



The Spirit of Southern

Web Edition – May/June, 2014

"God's Amazing Mercy"

But God who is rich in mercy, out of the great love in which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ. Ephesians 2:4-5

St. Paul describes our past lives before we knew Christ in very stark and discouraging terms. Without Christ we were dead through our trespasses, we lived in the passions of our flesh and followed the desires of body and mind. By nature, he says, we were children of wrath. But surprisingly, Paul replaces and overwhelms this bleak description in an astounding announcement: "But God, who is rich in mercy, out of his great love... has made us alive together with Christ... and raised us up with Him and made us sit with Him in the heavenly places."

No matter who we have been or what we have done, no matter how badly we may feel or others may feel about us, we have the assurance that "But God" has been written over our past lives. Have we wasted years of our lives by habits of which we are now ashamed? Are we guilty of having wronged people, even family and friend, in ways that we never thought we were capable of doing? Have we regrets or sorrows? There is an answer---BUT GOD...

Oh God, whose glory it is to always have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word. Amen.

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

If we continue to feel guilty we need to step back from our past, from our preoccupation with our wrongs and passions, until we can see them framed by God's amazing mercy; until our perspective again includes God's great promises of forgiveness and restoration; until once more we can see the cross of Christ "towering o'er the wrecks of time". Then we will be assured again that God's grace is greater than all our sin.

Any guilt or condemnation presently in our lives can be swallowed up once we are willing to let go of it, and throw ourselves upon the overcoming mercy of God. If we have confessed our sins and have received God's forgiveness, then "But God..." covers the past and paves the way for the future. How thankful we can be that we have a Savior who truly sets us free.

Southern District Disaster Response

Disaster Response teams headed to Mississippi and Florida the week of April 28, 2014. A line of powerful storms produced tornadoes in MS, and record rainfall and flooding in the Pensacola, FL area as well as Mobile and Baldwin Counties in AL. Hardest hit were Tupelo, MS and Pensacola, FL.

Shepherd's Heart Disaster Response, headed by Rev. Ed Brashier (Good Shepherd – Gardendale, AL) gathered volunteers and equipment to cut trees and assist victims in Tupelo.



Rainfall in Pensacola left an estimated 500 to 1,000 homes flooded to some extent, including 30-40 LCMS member homes. Immanuel Lutheran Church's pastor, Rev. Randy Blankschaen, and his family lost everything in their home. The collage below shows some of the damage. Camp Restore (New Orleans) is heading relief efforts there.





Photos by Cheryl Casey

Extra Mile K9 Crisis Response Teams were active in providing K9 Comfort. Having 7 K9 Comfort Teams in the district, response was provided to Pensacola, FL; Pear, MS; Tupelo, MS and Louisville, MS.

We thank God for the dedication of these teams and the volunteers that serve. If you would like to help through offerings and/or volunteer service, information is available at the following e-mail addresses/websites: shepherdsheartministry@yahoo.com, <http://camprestore.org>, Chaplain Ralph at clothcop@aol.com (Extra Mile Ministries). Donations can also be made online through the Southern District website.



God's Amazing Mercy – In The District & Synod

Southern District Welcomes New Workers

In Spring Placement and Assignment Services at Concordia Theological Seminary – Ft. Wayne, IN (CTS) and at Concordia Seminary – St. Louis, MO (CSL), four pastoral candidates and seven vicars were placed/assigned to the Southern District. We welcome these new workers and pray that they and their congregations are a blessing to each other!

Pastoral Candidates:

- ✘ Jeffery Hesterman (CSL) – placed at Messiah – Prattville, AL, as SMP (Specific Ministry Program) Pastor
- ✘ Andrew Lehman (CTS) – placed at Redeemer – Fairhope, AL, as Assistant Pastor
- ✘ Daniel Nguyen (CSL) – placed by the Southern District Board of Directors as Missionary-at-Large to Vietnamese and Asian peoples in the New Orleans East area and the Gulf Coast.
- ✘ Andrew Rosse (CSL) – placed at Christ the King – Natchitoches, LA, as Sole Pastor

Vicars:

- ✘ Paul Albers (CSL) – Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills – Vestavia Hills, AL
- ✘ Mark Blakeman (CTS)– Christ – Jackson, MS
- ✘ Josiah Fitch (CSL) - St. Mark's – Elberta, AL
- ✘ Micah Glenn (CSL) – Ascension – Huntsville, AL
- ✘ Richard "Scott" Henze (CSL) – Our Redeemer, Clinton, MS
- ✘ Daniel Scheafer (CTS) – Immanuel – Pensacola, FL
- ✘ David Witt (CTS) – Prince of Peace – Ozark, AL



