



LUTHERAN Florida Georgia DISTRICT **LIFE**

The Newsmagazine of the Florida-Georgia District
of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Second Quarter 2011

District Recaps 2010 Financials

Florida-Georgia District leadership confronted budget challenges during the fiscal year ending January 31, 2011, as unrestricted support from congregations came in under projections. Those challenges were successfully met with reductions in spending and other program adjustments.

“The Florida-Georgia District staff is working hard to be the best stewards of the resources provided by our congregations,” said District President Greg Walton. “We are exceedingly grateful for your participation and support, and we thank our gracious God for the faithful support the District received.

“A number of congregations contributed over and above their commitments to help in these difficult times,” Walton continued.

“We recognize that the ministries God has commanded us to do can only be accomplished if we continue to walk together.”

Support from congregations in the last fiscal year totaled \$2,135,277, which is a decrease of \$189,617 compared to the prior year. Approximately 23% of Florida-Georgia congregations did not provide financial support to the District during the last fiscal year.

Uses of Congregational Support

District budget priorities include missions, congregational services and school ministries.

Missions

- Supported 28 mission sites in 2011.
- Start up of 57 missions and ministry over the past 10 years. (Mission Advisory Council goal is to start one or more new missions annually.)
- Campus Ministry mission support at four universities; new initiative to recruit campus

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The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
Florida & Georgia District
**2011 Annual
Report**



Every congregation is a church in mission, and every member is a missionary; with all of us working together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, empowered by His Gospel to share His love. Lutheran LIFE is the official communications instrument 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 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 monthly, with occasional combined bimonthly issues. Editorials, news items and photos are encouraged and should be received at our publication offices no later than the 15th of the month prior to the publication date. We make every attempt to use all submitted information in the next issue of LIFE, space considerations prevent us from guaranteeing that stories will be used immediately. Advertising is welcome; rates and information is available from Lutheran Life's office. Changes of address including e-mail changes, additions or deletions should be directed to our production office as well.

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Communications Director, John List
Editor-in-Chief, Eileen Bishop
Production Manager, Chris Utech

Florida Georgia-District LCMS

Lutheran Ministries Center
7207 Monetary Drive
Orlando, Florida 32809-5724

www.flga-lcms.org

District President, Greg Walton
School Ministry, Mark Brink
Mission & Outreach, Doug Kallesen
Finance & Administration, Dan Reichard
Congregational Services, Dave Weidner

REMEMBRANCE

In Memoriam: Rev. Dr. David P. Mulder

Ascension - Casselberry senior pastor, The Rev. Dr. David P. Mulder died on May 1, 2011 – his 66th birthday — after a brief, intense battle with cancer.

A 1978 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne, Dr. Mulder's career encompassed service as a parish pastor, District president, publishing executive, author and military chaplain.

Dr. Mulder was president of the LCMS New England District from 1985-1991. He served as executive vice president of Concordia Publishing House for the next three years before returning to parish ministry in St. Louis until 1998.

From 1998 to 2003, he was on the staff of the former LCMS Board for District and Congregational Services, serving as director of Outreach Ministry. He was an essayist at the 2001 LCMS synodical convention.



Dr. Mulder served with the U.S. Army in Vietnam, and later was a chaplain (with the rank of Major) in the U.S. Army Reserve. He received The Army Commendation Medal for his work in support of reservists being sent to Operation Desert Storm in 1991. In 1996, Concordia Publishing House published his book, "Narrative Preaching - Stories from the Pulpit."

He received a Doctor of Ministry degree in preaching in 2000 from Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. The *Servus Ecclesiae Christi* award was granted to him by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN.

A native of Imlay, MI, Dr. Mulder and his wife, Mary Jo, a personal chef and stained glass artist, were married in October of 1965. In addition to his wife, survivors include daughters Tara and Audra, grandson Nathanael, three brothers and two sisters.

A memorial service was celebrated on May 8 at Ascension-Casselberry.

CAPSULES by Greg Walton District President

CALLING CONGREGATIONS
Pastor

- Albany GA..... Trinity
- Clearwater FL..... Bethel (Asst/Assoc)
- Delray Beach FL..... Trinity (Senior)
- Esterio FL..... Esterio Mission
- Ft. Myers FL..... Zion (Senior)
- Ft. Pierce FL..... Trinity
- Jacksonville FL..... Hope
- Lakeland FL..... St. Paul (Senior)
- Lilburn GA..... Oak Road (Associate)
- New Port Richey FL..... Faith
- Ocala FL..... St. John (Senior/Sole)
- Orlando FL..... Our Savior
- Tampa FL..... Holy Trinity
- Tucker GA..... St. Mark
- Vero Beach FL..... LC of the Redeemer

Principal/Administrator

- Bradenton FL..... Hope
- Sarasota, FL..... Good Shepherd

DCE/DCO/Music

- Boca Raton, FL..... St. Paul

CALLS RECEIVED

- Mr. Andy Stumpf, Bethel-Clearwater, FL to Carmel Lutheran-Carmel, IN

CALLS ACCEPTED

- Rev. Stephen Wiggins, LCMS World Missions- St. Louis MO to Christ-East Point GA
- Ms. Cynthia Tillman to Peace-Naples, FL
- Mr. Andy Stumpf, Bethel-Clearwater FL to Carmel Lutheran-Carmel, IN

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS

- Ms. Kaci Weirauch to Ohio District, 7/1/11
- Mrs. Lynette Hoyum to Central Illinois District, 7/1/11
- Ms. Deborah Heilman Southeastern District 5/2/11

TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

- Rev. Dr. James F. Eggert Iowa East District, 3/31/11
- Rev. Dr. Karl Galik Missouri District, 3/16/11
- Rev. Juan A. Gonzalez Atlantic District, 12/10/10
- Ms. Abby Moss Michigan District 5/1/11

Thrivent Financial Expands Disaster Response

Due to the widespread tornado, storm and flood damage this spring, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has expanded its national disaster response funding. This funding now applies to any state in which the four major Lutheran disaster response organizations are providing support.

Thrivent Financial previously announced it would provide up to \$250,000 to supplement funding raised through Thrivent Financial chapter service teams for relief to assist victims of tornadoes that struck Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia and Tennessee. Thrivent Financial funding will now be used to support relief work in other disaster areas as well.

For every \$2 raised by chapter service teams (individuals from at least six separate Thrivent Financial member families), Thrivent Financial will provide an additional \$1, up to a total of \$250,000. Through this effort, a total of up to \$750,000 (\$250,000 from Thrivent Financial and \$500,000 from member appeals, collections or fundraising) will be created for disaster recovery.

The funds will be distributed to the four major Lutheran relief organizations: LCMS World Relief and Human Care, Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), ELCA Disaster

Response and WELS Christian Aid and Relief.

The deadline for the disaster response has been extended to August 1, 2011.

For the 17th consecutive year, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has been named to *Fortune* magazine's Fortune 500 list based on annual revenues. The organization moved up 24 spots in the 2011 ranking to become the 318th largest company in the United States. The ranking was based on Thrivent Financial's 2010 revenue of \$7.470 billion. In addition, *Fortune* magazine listed Thrivent Financial as the sixth largest mutual

life/health insurance organization in the United States and the 14th largest company headquartered in Minnesota.

Thrivent Financial and its affiliates offer a broad range of financial products and services including life insurance, annuities, mutual funds, disability income insurance, bank products and more. As a not-for-profit organization, Thrivent Financial creates and supports national outreach programs and activities that help congregations, schools, charitable organizations and individuals in need.

For more information, visit Thrivent.com. The organization is also found on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/thrivent) and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/thrivent).

CAPSULES

EMERITUS STATUS

Rev. Ray L. Borchelt,
Emeritus, March 31, 2011
Ms. Lori Bachmann
Emeritus, April 13, 2011
Ms. Diane Haak
Emeritus, May 5, 2011



CALLED TO GLORY

Rev. Louis G. Elgert
Eustis FL April 10, 2011
Rev. Dr. David P. Mulder
Casselberry FL, May 1, 2011



REMOVAL

Ms. Kathi Bishop-Mora was removed from the Commissioned Minister of Religion Roster of the LCMS — 3/24/11
Ms. Suzanne Dollberg was removed from the Commissioned Minister of Religion Roster of the LCMS — 3/24/11
Ms. Melissa Michalk was removed from the Commissioned Minister of Religion Roster of the LCMS — 3/24/11

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LIFELINES

Life is filled with transitions! It's hard to believe that just a few weeks ago we celebrated Easter — perhaps God's greatest transition, as our Lord Jesus transitioned from life to death, and then rose to new life, victoriously over death! Because of that resurrection, we have confidence, through our faith in Jesus, that we, too, will rise and transition to new life in Him!

Life is filled with transitions!

Recently I had the privilege to represent the District at our two LCMS seminaries as vicars received their placement and Pastoral Candidates and Deaconesses received their calls.

As families gathered to celebrate this monumental occasion in the lives of their loved ones, one year from now, things will be different. Many of our universities and colleges are sending men and women into a scary economy to seek their first jobs. It's amazing how this impacts so many

a new journey that will take him where only God knows. We are so proud of him and his wife — our new daughter, Angie.

Life is filled with transitions!



Our faith life, too, is filled with transitions. As we look to the Resurrection, and then beyond that to the day of Pentecost, we see a transition taking place. We find the once fearful disciples of Jesus are now filled with the Holy Spirit and a new-found boldness in their faith.

We find the dwindling number of believers, who fled from the foot of the Cross when Jesus was crucified, expanding at an extremely fast rate as the news of His resurrection and the power of His Spirit became evident.

Miraculous things began to occur

in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

These were the characteristics of a dynamic Church. Can you sense the joy, excitement and enthusiasm of this devoted group of Jesus followers in transition?

They were eager to learn from the teachings of the apostles. Today we might equate that to Bible Study and preaching.

How different in our day when people no longer seem to make worship such a priority. Luther writes in the Small Catechism, in regard to the Third Commandment, "Remember the

Sabbath day, to keep it holy. What does this mean? Answer: We should fear and love God, and so we should not despise His Word and the preaching of the same, but deem



Greg Walton
District President

Transitioning In Faith . . .

GROWING MINISTRIES

families, as Moms and Dads proudly watch their children move forward in life.

Life is filled with transitions!



In late May, my oldest son, Alex, married the love of his life, Angie. I remember taking him to the first day of Kindergarten as if it were yesterday, holding his hand and walking him to his classroom. I remember how heartbroken I was when he said to me after about a week of this, "Dad, you don't need to walk me in anymore. I'm a big boy." I never was quite sure if I was doing it for him or me!

Now he's a more than a big boy. He's a man, about to embark on

as God worked through His people, now more fully committed to the Risen Jesus. The Church, birthed with tongues of fire, saw phenomenal growth. St. Luke writes, "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread

it holy and gladly hear and learn it." [Tappert, (2000, ©1959)]. Even among our own members, the level of commitment to worship is weak.

Worship was a main value of the early church. Fellowship was such an important part of the life of God's early Church — and not your typical Lutheran coffee and cake kind of fellowship. We're talking about authentic and deeply formed relationships that built into one another's lives. This is the "Life Together" that President Matt Harrison has held before us as a Synod. It is shared values and faith that strengthens our commitment

to one another at all times and in every situation. It's about knowing and being known, caring and being cared for both within and outside the family of faith. Luke indicates a strong level of unity among believers so that everyone made sure that no one was left out.

Who wouldn't want to be part of something like that?

Here's the key. They met together regularly, both in the temple courts in and their homes. This is how this fellowship is built — by spending time together. Now, I don't mean just occupying the same space at the same time. Instead, they were intentional about growing in Jesus and growing together as His people. I think they understood that not only did they need one another in an otherwise hostile environment, but their witness for Jesus was stronger as they stood together in unity, and they had to learn to do that by learning to know each other.

I've learned that this often involves practicing confession and absolution. It also involves the breaking of bread. Certainly the people ate together, but I don't believe that's what Luke was talking about. On the road to Emmaus the disciples recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread. This was a regular practice of that early Christian Community, inviting the risen Jesus to be with them in intimate communion as they partook of His very body and blood in the bread and wine! We are still privileged to do that even today as

we gather at the Altar to receive this precious gift!

The result of this transitory time was that the church grew. In fact, it grew at an incredible rate. Years ago we raised blueberries. While the bushes started out rather slow, after a few short

blueberries, and by the time you finished more had grown and you could almost start picking again.

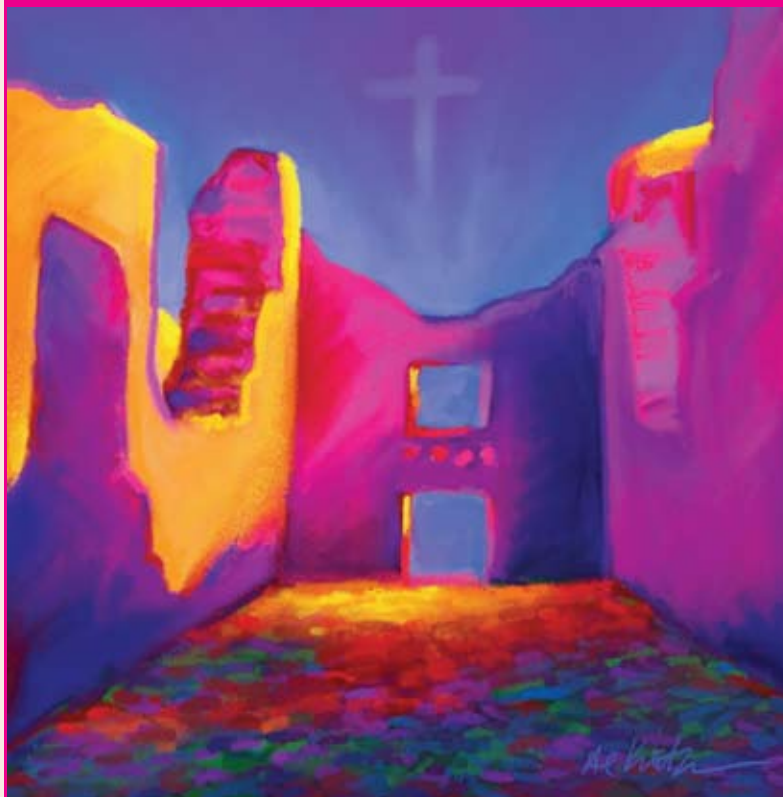
This is kind of the picture I get with the early church. They saw such growth because they were eager to share and people were eager to listen! Despite what we

may think, the only difference between now and then is that today the church isn't quite as eager to share, and we think that the world is no longer eager to hear! The truth is, the world is more eager than ever; however, they are looking for authentic and committed believers who live what they believe.

Perhaps this is the very transition that God is pointing His church to in our day. Spring transitions into Summer, but maybe this is the time that our ministries need to examine themselves to transition into fruitful ministries for Jesus! When our focus is on worshipping Jesus around Word and Sacrament, building accountable and deeper relationships through fellowship, when we are in prayer for others and with others, praising God, not only seeing, but proclaiming His blessings, I believe we will see many added to the church for the sake of Jesus!

May God bless that in your life in these transitional days as we continue to walk boldly together in Jesus!

Fellowship was such an important part of the life of God's early Church ... authentic and deeply formed relationships that built into one another's lives ... a strong level of unity among believers so that everyone made sure that no one was left out.



The only difference between now and then is that today the church isn't quite as eager to share, and we think that the world is no longer eager to hear.

The truth is, the world is more eager than ever ... people are looking for authentic and committed believers who live what they believe!

years, with a bit of nurture and care, we saw tremendous changes. Eventually these bushes produced an abundance of fruit! At times it seemed like you would pick all the

Peace in Him...
Greg

Avon Park Creative Partnership Enables Congregational Outreach

On the first Saturday of the month from October until April, Christ Lutheran-Avon Park, FL, sponsors a Drive- or Fly-in Breakfast.

Kevin Kalsey of Florida Aircraft Services, Inc., opens his hanger at the Avon Park Municipal Airport to welcome several groups who fly in from neighboring towns to enjoy homemade breakfast casseroles, sticky buns, eggs, sausage, pancakes,

juice, coffee --- and so much more.

Guests entering the hanger are greeted with a banner inviting them to worship at Christ Lutheran. A placard with Luther's Common Table Prayer is on each of the tables. Brochures on Christ's ministries, including an introduction to Pastor Scott McLean, are available.

In 2005, Christ Church planned to purchase a nine-acre orange grove. A church would be built on part of the property, with the rest developed for housing, leaving the congregation debt free. A Lutheran Church Extension Fund loan enabled the congregation to purchase the land and build the church.

Then the economy took a downturn.

Instead of developing the remainder of the property, the church entered into a lease agreement with the grove, providing some income. Additional LCEF assistance enabled the congregation to take some time to determine what other ways they could continue to meet financial obligations.

When the opportunity to provide breakfast to the pilots and the community opened up, members of Christ stepped up. They took the breakfast to the next level by providing home-cooked casseroles

served by smiling members and by seeking corporate sponsorships from various avionics companies that allow the congregation to retain all revenue from the sales.

"Through the partner ministry of LCEF, Christ Lutheran is soaring above its financial turbulence," said Daniel Reichard, Florida-Georgia LCEF Vice President and Executive Director for Administration. "Working with congregations to help each optimize their outreach opportunities and ministry potential is one of the joys of being affiliated with LCEF."



*Daniel J. Reichard,
Florida-Georgia District
Vice President LCEF and
Executive Director Finance-Administration*



*At right, Lowell
Fricker, Executive
Director of Christ
Lutheran Church, in*

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Good Shepherd-Gainesville Culminates Successful Month Of Stewardship Campaigns

A variety of capital stewardship campaign events came to fruition during May for Good Shepherd/Gainesville, Georgia. The congregation had decided to have a DVD produced for their campaign that would highlight all of their ministries in a way that, with only minor editing, could be used as a general "getting-to-know-us" video after completion of the campaign.

"The launch of the campaign video was held at two homes where campaign leaders and pacesetters gathered on a

Friday in May and then the video was shown to the entire congregation the following Sunday," explains Doug Fuge, campaign director. "Our initial commitment event was an evening vesper service conducted in the parking lot facing 'the hill' that will be transformed into new education, administration and fellowship facilities. Upon completion

of the service, we adjourned to the fellowship hall for refreshments while the commitments were totaled."

The response of congregational leaders and pacesetters during



Members of the Good Shepherd campaign team included (from left) Doug Fuge, campaign director; Pastor Ben Haupt; Melissa Tymchuk, communications director; Suzy and Bart Eberle, campaign coordinators.

the initial commitment event was approximately 85% of Good Shepherd's goal — indicating that the Lord had bigger plans than they had predicted.

By the commitment celebration on May 22, the congregation had committed \$640,000 — or about 128% of what they had considered a challenging but achievable goal.

Good Shepherd had worked with a professional consultant to establish a brokerage account for the purpose of receiving donations of securities and immediately liquidating them to cash. They also enlisted in the Joyful Response service available from Lutheran Church Extension Fund to enable interested members to fulfill their commitments through electronic funds transfers to Good Shepherd's Steward Account.

As the fulfillment director and her team began to keep the campaign alive

through continued feedback to members and integration of new members, the building committee refined details of Good Shepherd's Phase I Expansion, while the finance committee defined the financial plan and application for a construction loan.



Road Trip...

District LCEF Team Has Been On The Run!

Members of the Florida-Georgia District Lutheran Church Extension Fund team have been hitting the road to visit congregations on Sunday morning.

Recent visits have taken the travelers to Shepherd of the Coast-Fort Lauderdale, FL; Faith-North Palm Beach, FL; Living Hope-Kennesaw, GA; Peace-Naples, FL; Lamb of God-Lithia, FL; Holy Trinity-Rome, GA; Christ-Lakeland, FL; Grace Tabernacle, Fort Lauderdale, FL; Our Redeemer-Augusta, GA; and Christ our Savior-St. Augustine, FL.

LCEF also hosts Lunch-N-Learn Workshops that provide congregations with information regarding various available services and programs.

For more information or to request an LCEF congregational visit, contact Kathy Keene at kkeene@flga-lcms.org or call 877-457-5556 ext 4.

LCEF MISSION

The mission of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of the LCMS, ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future. For information regarding LCEF including the various products offered and current rates, go to <http://flga-lcms.org/finance/financehome.htm>.

