

LUTHERAN LIFE

2015 | Volume 3
The Newsmagazine of the
Florida-Georgia District
of The Lutheran Church -
Missouri Synod

**FUNDING THE MISSION OF
BEING ENGAGED IN
THE MASTER'S BUSINESS**

**FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT
LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD**

ANNUAL REPORT

2015 CONVENTION FOLLOW-UP



The Mission of the Florida-Georgia District is to serve, assist, and encourage congregations in the ministry of Jesus Christ. People of the Florida-Georgia District are equipped, empowered, engaged... connecting people to Jesus. *Lutheran LIFE* is the official newsmagazine of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. *Lutheran LIFE* is designed to inform LCMS church and school members of the activities, the personalities and resources offered by the Synod and the District. *Lutheran LIFE* may also provide a forum for Lutherans to express their views and ideas on a wide range of topics. We welcome and encourage your letters and editorials emphasizing that the views and opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by Synod or District personnel or by the editors, churchworkers or personnel of the Synod's or District's congregations or schools. *Lutheran LIFE* is published bimonthly. Editorials, news items and photos are encouraged. Please send scanned photos of approximately 300 DPI as a .jpg attachment rather than embedded in your emails. Or mail your photo print in a good quality resolution to our address below. Advertising is welcome and encouraged; rates and information are available from *Lutheran LIFE's* office. Changes of address including e-mail changes, additions or deletions should be directed to our office.

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E-Mail photos, news, address updates to:
LutheranLife@aol.com

Communications Director, John List
Editor-in-Chief, Eileen Bishop

Florida Georgia-District LCMS
Lutheran Ministries Center
5850 T.G. Lee Blvd, Suite 500
Orlando, FL 32822
Toll-Free: (877) 457-5556

www.flgadistrict.org

District President, Greg Walton
School Ministry, Mark Brink
Mission & Outreach, Doug Kallesen
Finance/Administration, Dan Reichard
Business Manager, John Elliott

Convention Worship

Worship, Bible study and prayer were prominent activities throughout the three-day proceedings of the Florida-Georgia District Convention, held June 12-14 at the Marriott Orlando Airport.

District President Greg Walton opened the Convention with an overview of the event theme, Engaged in the Master's Business. That theme was inspired by Jesus' parable in Luke 19 of a nobleman

leaving on a business trip who gave his servants minas to enable them to "engage in business until I come."

"Jesus was always building relationships with people...now that is our job," Walton said.

"We are called not to reach out to those in the church but to those outside its walls."

District First Vice President David Brighton continued that theme in his opening worship sermon.

Below — the Praise Team from Woodlands Lutheran; Region 5 VP Rev. Stephen Wiperman serves communion at Sunday's worship; Convention Chaplain and Region 3 VP Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser at Sunday's communion worship.



Celebrated District Life in Jesus

Referencing Jesus' sermon on the mount, Brighton reminded worshipers that "you are the light of the world" and encouraged them to "let your light shine before men."

He continued, "We are equipped to do the Master's business. Jesus is the light of the world; He came to point the way to the Father. He calls upon us to go out in His name to seek and to save the lost."

Convention Chaplain Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser — Region 3 Vice President and pastor of host congregation Woodlands / Montverde — shared some thoughts on languages in Saturday's opening devotion. What would it look like, Kneser wondered, if Jesus texted and used abbreviated messages? He offered various possibilities, including:

IFYP — *I feel your pain*

IKYS — *I know your sin*
IWALU — *I will always love you*
RYB & PTL — *Read your Bible & praise the Lord*
EMB — *Engage in the Master's Business!*

Preaching at Sunday's communion worship, Walton returned to the parable in Luke 19 that served as the Gospel message.

"We are called by Him...called and empowered to engage in His business," Walton said. "We have the pure oxygen of the Gospel, but are we sharing it?"

"We are called to shatter the darkness with the light of Christ... to move beyond the walls of our churches to where people are — to reach the world before it is too late."

Walton encouraged and challenged worshippers, "Jesus

loves you so deeply...How will you use your minas? He has equipped us to engage in His business."

Hope / Plant City Director of Music Christine Mansell provided keyboard accompaniment for hymn singing throughout the Convention. Charles Crownover directed the praise team from Woodlands during Sunday morning worship. ■



DISTRICT CAPSULES

by Greg Walton District President

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

Grace/Atlanta GA..... Sole Pastor
First/Clearwater FL..... Sole Pastor
Holy Cross/Jacksonville FL..... Sole Pastor
St Paul/Lakeland FL..... Associate Pastor
Beautiful Savior/LeHigh Acres FL..... Sole Pastor
St John/Ocala FL..... Sole Pastor
Faith/Parrish FL..... Sole Pastor
Our Savior/Plantation FL..... Sole Pastor
Grace/St Cloud FL..... Sole Pastor
Our Savior/St Petersburg FL..... Assistant Pastor
Messiah/Tampa FL..... Senior Pastor
Trinity/Toccoa FL..... Sole Pastor

CALLS ISSUED

St Paul/Lakeland FL
Rev. Tim Bayer as Associate Pastor

Living Faith Korean/Cumming GA
Rev. Min Soo Kim as Associate Pastor

LiveUCF/Orlando FL
Rev. William Brath as Pastor

St John/Ocala FL
Rev. Jonathan van Sliedrecht as Senior Pastor

CALLS ACCEPTED

LiveUCF/Orlando FL
Rev. William Brath as Pastor

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS

Rev. Joshua Brown.. California-Nevada-Hawaii (O)
Rev. Mark Rabe Missouri (O)
Rev. Gary Williams..... Southeastern (O)

TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

Rev. Mark Buckert..... Michigan (O)
Mr. Dennis Wallinger South Wisconsin (C)
Rev. Mark Eisold..... Mid-South (O)
Ms. Lindsey Marie Krohn..... South Wisconsin (C)

CHURCH CHANGES

Light of the Glades Mission/Estero FL.... Removed

MINISTER INITIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Rev. Kenneth W. Chitwood
Assistant Pastor
Concordia Seminary / Saint Louis
First/Gainesville, FL (O)

MINISTER INSTALLATIONS

Rev. George Poulos,
Senior Pastor Gloria Dei/Davie, FL (O)

Rev. Mark Rabe,
Missionary..... LCMS BIM /St. Louis, MO (O)
Rev. Eric Eichinger,
Senior Pastor Bethel/Clearwater, FL (O)
Rev. Ronald Mueller,
Pastor St. John/Ocala, FL (O)
Rev. George Murdaugh,
Pastor.. Prince of Peace/Douglasville, GA (O)

Rev. Patrick McKenzie,
Pastor Hope /Jacksonville, FL (O)
Rev. William Brath,
Pastor FLGA District/LiveUCF/Orlando, FL (O)

CHANGE TO EMERITUS STATUS

Rev. Roberto Rojas (O)
Mr. Ralph Utech (C)
Rev. Peter Kolb (O)

CALLED TO GLORY
Mrs. Margaret Kemp (C)

* Note: In District data above,
C = Commissioned Minister;
O = Ordained Minister

LIFELINES

District Engages in the Master's Business This Next Trienium

Editor's note — President Walton's column this issue is an excerpt from his Acceptance Speech given at the 2015 District Convention.

I am deeply humbled and honored to have your support to serve another term as the President of the Florida-Georgia District. It was never really in my plans to serve in this way, to be honest . . . still, the Lord has used the Florida-Georgia District to shape my life and ministry for almost 30 years, and I am proud to serve this District as the District President.

Your investment in me, your trust, is very important. Often I am faced with impossible decisions that impact lives, and people look to me as if I have the wisdom of Solomon. The truth is, while I have learned a great deal over the past six years, I've learned to be a man of prayer, learning to trust the Lord. Sometimes I get it right, and sometimes I simply struggle to know what's right.

Like each of you, I cling to God's grace in Jesus and do my best, which sometimes leaves someone disappointed. My desire is always to work toward reconciliation and to bring the peace of Jesus to the workers and congregations of our District. I want you to know that this isn't always easy. However, I am committed to working toward that end.

I have also learned that I have to be intentional about my family life, even as I encourage all our workers to be. I am grateful for Edith, for her patience, for her willingness to travel with me, for her ministry to me and to the ministries we visit. It is far too easy to be consumed by the never ending tasks of ministry and to allow my priorities to get out of

balance. While it is my privilege to serve this District, God has given to me my wife and children, and now my granddaughter, as very special gifts and as the first order of priority. I made my commitment to Edith before I was ordained, and I take that vow seriously. There are times, when because of schedule I'm away from home, sometimes for weeks at a time. Edith understands that. However, there will be days when I'm away from the District to be with her, or to be with my children. Brothers and sisters, DO NOT neglect family or family commitments. I will continue to strive for this in my own life and family.



As we look to the next triennium, the focus in the District will be on outreach. Of course, this has always been the mission focus of this District, but we want to devote additional energy and resource to reaching out.

This is a critical target for the District and, in part, why we have partnered with Lutheran Hour Ministries, among others. The need around us is so urgent. The Church (with a big C) seems to be losing so much ground, and many of our District congregations are seeing members disappear and attendance slip for a variety of reasons.

Here's what I know: If we want to see the church grow it begins with investing in, and developing, relationships with people. I do not advocate compromising our doctrinal positions or our historical heritage. I believe that we must stop expending so much effort on protecting our doctrine and heritage and simply start living

it out as we live in the world as Lutheran Christians.

We talk a lot about what we believe, and we're good at this. But the world around us already looks suspiciously at the church, feels we're hypocritical and that our words don't often match our actions, and really doesn't care what we say. What good does it profit a man if he can proclaim with clarity the truth but doesn't reflect it in how he lives it out?

If we're to survive in this current day as the church, and we have so much to offer to the world in Jesus, then we can't simply hide away in our churches and hope that people will come to us and adapt to our traditions. We need to bring them to the truth, but it requires that we DO something to reach them! It means moving into the community incarnationally!

What if we simply made the effort to intentionally build relationships with people all around us, whether at work or at the gym, in school, in the grocery store? What if we actually invested the time and energy into caring about others more than ourselves, more than our customs, more than our programs, even more than our buildings?

Customs, programs and buildings won't draw people to Jesus. You and I are the ones chosen by Jesus to draw people to Him by the Holy Spirit working in us. Jesus said, "You did not choose Me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last . . ."

