

# The Spirit of Southern

Web Edition – March/April 2015



## EASTER TEARS

*Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"* John 20:15

I have discovered that my eyes tear up at movies more often than they used to. Perhaps, it is that I am just getting older and closer to heaven. Recently I noticed there are actually three kind of scenes that bring a lump to my throat and make my eyes well up. The first are quite sad, others are actually quite happy, and a third kind is neither sad nor happy, but scenes brimming with nostalgia. My reaction in all three cases suggested that I was more than a distant observer. I was there.

There is a tradition within the church which considers tears to be a gift of God, and the shedding of tears an expression of some of our deepest affections for God -- repentance, longing, joy, love. When something (or someone) touches our lives, deeply enough to cause us to cry, we know that more than our mind is engaged in the relationship. In some way, we have given over our hearts. This was surely the case with Mary Magdalene. Her early morning search for Jesus was driven by a love which could not let him go, even in death. We can only imagine the sorrow which had torn at her soul as she watched her Lord suffer and die (*Mark 15:40*). Finding that his tattered body, placed in the tomb so carefully two nights before, was now absent from its resting place, must have broken her heart. Of course she wept. She was no distant observer. Jesus was her life, her love.

We have heard the Easter message probably more times than we can count. The risk of such familiarity, of course, is that the resurrection of Jesus Christ becomes a 'matter-of-fact' announcement. We were not there, nor can we recreate the event no matter how many times it has been scripted and acted. Are we simply distant observers? I think not. On this Easter, let us recall that Jesus has taken over our hearts. Let us remember that we have met this Person, that sometimes we wish he were here by our side, and that we know he is alive. And, if anyone wonders why eyes well up as we hear the Gospel readers proclaim: "Now on the first day of the week," or as we sing: "Jesus Christ is risen today," we can tell them, "Because this is all about my Lord."

*Prayer: Dear Jesus, thank you that I am not a distant observer of Easter and for the gift that allows me to express the depth of your love for me. Amen.*

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



HOPE – JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING

*1 Peter 3:15*

SOUTHERN DISTRICT - LCMS  
74TH CONVENTION

CONCORDIA COLLEGE, SELMA, AL  
JUNE 4TH AND 5TH, 2015

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## District Convention News

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The Southern District Office is humming with activity these days as we prepare for our 74th Convention! We are anticipating a wonderful two days of fellowship, worship, and decision-making. Details can be found on the district website, [www.southernlcms.org](http://www.southernlcms.org).

In addition to the important tasks of elections and other convention business, the convention delegates will be privileged to have the opportunity to view the movie premiere of "The First Rosa", telling the story of Rosa Young and her mission to educate and bring to faith many African Americans who, in the early 1900s, had few opportunities and many obstacles to overcome. Rosa Young's story is a wonderful part of our proud Lutheran heritage and will be an inspirational story to see!

*Muriel Budzeyko*

### The First Rosa

You've heard of the 1950s civil rights legend Rosa Parks, but have you heard about the other Rosa? The "first" Rosa was born in 1890 in a small town in rural Alabama. God blessed Rosa J. Young with an extraordinary passion for helping others and educating children. Rosa was known by many in the LCMS as the "Mother of Black Lutheranism."

With the help of God, Rosa was blessed to establish many educational opportunities for the African American community in central Alabama. In collaboration with the LCMS Board of the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference at the suggestion of the Honorable Booker T. Washington, Rosa was influential in establishing and promoting 30 Lutheran elementary schools and 35 Lutheran congregations in Alabama's "Black Belt." Her legacy is unparalleled as an educator, confessor and church planter for Christ and His Church.

### Circuit Visitors Elected

The following Circuit Visitors (formerly Circuit Counselors) were elected at their respective Circuit Forums. Their election will need to be ratified at the upcoming Southern District Convention in June, 2015.

