



# The Spirit of Southern

Web Edition – January/February, 2014

## HEART TO HEART TO HEART LETTER

*“...you show that you are a letter from Christ...written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.” (2 Corinthians 3:3)*



When God wants to win someone's heart he shows them his heart.

In Hosea (2:14-20) we read how God wanted to woo Israel, the wonton harlot, away from her misguided life. From chasing false lovers and worshipping false gods, believing in their promises that will deliver nothing but emptiness and suffering, he seeks to restore her to a right relationship with him. He wants to provide security and fulfillment. In a personal covenant he wants to bless her with enduring love and mercy. He promises to change her internally so much that she will not think or speak of her other lovers.

When he wanted to win the heart of a tax collector, named Matthew he sent from his heart, Jesus. In the Gospel of Mark (2:13-22), Jesus finds Matthew laboring at his desk, hated and despised by his own people, consumed by greed and self-centeredness. Jesus offers a heartfelt sign of friendship by sitting and eating with him and his friends. An act which was judged by Jesus' enemies, because they said, “he receives sinners and eats with them.” Matthew was affected at the deepest level of his being, and his life changed direction completely.

When the Pharisees questioned him about his behavior, Jesus compared his power and ability to transform a person to the repairing of a wineskin. Often we try to patch a person from the outside, like applying a bandage. The way of complete healing, however is from the inside out. Love must flow from the heart, to the heart, so that new life can be lived forever. This is how in Jesus God has loved, won, and changed each of us.

This is the basis of our testimony to others on God's behalf. We need not argue or defend theological positions for God to win others to himself. Though we are not harlots and tax collectors *per se*, we are sinners who have seen his heart in Jesus. He has transformed us from the inside out. He has given his heart so our hearts are made new. We are different; we live our lives differently; and we are, as Paul says, “living letters of recommendation from Christ to be read by all” (Eph. 3:2). A heart to heart to heart letter.

*Merciful Lord, I rejoice in what you have done in me, and I pray that I might remember today that who I am and what I say and do, reflects to everyone your heart. Amen*

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

Have you been to the district web site lately? Check out the latest updates and connections to social media.

[www.SouthernLCMS.org](http://www.SouthernLCMS.org)

## District & Synod News

### Southern District Welcomes New Staff



God continues to provide workers for the harvest. **Rev. Eric C. Johnson** has joined the Southern District Executive Staff as the District's Mission and Ministry Facilitator for Congregational Networking. His job is to support congregations in mission & ministry within the congregation and especially to

those outside the congregation who don't yet know Jesus. He is busy developing a network of people and resources with the goal of helping to connect congregations and leaders with the best tools available in the areas of mission outreach and ministry support, including, but not limited to: Small Groups, VBS, Sunday School, Missional Evangelism and Outreach, Youth and Stewardship. You can reach him by email [e.johnson@southernlcms.org](mailto:e.johnson@southernlcms.org) or by calling his direct line at 985-445-9339.

**Mr. Glenn D. Gerber** joins the Southern District of the LC-MS as Executive Director of Development and Schools. In this position he will serve the schools of the

**We welcome these men and their families to the Southern District!**

Southern District and oversee the Southern District Foundation. He can be reached by e-mail at [g.gerber@southernlcms.org](mailto:g.gerber@southernlcms.org), or by calling his direct line at 985-218-0335.



Gerber has been in education for more than 30 years. He has been the chief administrator of schools in Florida, Hong Kong, Missouri, and Texas. As this issue goes to press, he has just completed an 8-day, 3000 mile tour of Southern District schools with District President Schultz.

Previously employed by Lutheran Hour Ministries as Director of Gift Planning, and Vice President of the LHM Foundation, Glenn has also served as a District Representative and Assistant General Agent for the St. Louis office of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. He currently serves as a Trustee of the Lutheran Hour Ministry Foundation Board and as a member of the Lutheran Education Association National Board.

### National Lutheran Schools Week – Good Shepherd Lutheran School – Elberta, AL

"Witness Always" was the theme for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) annual National Lutheran Schools Week celebration. Based on the scripture verse from 1 John 5:7-8, "For there are three that testify: the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree" (ESV).

What makes a Lutheran school different? At first glance, a Lutheran school looks like any "normal" school of high quality. Students learn at the very least what they would in any exemplary public school. Their curiosity and creativity are encouraged. But there is more than the eye sees. Lutheran schools are communities where the grace of God in Christ is proclaimed and lived. Scripture is read and learned as teachers/pastors share the great stories of Jesus. Looking through the eyes of a young child, these communities provide a climate rich in learning and discovery, and lets each child know that "Jesus loves you. We have planned for you. You belong here. I love you because Jesus loves me. I forgive you because Jesus forgives me."