CTS (l-r) Mark Blakeman, Andrew Lehman, Kathryn Lehman, David Witt, President Kurtis Schultz (Not pictured: Daniel Sheaffer)



CSL (l-r) Front: Richard "Scott" Henze, Kathleen Henze, Paul Albers, Amanda Lovelady Rosse, Andrew Rosse, Ashley Fitch; Back: Daniel Nguyen, Duyen Tho Ngoc Nguyen, Rev. Kurtis Schultz, Josiah Fitch.

Seminary Honors District Pastor



Concordia Theological Seminary – Ft. Wayne, IN, has announced that the Rev. Ulmer Marshall will receive the Doctor of Divinity *Honoris Causa* during commencement exercises on May 23. He serves as pastor of Trinity - Mobile, AL, and Bethel - Point Clear, AL. Rev. Marshall will serve as guest speaker for the Commencement Ceremony.

In addition to serving as a faithful pastor for over 40 years, Rev. Marshall has been a tireless worker for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod offering his assistance in many areas, including the Recruitment Committee, Commission on Worship, Board of Directors and Board for Black Ministry Services. He has been very active within the LCMS Southern District with service as second vice president, Board of Directors, Evangelism Board, president of the District's Pastoral Conference and president of the Black Mission Task Force. He was also a member of the Board of Regents at Concordia College - Selma, AL, and Concordia Seminary - St. Louis, Mo.

"We are deeply thankful for Pastor Marshall's many years of faithful service in the parish and Synod—and look forward to that continuing for years to come," says CTS President Dr. Lawrence Rast Jr. "He is a living, powerful example of one formed in Christ who teaches the faithful, reaches the lost, and cares for all."

Transformation - Seasons of Discovery

Working through life in the post-modern culture calls for intentionality. Congregations can be held back by denial, paralysis, or the fear of change. Transforming Churches Network (TCN) offers support and encouragement to offer tools that best fit your congregation's need. It's important for the leadership team to address several questions:

- What do you desire for the congregation to achieve?
- What do you want to preserve as part of the congregation's culture/mission?
- What do you want to avoid from happening in the congregation?

As these answers are identified, the congregation can select from a variety of tools/approaches that will best help the congregation move ahead in mission and ministry.

TCN is rolling out a new four-season step process known as "Seasons of Discovery." This is not a quick weekend retreat but rather

a disciplined engagement over a two-year time frame. The seasons included are preparation, visioning, outreach, and empowerment. TCN is there to help the congregation with proactive tools and support. For more information, contact me at 504-495-7436 or by e-mail at gwmenz@aol.com.

It continues to be my prayer that congregational leadership will engage in intentional processes to address today's culture. Let's work together to overcome any denial, paralysis, or fear of change that might exist. God continues to be at work and He wants to see the Kingdom grow!

Gene Menzel - Contractor to District Congregations

Concordia College Alabama – Selma, AL

Celebrating Success: 88th Commencement - Hundreds of family and friends gathered with the Regents, faculty and staff to celebrate the Class of 2014 at the 88th Commencement ceremony Saturday, May 10, 2014 at Concordia College Alabama. Sixty-four degrees were awarded. Pictured, faculty member Timeka Ross, College Marshall, leads the processional, followed by student Paxton Chatora, carrying the cross.

Students from Haiti and Ethiopia graduated, along with students from small towns around Selma, and cities of Mobile, Montgomery, Memphis, Miami and Lansing, MI. Simon Ajak, a Lutheran student originally from the Sudan, earned two bachelor's degrees, in Business and in Education.

The Rev. Dr. John Nunes, from Valparaiso University, IN, delivered the commencement address, telling students to be willing to stand up and make a difference, to sacrifice their own needs for those of others, and to be rich in the Lord and faith.

Concordia Cadet makes History - Cadet Malashia Chandler became the first cadet in the CCA Army ROTC program to accept an Army ROTC college scholarship during a contracting ceremony on campus in May. Chandler promised to "protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," taking an oath which contracts her into the ROTC Advance Course. Lieutenant Colonel Greg Wall of Marion Military Institute administered the oath of office, and presented the \$25,000/2.5-year scholarship, which will pay full-tuition for her studies through graduation.