**Circuit 1** – Rev. Ken Babin, St. John – New Orleans, LA

**Circuit 2** – Rev. Rich Rudnik, Grace – Houma, LA

**Circuit 4** – Rev. Louis Boldt, St. Paul – Hammond, LA

**Circuit 5** – Rev. Perry Culver, Christ – Shreveport, LA

**Circuit 6** – Rev. Charles Miller,

St. John/St. Matthew - Lake Charles, LA

**Circuit 7** – Rev. James Holowach, Christ – Jackson, MS

**Circuit 8** – Rev. Steven Schrader, Prince of Peace – Fort Payne, AL

**Circuit 9** – Rev. David Moerbe, Good Shepherd – Gardendale, AL

**Circuit 10** – Rev. David Robotzen, Resurrection – Pensacola, FL

**Circuit 11** – Rev. William Parsons, Redeemer – Fairhope, AL

**Circuit 12** – Rev. Steven Washington, Trinity – Selma, AL

**Circuit 13** – Rev. James Endrihs, Christ the King – Enterprise, AL

**Circuit 14** – Rev. Gary Weier, Emeritus – Waveland, MS

**Circuit 15** – Rev. Kevin Wendt, Grace – Destin, FL

We appreciate the time, spiritual guidance, and leadership these gentlemen bring to the congregations of the Southern District!

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## Southern District Foundation

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The Southern District Foundation was re-constituted in March of 2014 at its first board meeting in 10 years. The Southern District Foundation is once again in full operation and is searching for congregations and individuals who could use our help. The new Southern District Foundation Board of Trustees is very anxious to get back into the business of creating Endowment Funds for congregations, and helping individuals with their Estate Planning needs. We want to help donors fulfill their need of giving back a portion of what God has given them, to help their congregation, school, or any other ministry of the Southern District.

All Southern District states have a representative on the new Southern District Foundation Board of Trustees. We have 6 board members at this time, but we need 3 more. If you have an interest in financial matters, have a heart for giving, and would like to use your passion to help others achieve their need to give, please consider joining our Board of Trustees. We have a very friendly board who would love to have you join us. If you are interested in being part of something significant, please feel free to

contact me at [glenn.gerber@southernlcms.org](mailto:glenn.gerber@southernlcms.org)

Estate Planning Seminars: I am in the process of scheduling and conducting Estate Planning Seminars for our Southern District congregations and boards. My short 20 minute presentation, plus a question and answer period, will introduce our congregational members to how easy it is for a church to establish an endowment fund, and once set up, how easy it is for members to contribute to the fund. The proceeds of the endowment fund can be used however the congregation sees fit. These funds go on in perpetuity, and can be changed as the needs of the congregation change. At this time, I am contacting pastors and congregational leaders to set up Estate Planning Seminars, but please feel free to contact me if you are interested in having me conduct a seminar at your church. Please talk to your pastor about these seminars, and ask him to contact me for further information.

*Glenn Gerber, Executive Director for Schools and Southern District Foundation*

## 2015 Southern District Youth Service Project

Southern District youth will be joining the Appalachia Service Project (<http://www.asphome.org>) which provides one of the most rewarding structured service opportunities in the nation, bringing thousands of volunteers from around the country to rural Central Appalachia in Tennessee to repair homes for low-income families. After a few days of hard work repairing homes with ASP, your hands will grow a little tougher, your arms a little stronger and your relationship with God a whole lot deeper. Pastor Chris Brynestad from the Southern District will serve as our chaplain, providing spiritual growth and guidance.



**When:** July 5-11, 2015.

**Ages:** Youth:14 –18 years. Adults:21 years or older. ASP requires 2 adults for each 5 youth. Congregations are encouraged to partner to meet the minimum youth/adult ratios.

**Project Details:** We will be doing home repair. All tools are provided. Groups will be divided into a maximum of 7 in a work crew (2 adults minimum, 5 youth). Each crew must have a vehicle capable of transporting work crew, tools, supplies, coolers, etc.

Registration information and application is available on the Southern District website. Go to the Youth tab and click on "servant events." Registration must be done through the website. Questions? Call DCE Cindy Namanny at 601-924-9999.

*Cindy Namanny*



### Concordia College Alabama

Concordia College Alabama – Selma, AL recently held its third annual Civil Rights Symposium in conjunction with the 50th anniversary Selma-Montgomery voting rights marches. Many Lutheran leaders and ministers attended, as well as participated in several of the symposium events.

