

The Spirit of Southern

Web Edition – November/December, 2014



Christmas Possibilities

“The angel answered, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you.’” (Luke 1:35a)

It's busy December again. The list of things to do before the 31st is endless. For most of us the task of getting to the New Year, with everything done, may seem impossible. In a small way this month reflects other moments of life; times when we have been faced with situations clearly beyond human ability; times when we felt totally unprepared and unequipped for the job at hand; times when it would be simpler to quit and admit our limitations. The “impossible” may have been the mending of a broken relationship, the leaving of a destructive habit, or having a healthy family in an unhealthy world. You can certainly think of one if not many “impossibilities” you have or are facing.

Mary was faced with just such an “impossibility”. The angel Gabriel had proclaimed to her how she, a virgin, would bear a Son who was unique and without precedent. Not only would he be “the Son of the Most High,” but “the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David...and His kingdom will never end.” Mary does not question that such a child is beyond God's powers; she does wonder how it is possible for her, a virgin, to bear such a son. Gabriel answers her questioning thoughts with “The Holy Spirit will

come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you...for nothing is impossible with God.” (v. 35a, 37) She would receive the creative presence of God's Spirit. As God in his grace, through his Holy Spirit, had created faith in her, he now would create a child in her. He would enable the humanly impossible to become possible because he has desired it.

God in his goodness provides each of us with seemingly impossible situations. They reveal our ineptitude and weakness, and yet are not meant to be stumbling blocks to our faith. They are instead times for us to receive anew the creative gracious power of his life giving Christmas Spirit.

Every Christmas we celebrate the Father's Spirit created gift of Jesus whose presence is given to all of us sinners who are facing the humanly impossible situation of death.

God was born through the womb of a simple virgin. He came to us in human form so that though a cross, we could be freed from the deadly grip of our sin. In what seemed an “impossibility”, God incarnate became “possible” among us.

Christmas proclaims that when the Father, by his Word, wills it through the overshadowing power of his Holy Spirit. “...nothing is impossible with God.

Let us like Mary believe in You, and glorify You oh God, in all the impossibilities we face. Amen

Rev. Kurtis D. Schultz, President, Southern District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



74th Convention of the Southern District-LCMS
June 4-5, 2015
Concordia College Alabama - Selma, AL
<http://southernlcms.org/district-convention>

2015 District Convention Deadlines Approaching

Feb. 1, 2015 – Nominations For District Offices Feb. 15, 2015 – Memorials For Convention Consideration

Prior to the February 1st deadline, congregations are asked to prayerfully consider candidates and submit nominations for district officers. These include the district president, four vice-presidents, fourteen circuit visitors (formerly counselors), the Southern District board of directors, three members of the board of regents of Concordia College - Selma, the Southern District Church Extension Fund board of directors, a nominating committee to guide the next district convention nomination process, and a layperson to serve on the national convention nominating committee. Every congregation is encouraged to submit nominations so that all positions have multiple nominations, and our district will be represented in the next triennium by leaders/boards as diverse in membership as

the diversity of our congregations.

Congregations planning to submit memorials for consideration by the convention are reminded that the deadline is February 15th.

Congregations should be in the process of selecting lay delegates to attend the district convention. It is preferable that the lay delegate be spiritually mature and have a good understanding of the gospel-driven, mission-focus of the Scriptures, district, and congregation. Delegates must be willing to thoroughly prepare themselves prior to the convention, and be present at the convention from opening worship through closing gavel.

Southern District Newcomers' Orientation

“As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good shepherds of God’s varied grace.” 1Peter 4:10



The Southern District welcomed its newest “good shepherds” with a two day orientation on Oct. 20-21. President Kurtis Schultz, Rev. Eric Johnson, and Mr. Glenn Gerber, with additional presentations by Rev. Steve Linck and Mr. Gene Menzel, guided the newcomers through various aspects of the district’s operations and expectations, overall

views of their varied ministries, and provided opportunities for networking, conversation, and counseling.

Several spouses and children enlivened the event with their presence as all participated in fellowship and, of course, good southern Louisiana food and hospitality! Welcome to these shepherds in Christ’s mission field.

