

# The Spirit of Southern

Web Edition – September/October, 2013

## Our Confidence is in the Lord

***Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.*** (Psalm 125:1, RSV)

October brings to mind the Reformation, Dr. Martin Luther, and his courageous stand in the face of death for the truth of his faith. Many have wondered how one man could take such an immovable position in light of great opposition. Surely, knowing the answer could have an impact on our individual and corporate life.

It is in this light we focus on the amazing words of the Psalmist. He says that those who put their confidence in the Lord, who truly believe in him and live in this assurance, are like Mount Zion. It doesn't say they should be or will be like Mount Zion, but they are like Mount Zion. In God's sight it is already true.

They are said to be like Mount Zion in two specific ways: 1) they cannot be moved, and 2) they abide forever. A mountain is the epitome of an object that cannot be moved. When Jesus wanted to illustrate something that was humanly impossible, he spoke of moving mountains. Mount Zion was particularly immovable because it was surrounded by other mountains.

Trust in the Lord and his never ending grace similarly makes a Christian secure, solid, and steady so that nothing can shake him or her. We need not be threatened by the difficult circumstances of life, the sudden changes brought on by tragedy or even natural disaster. Our confidence in God can be that strong. This is especially so if we are part of a group of Christians who trust in the Lord together.

Furthermore, the cross of Jesus Christ proclaims that we

will abide forever with the Lord. Our security is not in this life only, but even more in the life that is to come, when our trust will turn to sight and we shall live in his presence forever.

Any mountain would have been sufficient to give this sense of security but this is Mount Zion. This is "his holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, the joy of all the earth" (Psalm 48:2). This is Mount Zion, "the city of the great King." It is his dwelling place. We are secure because "the great King" lives in and among us. Through our trust in a the Lord we can be individually and corporately lifted up to be the joy of the whole earth.

Again in Revelation, just when Satan appears to have taken over the whole earth, the spotlight of heaven suddenly swings around and there on Mount Zion stands the victorious Lamb surrounded by the armies of heaven (Revelation 14:1). Mount Zion is where God reveals his overcoming power. It is where Jesus stands ready to accomplish the ultimate victory. If we are "like Mount Zion" then we are the place where Jesus' victory is secure and where he stands, awaiting the time of his unveiling to the world. This is truly an amazing statement.

Now and again we need to be reminded of who God is, what he has done for us, is doing for us, and will do for us, and how confident we can be in him. No wonder Peter writes, "the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself establish, strengthen, and settle you" (1 Peter 5:10).

**Prayer: Thank you, Father, that in Jesus you will never fail us nor forsake us. Amen**

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

## LCMS Announces App

Do you ever need to find an LCMS congregation while on the road, or to connect via social media with other LCMS Lutherans, or wish you could find a daily devotional resource, no matter where you may be? The new, free LCMS app provides these features, and more.

"We're delighted to offer this new means for LCMS people to connect to their church with their mobile devices," said David L. Strand, executive director of LCMS Communications. "Now, wherever you are, a wealth of beneficial resources concerning the church and our lives of faith is literally at hand."

Available on both the Apple and Android (Google Play) app stores, the LCMS app also features links to current giving opportunities that support LCMS mission and ministry around the world.

To get the app, search "LCMS" on the Apple or Android (Google Play) app stores.

### Parish Ministries

#### What good can we do around here?

So, if we have been looking for how God is at work in our life, if we have been listening to Him speak to us through His word, if we have been having conversations with folks who do not yet know Jesus, then we are ready to ask question number four. What good can we do around here?

This question is best asked after we have had those conversations where we listened more than we talked and thus discovered what a person, a group, a school, a neighbor, or a friend needed. It is way better to know what someone needs than to guess or assume. Many a well meaning follower of Jesus has tried to take the shortcut of assumption and results were less than stellar. If a school needs after school tutors and mentors and we choose to give them overhead projectors, we shouldn't be surprised if the thank you is kind of hollow and we see the overhead projectors for sale on E-bay.

