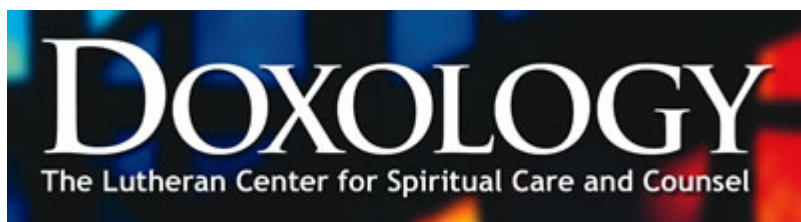


EASTER 2009 DOXOLOGY PASTORAL NOTES



Pastoral Notes
Easter 2009

Volume 2,
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Pastor, We Would See Jesus

Perspective on Ministry

Dr. Beverly K. Yahnke

Neither mortals nor angels can restrain their praise on Easter morning, standing in awe at the empty tomb. We rejoice for we know that Jesus, three days after his death and burial, appeared in the flesh before his disciples that first Easter evening. The alleluias to our risen Lord and King tumble joyfully from our lips and are echoed by the magnificent sounds of choir, bells, brass and organ. Christian congregations proclaim with one voice, "Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed!"

One pastor referred to Easter as the Super Bowl of the church year. It is THE big Sunday. Easter lily fumes waft through the chancel like incense. The throngs gather. The Christmas-Easter-Funeral Christians make a rare pilgrimage to God's house, perhaps with family in tow. The service is stunning. The sermon shows extraordinary care; it is stunning, as well. (God willing!) The preparation, the anticipation and the Divine Service celebrating the Festival of Easter is often a time of spiritual exhilaration for pastor and people alike.

Exhilaration gives way to Easter Monday as pastor and people return to the rhythms and requirements of daily living. I've come to believe that occasionally the special spiritual challenge of Easter Monday (and every day that follows) may escape detection by even the best intentioned undershepherds. You see, we are not so different from our Biblical ancestors, we would see Jesus, too. Somehow it seems easier for us to see Jesus as you preach the reality of Jesus' triumph over Satan and death alike, or as you preach Him who bestows on us His holiness and takes away our sin. It is easier to see Jesus as we come forward to receive from your hands the Holy Sacrament, the very body and blood of our Lord given under simple bread and wine. We gratefully receive precious gifts of the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. You assist us mightily to fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. It's not always as easy for us to see Jesus on Easter Monday or Tuesday because although we have heard eternal promises and eaten heavenly food, we're not quite so certain how that translates into seeing Jesus today. We know for a fact that we will spend eternity with God in heaven. We're not quite as certain just how it is that knowledge of victories won then at Calvary matter now in the battles of this world. We're not as clear as to how it is that Jesus' peace promised on a certain Easter evening can insulate us in these days from the pain from a rocky marriage, a pending foreclosure, or the chronic illness of a loved one.

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Doxology is a
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of The Lutheran

We know that "Christ is risen!" but for more than a few in your flock, we don't always know what that means for the landscape of our daily lives. We know that "Jesus is with us." We know we are supposed to be comforted by that fact. So, we don't know why we still feel consumed by fear, uncertainty, worry, hurt and all other manner of mayhem inflicted upon us in this fallen world. We don't know why we can't forgive those who have wounded us; we can't detect God's will for us in matters of daily importance and as much as we would like someone to answer such troubling spiritual questions, we're too ashamed or unwilling to ask for your help. We presume that our faith is too frail or our prayers are ineffectual; worse, we may presume that God is punishing us.

Thanks be to God that He has called you to serve His sheep and lambs. You are given both the joy and the weighty obligation of teaching and preaching Christ the crucified . . . for each of the 51 Sundays and 364 days that follow Easter. You will need to help us.

Pastor, we would see Jesus in the trials and tribulations of day to day living. Pastor, we would see Jesus in the calamities of all that befalls us and our loved ones. Pastor, we would see Jesus and learn of his promises and blessings in time as well as for eternity. Because we're too ashamed and reluctant to ask you, perhaps you could even invite us to talk with you personally about such things; perhaps you may suggest that we visit with you to be encouraged with personal prayers and blessings. Perhaps you can even comfort us by reassuring us that we are not alone in desiring to see Jesus.

As much as we are very grateful for all that you have done to prepare our hearts and souls for the Easter festival, now we ask for still more. Beyond the choirs, trumpets, bells and alleluias of Easter we will need to rely on you to bring the power and peace of Christ's resurrection into the rest of our lives. We will be deeply grateful and comforted by that, as well (even if we fail to mention our thanksgiving for you and your holy work among us.)



Dr. Yahнке is the Executive Director for Christian Counseling for DOXOLOGY

MINNESOTA FEBRUARY GATHERING

Church - Missouri Synod.

DOXOLOGY
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www.doxology.us



Thirty three pastors met together in Buffalo, Minnesota - *in the middle of winter* - to participate in four days of DOXOLOGY's intensive training, group work, worship and fellowship. Christ the King Retreat Center was the site for "The Gathering," the first of three cycles of advanced pastoral training.

In addition to benefitting from the instruction, pastors were refreshed and renewed in mind and soul by the daily prayer offices conducted by Dr. Scott Murray, the designated Chaplain for the event. Dr. Murray conducted worship services and was also available to pastors for personal consultation and/or spiritual care and counsel.