Muriel Budzeyko

Youth and Adult Leaders Meet

200 Youth and Adults gathered for the 2014 Junior Youth Gatherings. We are grateful for the ministry of Pastor Chris Brynestad who served as presenter. “Wisdom” was the theme with the following sessions: Wise People Work with Others, Wise People Seek Knowledge and Wise People Stay Focused. The participants each received a 31 day challenge to read the book of Proverbs, one chapter per day.

providing resources and support. Watch the district web page for updates shortly.

CLYFR (Council for Lutheran Youth Fellowship Representatives) will be March 12-15, 2015. The youth committee selects 3 youth to attend this training which prepares our youth to be leaders in the congregations now and in the future. Those who attend will be asked to share what they have learned with their church, and with other churches in the district. Information for nominating youth from your congregation is on the district web page.

Plans are still be worked on for our Southern District Mission Trip in July of 2015. Details will be posted soon.

Cindy Namanny

Schools & Development

The 2014 – 2015 school year is just about half over. Our Southern District schools have had a good start this year with some of them showing significant increases in enrolment. Presently, the district has 30 schools. We have 17 preschools, 12 elementary schools and one high school. Nationally, the Missouri Synod has 1,285 preschools, 880 elementary schools, and 90 high schools. Missouri Synod schools have 21,256 teachers, of which, 10,658 are synodically trained.

Forty percent of LC-MS congregations have schools. Does your church have a Lutheran School? If not, and you are interested in finding out more about starting one, please contact me at the Southern District Office. Having a Lutheran School is one of the best decisions a congregation can make. Here are some reasons why:

> Lutheran Schools are among the best Christian Schools in the nation. > The Lutheran connection ensures faithfulness to Christ and God's word. > Our Lutheran School teachers are highly trained and qualified. They not only have to meet state standards, but also Lutheran Teacher standards. > Lutheran Schools provide a loving, caring and safe environment.> Every student in a Lutheran Schools hears about the saving love of Jesus every day. >

Lutheran Schools are academically excellent meeting, and almost always exceeding, state and national test scores. > Lutheran Schools are thoroughly Christ-centered, evangelical, and Bible based; committed to planting and nurturing a Christian worldview in students' lives, lifestyles and hearts. > Lutheran Schools identify future Lutheran Church workers, Christian leaders for our schools, communities, country and world.

On November 23 – 25 the Southern District hosted its annual Teachers' Conference. The opening service was held at St. John - New Orleans, and the conference was held at Atonement - Metairie. Thanks to both of these schools for taking a leadership role in this conference.

I also want to thank the Conference Committee for a job well done. The committee members are as follows:

Donna Muller, President	Atonement -Metairie, LA
Doug Molin, Secretary	Atonement - Metairie, LA
Josh Swartz, Vice President	Grace - Huntsville, AL
Alan Cypher, Treasurer	Grace - Huntsville, AL

I am very proud of our Southern District schools, and the ministry they are doing in serving the students of our district. Thanks to all of the congregations who have schools, and thanks to all of the teachers who serve them.

Glenn Gerber, Executive Director; Schools and Development

Concordia College Alabama – Selma, AL

Concordia College – Selma, AL recently hosted the 79th annual Association of Lutheran College Faculties (ALCF) Conference on October 3-4, 2014. Concordia faculty, as well as 150 professors from Lutheran colleges and universities across the United States came to attend the conference. The theme for this year's conference was "Lutheran Higher Education in a World of Inequality: Challenges and Opportunities for the 21st century."

The main purpose of the ALCF Conference is to provide opportunities for sharing research, pedagogy, and fellowship among the faculty and staff of colleges affiliated with Lutheran denominations and for Lutherans teaching in colleges and universities not associated with the church.

Conference attendees participated in breakout sessions where they discussed topics such as the importance of diversity in higher

education, and the use of 21st century technology in the classroom.

The keynote speaker for the event was former President and CEO of the Lutheran World Relief, Rev. Dr. John Nunes. Dr. Nunes currently serves as the Emil and Elfriede Jochum Chair at Valparaiso University where he supports the study of Christian values in public and professional life.

