

***Donald Diekmann - A Lifetime of Service to LMAC***

After many years serving as secretary on LMAC's Executive Committee, Don Diekmann decided it was time to step down. But like everything he does, he wanted to assure there would be no disruption of service, so he found his own replacement. He has also agreed to serve as secretary emeritus for as long as he's needed.

Don is a member of St. Paul and has been married to his wife, Phyllis, for 63 years. Their children are Gary, deceased in 2013, and Carolyn who lives in Bloomington, IN, and is married to Rev. Richard Woelmer, campus pastor at Indiana University. They have 5 grandchildren. Don retired in 1992 from a business career of sales management. His mother was the daughter of Rev. John Ambacher who was called to Trinity Darmstadt as their Pastor in the early 1920's. Don's mother taught first and second grade for 8 years at Trinity Lutheran School, Evansville.

We often hear it said that "he" or "she" has been doing that all their lives. With Don and his commitment to LMAC it's literally true. He began his service with LMAC (formerly Lutheran Mission Society of Greater Evansville) at the age of 8. The Soci-



Donald Diekmann

ety, after much research and prayerful consideration, decided to plant a church, in the mid-1930's, in Evansville's predominantly black community. His mother, an accomplished organist and pianist, volunteered to play the piano for services to be held in the Cherry Street Library basement in the inner city. For her prelude and postlude she needed Don to turn the pages of her music when she nodded her head. That was his beginning service to what is now known as LMAC. The new church grew in numbers, and a decision was made to

build a church building on Gum Street and name it Grace Lutheran. LMAC has been instrumental in the planting of other churches - Concordia, Messiah, Peace, Owensboro, Shepherd of Paradise, and Our Saviour - most during Don's service on the board as secretary.

LMAC's vision has been and continues to be to provide service and assistance to the churches of the East and West Evansville Circuits of the Indiana District. In 2009 that vision included building The Lutheran Community Outreach Center at 16 E. Michigan St., Evansville, to house the Lutheran Community Food Pantry and offices for Bethesda Lutheran Communities and Evansville Lutheran Family Counseling, Inc. This building is also used for St. Paul's Chinese Mission Sunday Services and seminars with Lutheran pastors presenting on topics such as marriage and caring for the environment. Bible study groups use it for special studies as well as community groups for topics of local interest. Don has continued to be involved in all these activities.

(Continued on page 2)

**Calendar of Events**

- October 2nd -175th Anniversary Celebration Trinity, Evansville
- October 8th - Annual Soup Supper Emmanuel, Tell City
- October 16th - ELFC Open House at LCOG
- October 30th - Joint Reformation Service Emmanuel, Tell City, IN
- November 13th - 5th Anniversary Celebration of Chinese Mission, St. Paul's , Evansville

***Trinity, Evansville to Celebrate 175th Anniversary***

Trinity Lutheran Church, Evansville will celebrate its 175th anniversary on Sunday, October 2nd. Divine Service will begin at 10:00 AM followed by a fellowship time. Festivities will begin with a light lunch buffet from 12:00-1:30 PM. A brief program will follow from 1:30-2:00 PM in the school gym, tours, displays, class reunions of Trinity Lutheran School, and more will continue until 3:30. If you plan to attend the lunch please RSVP to 812-424-4785 or [Trinity3in1@att.net](mailto:Trinity3in1@att.net).

Trinity was founded in 1841 by a land grant from the town of Lamasco with the present structure being erected in 1871. Trinity is the "Mother Church of Lutherans" in the southwest Indiana tri-state area, having founded most of the Lutheran congregations in this region. A total of thirteen pastors have shepherded Trinity during its storied history, including its first pastor the Rev. Andrew Saupert and its present pastor the Rev. Dr. Martin Noland. Trinity Lutheran School was established in 1846 and merged with two other Lutheran schools (St. Paul's and Our Redeemer) in 1971 to create Evansville Lutheran School. Trinity has been a member of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod since 1854.



