



The Spirit of Southern

Web Edition - March - April, 2014

The Final Word



***If for this life only we have hoped in Christ,
we are of all men most to be pitied.
(1 Corinthians 15:19)***

Among other wondrous things, Easter reminds us that there is much, much more to life than the things which we presently can see, touch, feel, and experience. The Gospel writers tell us that when the disciples entered Jerusalem with Jesus, they were mesmerized by the enormity and splendor of the temple (see Mark 13:1 ff). Historical records show that

they had good reason for their awe. But Jesus cautioned them not to take too much stock in the “wonderful stones” which they saw before their eyes. Someday, he warned, the temple would all be rubble.

In such passages as these, and in other more personal ways, we are often reminded that even the most glorious creations of this earthly life inevitably will come to an end. And of this stinging truth, there is no more convincing messenger than death itself. A closing breath speaks more profoundly to the human soul than all the words our voices can muster.

But there is a Word, there is another sound, which has an even more final ring to it than death’s shrill peal. “He is risen!” is the eternal song of the people of God. Upon these brief and simple words hang all the weight of human hope and faith. Nothing can change this truth, and nothing can surpass it in its power. In the midst of the rubble, in the midst of all that is tainted by mortality, in the midst even of death, there waves a banner of shimmering colors whose message supersedes everything that has come before: “But in fact, Christ has been raised from the dead.”

Hope that is placed in the God of Jesus Christ, says the apostle Paul, can never disappoint us. Hope that is placed in anyone or anything less, however, will ultimately let us down. The good news of Easter, the gospel of Christ’s resurrection, is that our hope has not been misplaced. Death, our fiercest enemy, has been defeated. Henceforth, what we may think of as “the end” is not really the end at all. The final word belongs to God, and that Word goes on forever.

Prayer: You fell asleep in mortal flesh, O Lord and King; but on the third day you rose again. You raised Adam from decay, you did away with death; you, the immortal Passover, the world’s salvation. Glory to you. Amen

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

What's Going On? District and Synod

Parish Ministries - Thanksgiving

After almost 28 years in the Southern District, I have accepted a call to serve as the pastor of Grace - Key West, FL. This means I will be leaving the Southern District. I do this with a strong conviction that Jesus is calling me to equip the missionaries of Grace and to join Him on His mission in Key West, in Key West and Monroe Counties.

I also leave with a strong feeling of thanksgiving for all of the blessings I have received serving as pastor of Trinity - Gadsden, AL, Church of the Pines - Waveland, MS and Mission Executive for the Southern District. Thank you for the friendships and the privilege of preaching in

many of your congregations. Thanks for the opportunity to equip you. Thanks for letting me see you find joy in introducing people to Jesus. Thanks for your prayers. Thanks for the privilege of letting me help start some new congregations, and thanks for letting me see Jesus in you.

We go with a strong sense of purpose and with the knowledge that we have been blessed by you. Thank you and God bless you.

Love in Christ,

Rev. Gary Faith, Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries

Schools and Development

I have been in the Southern District for two months, and already have many highlights in my new job. I find this new position to be very rewarding and challenging. I have also been impressed with the great people I have met in our schools, boards, staff, and laity. Everyone seems to be committed to making the Southern District a place where people know Jesus.

Schools

My biggest highlight, thus far, has been my 10 day, 4 state, 3,000 mile trip around our district with President Schultz, visiting our elementary schools, pre-schools, and a high school. I have met some wonderful dedicated principals, teachers, and volunteers who give their all to keep our schools up and running with quality standards. I have also been impressed with the students I have met. They have been polite, engaging, and very helpful in showing me around their schools. If they are any indication of our future leaders, I am very optimistic about our country.

I am looking forward to continued school visits, and getting to know our principals, teachers, school boards, and students on a more personal level. My intention is to develop a feeling of mutual trust between everyone, and to be there to provide services for the people who are an integral part of our Southern District schools.