Good Shepherd Lutheran School – Elberta, AL (pictured), joined with the other LCMS schools the week of Jan. 26th to celebrate National Lutheran Schools



Week. The Lutheran School system is the one of the largest parochial school systems. It has 1,376 Early Childhood Centers, 871 elementary schools and 88 high schools. Good Shepherd is the only Lutheran school in Baldwin County, but it is not alone in the mission to spread the word of Jesus Christ.

For more information about the LCMS school system, check out the website [www.lcms.org/schools](http://www.lcms.org/schools). For more information about Good Shepherd Lutheran School, call the school at 251-987-1966, visit the school's web site at [www.goodshepherdlutheran-sch.com](http://www.goodshepherdlutheran-sch.com) or email [infor@goodshepherdlutheran-sch.com](mailto:infor@goodshepherdlutheran-sch.com).

*Charlotte Bailey*

### Southern District Senior Youth Gathering - July 10-13, 2014 - Camp Restore - New Orleans, LA

The planning team has begun making preparations. Share the dates now with your youth leaders. Further information will be released soon so watch the District web site, [southernlcms.org](http://southernlcms.org)!

## Parish Ministries – Benediction as Beginning

*"The Lord bless you and keep you; The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace."*  
Numbers 6:24-26

We call the above the benediction. You might associate it with the end of the worship service. What does it mean to you? What thoughts stir when you hear or think about those words? If we are honest, perhaps we are thinking something along the lines of...."Ok, church is over now where should we go for lunch?" We all know that our thoughts should probably be a little higher than that and for that matter a little more accurate. For starters, church isn't a building or thing that just happens for an hour on Sunday. The Church, as you have been taught, is people - a holy people who have been made holy by the blood of Jesus. If you are a member of the church that means you are a missionary. Really, everybody on planet earth is either a missionary or they are a mission field. If that doesn't sound quite right, bring it up in your next Bible class and see what the church gathered there has to say about that statement.

The church gathers on Sunday to worship. This

worship includes being equipped to go out into enemy territory and make a difference for the Kingdom of God. Jesus is already out there on the mission field setting up opportunities for His missionaries (i.e. you) to build relationships with people who do not yet know Him as Savior. When relationships grow, conversations are shared. In those conversations the Spirit will provide opportunities to plant Gospel seeds. Those seeds that proclaim the love of Jesus are what the Spirit uses to lead people to Jesus. It is called invading the enemy's (Satan's) territory.

Pastor Mark Batterson in his book, *Wild Goose Chase*, says, "I would like to think that when I pronounce the Benediction at the end of the service, I am sending dangerous people back into their natural habitat to wreak havoc on the Enemy."

So next Sunday after service say to your friend, "that crazy Gary Faith says I am dangerous." Then tell them why and go to lunch expecting Jesus to give you an opportunity to be an instrument of Kingdom advancement. Joy in Him,

*Gary Faith*, Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries

## Congregation Transformation/Revitalization

It's that time of year to file the annual congregation statistics! How's it looking? Are you encouraged by what you observe in the reported numbers for 2013 as compared to 2012? As God's people, we are called to live in confident hope and trust along with dreaming what God has planned for each of us and our congregations in 2014.

Has your congregation (pastor and leaders) taken time to develop a dream list for 2014 along with setting some goals? We keep our eyes on Jesus but we also continue to hold ourselves accountable to the dreams and goals that we believe God wants us to accomplish. We are not in this work alone! God is there to lead, guide, and bless our efforts.

My work in support of the Southern District is through revitalization/transformation. There is a difference between revitalization and transformation. Revitalization often focuses on bringing back (restoring) – to a former condition or vigor, a former life and activity. It's good to celebrate the past but difficult to bring back the days of what we once knew or had. In contrast, transformation talks about change and how we are going about being disciples. It's not about waiting for persons to come to our church but rather that we be the church in the community.

Support and encouragement are vital ingredients as together we work in a spirit of hope to tackle the future. I welcome the opportunity to hear stories of hopes/plans and to walk with congregations through this challenging time with a passion THAT THEY MAY KNOW JESUS! You can contact me at 504-495-7436 or by e-mail at [gwmenz@aol.com](mailto:gwmenz@aol.com).

Blessings in the journey!