Abby Campbell

Camp Restore

At Camp Restore we've made two special additions to our mission this year in the form of the Lower 9th Ward and New Orleans East Senior Centers! Located at Trinity-Claiborne and Camp Restore, respectively, they operate Monday through Friday and are open to anyone over 60. Most of the funding comes from the City of New Orleans and federal Community Block Development Grants.

We've also been blessed with some gifts that supply materials and help support the food program for the centers. Virtually all of the participants are in the very low end of the economic spectrum and our centers supply them with a generous meal for lunch that is prepared by our own Mrs. Lorraine. For some it is the only meal of the day.

Making it all happen are four special people, our newest staff members (pictured l-r): Claude A. Steward, Sr., Director of Lower 9th Ward Senior Center; Mirenda DeBose, Director of New Orleans East Senior Center; Andrea Sanchez Reese, Lower 9th Ward Senior Center Activities



Coordinator; and Courtney Martin, New Orleans East Senior Center Activities Coordinator.

Read more about the work of Camp Restore's Senior Centers as well as our K+10 series of blogs about the progress made since Hurricane Katrina at www.camprestore.org.

Rev. David Goodine

Lutheran Ministries of Alabama

Friends of Lutheran Ministries of Alabama celebrated the good work of the ministry and its "works that flow from faith" in the first fall fundraiser held November 16 at Das Haus in Birmingham.

Rev. Tom Noon, president, gave an overview of the ministry formed in the 1990s as Christ's hands and feet to those in need. Sen. Cam Ward, who represents District 14 in north Alabama, lauded the ministry for its work. "Even though you are a small denomination in the state, your works are big," he said. Pictured (l-r) are Sen. Ward and Rev. Noon.



LMA, a pan-Lutheran Alabama social service ministry, provided meals and educational enrichment for 250 children from poor neighborhoods in several counties this summer through its ENRICH program.

Over 400 families who were devastated by the storms and tornadoes in April were provided with needs, from food and clothing to home repair and counseling. Storms hit homes in Jefferson, Baldwin, Blount and Mobile counties. LMA coordinates with several disaster groups and the national Lutheran Disaster Response to serve long-term needs of those who suffer loss.

LMA is supported by churches, foundations and individuals. To learn more go to www.lmal.org.

Christine Weerts

Camp Dixie



Looking back on a summer of fun and focusing on "Looking to Jesus" the many youth that spent days and weeks at Camp Dixie in 2014 not only enjoyed swimming, canoeing, crafts, campfires, singing, and making new friends, but most of all they learned what it means to "Look to Jesus" during each and every moment of their

lives. This year many of our youth also participated in the specialty Art and Wilderness Camps. Plans are underway for the summer of 2015 the theme "Anchored in Christ" based on Hebrews 6:19. Details and registration information are available on our website www.campdixieministries.org.

Summer 2014 saw the Traveling VBS team travel to 8 congregations in LA, FL, and AL, and shared with 279 children the joy of centering their lives on Jesus as their Savior. The mission of the Camp Dixie Traveling VBS program is to partner with congregations in leading a congregation-based five day VBS program for children. Reservations are already being made for summer 2015 VBS locations. For a registration form and more information about Camp Dixie Traveling VBS, check out the Camp Dixie website.

If you are looking for a place to hold your next church event, family reunion, or other event, Camp Dixie might be the place for you! Camp Dixie is available to rent during the non-summer camp months. For information email director@campdixieministries.org or call the Camp Dixie office at 251-987-1201.

Michael Stapleton

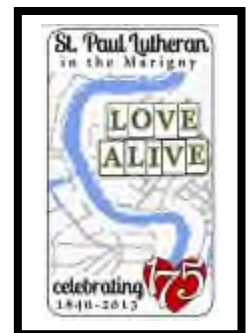
Around the District - - Congregation News

St. Paul (Marigny) – New Orleans, LA

The Golden Gate Bridge opened in 1937, the Empire State Building in 1931. The Washington Monument was completed in 1883. The Great Chicago Fire was in 1871. The Civil War ended in 1865. The California Gold Rush began in 1849. Florida and Texas both became States in 1845. What do all of these events have in common? They all happened AFTER St. Paul Lutheran Church and School was founded in the Marigny neighborhood of New Orleans in 1840!