What are you known for in your community in a positive way? Many a church in our day has gained notoriety for a bad reputation, but that's not what we're looking for.

In the early Christian community, Tertullian reported that the Romans

would see the Christians and exclaim, "See how they love one another!" The love of the early Christian Church wasn't limited simply to their fellow believers. Christians also lovingly helped non-believers: the poor, the orphans, the elderly, the sick, the shipwrecked — even their persecutors.

In Matthew 5, Jesus said, "Love your enemies . . . and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." The early Christians accepted this statement as a command from their Lord rather than as an ideal that couldn't be actually practiced in real life. What kind of impact do you think we would have on our neighborhoods if we actually made strides to live this out and love people like Jesus?

In the next five to six years I hope to hear of the wonderful things our congregations are doing in their communities as they engage in the Master's business and connect people to Jesus. I pray that we'll see people from our congregations building relationships in their community and congregations gaining the reputation of being loving, caring communities of believers.

I believe we'll see stronger leadership, not only among our professional church workers but also among our laity. I believe we will continue to see congregations grow as they reach people, one at a time, and share the love of Jesus in ways that draw them to the foot of the cross.

We can make a difference, every one of us. I pray that the Holy Spirit would move in our hearts in such a way that we find a greater way to blend our traditions and the legacy that belongs to the Lutheran Church with our being more mission minded,

focused intentionally on outreach, connecting people to Jesus.



We have such a tremendous history in the Florida-Georgia District for the past 67 years as being mission minded, reaching into a variety of ethnicities and cultures, sharing the overwhelming forgiveness and love of Jesus, engaging in the Master's business. When we gather again in 2018, we will celebrate our 70th Anniversary as a District — no small feat.

I can think of no mission congregation that began with the thought and hope of becoming an exclusive country club community, open only to those who meet strict requirements. Instead, almost every one of our congregations began with a deep passion to share the faith in Jesus that claimed us as God's own. Missionary people recognized that we are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God so that we can declare the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.



There is still much to do, and I am proud to lead the charge to serve, assist and encourage this District, along with my very capable staff, as we seek to equip, empower and engage to connect people to Jesus. I thank you for this trust, but I ask for your partnership, your support, your patience and your prayers.

Together we are stronger and far more capable to have an impact on hearts and lives for Jesus. We are the Florida-Georgia District, some 200 plus ministries, some 6,000 plus people, covering a third of the Eastern Seaboard, walking together as Synod in this very special and wonderful place we call home, committed to proclaiming Jesus through Word and Sacrament, and sharing His love with all in need.

God will continue to bless our work in His harvest field, and He will continue to open opportunities before us, as we keep our eyes on Jesus. It's all about Jesus and the difference we know He makes in the lives of sinful people.

May we together commit ourselves, as we look toward our 70th Anniversary, to engage in the Master's business—connecting people to Jesus!

*Engaged in
His business!*
Greg

Greg & Edith Walton toast District Convention keynote speaker, Cindy Steinbeck, author of "The Vine Speaks" and owner of Steinbeck Vineyards.

High Agreement Characterizes Most Convention Resolution

All resolutions presented by four floor committees – Leadership, Congregations, Outreach, Bylaws – were presented to and approved by the 2015 Florida-Georgia Convention delegates.

Two Leadership resolutions generated the most discussion:

- To support the establishment of a new collaborative Lay Deacon Program (passed by 72.6% after being tabled during initial discussion and returned to the floor by the committee). With its adoption, delegates affirmed that the Florida-Georgia District express its support

for the Concordia College-New York's new lay leadership or Certified/Licensed Lay Deacon program as a collaborative means of raising up new lay leaders; and that congregations be encouraged to participate in the program.

- Recommend Moving Synod to Four-Year Convention Cycle passed by a 50.3% vote. With its passage, this resolution will be sent to national Synod for possible consideration at next year's LCMS Convention.

Delegates approved by a 94% margin the establishment of a Florida-Georgia young adult

network, resolving that the District provide necessary resources and guidance of this structure.

A Congregations resolution to establish an Operation Barnabas Task Force and encourage circuit and congregational support and participation passed by 99.5%. Another Congregations resolution was to encourage congregational stewardship; it was adopted by a 92.9% positive vote.

An Outreach resolution affirming the District's Outreach Initiatives passed by a 95.5% vote, "strongly" encouraging Florida-Georgia



Rev. James Guelzow, Convention manager who just concluded his service as Region 4 VP, thanked Florida-Georgia First Lady Edith Walton on behalf of the District.



Chaplain (U.S. Navy Capt.-Ret.) Rev. Dr. Mark J. Schreiber of Palm Coast, FL, former director of the Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces, received the Silver Medal of St. Martin of Tours at the Convention. It is the highest award bestowed by the MAF.



Rev. Billy Brath (center) was installed as Pastor of LiveUCF during the Convention. Participating in the installation were (l-r) District First Vice President Rev. David Brighton and District Executive Director Outreach-Missions Rev. Doug Kallesen as well as District campus pastors Rev. Jay Winters, FSU; Rev. Greg Michaels, University of Georgia; and Rev. John Glover, University of Florida.



Approvals

congregations and schools "to develop outreach plans for their ministry over the next year and begin to implement them on or before June 2016."

Delegates affirmed Church Planting in the Florida-Georgia District by a 96.5% aye vote, encouraging congregations to conduct annual appeals for church planting and to pray for workers who will focus on new ministry starts. ■

Lois Ford, Bill Gaik and Pat O'Brien Honored as Servants of Christ

Among the enduring Florida-Georgia District Convention traditions is the presentation of the Doulos tou Christo — Servant of Christ — award to a Commissioned Minister of Religion, a layperson and an ordained minister.

This year's recipients have served in a wide variety of congregational, regional and District capacities for decades.

Commissioned Minister Lois Ford has been teaching in the Florida-Georgia District for 39 years —21 years at St. John / Ocala and for the past 18 years at Faith / Eustis. She was re-elected to her second term on the District's Board of Directors at the Convention; she also chairs the District Scholarship Committee. A former Florida-Georgia LWML President, Ford is website editor for the auxiliary.

Layperson William Gaik, a member of Trinity / Toccoa, has been in the District since he was 10 years old. With this Convention he completed his full term of service on the Board of Directors as a regional lay representative and a member of the finance committee. He was elected to the Synod Commission on Nominations during the Convention. Gaik's service to his church is a family tradition: his father was also awarded the Doulos tou Christo award.

Ordained Minister Pat F.A. O'Brien came to the Florida-Georgia District in 1982 as pastor of First / Clearwater, where he served until his retirement in 2006. O'Brien has been on various Circuit, District and Synodical committees and was instrumental in writing the manual for circuit counselors. He served on the District Board of Directors for 12 years, nine of them as secretary, and has been parliamentarian for the past two District conventions. He is a member of the District Constitutions & Bylaws Committee and an adjunct member of the District President's staff. ■



Servant of Christ honoree Rev. Pat O'Brien with wife Edie (center) and family members — who surprised him at the presentation ceremony.



Lois Ford with Mark Brink



Bill Gaik

LCMS President Harrison, President Emeritus Kieschnick, and ELCA Florida-Bahamas Synod Bishop Schaefer Bring Greetings



LCMS President Matthew Harrison shared an update on Synod activities and answered questions during a Sunday morning session. His announcement that the 2019 LCMS Convention would be in Tampa generated cheers and applause.



LCMS President Emeritus Gerald Kieschnick brought greetings from Concordia University Texas. "We need to be known for what we are for, not what we are against ...we are called to reflect the love of Jesus to the world."



Rev. Robert Schaefer, Bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod, shared the best wishes of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. "May we always be looking for ways to be Christ to each other . . . and to a world for which He gave His life."

Convention guests sharing updates and greetings included:

- Rev. Robert Kuhn, LCMS Sixth Vice President representing the East-Southeast Region.
- Rich Robertson, President/CEO of Lutheran Church Extension Fund, who announced the upcoming opening of the Lutheran Federal Credit Union.
- Jon Diefenthaler, former Director of Lutheran World Relief.
- Helen Roenfeldt, Executive Director of Mission: Haiti.
- Rev. Greg Michael, representing Rev. Gerhard Michael Jr., immediate past Executive Director of the Luther Institute of Southeast Asia.

- Rev. Mark Frith, Outreach Initiative Program Director for Lutheran Hour Ministries.
- Thomas Reagin, Thrivent Financial Community Engagement Leader, who presented a check for the District Emergent Leaders program.
- Dr. Mary Hilgendorf of the Board of Regents, Concordia New York.
- Mark Polzin, Concordia Wisconsin Campus Development Chairman.
- Rev. Ben Haupt, Director of Library Services and Assistant Professor at Concordia Seminary / St. Louis.
- Rev. John Dreyer, Concordia Theological Seminary / Fort Wayne Director of Admissions.



LWML District President Bunnie Koelsch, VP Communications Joan Koch and Senior District Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tod Shouse



Providing information on two social ministries within the District were Jennifer Arnold of Lutheran Social Services and Steve Cecchetti of Lutheran Services Florida.



Departing Florida-Georgia Board of Directors Members Nancy Volz (Region V) and John Brazee (Region III) were among the many volunteers assisting throughout Convention



Brother Steward (also known as District Stewardship Chair Rev. Dennis Bartels) issued invitations to the August 14-15 Stewardship Summit at Prince of Peace/Orlando.