I saw a beautiful thing last week. Some followers of Jesus I know were aware that a person they knew was lonely and struggling. I suspect we have all been there and done that. These followers of Jesus chatted, visited, listened, loved and are now helping this person enjoy life and see God at work through the persons helping them. I love to see the church behave like the church or to put it another way..... Jesus said, "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full." That full life doesn't begin when we by grace through faith in Jesus enter heaven. It begins the moment we belong to the one who died on a cross to make us His. The full life becomes clearer to us as we try to look at the world the way Jesus looks at the world. Spend some time in the Gospels. You will see Jesus over and over again looking around seeing what good He can do and then by the Spirit's power doing it and making a difference. Spend some time watching and learning from Jesus and then you will be able to live a fuller life. Jesus promised so you can take it to the bank.  
Joy in Him,

*Rev. Gary Faith, Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries*

### Recruitment and Scholarship

The Recruitment and Scholarship committee is pleased to announce that our district has awarded \$57,399 to help fund the education of 17 future pastors, 6 future teachers, 2 future DCEs, and 2 future deaconesses for the 2013-14 school year. Our committee would like to thank all who contributed gifts for the purpose of raising up workers for the Church! We encourage you to keep these students in your prayers as they are engaged in their rigorous studies this school year.

Our committee has some exciting new changes ahead that we look forward to sharing with you as more details are worked out, all of which will have to do with how our district can be better stewards of the gifts we receive to support our future church workers. Simply put, we want your generous gifts to go farther and wider than ever before. These changes will also simplify the management side of things as our district office is in the midst of transition. If your congregation does not currently offer support for future workers of the harvest, we invite you to prayerfully consider doing so as you plan your giving for the coming year.

*Pastor Jonathan Kern, Recruitment and Scholarship Committee*

### Foundation & Reformation

We understand the importance of having a good foundation when a building is constructed. A good foundation is also important in education.

Jesus shares these words in John 17:23-24: "I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world."

Jesus places a priority on unity and that all my come to know His saving truth. At the very heart is a passion for those who do not yet know Jesus. Is this passion evidenced as being foundational through congregations and schools in the Southern District?

Paul shares this in 1 Corinthians 3:9-11: "For we are God's fellow workers. You are God's field, God's building.

According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building upon it. Let each one take care how he builds upon it. For no one can lay a foundation other than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ." God has through Baptism has called each of us in the efforts of sharing Jesus. In many settings, this calls for a reformation as congregations and schools grow in being intentional to ask the "why" about mission and ministry. We often focus great energy on the "what" of activities but often overlook focusing on the "why" of our activities.

As contractor to the Southern District, I am available to work in partnership with congregations and schools to focus on assessing foundations and living in a reformation for the 21st century. The past foundations catapult us into the future. I am on call by phone at 504-495-7436 or by e-mail at gwmenz@aol.com.

*Gene Menzel, School Ministry, Congregation Revitalization/Transformation*

## Youth & Leaders ..... Coming Events

### --2013 Regional High School Youth Gatherings – Identified – Standing Before God and the World Gal. 3:26

“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.” Galatians 3:26

**November 8-10**

Blue Lake Camp and Retreat  
Andalusia, AL

(Registration closes October 24)

**November 22-24**

Tall Timbers Baptist Conference Center  
Forest Hill, LA (near Alexandria)

(Registration Closes November 7)

We are pleased to announce that this year’s presenter for the Junior High Gatherings will be Rev. Christopher Brynestad. Pastor Chris will have three breakout sessions: “Who am I?”, “Before God,” “Before the World.”

Registration is \$95.00/participant. Information and registration forms are found on the district website [www.southernlcms.org](http://www.southernlcms.org). Questions? Contact Youth Committee Chair, Cindy Namanny, 601-924-9999, [dce@orlclms.org](mailto:dce@orlclms.org).

### --Southern District Youth Ministry Leaders Conference

The Southern District Youth Committee is hosting a youth leaders’ training event in Slidell, LA, January 31-February 2, 2014. This is for all youth leaders, especially volunteer youth leaders. We come together to share ideas, seek input from others and learn from presenters.

Registration information/costs will be shared on the district website soon. We will begin Friday evening, January 31st, meet all day Saturday and go into New Orleans for dinner on Saturday evening. We would appreciate hearing from you now by email, so that we may send you updates. Send your email address to Cindy Namanny: [dce@orlclms.org](mailto:dce@orlclms.org).

**--2014 Senior Youth Gathering** - Grades 9-12 - July 10-13, 2014 - Camp Restore in New Orleans - Information will be posted on the district website as it becomes available.

