

LUTHERAN

LIFE

The Newsmagazine of the
Florida-Georgia District
of The Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod
2013 | Volume 5

GRACE
alone



FAITH
alone

WORD
alone

The
Church
Reformed
LOOKING AHEAD



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 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 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.

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DISTRICT CAPSULES *by Greg Walton District President*

Calling Congregations

Bethel/Clearwater, FL.....Assistant/Associate
Zion/Fort Myers, FL.....Senior Pastor
Epiphany/Lake Worth, FL.....Sole Pastor
Faith/New Port Richey, FL.....Sole Pastor
Our Redeemer/Ocala, FL.....Associate Pastor
Prince of Peace/Orlando, FL.....Senior Pastor
Faith/Sebring, FL.....Sole Pastor
St. Mark/Tucker, GA.....Sole Pastor

Calls Issued

Marco Lutheran/Marco Island, FL
to Rev. Ken Garazin as Assistant Pastor
Martin Luther Chapel/Marathon, FL
to Rev. Bruce Crabtree as Interim Pastor

Calls Accepted

Marco Lutheran/Marco Island, FL
Rev. Ken Garazin as Assistant Pastor
Martin Luther Chapel/Marathon, FL
Rev. Bruce Crabtree as Interim Pastor
Trinity/Summerfield, FL
Rev. Daniel Kelm as Associate Pastor

Calls Declined

Faith/New Port Richey, FL
Rev. Michael Saleminck as Pastor
Faith/Sebring, FL
Rev. Jonathan Horsman as Pastor
Zion/Fort Myers, FL
Rev. Daniel Thews as Pastor
St Mark/Tucker, GA
Rev. Frank Greene as Pastor

Transferred to Other Districts

Kathleen GerlingCalifornia-Nevada-Hawaii (C)
Hannah KlumbNOW(C)
Jason Boetcher.....Kansas (O)
Janice Schrader.....Minnesota South(C)
Stephen Schrader.....Minnesota South (C)
Christine Mabrey.....Southeastern (C)
Matthew Bergholt.....SELC (C)
Jeremy Lucke.....Northwest (O)
Andrew Struckmeyer.....Texas(C)
William Schranz.....Texas(C)
Andrew Fields.....Indiana (O)
Andrew AchongKansas (C)

Transferred from Other Districts

Laura Ann Elmshausenfrom Michigan (C)
Alvey Yatesfrom Rocky Mountain (O)
Albert L. Garciafrom South Wisconsin (O)
Thomas R. Wennndtfrom Central Illinois (O)
Kelsey A. Dunn. from California-Nevada-Hawaii (C)

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

Ordained/Commissioned Minister Initial Assignments

Jared Paul Hartman, Concordia Seminary/St. Louis
Pastor, Grace/St. Petersburg, FL (O)
Benjamin S. Skelton, Concordia Nebraska
Teacher, Trinity/Orlando, FL (C)
Brooke McKinnon, Concordia Chicago
Teacher, Trinity/Orlando, FL (C)
Andre F. Mezilus, Concordia Seminary/St. Louis
Pastor, Amigos en Cristo/Immokalee, FL (O)
Ligia I. Morales, Concordia Seminary St. Louis
Deaconess, Prince of Peace/Orlando, FL (C)
Amanda B. Duseberg, Concordia Chicago
Teacher, Redeemer/Stuart (C)
Sarah Anne Montgomery, Concordia Irvine
Teacher, Faith/Eustis (C)
Gary R. Hickey, Concordia Mequon
Teacher, St. Paul/Boca Raton (C)

Ordained/Commissioned Minister Installations

Robert Maullella, Interim Pastor
St. Paul/Peachtree City, GA (O)
Jill Smith, Teacher
St. Paul/Lakeland, FL (C)
Laura Ann Blank, Teacher
Trinity/Orlando, FL (C)
Vicky Piller, Director,
Ascension/Casselberry, FL (C)
Kelsey Anne Dunn, Teacher
Grace/Jacksonville, FL (C)
Karla Rae Kemerling, Director
Faith/Marietta, GA (C)
Laura Ann Blank, Teacher
Trinity/Orlando, FL (C)
Rachel Rittierodt, Teacher
Trinity/Delray Beach, FL (C)
Jill Smith, Teacher
St. Paul/Lakeland, FL (C)
Jeremiah A. Bauer, DCE
St. Paul/Boca Raton, FL (C)
Kaitlin E. Bauer, DCE
St. Paul/Boca Raton, FL (C)

Change of Status within the District

Donald S. Roberts from Active to Emeritus (O)
Cristine Schafer from Active to Candidate (C)
Sara Ellen Sorkness from Candidate to Non-Candidate (C)
Byron Byrdell Einspahr from Candidate to Non-Candidate (O)
Stephen Zehnder from Candidate to Non-Candidate (O)
Connie E. Hoolahan from Candidate to Non-Candidate (C)
Kimberly Michele Russ from Candidate to Non-Candidate (C)

Construction Begins on New Cumming, GA Facility

Members and friends of Living Faith Lutheran gathered in May to break ground for the congregation's first facility.

