FROM THE BLUES NEWS EDITOR: THE WORD IS HIS

After I graduated from a state university, I moved to a big city—and in with my sister—and set about putting down my roots. I mentioned looking for work over coffee hour after our first service at our new congregation and was blessed to hear about an open-entry-level position. Ultimately it meant working for a certain Lutheran theological journal, with one of my former pastors, no less, who had become active in missionary work for Russia!

I could not have imagined how well things could work out. It was a scary time for me, fresh out of college with my roots sunning themselves in the air! But God provided for me through such simple things as talking about my need and asking others for a little input.

I learned a lot from that job and time in my life, but the lesson I value most is that God is not divided when it comes to me. The Gospel includes a loving Father who sent His Son, and a gracious Spirit who is the Lord and Giver of life. Likewise, the Law is not simply a father’s anger or set of arbitrary rules. The Law comes from Him who creates, redeems, and gives life. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit created the world. They spoke among themselves and all agreed, “Yes! Let us make man in our image. Let them have dominion. Let us bless them!” (Genesis 1). Together they speak Law and Gospel.

In Scripture, we see their unity. In the flesh of Jesus, we see their dedication and determination. In the godhead of the Father, we see the undeserved, creative love, yet we can only experience this by the life given and sustained in the Holy Spirit. Toward us, they work together. Toward us they are united.

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit speak God’s Word: a united Word from them and to us. They do not intend to confuse us and send mixed messages. Certain parts of the Bible were not written behind the proverbial back of any members of the Trinity!

The fact of the matter is that sometimes we try extra hard to get the Spirit’s attention. I do not know why churches in the last few hundred years have singled Him out from His Trinitarian counterparts, but we seem to expect a different word from Him. We expect signs and new revelations. Perhaps we look for just a little bit extra to apply to our own personal insecurities.

Let us affirm that Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in how God comes to us: in Law and Gospel and in the Means of Grace! We truly are free from trying to earn separate loyalties. We truly are free from struggling to understand one apart from the rest. Our freedom is in Christ and the Gospel: the Father who gave His Son; His Son who lived, died, and lives again; and the Holy Spirit, who gives us this life and eternal life in the world to come!

I have heard it said that the Holy Spirit is the shy member of the Trinity: He always points us to the others. I think another way to put it is that the Holy Spirit is not sneaky! He does not wait until He has us alone to tell us what He really thinks. He does not tell some, but not others. He does not wait so that our actions can catch His roaming eye. And, this is great news! This is liberating, relieving, fantastic and applicable stuff! Christians really are free to take God at His Word: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in the very text and grammar given to us in their holy Scripture.

When I learned this lesson, put so simply in an issue, I was struck by how firmly our Lord has us in His hands. He knows what He wants. He gave what is most Precious to have it, and every aspect of Him now treasures us, even as dirty and selfish and arrogant as we can be.

When I put down those tentative roots back in my early twenties, parts of me held back. Now that God has planted me elsewhere, and my roots are getting stronger, there is still plenty of self-conflict within! But not so with God. Father, Son, and Holy Spirit made me His own in holy Baptism, grants me forgiveness, life, and salvation in the holy Supper, and will bring me into the world to come! United, they give me life, root, and fruit, and they do it gently, through the written, spoken, and heard Word. Thanks be to God!

Mary J. Moerbe
NOMINATIONS
Call for 2013 Nominations
This year at our annual conference, we will have the opportunity to select a Vice-President, Treasurer, Member-at-Large for Conference Logistics, and Member-at-Large for Membership.
Please study the duties and prerequisites for each position in our By-Laws. If you need a copy of our Constitution and By-Laws, please feel free to contact our CDC Secretary, Jennifer Phillips, or you may print a copy of our CDC website.

According to our By-Laws, all nominations must be received 60 days prior to the beginning of our business meeting June 19, 2013. Therefore, all nominations must be submitted prior to April 20, 2013.

Nominations may be submitted to nominating@concordiadeaconessations.org by mail to Deaconesses Lauren Olsen 6821 Main St. Union, IL 61808.

Serving as your Nominating Committee: Lauren Olsen (Chairman), Liz Borth, and Jane Obersat.

FREE ONLINE SWEET PEPPIC RESOURCE
You have likely heard of wikipedia. It is a website where people add and edit pages themselves, resulting in a free encyclopedia.

In a related move toward free access, people have been gathering and donating free sheet music at www.cpdl.org, calling it the "ChoralWiki, home of the Choral Public Domain Library." The pieces are either public domain or licensed such that one can use them free of any charge or need to ask permission! It is a large site, and well worth visiting.

About 6 million kids in the United States receive special education, according to the U.S. Department of Education. One out of every 10 children under the age of 14 has some type of special need, which includes any physical, cognitive, or medical disability, or chronic or life-threatening illness.

