

In Nomine Jesu
Rev. Stephen H. Funck

Chaplain Correctional Institutions
3107 Louise Avenue
Baltimore MD 21214
410/444-6692

November 28, 1994

Mr. Robert W. Malzahn
Baltimore Lutheran Schools
1145 Concordia Drive
Towson, MD 21286 825-2323

Dear Mr. Malzahn,

After Stephanie attended the visitation day for 6th graders, I wrote Ms. Seaborn, asking about the clergy discount and financial aid. Her response was that I would be ineligible for the discount and aid was very limited. In reality there is no way we can afford the cost. I am writing this appeal, asking that, you, BLHS, make it possible for Stephanie to attend.

Lynne and I do not normally ask for things or complain when we do not get, what we expected to receive. The Lord calls us to be patient, turn the other cheek, forgive both deliberate and inadvertent injury. However, Christian parents cannot keep silent when their children are hurt. Our God-given task is to protect and care for them. I feel it may be our silence and desire not to offend that enabled others to overlook us without realizing the severe consequences of their actions in our lives. Because of our responsibility for Stephanie and unwillingness to permit her to be harmed, we are making this appeal so strongly and asking others to support it.

Beginning with the simplest item, By current position, I am ineligible for the clergy discount. Would you take into account the 14 years I served as Pastor of a BLHS Association church? Perhaps worth noting is the fact that nearly all that time, I was one of the lowest paid clergy in the SED if not in the entire LCMS.

Another consideration is much more than Lynne's 16 years service at Calvary. Her reputation, dedication and excellence are well known. Last spring with two positions open at Calvary, one in 2nd grade, we were so hopeful. After being passed over all those other times, this time had to be it. We knew even the school children were happy, sure she would be one of the teachers. Her name was submitted by a teacher, though such an obvious candidate certainly did not need submission. The lowest spot on Calvary's scale is effectively \$10,000 more than our combined income including the net from our Laundromat.

Your wife, as Principal at Calvary, is well aware not only of Lynne's love for Calvary School but also our need. Four of the past five years she has been involved with us in some way when we received AAL Thanksgiving Baskets. You might count in the average 15% rate of giving to Calvary over those years and beyond until it became impossible to continue. Her heart is in our school and in teaching. Even now she volunteers large amounts of time there. When she substitutes now she gives 100% of the pay to our "Trust God and Grow" building program.

With her Masters +30 in Reading, the only public school openings for Lynne would be in the worst classes in the worst schools. She did not get that advanced training to go into heavy combat but to be the very best teacher possible for Calvary students. With her experience and training, she does have a higher position on the Salary Scale. Calling her back to teach at Calvary may have a negative impact on staff salary increases. Still I find it hard to imagine that our staff would be proud to have their increases at the cost of Lynne's deep impoverishment. When you take into account her exceptional giving, she may have been less costly than someone lower on the scale with average contributions.

While I am being bold in making this request for special consideration, I expect any assistance to be carried as a loan. It will be repaid in full from the net increase in our income either when Lynne is called back to teaching or when I am compensated for my ministry. Of course, we would accept a gift if offered instead of the loan.

We could at present perhaps slightly increase our incomes. Lynne could stop tutoring at \$25+ an hour and take a clerk's wage. One fourth the hourly rate for five times as many hours does mean a net increase, but it is not a very desirable or wise trade. I could stop ministering at the City Jail and increase my income by perhaps \$40 a week. But that ministry is vital to me spiritually and emotionally. I would lose the contributions given to support it and the opportunity to be considered for a paid chaplaincy. Again, it is not an attractive option. White middle-aged men, middle managers, which is what clergy are, are a glut on the employment market. If we did both, we still could not afford to pay the cost of sending Stephanie to BLHS. Our only reasonable hope for decent wages is in doing what we were called and trained to do.

We have been left in deep poverty by the choice of our brothers and sisters in Christ, who have passed us over and selected others for positions for which we are qualified. That has caused us great suffering. We had expected to have been asked back into the teaching and/or pastoral ministries. That would have made this letter unnecessary. Even now, it is quite possible that if you would extend this "Special Consideration" it would not actually be given. By next fall, either Lynne or I could be in positions that would allow us to pay the costs in full.

Your Servant in the Lord,
Stephen H. Funck Lynne S. K. Funck

P.S.: When I went to BLHS for visitation day I saw many and learned many thing and would like to go there for 7-12. SLF

P.P.S.: I would also like to go to BLHS for 7-12. KLF

Stephanie L. Funck Katherine L. Funck

CC: Maack, Kretzschmar, Hawkins, et al.

Soli Deo Gloria

Baltimore City Detention Center 401 East Eager Street Baltimore MD 21201

The Southeastern District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod