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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Advent King!

Let me be the first to invite you to the 38th annual Veterans of the Cross (VOC) Retreat. This is an excellent time for fellowship, and is sponsored by the Florida-Georgia District and has been designed for retired professional church workers and their spouses. The retreat will again be held at the United Methodist Retreat Center in Fruitland Park, Florida. We will gather Monday through Wednesday, March 5-7, 2018. I am excited about having you join us for this wonderful time that always provides such great opportunities for fellowship, encouragement and continued growth in God's Word.

The theme this year is "Risk Takers in Re-Formation," and is a great reminder that each of us, no matter what stage in life we are at, have a privilege and responsibility to connect people to Jesus. We have once again scheduled some wonderful speakers to inspire us and focus our conversations. Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and Rev. Dr. Robert Scudieri, President, Mission Nation Publishing, and Rev. Dr. Paul Foelber with Rev. Dr. Lyle Muller will all have presentations to inspire and strengthen us.

Mr. David Ludwig Jr. will lead us in our Monday prayer service, and Rev. Dr. Kent Fuqua will serve at the guest preacher for the worship service. As always, there will be plenty of singing, inspiration, stories, and conversations, laughter, and great food! It's going to be a wonderful time for renewing old friendships and creating new ones! We hope you can join us! You won't regret it!

Registration and information is online, and can be found through our website at www.flgadistrict.org. For those without access to a computer you may contact Kathy Keene at the District office locally at 407-857-5556, ext. 8, or 877-457-5556, or email kkeene@flgadistrict.org to receive additional help or information. We have listed there all the information you need about the retreat, including fees and agenda. **As a special incentive for those retirees who have never attended the retreat, there will be a \$50 discount on the registration fee (\$100.00 per couple).** Registration will close February 12, 2018. Please know that there is NO onsite registration—all registrations must take place prior to the event. Please don't let the fees discourage you from attending. There is a scholarship fund for those who may be in need of assistance. Please contact my office and we will see what we are able to do to discreetly assist you.

Remember that rooms at the retreat center are not available until 4:00 p.m., so plan accordingly. Don't forget to BRING YOUR BIBLES! Also, display vendors need to contact Rev. Bruce and Barbara Lieske, blieske7@bellsouth.net or 407-359-0449. We are grateful to your retreat planning team, headed up by chair, Rev. Richard Pieplow, for doing such a wonderful job. Join us for a great time of fun and fellowship!

At a time of the year when we stop to give thanks, my heart is filled with thanksgiving for the years of ministry you each represent, and the awesome way that God has used you, and continues to use you, to touch so many hearts and lives for Jesus. May God challenge us to boldly take risks as we connect people to Jesus. I look forward to being with you in March!

In His Peace,

Rev. Gregory S. Walton, President
The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS

PS: Enclosed are two flyers, one for you and one to share with a retired church worker friend.

"Equipping, Empowering, Engaging... Connecting People to Jesus"