The 11,300-square-foot building is scheduled to be completed in time for worship next Easter on April 20, 2014.

The mission of Living Faith is to "stand on the changeless Word of God and proclaim the eternal Gospel of Jesus Christ." The congregation is led by Pastors Tim Droegemueller and Chang Soo Kim.

"Many times this group of believers has been thought to be 'down for the count' by the devil, the world and fallen flesh.

"Yet the Lord has been faithful through it all," said Droegemueller.

When Living Faith moved from Byar's Funeral Home to a larger rental facility on Buford Dam Road, the odds were against it. The landlord was not willing to rent to a church, and the rent was going up from \$475 to \$4500 a month.

"The Holy Spirit took care of both those issues," Droegemueller shared. "God proved that it is He Himself Who establishes the work of our hands."

When Living Faith members sought to find a permanent property, church leaders followed up on every lead in Forsyth County and came up empty handed for five consecutive years.

"Many times, hearts were set on something that would

eventually go to someone else or wouldn't work out," continued Droegemueller.

"Yet, when it was least expected, God provided the congregation 8.35 acres in a prime location on Highway 9.

"Although appraised for \$1.1 million, the Lord let it fall to Living Faith for \$330,000. Soli Deo Gloria!

"Now, Living Faith prepares to build their first sanctuary to the glory of God and for the salvation of man."

Living Faith has already established two mission congregations St. Peter Lutheran-Dahlonega and St. John the Apostle-Buford. Both are led by Rev. Aaron Simms. ■



Photos — top/left, Living Faith members Gloria and Sidney Carter; the Stinson family (l-r) Daniel, Sreymoun, Madelynn, Daniel and Deborah; Wanda Gartrell turns some dirt at the groundbreaking. Left photo — Rev. Doug Kallesen, Mission Exec for the Florida-Georgia District; Rev. Chang Soo Kim; Jay Wendland, LFLC Treasurer; Bill Martin, Building Committee; Tom Kane, Building Committee; Stan Engel, LFLC President; Richard Hamil, Building Committee Chairman; Rev. Tim Droegemueller. LCEF Director for the Florida-Georgia District, Daniel Reichard is off camera.

Our Apologies....

In the Annual Report issues of Lutheran LIFE we switched two captions in the National Youth Gathering story. Shown here correctly identified are (left photo, Tais Perez and Alexis Latona of St. Paul-Lakeland, FL, and (right photo) Julie Rogers and Brittany Higginbotham of St. John-Ocala, FL.



Reformation . . . It's About Grace, Faith, God's Word and Connecting People to Jesus

LIFELINES

I've been thinking about the Reformation lately, and how it wasn't just Luther believing God's Word, but obeying what He said. In a recent staff devotions, I shared the story of King Saul's disobedience.

God had called on Saul to annihilate the Amalekites. God said, "I have noted what Amalek did to Israel in opposing them on the way when they came up out of Egypt. Now go and strike Amalek and devote to destruction all that they have. Do not spare them, but kill both man and woman, child and infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey." (1 Sam. 15:2-3)

For today's reader it is a rather harsh instruction, but Saul was a warrior. He didn't have any problems destroying other nations. There was great pleasure in destroying God's enemies. The

problem was, Saul took on that familiar attitude of "what's in it for me?" Rather than carry out God's express command, Saul saw things differently. The Bible says, "But Saul and the people spared Agag and the best of the sheep and of the oxen and of the fattened calves and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them. All that was despised and worthless they devoted to destruction." (1 Sam. 15:9)

As a result, God sent His prophet Samuel to admonish Saul. Imagine being given that task! Samuel had to tell the King of Israel that he had fallen out of God's favor due to disobedience. It makes me think of Ananias who was chosen to

go to another Saul, now blinded and helpless, who had been killing believers. Ananias had to be thinking, "Why me, Lord?" Have you ever been there? It's a pretty common question for most of us, right up there with that good Lutheran query, "What does this mean?"

King Saul didn't want to be wasteful. Why destroy what was good and useable? It didn't make sense to his human mind. There were perfectly good sheep and goats, and the healthiest and sturdiest people could be used as slaves. Why destroy



perfectly good things? The simple answer: because God said so! God knew what we learn the difficult way — a little sin goes a long way. This is why we need ongoing reformation.



Years ago we had a water leak under our home. Apparently some years before when previous owners had put in new floors, a finishing nail nicked the polybutylene pipe. The pipe sealed around the nail so that any leak was negligible. However, over time, as that nail rusted and corroded, it wore the pipe down and created a major leak, which just happened to come to fruition while we were away on vacation. I only found it because I had to crawl under

the house to change the a/c filter, and when I did, I could see the spray.

To make a real long story much shorter, the end result was that we had a severe mold problem that made it necessary to remove our kitchen floor, remediate the mold and rebuild. It was a terrible mess — all from one little nail hole.

King Saul excused his actions by saying that he had carried out the Lord's will, and besides, the people did, after all, make sacrifices from their spoils. And Samuel responded with some very familiar words: "Has

the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams. For rebellion is as the sin of divination, and presumption is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He has also

rejected you from being king." (1 Sam. 15:22-23)

Samuel and Saul would never meet again while Saul was alive. The Bible tells us that Samuel wept for Saul, and that God regretted making Saul King.

