

# The Spirit of Southern

Web Edition – January/February, 2015

*“All the paths of the Lord are loving and faithful, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.” Psalm 25:10*

## Lenten Paths



How marvelous is our God! Because of his love for us, the creator of the universe stoops to the earth to make covenants with his creation. What, save love, could move a sovereign God to offer himself in such vulnerability to those with nothing to offer him in return? Yet, God’s plan to preserve the world in the aftermath of the flood began with the covenant he made to Noah. God’s plan to call the nation of Israel as his own people began with the covenant he made with Abram. Throughout history God continued to mark his relationship with his people through the covenant promises he made to all who heard and followed his voice. In the new covenant God once more offered himself to us, establishing through the sacrifice of Jesus, the ultimate expression of his grace, forgiveness, and merciful love.

Lent confronts us with the constancy of God’s faithfulness in the face of our weakness and sin; it is time set apart for us to consider once again the depth of Jesus’ passion. The season of Lent stands as a reminder to us that God’s love remains steadfast, even though we so often break faith with him. For many, Lent is a time for soul searching and self-examination, dedicated to facing up to those places where we have failed to keep the covenant.

Far from being a melancholy season of self-absorption with sin, Lent offers us an opportunity to behold the wonder of God’s love. Through the Psalms we can join David, who looked to God for strength, preservation, and salvation based on God’s promise to all those who seek to keep his

covenant. With Noah we can embrace the God who preserves those who serve him and who set his bow in the sky as a continuing sign of his covenant. We can join Peter who celebrated the truth of the new covenant, whereby Christ died to conquer faithlessness, bringing both the dead and the living into a new relationship with God. We need to rehearse Mark’s gospel story of Jesus’ baptism and temptation in the wilderness, remembering that “we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sinning” (Heb. 4:15). Though we fail, Christ, our Savior, has done all things well. Lent is truly a season for rejoicing in the wonder of God’s love toward us!

*Father as we enter this season of Lent, may no sacrifice, but that of Jesus our Savior, absorb our hearts. May the immeasurable love evident in your promises throughout the ages strengthen us to be keepers of the covenant. Amen*

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



SOUTHERN DISTRICT  
74TH CONVENTION  
CONCORDIA COLLEGE, SELMA, AL  
JUNE 4TH AND 5TH, 2015

Thursday, June 4th and Friday, June 5th are the dates for the upcoming 74th Southern District Convention, to take place at historic Concordia College in Selma, AL. The theme of the convention is "Hope: Jesus Changes Everything", with a theme verse from 1 Peter 3:15.

One of the chief activities of district conventions is the election of a wide variety of officers to serve in various capacities for the next triennium. These include the District President; four vice-presidents; fourteen circuit visitors (formerly counselors); the Southern District Board of Directors; three members of the Board of Regents of Concordia College - Selma, AL; the Southern District Church Extension Fund Board of Trustees; a nominating committee to guide the next district convention nomination process; and a layperson to serve on the national convention nominating committee. More information can be found at <http://southernlcms.org/district-convention>.

Join us as the Southern District considers the direction of its people and congregations in the coming years!

**Asian Mission in the Southern District—LCMS --- One Disciple, One Neighbor at a Time**

On 28 August 1963, Martin Luther King delivered his famous speech "I Have a Dream" to the Americans. More than 50 years later, his dream has become a reality in many walks of life, i.e., education, government, and corporations. However, King's Dream has yet transformed the Christian churches in America, especially the Lutheran churches. People of color are still underrepresented, less than 5 percent, in the LCMS tribe.

Whether our Lutheran tribe accepts King's Dream or not is not an issue, we can no longer continue to move our church campuses away from the inner city to avoid people of color. Whether we like it or not, people of color are increasingly present in the suburban areas of many metropolitan cities, just to name a few: Boston, Chicago, Dallas, Houston, Los Angeles, New York City, Seattle, and New Orleans. Denial and flight will no longer work to keep the churches open.