St. Paul, the oldest Lutheran congregation in the Southern District, will celebrate her 175th Anniversary in 2015 with the theme "Love Alive at 175!" We will celebrate with 4 major events, one each quarter of the year. Each will highlight one facet of our ministry: 1) Education 2) Music 3) Founder/Legacy and 4) Arts and Community.

The first event, scheduled for the weekend of March 1, 2015, will focus on Education and our 175 year old Christian Day School. St. Paul Lutheran School, at age 175, is the second oldest continuously running school in the New Orleans area, and was one of the first schools in the city to re-open after Hurricane Katrina.



Rev. Clifford Hellmers, an alumnus of the school, will be the guest pastor. All former members, school alumni, and former faculty and staff are invited to participate in this important and celebratory event! Go to our website, stpaulmarigny.org, for more information.

To put your name on the Anniversary mailing list, please contact kevinkieschnick@hotmail.com.

Pastor Kevin Kieschnick

Ascension – Huntsville, AL



Ascension – Huntsville, AL held a New Member Reception Sunday, September 7th where we welcomed into membership more than 40 new members by profession of faith and/or transfer of membership.

Ascension welcomes Vicar Micah Glen and his wife Dorothy with their son, Jonathan. Vicar Micah will work under Pastor Bernie Ansorge as he serves his third year in the four year pastoral program at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis. Vicar Micah and his family was welcomed to the church with a potluck dinner.

Mary Engel

Grace - Huntsville, AL

The people at Grace – Huntsville, AL are busy serving the Lord! In mid-October a yard sale raised \$2,825 to help our youth group go on a mission trip to Belize this summer. Our youth held a Christmas Workshop, filling Christmas shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child; will be putting together 100 Thanksgiving boxes of food for needy families in the area; and will serve at our annual congregational Christmas Dinner where toys will be collected for the Marine Corps “Toys for Tots” program.

Twelve “Ladies of Grace” attended a LWML Mountain Lakes Zone Rally hosted by Ascension - Huntsville. Our Circles bought groceries, prepared sandwiches and delivered them to the Aquarius Club, an organization sponsored by The Mental Health Department for the disadvantaged. The group will hold a Luncheon and Fashion Show hosting mothers of the children enrolled in our Child Development Center.

Our annual school fund raiser, a German Luncheon, was a sell-out success!

Our senior group, “The Saints Alive” traveled to Aniston, AL and visited the Museum of Natural History and the Burman Museum.

We are preparing for our community outreach “Be the Church.” Groups will go into neighborhoods to help assist in home/yard repairs, prepare a neighborhood picnic, and deliver snack bags to hospital waiting rooms, among a few projects too numerous to mention.

Rosemary Sweet

Trinity – Panama City, FL



Trinity - Panama City, FL celebrated their inaugural “Homecoming!” on September 7th, kicked off by the dedication of the new, expanded parking lot. The project was adopted in 2008, and, after extensive architectural and engineering preparation, the Groundbreaking Rite was observed on May 4th of this year. The parking project included a dedicated drop-off lane along the entire front face of the building, doubled parking capacity, two additional handicapped-accessible entrances, one added parking entrance and an expanded sidewalk system for greater accessibility to all the facilities on the church grounds.

While the weather was intolerably hot, all enjoyed the parking lot dedication, “giveaways” (sunglasses and fans were the crowd favorites), morning Homecoming Fellowship, worship “Under One Tent”, bouncy-houses and games and, of course, the obligatory Oktoberfest-style picnic of brats, hot dogs, burgers and “all the fixin’s”.

Trinity hopes that in the next few years she will be able to set her sights on an additional worship facility where more and more people can congregate to hear the Love of God in the Gospel of His Son, Jesus Christ. Pray for us as we: “Share God’s Grace, Serve Others!”