*Cindy Namanny, Youth Committee*

### Camp Restore – Mrs. Lorraine’s Kitchen Underway!



We’re excited to announce that the construction of our permanent kitchen addition at Camp Restore is now underway! See our progress at [www.camprestore.org](http://www.camprestore.org) and at [Facebook.com/camprestore](https://www.facebook.com/camprestore).

Mrs. Lorraine took things into her own hands for the groundbreaking! Stay tuned for news and invitations for our ribbon-cutting, hopefully sometime in November!

*Kurt Jostes*

### Stewardship - “Baptized for This Moment of Stewardship”

Really! Baptized for stewardship! Our usual response when we hear the word stewardship is the age old call for money to pay the bills and use what’s left over to support favorite programs. For the past few years we have emphasized the truth that we are Blessed to be a Blessing in Making Disciples for Jesus. We have put first focus on stewardship of testimony so that They May Know Jesus with time, talent, and treasure as means to this mission and ministry end.

“Baptized for This Moment” was the theme of our recent Synodical convention. The title of this article is from the Synod’s monthly Stewardcast e-newsletter, September 2013 edition. Here is a sample of excerpts to drive home the reality that “We are baptized to be stewards of the life that our Lord gives us to live every day.” Further, “When we view life through the lens of our baptism it changes both the vision and purpose for our stewardship. Our baptism causes us to see joyous moments as good and perfect gifts from the Lord for us to steward for His purposes not ours.” And, “Our baptism leads us to not ask the question ‘why me’ when confronted by moments of challenge or boredom but prompts us to view it as a gift from the Lord that is being used to shape us, mold us or even call us to repentance.”

*Don Hennings, Stewardship Committee*

## Concordia University Alabama – Selma, AL, Highlights New School Year Events

"God loves you and wants you to have the opportunity to be more than you ever believed possible," Rev. Dr. Victor Belton told Concordia College students at the convocation opening the 2013-2014 school year in August. Rev. Belton from Peace - Decatur, GA, encouraged new and returning students to keep their eyes on Jesus, and with the help of faculty, staff and their faith, they would be given the tools "to undermine every negative word and silence every critic." Pictured is special convocation guest Rev. Dr. Wakseyoum Idosa, president of the 6.2 million member Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus, talking with CCA Lutheran students from Addis Abba after the service.



Students and alumni are looking forward to Homecoming Weekend, October 4-6. Events include a pep rally and a jambalaya fest, thanks to Pastor Paul Ernewein of The Village Lutheran Church in Lacombe, LA; an alumni ball; a showcase of bands; and the football game as the CCA Hornets play the Ave Marie University Gyrenes.

CCA Hornet Soccer team is racking up several wins under new Coach Winston Williams. The international team--with new and returning players--represents the countries of Chili, Colombia, Zimbabwe, Trinidad, Jamaica, Costa Rica, Nigeria, Argentina, Mexico and the U.S.

A unique partnership between Concordia College and sister institution Concordia University - Wisconsin is bringing new course offerings and degree programs to the Selma campus. Students can take classes toward a degree in criminal justice this fall, taught by professors from CUW, CCA and the community.

*Christine Weerts*

## Coming and Going

The Southern District and its congregations are busy with welcomes and farewell blessings as pastors are following God's call to service.

Redeemer - Fairhope, AL, held a welcome home celebration for Associate Pastor Ross Johnson on June 29th. Rev. Johnson is a Captain and a Chaplain in the US Army and has returned from a one year deployment to Afghanistan and Kuwait. Please continue to keep him in your prayers as he faces surgery to repair injuries to his shoulder sustained during a training exercise while deployed.

Effective Sept.3, Rev. Johnson has accepted a call to serve as director of LCMS Disaster Response, the Synod's disaster response and human care ministry. Johnson will succeed the Rev. Glenn Merritt, who has served as director of the LCMS' disaster response ministry since 2003 and will be retiring June 30, 2014.

Rev. David Lewis attended his last Southern District Board of Directors meeting on September 20th, having accepted a call to St. Trinity - St. Louis, MO. His service to the district has ranged from parish pastor/mission developer, to disaster relief coordinator following Hurricane Katrina, to youth positions, and web master for the district's website.

May God continue to bless these men and their families in His service.