5 Regional VPs, Circuit Visitors, New Board Members Installed

Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

*Denotes Incumbent

Secretary: Rev. Jay Winters*, University Lutheran / Tallahassee

Commissioned Ministers:
Lois Ford*, Faith/Eustis
Nick Moss*, St Paul/Lakeland
Jesse Crosmer, Our Savior/St Petersburg

Region 1: Northeast Georgia, Atlanta North, Atlanta South, East Central Georgia Circuits
Vice President: Rev. David Brighton*, will serve as First Vice President; Mount Calvary Lutheran Church/Warner Robins
Lay Representatives:
• Robert Chambers, Grace / Atlanta.
• Jay Wendland*, Living Faith / Cumming

Region 2: Tallahassee, First Coast, North Central Florida Circuits

Vice President: Rev. Frank Marshall*, will serve as Fifth Vice President; St. Paul / Jacksonville

Lay Representatives:
• Donald Kaufman*, St. John / Ocala
• Lois Schaefer*, Amazing Grace / Oxford

Region 3: Space Coast, Orlando East, Orlando West, Winter Haven Circuits
Vice President: Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser*, will serve as Third Vice President, Woodlands / Montverde
Lay Representatives:
• Katie Abercrombie, Prince of Peace / Orlando
• Tom Reagin, Hope / Plant City

Region 4: Suncoast, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Sarasota, Southwest Circuits
Vice President: Rev. Jon Zehnder, will serve as Second Vice President, St. Michael / Fort Myers

Lay Representatives:
• Beverly Nyce*, Marco / Marco Island
• Jeff Richards*, Hope / Bradenton

Region 5: Heartland, Treasure Coast, South Palm Beach, Gold Coast, Monroe-Miami-Dade
Vice President: Rev. Stephen Wiperman*, will serve as Fourth Vice President, Our Savior / Lake Worth
Lay Representatives:
• Samuel Ludington, Holy Cross / North Miami
• Karen Smith*, Peace / Okeechobee



Florida-Georgia District Financial Highlights

For Fiscal Year Ending January 31, 2015

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

It is with thanksgiving for your partnership in the Gospel that I offer up the following summary of The Florida-Georgia District Financials for FYE January 31, 2015.

Congregation Support increased from \$2.14M to \$2.76M year over year. While that increase is wonderful, we note that \$665,708 of that support came from the closing of Redeemer Lutheran/Miami, FL. If we remove that portion of funding from the overall number, congregation support from active congregations actually decreased by \$42,755 year over year.

The District continues to operate with no real debt and all restricted net assets are fully funded. Having all restricted funds fully funded gives us the opportunity to act quickly when the Lord presents opportunities for new missions. Overall I am pleased to report that expenses are being kept in check, and we have just about two months of operating expenses in the bank.

Statement of Activities

Unrestricted support from congregations totaled \$2,784,763. Net assets released from restriction increased by \$22,973 year over year. These assets released from restriction fund specific projects or needs and are not utilized to fund ongoing operations or ministries. Their usage is determined by project need or donor restriction. Accordingly, their usage can vary greatly from year to year.

There is a change this year in the reporting of income and expenses. In prior years we netted the LCEF program income against Mission and Ministry Support expenses. This year the LCEF Program Income and the total Mission and Ministry Support expenses are fully expressed on both the income and expense sides of the Statement of Activities. Total expenses for FYE 2015 were \$3,258,444 versus \$3,080,006 for FYE 2014, or an increase of \$178,438. Most of this change is due to the increase of our tithe to Synod (\$133,245) and the increase of the Preparing Church Workers expense (\$25,272) which is mainly due to the launch of the District Emergent Leader program.

Convention, Conference and Workshop income is expended under the Congregational Services expense line items. The decrease in this expense line mainly due to staff retirement. We continually strive to model good stewardship with the funds you have entrusted to us and use them in a manner that meaningfully benefits and supports ongoing ministry.

The District increased the tithe to Synod during the past year. During FYE 2015, 15% of all congregation

contributions to the District were tithed to Synod. The District also tithed on the receipt of the extra funds from the closing of Redeemer Lutheran in Miami. Hence the large increase in the gifts sent to Synod.

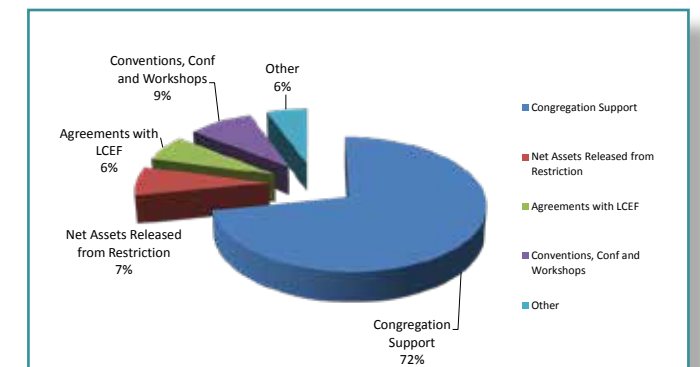
The total change in Net Assets for the past fiscal year was an increase of \$530,188 compared to an increase of \$59,558 for the year ended January 31, 2014. This variance is mainly due to the closing of Redeemer Lutheran in Miami.

2015 Work Program

The highlights of the 2015 work program are as follows:

- Congregation support continues to be budgeted at \$2,100,000. Fan Into Flame revenue was budgeted at \$10,000 as this program winds down.
- Through unanimous support of the Board of Directors, Synod support was increased to 16% of congregational support. The District continues to set aside an additional 3% of unrestricted support to fund both TCN and District Revitalization efforts.
- Missions Support remains at \$600,000 and supports ten (10) approved missions throughout the District. The Missions Advisory Council continues to volunteer their talent, time and effort to assist the District staff in evaluating the various missions that are supported. The Missions budget also includes support for eight (8) other Lutheran organizations (e.g., Lutheran Services Florida and Mission Haiti).

It should be noted that the Work Program does not include revenue or expenses for Pastor and Educator Conferences or the District Convention. These conferences are zero-based budgeted, which means that they are designed to bring in as much revenue as we spend on the conference. As such, they have no impact to the overall budget picture and are not included here. We believe it brings more clarity to how much is being spent in the ministry areas of the District.



Unrestricted Revenues for FYE January 31, 2015

Congregation Support	\$ 2,764,763
Net Assets Released from Restriction	272,842
Agreements with LCEF	251,375
Conventions, Conf and Workshops	339,574
Other	213,078
Total	\$ 3,841,632

	January 31, 2015	January 31, 2014
Assets		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 2,530,058	\$ 1,907,490
Accounts Receivable	33,468	56,418
Prepaid Expense	129,429	87,390
Contributions Receivable		
From Split-Interest Agreements	670,620	672,235
Loans Receivable	255,000	270,000
Installment Sale Notes Receivable, net	241,440	249,671
Property and Equipment, net	686,398	764,267
Advance Sites	478,088	472,313
Long-Term Investments	1,973,246	1,955,026
Other Assets	869,559	907,254
Total	\$ 7,867,306	\$ 7,342,064
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable	\$ 247,626	\$ 269,935
Grants Payable	21,500	21,500
Notes Payable	275,400	270,000
Other Liabilities	288,299	276,684
Total Liabilities	832,825	838,119
Undesignated	1,500,870	1,019,389
Net Investment in Land, Buildings and Equipment	686,398	764,267
Board Designated	1,331,942	1,152,366
Temporarily Restricted	1,793,224	1,868,015
Permanently Restricted	1,722,047	1,699,908
Total Net Assets	7,034,481	6,503,945
Total	\$ 7,867,306	\$ 7,342,064

Florida-Georgia District
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Statements of Activities
Audited Results

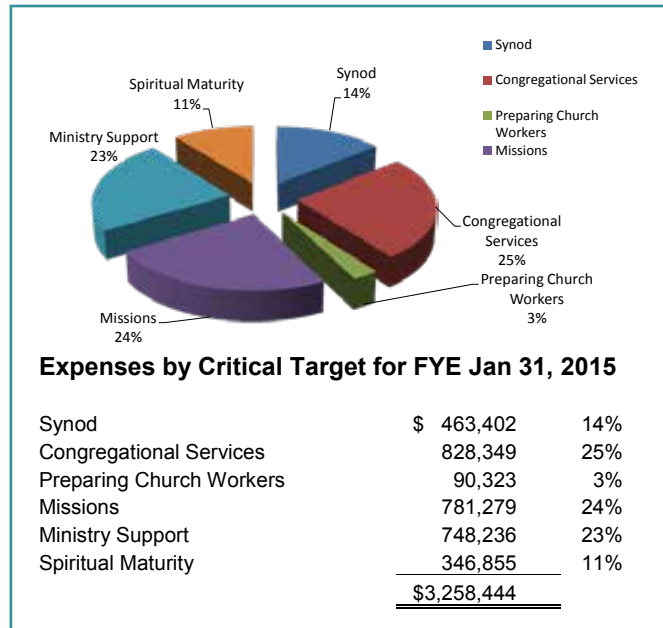
For The Years Ended January 31,	2015	2014
UNRESTRICTED REVENUES		
Congregation Support *	\$ 2,764,763	\$ 2,141,810
Net Assets Released from Restriction**	272,842	249,869
Agreements with LCEF	251,375	265,961
Convention, Conferences and Workshops	339,574	392,269
Other	213,078	120,938
Total revenues	3,841,632	3,170,847
EXPENSES		
Synod	463,402	330,157
Congregational Services ***	828,349	865,716
Preparing Church Workers	90,323	65,051
Missions	781,279	807,964
Ministry Support	748,236	701,629
Ecclesiastical Administration	346,855	309,489
Total expenses	3,258,444	3,080,006
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	583,188	90,841
Temporarily restricted	(74,791)	(47,198)
Permanently restricted	22,139	15,914
Total change in net assets	530,536	59,557
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	6,503,945	6,444,388
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 7,034,481	\$ 6,503,945

* Includes Congregation Support Over and Above Pledge

** Includes Fan into Flame Receipts released toward Mission Grants

*** Includes School Ministries, Conferences, Convocation, Conventions, Human Care, Church Worker Family Care, TCN

continued next page . . .



We believe that this work program is fiscally responsible, within our current funding forecast and continues to enable the District to continue its mission to serve, assist and encourage congregations in the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Board of Directors and District Staff continue to monitor expenses and will make necessary adjustments as required.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please feel free to contact me in the District office. May God continue to bless our work together as we reach out to connect people to Jesus!



Respectfully Submitted,
John Elliott, Business Manager

**Florida-Georgia District
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
District Budget
For the Year Ended January 31, 2016**

REVENUES

Congregation Support	\$ 2,100,000
Fan Into Flame	10,000
Installment Loan Repayments	253,000
Net Assets Released from Restriction	334,700
LCEF Program Income	258,000
Other	58,100
Total Revenues	3,013,800

EXPENSES

Synodical Pledge	336,000
TCN National Support	31,500
District Congregational Revitalization	31,500
World & National Missions	953,400
School Ministries	227,500
Congregational Services	241,900
Mission & Ministry Support	733,900
Ecclesiastical Administration	458,100
Total Expenses	3,013,800

Change in Net Assets \$ -



District Treasurer Renee Varga led the convention delegates through the triennium's financial report

Inaugural Convention Ingathering Generates Strong Response

For the first time in District history, the 2015 Florida-Georgia Convention included an ingathering to benefit a ministry in each of the two states: Redeeming Life Maternity Home of Sanford, FL, and Stepping Stones Homeless Mission of Atlanta, GA.