Southern District Foundation

The other part of my job is to provide our congregations and members education about and access to our Southern District Foundation. Our foundation is an excellent way for our members to give gifts in perpetuity to causes that are near and dear to their hearts. Our (your) foundation takes care of all the investing, distribution, and record keeping so that our congregations will keep receiving gifts from our members long after they are in heaven. Planned gifts, as they are called, may offer many other advantages for the donor as well concerning taxes, continued income for heirs, and estate planning. Please feel free to contact me for further information.

I feel very blessed that God has placed me in the Southern District for this very exciting time in our history. Our world (district) is changing very fast. There are so many people, living right next to us, who need to know Jesus. Thank you for letting me partner with you in sharing the love of Jesus to them.

Glenn Gerber, Executive Director for Schools and Development

Youth Workers Conference

The Southern District Youth Committee hosted the 2014 Youth Workers Conference in Slidell, LA. Fifteen professionals and volunteers gathered together to hear the presenter, DCE Jim Bargman from Trinity - Bloomington, IL, speak on "Discipleship in Youth Ministry." As discipleship is taught and modeled to our young members, we invite them to "come on a journey with us," mentoring our young, teaching about God and seeking opportunities to serve Him together. As mentors we need to think about how we invite our young members to serve. Are we asking teenagers to do this because they are teenagers OR because they are valuable members/leaders of this community? DCE Bargman shared current and helpful ideas/strategies to use in our own congregations.



Cindy Namanny

One United in Christ - Southern District Senior Youth Gathering

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." Eph. 4:4-6

How united are we as Christians? The Apostle Paul tells us that our unity expands far beyond the walls of our churches. We may be a group of individuals gathered together, but our one triune God unites us with those from all parts of the globe and makes us His one body. In this unity we share one hope through one faith that comes to us in our one baptism. God doesn't expect any of us to fly solo, He gathers us to believe, work, and live in a unity that is manifested in the Son, Christ Jesus.

When: July 10-13, 2014

Where: Camp Restore in New Orleans, LA

Speaker: Travis Hartjen

Music: Tangled Blue <http://tangledblue.com>

Registration Information

Registration opens May 1, 2014 and closes: Wednesday, June 25, 2014. Registration forms can be found on the District website under the "youth" tab – Senior youth gathering.

Registration Fees: Registrations received May 1 – May 22: \$170; May 22-June 25: \$180

Pay online through the district website or make check payable to "Southern District Youth Gathering" and mail to: Southern District LCMS – 100 Mission Dr. Slidell LA 70460



Zeal Beale Joins the LINCNewOrleans Team!

LINCNewOrleans is honored to announce that we have brought on a new Community Connector, Southern District's own Zeal Beale! Zeal was a Director of Christian Education (DCE) at Grace - Pensacola for almost 4 years before going to Africa to serve as a missionary for almost 2 years. She recently relocated to a house on Frenchman Street in the Marigny neighborhood of New Orleans, close to St. Paul Lutheran Church. New Orleans has been a passion of Zeal's for a long time, and God has brought her home!



In her new role as Community Connector, Zeal will be working integrally in the Quad-Community of Marigny, Bywater, St. Roch, and St. Claude neighborhoods, as well as portions of the Lower 9th Ward and Desire neighborhoods of New Orleans. She will be building partnerships across racial, denominational, and socio-economic lines to bring God's joy and hope to people in underserved communities.

If you're interested in hearing more about the exciting work of LINCNewOrleans, please email Zeal at zealbeale@aol.com or call 504.427.3999.

Rev. Kevin Kieschnick



Volunteers have been hard at work at Camp Restore on home restorations, planting cypress in the wetlands, and working at a community garden. Here are a few of their photo memories and you can find more online at www.camprestore.org!



2014 Partnership Commitments

Has your congregation submitted their 2014 Partnership Commitment to the Southern District Mission Center? Please check because THIS JUST CAN'T BE RIGHT! Twenty-six, that's 26, of the 170 congregations who hold membership in the Southern District is the number of Partnership Commitments received in the district's business office. That's 15%. So, please check with your treasurer and/or other leaders to see if they attended to this task.

This important form can be found on our web site --- www.southernlcms.org. Click on the Discipleship Tab . . . Go to Stewardship Resources . . . Scroll down to the bottom of the page. These forms assure the accuracy of the district's records and brings attention to any discrepancies in gifts.