Moreover, America has become a mission field in the globalized world. In addition, with the growing population of Asians and Latinos throughout the United States, especially in the southern states, the harvest is blooming in the next five to ten years. Pew Research

Center's statistics reported that the total population changes in 2013 by natural increase for Asians is 39%, and by international migration is 61% increase (an equivalent percent or higher for Latino); and the population is increasing at a rate of 5%, for both Asian and Latino population. Hence, our ways of doing mission and ministry, our priorities for determining budgets and planning, our worldview and presuppositions of constructing theologies and forming church policies, and our "yesterday Christianity" must be changed in the changing "face of Christianity" in America (as Philip Jenkins and Peter Phan would label the current trend). What will be boiled down for the Lutheran tribe is either change or face extinction in the 21st Century.

During the New Year holiday, I had a chance to attend a Multiply Retreat organized by the Rev. Dr. David Kim, LINC Houston. The men and women who attended the retreat agreed that the attraction and addition model of doing outreach are not working for the ethnic communities, especially for the Latino and Asian communities. Together with the Gospel urgency (for the harvest is ripe and the Kingdom of God is at hand), only the multiply model is viable: "go and make disciples of all nations" one-on-one. Imagine the explosion of discipleship making in America if each Lutheran family would reach out to its neighbors who are living next door in the next 12 months—then in turn its neighbors would make disciples to his or her adjacent neighbors.

I envision if only 3–5 families in every Lutheran congregation embrace this multiply method of making disciples, the church's mission would explode in the Southern District in about ten years. What would happen if 3–5 families in every Lutheran congregation located in New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Biloxi, Mobile, or Pensacola committed to build a relationship with their Asian or Vietnamese neighbors? Why wouldn't we want to know who are our neighbors: their names, their children, their jobs, their health and their life issues? Your presence in your neighborhood is the seed of the Gospel to those who do not yet believe in Jesus Christ. God has sown the Gospel seed in your neighborhood. In other words, you are God's bearers of the Gospel to your neighbors.

In the next several months, I will actively seeking your help in reaching out to your neighbors: your prayers and your connection with your neighbors. We all are partners in building our Father's Kingdom. It is our baptismal responsibility to reach out to our neighbors and make disciples.

I invite you to further discuss our partnership in God's mission. Please contact me at my cell phone 504-451-4334, or my email [DXNnguyen@Hotmail.com](mailto:DXNnguyen@Hotmail.com).

Blessings in Christ, *Rev. Daniel X. Nguyen, Missionary at Large*

## Southern District Educators of the Year 2014

Chosen as Principal of the Year, Bethany Gonski has served as principal of St. John – New Orleans for the past 10 years. She is a native New Orleanian and attended Lutheran High School. She earned her Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Valparaiso University in Indiana, and her Masters of Education from the University of New Orleans. Ms. Gonski has a wide range of teaching experience in both Lutheran and public schools.

Teacher of the Year, Kelly Langston (Atonement – Metairie, LA) has so many qualities that make her a great teacher and wonderful coworker. When she interacts with the students you can tell that she genuinely cares about their successes, achievements, and struggles. She is a very organized teacher who wants to make learning fun and interesting. You can often find her staying late into the evening or working on weekends. She also spends a lot of time volunteering and helping out her fellow teachers.

## Concordia College Alabama – Selma, AL ---- "Bricks for Bakke" Fundraising Campaign

The Concordia College Alabama National Alumni Association is sponsoring a fundraising campaign to raise money for the much needed renovation of its beloved Bakke Hall. Bakke Hall (pictured) is one of the oldest buildings on Concordia's Campus and is named for Rev. Nils J. Bakke, Lutheran missionary and pastor who, along with Concordia's founder Rosa Young, founded numerous Lutheran schools and churches in the black belt region.



The Alumni Association will be selling engraved bricks that will be placed in the shape of a cross at the foot of Bakke Tower. Anyone who wishes to purchase a brick to help this cause will be able to do so, including CCA students, faculty and staff, businesses, alumni and non-alumni, and the general public. Bricks can be engraved with names, class year, and/or logos.