## Sixty Years and Counting

Rev. John Ellermann celebrated his 60th year as an ordained minister on September 1, 2013. He is pictured with Rev. Gary Faith and Vicar Brock Cain. Lutheran Church of the Pines – Waveland, MS, threw a celebration for him on Sunday, September 1, 2013.



Pastor Ellermann began his Southern District ministry in 1953 when he was ordained and installed at Bethlehem – New Orleans, a black congregation under the Synodical Conference. From 1956-1970, he served as Mission Developer at missions which became Good Shepherd – Shalimar, FL and Trinity – Scottsdale, AL. In 1970, Pastor Ellermann was called to be the first full time President of the Southern District, a position in which he served for eight years before accepting a call to be Senior Pastor at Bethany – Slidell, LA. In 1992, He "retired" to serve several congregations as interim minister, and still continues as Sunday school teacher at Lutheran Church of the Pines.

Also marking a 60th Ordination Anniversary this year is Pastor Russell Killion of Montgomery, AL.

Not to be outdone by the "youngsters," former District President Richard (Pedo) Meyer celebrated 65 years this summer in New Orleans, LA!

## Prince of Peace & Pilgrim Unite as Unity Evangelical Lutheran – Birmingham, AL

During the month of August, Prince of Peace and Pilgrim congregations celebrated with Pastor Perry McCullam his 11 years of service. The program included a special worship service led by Pastor Wiggins of Concordia College – Selma. Dr. McNair Ramsey was the guest speaker. The event was celebrated with relatives, special guests, friends and members. It was a joyous occasion for those in attendance.

Prince of Peace and Pilgrim congregations became united as one on August 25, 2013 under the new name of "Unity Evangelical Lutheran Church." Each congregation leaves many precious memories and a rich history to be cherished forever and ever.

*Elois Ramsey*

## Immanuel – Vredenburgh, AL

July 29 through August 2, 2013 was a special week for Immanuel and the Vredenburgh, AL community when twenty one adults and teenagers "invaded" Southern Alabama led by Rev. Paul Short and other leaders of St. Andrew and St. Paul Lutheran Churches of the Cape Girardeau, MO area. These leaders joined with twelve members of Immanuel and contributed a week that will go down as a most memorable occasion



During the week a Jesus Day Camp/Vacation Bible School was held at the church while the other half of the visiting friends and guests provided light construction at several homes in the community. The majority of the teenagers and their adult leaders led 37 children, 10 parents, and 12 twelve church members in devotions of singing, crafts, Bible stories, and other activities. Snacks were provided at the end of each day's activities. The smiles and

thank yous are still resonating throughout the community and the children and parents as well as the members of Immanuel are continuing to sing the wonderful songs learned during the week long activities.

The Mission Outreach of the Jesus Day Camp/Vacation Bible School was Supported by a grant from the Southern District LCMS. Other financial contributions were provided by congregation and community friends.

We give thanks and praises to the Almighty God for bringing all these people together for this time: THAT THEY MAY KNOW JESUS. Perhaps those of the community will benefit more as they come to be "BAPTIZED FOR THIS MOMENT."

*Carolyn Bragg*

## St. Paul's – Decatur, AL

The children of St. Paul's - Decatur, AL, held a car wash and bake sale on July 21 to raise extra funds for the two girls they sponsor through "God's Little Ones." They raised almost \$300 through this servant event.

*Camilla Canty*



## St. John – Lake Charles, LA

Celebrating their 125th anniversary, St. John - Lake Charles, LA, had a festive Sunday worship service and catered dinner on Aug. 4th at Prien Lake Park.



Rev. Jonathan Kern, pastor of St. James - Gonzales, LA, was keynote speaker, and was assisted by St. John's pastor, Charles Miller (pictured l-r). Jonathan was baptized and confirmed at St. John, and was active in the youth group for many years, It was a great privilege to have him as our guest pastor for the occasion.

The congregation was treated to music provided by a 15-piece orchestra, primarily St. John members; to face painting and games for the children at the park; and to a table of memorabilia, set up by Chris Clark, who was a strong organizer for the anniversary event.

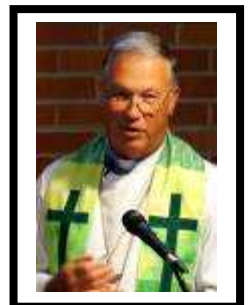
## Trinity – Gadsden, AL

This has been a year of celebration as October, 2013, marks Trinity – Gadsden, AL's 75th year serving the communities of Etowah and surrounding counties.