Concordia College Alabama - Selma, AL

Basketball Champion Lady Hornets

For the second time in three years, the Concordia College Alabama Lady Hornets are the USCAA Women's Division I National Champions.

Concordia College Alabama's team's performance this year may have been its most memorable. Entering the tournament on a seven-game winning streak that followed an uneven start to the season, the eight-seeded Lady Hornets upset #1 Iowa Wesleyan College and won a hard fought victory over perennial contender The Apprentice School before finishing their season holding the National Championship trophy.



CCA Chorale

The six-voice Concordia Chorale, part of the larger CCA Choir, sang praises to the Lord in concerts at Lutheran schools and churches along the Gulf Coast, from Pensacola to New Orleans and Baton Rouge, March 24-28. The Chorale, under the direction of Mrs. Minnie McMillan, performed a concert of sacred music, including Spirituals, hymns and Gospel songs during Spring Break.

"We're always happy to sing the Lord's praises, and this concert tour gives us the opportunity to connect with congregations and schools in the Southern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod," Mrs. McMillan said. "It is a good way to let our brothers and sisters in Christ know how thankful we are for their support."

Academic Team

Concordia's academic scholars won a prestigious berth as one of 48 teams competing at the 25th annual Honda Campus All-Star Challenge National Championship Tournament. The tournament takes place in Los Angeles, on April 12-16.

The Hornet scholars, winning an all-expense paid trip, will be competing in an academic quiz bowl on topics of business, science, history, religion, arts, literature, English and history. The team is directed by campus coordinator Dr. Chinwe Okeke and assistant campus coordinator Mr. Glenn King, Jr.

Concordia's Honda All-Star team, formed in September, is the youngest team representing one of the smallest colleges in the competition.

"We know that God often uses the smallest to His purposes, just like David against Goliath," said Concordia President, Rev. Dr. Tilahun M. Menedo. "Our CCA students can be David in this national contest. We are proud of our students and faculty for representing our college nationally in this academic setting."

Marching Band

CCA Magnificent Marching Band members marched over 28 miles in Mardi Gras parades in New Orleans and Mobile. The band historically marches in Mardi Gras as a celebration of the rich culture and tradition of the South, and as a way to attract new band members. Darrell M Butler, a member of Grace - Mobile, and the Southwest Alabama Chapter of Thrivent Financial led the 60-member band on their Mobile parade day.

Christine Weerts

Concordia Theological Seminary - Ft. Wayne

Registration for Christ Academy—High School 2014 is open. For two weeks each summer, high school-aged men of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod are offered the opportunity to delve deeper into their faith, enjoy the seminary experience and make friendships that will last a lifetime. This year's event takes place June 15–28, 2014, on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. Space is limited, so be sure to get your registration in early. Information concerning the registration process can be found at www.ctsfw.edu/ChristAcademy. If you know of a young man who may be interested in this opportunity please contact us at ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu or 800-481-2155.

Concordia Seminary - St. Louis, MO

Vicar James Garnett received his vicarage assignment during the morning chapel service at Concordia Seminary - St. Louis, MO on February 7, 2014. He will serve at



Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd - Biloxi, MS. Vicar Garnett (right) is pictured with CSL Vicarage Director, Rev. Glenn Nielsen.

Immigrant Ministry Resources Available

Two new books are now available from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF): the Arabic Small Catechism and the Spanish Bible with Small Catechism (3rd edition).

As with all of LHF's materials, the Arabic catechism and Spanish Bibles are available at no cost to the churches, ministries and individuals who need them. For those who are able, donations help cover the cost of shipping and allows LHF to continue in its mission of translating and publishing Lutheran books around the world.

For more information or to order either of these books, call the LHF office at (800)554-0723 or send an email to info@LHFmissions.org. To see the list of LHF publications, visit the LHF website at www.LHFmissions.org.

Jen Bagnall

Have you read Cross Points yet?

Through the Southern District office of Mission and Ministry Facilitator, Eric Johnson, Cross Points endeavors to provide practical and doable resources, encouragement, stories, and suggestions to help you lead God's people forward in their mission and ministry as together we follow Jesus in reaching people with the Gospel; bringing them to faith, baptism, and discipleship. Check it out on the Southern District website, www.southernlcms.org. There you can read it and sign up for a subscription to be e-mailed to you.