The symposium included several Lutheran-focused discussions and presentations including an LCMS civil rights discussion panel, a presentation entitled "Lutherans and the Civil Rights Struggle in Selma," and a presentation from the Ambassadors of Reconciliation, an international Lutheran ministry founded to help churches in carrying out their peacemaking responsibilities.

Speakers throughout the week included leaders in the Lutheran Church such as Rev. Don Johnson, Executive Director of the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots; Rev. Tim Young Eagle, Chairman of the Board of the Lutheran Urban Mission; Rev. Roosevelt Gray, President of the Black Clergy Caucus; Rev. Joseph Ellwanger, author of "Strength for the Struggle"; and Rev. Dr. Martin Marty, retired Lutheran pastor and Emeritus at the University of Chicago.

*Abby Campbell*

### Camp Restore - GiveNOLA Day

Thank you to everyone who has continued to support Camp Restore's mission of Restoring Faith, Home and Community in the Name of Jesus! We are excited to share with you that we will be participating in the second annual GiveNOLA Day on May 5, 2015.

Sponsored by the Greater New Orleans Foundation (GNOF), GiveNOLA Day is an opportunity to make donations online to Camp Restore at [www.givenola.org](http://www.givenola.org) that will be partially matched by the GNOF's Lagniappe Fund, as well as other prizes. So, please:

1. Mark May 5th GiveNOLA Day on your calendar and support Camp Restore!
2. Help us spread the word! Tell your friends about GiveNOLA Day by directing them to [www.givenola.org](http://www.givenola.org).
3. Invite your friends to explore [www.camprestore.org](http://www.camprestore.org) to learn more about us and GiveNOLA Day.
4. Become a GiveNOLA Day Champion and help us spread the word on May 5th! Contact Kurt at 504-242-2636 or [kurt@camprestore.org](mailto:kurt@camprestore.org) for information on getting more involved.

Thank You!



*Kurt Jostes*

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## Congregation and School News

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### St. Paul – New Orleans, LA

St. Paul (Marigny) – New Orleans, LA will continue its 175th anniversary by “Celebrating Music,” on May 16-17, 2015. The event will reflect the rich musical heritage of St. Paul, incorporating past and present church musicians, as well as guest performers from the community. Please join us as we celebrate this special gift that has been an integral part of the worship experience and community outreach at St. Paul for many years.

Saturday, May 16, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.: There will be a festive celebration in the church courtyard featuring the jazz ensemble from the New Orleans Center for Creative Arts (NOCCA), catered food and drink, and displays from the church’s 175 years of music.

Sunday, May 17, at 10:30 a.m.: We will have a traditional church service featuring the St. Paul choir and bell choir; guest instrumentalists from the New Orleans Volunteer Orchestra and the Sam Kohler New Music Ensemble; and special music from previous St. Paul organist Tom Mitts, and internationally renowned soprano Phyllis Treigle. Sunday, May 17, at 4:00 p.m.: The event concludes with a concert featuring Tom Mitts and Janet Neumann on the pipe organ and Matt Wood on the harpsichord and piano. The concert will be followed by a wine and cheese social.

*Sally Hoffmann*



### ST. PAUL - NEW ORLEANS CELEBRATES 175 YEARS!



In 1840, St. Paul Lutheran Church was organized to meet the needs of a growing German population in the Third District of New Orleans, initially meeting in a firehouse on Chartres Street. God, however, had grander plans and St. Paul quickly evolved into a beacon of spirituality for the larger, culturally diverse community we now call Faubourg Marigny.