Anyone interested in purchasing a brick to help this cause may contact either of the following for additional information:  
Mrs. Minnie McMillan, Director of Alumni Affairs - Concordia College Alabama, 334-874-5700 ext. 19733, [mmcmillan@ccal.edu](mailto:mmcmillan@ccal.edu)  
Abby Campbell, Director of Public Relations - Concordia College Alabama, 334-874-5700 ext. 19818, [acampbell@ccal.edu](mailto:acampbell@ccal.edu)

*Abby Campbell*

## 2015 Southern District Youth Mission Trip

This year, more than ever, families of Appalachia are praying for you to come serve with them to ensure their homes are warmer, safer, and drier. As you plan for 2015, we ask that you remember that when we are called to serve. The summer calendar is filling up quickly, yet there are many opportunities to come serve.

Youth in grades 9-12 are invited to join other district youth July 6th – 10th for travel to the Tennessee mountain area. Information has been sent to the congregations. Any questions? Call Cindy Namanny, 601-924-9999 or email: [dce@orcms.org](mailto:dce@orcms.org)

*Cindy Namanny*

## Camp Restore

"Happy campers" are hard at work at Camp Restore this winter. For more information on the work of Camp Restore and how you can join in, go to the camp's website [www.camprestore.org](http://www.camprestore.org).



## Seminary Admissions Officer to Visit District

Rev. Michael Redeker, Admissions Officer & Director of Alumni Relations, Concordia Seminary – St. Louis, will be visiting the Southern District March 1-5, 2015

You are invited to meet with Rev. Redeker to discuss seminary education and the path to becoming a pastor or deaconess. Please contact him at 314-505-7225 or redekerm@csl.edu to schedule an appointment. Walk-ins are also welcome.

### **Sunday, March 1**

Saint Paul NE Lutheran Church  
1625 Annette Street  
New Orleans, LA 70116  
504-944-5401  
4:00 – 6:00 pm

### **Monday, March 2**

Trinity Lutheran Church  
10925 Florida Blvd.  
Baton Rouge, LA 70815  
225-272-3110  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
1799 Clinton-Raymond Road  
Clinton, MS 39056  
601-924-9999  
4:30 – 6:30 pm

### **Tuesday, March 3**

Concordia College  
1712 Broad Street  
Selma, AL 36701  
334-874-5700 ext. 19794  
9:00 am – 3:00 pm

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
4475 Atlanta Hwy.  
Montgomery, AL 36109  
334-272-6214  
5:30 – 7:00 pm

### **Wednesday, March 4**

Trinity Lutheran Church  
105 Luther Way  
Dothan, AL 36301  
334-792-9745  
10:00 am – 12:30 pm

### **Wednesday, March 4 (cont.)**

ULC & Student Center  
925 W. Jefferson Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32304  
850-224-6059  
4:30 – 8:00 pm

### **Thursday, March 5**

Grace Lutheran Church  
6601 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pensacola, FL 32504  
850-476-5667  
10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Holy Cross Lutheran Church  
3900 Airport Blvd.  
Mobile, AL 36608  
251-342-8755  
5:00 – 7:30 pm

## Congregation and School News

### **Augustana – Alexandria, LA**

Augustana - Alexandria, LA observed their 90th Anniversary on September 7th, 2014 with a special worship service followed by a reception. Around 200 people were in attendance to share in this special celebration. Participants in the worship service included Rev. Roosevelt Gray, Jr., Director of Black Ministry for the synod and also former pastor, Rev. Thomas R. Noon.



Additionally, Augustana participated in a food distribution to the needy in the area. Through a Care-In-Community Project funded by Thrivent Financial, 17 boxes of food were distributed on December 20th by members of Augustana and the youth group from Prince of Peace - Pineville, LA to assist families with food during the Christmas holidays.