What's Going On? Congregations and Schools

Our Redeemer – Florence, AL

Our Redeemer – Florence, AL, celebrated the year 2013 as the 75th anniversary of their founding. On January 9, 1938, the congregation was officially organized, and the church building was built and dedicated in December, 1940. Pastor David Doroh placed a special candle on the altar to burn throughout the year and composed a hymn entitled "To Celebrate God's Love". Each month, on second Sunday, he would note an event that took place in that month and we would sing the anniversary hymn. This provided us with a wonderful remembrance of the people and events that happened in this place over the last 75 years.

On June 23, 2013, an anniversary celebration was held with a special service led by the Rev. Kurtis Schultz, President of the Southern District - LCMS. Later in the day a reception and dinner at Pickett Place in Florence was enjoyed by members and invited guests.

On November 23, 2013, the congregation held a reception at Pickett Place in honor of Pastor Doroh's upcoming retirement in January 2014. Present and past members, friends and members of the Doroh family celebrated the 35 years of service Pastor Doroh and his wife, Dorie, had given to Our Redeemer and the community.

Anne York

Our Savior – Mobile, AL

Our Savior - Mobile, AL, will celebrate its 50th Anniversary May 3 & 4, 2014. Any former members who wish to be sent information about the celebration, please mail your address to: 50th Anniversary Committee, Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5101 Government Boulevard, Mobile, AL 36693 or email: oslcmobile@gmail.com.

Pat Hartman

St. Matthew – Gulfport, MS

St. Matthew - Gulfport, MS, began a quilter's club in September, 2013. We are making lap quilts for patients at Memorial Hospital Cancer Center in Gulfport. Our group of seven is made up of some who have quilted before, a few who have never quilted, and a master quilter who is our instructor. Members of the group are: front row left to right: Judy Parker, Carolyn Peterman, Ethel Smith, back row left to right: Mrytus Reuter, Linette Cooper, and Jeanne McDowell.

We have the support of our local LWML group as well as the local chapter of Thrivent. Even though our group is small, we have made a total of 51 lap quilts. The fellowship is such fun and our reward is priceless.

Carolyn Peterman



Lutheran Church of the Resurrection – Pensacola, FL

Lutheran Church of the Resurrection - Pensacola, FL has geared up their outreach into the community. On Valentine's Day, members of the congregation provided a "Sketti" Dinner and homemade desserts for 10 families that are currently living at our local shelter/soup kitchen. The members had an opportunity to build relationships with the families and share God's love with them. The families were really pleased to have such an event on a special day of the year and our church family was blessed to put this together for them!

On April 12th, the Outreach Team will be hosting our annual Easter Egg Hunt at Silverlake Mobile Home Park. We invite the families to the community building where we tell them the story of Jesus' death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins. Following that the families are served hot dogs with all the fixings. Then it is time to go outside where hundreds of plastic eggs filled with candy are collected by the children. Pictured are the "happy hunters" at last year's event.

We also run a one day vacation Bible school event at their community center which has led to a once-a-month Sunday School on the first Sunday.



Immanuel - Bossier City, LA



Immanuel – Bossier City, LA, hosted its 16th annual Women's Weekend Gathering on February 15, 2014. Our theme for the day was "A Woman's Walk". Our main guest speaker was Karen Lippert, Director of Women's Ministry at Divine Redeemer Lutheran Church - Hartland, Wisconsin. Her topics included scriptural insights on stress, body image, insecurity, bitterness and worry.

LeAnn Moore of "Purchased: Not For Sale" did an informative outreach presentation on the work they are doing in our community. Purchased is a ministry designed to locate, love and motivate women in the sex industry for a healthier lifestyle. They meet these women, share God's love and the good news of God's grace and give them hope and encouragement. Along with a new reason for hope, they also help them find new employment and homes.

