

# President Holst Looks Forward; Christmas Season Offers Renewal, Peace

I loved the production of "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." The singing, dancing, acting, visual effects and orchestra pleased the senses and teased the emotions. It also held up a mirror to life. Too often we make life a cabaret flirting with the present or moaning for the good old days. Or we wail as if to the beat of country western over self-inflicted wounds that

carry pain. Or we squeal for dominant Elvis-like folk idols with influence, egos and insecurities. We may "hide our hopes and our heads in sand" and overlook the beauty in life's multicolored coat of beautiful experiences. Life is not a drab, imposed routine. Joseph would say, "Take time to dream."

Ending one semester, beginning another, preparing for

Christmas, and moving from an old year into a new year also challenges our ability to dream. Recently, in Rome, Italy, I saw several marble busts of the ancient Roman god Janus. Janus gives name to our month of January because Janus was the god of entryways, rising and setting of the sun, or general endings and beginnings. You can always identify a statue of Janus because he is

two faced. One face looks forward and one looks back. One bust that I admired had Janus with a vibrant, energetic face looking forward with a tired, weary face looking back. I can identify with the latter face this time of year. Challenges faced, issues addressed, pressures felt and work completed

produce fatigue. Fatigue can forfeit dreams.

However, semester break, holy days and a new semester promise rest for the weary and new opportunities for the dreamers. May your semester break give you an energetic face looking forward. Put on your multicolored dream coat. For me, as a Christian,

the Message of Christmas strengthens my faith and lifts my spirits. I think again of the reality of God's love. I sing again that Jesus, Son of Mary and Son of God, brings the humanity of God into human history with divine saving love in teaching, healing, forgiving, suffering, dying and rising. Such faith brings peace. It also serves as a foundation and launching pad for dreams. May the semester break provide more than time for rest and relaxation. May the holiday season bless you with time for spiritual reflection and renewal. Take time to praise God. Take time to dream.

-President Bob Holst

## House of Worship Profile: St. Michael Lutheran Church

By Alisha Polivka

St. Michael Lutheran Church of Missouri Synod can be found at 9201 Normandala Blvd. in Bloomington Minnesota. St. Michael's offers four services throughout the week: Saturday evening at 5:00pm, Sunday morning at 8:15 or 10:45 a.m., and Monday evenings at 7:00 p.m. Pastor Christopher Dodge officiates all four services.

At St. Michael one will feel immediately at home because of the warm atmosphere and the kind people.

St. Michael's makes its visitors feel very welcome and is happy to greet new faces.

Each service is usually accompanied by a praise team, which includes singers, gui-

tarists, a drummer, and a pianist. They lead the congregation in contemporary music.

The sermons all have power points, making it a lot easier to follow, understand, and stay focused.

The mission statement of St. Michael's is "to make your life count by extending hope in Christ, transforming lives through Christ, and empowering people for Christ's work." St. Michael's church is alive and growing.

One will experience Christian warmth, friendliness, and acceptance.

This is true because Jesus Christ is their cornerstone, the Bible is their foundation, and God's grace in the Gospel is their guiding power.

St. Michael's welcomes vis-

itors and congregants in the Savior's name and stands ready to assist them in every spiritual need. They are here to make life count by counting on Christ.

St. Michael offers a variety of Bible studies for all ages.

The Bible studies are offered on Sundays as well as during the week. St. Michael believes that persons of all ages need opportunities to grow in their faith and commitment to Jesus Christ.

St. Michael Lutheran Church is a wonderful church especially for college-aged students because its services are so contemporary.

Concordia students who are looking for a place to worship the Lord that is relatively close to Concordia should visit St. Michael Lutheran Church.

## Note From The Editor:

In the November 2001 issue of The Sword, an article titled "Where Was God?" was attributed in error to a Sword reporter. In fact, the piece was an e-mail forward that the submitter intended to be credited as such. The Sword regrets that it mistakenly attributed the work of another to its reporter and apologizes to the Concordia community for the error.

**note to self:** Think about how smart I'll look to mom and dad when they find out I am having UPS pay for my college expenses.

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