Outreach, Funding Key Topics for Board Teleconference

By John List, District Communications Director

A second quarter Florida-Georgia Board of Director teleconference covered topics from funding challenges to ongoing and new mission efforts. Highlights of the meeting included:

Critical Target: Leadership

- Speakers and workshops are set for the September 28-30 President's Convocation in Daytona Beach.
- Three new District reconcilers have completed training: Pastor Kent Fuqua of Hope-Hudson, FL; Pastor George Murdaugh of Oak Road-Lilburn, GA; and William Patrick of Faith-Marietta, GA.

Critical Target: Congregations

- Planning is under way for the 2012

District Convention — June 22-24 in Lake Mary, FL.

- District executive staff members continue to interact with the "people in the pews" through congregational visits.
- Transforming Congregations Network leaders Pastors Ron Biel and Scott Gress are working with congregations throughout the District. A modified TCN process has been proposed for small congregations.
- During this year's National Lutheran Schools Week five school students were baptized at Our Savior-Plantation, FL. In the past decade 80-plus District children have

been baptized during the event.

Critical Target: Outreach

- Presented for future discussion: international mission opportunities coordinated by the District.
- The Mission Advisory Council has evaluated potential future mission sites and identified and prioritized the next five such locations.
- The first \$4000 check in the three-year Hearts for Jesus/Hearts for Haiti project has been sent. The overall goal is \$135,000.

Critical Target: Funding the Mission

- The Stewardship Advisory Council is developing strategies to engage congregations in financially supporting the District as well as partnering in ministry.
- Board members reviewed highlights for the past fiscal year, commending staff for trimming expenses.

Lutheran Television

Television broadcasts in Florida:

WFTX Ch. 4 Sundays at 8 AM Fort Myers Area	WACX Ch. 9 Sundays at 5:30 PM Tallahassee Area
WACX Ch. 55 Sundays at 5:30 PM Orlando Area	WACX Ch. 69 Sundays at 5:30 PM Gainesville Area

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VICAR WILLY GASPAR — second from left — a dentist by trade, was ordained and became the first national pastor in the Lutheran Church of the Dominican Republic at a festive service earlier this year. He is serving in a congregation in Santo Domingo, the second plant of the Lutheran Church in the Dominican Republic. "It was a full house, and people eagerly worshiped and sang for more than two hours," reported Florida-Georgia President Greg Walton, who was invited to attend the service by St. Michael-Fort Myers, FL, Pastor Jon Zehnder and Principal Bob Ziegler. Led by members Pat and Larry Ryan, St. Michael has been in the forefront of a partnership in the DR for more than 10 years. Through their efforts, a school was build that is serving 90 children, with a potential of reaching up to 400. The Lutheran congregation that worships in this facility averages about 140 weekly attendance — with 40 adults in confirmation classes.

Planting a Relationship Garden: Tropical Zone Spring Rally in Nassau, Bahamas

By Patricia Aamoth, LWML District VP Communications

As many of the zones in the Florida-Georgia District seek to increase attendance at zone rallies, the Tropical Zone tried something very unique — a weekend cruise to the Bahamas!

Here is Annie Mann's report on the venture:

Our rally weekend began when 24 of us boarded the Carnival cruise ship *Imagination* at the Port of Miami on Friday afternoon and arrived in Nassau the next morning. At noon we boarded a taxi to Nassau Lutheran Church for the actual rally, where we were enthusiastically met by Pastor Samuel Boodle, Society President Lona Wells and a group of delightful women who made us feel so welcome.

After a time of socializing, the rally began with worship, followed by the dedication of gifts for the children's hostel, Bible study and a fabulous lunch buffet (including yummy conch fritters).

Time ran short to complete the agenda, but that was okay because time was made to "Plant our Relationship Garden." All too soon

it was time to board the taxi for the return to the ship.

There were 15 of us from the Tropical Zone and eight members of the LWML Florida-Georgia District. Pastors in the group were: Alan Sielk, past district pastoral counselor with his wife and daughter; Chris Patterson, zone pastoral counselor with his wife; and Donald Stier, Immanuel Lutheran Church in the Keys, with his wife. We were honored to have among the District board members President Marilyn Treanor and two past presidents, Jean Roehrs and Lois Ford. Also

joining us were Mary Kerry, Henry and Carol Alberts, Steven and Karen McCarthy.

Our cruise was great fun! There's not enough room here to list all the things we did. The weather couldn't have been any better, and there was smooth sailing all the way. We had evening devotions and worship together, did lots of many kinds of "playing," and too much eating of wonderful food.

God is so good and, as we disembarked on Monday, we knew we had spent a special weekend with our Lord that we wouldn't soon forget!



Left photo — Carol Alberts with a Bahamian local. At right, Past District LWML President Jean Roehrs tries a new look in Nassau.

'The Bible on Trial' Shown on National TV

By Ed Wright District LLL Communicator

Lutheran Hour Ministries is excited to announce information on nationwide airings of our full-length program for television broadcast, *The Bible on Trial: Beyond a Reasonable Doubt*.

Hosted by attorney Craig Parton, *The Bible on Trial* lays the overarching question before some of the world's foremost authorities in biblical scholarship and ancient history: "Are the Bible and its claims trustworthy?"

A panel of experts — including Dr. Paul L. Maier of Western Michigan

University, Kalamazoo, MI; Dr. Randall Price of Liberty University, Lynchburg, VA; Dr. Jeff Kloha of Concordia Seminary-St. Louis; and Joel Lampe of The Bible Museum, Goodyear, AZ — weighs the evidence from contemporary non-Christian writers and archaeological, bibliographic and eyewitness sources. The balanced testimony from these scholars affirms the reliability of the biblical record.

The program concludes with a call to the viewer: "What is your verdict?"

The Bible on Trial began airing in May on AMG TV network stations in cities around the country.

The program is scheduled to air on Monday, July 18, at 9 p.m. through the National Religious Broadcasters Network (Channel 378 on DirecTV, Channel 126 on Sky Angel, as well as online at www.nrbnetwork.tv).

More airings are scheduled in the coming months. For broadcast dates and times, visit the Broadcast Guide at www.TheBibleTrial.com.



[From the front page]

ministry volunteers as short-term missionaries.

- Logistical support for church plants including identification, assessment, training, coaching and more
- Support and partner with Center for Asian Ministry and Evangelism (CAME), Open Arms, Lutheran Services, Center for Hispanic Studies, Mission Training Center and others.

Congregational Services/Youth & Family Ministry

- Professional growth and support opportunities for DCEs, Lay Ministers, Deaconesses and others involved in Youth and Family Ministry.
- Middle School Youth Gathering in November 2010 for 700+ youth.
- Support for congregations sending youth to National LCMS Youth

Gathering in July 2010.

- District Servant Event in Atlanta, GA, in June 2010.
- Assist congregations calling Commissioned Ministers of Religion.
- Support for congregations seeking DCE Interns.
- Hosted first professional conference of the National Association of Directors of Christian Education (NADCE) in January 2011.

Congregational Services/ Human Care Ministry

- Regular contact with and support of the four Lutheran social service



agencies within the District.

- Work with the Advisory Council for Human Care Ministry in raising the visibility and commitment to Human Care Ministry in congregations.
- Support senior adult ministry through Senior Fests and cooperation with the Association of Lutheran Older Adults and the Florida-Bahamas Synod's Council on Aging.
- Coordination of disaster response within the District.

Congregational Services/ Transforming Churches Network

- Presentations for congregations and pastors interested in TCN.
- Ongoing leadership for pastors' learning communities.
- Provide coaching for three District pastors and supervise four other pastors involved in the TCN process.
- Host TCN workshops led by Rev. Scott Gress, Director of TCN Coaching.
- Conduct TCN weekend consultations

School Ministries

- More than 85 schools served; nearly 12,000 students and 1,300+ teachers
- Highest percentage of nationally accredited free-standing Early Childhood Centers and Elementary/Middle/High Schools of LCMS Districts
- Oversee Florida teacher certification process in Lutheran schools
- Consulting with congregations on school start-ups and calling of workers
- Host professional development events for educators
- Developing the "Future Schools Initiative" through Faith Formation, Professional Development, Integration of Technology, Fiscal Integrity

Statement of Activities

Year over year, unrestricted support from congregations totaled \$2,135,277, a decrease of \$189,617.

Net assets released from restriction vary from year to year depending upon availability of grants

Florida-Georgia District LCMS Statement of Financial Position Unaudited For Years Ending January 31, 2011 and 2010

Assets	2011	2010
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 188,154	\$ 182,726
Accounts Receivable	74,322	30,117
Prepaid Expense	24,350	32,315
Contributions Receivable	713,689	748,589
Loans Receivable	3,620,590	937,155
Due from LCEF	47,518	47,431
Land, Buildings and Equipment	1,871,449	2,244,275
Advance Sites	458,639	987,624
Property Held for Sale.....	395,672	—
Long-Term Investments	1,448,925	1,440,822
Other Assets	640,925	602,485
TOTAL	\$ 9,484,232	\$ 7,253,539
Liabilities and Net Assets		
Accounts Payable	\$ 284,017	\$ 343,672
Deferred Revenue	26,548	27,863
Due Investors of District CEF	47,518	47,431
Grants Payable	22,200	329,647
Loans Payable	3,246,290	1,279,794
Other Liabilities	227,420	222,169
Total Liabilities	3,853,992	2,250,576
Undesignated	273,705	(647,687)
Net Investment in Property & Eqpt ..	1,609,910	1,886,500
Board Designated	183,355	162,282
Temporarily Restricted	1,917,325	2,029,983
Permanently Restricted	1,645,945	1,571,886
Total Net Assets	\$ 5,630,240	5,002,963
Total	\$ 9,484,232	\$ 7,253,539

and gifts received. Generally they fund specific projects or needs and are not utilized for ongoing ministries.

Investment income from endowment funds is the exception as said income is utilized for the donor restricted purposes such as to partially fund student aid.

The total change in Net Assets for the fiscal year was an increase of \$642,064 compared to an increase of \$89,691

for the year ended January 31, 2010. This variance is largely due to the sale and financial consolidation of the Woodlands Camp properties into the

District financials. This change in Net Assets would have been larger had the District not taken write downs for the change in the Fair Market Valuations of properties totaling \$665,127.