Obedience is a difficult thing in a grace-based church. We like to point out that we are saved by grace through faith, not by what we do — not by our obedience. I could not agree more, thankfully! If God's favor toward me were based on my obedience to His Word, I would, like you, be without hope.

"My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness; no merit of my own I claim by wholly lean on Jesus' name." This is most

certainly true!

However, as one who has been so blessed to be redeemed by the blood of Jesus, how will I live as His disciple in the world? In the movie, "Martin Luther, Heretic," there is a line that sticks with me as Luther is teaching his students about grace and faith, and one of them remarks something like, "If God does everything then I may do as I please, I may sin as much as I like? It makes no difference?"

The implication was that you can get away with whatever you want. And Luther says, "Yes, you may do as you please. Now tell me, what pleases you? . . . What you do comes from what you are in your heart."

Jesus said, "A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them." (Matt. 7:18-20) How we live in the world matters . . . a lot! People are constantly watching every one of us, wondering if our confession and our profession match up. Do we live what we say we believe?

If we're honest, we would have to admit that we don't. We are disobedient, sinful children, who often offer half-hearted sacrifices, but fail to listen to God's Word. How often we have failed our heavenly Father. When we look at the world in which we live and see the disdain for the church, we have to own the fact that we have contributed to it.

We often live selfishly, as if church is all about me. We act sometimes as if the church is a restaurant and should serve me the way that I order it — like the Burger King slogan: "Have it your way."

It's not about me! It's often all about my preferences for music and service times and carpet colors, and the list goes on and on and is individualized to each congregation and person. So often we put aside a passion for reaching the people who

most need to hear about Jesus while we cater to our own preferences and needs. We sometimes fail to live out the faith we profess.

James, the brother of Jesus, writes, "In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. But someone will say, 'You have faith; I have deeds.' Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do." (James 2:17-18)



Dietrich Bonhoeffer, the great theologian killed in a Nazi war camp, wrote, "The cross is laid on every Christian. As we embark upon discipleship we surrender ourselves to Christ in union with His death — we give over our lives to death. The cross is not the terrible end to an otherwise god-fearing and happy life, but it meets us at the beginning of our communion with Christ. When Christ calls a man, He bids him come and die."

It's really not about us, is it? It's always all about Jesus. Our chief priority is to connect people to Him. That's why in His last earthly encounter with His disciples Jesus instructs them to go and make more disciples by baptizing and teaching. He doesn't tell them to go back and make sure the Upper Room was comfortable for them. They were, as we are, called to be fishers of men, not keepers of the aquarium!

To obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen better than the fat of rams! God doesn't want our deeds — first He wants our hearts, our souls and our minds. Once He has them, the deeds will flow as a natural response to His gracious love for us in Jesus.

In this time when we remember the Reformation, remember that it's not about heritage, as important as that may be. It's not about our liturgy or our doctrine or anything else we bring to the table. It's about grace. It's about faith. It's about

God's word. It's about connecting people to Jesus. It's about growing in discipleship. That kind of faithfulness leads to obedience, and that kind of obedience could have changed Israel's history.

The real question is, what will it do in your life as you rest in Jesus, put your trust in Him, and grow as His child, fully aware of your weakness, fully dependent on His grace?

Each one of us is a servant, called into service by the One who saved us freely by His grace. How will you live for the One who died for you?

May it be in the power of His Spirit, as an obedient child trusting in God's promises for us in Jesus, and no longer trusting in our own strength. What's in it for you? Eternity with Jesus and a whole lot of blessings that you can't even begin to imagine, just waiting for us as we listen and trust the voice of Jesus. That's what King Saul failed to do, and it cost him. That's what Luther did, and it cost him.

And it will cost you, too.

But, my dear brothers and sisters, it is a treasure unlike any other. Live in His grace and be free to obey Him!



In the grip of His grace . . .
Greg

Board Celebrates New Office Dedication

Members of the Florida-Georgia Board of Directors were among the participants in the August 30 dedication of the new District office. After the service, they assembled in the new board room to address business of the District.

“As we move into a new space, it is a potent reminder of the work before us — the renewing of our minds and hearts to serve Jesus,” said President Greg Walton. “We continue to do that around our three critical targets: Leadership, Congregations and Outreach.”



LEADERSHIP: District and congregational leaders are loving, visionary people of the Word, models of healthy Christ-centered living and life-long learned committed to equipping and empowering others to join in fulfilling the Church’s role in God’s mission.”

- **Hearts for Haiti update:** Students in District schools contributed more than \$66,000 to the three-year Earthquake Recovery project. The chapel offerings have enabled Mission Haiti to purchase, renovate and outfit a school bus for medical missions; purchase property; drill a well on the property; build an orphanage on the property that will house more than 20 boys in the village of Opoto.

- **District Stewardship Council** met several times over the summer to plan for the future with a focus on training congregations to understand solid Biblical stewardship principles. Plans are in process to bring Dr. Art Scherer, who has conducted training for the Consecrated Stewards program, to the District to train selected volunteers.