*Gene Menzel*



## Camp Restore - "Help Us Share Our History"

One of the most enjoyable aspects of our work at Camp Restore is the opportunity to share our history, food, music and culture with folks from all over the country. As many discover upon their arrival, a Duck Dynasty education only goes so far when it comes to understanding New Orleans, Louisiana and the Gulf Coast. They love learning more (and there's so much to love, right?).

To more fully tell our story, explain the importance of our region, and share the little details of life here, we are developing a museum exhibit as part of our current

facilities expansion project at Camp Restore. We want to create a space where volunteers can spend their down time learning the environmental, historical and social narratives of our home via photographs, film, recorded interviews and artifacts.

We'd like to hear what you think should be included in this history, and are seeking donations of artifacts, photos (you keep the originals), film and stories to be considered for inclusion. Please contact Kurt Jostes at [kurt@camprestore.org](mailto:kurt@camprestore.org) or 504-242-2636.

*Kurt Jostes*



## Stewardship is Discipleship

Want to get a quick read of where you, or anyone, is on the path of following Jesus? Simply look at where you spend your money and your time. That exercise will give you an immediate read on what is most important to you. For me, looking at what was most important was painful and humbling.

20 years ago, before I was called into ministry I was a business entrepreneur. Making money and owning the things money could buy was important to me. We had the cars and the boat but my most precious possession was our home. I confess to you now that I made my home into an idol. I worked hard to earn enough money to pay a mortgage on a house that was bigger than we needed. I worked each weekend on adorning my idol with new paint, wood floors, remodeled kitchen, remodeled bath and a landscaped yard. I went to church, but looking at how I spent my time and money showed my real god was not the true God. I didn't have money to give to my church, I didn't have money to give in support of people who were hungry, I didn't have money or time to support and be involved in outreach; but I always found the extra cash, even going into debt, to support and adorn my god.

As I grew in my walk with Christ, as Jesus challenged me to follow him, God's kindness led me to repentance. Thankfully when we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness, then calls us to yet again follow him.

If you're honest, and take a good look at where you spend your money and time, you will probably find you have little gods in your life too. At this point, you can ask, "Doesn't God want us to have nice things?" "Is everything I like to spend money and time on a god?" The answer is, yes and maybe. Yes, God wants to bless his people and having nice things is part of his blessing. And maybe it is possible that you can have things without making them gods, but in our culture of consumerism and credit spending it is awfully easy for us as sinful fallen people to slip into old habits and begin to turn our things into gods. The Children of Israel did it thousands of years ago, the

Rich Young Ruler did it during Jesus' day and you and I are too prone to doing it today.

So what's the answer? Any Sunday school child can tell us the answer is Jesus! Jesus says that all we have is a gift from God, and a heart that is following Jesus will be a heart of a giver.

Stewardship is Discipleship. God gives us 100% of all we have. Our sinful nature wants to demand that we work for our pay, so it's ours. The disciple, the follower of Jesus, knows that in reality everything belongs to God. Your job is a gift of God. The money you earn ultimately comes from God's blessings and in his grace and mercy he only asks for 10% of what he has first given us.

Imagine if we gave 10% of our time to serving the community in the Name of Jesus. Imagine what would happen if every follower of Jesus learned to be content with 90% and invested 10% of their time and income in the kingdom of God. Imagine how many people would be fed, elderly would be cared for, people could be reached if each of us truly followed Jesus with our time and our money.

You don't have to give. God graciously gives you 100% and leaves the choice up to you as to how you spend and invest his gifts. This is where stewardship is discipleship. You are free to do with your life, your time, your treasure as you wish, but those who have been challenged to follow Jesus are challenged to see what is theirs differently. Followers of Jesus, disciples, want to invest in their Lord and participate in his kingdom. As we grow in discipleship, as we grow in following Jesus, we just can't help but repent of how we acted in darkness and instead turn and gratefully give back to our Lord just a little of what he has first given us.

May the Lord bless you abundantly with all the blessing of his kingdom as you take up the challenge of following Jesus with you time and with your money. Stewardship is discipleship.

*Rev. Eric Johnson,*

Southern District Mission and Ministry Facilitator

## Concordia Seminary – St. Louis, MO, Schedules Visits

Rev. Bill Wrede, Director of Admissions at Concordia Seminary, will be in the Southern District February 24-25, 2014 to discuss preparation for the pastoral ministry and deaconess studies with interested students and their families. Below you will find the itinerary for the visits to your area. Please call Rev. Wrede at 314-505-7221 or email him at [wredew@csl.edu](mailto:wredew@csl.edu) for an appointment.

