Called to Excellence

by Nancy Teets

“I want you to stress these things, so that those who have trusted in God may be careful to devote themselves to doing what is good. These things are excellent and profitable for everyone,” Titus 3:8.

Every day, hundreds of secretaries, administrative assistants, business managers, and other office personnel, head to work at Michigan District, LCMS congregations across the state. Many times, these workers offer flexibility, long hours, and a smile on their face as they support the ministry of the church.

On occasion, the question arises, “What do you do in the church all day?” The temptation is to take offense. But upon further examination, it is a good question to ponder now and then asking, “Am I being the support person I feel God has called me to be … to the pastor or teachers … to the people? Am I focusing on people or tasks? Am I just putting in my time to get a paycheck?”

A church office worker’s love for God and His people is often very evident when anyone enters the door for the first time or for the hundredth time. They talk with those in need, listen to their story, and try to help or give a referral. Church office workers offer opportunities for people to serve Christ and His Church. They are the hub of communication. And, most importantly, feel called by Christ to do their work to the best of their ability, knowing that, in Christ, it will be made excellent and profitable.

Every two years, the Michigan District, LCMS and Church Extension Fund of the Michigan District join together and shower appreciation upon these diligent church office workers and provide learning opportunities by hosting the Office Personnel Conference. This year’s conference, “Called to Excellence,” is being held at the Bavarian Inn in Frankenmuth, May 1-3. Keynote speakers include Rev. Dr. Robert E. Kasper of St. Peter, Macomb (“Devoted to Doing What is Good”) and Gretchen Jameson of purePR (“Engage! The Unlimited Potential of Smart Social Strategy”). Breakout sessions include training and support in the areas of financial and legal matters, assimilation, team work, easy web page design, publicity and marketing, working and worshipping in the same church, and how social media can be used for God’s glory.

The committee, lead by Danella Joslin (Immanuel, Grand Rapids), invites all church and school secretaries, administrative assistants, business managers, and other office personnel to attend. It is the committee’s hope that each pastor, congregational chairperson, and/or financial officer will encourage and fund its office staff’s attendance. More conference information and online registration is available at www.michigandistrict.org/opc.

Nancy Teets has served Lutheran Church of the Lakes, Addison for 17 years, currently as its parish administrator. She and her husband, Harry, have five children and are expecting their 10th grandchild in September.