Women's Weekend guests were offered the opportunity to attend two breakout sessions during the day. Breakout topics were: "Walking in Confidence" – learn how to step out of the trap of doubt and insecurity; "Out of the Depths You Rise" – survive life's ups and downs through God's mercy and grace; "Vocation – Your

Calling From God" – discover God's plan for you and open yourself to His choice for our life; "Finding Balance in an Unbalanced World" – recognize distractions that throw your life out of balance and determine what to knock off the scale; and "A Father's Arms" – find rest and security in God's arms when you feel you can go no further.

A skit and music were provided by members of our congregation and our Praise Team. Door prizes were given to many excited recipients.

Once again, we praise God for the awesome way He blends the various gifts and skills of each individual for the benefit of all to provide this inspirational day of spiritual growth and Christian fellowship. The committee members and program participants are pictured at the close of this special event.

Shirley Fortune

Grace - Pensacola, FL

"Hello my name is..." was the theme of our Spring Women's Retreat. Connie Brais led us in a Bible study, "Named by God," at the Four Points Sheraton on Okaloosa Island. The ladies laid down their insecurities at the foot of the cross and were reminded that through grace they have been renamed by God.

We're going through a time of change. We said farewell to Pastor Stephen Linck who is now the director of the Southern District Church Extension Fund. We had a marvelous dinner and program put on by members and family.

We also celebrated the commissioning of DCE Amanda Bradley, who will serve as DCE full time. Pictured with Amanda, center, are left to right: Pastors Joseph Jones, Robert Rupp, Stephen Linck, Jack Onkka, Scott Snyder, Rory Hermann, and Christopher Cole. We are eager to see God's will unfold in 2014.

Brooke Saquibal



Faith - Madison, AL



The January service project at Faith was to help with outerwear for the homeless during these cold winter months. The congregation sure met that challenge! Everyone at Faith dug into their closets and cleaned out coats, mittens and caps for the Manna House, a local charity that provides assistance to those in need.

The Sunday school classes and several congregation members made homemade Valentine's for the residents of the Valley View Rehabilitation Center in Madison. Mike Hoefler made hand-turned wooden pens for the visit as well! The snow threatened to keep the children from delivering the goodies but, as it turned out, Feb. 14th was a beautiful day!

Sherrie Callahan



Good Shepherd Lutheran School – Elberta, AL

Good Shepherd Lutheran School observed Ash Wednesday during Chapel Time Wed. March 5th. Chapel Time is special not only for the students but also the teachers and staff as they gather in the sanctuary of St. Mark's – Elberta.

Good Shepherd is now registering students for its summer program which will be June 2 through August 8th. Registration is also being taken for the 2014-2015 school year. Good Shepherd, a Christian school that academically meets Alabama curriculum standards, follows the Baldwin County Public School calendar. The school opens at 7 a.m., with classes starting at 8, and after care is provided from 3:30 to 5:30 during both the summer and school year.

For more information about Good Shepherd call 251-987-1966, email businessmanager@goodshepherdlutheransch.com or stop by the school at 13220 North Main Street, Elberta.

Charlotte Bailey



Around the District

Several Southern District pastors have been on the move recently. We wish God's blessings to the following pastors, their families, and the congregations they will be serving:

- **John Karle**, Christ the King - Natchitoches, LA, to St. John - Hattiesburg, MS
- **Gary Faith**, Lutheran Church of the Pines - Waveland, MS and Southern District Executive to Grace - Key West, FL
- **Timothy Heath**, Lamb of God - Slidell, LA, to Christ the Life - Waukesha, WI
- **Joshua Leigeber**, Atonement - Metairie, LA to Trinity - Leesville, LA
- **Stewart Marshall**, Prince of Peace - Ozark, AL, to Redeemer - DeRidder, LA
- **David McIntyre**, Emeritus to Zion - Clinton, LA
- **David Robatzen**, Resurrection, Pensacola, FL to Good Shepherd - Sarasota, FL
- **Mark Steiner**, Gulfport, MS, to Our Savior - Columbus, MS

Share Your News

The deadline for the May/June edition of the *Spirit of Southern* is May 15, 2014. Materials received after that date will be included in the web edition.

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

District web site: www.southernlcms.org District office phone number: 504-282-2632