Delegates filled the center of an exhibit room with donations.

"We are overwhelmed by the outpouring of diapers and onesies from our District congregations for the maternity home," said Redeeming Life Executive Director Sheryl DeWitt, who founded the ministry with her husband, Rev. Ed DeWitt.

"Having your continued support is vital to the ministry as together we reach out to those who need to hear the lifesaving Gospel. We are so grateful for the District's partnership, love and prayers."

Stepping Stones Mission received more than 500 backpacks — "and the impact was felt almost immediately," reported Rev. Joseph Song, founder and leader of the ministry. "Our homeless leaders were pleased to partner with Lutheran Hour Ministries and a team of ambassadors for Christ to distribute several of these backpacks to the homeless in downtown Atlanta during the weekend following the convention.

"We thank God for our many brothers and sisters within our wonderful District who so graciously answered the call to provide backpacks and other support during the ingathering."

Additional information about the ministries is available at rlom.org and steppingstonemission.net. ■



Stepping Stones Mission board members attending the Convention included (l-r) Joy Wilkins, secretary; Sharon Song and Rev. Victor Belton.



Congregational ingathering donations were gathered in advance and brought by delegates to the Convention.

Support by Congregation for FYE January 31, 2015

City, State	Congregation	Support*	Confirmed Members**	Support / Member
01 - Northeast Georgia				
Athens GA	Christus Victor	9,366	64	146.34
Athens GA	Trinity	15,000	265	56.60
Blairsville GA	All Saints	18,000	198	90.91
Clarksville GA	Grace Mission	600	1	-
Gainesville GA	Good Shepherd	32,933	249	132.26
Lilburn GA	Oak Road	35,683	284	125.64
Toccoa GA	Trinity	1,200	143	8.39
Circuit Totals/Average		112,782	1,204	93.67
02 - Atlanta North				
Atlanta GA	Grace	6,000	59	101.69
Atlanta GA	Rivercliff	34,867	431	80.90
Atlanta GA	Living Faith Korean	2,400	25	96.00
Atlanta GA	St. Mark Eritrean	816	1	-
Cartersville GA	Savior of All	10,083	310	32.53
Cumming GA	Living Faith	11,625	166	70.03
Dahlonega GA	St. Peter	2,581	1	-
Jasper GA	King of Kings	1,131	16	70.66
Kennesaw GA	Living Hope	18,027	302	59.69
Marietta GA	Faith	13,200	315	41.90
Rome GA	Holy Trinity	2,475	106	23.35
Tucker GA	St. Mark	8,519	154	55.32
Woodstock GA	Timothy	26,391	403	65.49
Circuit Totals/Average		138,116	2,289	60.34
03 - Atlanta South				
Columbus GA	Bethlehem	6,000	83	72.29
Columbus GA	Redeemer	4,451	182	24.46
Decatur GA	Peace	867	87	9.97
Douglasville GA	Prince of Peace	0	68	-
East Point GA	Christ	2,505	50	50.10
Hampton GA	Christ Our Savior	7,325	62	118.14
Peachtree City GA	St. Paul	40,520	341	118.83
Stockbridge GA	Holy Cross	0	142	-
Stockbridge GA	Lord of Life	4,577	95	48.17
Tucker GA	Incarnate Word	500	39	12.82
Circuit Totals/Average		66,744	1,149	58.09
04 - East Central Georgia				
Augusta GA	Our Redeemer	41,625	419	99.34
Eatonton GA	Lake Oconee	25,101	168	149.41
Macon GA	Holy Trinity	0	33	-
Milledgeville GA	Hope	975	24	40.63
Perry GA	Christ	3,600	126	28.57
Savannah GA	Trinity	41,750	378	110.45
Statesboro GA	St. Paul's	2,662	66	40.34
Warner Robins GA	Mount Calvary	68,000	678	100.29
Circuit Totals/Average		183,714	1,892	97.10
05 - Tallahassee				
Albany GA	Trinity	5,409	71	76.18
Crawfordville FL	Trinity	550	53	10.38
Lake City FL	Our Redeemer	3,000	194	15.46
Tallahassee FL	Epiphany	22,535	365	61.74
Tallahassee FL	University	7,500	100	75.00
Tifton GA	Peace	2,697	132	20.43
Valdosta GA	Messiah	6,500	113	57.52
Circuit Totals/Average		48,190	1,028	46.88
06 - First Coast				
Jacksonville FL	Grace	2,000	577	3.47
Jacksonville FL	Holy Cross	767	87	8.82
Jacksonville FL	Hope Mission	3,000	34	-
Jacksonville FL	Our Redeemer	0	167	-

City, State	Congregation	Support*	Confirmed Members**	Support / Member
Jacksonville FL	St. Paul	9,583	197	48.65
Jax'ville Beach FL	Bethlehem	20,000	602	33.22
Kingsland FL	Messiah Mission	0	17	-
Kingsland GA	Holy Trinity	3,865	133	29.06
Middleburg FL	St. Peter's	9,841	260	37.85
St. Augustine FL	Christ Our Savior	1,200	51	23.53
Starke FL	Good Shepherd	0	0	-
Circuit Totals/Average		50,257	2,125	23.65
07 - North Central Florida				
Chiefland FL	Good Shepherd	0	59	-
Dunnellon FL	Peace	1,833	66	27.78
Gainesville FL	Abiding Savior	22,750	226	100.66
Gainesville FL	First	36,291	528	68.73
Inverness FL	First	2,000	309	6.47
Lecanto FL	Faith	12,300	251	49.00
Ocala FL	Our Redeemer	32,557	399	81.60
Ocala FL	St. John	10,000	514	19.46
Oxford FL	Amazing Grace	25,133	125	201.06
Silver Springs FL	Forest	3,847	48	80.14
Summerfield FL	Trinity	33,000	753	43.82
Circuit Totals/Average		179,712	3,278	54.82
08 - Space Coast				
Cape Canaveral FL	Christ	6,500	80	81.25
Holly Hill FL	Trinity	2,083	318	6.55
Melbourne FL	Redeemer	7,469	146	51.16
Palm Bay FL	Zion Haitian	0	150	-
Merritt Island FL	Faith	5,600	595	9.41
Merritt Island FL	Grace	1,500	105	14.29
Palm Bay FL	Risen Savior	0	60	-
Rockledge FL	Trinity	0	133	-
South Daytona FL	Holy Cross	0	345	-
Titusville FL	Good Shepherd	15,391	288	53.44
Circuit Totals/Average		38,544	2,220	17.36
09 - Orlando East				
Casselberry FL	Ascension	29,937	534	56.06
Deltona FL	Providence	1,100	71	15.49
Orlando FL	Esperanza Viva	120	52	2.31
Orlando FL	Hope	13,014	223	58.36
Orlando FL	Sublime Gracia	0	0	-
Orlando FL	Journey of Life	7,288	75	97.18
Orlando FL	Prince of Peace	5,000	658	7.60
Orlando FL	Trinity	41,137	935	44.00
Sanford FL	Redeemer	3,500	115	30.43
St. Cloud FL	Grace	300	101	2.97
Circuit Totals/Average		101,397	2,764	36.68
10 - Orlando West				
Apopka FL	St. Paul	0	110	-
Eustis FL	Faith	44,084	884	49.87
Winter Garden FL	Zion New Life	1,858	96	19.35
Leesburg FL	Bethany	12,968	185	70.10
Montverde FL	Woodlands	24,600	600	41.00
Orlando FL	Christ the King	12,000	374	32.09
Orlando FL	Our Savior	1,000	101	9.90
Circuit Totals/Average		96,510	2,350	41.07
11 - Winter Haven				
Bartow FL	Redeemer	0	52	-
Lake Wales FL	Lake Wales	2,801	233	12.02
Lakeland FL	Christ	24,000	240	100.00
Lakeland FL	St. Paul	0	1055	-
Plant City FL	Hope	29,548	352	83.94
Winter Haven FL	Grace	25,000	1379	18.13
Zephyrhills FL	Our Savior	7,436	184	40.41
Circuit Totals/Average		88,785	3,495	25.40