- **Puerto Rico** has an unaffiliated LCMS congregation that would like to partner with the Florida-Georgia District. President Walton

is working with Atlantic District President David Benke, who has a number of people in his District from Puerto Rico, to see if a

partnership can be forged.

- **Florida-Georgia continues to lead** all LCMS Districts in the number and percentage of early childhood programs that are NLSA accredited, and our elementary/middle/high schools are in the top three.
- **Veterans of the Cross** will next convene March 3-5, 2014, with featured speaker California – Nevada – Hawaii District President Robert Newton. Peace-Decatur Pastor Victor Belton will be the Bible study leader.
- **President’s Circle** is going well, with continued opportunities to support workers and ministries. Among recent support provided was assistance to victims of the Oklahoma tornados.

CONGREGATIONS: Congregations of the Florida-Georgia District are growing communities of welcoming, vibrant and faithful followers of Jesus.

- **Building is happening again,** a good sign of a slowly recovering economy. Recent groundbreakings reported in this issue include Living Faith-Cumming, GA, and Amazing Grace-The Villages, FL.

President Walton reported that congregational growth is happening all over the District.

“We are hearing wonderful reports about the things that our congregations are doing,” he said, “and how they are actively engaging with their communities.”

- **The Church Worker Family Care Commission** is now chaired by Megan Meissler, who works with Lutheran Counseling Services and has been a committee member. She replaces Rev. Tim Hartner, who stepped away to fill a Circuit Visitor vacancy.

- **President’s Convocation** is scheduled for October 2014 under

the theme “Renewal from the Inside Out” with a focus on Church Revitalization as well as the personal renewal of church workers. Dr. John D. Eckrich of Grace Place and Bill Woolsey from the FiveTwo Network will be among the presenters. The goal is to have time for personal growth as participants seek to revitalize congregations.

OUTREACH: Living out their faith in Jesus with urgency and joy, the people of the Florida-Georgia District eagerly invest, both individually and corporately, in bold and intentional service and witness to make known the love of Christ to all people.

- **Lutheran Hour Ministries Outreach Initiative** was introduced to our District in May during the Regional Pastors’ Conference. As of the board meeting, 48 District congregations have covenanted to be part of the Outreach Initiative, with eight more working on it and just one refusal. The goal of the Outreach Initiative is to double the number of new believers inside Florida-Georgia by 2015 – almost 5,000 new believers joining God’s family.

- **Muslim Ministry Task Force** is slowly moving forward. District

Before Addressing Business

Mission Executive Douglas Kallesen is coordinating the effort; the group is working on making resource materials available.

- **Mission Loan Program** is being implemented by the Mission Advisory Council. Mission congregations may request funds at a zero percent rate if they meet specific criteria. Repayment of loaned dollars within six months, and that money is put back into the ministry. This model makes it possible for mission to be used perpetually.

- **New mission work** for 2013 is under way at:

Estero, FL
Faith Korean | Marietta, GA
St. John the Apostle | Buford, GA
Commerce, GA
Trinity Orlando Mission

- **Another 25 potential new start** areas have been identified across Florida and Georgia. Rev. Kallesen is focusing on communicating and confirming the locations and areas for starts with neighboring churches and circuit congregations.

FUNDING THE MISSION:

While not one of the critical targets, Funding the Mission is crucial to reaching any of the targets. We desire to be responsible stewards of the resources that God provides us through the members and congregations of the Florida-Georgia District. Working together, trusting God’s provision, encouraging one another, we can accomplish many things for the sake of Jesus.

The report to the Board was that while we still have challenges and in spite of 40 congregations that do not provide support, the District is in overall ‘good shape.’

Fiscal year is in cautious ‘thumbs-up’ mode. There was a clean audit result.

- **Lutheran Church Extension Fund** reported the following loan approvals:
Grace/Jacksonville - \$340,000



Living Hope/Kennesaw - \$50,000
Trinity/Downtown Orlando - \$6.2 million
Amazing Grace/Oxford - \$125,000 increase
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer /Sanford - \$115,000

- **As of June 2013** just two loans totaling \$2.7 million were



delinquent, a drop from 16 delinquent loans valued at \$27.7 million in January of 2010.

- **LCEF services** provided include Architectural Advisory Committee, used by Timothy/Woodstock; St Paul/Peachtree City and Peace/Decatur; Laborers for Christ at Trinity/Downtown Orlando; School Marketing at Holy Cross/North Miami, Trinity/Rockledge; Gloria Dei/Davie; Shepherd of the Coast/Fort Lauderdale. You Lost Me

During the meeting, Board members began their discussions of the book *You Lost Me*, focusing on why many youth are leaving the church.

The book defined three groups of this generation:

Nomads, who wander from the institutional church and put all of their church connections and relationships on ice. Church is optional and characterized by a low commitment level.

Prodigals, who disavow their faith entirely

ripping up their faith roots to become ex-Christians. This includes those who ‘deconvert’ or switch to another faith.

Exiles, who feel that their faith does not fit in the world they inhabit. They feel stuck between the comfortable, predictable world of faith and the culture that they hope to influence. The tension they feel is between church and culture. A hallmark is the feeling that vocation is disconnected from their church experience.