Sharing the Love of Reading - "Reading is fun!" was shouted by over 400 second graders who participated in the "Reading Around the World" Literacy Festival hosted by CCA on April 11. The annual festival expresses CCA's mission to serve the community, as well as encouraging young students to read.

Children received free books and enjoyed visits from storybook characters, a play by the CCA Drama Club and learned about other cultures by interacting with Concordia's international students.



Christine Weerts

Gulf States District LWML

The Gulf States District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) held its convention April 25 - 27 at the Marriott Hotel and Convention Center in Prattville, AL.

Under the theme *"Be still and know that I am God"* (Psalm 46:10) the convention opened on Friday with worship. Saturday was a full day session beginning with a procession of beautiful banners from each of the six zones, greetings by city and district representatives, and Bible study led by our Counselor, the Rev. John Jankens.

Guest Speaker Gloria Edwards, a past president of the ILWML, held up a glass of water to remind us that our burdens, like the glass, get heavier the longer we hold on to them. Marie Chow, the representative from the LWML reminded us that *"The Time is Now,"* which is a commitment to help LWML make an impact on the next generation! Marva Ludgood, who received one of our grants the past biennium for her work as a teacher in South Africa, took us on a tour of her experience.

A mission goal for the 2014-2016 biennium was set at \$57,000. One half (\$28,500) of this is designated for the mission projects selected at this convention. They were:

- Gulf States District Scholarship Fund - \$6,000 (3 given each year at \$1,000 each)
- International Church Workers' Scholarships, Concordia College, Selma, Alabama - \$5,000
- Curriculum for Trinity Lutheran School, Mobile, AL - \$2,955.91
- Support Trinity, Hope in Haiti - \$5,000
- Lutheran Books for Families in Ethiopia - \$3,000
- Lutheran Braille Workers' Lutheran Library for the Blind - \$5,000
- Computer/Playground Equipment, Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Elberta, AL - \$1,544.09

New Officers elected were: Judy Lessmann, President; Gwen Marshall, 1st Vice-President; Jeanie Kisner, Financial Secretary; the Rev. J. Mark Kuehnert, Jr., Counselor.

Free will offerings totaled \$2,298.42. Gulf States Mission Grants were given to LCMS Missionary Rev. Fred Reinhardt and Concordia Seminary - St Louis Food Bank. Gifts from the Heart totaled an amazing 1,462 items of clothing and \$240 cash to be given to Family Sunshine, a local organization that provides shelter for victims of family violence in seven counties in Alabama.

Collage Photo identity top left: Judy Lessmann, newly elected President of the Gulf States District; Top right: Marva Ludgood, Mission speaker; bottom left: Marie Chow, LWML representative presenting outgoing president Jackie Morris with a certificate of appreciation; bottom right: A representative of Family Sunshine with Ruth Balzer, Special Focus Ministries shown with the Amazing--1,462 items donated by the ladies.



Photos by Bea Daily

Bea Daily

Extra Mile K9 Crisis Response

Extra Mile K9 Crisis Response Teams were active in providing K9 Comfort to those devastated by the recent tornadoes in the district. Having 7 K9 Comfort Teams in the District, we were able to provide responses to Pensacola, FL; Pearl, MS; Tupelo, MS and Louisville, MS. The K9s team provide much needed comfort during these times of heightened stress and emotional turmoil.

Providing wordless warmth, touching comfort, and a brief respite from the crisis, we thank St. John's - Hattiesburg, MS for their support of K9 Duchess and K9 Disney.



Grace - Pensacola supports K9 Evie and K9 Beau while K9 Sarina goes to Lutheran Church of the Pines in Waveland, MS. Finally, we have K9 Sam in New Orleans and K9 Honey in Biloxi.

If you are interested in being a part of this special K9 Comfort ministry please contact Chaplain Ralph at clothcop@aol.com.

Chaplain Ralph Buchhorn



Southern District Senior Youth Gathering

District youth will be gathering at Camp Restore in New Orleans July 10-13, 2014. Can we count you in the number? Registration closes June 25th at 5:00 p.m. Information has been sent to congregations and is available on the Southern District web site. Join us for days of service, worship, music, speakers and fellowship!

An Invitation...