Pastor Danny Koyn

Grace - Houma, LA

Grace - Houma, LA held its 15th annual Community Fall Festival October 25th on the church grounds. All proceeds benefited local charities and the Food For The Poor program. This year's charities included The Bunk House, The Terrebonne Food Bank and St. Vincent DePaul Free Pharmacy. They provide housing for the homeless, food for needy families and medicine for those who can't afford it. VBS donations were added to a donation to Food For The Poor to build a home in Haiti.

The event included Christian music and old-fashioned hay rides. A large array of food items were sold under the large main tent. Thrivent Financial manned the always popular popcorn cart in the tent where Silent Auction items were offered. The fellowship hall hosted a huge rummage sale.



Children were treated to space walks, a bungee run, games of skills and making crafts. Local vendors displayed their crafts. The festival concluded with the drawing of winners for the three raffle prizes. Church members and the local community enjoyed a fun day.

Donna Boger

Atonement – Metairie, LA

The Atonement – Metairie, LA Women's Evangelical Society of Mission Extraordinaire (AWESOME) hosted the New Orleans Zone LWML Fall Rally & Workshop on October 18. With a Bible study on Women of the Bible, the 35 ladies in attendance also enjoyed a lunch prepared and served by several men of Atonement. They prepared special personal care kits for the residents of the Jefferson Health Care Facility. The day was filled with fellowship, planning and celebration of the opportunities LWML offers to "Serve the Lord With Gladness".

Mrs. Daisy L. Olmstead

Shepherd of the Bay – Lillian, AL

On Sunday, October 12, 2014, the ladies of Shepherd of the Bay – Lillian, AL celebrated Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Sunday by assuming a major portion of the Divine Service. In honor of the occasion, the ladies wore purple, the official LWML color, and sat together during the worship service. We served as greeters, ushers, candle lighter, communion ushers, offering collectors and provided food and beverages during fellowship time after the service.

LWML is the recognized auxiliary of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. Our goals are to be leading forces in missions and ministry around the world through our sacrificial gifts of mites, tithes, offerings and tireless service. We strive to reach people of all walks of life, foreign and domestic and that our faithful labor of sacrifice and offerings may affirm our relationship with the Triune God. Another important goal is the provide materials which enable women to grow spiritually, to encourage and equip women to reach out in love, to alert members to opportunities and challenges for mission service in the church, community and world, to encourage active participation and promote greater mission consciousness in members, and to gather offerings for funding mission projects.



Marie Anderson

Good Shepherd – Gulf Breeze, FL

Sunday, November 9th was a special day at Good Shepherd – Gulf Breeze, FL with a mission festival celebrating the end of a 6 week project to raise funds to buy bricks for a Life Skills Center in Sagubo, Philippines. The center, when complete, will teach women and men sewing and other skills so they will be able to financially support themselves and their families.

The guest speaker was Pastor Emeritus, Rev. Rudy Schaser who, with his wife, Dorothy, served 12 years in the Philippines as a missionary and seminary professor. The festival was highlighted by Pastor Schaser's slide presentation on the Philippines and other ongoing mission projects in Cambodia and Madagascar supported by the organization "With God's Little Ones." Pastor Schaser and his wife serve as the directors of this Lutheran charity.



Thanks be to God for the generous donations from the congregation as well as funds from Thrivent Financial. The Schasers were presented a check by Carolyn Kassulke, Stewardship Chair (pictured l-r) in the amount of \$4,635. The Schasers were deeply moved by this and told how this event would be a real blessing as this project had just run out of money and was in danger of not being completed.

Authentic Filipino refreshments were served after both services and enjoyed by all. If you are interested and want information on the mission work of With God's Little Ones you can find them on the web at info@wglo.org or www.wglo.org.

Carolyn Kassulke

St. Stephen – New Orleans, LA

St. Stephen - New Orleans, LA. recently celebrated its 60th anniversary as a congregation with a dinner for members and guests at La Maison Creole in Harvey, LA. The invocation was given by the Rev. Aubrey Watson, pastor of Holy Cross – New Orleans, LA.

In its 60 years, St. Stephen has been served by 8 pastors and 2 assistant pastors. The Rev. Mark Hayman is our current pastor. The congregation was founded in the home of parishioners, Mr. and Mrs. Enno Schoenhardt Sr., in whose honor our fellowship hall is named.