Throughout its 175 year history, St. Paul has transformed and sustained its community in the face of numerous challenges. The 1800’s brought fire, the misfortunes of Civil War, and the changing language from German to English. Moreover, St. Paul fearlessly ministered to the needs of yellow fever victims at all churches in the neighborhood. In the latter 1800’s, the needs of orphans in the city were addressed by organizing an orphan asylum association within the congregation; providing refuge to these children for decades. Newer challenges included the struggles and courage of the civil rights movement, another devastating church fire, and the destructive forces of major hurricanes. For many years, member volunteers tutored neighborhood children after school, providing them with academic guidance and recreational opportunities. The church building also opened a well-child clinic affording area children free immunizations. Other local programs included the creation of the first AIDS care team in the city of New Orleans, which led to an interfaith network of caregivers reaching out to every neighborhood, and a food and shelter voucher program assisting the homeless in the city with their physical needs. Furthermore, the love and appreciation of music still resonates today as St. Paul takes pride in its restored pipe organ and the St. Paul choir, offering concerts and musical events on Sundays, as well as throughout the year. And through all these years, St. Paul has successfully operated their school, serving thousands of parents and children reaching into all neighborhoods throughout the greater New Orleans area.

St. Paul is the oldest congregation in the Southern District. This year marks the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of God’s grace and love at St. Paul, and YES...they are celebrating! The theme LOVE ALIVE@ 175 is based on I John in the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter, “We love because he first loved us.” In 2015, St. Paul continues to be a shining example of God’s love on the corner of Port and Burgundy. Its involvement in the neighborhood is evident and God’s love is mirrored through the members who minister to the needs of people every day. St. Paul Lutheran School continues to model good Christian behavior and responsibility for its students - loving and serving our Lord through service to others. Our courtyard and halls still bustle with activity and events that bring people together celebrating and accepting our diversities and sharing our spirituality. Listen for the church bells each Sunday as they beckon all to come experience and share in worship and praise. St. Paul will continue to build upon its history of love and service to all those inside and outside its doors!





### Concordia – Montrose, AL

The project fundraiser held by the Thrivent Action Team of Concordia – Montrose, AL was completed with overwhelming success in both our church and community. We provided food boxes for the home bound, sick and shut-ins. We also gave our youth a lesson in savings and finances as we passed out Christmas treat bags!

Our spirits are so lifted because we know that God has been so good to us!

*Camilla Wilson*

### Shepherd of the Bay – Lillian, AL

As part of the many ongoing Outreach activities at Shepherd of the Bay - Lillian, AL, our members donated items to complete personal care kits to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. These kits were brought to Daphne, AL, and then sent on to various parts of the world to be distributed to needy families. Items were collected through the Lenten season. Our goal was to collect enough towels, bars of soap, tooth brushes, combs, and nail clippers to complete 50 sets to send.



This important activity was sponsored by Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) a special group of ladies at Shepherd of the Bay. Members are pictured on LWML Sunday when they served as greeters, ushers, candle lighter, communion ushers, offering collectors, and provided food and beverages during Fellowship time after the service.

Our mission is to assist each woman in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry with the people of the world.

*Marie Anderson*



### Immanuel – Pensacola, FL

Immanuel - Pensacola, FL was honored to welcome Dr. Angus Menuge, Professor of Philosophy and Computer Science at Concordia University Wisconsin, for a two-day seminar (Feb 6-7) on the Christian's relationship to culture, especially regarding human rights and religious liberty. Topics for clergy and laymen included Christianity and culture, science and vocation, philosophy of mind, Intelligent Design, and the case against scientific materialism.

The seminar was sponsored by the Pensacola & Mobile Bay Circuits of the LCMS's Southern District and The Southern District Church Extension Fund.

*Cheryl Casey*

### Immanuel – Bossier City , LA

Immanuel – Bossier City, LA, hosted its 17th annual Women's Weekend on February 21, 2015. Our theme for the day was "You are Treasured by God". Our main guest speaker was Janice Wendorf, past president of the LWML. She gave us valuable insights into spending daily quiet time with God and also a method of journaling personal Bible reading/study.



Noel Haacker, founder of "Renesting Project, Inc." gave an informative outreach presentation on the work they are doing in our community. Their mission is to provide furniture and household goods to those transitioning from homelessness within our community. Over the past 5 years, Renesting has served over 1,000 people.