Market fluctuations in restricted contributions receivable from split-interest agreements and permanently restricted funds held by a third-party trustee had a positive combined net variance of \$3,540. The total change in unrestricted net assets was a gain of \$921,392 versus a loss of \$330,956 for 2010. This gain is almost solely due to the sale and consolidation of the Woodlands properties.

Total expenses for 2010 were \$3,400,455 versus \$3,578,960 for 2009, or a reduction of \$178,505.

“We continually strive to use good stewardship principles and to manage revenues and expenditures in a manner that benefits and supports ongoing ministry,” said Walton.

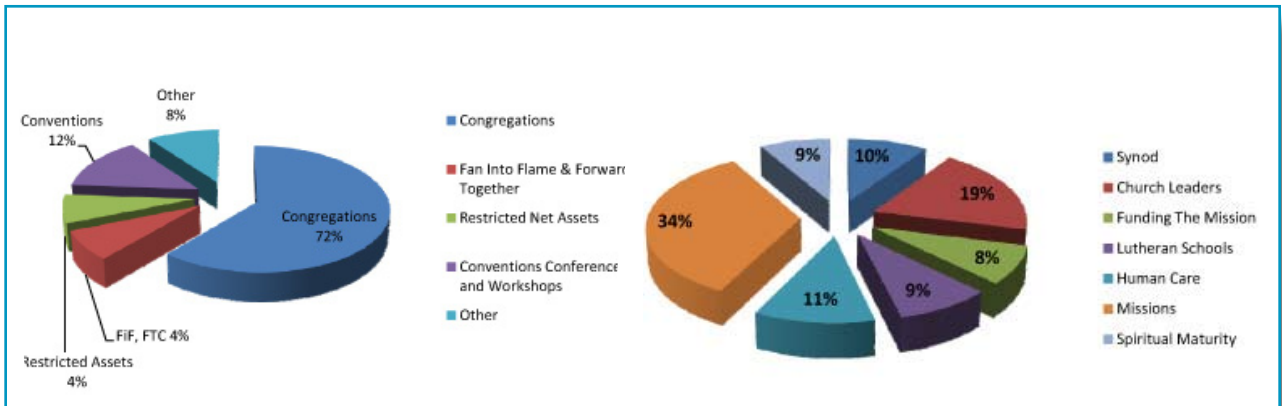
In 2009 and 2008, the District contributed to the Synod 20% of unrestricted revenues from congregations. In 2010, the District contributed 15% of that revenue to the Synod. The variance is related to the change in congregational support

and the percentage change of the District’s commitment.

The reduction in Missions is primarily due to a reduction in mission grants awarded. This includes \$111,789 spent in the TCN Program during the year. The commitment to this program reflects leadership’s conviction that revitalized congregations will do more effective mission work and better support the

work of the District. ministries and services.

Should funding levels continue to decline, the District will face the undesirable task of determining which ministries and services should be discontinued. The Board and District staff closely monitor operations and will make necessary adjustments to control any potential shortfall.



**Florida-Georgia District LCMS
Statement of Activities Unaudited
For Years Ending January 31, 2011 and 2010**

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2010</u>
UNRESTRICTED REVENUES		
Congregation Support	\$ 2,135,527	\$ 2,325,144
Fan Into Flame/Forward Together	265,645	128,627
Net assets Released from Restriction ..	258,203	136,146
Convention, Conferences & Workshops	483,048	316,867
Other	348,095	341,220
Total revenues	3,490,518	3,248,004
EXPENSES		
Synodical Pledge	324,533	464,810
Church Leaders	658,329	863,739
Funding the Mission	285,166	232,836
Lutheran Schools	303,934	293,458
Human care	378,371	196,148
Missions	1,164,570	1,286,694
Spiritual Maturity	285,552	241,275
Total expenses	3,400,455	3,578,960
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	665,876	(330,956)
Temporarily restricted.....	(112,658)	273,053
Permanently restricted	74,059	147,594
Total change in net assets	627,278	89,691
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	5,002,963	4,898,485
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$ 5,630,240	\$ 4,988,176

President Greg Walton Offers A Persp

The May 2011 issue of *The Lutheran Witness* is about funding and making the needs known among LCMS membership. Like many of its Districts, the Synod has noticed a decrease in regular funding. While there various reasons, I want to make sure Florida-Georgia District members understand the significant decrease in our Synodical pledge from last year to this current year.

The District pledge to Synod is based on a percentage of funds that come from our congregations. District funds result from congregations' generosity and faithfulness representing our partnership as members of the LCMS in the District. We don't sell Bibles or Luther's Works or anything else to raise capital.

In this issue of *Lutheran LIFE* you will see a chart similar to the one of published in *LW* listing District congregations and their giving in the past year. I've been asked if we do this to embarrass or harass congregations. Absolutely not. Our goal is to be completely transparent and help you understand how funds are contributed. Our budget is based on the funds you send to us.



Three years ago our District pledge to Synod was 20% of income based on congregational pledges. Unfortunately, the District had to borrow more than \$300,000 from LCEF to honor our LCMS pledge due to congregations' inability to fulfill their commitments to District. I felt obligated to fulfill our LCMS pledge even though it would have been easier to try to write it off and try harder the next year. As a

new District President, my recommendation to our Board of Directors was to set our pledge to Synod at 15% so that we could honor what we pledged without compromising the integrity of the District budget and forcing us into further debt.

My thinking was that in order to move the District forward it first had to stabilize. Last year not only did we repay our LCEF debt, but our Synodical offering was given regularly each month. The Board reluctantly agreed as we set that budget since it was still greater than a tithe. This past year we again experienced reduction in our overall budget from \$2.6 million in 2009 to \$2.3 million in 2010 to \$2.1 million this year. While we have worked hard to maintain our mission budget, we reduced our workforce and made changes to work more efficiently. However, we can only allocate the funds that come to us.

In this year's budget, with all the changes in the LCMS's structure, the District BOD decided to make a further cut, from 15% of the overall contributions received to 12%, so that we could assist some programs that Synod determined it would no longer fund, specifically Transforming Churches Network, which our 2009 Convention directed us to support. With LCMS restructuring, more and more responsibility for services and programs is being put back on the District, as we, at the same time, deal with decreased funding.

The figure in *The Lutheran Witness* reflects not only this reduction, but also lower restricted giving — funds that come through the District that are given for specific purposes. While we don't have much control over when these funds come in, overall giving to Synod is impacted. Also, many congregations have opted to directly support ministries and no longer send funds to the District or the Synod.

As District Business Manager John Elliott explained it: The Board of Directors in their January 2011 meeting changed the originally budgeted pledge to Synod of 15% of Congregational Support (\$322,500) to 12% (\$258,000). Resultant dollars from that 3% change were split almost evenly between support for TCN National and for other District congregational revitalization efforts. Had the BOD not made this change, the pledge recorded at Synod would have been \$322,500. The \$87,000 pledge decrease (25.2%) reported by Synod is the difference between last year's pledge of \$345,000 and this year's pledge of \$258,000. The \$87,000 decrease is accounted for as follows:

Florida-Georgia District LCMS District Budget For the Year Ending January 31, 2012

REVENUES	
Congregation Support.....	\$ 2,150,000
Fan Into Flame	125,000
President's Outreach.....	50,000
Circuit Convocations.....	57,000
Net Assets Released from Restrictions.....	253,800
Conventions, Conferences and Workshops.....	324,000
Other.....	489,764
TOTAL REVENUES	\$ 3,449,564
EXPENSES	
Synodical Pledge	\$ 258,000
TCN National Support	31,500
District Congregational Revitalization.....	33,000
North American Ministries.....	938,292
TOTAL World & National Missions	\$1,260,792
Preparing Church Workers	78,000
Congregational Services.....	867,825
Mission & Ministry Support	771,832
Ecclesiastical Administration.....	281,113
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$3,259,562
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS.....	\$ 190,002



Perspective on District Financial Decisions

Increased TCN support	\$31,500.
Increased District Congregation Revitalization	\$33,000.
Budgeted decrease due to reduced congregational support	\$22,500.
Total.....	\$87,000.

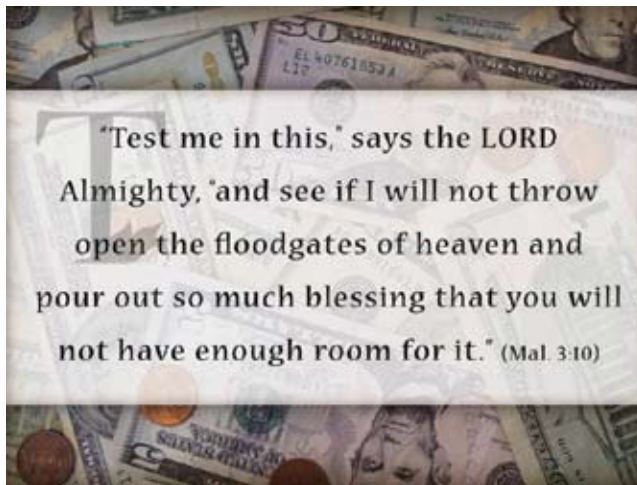
John also noted that as of April 30, Congregational Support is about \$72,000 behind budget. Accordingly, we are behind budget in all major areas of giving.

I want to assure you that we are concerned about this and agree that it is something that we need to continually address not only on a Synodical level, but on a District, and more importantly on a congregational level. Your giving, as a congregational member and as a congregation, is what enables the Florida-Georgia District to support the work of the Synod.

Consider this: *Lutheran Witness* states that there are currently 62,450 members in the Florida-Georgia District. Our budget is \$2.1 million. If every member made an annual contribution of \$33.63 we would meet our budget. If every member contributed only \$50 per year, or less than \$1 per week — we would have a surplus! Imagine the ministry we could accomplish for the sake of Jesus Christ, and the lives that could be touched by His love and grace, if people gave \$100 annually! That's less than \$2 per member per week!

We need to understand that this isn't really a money issue, it's a stewardship issue.

We, who have been saved by grace through faith, forgiven so freely of all of our sins through the death and resurrection of Jesus, are called



to be good stewards of God's resources. If we honor Him, His promise is to honor us and enable us to do the ministry He's called us to do!

So we work together to further the Kingdom of God in the best way we can with the resources we have, even as your congregation works to promote the name of Jesus with limitations that we put in place despite God's rich blessings.