*Rev. William Vogt*

### **Bethel – Point Clear, AL**

What a great day for us as members of Bethel - Point Clear, AL. On December 14, 2014, Bethel celebrated Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall's, 30th Year Anniversary as pastor under the theme, "A Faithful Shepherd" based on Hebrews 13:7. The Rev. Benjamin Stallworth of Concordia – Montrose, AL and Ebenezer – Atmore, AL was the guest speaker for the occasion. Pastor received many congratulatory messages and proclamations. He was thrilled to receive one from the president of the United States, Barack Obama. After the service, dinner was served. We feasted on delicious food and the fellowship was a joy. Pictured left to right: Daisy Allen, Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall, Gwen Marshall and Burnell Wasp.



Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall is the second pastor that served as undershepherd at Bethel.. We thank God for His many blessings and allowing Pastor Marshall to serve Bethel for 30 years. We wish him blessings with many more. Pastor Marshall's words to us: "He's not tired yet. God has more work for him to do."

*Cheryl Bagby*

## St. Paul – Montgomery, AL

On October 26<sup>th</sup>, the LWML of St. Paul – Montgomery, AL sponsored its Annual Octoberfest and Silent Auction. After a delicious meal of bratwurst and “fixings” a silent auction was held which raised over \$1,200.

In November the LWML donated \$2,000 to the Southern District Church Worker Student Endowment Fund (CWSEF) and Thrivent donated \$500 to that amount.

In December fruit baskets were given to all shut-in members. In addition, the proceeds from the Advent meals will be given to the Friendship Mission for Women.

*Elizabeth Reeves*

## Shepherd of the Bay – Lillian, AL

Shepherd of the Bay - Lillian, AL has been busy with the work of the Gospel given to us to share with each other and our community. On Dec. 6th we had our annual "Christmas Songfest" attended by over 300 people, including choirs, sharing Gods love through song and hearing the word of God in preparation for Christmas.

Our float won 2nd place in Lillian's annual Christmas Parade as we shared the good news that a Savior has been born to us, He is Christ the Lord.

We are anxiously looking forward to the new year and the opportunities that await us to tell more and more people about God's gracious love in Jesus Christ.

*Vera Jacobson*

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## Good Shepherd Lutheran School – Elberta, AL

Good Shepherd Lutheran School - Elberta, AL is proud to join with the nearly 2,300 preschools, elementary schools and high schools nationwide in observing National Lutheran Schools Week, Jan. 25 thru 31. This year's theme, "Standing in Christ, serving others", is based on "For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).

Lutheran schools have a history of providing excellent academic preparation, developing a love for and excitement about learning. They provide excellent reading, writing and effective communication skills, while also helping to raise up the next generation of faithful Christian disciples.

## Immanuel – Pensacola, FL

Immanuel - Pensacola, FL was blessed to have the Kantorei from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN sing at both Divine Services on January 11, 2015.

The Seminary Kantorei is a sixteen-voice choir of students studying for the Office of the Holy Ministry at CTS. Their visit to Immanuel was the final stop of their Gulf Coast Epiphany Tour during which they performed at LCMS churches in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and the Florida panhandle.



*Cheryl Casey*

## Ebenezer – Atmore, AL

The Christmas program at Ebenezer – Atmore, AL, put on by the children of Ebenezer on December 24, 2014, was a success. After the program we gave out Christmas fruit bags and presents. We also celebrated our congregation's birthdays as we fellowshiped together.



Pictured are Tuari McGhee, Taheya McGhee, Justice Poole, Randy Johnson, Bernard McCullam, Xavier Leslie, Marcus Leslie, Cortez Martin, our Pastor Rev. Benjamin Stallworth, our youth director Mrs. Dorothy Jean Adams. Not pictured, Thadija Barron.

*Annie Poole*

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## Solid Rock - Argo, AL

On December 6th Solid Rock - Argo, AL held its fifth annual turkey, food box, and toy distribution. The distribution started at 9a.m., but by 7:15 there was a line of about one hundred lined up in front of the church. The church was filled by 8 when Christmas song sheets were distributed and the church filled with voices. The final song was Silent Night and there were many people weeping.