Women's Weekend guests had the opportunity to attend breakout sessions during the day. Breakout topics were: "Lost and Found: Earthly Treasures With Heavenly Meaning" – often the things we treasure in this life conflict with what God has in mind for us; "Refining Your Faith – More Precious Than Gold" – that moment when you begin to feel the heat from the fire, trust that the Master is the One molding you, holding you, and guiding you; "You Are Treasured by God" – out of all God's creation, you are His treasured possession, and you are precious to Him; and "Sharing Your Treasure – Learning to Lead a Bible study" – let go of your fears, take a leap of faith, and learn how to facilitate a group Bible study.

A skit, "All About LWML Mites", was presented and music was provided by Butch Tinker and our Praise Team. Door prizes were given, breakfast, lunch and fellowship were enjoyed by all.

Once again, we praise God for this opportunity to grow spiritually.

*Shirley Fortune*

## St. Paul's – Decatur, AL

Matthew Kimmett, Bryce Carroll, Elliot Justice, and Parker Smith were presented with the God and Me award on February 8 at St. Paul's – Decatur, AL. They are members of the local Decatur Cub Scout Pack 91 sponsored by Annunciation of the Lord Catholic Church.

The award was presented by Reverend Eddie Scheler. The God and Me award is a religious award program that requires both Bible study and service projects. As part of their requirements, the boys met weekly for 3 months with the Director of Children's Ministries at St. Paul's. During their meetings they researched the Bible, acted out various Bible lessons, played games, and took part in service opportunities.



*Tricia Scheler*

## Faith – Madison, AL

We send a warm "happy spring" to all of our brothers and sisters in Christ. After the holidays it seems nice to have January to get one's life in order and prepare for another year. We have been busy helping the local homeless shelters with blanket and warm outerwear drives. The men's shelter sent out an appeal for toiletries and our youth embraced the opportunity to turn this into a Lenten giving project.

Our February kindness challenge was to send a Valentine to each of our congregants that are living in nursing facilities. We blessed four individuals with mailboxes full of love!!

*Sherrie Callahan*

## Bethany – Slidell, LA

On Ash Wednesday we participated in the most memorable and meaningful Ash Wednesday service in my 23 years at Bethany – Slidell, LA. If you were at Bethany I know you were touched by the experience as well. God's Spirit was powerfully present as people went through various exercises of reflection, repentance, forgiveness, communion, baptism, and prayer. We called it "The Lenten Path."

Wednesday, February 18, was the first day of Lent. This is the season of the church year where we want to go deeper into our faith and become more like Jesus. For some people, they will give things up--like chocolate, TV, Facebook, worry, etc. in order to get closer to God. Other people will take on a new discipline--like weekly worship attendance, reading the Bible every day, serving others in need, tithing, etc., in order to let Jesus live through them.

A verse that has caught my attention Ash Wednesday week is Psalm 34:8: Taste and see that the Lord is good. Blessed is the person who takes refuge in Him.

That's a good word for all of us on our Lenten path. Whether you are giving something up, trying something new, or both, the goal is to become more like Jesus. I encourage you to do one thing that will help you receive what the Lord has to offer and be renewed in your belief that our Heavenly Father is truly good. God bless you as you walk with Him more closely.

*Pastor Rod Pasch*

## Christ – Pascagoula, MS

On Sunday, January 18, 2015, preceding his retirement from active ministry, Pastor Arthur D. Yunker baptized Darby George Safalow at Christ - Pascagoula, MS. Pastor Yunker was grateful to officiate at this joyful sacrament once more before he retired.

On Sunday, January 25, 2015, Pastor Yunker preached his final sermon at Christ, after more than forty years of service in the LCMS. Pastor Yunker served congregations in Illinois, Minnesota and Louisiana before coming to Mississippi. Christ congregation hosted a retirement luncheon following Sunday's divine worship. Memories of Pastor's tenure at our church were shared in a gentle "roasting". Parishioners wrote favorite memories and shared them on a memory tree along with a love offering for Pastor and Grace. We hope they enjoy many years of traveling and delight in spending time with their sons and grandsons.



*Janet Torries*



## University – Tuscaloosa, AL

Rev. Patrick Fertitta was installed February 22, 2015 at University – Tuscaloosa, AL. Participating pastors are, from left, Perry McCullam, Tom Lackey, Chuck Pieplow, Ed Rosser, Terry Ahlemeier, and Kurtis Schultz, Southern District President.