### **Monday, February 24**

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
2565 Airline Drive  
Bossier City, LA 71111  
318.746.2215 10:00 am-2:00 pm

### **Tuesday, February 25**

Saint John Lutheran Church  
3937 Canal Street  
New Orleans, LA 70119  
504.482.2118 10:00 am-2:00 pm

The Village Church  
29180 Highway 190  
Lacombe, LA 70445  
985.882.5727 4:00-8:00 pm

## LCMS On The Go...

There's an app for that! The free LCMS app available on the Apple and Google Play app stores, provides news, information, congregation locations on the road, daily devotions and much much more!

## Concordia College Alabama

This issue Concordia College Alabama highlights scholars, sports and a leadership appointment.

### CCA Sports All-Stars Scholars Team - Concordia



College Hornets are competing in a new arena, with its first Honda Campus All-Star Team. Fielding a team of 12

scholars, Concordia joins the All-Star challenge, an academic quiz bowl in which historically black college and universities compete against one another in a scholastic challenge.

The team, under the direction of campus coordinator Dr. Chinwe Okeke and Assistant Campus Coordinator Mr. Glenn King, Jr., is preparing for its first competition in February at Alabama State University, on topics of business, science, history, religion, arts, literature, English and history.

Pictured left to right are Honda Star Challenge Team members: (front row) Jesica Kirkland, Nashijla Bethune, Desiree Wilson, Avonne Rice, (back row) Akeem Rankin, Paxton Chatora, Kendrick Wright, Jene Matthews, Joshua Bell, Sherman Williams, Keiwan Harris, James

Kimber.

**Moeller to Head Student Services** - Rev. Dr. Eric Moeller has been named interim Vice President of Student Services. He will be responsible for activities and admissions work directly affecting students. Moeller joined the faculty in August and was named to the new position effective January, 2014.

"I strongly support CCA's mission to provide an education which is global in focus and orientation. The growth of the church around the world is a fulfillment of what is written in the prophets of the Old Testament and in the New Testament. CCA is poised to connect with God's world-wide mission," he said.

**CCA Hornets Net High Rank** - CCA Men's Basketball team is ranked sixth in the nation, the highest ranking it has ever received in the Division 1 United States Collegiate Athletic Association Coaches poll. The team is renown for three-point shooting and for fielding one of its best teams in years.

"We shoot and rebound the ball very well," said Coach Frederick Summers. "Importantly, we have to learn to maintain our composure throughout the game and continue to rebound and make free-throws to seal a win. We have gotten a great effort from the entire team, with all our players contributing defensively."

*Christine Weerts*

## Congregation & School News

### Augustana – Alexandria, LA

Augustana – Alexandria, LA recently placed a "Prayer Request Box" in front of the church for use by people in the neighborhood to make prayer requests. Augustana is located on Louisiana Highway 1 and sees a lot of vehicle traffic past the church, but is also in a neighborhood with a lot of pedestrian foot traffic. The location of the Prayer Request Box is quite visible from the highway and is very accessible from the sidewalk.

Prayer request cards and a pen are located at the top of the box and the cards indicate that the congregation will pray concerning the request placed in the box, but will not further contact those making requests unless they request a contact. Full names are optional in the requests.

Prayer requests are included in the congregational prayers during the worship service on Sunday morning. Each week there are several prayer requests in the box. The congregation has also received notes thanking them for their prayers and indicating that they are included in the prayers of others.



Augustana has found that this prayer ministry is an effective way for the church to be active in the neighborhood around them.

*Rev. William H. Vogt*

### Holy Cross – Camden, AL

During the month of December, 2013, the Lord blessed Holy Cross – Camden, AL. with four baptisms and three new members by re-affirmation of faith. The membership of Holy Cross was overjoyed to receive these precious souls into the family of believers during this Advent/Christmas Season.

The new members are all from one family, Rothschild and Davis, consisting of father and mother with children, grandchildren and a son-in-law.

Participating in welcoming the family were Mr. L.J. Wiggins, Elder of the congregation, and Rev. Dr. McNair Ramsey, Vacancy Pastor of Holy Cross.

To God be the glory for the things He has done.

## Zion - New Orleans, LA

"Thanksgiving is a daily experience, not just a holiday." On November 24, 2013, Zion's congregation gave thanks and praise as they welcomed five young adults to their church family. Pictured left to right are: Orleanna Nailor, Sharon Lonerio, Pastor Warren Ruland, Laura Muñoz, Adrian Muñoz, and Jennifer Daly.