You are invited to a celebration of 35 years of ministry for District President Kurtis D. Schultz. A special worship service will be held on Sunday June 22, 2014, at 9:00 a.m. at The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills, 201 S. Montgomery Hwy., Birmingham, AL 35216. Guest speaker will be former LCMS President Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick. A reception will follow the service.

God's Amazing Mercy – In Our Congregations

St. Jude's by the Sea – Gulf Shores, AL



The good Father Deral (Rollings) and his parish did their best to warm up cold Gulf Shores with an authentic Mexican Fiesta on Feb. 23, 2014. St. Jude's members hosted the many snowbirds who had come south to find warmer weather!

The Fiesta food was tasty and plentiful. Games, raffles, and plenty of good Fiesta music kept the party lively. Men wore floppy sombreros and ladies wore gardenias in their hair. If we snowbirds had left our "Fiesta wear" up north, you still could have your photo made with your faces showing through the Mexican wear banner.



Tom Truebenbach

Trinity – Panama City, FL

The Master's Planning Committee members of Trinity - Panama City, FL, finalized plans with engineering and contractors for the parking lot expansion project funded through a loan from the Southern District Church Extension Fund. Pictured are committee members Earl Gutliph, Tom Liesemeyer, Allan Parauka, Derek Fussell, Chad Redding, and Alvin Miller.

After roughly 3 years of planning, preparation, and thoughtful diligence to the minor details, we celebrated the rite of groundbreaking between Sunday services May 5th!

Lisa Parauka



Good Shepherd – Shalimar, FL

A crowd of 1,500 arrived in the dark between 5:30 and 6 A.M. Easter morning to attend the 40th annual Easter Sunrise Service held at Beasley Park. The Rev. Ray Angerman, pastor of Good Shepherd – Shalimar, FL, preached "He is risen" to the worshipers. The Praise Band of Good Shepherd led the singing with Carolyn Schlatter on the keyboard. Also participating were the



members of Good Shepherd, and Rev. Kevin Wendt along with members of his congregation, Grace - Destin, FL.



Bea Daily

Faith – Shreveport, LA

On Sunday, March 16, The Gospel Guiders, Faith's Youth Group, debuted their beautiful new uniforms. The group consists of twenty-two Christian youth, ranging in age from 5-18 years, and is under the direction of Mrs. Glenda Lafitte. They meet every first and third Saturday of the month and help perform the worship service on every third Sunday of the month.

Pictured, the girls' new dress attire consists of a sparkling white shirt enhanced with a blue and white necktie, a blue denim skirt, white tennis shoes and bobby socks. The boys' attire consists of a sparkling white oxford shirt enhanced with a blue and white bowtie, and blue denim jeans. Adults pictured with youth group are Mrs. Glenda Lafitte, Pastor Michael Shannon, and Mr. Jessie Baker.



The Guiders work diligently to represent their church and their Christian teaching. They volunteer in the community, participate in local church events with other youth groups, praise dance and drill.

We at Faith Lutheran Church are proud of our youth group and look forward to seeing them every third Sunday in their beautiful new outfits. We thank God for our children and all that they do; we also thank God for all the blessings He has bestowed on us here at Faith.

Arlene B. Ferguson



Our Redeemer – Clinton, MS

Carol Ann McGehee has been serving her Lord and church family for 50 years as organist at Our Redeemer - Clinton, MS. She began playing the organ at the age of 16 at Our Redeemer's first location in Jackson, MS.

Carol Ann has continued to serve as organist while leading a successful career as a nurse and childbirth educator. She is faithfully involved as a member of the worship committee, LWML, and choir accompanist. She and her husband, Glenn McGehee, the choir director for Our Redeemer, have 4 children and six grandchildren.

Pictured is Carol Ann with Pastor Steven Koenig.

Karen Berger

St. Paul – Birmingham, AL

On Saturday and Sunday, June 14th and 15th 2014, the former pastor of St. Paul – Birmingham, AL, Rev. Joseph W. Ellwanger (1958-1967), will be at St. Paul to autograph copies of his book "Strength for the Struggle." The book signing at St. Paul will take place beginning at 1:00 pm on the 14th and after worship on the 15th. The public is invited. The church is located at 132 6th Avenue South.

Primarily a pastoral handbook on various issues he faced in his urban ministry of over 50 years in Birmingham and Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Ellwanger reflects on what is needed to make a successful ministry in difficult circumstances. In the last 50 years, many congregations in decline have moved out of their inner city surroundings and found refuge in the suburbs. Many who tried to maintain ministries in these areas have found it overwhelming.