*Marie Parsons*

## Grace – Destin, FL



A team of six people from Grace – Destin, FL and Mt. Olivet Methodist Church in Arlington, VA have returned from a mission trip where they participated in a program for underprivileged children at Camp Penuel located in the Esparza area of Costa Rica. The team brought school supplies, helped with craft projects, taught a chocolate chip cookie class, picked oranges and lemons for juice, trimmed trees, provided electrical expertise, and loved the children.

Grace has had an ongoing relationship with this camp since 2004, helping prepare the land for building and being present at the dedication in 2006. Yearly teams are sent during camp sessions to help as needed.

The Grace Foundation of Destin Board of Trustees is pleased to announce that \$32,500 in grants was awarded for the Fall 2014 Grant cycle to local, regional, and international initiatives. The grants recipients are listed below. The Foundation also made future commitments for support of Estonia Lutheran Minister Internship at Grace.



- **2015 Thrivent Crop Drop**, Destin, FL. The Crop Drop is an event held at Grace Lutheran Church where 80,000 lbs. of fresh produce is sorted and packaged for distribution to local food banks. The Grant will be used to help purchase the produce.
- **Emerald Coast Autism Center**, Niceville, FL.. They will use the Grant to support constructing a new 14,500 square foot facility on the Northwest Florida State College Niceville campus.
- **S4P Synergy**, Fort Walton Beach FL. Striving for Perfection Ministries will use the Grant to help feed those in need during Thanksgiving.
- **Grace Lutheran Church** of Destin, FL. Grants will be used to support a Web Site upgrade, Pastor Kevin's mission trip to Costa Rica, and Mothers of Pre-Schooler's (MOPS).
- **Evergreen Lutheran School**, Detroit, MI. They will use the Grant to fund a significant shortfall of funds due to Detroit's recent financial crisis that has placed a much greater emphasis on private donations.
- **Mission Love Seeds**, Destin, FL. They will use the Grant to fund a fresh water well for 1,800 children and adults in the village of Bondo, Kenya. Bondo currently only has access to contaminated water from a nearby dam, ditches, or small man-made lakes. The well will be dug by hand and take two months to complete.
- **Grace Music Grant**, Destin, FL. The Grant will be used to both support young singers and musicians, and to enhance the praise and worship ministry of Grace Lutheran Church. The Grant is used for instruments and music lessons.
- **Clarkston International Bible Church**, Atlanta, GA. The Grant will be for supplies and athletic equipment for Clarkston International Student Ministry supporting refugee children in Atlanta.
- **First Lutheran Church**, Florala, AL. The Grant will be used for several major repairs to the church Parsonage, a sound system to support a new organ, and a new refrigerator to be used in the Church's Community Food Pantry.

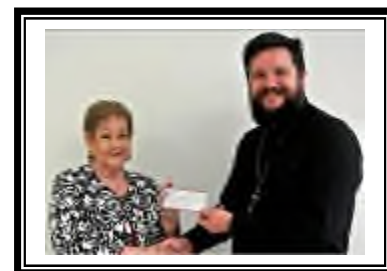
For additional information on the Grace Foundation of Destin visit [www.gracefoundationofdestin.org](http://www.gracefoundationofdestin.org).

*Kay Royston, Cindy Shanklin*

## Trinity – Leesville, LA

Pastor Joshua Leigeber of Trinity – Leesville, LA presented Helping Hands Storefront Ministry director Mody Phillips with \$1500 for the food bank. Members of Trinity made and sold gumbo within the Leesville community. Thrivent Financial through their "Care Abounds in Communities" provided matching funds. Phillips said this donation will allow the church to adopt 10 seniors for 2015.

*Glenn Salger*



## Redeemer – Fairhope, AL

On Epiphany Sunday, Redeemer - Fairhope, AL welcomed four new members by Adult Confirmation. The confirmands were honored with a reception following the service. Pictured are David "Pops" Nielsen, Samantha Puckett, Adam Ogletree, and Wanda Burleson.