The pressing question, then, is : How might the Church in our day, recognizing that we are in a post-churched culture, rediscover the intergenerational power of the assembly of the saints?

Thoughtful discussion began that will pick up as the Board continues to study the book in future meetings. ■

In photos above, members of the District board of directors participate in the new office dedication. Lower photo on this page: Nancy Volz presents President Greg Walton with an photo of an “eternal candle” the board members purchased for the chapel/board room.



Praise, Thanksgiving Celebrate

Photos this page, clockwise from left: Marlyse Seaman was the accompanist and hymn leader for the dedication service.

District Executive Director for School Ministries Mark Brink shared a power point presentation of the history of the Florida-Georgia District.

District Public Relations Director John List demonstrates the technology in the new board room using an i-pad.

Board Chairman, the Rev. James Guelzow, visits with board member Jon Brazee during the reception.

Board member Sonia Tellez was one of the scripture readers.

Rev. Gerry Seaman, LCEF and Financial VP Daniel J. Reichard, Executive Assistant to the President David Weidner, Mission Executive Douglas Kallesen and Cathy Weidner watch the historical presentation.

New Office Dedication

Photos this page, clockwise, from right: District President Greg Walton accepts the gift from the Board of Directors — an eternal-flame lamp for the chapel/board room.

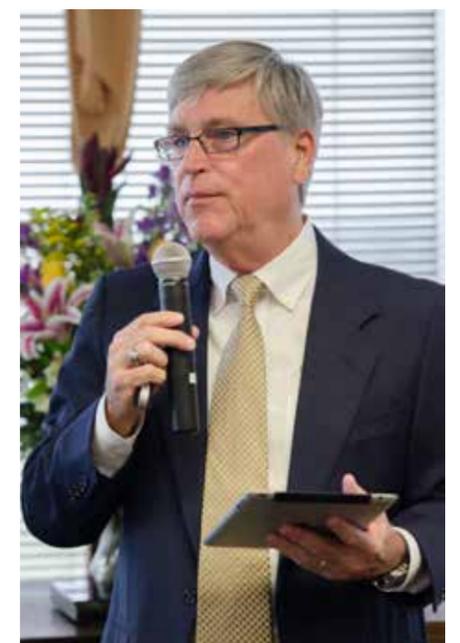
President Walton with LCMS Regional Vice President Bob Kuhn (left) and LCMS President Matthew Harrison (right).

Mark Brink, Education Executive for the District.

Pastor David Brighton, First Vice President of the District.

Pastor Frank Marshall, Fifth Vice President of the District.

Trinity Orlando Pastor Billy Brath visits with Cindy Hammerstrom of the District staff.



Mission Exec Kallesen on Sabbatical

Rev. Douglas Kallesen, Florida-Georgia Executive Director for Mission and Outreach, will be taking a sabbatical from his normal duties with the District beginning Tuesday, October 1.

He will return to his full-time ministry with the District in early January 2014.

“Doug has served the District since 2001 when he accepted the Call to serve in the Mission and Outreach office,” said Florida-Georgia President Greg Walton.

The District has a sabbatical policy which permits the President to grant up to a three-month sabbatical leave to called executives who have served a minimum of



seven years in the District and have presented a plan to the President for approval.

“Doug will be using this time to rest, reflect, study discipleship, travel and spend time with his family,” Walton added.

“He and his wife Desiree are expecting their first grandchild in December, so they are looking forward to having the time to welcome the new addition to their family as Doug’s sabbatical draws to a close.”

During Kallesen’s absence please direct your questions regarding Mission and Outreach to his assistant, Cindy Hammerstrom, in the District office — 407-857-5556, extension 6 or chammerstrom@flgadistrict.org. ■

Four Tips to Help Maximize Social Security Incorporating Social Security Into a Retirement Strategy is a Smart Move

The money taken out of your paycheck every month may be unwelcome now, but it can give you monthly income later in life.

However, some question if Social Security will last long enough for those in the work force now to be able to receive these benefits. According to Social Security trustees, enough reserves exist for the system to pay 100 percent of promised benefits until 2033, without further reform. Full benefits are available at age 65 for those born before 1938, gradually increasing to age 67 for those born in 1960 or later. There is more to Social Security than just applying for retirement benefits when you are eligible at age 62 or over. By waiting, you can maximize your benefits, which will increase every year you choose to wait to file for Social Security retirement benefits.