City, State	Congregation	Support*	Confirmed Members**	Support / Member
12 - Heartland				
Arcadia FL	Grace	2,400	75	32.00
Avon Park FL	Christ	6,243	21	297.29
Belle Glade FL	St. Peter's	550	40	13.75
Clewiston FL	Faith	3,025	29	104.31
Lake Placid FL	Trinity	11,012	193	57.06
Okeechobee FL	Peace	3,500	254	13.78
Sebring FL	Faith	16,688	130	128.37
Wauchula FL	Peace Valley	3,000	28	107.14
Circuit Totals/Average		46,418	770	60.28
13 - Suncoast				
Brooksville FL	Christ	2,492	244	10.21
Hudson FL	Hope	8,242	174	47.37
Lutz FL	Holy Trinity	8,690	489	17.77
Masaryktown FL	Holy Trinity	15,210	168	90.54
New Port Richey FL	Faith	9,167	316	29.01
Spring Hill FL	Forest Oaks	4,362	277	15.75
Trinity FL	Trinity	3,715	99	37.53
Circuit Totals/Average		51,878	1,767	29.36
14 - St. Petersburg				
Clearwater FL	Bethel	18,333	802	22.86
Clearwater FL	First	2,406	550	4.38
Dunedin FL	Faith	5,613	113	49.67
Largo FL	Christ the King	20,000	857	23.34
St. Petersburg FL	Grace	30,164	835	36.12
St. Petersburg FL	Our Savior	71,067	814	87.31
Circuit Totals/Average		147,584	3,971	37.17
15 - Tampa				
Brandon FL	Immanuel	0	459	-
Lithia FL	Lamb of God	0	170	-
Riverview FL	Christ the King	1,950	118	16.53
Tampa FL	Holy Trinity	3,875	106	36.56
Tampa FL	Messiah	65,770	686	95.87
Tampa FL	Messiah Hispanic	1,500	35	42.86
Tampa FL	Zion	2,400	29	82.76
Circuit Totals/Average		75,495	1,603	47.10
16 - Sarasota				
Bradenton FL	Hope	0	398	-
Englewood FL	Redeemer	0	221	-
Parrish FL	Faith	15,000	254	59.06
Port Charlotte FL	LC of the Cross	12,000	256	46.88
Punta Gorda FL	Faith	9,000	251	35.86
Sarasota FL	Beautiful Savior	50,330	461	109.18
Sarasota FL	Concordia	17,050	203	83.99
Sarasota FL	Good Shepherd	1,500	228	6.58
Venice FL	Lakeside	21,670	709	30.56
Circuit Totals/Average		126,550	2,981	42.45
17 - Southwest				
Bonita Springs FL	Amigos en Cristo	500	0	-
Bonita Springs FL	Hope	5,812	435	13.36
Cape Coral FL	Trinity	12,300	223	55.16
Fort Myers FL	Bethlehem	1,200	93	12.90
Fort Myers FL	St. Michael	43,000	856	50.23
Fort Myers FL	Zion	32,600	809	40.30
Immokalee FL	Immokalee	725	0	-
LaBelle FL	Christ the King	1,000	28	35.71
Lehigh Acres FL	Beautiful Savior	195	73	2.67
Marco Island FL	Marco	63,080	394	160.10
Naples FL	Grace	50,000	390	128.21
Naples FL	Messiah	0	156	-
Naples FL	Peace	9,975	50	199.50
N Fort Myers FL	Good Shepherd	2,879	145	19.86
Circuit Totals/Average		223,265	3,652	61.14

City, State	Congregation	Support*	Confirmed Members**	Support / Member
18 - Treasure Coast				
Fort Pierce FL	Trinity	0	271	-
Hobe Sound FL	Bethel	0	44	-
Lake Worth FL	New Alliance	0	9	-
N Palm Beach FL	Faith	28,092	368	76.34
Port St. Lucie FL	Grace	11,460	182	62.97
Stuart FL	Redeemer	41,855	658	63.61
Vero Beach FL	Redeemer	3,937	120	32.81
W Palm Beach FL	Redeemer	0	115	-
Circuit Totals/Average		85,344	1,767	48.30
19 - South Palm Beach				
Boca Raton FL	St. Paul	31,667	1503	21.07
Boynton Beach FL	Son Life	14,672	352	41.68
Delray Beach FL	Emmanuel Haitian	700	225	3.11
Delray Beach FL	Trinity	37,088	603	61.51
Lake Worth FL	Epiphany	1,000	147	6.80
Lake Worth FL	Our Savior	20,423	314	65.04
Lake Worth FL	Salem Haitian	0	125	-
Circuit Totals/Average		105,549	3,269	32.29
20 - Gold Coast				
Davie FL	Gloria Dei	733	292	2.51
Fort Lauderdale FL	Faith	0	46	-
Fort Lauderdale FL	Good Shepherd	300	50	6.00
Fort Lauderdale FL	Shepherd of the Coast	3,155	240	13.15
Fort Lauderdale FL	Trinity Haitian	0	1	-
Fort Lauderdale FL	Trinity	0	152	-
Hollywood FL	Prince of Peace	3,625	46	78.80
Laudrle Laks FL	Tabernacle	0	150	-
Miramar FL	Miramar	0	30	-
Fort Lauderdale FL	Grace Tabernacle	0	75	-
Plantation FL	Our Savior	5,600	424	13.21
Weston FL	St. Paul	48,437	832	58.22
Circuit Totals/Average		61,850	2,338	26.45
21 - Monroe-Miami-Dade				
Hialeah FL	Faith	4,620	150	30.80
Hialeah FL	St. Andrews	1,800	45	40.00
Kendall FL	Concordia	5,400	201	26.87
Key West FL	Grace	2,500	140	17.86

LCEF Investment Options for All

ConnectPLUS

3% fixed rate (on first \$5,000) and opportunity to empower LCMS ministries

- >\$500 minimum to open
- >Floating rate on balance over \$5,000
- >Two-year term
- >Additional investments of at least \$25 allowed
- *For new LCEF investors 18 and older



The Young Investors **Y.I. Club**

With a \$25 investment your child becomes a Y.I. Club member with special activities, games and fun!

- >3.5% Premium Interest Rate
- >\$ for Good Grades
- >\$ for Community Service
- >College Scholarship Program



Family Emergency StewardAccount®

Expecting the unexpected makes for good planning, that's why you might consider LCEF Family Emergency StewardAccount.:

- >"Rainy Day" Fund
- >Home Repairs
- >Quarterly Tax Payments
- >Christmas Fund
- >Medical Bills
- >Tuition
- >Interest Rate: 1%



PartnerPLUS for Current Investors:

- >Low Minimum \$500 to start
- >Competitive fixed rate of 2% on two-year notes or 2.5% on four-year notes
- >Balance over \$25,000 earns second-tier fixed rate of 1%
- >Additional funds can be added at any time (\$25 minimum)
- >Offer available for a limited time only



What can LCEF do for you?

INVESTMENTS:

- Ministry Dividend – Dollars are used to build churches and schools
- ConnectPLUS, Y.I. Club, Family Emergency & PartnerPLUS
- Gift Planning, Christian Legacy, Estate Planning

LOANS:

- Buildings, but could be new ministry project
- Rostered Church Worker (RCW) Loans
- Shared Blessings Rebate Program (*5 year interest rebate opportunity*)

MINISTRY SUPPORT:

- VisionPath
- Capital Funding Services, Consecrated Stewards, Laborers for Christ
- **FREE:** Architectural Advisory Committee, Demographics, Joyful Response

TEAM:

- ◇ Daniel J. Reichard, District VP LCEF dreichard@flgadistrict.org
- ◇ Laura Zirbel, Loan Consultant, lzirbel@flgadistrict.org
- ◇ Debbie Talbot, Adm. Asst., dtalbot@flgadistrict.org (877) 457-5556 x4
- ◇ Facebook: LCEF Florida Georgia District
- ◇ Twitter: @LCEFdanR
- ◇ District Website: flgadistrict.org
- St. Louis: (800) 843-5233 Website: lcef.org
- LCEF Congregation Advocate: LCEF is looking for an enthusiastic, ministry minded person in your congregation. No experience needed, just the love of God and a spirit for sharing the LCEF story. Please call for more information.

New Thrivent Member Network Offers New Way

While your heart is in the right place, your schedule may not be. Between work and family — not to mention that never-ending to-do list — making time for causes you're passionate about can sometimes feel daunting.

That's exactly why Thrivent is creating a Thrivent Member Network in the Florida & Georgia Region. It's a new, easy way for Thrivent members to help others.

"We recognize that lives are busier than ever," says Mary Weibel, manager of Community Engagement for the Florida & Georgia Region. "So we wanted to take a look at how we can make it easy for members to continue to give of their time and talents.

"We're taking the grassroots help that Thrivent gives and making it even more accessible. It's designed to make it simpler for more people to help others."



What Is The Thrivent Member Network?

The Thrivent Member Network has two components. The first, the Thrivent Member Network regional board, provides leadership, governance and strategic insight to the Florida & Georgia Region. The second part, multiple opportunities for members to do good in their communities, includes the newly launched Thrivent Action Teams. These components were developed after years of listening to members, researching other membership organizations and testing ideas.

"We did a lot of research to make this truly a grassroots movement. It brings us back to who we are as a membership organization — members helping members," says Jackie Hintz,

Thrivent's vice president of Member Engagement and Growth.

"It's about your passion, and how you want to live that out and answer God's calling to help one another."

Governance, Not Grants

A group of members in the Florida & Georgia Region is serving on the Thrivent Member Network regional board. They represent member interests, making sure Thrivent is living out its mission in the region.

As a fraternal benefit society, Thrivent is legally required to have lodges — or groups of members — who make certain decisions. In the past, this was the geographical chapter system, which grouped members together based on zipcode. They functioned both as governance and as the volunteer network.

Now, the regional board will provide leadership to the entire region.

"This board will give us strategic input on how to touch more lives and get more people involved," says Scott Morris, who leads the Florida & Georgia Region. "All our board members have been wise with their money and have been community-oriented. They're on this board because they want to help."

Thrivent's national board of directors appointed these first six board members, who come to the table with a wide variety of backgrounds and skill sets. In time, members in the region will have the opportunity to elect them.

Taking Action

Thrivent Action Teams are one way members can get involved in making a difference in their communities through the Thrivent Member Network.

Here's how they work: Any member who has an idea to serve his or her community can round up a team of volunteers, go online and fill out a quick-and-easy Thrivent Action Team application. After approval, the Thrivent Action Team leader gets a start-up kit in the mail. That kit includes things like banners, invitations, a project planning checklist and T-shirts. The leader also receives seed money to help launch the project.

Karen Coombs, a member and former leader of the Martin-St. Lucie Chapter of Thrivent Financial, is excited about the simplicity of the Thrivent Member Network and Thrivent Action Teams.

"My initial response was 'Yes!' because there was so much paperwork with the chapter system," Coombs says. "People are already excited about this. It's simple, straightforward. It's just amazing."

to Partner with Thrivent Financial, Community

A Thrivent Action Team is only one of the many ways in which members can impact their communities. Thrivent Builds With Habitat for Humanity® provides opportunities for members to build homes, make repairs and participate in worldwide adventures. Thrivent Choice® allows eligible members to direct funding to nonprofit organizations, congregations and ministries they value. And there are numerous financial workshops to help members be wise with money and live generously.

Simple, Easy, Relevant

Members are making the transition to the Thrivent Member Network quickly.

"Overall, we've had a very strong volunteer program here in Florida and Georgia. But it was amazing to see how quickly members started organizing Thrivent Action Team events," says Weibel. "Members are excited about the opportunities for themselves, and for those they want to help."