## ***Clergy Corner***

**Name:** Rev. Matthew P. Schilling

**Church:** St Paul's Lutheran Church, Evansville, IN.

**Length of Time at Present Church:** 3 years 8 months (as of 9-6-16)

**Other Locations Served in Full-Time Capacity::**

Vicarage: Mt. Olive Lutheran, Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

Assistant Pastor- Youth: St Peter's Lutheran Church, Conover, North Carolina (4 ½ years)

**Why I became an LCMS Pastor:** Originally I wanted to be a Lutheran high school teacher. It was during my time at Concordia University Wisconsin the Lord guided me to follow a different plan in using my talents to serve His people by preaching, teaching, and administering His good and gracious gifts. I switched my major from secondary education to pre-seminary studies near the end of my sophomore year. My aunts at my home congregation (Trinity Lutheran, Altenburg, MO) had been praying for some time that the Lord would lead me to be a pastor instead of a teacher so they were glad to hear their prayers had been answered. The faithfulness to God's Word by the people that make up the LCMS defined me to become who I am as a child of God. I wanted to give back in service to the Lord for what He has blessed me with, the forgiveness and eternal life He provides to me by Jesus Christ's cross and tomb, as I proclaim the Law and Gospel to the world that desperately needs to hear it.

**Family and other personal information I would like to share:** I was born and raised in Southeast Missouri on a beef cattle farm outside of the town of Altenburg, Missouri. During my time at Concordia University Wisconsin I began dating a wonderful lady, Karen Reimers, who I would go on to marry after completing my first year of seminary in June 2005. Karen and I are proud parents to Micah (5 years old) and Clara (21 months old).



**Pastor Schilling and Family**

## ***Join Reformation Service October 30<sup>th</sup> in Tell City***

Please join your fellow LCMS members at this year's Joint Reformation Service to be held at Emmanuel Luther Church, 1105 Pestalozzi Street, Tell City, IN on October 30th at 3:00 PM CST. The Reverend Rodger Sassaman, Peace, Owens-

boro, KY will be the guest preacher. Because of the distance and there having not been enough interest to make it feasible to rent a bus, please check with other LCMS members to see if they are interested in carpooling with you to this event.

### **Evansville Lutheran Family Counseling - Open House October 16th**

On October 16<sup>th</sup>, ELFC will celebrate their 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by hosting an open house at the LCOC from 3:30 to 5:30. In addition to giving you the opportunity to meet James Karns, their licensed professional therapist, tour their offices and be introduced to all the services they offer, special recognition will be made to Rita Soeken for 18 years of faithful service. Snacks, desserts and drinks will be served.

**Everyone is welcome!**

### ***Donald Diekmann (cont.)***

Don has always been active in the Lutheran community by serving as the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Elder and evangelism committee chairperson for his church, the Thrivent Build's housing specialist for Habitat, Secretary and board member of the Evansville Lutheran School Foundation, President of the board who built 148 apartment units called Horizon Homes at the corner of Covert & Burdette Aves., Manager of Luther Village Trust, which provides \$1,000 annual scholarships for students attending a Concordia col-

lege or seminary and as a Congregation Service Assistant for the Indiana District.

Terry Lampton, President of LMAC, had this to say about Don: "I have been blessed to have had a number of amazing men who were outstanding leaders, great examples and mentors to me during my church work. Don has been all that and more. His demonstrated love for his Lord and everyone he comes in contact with should be emulated by all, and he and Phyllis have been great ambassadors for the LCMS throughout our local community."

### **CONTACTS & SUPPORT**

Have something you would like included in our quarterly LMAC Concord? Please send it to:

Shelby Hoffman:  
[shelbyrh57@gmail.com](mailto:shelbyrh57@gmail.com)

or

Terry Lampton:  
[tklampton@wowway.com](mailto:tklampton@wowway.com)

If you'd like to support the work of LMAC please send your tax exempt donation to:

Lutheran Mission Action Council  
16 East Michigan St., Ste. A  
Evansville, IN 47711

Our website: [lmac-evansville.org](http://lmac-evansville.org)