On Sunday, August 18, Pastor Steve Schrader, Prince of Peace - Ft. Payne, AL, exchanged pulpits with Pastor P. J. Moore. Steve (pictured) is a former member of Trinity who completed the DELTO program, serving Prince of Peace since 2002.

We have several celebrative events planned for September and October, including worship led by former pastors Rev. Wes Toncre on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and Rev. Gary Faith on October 6<sup>th</sup> when our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet is held. On October 20, District President Kurtis Schulz will bring the Sunday morning message as our concluding recognition for our 75th Anniversary year.

We sincerely invite all and any former members and friends to attend these events. To let us know your intention, contact Trinity at [tlc@tlcgadsden.com](mailto:tlc@tlcgadsden.com) or (256) 546-1712 or Mary Baldwin at [cmbaldwin@tds.net](mailto:cmbaldwin@tds.net) or (256) 490-4095.



*Mary Baldwin*



### Christ – Pascagoula, MS

On July 28, Melani Caver and Dobbs Dennis were presented a gift of \$645 to be used in the operations of Our Daily Bread of Pascagoula. The funds were generated through Mississippi Gulf-Northshore LA Chapter of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and Christ - Pascagoula. Pictured is Betty Andrews (right) presenting the check to Melani Caver and Dobbs Dennis.

*Betty Andrews*

### Grace – Houma, LA

Before this year, a flower was given to each mother in attendance at worship at Grace – Houma, LA, on Mother's Day by the Mission Guild, and a candy bar to each father on Father's Day.

In an effort to reach out to the community, group members voted to have an outreach project instead of distributing flowers and candy this year. Following the suggestion of one of the Mission Guild members, a decision was made to distribute "baby food jar banks" to mothers, fathers and anyone interested in participating on Mother's Day, with instructions to return the "banks" filled with coins, dollars, checks, etc., (pictured), by Father's Day. The project, "Change for Children," is a joint project with the Louis Infants' Crisis Center in Houma, LA and St. Matthew's Episcopal Church. The total amount collected was \$2,500.



*Gordon Fitzgerald*



### Lutheran Church of the Resurrection – Pensacola, FL

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection - Pensacola, FL takes Vacation Bible School to the community. This 1-day VBS event is held at a local mobile home park. From the story, to a craft, a game, and snack, God's Word is taught and shared.

The day started out with rain, but ended with sunshine. A little girl from the park who attended this event asked one of our teachers, Mrs. Penny Baldwin, if she could keep the Bible that we had brought from church. Penny filled out the front of the Bible and gave it to her. Hearing this from the little girl was such a blessing. Spreading God's Word with the community is such an awesome feeling.

### Solid Rock – Trussville, AL

Solid Rock - Trussville, AL, has recently redesigned its web site. Included are three CD recordings of short stories written by their pastor, Ed Rosser. These stories range from five to seven minutes and contain a wide range of biblical messages. Some of the subjects covered are marriage issues, forgiveness, conflict resolution, servanthood, just to name a few. The material could be used in Bible classes, youth groups, Sunday School, men or women's study groups. Each story has a spiritual message and

the biblical principles are woven throughout the stories. The web site address is [www.solidrocklutheranchurch.org](http://www.solidrocklutheranchurch.org) and once on the page just click on Pastor's stories. If anyone is interested in having copies of these CD's just let Pastor Rosser ([rwwjdgrace@aol.com](mailto:rwwjdgrace@aol.com)) know. There is no charge. The author gives permission to reproduce these messages to God's glory.

*Pastor Ed Rosser*

### Trinity – Mobile, AL

On June 12, 2013, the Evangelism Committee at Trinity - Mobile, AL, sponsored a free Movie Night in honor of all fathers, young and old. The theatre type atmosphere took place in the church's fellowship hall at 2668 Berkley Avenue. Rev. Ulmer Marshall introduced the event and spoke on the importance of fatherhood and good Christian parenting.

As congregational members and friends sat back for a relaxed evening while being intrigued in a Christian movie, free treats of popcorn, candy, and chili cheese nachos were served. This was

not a night to worry about the kids because they were also enjoying cartoon movies in a separate prepared theatre room.