During the course of the distribution we noticed that people were coming up to our pastor and volunteers seeking prayers for difficult life situations they were encountering. What a sight to witness total



strangers hugging and kissing the volunteers who were members and friends of Solid Rock. We are grateful for the support of so many volunteers (pictured) who gave of their time, talent and treasures.

Once again Thrivent came through with generous support. At last count there were 192 turkeys, 192 boxes of food and 400 toys distributed. We anxiously await 2015 where we will once again will open our doors to hurting, struggling and lonely people seeking help as they travel the journey of life.

*Jane Wilson*



### **St. Matthew - Gulfport, MS**

As part of our 95th anniversary celebration, St. Matthew – Gulfport, MS wanted to include a community project. The Harrison County Youth Detention Center was in need of white underwear for the youth being housed in their facility. Our congregation contributed stacks of undergarments and socks. Our collection was delivered by members, Jim and Ethel Smith. In addition to these items, the members of the quilting club made and donated fleece blankets. Pictured, left to right, are: Jim and Ethel Smith, Tiffany Neely, officer of programs and events at the center, and Rick Smith, director of the Youth Detention Center.

Luke 6:45 tells us that a good man produces good deeds from a good heart. Our congregation has hearts of gold!

*Carolyn Peterman*

### **Lutheran High School – Metairie, LA**

Lutheran High School's Gyphon Gala XXXVIII will be held on Saturday, March 21, 2015 at Atonement – Metairie, LA. "Gryphons are . . . Proud as a Peacock" is the theme of the event which includes a silent auction and hospitality hour beginning at 5pm, followed by dinner at 6pm, and the verbal auction at 7:30pm. The attire is dressy casual.

Proceeds will benefit Lutheran High School. For ticket information and reservations, contact Ashley Reso at [afreso@cox.net](mailto:afreso@cox.net). If you have items you would like to donate or for more information regarding the auction, please contact Lutheran High School at 504-455-4062.

*Ashley Reso*

### **Holy Cross - Camden, AL**

Holy Cross - Camden, AL, with the co-sponsorship of Thrivent Financial, gave away hats and gloves to the children in the community to help warm up those cold winter days. We held our event at 2pm, after traditional worship times in our community, and had a wonderful turnout. In addition to the hats and gloves, the children received t-shirts, frisbees, information on drug prevention, and information on Thrivent services.

The children received an afternoon snack of hot dogs and lemonade. We really enjoyed the community fellowship and have had two attendees and their parents join us for our Sunday



worship. Thank God for allowing us to serve others.

*Gwen Dixon*



### **Grace – Pensacola, FL**

Grace – Pensacola, FL has a very active Prayer Shawl Ministry. It was started in 2008 under the leadership of Jeannie Taylor. Since that time, 1000 prayer shawls have been distributed in our community and sent out to other communities across the country. The ministry is supported by Thrivent Financial and private donations.

There are 12-16 dedicated women who pray for the recipients as they crochet, knit or quilt the shawls. Shawls are passed around the gathered circle, through our praying hands and blessed by our loving hearts. Each year a community service project is done giving blankets, lap robes, hats and scarves to organizations such as Ronald McDonald House, Children's Home Society, Hope Ministry, NICU at Sacred Heart Hospital and the Christmas Child Project.

*Susan McFarland*

### **Faith – Madison, AL**

Last summer the Faith – Madison, AL Sunday School kids sent two boxes filled with snacks, an Alabama t-shirt and iTunes cards to Tech Sergeant Dan Doerk who was serving in Afghanistan as part of the the 455th EAMXS. His family are members of our congregation and while he was away the children also sent him notes and pictures to keep his spirits up.



In return, Tech Sergeant Doerk sent the kids, and our congregation, a flag that was flown on the 6th of September in honor of our congregation. It was a very touching to receive this memento of Operation Enduring Freedom.

But the best part was getting Dan home safely. He returned to us on November 9th and we were very glad to get him back!! Thank you Tech Sergeant Doerk and all of our troops who are keeping us safe!