Also in January, Redeemer hosted The Kantorei on tour from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN. The choir of seminary students led a service of Christmas and Epiphany lessons

and carols. After the service the congregation hosted a reception of southern fare, including shrimp and grits, for the group.

*George Miller*

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## Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd – Biloxi, MS



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd - Biloxi, MS celebrated the Ordination and Installation of their new pastor, Rev. James Garnett, on Transfiguration Sunday, February 15, 2015. Pastor Garnett served as a deferred Vicar of Good Shepherd for the past year and graduated from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

The Installation and Ordination Rite was presided over by Southern District President Kurtis Schultz. Rev. Karl Hollibaugh served as liturgist and Rev. John Gierke of Peace Lutheran Church in Conway Arkansas served as preacher. Present were Rev. John Karle, Rev. Adam Cooper, Rev. Brock Cain, Rev. Berry Schwiesow, Rev. Rick Lovick and many friends and family. There was a dinner reception following the service sponsored by the women of Good Shepherd that featured many traditional southern coastal dishes.

Pastor Garnett is married to Ellen and has two daughters and three grandsons.

*Pastor James Garnett*

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## Grace – Pensacola, FL

In 2013, Pastor Steven Linck of Grace – Pensacola, FL had a bright idea! The residents of Pace/Milton area needed a preaching station closer to their homes. After much prayer and planning, and by the grace of God, that bright idea has come to fruition.

The preaching station was opened in December 2013, and has now grown to a satellite worship church. On January 18, 2015, Grace Lutheran Church-Santa Rosa at 5941 Berryhill Road, Milton, FL was dedicated at a special worship service. The satellite church is served by the Pastoral Staff at GLC-Pensacola: Pastor Phillip Phifer, Pastor Jack Onnka, Pastor Scott Snyder and Deacon Bruce Dietly.



We invite all to come and worship with us when in that area, and we look forward to the great things that God is going to do through GLC-Santa Rosa in the years to come. For more information, please call the Pensacola office at 850-476-1771 or santarosa.gracepensacola.org. Thanks be to God!

*Susan McFarland*

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## Good Shepherd Lutheran School – Elberta, AL

Once a month Good Shepherd is blessed to have Nurse Gerrie McMilliam from the Alabama Department of Public Health visit. She brings her puppets, movies and books to help our students learn about health and safety.

In January, with the help of her finger puppets of "germs," she taught the students how important it is to always wash their hands.

In February Nurse Gerrie brought Mr. Frog, the puppet, to help the students learn how to brush their teeth. Each student got a turn brushing Mr. Frog's teeth, and then got a new toothbrush to take home. Good Shepherd is thankful for Nurse Gerrie's visits and look forward to her future visits.



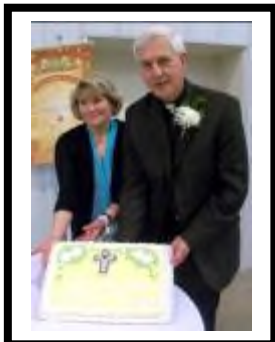
*Charlotte Bailey*

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## Holy Cross – Tuscaloosa, AL

On March 1st, Holy Cross – Tuscaloosa, AL surprised Pastor Terry Ahlemeyer with a celebration of his 35th anniversary as pastor. Even though the pot luck lunch had been planned, he was completely surprised that we were also celebrating this special occasion. Along with a special cake and a monetary gift, he was presented a boutonniere and his wife Ardith was given a beautiful corsage.

Pastor Ahlemeyer was ordained March 6, 1980 and has since served as pastor in Iowa, Texas, Illinois, Wisconsin, and now as Interim Pastor at Holy Cross for the past 4 years. We thank God for blessing us with Pastor Ahlemeyer.



*Marilynn Jacobs*



## Share Your News

The deadline for the May/June edition of the *Spirit of Southern* is May 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." 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](http://www.southernlcms.org) Current and archived issues of the Spirit of Southern can be found on the district web site.**

## 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>Mrs. Muriel Budzeyko</b>	985-326-7855		
<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 Giaise</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

**District Office Hours: Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