Another happy result: "Most of these Thrivent Action Teams are

getting paired up with organizations that Thrivent has never been a part of," says Vann Doubleday. A financial representative in Savannah, Georgia, Doubleday has personally volunteered with a Thrivent Action Team supporting Coastal Pet Rescue in Savannah. "It's sparking a conversation among people who may have never heard of Thrivent. It's getting people to be more creative and encouraging generosity. The potential is huge." ■

*Article by Sarah Asp Olson
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from the Winter 2015 issue of THRIVENT.*

Meet Thrivent's New Florida-Georgia Regional Board



Kimberly Spears Carter / Atlanta, GA
Member of Midtown Bridge Church;
Chief of Staff for the Managing Principal for Diversity at Deloitte Services LP.

Carter is excited about the opportunity to activate more local community engagement throughout the region and to deepen connections through Christian outreach. "I hope to provide a different perspective based on my experiences to help advise and grow the organization."



William (Bill) Frerking / Johns Creek, GA
Member of Living Faith Lutheran Church;
Vice President & Chief Sustainability Officer for Georgia-Pacific, LLC.

Frerking aims to use his vocational expertise in service to Thrivent members. "It is my hope that my legal and executive experiences, combined with being a longtime Thrivent member, give me unique perspectives to help the Thrivent team establish one of the early network organizations."



Rev. Paul Martin Hoyer / Lake Mary, FL
Senior Pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran Church.

Hoyer purchased his first insurance contract nearly 40 years ago, right after getting married. Since then he has only grown in his commitment to and support of The Thrivent Way. "I hope that by being on the board, I can help keep the decisions made relevant to the people in our communities."



Randall W. Luecke / Palm Harbor, FL
Member of Trinity Lutheran Church;
Chief Financial Officer for Eckerd, child and family social services organizations.

Luecke hopes his professional experience and heart for service will be a boon to the board. "I hope to assist Thrivent leadership in expanding the array of financial services available to members. I also hope to increase the visibility of Thrivent in the region."



Ausma Mursch / Venice, FL
Board Chair Member of Faith Lutheran Church;
Executive Director for Creative Ministries for Lutheran Social Services of New York.

A Thrivent member for more than 40 years, Mursch is passionate about bringing a global perspective to the board. "My hope is that serving on the board will give me the opportunity to help enhance Thrivent's outreach to church and community in new, relevant and exciting ways."



Dale R. Vermillion / Miramar Beach, FL
Member of Coastline Calvary Chapel;
President & CEO of Vermillion Consulting, Inc., author, national spokesperson on Biblical guidance on debt and finances.

Vermillion has been a Thrivent member for just three years, but he's highly invested in helping members live out The Thrivent Way. "I hope to help people understand Biblical financial principles of money management and the joy of giving."

FLORIDA GEORGIA REGIONAL NEWS

*Out and About in
The Florida-Georgia District
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod*



LSF members Laura Shipman (left), LSF Region 12 President and one of the student leaders at Christus Victor/Athens, and Abby Schwartz, a student leader at Messiah/Valdosta, take a break at the spring retreat.

Lutheran Student Fellowship Eyes Expansion, Connections

In existence since the 1980s, Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF) – a student-run effort to gather college students from different universities for fellowship – has “lately been under the radar,” according to Laura Shipman, LSF Region 12 President.

Those active in the organization “are looking to bring awareness of LSF back to college students,” she added. “Our main goal is to share, strengthen and encourage one

another in ministry. We want all students in the southeast to know that Lutheran groups exist in college and there are opportunities to gather.”

Annual retreats are designed to encourage students in faith and service. “Why Jesus?” was the theme of the spring retreat, which was led by Rev. Jay Winters of University Lutheran at Florida State University. The weekend included discussion on how Jesus provides identity, security and meaning for life. Participants spent free time in various sports activities or studying.

One afternoon was devoted to LSF business activities including election of officers and planning to expand LSF.

Elaborated Shipman, “We desire to strengthen the connections with colleges that already participate and develop connections with existing campus ministries that are not currently involved with LSF. We also hope to start LSF groups at congregations near colleges that do not have student ministry at this time; we want all Lutheran students to have a place to go to strengthen their faith with others.”

For more information about LSF or Lutheran campus ministry, please contact LSF President Laura Shipman at 706-543-3801 or lsfregion12@gmail.com. ■

At left — Students participating in one of the studies at the LSF spring retreat.



REGION 1 CONNECTIONS



Vice President: Rev. David Brighton | Mount Calvary/Warner Robbins
Laity Board Member: Mr. Jay Wendland | Living Faith/Cumming
Laity Board Member: Mr. Robert Chambers | Grace/Atlanta
NE Georgia Circuit Visitor: Rev. David Wesche | All Saints/Blairsville
Atlanta N Circuit Visitor: Rev. Jeffrey Jordan | Rivercliff/Atlanta
Atlanta S Circuit Visitor: Rev. Larry Townsend | Christ Our Savior/Hampton
E Central Georgia Circuit Visitor: Rev. Roger Schwartz | Our Redeemer/Augusta

Missionary Pastor Mark Rabe Installed at Trinity / Albany

Rev. Mark Rabe was installed as a missionary to Ethiopia at his home congregation of Trinity / Albany on May 3. Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton conducted the installation and was the preacher.

Also participating in the service were Rev. Jay Winters, Rev. Mark Schultz and Rev. Earl Steffen.

A graduate of Concordia University/Portland, Rabe earned

his Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary / St. Louis. He was pastor at Calvary Lutheran / Oroville, CA from 2001-2010, then taught at Atemo Bible College and Matongo Lutheran Theological College, Kenya for the next two years. Most recently Rabe has been pastor at Trinity / Albany. ■



LCMS career missionaries Rev. Mark & Stefanie with their children, Noah, Gabriella, Julianna and Matthias.

REGION 2 CONNECTIONS



Vice President: Rev. Frank Marshall | St Paul/Jacksonville
Board Secretary: Rev. Jay Winters | University Church & Student Center/Tallahassee
Laity Board Member: Mr. Donald Kaufman | St. John/Ocala
Laity Board Member: Ms. Lois Schaefer | Amazing Grace/Oxford
Tallahassee Circuit Visitor: Rev. Mark Schultz | Epiphany/Tallahassee
First Coast Circuit Visitor: Rev. Dana Brones | Bethlehem/Jacksonville
N Central Florida Circuit Visitor: Rev. James Rockey | Amazing Grace/Oxford

Chitwood Ordained, Installed at First / Gainesville



Rev. Ken Chitwood was ordained into the office of public ministry and installed as Assistant Pastor at First Lutheran / Gainesville on June 7.

In his new position Chitwood preaches, teaches, assists with pastoral duties and oversees First’s digital ministry efforts. He is married to First Worship Director Elizabeth Chitwood.

A religion journalist and cultural commentator, Chitwood is a full-time PhD student with the University of Florida, where he is studying Global Islam and Religion in the Americas. His research is currently on Puerto Rican Islam and Islam in the Americas, from a global perspective.

He has previously worked with youth, college students and children in California, New Zealand, South Africa, Arizona and Texas as well as in foreign mission partnerships, urban settings and suburban missional communities. ■

Hope / Plant City Commissions New Stephen Ministers

The members of Hope / Plant City recently joined in the commissioning of the congregation's newest Stephen Ministers.

This Christian care giving

ministry is designed to assist pastors in reaching out to members of the congregation and the community who are in need of someone to walk beside them as they go through transitions in life

such as divorce, death of a loved one, empty nest, retirement and so forth.

Hope's Stephen Ministers complete an intensive 50 hours of training from leaders Deaconess Lyn Senkarik and Libby Voigtmann prior to commissioning. Each minister continues to participate in regular continuing education and support meetings.

"We are very proud of and thankful for all of our Stephen Ministers at Hope," said Senkarik. "Each one is truly gifted to walk beside anyone needing that shoulder to lean on during difficult times.

"God has gifted not only Hope, but our community with these caring leaders who are ready, willing and able to serve." ■



REGION 3 CONNECTIONS

Vice President: Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser | Woodlands/Montverde
Board Treasurer: Ms. Renee Varga | Woodlands/Montverde
Laity Board Member: Mr. Tom Reagin | Hope/Plant City
Laity Board Member: Ms. Katie Abercrombie | Prince of Peace/Orlando
Commissioned Minister Board Member: Lois Ford | Faith/Eustis
Commissioned Minister Board Member: Nick Moss | St. Paul /Lakeland
Space Coast Circuit Visitor: Rev. Gary Held | Risen Savior/Palm Bay
Orlando East Circuit Visitor: Rev. Ken Green | Prince of Peace/Orlando
Orlando West Circuit Visitor: Rev. Dr. Milan Weerts | Emeritus/Clermont
Winter Haven Circuit Visitor: Rev. Dean Pfeffer | Hope/Plant City



Hope's new Stephen Ministers: (front, l-r) Sandy Booher; Ernie Reaume; Tracy MacDonald; MaryAnn Paris; Shea Pennington; (back, l-r) Deaconess Lyn Senkarik; Libby Voigtmann and Hope Senior Pastor Dean Pfeffer.

Faith/Eustis Teachers Honored



Corrine Hoffert

Faith Lutheran School / Eustis honored four teachers for more than 125 years of ministry service during a special dinner celebration on May 17.

Corrine Hoffert, who became Faith's Principal in 2001, was feted for her retirement after 40 years of service in the teaching ministry of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. A 1975 graduate of Concordia Teachers College / River Forest, she earned a Master's in School Administration in 1995 from Northern Illinois University.

Lois Ford was honored for 40 years of service to the LCMS. She



Lois Ford

earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education with a minor in environmental science from Concordia / Bronxville. She has been on the faculty at Faith since the fall of 1996. She teaches art for students from kindergarten through eighth grade; fourth grade religion, spelling, handwriting and social studies.

Retiring Kindergarten teacher Diana Richards graduated in 1973 from Valparaiso University with a B.S. in Elementary Education and a minor in physical education. She completed a master's course for teaching kindergarten at the



Diana Richards

University of South Florida and began teaching in 1974. She joined Faith's faculty in 1996.

Also retiring was Ric Hoffert, Faith's seventh-grade homeroom teacher and English and spelling instructor for grades five through eight. His teaching ministry began in 1974 after his graduation from Concordia University Chicago. He joined Faith's faculty in the fall of 2001. A photo of Mr. Hoffert was not available. ■

Baptism, Confirmation Highlight

May 17 was a day of celebration at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer / Melbourne: it was the congregation's 60th Anniversary.