Although a number of the pastors enrolled were the hearty men from Minnesota North and South, accustomed to single digit temperatures, the event attracted men from many other regions including New York, Ohio and Utah. Some of the comments from participants include:

- *This has been one of the best learning experiences I've had since seminary. The matters discussed in this seminar will be of utmost help in providing for the care and cure of souls in my parish for years to come. Refreshing, educational and personally inspiring!*
- *I have become better equipped as a pastor with each of the presentations of applied pastoral care theology and Christian psychology, as well. It has been nothing less than earth-shattering for me - a blessing of huge proportions. My ministry will never be the same as result of this training!*
- *The conference was outstanding! I will be recommending it to the rest of my brothers in the ministry. The material presented will be immediately beneficial to me and to*

the flock entrusted to my care. It is nice to be able to find extremely helpful ways to meet pastoral challenges with a Christ-centered, hope-filled response that will lead people to the riches our Lord has given us.

The pastors reported their eagerness to return for “The Encore” this summer. That event invites pastors to bring at least one lay leader along with them for a weekend of stimulating presentations and conversations on parish life and mission, in the context of worship and fellowship. Dr. Arthur Just will be the designated Chaplain for the summer event.



REGISTRATION OPENS FOR NEW '09 TRAINING CYCLE

Pastors who missed the January and February enrollment deadlines have one more opportunity to take advantage of DOXOLOGY’s widely acclaimed training program. The comfortable surroundings of the St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, Nebraska will be the site of the third and final training cycle for this year.

August 9 - 12	The Gathering	(Pastors only)
October 30 - Nov 1	The Encore	(Pastors and Lay Leaders)
January 8 - 9, 2010	The Reunion	(Pastors and Wives)

The Center, located in northeastern Nebraska just an hour out of Omaha, is newly constructed and offers comfortable housing with private baths, tasty meals, spacious meeting rooms, and a reverent chapel (<http://www.benedictinemissionhouse.com/center.htm>). Walking paths around the Center’s beautiful reflecting pool and its prairie surroundings provide exercise opportunity between sessions.

Here’s a small sampling of what just two of the more than one hundred pastors currently

enrolled had to say about our Gathering experience:

- *After 25 years in ministry, this was a very helpful overview of basic and advanced issues in pastoral care. The retreat setting really helps the tone of the discussion. We appreciate the support that makes this possible for the strengthening of our pastors!*
- *DOXOLOGY is a precious gift to the Church and to Christ's undershepherds. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much for this program. DOXOLOGY is a rich treasure trove of advice, counsel, support and tools for helping to sustain and better equip pastors in the art of soul care. I will reflect upon and return to the resources I have gained this week frequently to refresh, renew and reinvigorate my ministry.*



Enrollment is limited; visit www.doxology.us now. Select "registration," click on the downloadable registration forms, and send them in pronto!

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION FOR DOXOLOGY PARTICIPANTS

Pastors enrolled in the DOXOLOGY program will receive professional recognition in the form of a Certificate in Christian Counsel and Care and are eligible to apply for graduate credit toward an advanced theological degree.

CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

Every pastor who completes the entire DOXOLOGY training program will receive a Certificate in Christian Counsel and Care from Th!nkshops, a professional psychological organization.

Dr. Yahnke founded Th!nkshops and has been credentialed by the [American Psychological Association](#) (APA) to provide continuing education for caregivers at the graduate level including clergy, psychologists, educators, nurses, social workers and physicians. The APA is the

nationally recognized accrediting agency for professional training in psychology. The certificate verifies a pastor's satisfactory participation in a substantive program of advanced training in Christian counseling. It is not a credential signifying that one is academically or clinically prepared to do the clinical work of a psychologist or social worker.

GRADUATE CREDIT

Pastors enrolled in an advanced theological degree program may obtain up to six hours of graduate credit in advanced pastoral theology recognized by the [Association of Theological Schools \(ATS\)](#). The ATS is the accrediting agency for theological education in North America.

This credit in conjunction with DOXOLOGY instruction is offered by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana as Independent Study under the direction of Dr. Senkbeil, instructor of record and adjunct professor of Pastoral Ministry and Missions at CTS. Credits may be applied to the STM, DMin, or PhD program at CTS and are transferable to other accredited theological institutions. For eligibility and registration information, contact Dr. Senkbeil. (HSenkbeil@doxology.us)



OUT OF DEAD CENTER

DOXOLOGY has already attracted quite a number of "commuter pastors" from both coasts to its initial training events, all of which have been held in the upper Midwest. In response to popular demand, we've determined to test the waters on both coasts for training venues. If a location in California or New York would be attractive for you, please get in touch with one of our "point men" soon to indicate your interest!

New York Area

Rev. Brian Noack
Rev. Jon Ellingsworth

California Area

Rev. Peter Ledic
Rev. Charles Froh



LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT YEAR

We've got some things up our sleeve to expand the opportunity for clergy couples to enrich their DOXOLOGY experience, and we're hunting down our 2010 training venues right now. Watch for the announcement of our 2010 program this Summer!



A VISIT FROM 'DOWN UNDER'

We're excited that Dr. John W. Kleinig of Adelaide's Australian Lutheran College, world renowned OT scholar and pastoral theologian, will be the featured keynote speaker for the "Reunions" scheduled later this summer. Pastors from our first four training cycles (Wisconsin, Nebraska, Illinois and Minnesota) will bring their wives to a two day experience of renewal, fellowship, and worship.

While in the USA for the DOXOLOGY conferences, Dr. Kleinig will also speak to students at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and to faculty meetings both in St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne.

In addition, he will speak at Blessed Savior Lutheran Church, New Berlin, WI (September 9), St. John Lutheran Church, Wheaton, IL (September 13), and a theological conference in Ainsworth, NE (September 21-22). Contact Dr. Senkbeil for details on any of these appearances: (HSenkbeil@doxology.us).