Ellwanger puts his finger on the systemic needs of such situations, and how congregations can become relevant to grow in these settings. The answer does not lie in ignoring the needs around the congregation and the answer does not lie in a social ministry devoid of the Gospel, but a social outreach ministry because of the Gospel. An emphasis on youth, assessing the needs of the community, weaving different cultures into the liturgy, and challenging the congregation to volunteer their skills are all integral steps that have served to make the difference.

The book can be ordered through www.HenschelHAUSbooks.com or you can order through the website <https://www.ellwangersbook.com>.

Rev. Thomas R. Noon

Redeemer - Fairhope, AL

With great joy we announce that Redeemer – Fairhope, AL, has been assigned Candidate Andrew Lehman as Associate Pastor. Candidate Lehman is a spring 2014 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN.

Lehman follows Rev. Ross Johnson who took a call to become the Director of Disaster Response for the LCMS. Rev Johnson preached at Redeemer recently while in the area in response to flood damage in Pensacola, Florida.

In response to current growth and to prepare for future growth, the congregation has voted to proceed with plans for remodeling and expansion of the fellowship hall and youth house. The plans include relocating the administrative and pastors' offices, expanding the fellowship hall and adding a new kitchen.

George W Miller

Ebenezer – Atmore, AL

Ebenezer, Atmore, AL. celebrated with a beautiful program on Easter Sunday. The children presented their Easter speeches and everything was just wonderful. HE IS RISEN!!! Pictured are: Justice Poole, Miracle Williams, Taheya McGhee, Tuari McGhee, Mary Bradley, Dorothy Adams, Virgie McCullam, Bobbie Jones, Marcus Leslie.

Ebenezer's L.W.M.L. Women in White program was held on May 18, 2014. The speaker for this occasion was Mrs. Dorothy Jean Adams, a member at Ebenezer. She brought a message to us on "A VIRTUOUS WOMAN," and she did a very, very awesome job. She is a very motivational speaker. Participating were Virgie McCullam, Barbara P. Harris, Helen Brown, Annie Deese, Barbara Grissett, Carolyn James, Ruby White, Dorothy Jean Adams, Stephanie Buitron, Gwedolyn Rothchild, Rev. Benjamin Stallworth, Annie Poole.



Annie Poole

Immanuel – Pensacola, FL

Members of Immanuel - Pensacola, FL, were guests on KFUO's new one-hour radio show titled "Concord Matters" hosted by Rev. Rod Zwonitzer. The round-table discussion was on the Seventh Commandment. Participants were members of Immanuel's Men's and Women's Confessions Reading Groups, including (l-r) Cyndi Meyers, Gary Moss, Sue Moench, Mark Stahla, Rev. Randy Blankschaen, Rusty Becker, Lindsey Casey, Cheryl Casey, and Wanda Neiswonger.



Cheryl Casey

Our Savior – Columbus, MS

The installation service for Pastor Mark Steiner was held at Our Savior - Columbus, MS, on Sunday, March 23rd. Our Circuit Counselor, Rev. Warren Pellom, and Rev. David Hartung were the officiants. Southern District President Kurtis Schultz installed Pastor Steiner. Pastors participating are pictured - front row. l to r: Rev. Stephen Koenig, Rev. Mark Steiner, Pres. Kurtis Schultz; back row: Rev. David Hartung, Rev. Kenneth Boudreau, Rev. Warren Pellom, Rev. David MacKain.



Following the service we held a dinner for all who could attend. Along with members of Our Savior, we had several former members come to celebrate his happy occasion with us. We look forward to having Pastor and his wife, Deborah, at Our Savior.

Kathie Baeuerlin

Christ Our Savior, Hartselle, AL

Christ Our Redeemer, Hartselle, marked Maundy Thursday, 2014, with a celebration of the Seder Meal led by Pastor John Ninke. With dining tables pre-set in the sanctuary, a formal evening was welcoming to all who came to learn about the Passover Meal and what it means for Christians.

More than 40 people attended, eight of whom were from other local churches. The evening was rich with history and emotion, as well as authentic Seder foods and rites.

Donna Paul Bessken



St. Mark's – Elberta, AL

David Ringers, a member of St. Mark's - Elberta, AL, went on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic in May with CMMA (Christian Medical Ministries of Alabama). David is currently a physical therapy student at UAB in Birmingham and attends Vestavia Hills - Birmingham while he is at school.

