thomas (Karin), Portland, OR; daughter, Lynn (Paul) McCain, Ballwin, MO; eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. □