Thrivent Financial suggests you consider these four tips before applying for Social Security. Don’t assume it won’t be there. Social Security is projected to last at least until 2033, so the first mistake is writing it off as a resource that won’t be available. Planning early for the role Social Security will play in your retirement will prevent you from

being caught off guard and missing out on increased benefits once you are ready to start collecting. Know your situation. Retirement income planning is critical. Social Security has many nuances, so a personalized approach is necessary to get a better grasp of your retirement future. By using your current information from the Social Security Administration, financial representatives may be able to create scenarios to give you an idea of how the age you begin receiving distributions can affect the monthly amounts you will receive. For example, if you’re divorced or widowed, a financial representative will be able to calculate the different ways you can claim benefits and how they can affect your retirement strategy. Wait to draw. Now that you are planning for it, you can figure out when the right time for you to start receiving benefits. For many people, this will most often be after the age that you are eligible to start collecting full benefits. For every year that you delay, Social Security benefits will increase by a set percentage, eventually putting your monthly benefit above 100 percent. Delaying can also multiply the benefits after it is adjusted for cost-of-living

and can potentially reduce the number of years benefits are subject to income taxes. Factors to consider as to when to file for your Social Security benefits include: health status, life expectancy, need for income, future employment, and survivor needs. A financial representative can help you build all of this information into an overall retirement strategy. Get your financial house in order. If you delay your Social Security benefits, you will need to have another way to pay for your needs while you are not working. If you

planned early enough, you will likely have adjusted your finances so that you are prepared. Again, talking to a representative can help you plan the best option for the interim time before Social Security paychecks.

Social Security can be confusing, but talking to a representative can help you clarify the role it can play in your retirement strategy. Once you have a strategy in place, you will better be able to enjoy your retirement years, without worrying about the next paycheck. ■



The A-List is getting ready.

The Arlington of Naples has officially exceeded its presales goal—and that means we’re getting ready for a much-anticipated event: ground-breaking. Founders have already prepared for a secure future—and soon they’ll be choosing finishes and fixtures for their new homes! If you’ve not yet joined “the A-List,” we invite you to learn more about significant benefits available only to Founders—and only until we break ground.



Call or stop by our Information Center today! (239) 206-2646 or (866) 986-9690

The Arlington Information Center and Model • 12276 Tamiami Trail East, Suite 501 • Naples, FL 34113

Mon.-Fri. 8:30-5 | Sat. 9-4 | Sun. 12-4 | Or by appointment • www.ArlingtonNaples.org



The Arlington of Naples welcomes people of all faiths, beliefs and traditions. A Lutheran Life Community—Serving seniors and their families for more than a century. Lutheran Life Communities: Empowering vibrant, grace-filled living across all generations.



You can’t always avoid a rainy day.

Protect what matters most.

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District Delegation Inspired, Energized by

The 2013 LWML Convention in beautiful, welcoming Pittsburgh was a wonderful experience! The Florida-Georgia delegation was housed less than a 10-minute walk to the riverfront convention center, which offered panoramic vistas of rivers, bridges, stadiums and mountains.

This was my first time as a voting delegate, so imagine my surprise when I found myself in the second row, directly in front of the LWML Cross and the president's podium! To say what inspired me most is difficult, but I always find the presentations by the "Mites in Action" speakers to be powerful testaments to just how much God blesses the mites that are given, as they tell and show just how LWML Mission Grants are used.

Here's what others in the Florida-Georgia Delegation had to say:

Bunnie Koelsch, District President:

Wow! It was such an exciting week as well as an uplifting experience. More than 3,100 people attended under the theme "Quenched! By the Water," based on John 4:14. At the Opening Worship, Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor inspired us to come to be quenched and refreshed by the Living Water, so that we can be quenchers for others. The live-streamed service was picked up in seven countries and 46 states.

Water was brought from both

Florida and Georgia to merge in the fountain with water from all the other districts. As one body, we adopted a \$1.83-million mission goal for the 2013-2015 Biennium to fund 18 mission grants. As is the case at each LWML gathering, this was a special event in its own way: mission speakers, Bible studies, meeting national officers, selecting mission grants; communing and worshipping with thousands of sisters in Christ, renewing friendships and making new friends. I look forward to the 2015 LWML convention in Des Moines, Iowa.

Rev. Tod Shouse, District Pastoral Counselor: A First Timer's Thoughts . . .

I really didn't know what to expect. I'd heard from so many that I would really enjoy the convention and all the activities surrounding it. I couldn't wait to get there. After a few travel hiccups I made it to Pittsburgh very late on Wednesday evening. Thursday I was scheduled for a servant event. Walking into the large room, I immediately felt the excitement. I sat down at a table to make Gospel bracelets and was welcomed by six wonderful women who were very helpful as I at first struggled with stringing the beads. You could feel the love of service in their hearts as we talked and got to each other.

I was privileged to help serve the

Lord's Supper at opening Worship which was absolutely awesome! The message from Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor was so inspirational. He reflected on the Samaritan woman at the well and how we try to quench our thirst with worldly things, but only Christ can quench our thirst.

The speakers were phenomenal. Dr. LuJuana Butts, "Quenched by the water for such a time as this." Rev. Dr. Victor Belton, "Therefore as those quenched by God's grace we should go forth and quench others with this living water." Bible study leader Donna Pyle, "Be the biggest hose on the planet."

Looking around the hall as we heard from missionaries and other speakers, I saw smiles and tears, lots of hugs and how passionate these Lutheran Women in Mission are. I saw almost 70 YWRs filled with the joy of the Holy Spirit, eager to serve their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Mission and mites and so much more make up the LWML. President Kay Kreklau said, "The LWML has existed for 71 years and by God's grace will continue to thrive because we, quenched by the water and the Word, will do God's work in God's time in God's way. You are the Lutheran Women's Missionary League! With the help of God, go and tell the world!"