I've received comments from people across our District who were alarmed by the statistic published in *LW*. Perhaps it is good for us to be shocked so that we stop and consider how to be part of the solution. While I don't apologize for the difficult decisions we are making, I do apologize for any disappointment we have created. I promise you, we are doing the best we can with the resources God provides.

Together, as God's stewards, we can change this! All it takes is a little faith and some commitment to work together for the Kingdom as we examine ourselves in light of the Cross of Jesus and do what we can for Him, who gave His all for us! Yes, there are economic stresses on all of us. This is the time Jesus is looking for us to trust Him

and to be His stewards, for the sake of your congregation, for the sake of our District and the Synod, but mostly for the sake of God's Kingdom.

Your partner
in the battle!
Greg



2011 District Work Program Highlights

Summarized by Greg Walton

1. Congregation support is budgeted at \$2,125,000. Congregation support for 2010 was \$2,135,277.
2. Fan Into Flame revenue budgeted at \$125,000. The sources of these funds are primarily known based upon an analysis of pledges.
3. Synodical support budgeted at 12% of unrestricted support from congregations. This decision by the Board to reduce commitment to Synod was difficult, but it produced a decision to set aside 3% of unrestricted support to be divided among support for TCN National and other District revitalization efforts.

4. We continue to look forward to rebuilding our support to Synod to 20% or higher.
5. Mission support remains at \$600,000 and supports 28 District missions. A Missions Advisory Council assists staff in evaluating and monitoring the various missions. A system of reporting and accountability has been established for each one.
6. TCN costs are budgeted at \$134,000, most of which will be funded by a Thrivent grant, District's commitment and an anonymous gift. Most of these dollars are budgeted for coaching

- professional church workers of participating congregations.
7. We are providing a work program for 2011 that is fiscally responsible and within our funding outlook. The goal is to maintain current District ministries and services. In the event that funding levels continue to decline, we will face the undesirable task of determining which ministries and services should be discontinued. The Board and District staff closely monitor operations and will make necessary adjustments to control any potential shortfall.



Florida-Georgia District Support by Congregation

City/State	Congregation	Support*	Confirmed Members**	Support/Member
01 - Northeast Georgia				
Athens GA	Christus Victor	5,135.65	57	90.10
Athens GA	Trinity	24,246.00	360	67.35
Blairsville GA	All Saints	17,969.21	214	83.97
Clarksville GA	Clark/Helen	0.00	0	-
Dahlonaga GA	St Peter	0.00	0	-
Gainesville GA	Good Shepherd	9,000.00	221	40.72
Lilburn GA	Oak Road	40,539.01	271	149.59
Toccoa GA	Trinity	6,812.68	146	46.66
Winder GA	Arms of Grace	0.00	42	0.00
		\$103,702.55	1,311	79.10
02 - Atlanta North				
Atlanta GA	Grace	7,195.85	59	121.96
Atlanta GA	Rivercliff	4,375.00	431	10.15
Cartersville GA	Savior of All	7,545.00	281	26.85
Cumming GA	Korean Mission	0.00	38	-
Cumming GA	Living Faith	8,100.00	116	69.83
Kennesaw GA	Living Hope	12,000.00	279	43.01
Marietta GA	Faith	6,600.00	507	13.02
Rome GA	Holy Trinity	5,400.00	183	29.51
Tucker GA	St. Mark	9,751.00	154	63.32
Woodstock GA	Timothy	32,660.02	377	86.63
		\$93,626.87	2,425	38.61
03 - Atlanta South				
Columbus GA	Bethlehem	6,999.96	89	78.65
Columbus GA	LC Redeemer	18,786.64	211	89.04
Decatur GA	Peace	2,481.35	178	13.94
Decatur GA	Sudanese Ev. LC	0.00	20	-
Douglasville GA	Prince of Peace	400.00	189	2.12
East Point GA	Christ	680.00	50	13.60
Hampton GA	Christ Our Savior	5,469.06	52	105.17
Newnan GA	Zion	0.00	68	-
Peachtree City GA	St. Paul	24,375.00	319	76.41
Riverdale GA	Christ	180.00	0	-
Riverdale GA	Holy Cross	2,216.54	142	15.61
Stockbridge GA	Lord of Life	2,661.46	158	16.84
Tucker GA	Incarnate Word	200.00	39	5.13
		\$64,450.01	1,515	42.54
04 - East Central Georgia				
Augusta GA	Our Redeemer	44,714.44	433	103.27
Eatonton GA	Lake Oconee	21,169.50	171	123.80
Macon GA	L.C. Holy Trinity	3,500.00	46	76.09
Milledgeville GA	Hope	2,160.00	36	60.00
Perry FL	Christ	3,960.00	101	39.21
Savannah GA	Trinity	34,660.00	412	84.13
Statesboro GA	St. Paul's	4,899.00	66	74.23
Warner Robins GA	Mount Calvary	77,002.54	677	113.74
		\$192,065.59	1,942	98.90
05 - Tallahassee				
Albany GA	Trinity	6,919.39	96	72.08
Crawfordville FL	Trinity	1,300.00	42	30.95
Lake City FL	Our Redeemer	3,504.00	188	18.6
Tallahassee FL	Epiphany	28,200.00	424	66.51
Tallahassee FL	University LC	5,250.00	94	55.85
Tifton GA	Peace	4,094.55	132	31.02
Valdosta GA	Messiah	6,930.75	143	48.47
		\$56,198.69	1,119	50.22

City/State	Congregation	Support*	Confirmed Members**	Support/Member
06 - First Coast				
Jacksonville FL	Grace	0.00	577	-
Jacksonville FL	Guardian	1,088.00	205	5.31
Jacksonville FL	Holy Cross	0.00	87	-
Jacksonville FL	Hope Mission	0.00	44	-
Jacksonville FL	Our Redeemer	50.00	154	0.32
Jacksonville FL	St. Paul	10,833.29	197	54.99
Jax'ville Beach FL	Bethlehem	32,686.49	667	49.01
Kingsland FL	Messiah Mission	0.00	0	-
Kingsland GA	Holy Trinity	7,638.79	104	73.45
Middleburg FL	St. Peter's	9,444.97	255	37.04
St. Augustine FL	Christ Our Savior	0.00	51	-
Starke FL	Good Shepherd	1,575.00	0	-
		\$63,316.54	2,341	27.05
07 - North Central Florida				
Chiefland FL	Good Shepherd	0.00	8	-
Dunnellon FL	Peace	1,833.37	57	32.16
Gainesville FL	Abiding Savior	9,000.00	245	36.73
Gainesville FL	First	35,208.36	503	70.00
Inverness FL	First	1,000.00	329	3.04
Lecanto FL	Faith	19,041.67	245	77.72
Ocala FL	Our Redeemer	28,551.00	413	69.13
Ocala FL	St. John	6,250.00	411	15.21
Oxford FL	Amazing Grace	14,471.64	98	147.67
Silver Springs FL	Forest Ev.	3,739.18	43	86.96
Summerfield FL	Trinity	42,366.65	643	65.89
		\$161,461.87	3,074	52.53
08 - Space Coast				
Cape Canaveral FL	Christ	5,000.00	75	66.67
Holly Hill FL	Trinity	9,999.96	379	26.39
Melbourne FL	LC of Redeemer	3,546.19	191	18.57
Melbourne FL	Zion Haitian	200.00	0	-
Merritt Island FL	Faith	4,800.00	588	8.16
Merritt Island FL	Grace	0.00	105	-
Palm Bay FL	Risen Savior	0.00	60	-
Rockledge FL	Trinity	280.00	159	1.76
South Daytona FL	Holy Cross	0.00	345	-
Titusville FL	Good Shepherd	15,020.07	277	54.22
		\$38,846.22	2,179	17.83
09 - Orlando East				
Casselberry FL	Ascension	31,129.76	520	59.86
Deltona FL	LC of Providence	0.00	106	-
Orlando FL	Esperanza Viva	0.00	24	-
Orlando FL	Hope	8,707.54	232	37.53
Orlando FL	Sublime Gracia	300.00	0	-
Orlando FL	Journey Of Life	1,000.00	55	18.18
Orlando FL	Prince Of Peace	7,642.50	868	8.80
Orlando FL	Trinity	37,881.07	1098	34.50
Sanford FL	Living Water	675.00	0	-
Sanford FL	LC of Redeemer	3,500.00	115	30.43
St. Cloud FL	Grace	0.00	127	-
		\$90,835.87	3,363	27.01
10 - Orlando West				
Apopka FL	St. Paul	0.00	99	-
Eustis FL	Faith	56,834.20	792	71.76
Gotha FL	Zion New Life	0.00	0	-
Leesburg FL	Bethany	15,651.57	197	79.45
Montverde FL	Woodlands	34,925.44	550	63.50
Orlando FL	Christ The King	0.00	389	-
Orlando FL	Our Savior	1,000.0	101	9.90
		\$108,411.21	2,128	50.95

Please Note:

* Congregation Support included certain Unrestricted Gifts and gifts for missions without further restriction which are included in Net Assets Released from Restriction in the Statement of Activities.