Special thanks were offered to Adrian and Laura Muñoz for their service to our country, paying the price for our freedom! Adrian is in the Marines, and his wife, Laura, is in the Navy. They are expecting their first child, a boy, Alex, and plan to have him baptized at Zion, with Pastor Ruland, and his wife, Linda, serving as godparents. "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!"

*Mildred Munsch*

## Immanuel – Pensacola, FL

Immanuel - Pensacola, FL was pleased to host two LCMS missionaries on January 6th, 2014.



Rev. Fred Reinhardt (pictured left) has served in many capacities in Francophone, Africa and presented his vast experience of sharing the Gospel in that region.

Rev. Joshua Gale (pictured right) presented from a different perspective as a missionary in the planning/organizational stage, soon to relocate with his family to South America where he will begin his missionary work in Lima, Peru. Rev. Gale's previous experience as a missionary serving inner city Philadelphia was also discussed, expounding on the importance of mission work in the United States as well.

The presentations were very well attended by the congregation and visiting clergy. Divine service to celebrate Epiphany followed.



*Cheryl Casey*

## Redeemer – DeRidder, LA

Redeemer – DeRidder, LA, gathered to honor Pastor Gary Archbold's upcoming retirement on December 7, 2013 at a dinner hosted by the Catfish Hut in DeRidder. Attendees enjoyed a seafood dinner and fellowship. Pastor Archbold received a Crystal Cross Award from the congregation of RLC, recognizing his 19 years of service.

Rev. Stewart Marshall was recently installed as pastor of Redeemer. Preaching for the special installation service was Rev. Sam McPeck (Faith – Lafayette, LA). Rev. Charles Miller (St. John - Lake Charles) was Celebrant and Presiding Minister was Rev. John Karle, 2nd Vice President of Southern District.

Participating in the service from Circuits 5 and 6 were: Pastors Gary Archbold, Stewart Marshall, Sam McPeck, John Karle, Perry Culver, Gary Koopman, Charles Miller, and David Strussenberg.

*Sara Meadows and Velmer Smith*

## Lutheran High School – Metairie, LA

Lutheran High School's Gryphon Gala XXXVII will be held on Saturday, March 22, 2014 at Atonement Lutheran Church and School – Metairie, LA.

"LHS – 44 Years Old and Still Going Strong" is the theme of the event which includes a silent auction and hospitality hour beginning at 5pm, followed by dinner at 6pm and the verbal auction at 7:30pm. The attire is dressy casual.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran High School. For ticket information and reservations, or if you have items you would like to donate, please contact Lutheran High School at 504-455-4062.

*Ashley Reso*

## Good Shepherd - Slidell, LA

The Ladies League of Good Shepherd – Slidell, LA had a good year in 2013. In addition to many ongoing activities in support of the congregation and community, some of the ladies made and installed new window screens for the sanctuary and fellowship hall.

In December, the ladies put together holiday baskets for three needy families, including one basket and toys for the children in the family of a local deployed soldier. They gave donations to the Caring Center in Slidell, and additional needed items the Slidell Memorial Cancer Center had requested. The year ended with a wonderful Christmas luncheon and fellowship gathering at The



Olive Garden which was enjoyed by all the ladies who attended (pictured).

*Sandra Davis*



## Christmas Southern (District) Style!

### **Ebenezer – Atmore, AL**

The Christmas program at Ebenezer – Atmore, AL, was a great success on the day before Christmas. The youth had a very outstanding program with each child having a speech to read. Rev. Benjamin Stallworth preached on the meaning of Christmas. He told how a little girl turned the letter M upside down to make the letter a W. Instead of CHRISTMAS, it read “CHRIST WAS” LOVED. Participating in the program, under the direction of Youth Sunday School teacher Dorothy Adams, were Randy Johnson, Justice Poole, Delarrian Poole Jr., Tuari Mcghee, and Taheya Mcghee.

*Annie Poole*

### **Solid Rock – Argo, AL**

On December 7th 2013, Solid Rock - Argo, AL, held its 4th annual Food, Turkey, and Toys outreach to the community. The event was scheduled to start at 9AM, but at 7:15 AM when Pastor Rosser arrived at church, there were almost seventy-five people lined up outside the door on a cold Saturday morning. He opened the church, turned on the heat and some of the members arrived shortly afterwards to prepare coffee and refreshments. At 8 AM the church was filled with over 200 people and for the next fifty minutes we sang Christmas carols.