I look forward to the next LWML convention, to renewing

National Convention

the friendships I made in Pittsburgh and the new ones I will make. I pray that all LCMS pastors will consider attending an LWML Convention. It is an amazing experience. You will be refreshed, renewed and Quenched by the Spirit!

Renee Kroll, Young Women Representative-North Atlanta Zone:

My experience as a YWR involved:
L: Lots of laughter. Elaine Bickel, our humorous interrupter, was hilarious. I laughed so hard I cried.

W: Water. We were quenched by the living water of Jesus through Bible Study and worship.

M: Missions & mites. The missionary flag processional was amazing! I praise God for the LWML's presence in the US and the world.

L: Love of Christ

I was hugged, prayed for, and ushered into an intimate fellowship with my fellow sisters in Christ. I will never forget this experience.

Raquel Moreno, Young Women Representative-Space Coast Zone:

Being a YWR made me feel like a VIP. There are times when it seems the younger generations are thought of as being the downfall of society. This was definitely not the attitude of the ladies at the LWML convention. The YWR group was involved in so many different activities that it was hard to fit everything into each day.

It is obvious that the LWML values the younger generations; the YWR program is proof that they are invested in the future of the LWML. Our ideas were welcomed, and we, in turn, learned from the more experienced LWML ladies.

The love of serving God and others was evident in stories of how the work we do as individual societies, when combined, can make almost unbelievable strides in sharing the Gospel with others around the world.

I am excited about teaching others about the wonderful ways in which the LWML is at work in God's Kingdom. ■

Photos — from far left to right — District 'twins' Nancy Fuerstenau (left), South Palm Beach President, and Trish Aamoth, Northeast Georgia President.

Florida-Georgia Unsung Heroes Dawn Sandvig (left) and Marilyn Baldwin

District Pastoral Advisor Rev. Tod Shouse with Young Women Representatives Renee Kroll (center) and Raquel Moreno

Atlanta North President Peggy Wagner (right) with LWML International President Kay Kreklau

Haskell LIGHT Mission Grant: 1,000 students from 145 federally-funded tribes attend Haskell Indian Nations University. LIGHT (Lutheran Indians Gathering and Helping Together) Ministry provides an opportunity to evangelize, recruit and train Native Americans and minister to students.

Pittsburgh Convention

by the Numbers

Voting Participants.....	581
Non-voting Participants.....	2,528
Total Attendance.....	3,109
First timers.....	800
Young Women Reps.....	67

Opening Worship Service

Live Streaming Visitors

Number of Visits.....	1,882
Number of States.....	46
Number of Countries.....	7

Convention Offering Totals

Offering #1.....	\$52,562.95
Offering #2.....	\$27,899.70
Offering #3.....	\$30,504.22
Offering #4.....	\$25,560.53
Mission Pledge Walk Dollars.....	\$69,554.60
Number of Mission in Motion Walkers.....	1,051

Heart to Heart Participants:

District Leaders.....	14
H2H Sisters.....	24

GIFTS FROM THE HEART

Quilts.....	1,256
Baby Kits.....	593
Men's Kits.....	761
Bath Kits.....	1,744
Devotional Kits.....	665
Total Items.....	21,954



Educators Ignited at September 2013

More than 400 participants from throughout Florida and Georgia gathered in Daytona Beach from September 18-20 for the Educator's Conference, themed "Connection Power 2.0."

"We chose that theme because this year's conference was part two of the focus launched in 2012," said Mark Brink, Florida-Georgia District Executive Director for School Ministries.

"The theme centered on the vital importance of remaining connected in a world that is becoming more fractured."

Options involving the use of technology to connect classrooms, teachers and students were explored in workshops, which Brink called "the high-tech focus."

He continued, "Plenary sessions focused on the need to continue to remain personally connected with our coworkers – the high-touch focus – and afforded participants the chance to personally connect with others from around the District in their specific ministry area."

Participants were seated by ministry area to encourage the formation of professional, personal connections. After table discussion on assigned questions, responses were texted, tweeted or emailed to the technology coordinator for immediate presentation on screens at the front of the room.

Another 30 breakout workshops were offered throughout the Conference. An exhibit area featured information on services and products.

Special speakers for "Connection Power 2.0" included Dr. Debbie Arfsten, DCE, Concordia University; Matt Bergholt, St. Luke-Oviedo; Melissa Forney, Forney Education, Inc.; Kim Marxhausen, University of Nebraska; and Mark Schoepp, Wheat Ridge Ministries. ■



District President Greg Walton, a graduate of Concordia New York, was honored with the Servant of Christ Award, presented by Concordia President Dr. Viji George.



Mark Brink with Karen Smith, Administrator, Peace-Okeechobee, who was honored with the Ben Eggers Award for Outstanding Educators



(Above) David Weidner, seated, Executive Assistant to the District President, was honored for his 40 years in ministry with a cross and baptismal water sculpture to remind him of his first calling that came through the waters of baptism. Presenting the gift were National Association of Directors of Christian Education Board Chairman Jeremy Becker and board members Leslie Leonard and Dr. Debbie Arfsten. Weidner is a founding member of NADCE.