Lila Beyer

Jehovah – Pensacola, FL

On Sunday, November 9th, the members of Jehovah – Pensacola, FL celebrated the congregation's 90th Anniversary. The Anniversary/Rally Day theme was "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" based on Lamentations 3:22-24. The guest speaker was Rev. Gregory Manning of Gloria Dei – New Orleans, LA.

The congregation is currently served by Vacancy Pastor Rev. Dr. Warren H. Davis while it is in the calling process for its next pastor.

Faith – Madison, AL

Faith - Madison, AL has been a busy place this fall. To kick things off, we had our 2nd annual "In-reach/Outreach Church Picnic and Homecoming" on September 21st. We saw old friends and made new ones while crowning a new pie-eating champion and enjoying a giant water slide among many other activities. God blessed us with the perfect picnic weather on that day!



On October 17th, we packed up and went out for a chilly night of fellowship at the pumpkin patch. Hotdogs, hayrides and a corn-field maze sure made for an evening of old-fashioned entertainment.

In the meantime, the Christian Outreach Program has continued its mission of spreading the kindness of Jesus Christ by participating in Operation Christmas Child and its Shoebox program, and repeating our "Alms for Alex" drive to help our seminarian, Alex Garber. Our OWLS (Older Wiser Lutheran Seniors) did a food drive to raise donations for a local homeless program.

We are looking forward to the holiday season and wish you all a Merry Christmas!!

Sherrie Callahan

Redeemer – Fairhope, AL

Julie Kirk, a member of Redeemer - Fairhope, AL, is currently completing her Deaconess Studies thru Concordia Theological Seminary - Fort Wayne, IN. Julie recently lost her husband, Jim, and was unsure what God's plan was for her life as a widow. She is a retired school teacher who, with Jim enjoyed traveling, grandchildren and staying active.

Julie's pastor, Rev William Parsons, Senior Pastor at Redeemer, suggested she take a trip to Fort Wayne to visit the Seminary. The trip led Julie to enroll in the Deaconess Studies program. She will spend several weeks in Fort Wayne, and complete the rest of the program online and by working with Pastor Parsons, her mentor in the practicum portion of the program. Julie says upon completion of her studies she will have many opportunities both here and abroad to serve the Lord with the gifts He has given her.



George Miller

Grace – Destin, FL

Grace - Destin, FL recently sponsored a Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon. The sit-down, homemade meal was served by a family where the father and husband is suffering terminal cancer. 80 volunteer members of Grace enjoyed fellowship, a great meal and appreciation for their service by Pastor Kevin Wendt. The event was



sponsored by the Grace Foundation and Thrivent Financial. A free-will offering from those attending allowed Grace to present the family working to support themselves with a gift of over \$700. Praise God for all His servants and for His provisions.

Leanne Andreas

Bethel – Point Clear, AL — — — — —

On October 19, 2014, the members of Bethel - Point Clear, AL celebrated their 63rd Church Anniversary and Harvest Home Festival along with the rededication of their newly renovated sanctuary and additional parking lot. Rev. Roosevelt Gray, Jr., Executive Director of Black Ministry for the LCMS, was the guest speaker. The theme was, "A Church Preaching, Teaching and Reaching a Dying World with a Living Word" based on Matthew 28:18-20.



Special recognition was given to Bruce Carnahan, pictured with Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall, for his dedication in overseeing the renovation of the sanctuary and constructing the parking lot, and volunteering to do the majority of the work with the help of some of the members. The members and pastor are indeed grateful to God for sending Bruce to us at our time of need.

After the service, dinner was served. We feasted on delicious food, the fellowship was a joy and the event was well attended. We thank God for His many blessings.

Cheryl Bagby

Grace – Pensacola, FL

In 2006, Grace – Pensacola, FL was invited to have a sister church in Eastern Europe. In October, 2006, the first team from GLC set out on the mission, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Augsburg Confession in Levice, Slovakia was started.

The team originally taught Bible study skills, prayer workshops and general organization of the church. Since then several teams have gone to Slovakia to assist with providing music and music education, health education issues, a summer family camp with songs and games, and men's Bible studies. The church now has a full time pastor in a new modern church complex with New Testament Bibles in their own language. A mission trip is planned for this coming Spring 2015 to assist with further growth of the church.