** Confirmed Members numbers have been obtained from LCMS Rosters and Statistics which are the latest numbers available.



for Fiscal Year Ending January 31, 2011

City/State	Congregation	Support*	Confirmed Members**	Support/Member
11 - Winter Haven				
Bartow FL	Redeemer	1,630.00	52	31.35
Lake Wales FL	Lake Wales	6,800.00	187	36.36
Lakeland FL	Christ	25,750.00	247	104.25
Lakeland FL	St. Paul	64,361.87	1147	56.11
Plant City FL	Hope	18,680.00	339	55.10
Winter Haven FL	Grace	55,000.00	1586	34.68
Zephyrhills FL	Our Savior	8,314.00	156	53.29
		\$180,535.87	3,714	48.61
12 - Heartland				
Avon Park FL	Christ	6,198.50	28	221.38
Belle Glade FL	St. Peter's	3,600.00	34	105.88
Clewiston FL	Faith	2,910.00	45	64.67
Lake Placid FL	Trinity	5,000.00	211	23.70
Okeechobee FL	Peace	800.00	452	1.77
Sebring FL	Faith	23,366.00	124	188.44
Wauchula FL	Peace Valley	1,500.00	38	39.47
		\$43,374.50	932	46.54
13 - Suncoast				
Brooksville FL	Christ	1,250.00	244	5.12
Hudson FL	Hope	12,480.70	410	30.44
Lutz FL	Holy Trinity	7,336.01	528	13.89
Masaryktown FL	Holy Trinity	13,644.52	180	75.80
New Port Richey FL	Faith	13,591.67	316	43.01
Spring Hill FL	Forest Oaks	9,590.01	277	34.62
Trinity FL	Trinity	0.00	55	-
		\$57,892.91	2,010	28.80
14 - St. Petersburg				
Clearwater FL	Bethel	24,000.00	863	27.81
Clearwater FL	First	0.00	550	-
Clearwater FL	Rogate/Deaf Ministry	0.00	12	-
Clearwater FL	Rogate	0.00	52	-
Dunedin FL	Faith	3,000.00	111	27.03
Largo FL	Christ The King	6,666.66	891	7.48
St. Petersburg FL	Grace	24,893.70	835	29.81
St. Petersburg FL	Our Savior	68,930.65	736	93.66
		\$127,491.01	4,050	31.48
15 - Tampa				
Brandon FL	Immanuel	1,000.00	422	2.37
Lithia FL	Lamb of God	4,125.00	170	24.26
Riverview FL	Christ the King	3,910.00	118	89.08
Tampa FL	Holy Trinity	0.00	152	-
Tampa FL	Messiah	61,999.96	696	89.08
Tampa FL	St. Matthew	0.00	93	-
Tampa FL	Zion	850.00	40	21.25
		\$71,884.96	1,691	42.51
16 - Sarasota				
Arcadia FL	Grace	2,000.00	75	26.67
Bradenton FL	Hope	27,731.00	398	69.68
Englewood FL	Redeemer	0.00	221	-
Parrish FL	Faith	13,041.67	242	53.89
Port Charlotte FL	LC of the Cross	462.00	233	1.98
Punta Gorda FL	Faith	4,583.35	212	21.62
Sarasota FL	Beautiful Savior	47,840.02	515	92.89
Sarasota FL	Concordia	5,233.30	203	25.78
Sarasota FL	Good Shepherd	2,535.50	242	10.48
Venice FL	Lakeside	26,000.00	712	36.52
		\$129,426.84	3,053	42.39
17 - Southwest				
Bonita Springs FL	Amigos En Cristo	800.00	0	-
Bonita Springs FL	Hope	6,000.00	223	26.91
Cape Coral FL	Abiding Savior	2,000.00	0	-
Cape Coral FL	Trinity	15,157.84	220	68.90
Fort Myers FL	Bethlehem	0.00	90	-
Fort Myers FL	St. Michael	39,416.67	856	46.05
Fort Myers FL	Zion	47,983.33	1013	47.37

City/State	Congregation	Support*	Confirmed Members**	Support/Member
Immokalee FL	Immokalee	800.00	0	-
Labelle FL	Christ the King	0.00	28	-
Lehigh Acres FL	Beautiful Savior	888.20	73	12.17
Marco Island FL	Marco	58,304.57	412	141.52
Naples FL	Grace	68,000.00	384	177.08
Naples FL	Messiah	0.00	156	-
Naples FL	Peace	22,002.30	0	-
N Fort Myers FL	Good Shepherd	5,924.48	120	49.37
		\$267,277.39	3,575	74.76
18 - Treasure Coast				
Fort Pierce FL	Trinity	9,875.00	271	36.44
Hobe Sound FL	Bethel	0.00	74	-
Lake Worth FL	New Alliance	200.00	0	-
N Palm Bch FL	Faith	35,750.00	387	92.38
Port St. Lucie FL	Grace	18,339.19	182	100.76
Stuart FL	Redeemer	53,640.87	659	81.40
Vero Beach FL	LC of Redeemer	2,625.18	181	14.50
W Palm Bch FL	Redeemer	0.00	111	-
		\$120,430.24	1,865	64.57
19 - South Palm Beach				
Boca Raton FL	St. Paul	50,833.35	1504	33.80
Boynton Beach FL	Son Life	13,789.85	345	39.97
Delray Beach FL	Emmanuel	0.00	225	-
Delray Beach FL	Trinity	34,250.08	568	60.30
Lake Worth FL	Epiphany	0.00	175	-
Lake Worth FL	Our Savior	18,081.00	314	57.58
Lake Worth FL	Salem Haitian	250.00	125	2.00
		\$117,204.28	3,256	36.00
20 - Gold Coast				
Davie FL	Gloria Dei	2,042.00	371	5.50
Fort Lauderdale FL	Faith	0.00	46	-
Fort Lauderdale FL	LC Good Shepherd	0.00	50	-
Fort Lauderdale FL	Shepherd of Coast	11,937.53	231	51.68
Fort Lauderdale FL	Trinity Haitian	150.00	0	-
Fort Lauderdale FL	Trinity	800.00	110	7.27
Hollywood FL	Prince Of Peace	1,800.00	46	39.13
Hollywood FL	St. Mark's	2,500.00	220	11.36
Lauderdale Lakes FL	Tabernacle	0.00	0	-
Miramar FL	Miramar	0.00	30	-
Oakland Park FL	Tabernacle Grace	250.00	0	-
Plantation FL	Our Savior	2,977.75	427	6.97
Weston FL	St. Paul	50,386.70	846	59.56
		\$72,843.98	2,377	30.08
21 - Monroe-Miami-Dade				
Hialeah FL	Faith	4,674.88	150	31.17
Hialeah FL	St. Andrews	2,200.00	45	48.89
Kendall FL	Concordia	5,004.00	196	25.53
Key West FL	Grace	7,500.00	140	53.57
Leisure City FL	Hospital Del Alma	0.00	256	-
Marathon FL	Martin Luther	2,400.00	94	25.53
Miami FL	Bay Shore	0.00	70	-
Miami FL	Our Saviour	0.00	46	-
Miami FL	Redeemer	0.00	11	-
Miami FL	San Pablo Luterana	300.00	80	3.75
Miami FL	St. Matthews	0.00	72	-
Miami FL	St. Paul	5,644.31	110	51.31
Miami FL	Trinity	0.00	36	-
Nassau Bahamas	LC of Nassau	2,200.00	80	27.50
N Miami FL	Holy Cross	7,001.53	218	32.12
Tavernier FL	Immanuel	1,176.00	35	33.60
		\$38,100.72	1,639	23.25
Grand Totals		\$2,199,378.12	49,559	44.34

Faith/Marietta's Elsie Guenther Honored for Service

Elsie Guenther, a member of Faith Lutheran-Marietta, was recognized for her volunteer service by the Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club as one of the nominees for the 2011 Barbara B. Rose Volunteer of the Year Awards.

A long-time Lutheran Services of Georgia volunteer, "Elsie has impacted almost every refugee family that LSG has resettled since 2001 -- more than 2,300 people," said Melanie Johnson, Volunteer Coordinator, Refugee Services for the social service agency.

Guenther coordinates LSG's Refugee Services Clothes Closet at Rock of Ages Lutheran-Stone Mountain,

"She is so dedicated to doing this volunteer work that she drives round trip from Roswell to Stone Mountain each Wednesday to help individual refugee families, receive and sort

clothing donations, and coordinate her volunteer team," Johnson continued. "Elsie sets the tone among her volunteer team that ensures that each refugee is genuinely welcomed to the clothes closet and treated with gentle dignity and respect during this time of great change in their lives."

For the past 25 years, LSG has combined the resources of staff, financial donors, various governmental agencies, volunteers and Lutheran congregations in its efforts to bring quality programs and services to the people of Georgia.



Elsie Guenther (center) is shown at the recent award luncheon with Robert Walker and Barbara B. Rose of the Midtown Rotary Club

Georgia Teen Making a Difference

Taylor Peterson's literary outreach began at Christmas 2009.

Her home church, Mount Calvary-Warner Robins, was hosting its "Helping Hands" dinner for the needy and homeless on Christmas afternoon. Taylor, then in eighth grade, asked members to donate gently used children's books that could be distributed at the dinner.

To her surprise, more than 400 books were donated – and very much appreciated by the recipients.

Taylor and her mother, Lorie Peterson, began collecting gently used books, establishing a non-profit business called Reading On My Minds, Inc. For a year they traveled to local soup kitchens, Children's Miracle Network Hospitals, Ronald McDonald Houses, women's shelters, volunteer outreach programs, low-income day care centers and teen centers to distribute the book. Some of the donations were sent overseas to U.S. troops.

"One of the soup kitchens we visit weekly is our sister church, Christ Lutheran in Perry Georgia," said Mrs. Peterson. "Pastor John Lehenbauer, with the help of Perry Volunteer Outreach, loaned us a room in the Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry building.

"We set up a small library in November 2010. We are very blessed to say we have more than 10,000 books in our library!"

Of the 25-plus categories of books, the most popular "by far" is the religious section, according to the Petersons.

"While patrons are waiting to get their food basket they come into our library and browse. We like to say Loaves and Fishes feeds their body and we feed their soul," Mrs. Peterson added.

"Every day people come in wanting Bibles -- we never can keep

them on our shelf Most of the time we have to tell them that we have run out."

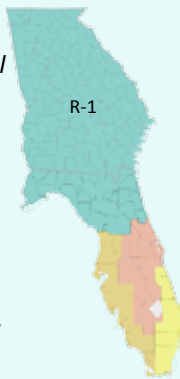
Taylor, who will enter 10th grade in the fall, is the reigning Miss Southern Heartland's Outstanding Teen and will be competing at Miss Georgia this June. She is active in Mount Calvary's youth group along with volunteering in the nursery and occasionally playing the piano during the offertory.



REGION 1 NEWS

Florida-Georgia District - Region 1

The largest geographic sector of the District, Region 1 encompasses all of the State of Georgia and approximately the upper third of the State of Florida. Representing Region 1 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Frank Marshall of Jacksonville, FL, who recently retired as pastor of St. Paul-Jacksonville; Jean Weinrich, a member of All Saints-Blairsville, GA; and Bill Gaik, a member of Trinity Lutheran-Toccoa, GA.



Feeding the Hungry Among Us . . . in the Name of Jesus!

Lutheran Social Services in Jacksonville is leading the way forward in the on-going ministry of simply feeding hungry people in the Name of our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

LSS-JAX is one of the 200 Food Banks in the US that is a significant part of the national Feeding America program. Feeding America received the second most votes in the winter Thrivent Choice \$1 million distribution, receiving \$206,000.