At the end of the evening, a pleased crowd applauded in agreement that their experience was an enjoyable and memorable one. A Michael Jackson replica showcase hat was given as a door prize, and the winner was congregational member, Leon Wilson. His wife expressed that he has been an excellent Christian father throughout their several years of marriage.

*Brenda S. Wilks*

## Good Shepherd Lutheran School – Elberta, AL

Good Shepherd Lutheran School's vision is "is to provide a Christian education for churched and unchurched families so that children can grow spiritually, academically, physically, emotionally and socially in a Christ-centered community". This has been the school's vision since it was established in 2004. Pictured are the children who attended the school's summer camp program.

The 2013-2014 school year started on Monday August 19th. Classes are offered for pre-K 3, pre-K 4, and kindergarten. For more information about the school please call the school at 251-987-1966 or email goodshepherd.ls.elberta@gmail.com.



Charlotte Bailey



L-r (front row): Rufus McCullam, Wilson Bullard, Wayne Bullard, Arbo Bradley, Alfred Johnson (back row): Arthur Hill, Rev. Benjamin Stallworth, Bernard McCullam, Clifford Bullard. Attending but not pictured: Delarrian Poole, Sr., Lawrence Goldsmith, Hoover Brown, Randy Johnson Tauri McGhee, Delarrian Poole, Jr.

## Ebenezer – Atmore, AL

Sunday August 25, 2013 was Men's Day at Ebenezer – Atmore, AL. The speaker for the occasion was Mr. Wayne Bullard of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, Claiborne, AL, where Rev. Osbry Millender is pastor. Mr. Bullard gave a very uplifting and outstanding speech from Luke on man being different. Along with Mr. Bullard's speech we had Mrs. Barbara Dunning with her amazing voice uplifting us in some awesome singing.

Annie Poole

## Holy Trinity – Covington, LA

Members of Holy Trinity - Covington, LA LWML have been making crocheted mats from plastic grocery bags for the homeless in the New Orleans area. 67 mats have been completed.

The LWML ladies recently painted the fellowship hall and kitchen; provide transportation to church services and prepare meals as needed for shut-ins; maintain a gift shop sponsored by LWML; are sponsoring a sales table at our upcoming October Fest; and meeting monthly for enriching our faith through Bible study and fellowship.

Hazel Gaudet



## Good Shepherd – Gulf Breeze, FL

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School - Gulf Breeze, FL, will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in September of this year.

As one way of celebrating the occasion the congregation has set a goal of making 50 quilts to give to people who have encountered a hardship – fire, hurricane, tornado, or homelessness. The quilts will remind people that God loves them in all circumstances. They can wrap themselves up in the compassion of God.

Pastor Rory Herman

## Faith – Madison, AL

The residents of Valley View Rehabilitation Center in Madison, AL got a nice surprise at their monthly "Snack and Chat with Faith Lutheran" in August. The Sunday School classes of Mrs. Kathy Riggs and Mrs. Diane Garber had put together "bedside boxes" so that pens, paper, Band-Aids, lotions and other incidentals would never be farther than arm's reach away. The children of several of the home-school groups in the church received a Social Studies credit as well as the joy of seeing the faces of the residents when they delivered the gifts

The Christian Outreach Committee concluded the 6 month drive for the Lutheran Malaria Project and we were happy to raise \$1,003.78 for the cause. The next service project is Operation Christmas Child and the shoeboxes are already pouring in!

And a big shout out to Camp Dixie! The counselors came to Faith Lutheran in July and led a very successful Vacation Bible School. The children had a wonderful time and the week was full of education and adventure.



Sherrie Callahan

**St. Paul's – Cullman, AL**

St. Paul's - Cullman, AL, would like to invite all district congregations to the congregation's Reformation Festival on October 27th, 2013. The worship service will begin at 3:30pm featuring a sermon by Dr. Timothy Dost from Concordia Seminary - St. Louis. Dr. Steve Wentz from Concordia University - Chicago will be the organist for the occasion.

Bussman will lead a Reformation workshop on Saturday, Oct. 26th from 9am - 3pm focusing on the historical background of the Reformation and the LCMS. If you would like to attend the workshop on Saturday or if you would like additional information, you can contact Audrey Quick at [audreybquick@gmail.com](mailto:audreybquick@gmail.com) or 256-531-0003.