Last year, I read an article by Maria Lin titled “Things You Don’t Know About A Special Needs Parent” from the Huffington Post (March 9, 2012). It outlined in secular terms some of the joys and challenges she has experienced as a “special needs parent.”

She elaborates on the following seven things:
1. I am tired.
2. I am jealous.
3. I feel alone.
4. I am scared.
5. I wish you would stop saying, “rehabbed,” “short bus,” “as healthy.”
6. I am human.
7. I want to talk about my son.

Dear friends in Christ,

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed! Alleluia!

Lutheran Christians have long been accustomed of ignoring the Holy Spirit by our brethren in other parts Christendom. Such accusations are unfair. As in all areas of the Faith once delivered to the Saints we strive to confess what the Holy Trone God gives us to say in His Word, the Bible. And, so, what is predicated of any person of the Trinity may be said of the other persons with the exception of certain aspects of the Incarnation that were ceded to the Son by the Father and the Spirit.

That, however, does not mean that all three persons of the Trinity were not at work during the time that the Son, Jesus, made His dwelling bodily on the earth.

In fact, we know that the angel was sent by the Father to Mary and that the Holy Spirit came upon her so that what was in her should be called, “the Son of God.”

After His birth, the Christ child grew in the Spirit. The Father and the Spirit manifested themselves at His Baptism and both departed in the hour of His death as Jesus said, “Father into your hands I commit my Spirit.” Truly in that moment of time God the Son was dead for you, specifically for your forgiveness, your eternal life and the forgiveness and life of all other people as well.

The Holy Spirit has a role in the Easter story too, although a typically “behind the scenes” one. Yes, I know there are those who might be thinking, “there you go again, supposing the Spirit,” but to think so is to ignore Biblical truths.

Remember that Jesus Himself said, “When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth, for He will not speak on His own authority” (John 16:13). And, “He will glorify me, for He will take what is mine and declare it to you” (John 16:14).

Indeed, it was the work of the Holy Spirit that opened the eyes of the women, and later the disciples, to see by faith that Jesus had risen from the dead on that first Easter day.

Likewise it is the work of the Spirit that opens your eyes to see yourself present for by means of the Word and the Sacraments. That is exactly why St. Paul wrote that he was “set apart for the gospel of God, which He promised.”

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CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE
On behalf of CMS’s Office of National Mission, I am pleased to inform CDC members that scholarships are available to attend the annual CDC conference in Fort Wayne, Ind., for those sisters who have financial constraints. The amount will be determined by those who have financial constraints. The amount will be determined by the need of the individual. If you are interested in availing yourself of this opportunity, please email or call me before April 30, 2013. Please know that confidentiality is maintained in not revealing the names of recipients. Scholarship money is distributed on a first come, first served, basis. Thank you for your humble services to the Lord.

In Christ,
Grace Rao

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ANNOUNCEMENTS
Help at Synodical Convention: Are you going to attend the Synod Convention in St. Louis this summer? Do you live in St. Louis and want a reason to check out the convention? Do you want to go to St. Louis this summer? If so, we need your help to host the CDC exhibit and raise awareness with convention attendees of deaconesses and ways we serve.

From Saturday, July 20 to Thursday, July 25, CDC representatives will be at the convention to highlight the work we do every day. This is a great chance to spread the word about deaconesses, discuss the benefits of having a synodically trained deaconess, and how the CDC serves our Synod.

Please consider sharing your time in St. Louis to help us. Please contact Doris Snashal at snashal@pacbell.net if you are interested. We hope to get enough volunteers to take shifts at the exhibit.

Purdue University Higher Things Exhibit
Ladies, how many of you will be attending the Higher Things Conference at Purdue University, July 9-12? We are looking at the possibility of hosting an exhibit table. If there are enough of us going that we could take turns staffing it without neglecting our youth. Please e-mail Kimberly Fetz by March 30 at deacon.kimberly@gmail.com if you are planning to attend and would be willing to take a table shift or two.

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LETTER CONCLUSION
AND A SEASONAL QUOTATION FROM LUTHER

“. . . beforehand through His prophets in the holy Scriptures, concerning His Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by His resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord…” (Romans 1:1b-4).

Blessed be our God, the Holy Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, that He works in unison for us! As you bask in the joy of Jesus’ Resurrection this Easter season, pray for an extra measure of God’s Spirit that your joy would be to know nothing more than Jesus Christ and Him Crucified and Risen for you and all the people whom you meet.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Loughran

"In the bonds of Death He lay
Who for our offence was slain;
But the Lord is risen to-day,
Christ hath brought us life again,
Wherefore let us all rejoice,
Singing loud, with cheerful voice,
Hallelujah!"

Martin Luther

"En los lazos de la Muerte ponía
Quien por nuestra ofensiva fue muerto;
Pero el Señor ha resucitado hoy en día,
Cristo nos dio vida de nuevo,
Y por eso nos regocijamos,
Cantando alto, con voz alegre,
¡Aleluya!"

Martin Lutero