Their mission is simple: to establish relationships with large food suppliers and distribute food through non-profit agencies throughout the country.

In the case of LSS-Jacksonville, food is distributed to 18 North Florida counties through Second Harvest North Florida. When LSS was incorporated in 1979 by a consortium of Lutheran churches and Jacksonville community leaders, its

first program was the Nourishment Network. That small food pantry has now grown to become the only food bank in this region — Second Harvest North Florida.

The national political debate over budget issues reminds us that, regardless of personal political persuasion, our Christian mission as congregations and as individuals to “feed the hungry” in the name of Jesus (Matthew 25) yet remains.

You can participate in this on-going ministry of human care.

Two actions can be taken:

A congregation can establish a relationship with a local food bank and regularly gather groceries for

that food bank, which, in turn, will distribute that food to various community agencies and into the stomachs of hungry kids and families. To find your

local food bank, go to FeedingAmerica.org and type in your zip code as indicated. FeedingAmerica.org can also connect you to other programs that assist in feeding low-income individuals and families with the fuel to survive and even thrive.

An individual can participate in efforts such as the annual “Stamp Out Hunger” Food Drive, the largest one-day food drive in the United States. It is held annually on Mother’s Day weekend. Residents are asked to leave nonperishable food donations in bags or boxes by their mailboxes. The donated food is picked up by USPS letter-carriers and delivered to a variety of local non-profits who feed hungry kids. The National Association of Letter sponsors the food drive in conjunction with major food distribution corporations.

Be on the look-out for opportunities to feed hungry kids in your area.

Know that we are called for ministries such as this, congregations and individuals alike.

INASMUCH Sharing information... seeding ministry development

**Presented by the Human Care
Ministry Advisory Council,
Florida-Georgia District
Rev. David A. Mueller,
HCAC Member**

REGION 2

Sanford Congregation Reaches Out With “The Garden”

Members of Lutheran Church of the Redeemer-Sanford are reaching out to their community with a new ministry called “The Garden.”

“Inspired by our pastor’s wife, our small congregation has pulled together to form this ministry as a way to reach out to our fellow neighbors and open the walls of our church to the outside,” said Norma J. Powell, communications director.

“Our congregation has been diligently working to minister to our community youth and to those in need.”

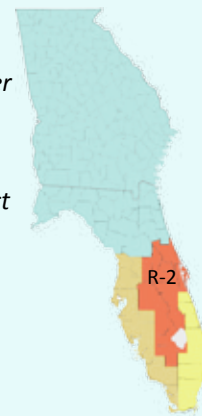
A priority of The Garden is to provide a source of fresh vegetables for the Christian Sharing Center, the Rescue Outreach Mission and Lion of Judah, local organizations that either feed or supply food directly to the needy in the community.

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer invited area businesses to help with The Garden by donating supplies, materials or financial assistance.

The main part of The Garden measure 75’ by 100’ and has been tilled. A children’s garden is also planned.

REGION 2 NEWS Florida-Georgia District - Region 2

Region 2 is the only one to share borders with the District’s other three regions as well as with the Atlantic Ocean. Representing Region 2 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Brian Kneser, pastor of Woodlands Lutheran-Montverde, FL; and Karen Smith, a member of Peace-Okeechobee, FL.



Hope Plant City Celebrates Confirmation

On Sunday, May 1, three youth of Hope-Plant City made their public confession of faith before the congregation in the Rite of Confirmation.

As a part of their confirmation instruction, Hope member and art instructor Becky Hartmann guided the students in a project to express their faith by using the visual arts. Each student shared their project with the congregation, describing what it meant to them in their faith development.

Leading the service was Hope Pastor Dean Pfeffer assisted by Director of Christian Education & Youth Swayze Yancey. A luncheon hosted for the confirmands and their families by Hope's Christian Growth and Youth Ministry Teams followed the worship.



Pictured following the confirmation service are (front-l-r) Becky Hartmann; confirmands Dallas Cotton, Kayleigh Johnson and Alex Drapp (back, l-r) Rev. Dean Pfeffer and DCE Swayze Yancey.

REGION 3

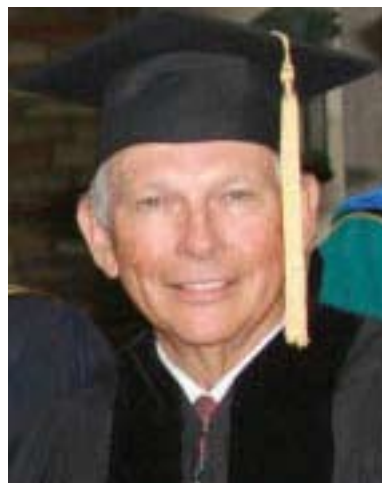
Seminary Honors Hu Temme with Doctorate

Rev. Hubert H. (Hu) Temme of New Port Richey was awarded an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree at the May commencement ceremony of Concordia Seminary-St. Louis.

A 1955 graduate of Concordia Seminary-Adelaide, Australia, Temme's first call was as a missionary to the Australian Aborigines. He then served as a mission planter and pastor of other congregations. Temme was an Australian Army Reserve Chaplain, chairperson of the Board of Aboriginal Missions and guest speaker on the Australian Lutheran Hour.

In the United States, Temme served congregations in Centralia, IL, and Baltimore, MD. He is the former Vice President of Development for Wheat Ridge Ministries. He was the pastor of The Church of All Nations at the Hong Kong International School.

During his retirement, Temme has served various congregations as vacancy pastor. He and his wife, June, have most



recently served as representatives of Concordia Seminary in the advancement division. In this capacity the Temmes have visited with pastors, church workers and donors in Florida and elsewhere to keep the visibility of the Seminary strong and to encourage financial and other support.

Dr. & Mrs.

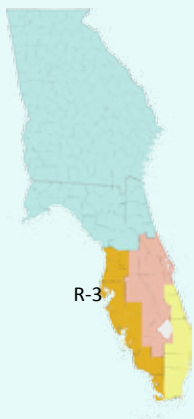
Temme have three children and 10 grandchildren.

REGION 3 NEWS

Florida-Georgia District - Region 3

Region 3 covers the lower southwestern sector of Florida, with much of its area bordering the Gulf of Mexico.

Representing Region 3 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Jim Guelzow, pastor of Messiah-Tampa, FL; Jeff Richards, a member of Hope Lutheran-Bradenton, FL; and Maggie Bowles, a member of Peace-Naples, FL.



JENNIFER TREUTLE began her DCE Internship at Holy Trinity-Lutz in May. Treutle, who hails from San Antonio, TX, is in the DCE program at Concordia University Texas-Austin. Her responsibilities at Holy Trinity will include youth and children's ministry as well as relating to the congregation's vibrant preschool ministry. Treutle is shown with Holy Trinity Pastor Gilbert Kuehn at her installation service.



“Living Love” Volunteers Undertake Mission Immokalee

A day of outreach started early for 51 members from the St. Petersburg and Largo campuses of Our Savior Lutheran Church. At 7am on Saturday, April 30, the “Living Love” volunteers boarded two buses filled with donated clothing, tools and cleaning supplies and headed to the Amigos Center in Immokalee.

“Immokalee, meaning ‘His Home,’ originally known as Gopher Ridge, is home to about 20,000 people, more than 70% Hispanic or Latino,” said Our Savior member Cindy Henrion.

“In the midst of this historically rich, quaint, agriculture town is the Amigos Center which serves thousands of families who desire a better life for themselves and their children.”

A ministry of the Southwest Florida Circuit, the Amigos Center has planted Spanish and Creole churches. Amigos Center immigration specialists provide low-cost legal family based services.

The ministry’s social services include food and clothing assistance, education and advocacy networking. More than 6,200 clients were helped in 2010.

Noted Henrion, “One look around and a visitor can easily see this service center also provides a homey place for people to gather. It comes complete with a kitchen, cozy meeting rooms and computers for easy access to information.” The Living Love volunteers



accomplished much during their day of hard work and fellowship:

- *The bridge in front of the Center was repaired with new decking and the sign out front was repaired.*
- *In addition to donating a large quantity of clothing, they folded and organized all of the donated clothing.*
- *A new shelf was built for the clothing room.*
- *The sanctuary was cleaned and given a bright, fresh coat of paint.*
- *The computer room was painted.*
- *Trees were trimmed, leaves were rakes, chairs and carpets were shampooed.*
- *The front of the building was painted.*

“Social Services Director Karl Glander, with an ever-present beaming smile, was onsite helping and expressing his appreciation,” Henrion said.

And when the work was done, Our Savior Pastor Paul Burtzloff “wiped the sweat from his brow and led us in prayer as we gave thanks for a successful joy-filled day reminding ourselves of Living Love’s mission: Love God. Love People. Serve the World,” Henrion concluded.



ABBY MOSS was recently installed as Director of Family Life Ministry at Messiah Lutheran-Tampa, FL. A 2006 graduate of the Family Life Ministry program at Concordia University-Ann Arbor, MI, she served at Peace Lutheran-Ann Arbor after graduation until she accepted the call to Messiah. Moss is a native of Chicago.



Weston Confirmands Reenact Stations of the Cross

The eighth-grade confirmation class of St. Paul-Weston presented the "Stations of the Cross" at the city's Peace Mound Park on Good Friday.

Dressed as Jesus, an angel, criminals and Roman soldiers, the St. Paul teens made the Christian holiday come to life outdoors for an estimated 300 of their peers and families. Jesus was portrayed by Kyle Valencia, with thieves Chris and Andrew Donaldson assuming the roles as the thieves who were crucified on either side of Christ on Good Friday.

Following along on foot from station to station, congregation members learned lessons, history and basked

in a warm midday sun. St. Paul Pastor Tim Hartner said of the tradition that takes weeks to prepare, "By the grace of God, it always comes together."

Pastor Hartner, far right below, is shown with the 2011 Confirmation Class of St. Paul-Weston

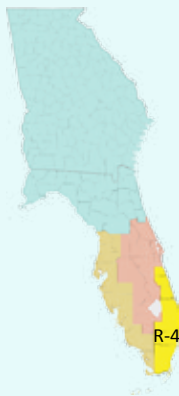


REGION 4 NEWS

Florida-Georgia District - Region 4

Region 4 covers the lower southeastern sector of Florida, with much of its area stretching along the Atlantic Ocean and down into the Keys.