165 turkeys as well as boxes of food and a Bible were distributed. In addition, 400 new toys were given to the children. Arrangements were made to distribute 60 additional toys to youngsters as our inventory was depleted that morning.

This outreach ministry was supported financially by Solid Rock members, friends of Solid Rock and Thrivent. One of our members shared the experience of carrying food to a vehicle and realized that the person was living in their car. It contained a mattress and clothing hanging along the inside of the car. An elderly

### **St. Mark’s – Elberta, AL**

St. Mark’s Lutheran’s Bell Choir played Christmas hymns and carols at the Baldwin County Heritage Museum’s Open House on December 8. They play both bells and chimes and offer to play at events in the community. They played for both of the church’s Christmas Eve services.

*Diana Ringers*

disabled woman shared that she could feel the Holy Spirit in the sanctuary as the goods were being handed out. Many a tear was shed as we closed the singing with Silent Night. Several expressed a message of hope and comfort as they struggled with physical and economic difficulties. The experience is so humbling for our members that we are planning a fifth outreach which will be the largest yet.

*Jane Wilson*

### **Church of the Holy Spirit – Attalla, AL**

On Sunday the children of Church of the Holy Spirit - Attalla, AL, presented the Christmas Program entitled: A Super Christmas. The children, including some “superheroes,” are pictured ready for the presentation.

*Myron Allenstein*



### **Faith - Madison, AL**

The busy holidays are past and there are many happy memories of all of the activities we did to share the love of Jesus Christ and celebrate his birth.

In November the children of Faith went to the Valley View Rehabilitation Center and distributed "Turkey Hands". These were hand made by our Sunday School classes and the residents loved being treated to the bright holiday decoration for their rooms.

On December 6th, Faith hosted their 2nd annual free childcare outreach for the community and had a birthday party, complete with piñata, for baby Jesus. The children did crafts, learned traditional hymns and watched a video about the birth of our Savior.

December 14th found the members of Faith enjoying fellowship in the form of caroling around the neighborhoods, snacking on great food and finishing the evening with a viewing of "The Nativity Story".

The month of December also involved Operation Christmas Child and adopting our very own little angel from the community.

*Sherrie Callahan*

### **St. Paul - Picayune, MS**

The members of St. Paul – Picayune, MS, generously donated 91 pair of pajamas and mounds of toys for area children this past Christmas. Several of our LWML ladies loaded their cars and delivered the gifts to Pearl River County Family and Child Services.

We also support our local food bank, Christian Care Ministries, by donating food items on a regular basis, and several of our members volunteer to work the food bank each week. God is so good.

*Patty Bornkamp*

## 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:

<b>President Schultz</b>	985-796-7577		
<b>Mrs. Marion Kennedy</b>	985-635-4382	<b>Mrs. Sabine Laird</b>	985-635-4382
<b>Rev. Gary Faith</b>	504-858-8872	<b>Mrs. Pattie Faith</b>	256-305-1005
<b>Rev. Eric Johnson</b>	985-796-7175		
<b>Mr. Glenn Gerber</b>	985-218-0335		
<b>Mrs. Janice Howard</b>	985-605-5403	<b>Ms. Ronnie Giase</b>	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

## Share Your News

**Deadlines:** The Spirit of Southern is produced six times a year. Deadlines are the 15th of odd numbered months (Jan., Mar., May, July, Sept., Nov.) Please keep in mind that from deadline to your mailbox is a time frame of approximately one month. If you wish to announce a coming event, it should be sent well ahead of the event date. Material received after the deadline will be included in the web edition.

**What to send:** We look for the "good news" of events happening in your congregation – special programs, outreach events, installations, dedications, anniversaries, new member Sundays, etc. A good photo is a plus! Please see photo information below. The guideline for article length is 200 words.

**What cannot be used:** Our non-profit postal permit does not allow for any advertisement. Therefore, we cannot include information that may result in sales of a product or service. Also, space does not permit the publication of creative writing.

**How to submit:** The preferred method is e-mail to the editor at [sosstuff@yahoo.com](mailto:sosstuff@yahoo.com). Articles and photos may also be mailed to the District Office (The Spirit of Southern – Southern District LCMS –100 Mission Drive, Slidell, LA 70460-5221). Please allow 2 weeks for mailing.

**Photos:** Please keep in mind that we cannot improve the quality of your photo. A dark background or grainy print will look darker or grainier in the publication. If you are using a digital camera, please set to the highest resolution.

The deadline for the March/April edition of the *Spirit of Southern* is March 15, 2014. 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](mailto: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.



# EPIPHANY