Susan McFarland

St. Paul – Picayune, MS

Pastor Brad Aumann recently celebrated his 10th year anniversary at St. Paul – Picayune, MS. Our congregation, friends and family enjoyed wonderful fellowship and, as always, a fabulous pot-luck dinner. Members of Pastor Brad's family in attendance were: Pastor Bob, Sandy, Sydney, Tiffany, Aaron and Ryleigh Aumann. God has truly blessed our church with Pastor Brad.

Patty Bornkamp

Redeemer – Pensacola, FL

Currie House of Pensacola, FL recently was the recipient of a check for \$500 from the LWML at Redeemer – Pensacola, FL, The funds were raised from their summer sale and included matching funds from Thrivent. The LWML of Redeemer has supported Currie House for a number of years, not only monetarily, but also with clothing, bedding, school supplies and special gifts at Christmas.

Currie House is a ministry of Lutheran Services Florida and offers care, comfort and counseling for runaway and homeless youths in Escambia County. All follow-up care for the youth and their families is provided at no cost to them.

Bethany – Slidell, LA — — — — —

Some Bethany – Slidell, LA members attended a Casting Crowns praise band concert on Thursday, November 13th. We caravanned from Slidell to Pensacola, FL, met for dinner and then got our "praise on" at the concert. Sidewalk Prophets and Mandisa also performed. We were truly inspired and delighted.

On Saturday, November 1st at Salmen High School Athletic Track, Bethany hosted an 'I am Second' 5k Fun Run event. We had an opportunity to show our community that we have made a choice to LIVE SECOND and put others first. Runners and walkers came out on a beautiful chilly morning to circle up and pray (pictured), participate in a Fun Run, and support "living second."

The first annual Flea Market at Bethany on October 4th was a great success! We quickly learned that it was not about making a huge amount of money but more about



meeting our neighbors and community and letting them fill up bags with what they needed for a bargain of a price! We invited outside vendors to participate and many ministries at Bethany set up tables. The youth group was on hand to wash cars and the atmosphere was warm and welcoming.

Kathy Boyea



Jennie Williamson from AriSon Records will be featured in, "The Peace and Joy of Christmas" beginning at 8:45 AM at St. Mark's – Elberta, AL on Sunday, December 7. During this busy time of year, what many people are looking for is the peace and joy that comes with the true message of Christmas. Join us as Jennie Williamson of AriSon Records gives each listener the opportunity to know the peace and joy of God's presence in their lives.

The community is invited to attend the concert which is for both children and adults. Jennie will also lead the singing in the 9:45 AM service. St. Mark's is located at 13220 Main Street in Elberta. For more information, call the church office at 986-8133.

Diana Ringers

Share Your News

The deadline for the January/February edition of the *Spirit of Southern* is January 15, 2015. Materials received after that date will be included in the web edition.

The preferred means for receiving material, text and pictures, is e-mail to "sosstuff@yahoo.com." Please send photos as a separate JPEG file. Material can also be mailed to the district office: The Spirit of Southern – Southern District LCMS – 100 Mission Drive, Slidell, LA 70460-5221. Please allow two additional weeks for mailing.

District web site: www.southernlcms.org District office phone number: 504-282-2632

New! District office hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Southern District Contact Information

Please clip and save this information. The district office staff can be reached through the main office number: **504-282-2632**. You will access a directory and be instructed on how to reach each staff member. The following are direct lines:

President Schultz	985-796-7577		
Mrs. Marion Kennedy	985-635-4382	Mrs. Sabine Laird	985-635-4382
Mrs. Muriel Budzeyko	985-326-7855		
Rev. Eric Johnson	985-796-7175		
Mr. Glenn Gerber	985-218-0335		
Mrs. Janice Howard	985-605-5403	Ms. Ronnie Giaise	985-605-5404

E-mail contacts for staff members can be found on the district web site under the "About" tab - "Directories."

Southern District Church Extension Fund: 888-493-5962 or 504-282-2633



*Advent blessings as
we wait for the Lord!*