*Sherrie Callahan*

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### Grace – Huntsville, AL

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We thank The Lord that He has blessed Grace – Huntsville, AL with a new year! A group from Grace traveled to the Edwin Hodges Ministry in Decatur on January 14th, to help sort and box Christian literature that is distributed free of charge to churches worldwide.

Our senior youth group winter ski retreat is being held January 16-19 at Wolf Creek, North Carolina. Our youth will also be making submarine sandwiches for Super Bowl Sunday.

The LWML Ladies of Grace (LOG) circles will hold a quarterly meeting/lasagna luncheon on January 24th, followed by a mission project: of making lap blankets to be distributed to two local ministries. Our young ladies' Agape Circle will bake cookies to be distributed to local police and firemen.

Our school will host the Regional Lutheran Basketball Tournament Feb 18-22.

A group of Grace "missionaries" conduct English as a Second Language classes at the church on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. There are four six-week sessions with babysitting and a light meal provided. The main purpose of the classes is to introduce Jesus into the lives of the participants. Two families have joined Grace.

Ash Wednesday is fast approaching; meals will be served preceding the worship services. We are looking forward to this and pray they are well-attended as God's people share His love in the community. To God be the glory!

*Rosemary Sweet*

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### Trinity – Meridian, MS

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On Saturday, January 10th, Trinity – Meridian, MS hosted a Teen Bridge Building Training for our youth. Damian Boldt, one of the district's Council of Lutheran Youth Fellowship Representatives (CLYFR), led the workshop with a Bible study, insightful discussions, and some concrete ideas for how each youth can get involved in our congregation and the community. Games and lunch topped off the day. Our youth actually admitted it was a great use of a Saturday! We highly recommend each congregation meet and use our CLYFR talent... and our youth.

*Karen Miller*



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### Epiphany – Jackson, MS

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The Men's Club Prayer Breakfast of Epiphany – Jackson, MS was held on Sunday, January 4, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. Philippians 4:6, "Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be known unto God," was the greeting by Glen Cavett, congregational president. He led the group in singing "How Great Thou Art." Rev. Raymond Gage, interim pastor, gave the opening prayer followed by special prayers from others.

A delicious breakfast of grits, eggs, bacon, sausage, biscuits, milk coffee, juice and other treats were prepared and served by the men. The fellowship was enjoyable.

The closing prayer of thanks was given by Pastor Gage.

*Xavier Johnson*



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### Grace – Destin, FL

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Grace – Destin, FL celebrated the Christmas season by giving. Over 115 gift bags holding 3-5 gifts each were distributed to two local rehabilitation centers. Those receiving gifts were residents who have no family and no one to receive a gift from on Christmas Day.



The Grace Mission Ministry Team collected and wrapped socks and blankets then delivered them to Harvest House. Several members of Grace were there to personally hand out the gifts to the families coming in for assistance before Christmas.

Grace was one of only two churches entered in the Destin Christmas Parade. Puppets dancing and singing to Christmas Carols entertained the children while

Pastor Kevin and others handed out cards of personal invitation to attend services at Grace. Others tossed candy with an invitation to Grace on Christmas Eve attached, to the many Destin residents along the parade route. The people of Grace love giving to the less fortunate and do so through a monthly mission project like the three noted here.

*Leanne Andreas*

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### Unity – Birmingham, AL

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Unity – Birmingham, AL has been busy through the fall and winter seasons with its Outreach Ministry.

The LWML of the church gave small personal love gifts to 27 homeless veterans who reside in 2 transitional homes in the area for Veteran's Day. A thank you note was written to each one and to the directors for their service to our country.

For Christmas the LWML gave gifts to the same homeless veterans. These gifts included clothes and other personal items along with special words relating to the meaning of Christmas.

On Thanksgiving Day the church was open to the entire community for 10:00 a.m. worship services. Following the service was a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. Many persons of the community came and were part of the celebration. Takeout lunches were sent to any known sick or shut-in persons of the church and the community.