Representing Region 4 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Stephen Wipperman, pastor of Our Savior-Lake Worth, FL; Diana Geiger, a member of Trinity Lutheran-Delray Beach, FL; and Nancy Volz, a member of Our Savior-Plantation, FL.



Run the Race!

Students and staff at Trinity-Delray Beach culminated their Spirit Week 2011 (which coincided with National Lutheran Schools Week, March 6-12) celebration with an all-school picture. "Run" is based on Trinity's theme for the year, "Run the Race" taken from Hebrews 12:1, 2: *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

Our Savior Lake Worth's Quilt Team Outreach Benefits Joplin's Tornado Victims

One of the outreach ministries of Our Savior-Lake Worth is the Shepherd's Quilt team, which last year made and shared 100 quilts. By the end of May of this year the team members had already met that total, crafting 100 quilts that are being sent to Immanuel Lutheran-Joplin, MO, for distribution to tornado victims.

At least 116 people died in the powerful tornado that devastated Joplin on May 22, tearing into a hospital and leveling neighborhoods, including the homes of four teachers at Martin Luther School. The twister damaged

the school and the Immanuel parsonage.

"This will be an exceptionally long-term recovery," said Rev. Glenn Merritt, director of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod's Disaster Response and a former police officer. "The situation in Joplin is much more intense because so many infrastructures have been destroyed, so many homes, apartments, churches, schools and businesses."

Additional information regarding outreach assistance for victims of the Joplin tornado is available at lcms.org.



Shown with their handiwork are some of the OSLC Lake Worth Shepherd's Quilt team members

Bethel Hobe Sound's Marjorie Alexander Honored at "Volunteer of the Decade" Sunday

Just weeks after visiting Bethel Lutheran Church & Preschool-Hobe Sound for the first time, Marjorie Alexander was volunteering her service.

In the 25 years since, "she has served on almost every special committee the congregation has had and has become an essential person to the daily operations both the Church and Preschool," said Bethel Pastor Edward Scott.

She was honored for her "decades of continuous service to the Lord and His ministry" at a Bethel worship service early this year. A luncheon followed the service. Both were a surprise for the honoree.

Alexander was elected Bethel's financial secretary in 1994. She

became the congregation's second treasurer in 1997, an office she continues to hold.

Alexander has for many years been on the Board for Christian Education and the Church Council as well as a member of the Bethel Ladies and the choir. Until recently she served as a liturgist.

She attends every worship, educational and fellowship opportunity Bethel offers and spends four to six hours a day in the church office --- five days a week.

"If you are looking for the church blueprints, ask Marge," Scott said. "If you are wondering where a little used key is, ask Marge. If you want to know what our insurance covers, ask Marge. If you are looking for

someone who has read the 'Lutheran Confessions' from cover to cover, Marge has.

"She has devoted equal attention to each of the other congregations she has served."

A Certificate of Appreciation noted that among other attributes "Marjorie L. Alexander has served God as a woman, as a mother and as a wife As an exemplary steward of the gifts of time, talent and treasure ... As a follower of Jesus and a leader of people ... As a doer of the Word and not a hearer only... As a seeker first of the kingdom of God...

"As a person blessed to be a blessing."

Tolerating Evil Not a Virtue

by Bruce Lieske, Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism

Is tolerance a Virtue?

Yes and no.

The question is tricky. Our culture tends to affirm "tolerance" as a virtue, an attribute of good people. In Los Angeles there is the Museum of Tolerance which addresses the issues of prejudice and racism, with a special emphasis on the Holocaust. The museum is visited annually by more than 300,000 children -- a concerted community attempt to overcome attitudes of racism and prejudice.

But what did Nobel laureate Thomas Mann mean when he said, "Tolerance becomes a crime when applied to evil"? Mann, an anti-fascist, fled to the United States when Nazism (National Socialism) gained a grip on his German homeland. Earlier this year Muslim terrorists infiltrated the home of Udi and Ruth Fogel in Itamar, Israel, and slit the throat of

the Fogel's 11-year old Yoav as he was reading in bed; stabbed his 4-year old brother, Elad, twice in the heart; then knifed Ruth as she came out of the bathroom; killed Ruth's sleeping husband; and completed their "mission" by mortally stabbing the infant daughter, Hadas.

When 12-year old Tamar came home from a youth meeting she found her 2-year old brother, Yishai, shaking his parents' bodies and crying for them to wake up. Where does this kind of evil come from? How can a human deliberately butcher a sleeping baby or plunge a knife into a toddler's heart?

There is a worse evil. As news of the March 2011 massacre in Itamar spread, young men in Gaza distributed candy and pastries in celebration. They expressed not only tolerance, but affirmation.

How did Nazism (National

Socialism) gain a grip on Europe in the last century? And today, how is it possible that radical Islam has gained a grip on many countries? Some say it has even gained a foothold in the United States. It is possible to happen when good men -- and women -- tolerate evil ideas. St. Paul, writing to Christians in Rome, said: "Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil by good." (Romans 12:21)

We can overcome the evil political-religious ideas of radical Islam by God's good words! Let us draw strength and courage from God's Word: "For God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline." (2 Timothy 1:7)

Comments? Need materials? Check out our website at www.lije.org, or send me an email at blieske7@bellsouth.net

District Welcomes New Servants

In May calls to serve as LCMS pastors were issued to 86 students at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, while 81 students received vicarage assignments. Four deaconess students were assigned calls and another 10 given internship assignments.

Coming to Florida-Georgia are:

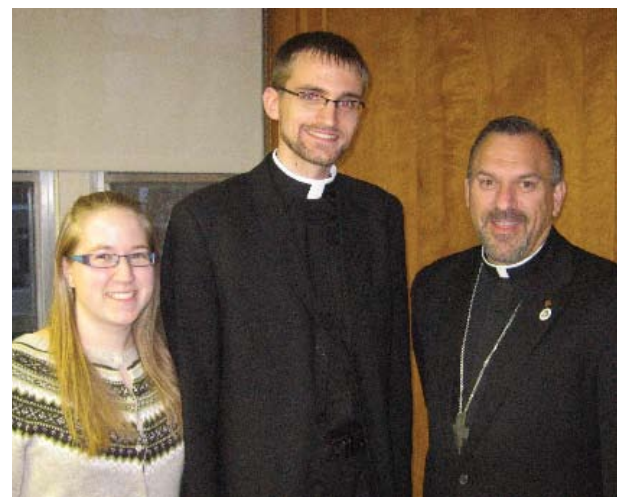
Pastor Joshua Brown to Messiah-Valdosta, GA; Vicar Luke Anderson - Mount Calvary-Warner Robins, GA; Vicar Timothy Barone - Bethlehem-Jacksonville Beach, FL; Vicar Dustin Kear - Grace-Winter Haven, FL; Vicar Matthew Lane - St. Paul-Boca Raton, FL; Vicar Artidoro Mesones (CHS*) - Faith-Hialeah, FL; Vicar Stephen

Reynolds - First-Gainesville, FL; Vicar Joseph Signore III - Our Redeemer-Ocala, FL.

Assigned to Messiah-Tampa, FL, are Deaconess Interns from the Center for Hispanic Studies Diana Bermudez, Rafaela Cruz, Raquel Eusebio, Lisa Fernandez de Corps, Iris Guevara, Flor Sanabria and Yolima Sanabria.



Left photo — From Concordia St. Louis, shown with President Greg Walton (front row, far right) are (front row, l-r) Megan Barone, Jennifer Kear, Luke Anderson, Joshua Brown, Lauren Signore, Joanna Lane (back row, l-r) Timothy Barone, Dustin Kear, Stephen Reynolds, Joseph Signore and Matthew Lane.



Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne assigned to the Florida-Georgia District Andrews S. Gerike of Columbia, MO, who will do his vicarage at Lutheran Church of the Cross-Port Charlotte, FL. He is shown here with his wife Shayla and District President Greg Walton.



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Weekend Celebration Marks Century of God's Grace for Gerhardt Gerike



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Rev. Gerhardt J.C. Gerike celebrated his 100th birthday in church — a familiar setting for a dedicated shepherd who has been serving since his 1935 graduation from Concordia Seminary St. Louis.

Family and friends gathered in Lake Wales, FL, for the occasion. Festivities began Saturday, April 30, with a tree planting ceremony in honor of Pastor Gerike and his lifetime of service to the Lord and His Church. Later that day

A celebration luncheon program culminated the weekend's festivities. The Grand Finale was written by Pastor Gerike. Sung to the tune of the USA's National Anthem — the song ended with the exhortation to *"Praise God, Triune God, and let us now serve Him throughout our lives with love and kindness true forever and for all."*

Gerike served as a full-time pastor for 56 years at LCMS congregations in North Dakota, Missouri, Minnesota, Illinois and Iowa. He officially retired in 1991, but remains

active through preaching, leading worship services and teaching Bible class. He has been a member of Lake Wales Lutheran since 2000.



Helping Pastor Gerhardt Gerike blow out the 100 candles on his birthday cake are his great-grandchildren. The poster birthday card on the right was crafted by Lake Wales Preschool students.



Gerike baptizes great-granddaughter Charley Mae Costello, daughter of Mike and Jaime Costello and granddaughter of Gale and Carol Seyfert.

Gerike was guest of honor at a gathering coordinated by granddaughter Elizabeth Drengler and her husband Mark, pastor at Resurrection-Cary NC.

Sunday, May 1, worship at Lake Wales Lutheran Church was a Service of Thanksgiving for Rev. Gerike's milestone birthday. The guest of honor preached on *"Praise, Oh Praise the All-Sufficient Grace of God"* based on II Corinthians 12:7-10. He also officiated at the baptism of great-granddaughter Charley Mae Costello.

Special music for the worship included *"My Times Are in Your Hand, O Lord,"* arranged by Henry V. Gerike, Pastor Gerike's nephew. Lake Wales Pastor Dr. John Glamann and his wife Sue provided communion chalices of olive wood from Israel that each communicant kept as a remembrance of *"God's gift to the Church of Pastor Gerike."*



Taking a break at the tree planting ceremony that opened the weekend celebration are Rev. Gerhardt Gerike with his daughters (l-r) Carol Seyfert, Paula Jolley and Gloria Vogel.