It was also the baptism and confirmation day for Gary Sandquist.

Preaching at the special service was Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton, who WWassisted with communion and the baptism. Redeemer Pastor Craig

Boehlke led the worship service.

Former members and guests of area congregations were among the worshippers. Former DCE Amy Heuer sent a special message.

An anniversary luncheon was coordinated by committee members Linda Miller, Aggie Benzing, Scott Cooper, Irene Edstrom, Kerry Hansen, Hazel Morrison, Jerry Mueller, Elisa Sheppard, Tori

Simpson, Martha Sinclair and Shirley Storey. Scott Cooper was in charge of the meal preparation.

"All in all, a great day of celebration," said Walton.

Earlier this year Redeemer completed a successful "Journey of Discovery" stewardship program that culminated in a "Food Around the World" luncheon.

"The congregation feasted on

Melbourne Anniversary Celebration

the pot luck of amazing food provided by members," said Linda Miller. "Tables and walls were decorated with members travel souvenirs, posters and photos, as well as a world map highlighting countries where LCMS has missions." ■

In photo at right, Gary Sandquist with Pastor Craig Boehlke and President Greg Walton





Hope Volunteers at Salvation Army Soup Kitchen

A CREW FROM HOPE / HUDSON volunteered at the Salvation Army Soup Kitchen in New Port Richey. Members of the crew included (l-r) Pastor T Kent Fuqua, Megan Small, Linda Behrendt, Dianne Murphy, Marjory Holm Hinton, Joann Bliss, Cookie DeFontes, Jim Behrendt, Nancy Maldovan, Celeste Klinkhamer and Arlene Fuqua. ■

Bethlehem Celebrates Members Anniversary

RON & ARLENE MUELLER were feted on their 66th wedding anniversary earlier this year by fellow members of Bethlehem / Fort Myers. Closing hymn for the morning worship was "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus," which was sung at the Muellers' wedding ceremony. The couple provided the cakes pictured here for the day's after-worship Food & Fellowship. ■



Youth, Volunteers Travel to St. Louis for Mission Trip

Middle and high school youth from Our Savior / St. Petersburg will spend a week in July in St. Louis on mission trip that will have them participating in various relational service activities.

From their base at an historic St. Louis church, the youth will help

with children's day camps, work in a food pantry, participate in mall outreach ministry, serve in neighborhoods and help to feed the homeless.

The Florida volunteers will be partnering with Extreme Faith, a multi-faceted ministry that was

started a decade ago by teens and has grown into a large outreach organization.

In photo below, VBS students blessed the Our Savior Youth Mission Team as they prepared for their trip. ■

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LutheranLife@aol.com

REGION 4 CONNECTIONS

Vice President: Rev. Jon Zehnder | St. Michael/Fort Myers
 Laity Board Member: Mr. Jeff Richards | Hope/Brandenton
 Laity Board Member: Ms. Beverly Nyce | Marco/Marco Island
 Commissioned Minister Member: Mr. Jesse Crosmer | Our Savior/St. Petersburg
 Suncoast Circuit Visitor: Rev. Dr. David Brockhoff | Holy Trinity/Masaryktown
 St. Petersburg Circuit Visitor: Rev. Arnold Piering | Emeritus/New Port Richey
 Tampa Circuit Visitor: Rev. Kevin Yoakum | Christ the King/Riverview
 Sarasota Circuit Visitor: Rev. Rosseter Leavitt | Beautiful Savior/Sarasota
 SW Circuit Visitor: Rev. Richard Browning | Hope/Bonita Springs



THRIVE COMMUNITY / ESTERO partnered with a number of Christian Ministries for Encounter Week this past spring. "We had a prayer tent in the middle of campus for 72 straight hours," said Thrive Pastor John Roth. "Here we were able to pray with students, share stories and see the redemptive work of Christ alive at Florida Gulf Coast University."



Holy Cross Wins KidSmartz Safety Video

A creative video produced by Holy Cross Lutheran School / North Miami was selected as the Southern Region Winner in the Honeywell Hometown Solutions KidSmartz™ Safety Dance Video Contest.

The nationwide competition was aimed at equipping elementary school students with the necessary skills and confidence to be safer and protected from abduction. Elementary schools were asked to submit videos of students dancing their own rendition of the KidSmartz™ “Safety Dance,” a reimagining of the popular 1980s song that reinforces the four rules of personal safety.

Holy Cross received a \$10,000 check. Principal Sherri Mackey and Assistant Principal Soraya Trujillo



received a trip to Washington, DC, to accept the award on behalf of Holy Cross.

Former Holy Cross student Justin Trujillo choreographed and produced the award-winning video.

In photo above, Holy Cross students pose with the \$10,000 check prize for their creative video of the KidSmartz™ Safety Dance Video Contest. Participating in the award presentation were Kerry Kennedy, Director, Honeywell Hometown Solutions; Nancy McBride, Executive Director, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children; Ed Russo, Program Manager, National Center for Missing & Exploited Children; Sherri Mackey, Principal, Holy Cross

REGION 5 CONNECTIONS

Vice President: Rev. Steve Wiperman | Our Savior/Lake Worth
 Laity Board Member: Ms. Karen Smith | Peace/Okeechobee
 Laity Board Member: Mr. Samuel Ludington/Holy Cross-North Miami
 Heartland Circuit Visitor: Rev. Richard Norris | Trinity/Lake Placid
 Treasure Coast Circuit Visitor: Rev. Craig Bode | Trinity/Fort Pierce
 S Palm Beach Circuit Visitor: Rev. James Weist | Epiphany/Lake Worth
 Gold Coast Circuit Visitor: Rev. Timothy Hartner | St. Paul/Weston
 Monroe-Miami-Dade Circuit Visitor: Rev. Alan Sielk | St. Paul/Miami



GIFTS BY THE TRUCKLOAD –
 Members of Our Savior / Lake Worth recently gathered another truckload of items to support various Lutheran Ministries Florida programs, including PEPPi Head Start, the Lippman Youth Shelter and refugee resettlement. Donna Macha is the coordinator of the gift collections. ■



Trinity Welcomes Jeff Carlson

Rev. Jeff Carlson was installed as pastor of Trinity / Fort Lauderdale during an afternoon service on June 28. He had been serving the congregation as vicar for the past year.

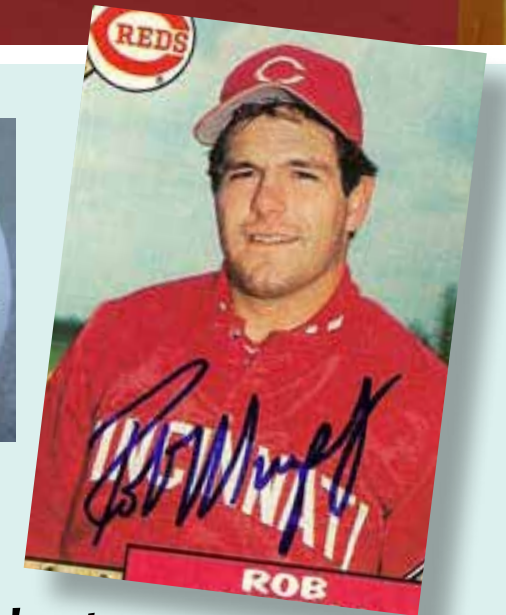
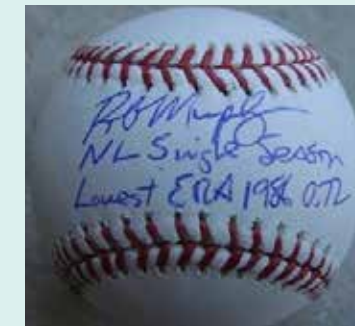
Officiating at the installation service was Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton. Rev. Thomas Hackett, Trinity’s pastor emeritus, was the preacher. Serving as liturgists were Pastors Jim Weist of Epiphany/Lake Worth; Stephen Reynolds of Shepherd of the Coast / Fort Lauderdale; and Kevin Ogle of Miramar Lutheran / Miramar. They were among the pastors sharing in the traditional laying on of the hands to bless the newly installed pastor.

Hazel Carlucci directed the Trinity choir; Donny Clippinger was the organist and pianist.

During the installation, Walton invited Carlson’s family – wife Dawn and 14-year-old twins Casey and Nick – to join him at the altar.

Trinity’s Church Council also approached the altar to share blessings with their new pastor. A reception in Trinity’s Fellowship Hall followed the service. ■

Participating clergy with Pastor Jeff Carlson and his family after the installation service: (l-r) Justin Pahl, Greg Walton, Jasue Tsh Vilsaint, George Poulos, Jim Weist, Stephen Reynolds, Tom Hackett, Kevin Ogle.



Rob Murphy Reads for Redeemer Students

Former professional baseball player Rob Murphy visited Redeemer Lutheran School / Stuart in late May to read “Hailstones and Halibut Bones” to the school’s young students. A native of Miami, Murphy played for the Florida Marlins, the New York Yankees, Boston Red Sox, the Cincinnati Reds, the St. Louis Cardinals, the Houston Astros and the Seattle Mariners. ■

Connecting People to Jesus as

H

How will you engage in the Master's Business?

Following our Florida-Georgia Convention I hope each of us will take notice of all that God has blessed

and entrusted us with to carry out His business, bringing the good news of Jesus to others. It is all about connecting people to Jesus!

During the convention we learned that the Lord has sent some 30 million people to live within our District borders. He has established more than 200 churches, many with schools and preschools, to help

us "teach all things." Inside our District God has blessed us with more than \$2 million annually to fund His mission, and He has more than 50,000 ambassadors who are part of His world-wide mission team. They work daily in our schools, hospitals, businesses, government and homes to speak and carry out His business in their vocation.

God has called us to do two primary things: love God and love man. Paul says in Romans



MISSION POSSIBLE

by Rev. Doug Kallesen
District Executive
for Mission & Outreach

13 that "love is the fulfillment of the law." Love is the main ingredient in outreach; without it all efforts are "a noisy gong or clashing cymbal ... without love it is nothing." Perhaps we have made outreach, sharing our faith way too hard. We really only need to do one thing — LOVE!

We Engage in the Master's Business

Love as He has loved us.