Prior to Christmas, a family of a single mother and 4 small children were supplied with gifts, food and clothing using funds provided through the Thrivent Action Teams – Thrivent Financial.

We thank God for the opportunities to serve our brothers and sisters through Christ.

*Elois Ramsey*

### Redeemer – Fairhope, AL

George Miller, organist at Redeemer - Fairhope, AL, has just completed his 25th year of service to the congregation. He began his service to Redeemer in the spring of 1989.

Regarding this milestone, George says, "Both my grandmothers were church organists, and my sister, Judy Pacey, also plays at Redeemer. Emily (Peggy) Manning served at St Paul's - Foley, AL for almost 40 years. Annie Miller played at St Peter's Episcopal in Bon Secour, AL. I am blessed to be able to serve a growing congregation that has preserved the hymnody and liturgy of the church. The hymns and liturgy are God's words to us, set to music. They are deeply moving, comforting and uplifting. I am thankful for the past 25 years and look forward to serving many more!"

*Patti Miller*



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### St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool – Decatur, AL

The children at St. Paul's Preschool in Decatur, Alabama have raised over \$400 to help sponsor a child in Uganda. The support is given through Christ Community International (previously With God's Little Ones) and is used to cover the cost of school and related supplies, food, and clothing. It costs \$250/year to support a child. Having already met the yearly goal, the children are striving to collect enough money to support their friend for a 2<sup>nd</sup> year of school.

*Tricia Scheler*

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### Lamb of God – Slidell, LA

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The "Aussie Invasion" was Awesome!!! The St. Peter's Lutheran College Symphonic Wind Band from Brisbane, Australia arrived at Lamb of God – Slidell, LA on Tuesday, December 9, 2014. After the luggage was unloaded, some students and staff went to Salmen High School to borrow percussion instruments. The RAM's members prepared a delicious meal for the band members and their host families. Sixteen members of Lamb of God housed the 52 students for two nights while they were in town.

The band played the most awesome concert to a full audience in the sanctuary at Lamb of God! After the concert, the audience visited with the band members in the Fellowship Center while enjoying homemade goodies provided by many church members.

After returning the borrowed instruments the next morning, band members enjoyed a tour of the Slidell Museum, shopping at the Fremeaux Towne Center, lunch and a Honey Island Swamp Tour before heading to the French Quarter in New Orleans for a private concert for the band given by Preservation Hall.





After a good night's rest and breakfast, the hosts returned band members to the church where they and their five chaperones boarded the bus and van while host families waved goodbye, some with tears. The band traveled to Pensacola for their next stop on their southern tour.

Sharon Mahnke

## Share Your News

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

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

**District web site: [www.southernlcms.org](http://www.southernlcms.org) District office phone number: 504-282-2632**

**New District Office hours: Monday - Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Check out the Spirit of Southern web edition for more information and pictures!**

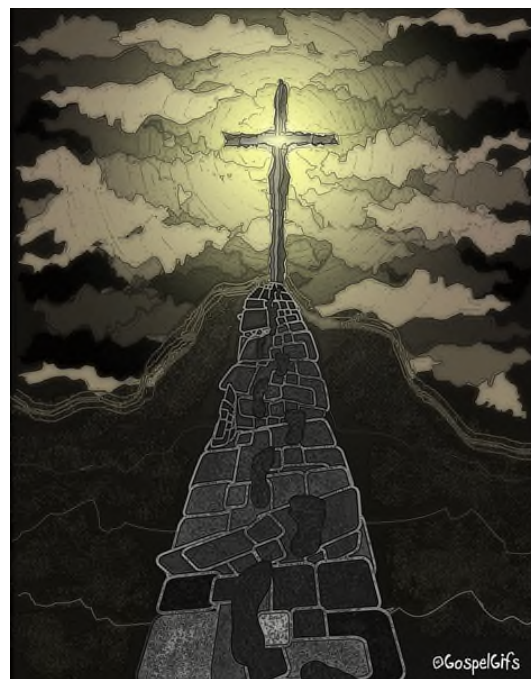
## Southern District Contact Information

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**



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