*Audrey Quick*

In addition to the worship service on Sunday, Pastor John

**St. Paul - Birmingham**

Rev. Roy Daniel Carlson was installed as pastor of St. Paul – Birmingham on Sunday, July 28th, 2013. This was Carlson's second installation in the Birmingham circuit, having been installed at Hope - Birmingham on July 14th.

Pastor Carlson hails from Duluth, MN, born there in 1975. He joined Hope - Duluth at the age of 8 and remained a member until his high school graduation in 1993. He moved to Nashville, TN, following a passion for music, where he recorded two Christian albums, and joined up with singer-songwriter Don Wharton at Emmanuel Lutheran where he served as music director.

In 2005, he began undergraduate education at Concordia College - Seward, NE, majoring in theology, and received training in classical baritone singing. In 2008 he enrolled in Concordia Theological Seminary - Fort Wayne to prepare for the pastoral ministry, graduating in the spring of this year.

His interests include music, fishing, mechanics, computer technology and web design.

*Pastor Tom Noon*



*Pastors pictured l-r (back row): Piotr Malaysz, Thomas Noon, Michael Alhmeyer, David Moerbe; (middle row): Tom Lackey, Perry McCullam, Kurtis Schultz; (front row): Clifford Hellmers, Daniel Carlson, Charles Pieplow*



**St. Mark's – Elberta, AL**

St. Mark's – Elberta, AL, installed Wayne Miller as their Vicar on Sunday, August 4 to work under Rev. Keith Ringers, as he prepares to be a pastor in the LCMS. He was welcomed to the church and community with a potluck dinner following the service, and with a food and pantry shower.

Miller was raised in Chicago, IL. He pursued a degree in hospitality and tourism at Roosevelt University in Chicago. It was extremely difficult to find work in that field in Chicago when he graduated, and he felt led to pursue his original goal of becoming a pastor. He enrolled in Concordia Seminary in 2011. After his year of vicarage at St. Mark's he will return to St. Louis for his final year of seminary training.

His hobbies are bowling, genealogy, football, and baseball.

*Diana Ringers*

**St. Paul (Annette St.) – New Orleans, LA**

St. Paul on Annette St. in New Orleans celebrated the installation of Rev. Warren Maguel-Lattimore on Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. Rev. Maguel-Lattimore was installed by District President Kurtis Schultz with participation by members of New Orleans area clergy.

*Pastor Aubrey Watson*



*Pastors pictured l-r (front row) Craig Rinker, Kurtis Schultz, Warren Maguel-Lattimore, John Loum; (back row): Limakatso Nare, Mark Hayman, Greg Manning, Kevin Kieschnick, Jerome Terry, Aubrey Watson, Collis Parham*



## A Good Read

Commissioned Minister Rich Althage (emeritus) who served at Atonement – Metairie and Salem – Gretna has published a second book, **Back Home Stories (and a Little Trivia to Boot)**. Topics include bass fishing, one-room schools, children's Christmas programs, WWII among others.

All profits from the book will be donated to Wounded Warrior Project: Operation Enduring Care, through the USO. Books may be ordered by check or money order, \$11, beginning in October. Contact Rich at [ralthage@cox.net](mailto:ralthage@cox.net).

The Spirit of Southern

## Share Your News

The Spirit of Southern is the Southern District's publication in which we share the good news of our District and its congregations. The following guidelines are designed to assist you in preparing materials for submission.

**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. This is necessary for a quality photo to be produced on a press. If you are sending a print, use a high quality photo paper or photo lab printing. Scanned pictures, Polaroids and photocopies cannot be used, and prints are not returned.

**Where:** Outdoor photos will generally result in a better photo for publication. Be sure that indoor pictures are taken in a brightly lit location with a light background, if possible.

**What:** A good question to ask is, "What would I like people to see from this event?" Include people whenever possible. If individuals can be identified, please include that information with the photo.

**Installation photos:** The traditional photo of pastors in attendance at the installation is a wonderful memento for the pastor to keep, but we prefer for publication that you include the pastor and members of his new congregation (officers, call committee, elders, etc.) as they begin ministry together. Another option is the pastor and his family as they are welcomed into a new congregational family.

We look forward to receiving and sharing your congregation's good news!