

Tri- Circuit Chicagoland English District Pastors Conference

January, 2006

Dear Pastor:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

The Rev. David Krueckeberg, a member of this conference, has served his Lord's Church for over 35 years as pastor to workers at two Chicago area thoroughbred racetracks. In his ministry he has had unlimited access to the stable areas to mingle with his "congregation" of horse caretakers. He has also advocated for better living conditions for the horse caretakers at racetracks. This word and sacrament ministry over the years has helped racetrack children receive a Christian education at Grace Lutheran School, 28th & Karlov, Chicago, and at Walther Lutheran High, Melrose Park. For the last few years 30 students per year have attended Grace. In 2003 one student graduated from Walther, with two more in 2004. Currently five are enrolled there.

Because of his advocacy regarding living conditions at racetracks, in 2003 he was banned from Hawthorne Racetrack, and in 2004 Arlington Park (owned by Churchill Downs, Inc.) banned him as well. This letter is an effort to mobilize support for "Rev. Dave" in his attempt to be re-instated with unlimited access to his "congregation." These are people he has known for years, baptizing many, officiating at the marriages of many, counseling with many, and also laying some to their final rest in the Lord.

We would urge you to join the following Church leaders in promoting this petition and signing it yourself.

"I urge you to give serious consideration to this matter. It is an issue of care and concern for ministry to people who can be reached in no other way than in the stable area because they live there."

The Rev. William Ameiss, President, Northern Illinois District, LCMS

"God bless the conscientious work of Pastor Dave Krueckeberg. We know that when we lift our voice on behalf of people suffering injustice, we too shall face similar injustice. I hope the broadest Lutheran and Christian community participates in this boycott."

The Rev. Matthew Harrison, LCMS World Relief & Human Care

"Pastor David Krueckeberg has faithfully ministered at the thoroughbred racetracks since graduating from the seminary. As a classmate I know that this ministry has fulfilled his dream to minister to the backstretch people! To deny him access to his people is an injustice that severely devalues the spiritual life and well being of people with special needs. His desire and willingness to serve in this unique ministry is something to be treasured. I cannot endorse the action that has removed him from his people and I encourage you to consider joining us in the petition drive. I would encourage Christians to join in this boycott."

The Rev. Daniel May, President, Indiana District, LCMS

(Note: Off track betting sites are located throughout most states. E.g. No racetrack is located near Fort Wayne, Indiana but a short bike ride from Concordia Theological Seminary is an off track betting site, Trackside, 1820 West Washington Center Road, owned by Churchill Downs, Inc.)

"I urge you to add your signature to many others pleading to give access again to Pastor Dave Krueckeberg for the vital, compassionate ministry he provides to those who work in the stable

areas of the racetracks.”

The Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael, President, Florida-Georgia District, LCMS

"I would encourage you to consider joining us in the petition drive. Pastor Krueckeberg has been a faithful pastor of our Synod serving in a difficult ministry for many, many years. He has been denied access to his people, and needs to be returned to them. I hope that you will be able to help."

The Rev. Dr. Roger Pittelko, President Emeritus, English District, LCMS

"I encourage you to join in the petition drive in restoring the ministry and person of Rev. David Krueckeberg to Hawthorne and Arlington Park racetracks stable areas. This pastor has served the thoroughbred racetracks since 1969 and has done incredible ministry to the backstretch people of the tracks for over 35 years."

The Rev. Dr. David Ritt, President, English District, LCMS

"Prayerfully consider signing this petition and adding your name to the ranks of those who believe it is important to extend God's mercy and love to those in every walk of life. Our witness must not be muted. No one is to be deprived of the abundant and eternal life we share in Jesus Christ."

The Rev. Kurtis Schultz, President, Southern District, LCMS

Whether you attend races or are a bettor is not the question. This is a petition in support of a pastor's ministry. Thank you for your time in reviewing this important ministry, and we pray God's blessings upon the actions we together take on behalf of our Brother, Dave Krueckeberg.

In the Savior's name,

The Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick
Coordinator, Tri-Circuit Chicagoland
English District Pastors Conference

c/o Redeemer Lutheran Church
345 South Kenilworth Avenue
Elmhurst, Illinois 60126
Fax: 630- 834-1462
Email: rlc345@Juno.com

To save on cost this letter does not have your individual name, Pastor.

Please make additional copies of this petition as needed for additional signatures, and when done gathering signatures, send the signed copies of the petition to each of the following:

1. Illinois Racing Board, Chairman Lorna E. Propes, 100 W. Randolph, Suite 7-701, Chicago, Illinois 60601 (Please send the ORIGINAL copy to the "IRB.")
2. Thomas H. Meeker, President and Chief Executive Officer, Churchill Downs, Inc., 700 Central Avenue, Louisville, Kentucky 40208 (photocopy)
3. Hawthorne Racecourse, Thomas Carey III, President, 3501 South Laramie Avenue, Cicero, Illinois 60804 (photocopy)
4. The Rev. Robert Fitzpatrick, Redeemer Lutheran Church, 345 South Kenilworth Avenue, Elmhurst, Illinois 60126; Fax: 630-834-1462 (photocopy or fax)

If you know of other entities (i.e., racing, media, etc.) who should receive copies of the signed petition, please feel free to send them on as you see best.