He did a presentation for the adult Bible class about the physical therapy team he will be with that will provide care to people and spread the gospel to them at the same time.

Diana Ringers



Faith – Madison, AL



Faith - Madison, AL, has had a busy spring. March 9th we went to see the "Son of God," a great movie with a wonderful message, and a fellowship opportunity as well (pictured)!

As March wrapped up we brought to a close our "Shoebboxes for Haiti" Lenten Outreach project which teamed us up with FeedHaiti.org to deliver essentials to some people who really need our help.

April began with an Easter Egg Filling Fellowship followed on Palm Sunday with the annual neighborhood Easter Egg hunt. The children were reverent and attentive in the sanctuary while we told the Resurrection story, then off they went to find those eggs!! The hunt

wrapped up with popsicles, crafts, snacks and a fantastic time had by all. And just when all of the Hunt Helpers were exhausted, a new team of volunteers showed up to clean up our mess!

Sherrie Callahan

Shepherd of the Bay – Lillian, AL

What happens when you get the women of Shepherd of the Bay Prayer Shawl group together to knit, crochet, and pray for people that need comfort, or to celebrate a special gift from God? You wind up with over 70 prayer shawls, lap robes, baby caps and blankets given to show love and compassion for others during the past year. We are thankful for the funding received from Thrivent Financial to support this outreach ministry. Pictured are volunteers: (l-r) Sally Smith, Helen Engel, Claudia Bobletter, Marie Anderson, Kara Leigeber, Sylvia Presley, Ronna Young, Pastor Paul Leigeber.

The Food Pantry at Shepherd of the Bay continues to serve the needy in our community. We have been serving between 10 to 15 families on a regular basis and, at 15 items each per visit, we are often in need of supplies to replenish our food items.

Our Food Pantry is open on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. If you have need or know someone in our area in need of food, please plan to visit our Food Pantry. Through the grace of our loving, caring God, we plan to continue providing this outreach service to those in need of food as long as we are able.

Sally Smith, Marie Anderson



Good Shepherd Lutheran School – Elberta, AL



"A Little Child will lead them." What a better way to end the Good Shepherd school year than with the voices of little ones singing about God's love for them and all of us. The students sang for their parents, families, and friends Friday, May 16 in the sanctuary of St. Mark's – Elberta, AL.

The teachers and aides were recognized during the program, with special recognition going to Ms. Charlene Crump for being with Good Shepherd for 10 years. She was presented with a certificate of appreciation from the Southern District LCMS. Following the program, the children and guests all enjoyed refreshments in the parish hall.

Charlotte Bailey

God's Amazing Mercy – For Your Information

District Staff Opening - Administrative Assistant - Part-time Office Position

The Southern District, located in Slidell, LA, is looking for a detail oriented individual who can work in a professional setting as part of a team. The individual must have excellent interpersonal skills and excellent writing skills. The ability to communicate through social media is required. An undergraduate degree is preferred. Please send a brief resume with a cover letter to HR@southernlcms.org.

Share Your News

The deadline for the July/August edition of the *Spirit of Southern* is July 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 District office phone number: 504-282-2632

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
Rev. Eric Johnson	985-796-7175		
Mr. Glenn Gerber	985-218-0335		
Mrs. Janice Howard	985-605-5403	Ms. Ronnie Gaise	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

Hurricane Preparedness 2014

By the time this issue of *Spirit of Southern* reaches your home, we will be in "Hurricane Season." The Southern District takes this subject very seriously and wants to help as much as possible. First and foremost, if you receive a mandatory evacuation order, please heed it. Then, please take a few moments to register with the district so that information can be on file. This can be done by phone, or on the District website, www.SouthernLCMS.org. This box can be saved in your evacuation file. It contains all of the information that you will need if and when the time comes.

If you can provide shelter, or are looking for shelter, you can also use the website to provide or receive information.

Clip and Save - Southern District Evacuation Reporting

In the event of hurricane evacuation, please contact the Southern District with the following information:

Name, Congregation, City, State	Report information to: www.SouthernLCMS.org or call:
Evacuated (yes or no) If yes, to: City, State	Church Workers (mandatory reporting) – 985-635-4232
Contact Phone Number	Congregation Members – 985-635-4239

If you can provide shelter, or are looking for shelter, you can use the website to provide or receive information.

Please update any changes.