At the Convention we heard Rev. Dr. John Denninger, President of the Southeast District, describe an outreach initiative called iNeighbor. He shared the importance of the "I" or individual in reaching his/her neighborhood. He/she is Christ's representative, an ambassador there in that place. He described how that worked through the acronym, BLESS.

- Bond — what do you have in common with your neighbor that could bond you?
- Learn — what can you learn about them (hobbies, needs, etc.)?
- Engage — interact with them.



Dr. John Denninger,
President of the Southeast District LCMS
was a keynote speaker at the convention

• Serve — once know and have engaged your neighbor, how might you serve them?

• Share — seek pathways and places where the Lord might enter into the conversation or relationship.

A tool that will allow you to pray for your neighbors by name is available at www.pray4everyneighbor.com.

Try to get to know them and then use the BLESS or some other method — but remember you are Christ's ambassador, His messenger of hope and reconciliation in their life and world. Do that one thing, LOVE! ■

The Florida-Georgia District now has 30 million people living within its borders, with fewer than 20% attending church anywhere/any time. I believe that God has placed our District congregations and schools here to connect people to Jesus. The pilot Outreach Initiative we have entered into with Lutheran Hour Ministries is designed to help congregations, schools and individuals engage in our Master's Business. Our District goals are by God's grace to have:

- 3,500 new believers annually who have expressed their faith through baptism, profession of faith or adult confirmation.
- Increase in worship and members engaged in Bible study in at least 50% of our congregations.
- Start 10 or more new starts in the next three years.

How will your congregation be involved? How will you be engaged in the Master's business? What goals will become a part of your

congregation's or school's outreach plan?

Barna conducted a survey of our District with more 2,000 respondents; we found that the three most common outreach



factors were culture, connection and community. A culture of outreach inside the church is critical to a congregation's efforts to go and make disciples. Sermons, newsletter articles and bulletins that communicate outreach stories and events in the congregational life are all important examples. Connection of the congregation to those who have visited or come into contact with the church and her members is also crucial. A phone

call, a visit or an email all show that "we care and you matter to us."

Community is how the congregation engages in the life of the community to bring the blessing and witness of Christ. This "C" deals with being Christ in this place for the benefit your community.

Lutheran Hour and the District have resources that deal with each of these three Cs. Go to www.lhm.org/outreachinitiative to see what new resources are available. Most have been designed by practitioners in the field.

Web based resources are available to you and members of your congregation to help you Engage in the Master's Business of connecting people to Jesus. They are free, available to you 24/7 and allow you to pick resources most useful for your ministry.

I appreciate the many kind words and comments about the Mission video shown at convention. This will be made available for your use for mission updates for your congregation or Bible class, Mission Sundays or other presentations. ■

Sweet Team-Building Session

The Florida-Georgia staff took a break from intense preparations for the 2015 Florida-Georgia Convention with a visit to Farris Foster's Chocolate Factory. Shown here are the appropriately garbed District team members: (l-r) President Greg Walton; Vice President LCEF/Executive Director Finance & Administration Daniel J. Reichard; Administrative Assistant School Ministries Lynda Voss; Administrative Assistant Missions-Outreach Cindy Hammerstrom; Administrative Assistant LCEF, Finance & Administration Debbie Talbot; LCEF Loan Consultant Laura Zirbel; Business Manager John Elliott; Executive Director Missions-Outreach Doug Kallesen; Administrative Assistant to the President Kathy Keene; Executive Director School Ministries Mark Brink.



Registration Opens for LWML District Retreat

It is time! Are you ready? We need to go! NOW! Come on; get your things ready NOW!

How many times have you heard or even said those words? Today I am saying it again – only in a little different context.

It is time to get ready for the LWML Florida-Georgia District Retreat. Mark your calendars for September 25-27, 2015. We will be retreating to the Sirata Beach Resort, in St. Pete Beach, FL.

We have been there before, and we had a fantastic time. We hope that you will come back and join us for a fantastic weekend with Donna Pyle, author and Bible study leader, and Tim Jacobsmeyer, who will be our music leader for the weekend. Registration now! There is a form in the District's newsletter, The Evangel, which is sent via e-mail. If you have not subscribed or have not received our newsletter, please go to our new website (www.flgalwml.com); in the upper right hand corner is a section to subscribe to the Evangel.

Just fill out the name and email address) and you will receive a notice that you have subscribed.

You may download the registration form from the Evangel, fill it out and mail it to Registration Chairman Kim Hertko. However, we are now offering an opportunity to register online and pay with PayPal. If you go to the Announcement section on the homepage, you will see "Retreat Registration." Click on that you will be directed what to do next. We are very excited to be able to offer you this way of registering.

We look forward to seeing everyone September 25-27 at the Sirata Beach Resort in St. Pete Beach.

Lutheran Haven Announces Summer Opening of Memory Support Environment

Lutheran Haven has announced the summer opening of its new Memory Support facility.

The Haven Trustees deemed this new service a top priority in response to the growing demand for assistance for seniors suffering with Alzheimer's and other dementias. In an effort to be fiscally responsible, they have chosen to convert a building on campus through refurbishments into what is now to be called "The Lodge at Lutheran Haven."

The Lodge is a carefully designed, specialized environment with very unique amenities and will provide individualized services for seniors with a level of memory impairment that makes living at home unsafe, but who are not in need of the intensive services of a nursing facility. It is the Haven mission to serve these special seniors and their caretakers by providing a safe and secure residential environment. The Lodge will be staffed by specially trained professionals who will allow residents to maintain a level of independence within a protected and unique living environment.

The Haven is proud to be the provider of this new "safe haven" for current and future residents experiencing memory impairment and is a service designed in response to the following disturbing facts:

- Alzheimer's and related dementias are the 6th leading cause of death in the U.S.

- One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia.
- Of the top ten causes of death in the U.S., it is the only one that cannot be prevented, cured or slowed.

- ✓ An environment designed to minimize the cacophony and disruption of competing forms of media and noise.

- ✓ An indoor walking circuit and outdoor healing sensory garden paths which offer an opportunity for interaction with others and with nature.

- ✓ Specially trained staff members who will manage the impulsivity and poor safety awareness exhibited by some who have memory loss and who will be respectful and humane in redirecting the



- Almost two-thirds of Americans with Alzheimer's disease are women.

- Every 67 seconds, someone in the U.S. develops the disease.

The day-to-day approach taken at the Lodge will be somewhat unique and has been designed by a team of dedicated and knowledgeable staff members who thoughtfully brought their extensive knowledge of this field to light in this carefully designed and developed environment. The ultimate goal is to maximize the quality of life of these residential seniors. Examples of the program development include the following:

- ✓ Semi-private rooms that allow both privacy and companionship to help abate the feelings of loneliness and confusion.

- ✓ Programming and environmental design that encourages residents to be out of their rooms and interacting with others and the environment for the majority of waking hours.

resident to appropriate activities or locations.

The Lodge at Lutheran Haven will also offer the following services:

- ✓ Secured environment;
- ✓ Medication assistance;
- ✓ Communication with primary care physicians to coordinate care;
- ✓ Sensory stimulation that awakens senses to help retrieve memories;
- ✓ Cognitive therapies that help preserve function;
- ✓ Physical, occupational and speech therapies;
- ✓ Music and art therapy;
- ✓ Comforting, structured programming each day;
- ✓ Assistance with all activities of daily living.

If you — or someone you know — would like more information about The Lodge at Lutheran Haven, please call our Assisted Living Admissions Coordinator at 407.365.3456 for further information. ■

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Current Residents enjoy:

- The Christ-centered, faith-based community
- The warm, friendly and inviting location and atmosphere
- The abundance of amenities and activities
- The relaxed, maintenance-free lifestyle
- The continuum of services offered for future needs

Reservations are now being taken on our new two-story independent living apartment homes forecast for early 2017 opening. Six floor plans, 46 homes and an abundance of amenities included.

2041 West SR 426
Oviedo, Florida 32765
1.800.272.5676
marketing@lutheranhaven.org

New Memory Support Lodge opening soon! Admissions & Information, call 407.365.3456



District LWML President Bunnie Koelsch carried the Florida-Georgia banner during the recent LWML National Convention in Des Moines, IA. Escorting her were two of Florida-Georgia's young women representatives, Daria Schulte (left) and Chelsea Storr (right). The banner was crafted by Elaine Stier from the Tropical Zone. Follow-up on the national convention will be in the next issue of Lutheran LIFE.



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The BACKPAGE

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT CONVENTION 2015

Walton Returned to Third Term as President by Acclamation

Rev. Gregory S. Walton will serve as President of the Florida-Georgia District for the next triennium after being returned to office by acclamation at the 32nd Regular Convention in June.

Walton has served in the District since his 1987 ordination into the pastoral ministry, first at Trinity / Toccoa and then at Faith / Marietta. He was a member of the District Board of Directors for many years prior to assuming the president's office and is a past chairman of the Florida-Georgia Task Force on Recruitment.

"I am deeply humbled and honored to have your support to serve another term as the President of the Florida-Georgia District," Walton said in his acceptance address at the Convention.

Looking ahead to the next triennium, Walton told delegates that the District focus will be on outreach.

"This has always been the mission focus of this District," he continued, "but we want to devote additional energy and resource to reaching out. The need around us is so urgent."

Later in his address he reminded delegates of the District's "tremendous" 67-year history "as being mission minded, reaching into a variety of ethnicities and cultures, sharing the overwhelming forgiveness and love of Jesus, engaging in the Master's business" – a reference to the Convention theme.



"There is still much to do, and I am proud to lead the charge to serve, assist and encourage this District, along with my very capable staff, as we seek to equip, empower and engage to connect people to Jesus," Walton continued.

"God will continue to bless our work in His harvest field, and He will continue to open opportunities before us, as we keep our eyes on Jesus. It's all about Jesus and the difference we know He makes in the lives of sinful people." ■

NOTE: President Walton's column on pages 4-5 includes an expanded summary of his acceptance address.



GREETING visitors to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund booth at the 2015 Florida-Georgia Convention were District LCEF team members (l-r) Laura Zirbel, loan consultant, and Debbie Talbot, administrative assistant. For more information about LCEF, see pages 16-17 or visit flgadistrict.org and click on the LCEF tab at the top.