(Right) District School Executive Director Mark Brink (left) and Helen Roenfeldt, Executive Director of Mission: Haiti, accept a check from Kris Pahl, Partner for Thrivent Financial's Florida and Georgia Region, to benefit the District's Heart for Jesus three-year earthquake recovery effort for Haiti. More than \$66,000 has been raised to benefit the island nation.

Conference in Daytona Beach



District School Executive Mark Brink, DCE Lisa Hellyer of Lord of Life/Leawood, KS, and DCE Nick Moss of St. Paul/Lakeland, were the coordinators of the Professional Connections portion of the Conference — roles they also filled at the 2012 Educators Conference.



Recipient of the 2103 Ben Eggers Award for Outstanding Educators Steven Borg (front) is backed by his fellow faculty members from Trinity-Delray Beach, FL.



Leading the worship and singing at the Conference were Rev. Tom Eggebrecht (far right) and the Praise Team of Ascension/Casselberry, FL.

Educators Honored for Milestone Anniversaries

- Jana Buxton 10
- Kristen Dotson 10
- Jennifer Follett 10
- Elizabeth Leinberger 10
- Renee McLay 10
- Sarah Menendez 10
- Chris Miller 10
- Jennifer Webb 10
- Kelly Weeks 10
- Pam Aldrich 15
- Karen Blank 15
- Rebecca Dupont 15
- Doug Meissner 15
- Lynn Mook 15
- Gabrielle Naeter 15
- Roslyn Noel 15
- Michael Popp 15
- Brenda Dobler 20
- Priscilla Flynn 20
- Stacy Knight 20
- Stephanie Letourneau 20
- Sherri Mackey 20
- Amy Ryan 20
- Carri Wetherell 20
- JoAnn Broadbent 25
- James Richards 25
- Kim Bierlein 30
- Edna Busch 30
- Sharon Coe 30
- Katie Schlotterbeck 30
- Karen Smith 30
- Sharlene Friederichs 35
- Reta Sollenberger 35
- David Weidner 40

Accreditation Certificates

- Eleven District schools received accreditation certificates, including:
- Trinity/Delray Beach, FL
 - Trinity Early Childhood/Delray Beach, FL (first time accredited apart from the school)
 - Faith/Hialeah, FL
 - Holy Cross/North Miami
 - Trinity/Kissimmee
 - Good Shepherd/Sarasota
 - Messiah/ Tampa, FL
 - Good Shepherd North Fort Myers
 - Faith Preschool/Viera, FL
 - Zion/Deerfield Beach, FL
 - Bethlehem Preschool/Jacksonville Beach, FL (newly accredited)

LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Spotlight on Services: CONSECRATED STEWARDS



As congregations recognize the need to renew or give regular attention to activities essential to the mission of the church, they are seeking help in the area of stewardship. Congregations are receptive to—even seeking—help to address their stewardship needs in a very direct way. LCEF's Consecrated Stewards is the resource to meet this stewardship need. This resource is now being locally administered in order to fully address the needs of congregations.

Consecrated Stewards is based on the need of the giver to give, not the need of the church to receive.

It is not tied to the church budget, and can be used at any time of year. Budget based emphases never raise more than what is needed to meet the budget. Stewardship emphases raise people to a new level of spiritual commitment and annual giving. Congregations often experience intentions of giving that exceed previous envelope giving by 15%-35%.

Consecrated Stewards is a stewardship education and commitment emphasis. It recognizes that churches that fail to talk about Christian stewardship on a regular basis often wind up talking about money all year long.

Consecrated Stewards is based on the Biblical principles of percentage-based, grace-motivated, sacrificial giving. It urges people to take a step forward in their stewardship life without pressure or legalism. It does not use gimmicks or fund-raising techniques. It emphasizes equal sacrifice, not equal amounts.

Shared Blessings

Has your congregation received an LCEF Loan since 2012?

If so, Here's how you can earn interest back on your loan!

The Shared Blessing Rebate Program is a way for Lutheran Church Extension Fund to give back to your congregation. LCEF will pay back to your congregation a rebate percentage of the principal of your loan based on the percentage of communicant members who are LCEF investors.

Doug Fuge, Lutheran Church Extension Fund Congregational Rep at Good Shepherd Gainesville Georgia recently wrote an article for their September Newsletter.

"With this program, we can receive interest rebate checks with the rebate based on the percent of investors. With a 15% investor level, we can earn a rebate of 1/8%. If we get the investor involvement over 50% a 1/2 percentage point rebate can be earned....If we could bump your investor percent above 50% approximately \$37,000 could be returned to us. If the minimum 15% level was met, it would still generate over \$9,000 in rebates to Good Shepherd."

Y.I. Club: where saving money is fun and helps others learn about Jesus.

Calling all Little Lambs, Mission Builders and World Changers! Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is introducing the Young Investors (Y.I.) Club to help children and teens save for the future while helping others learn about Jesus!

Open a Y.I. StewardAccount® with \$25 or more to benefit from these Y.I. Club features:

- Premium interest rate on balances under \$1,000
- Welcome packet with free club giveaway
- Y.I. Club newsletters and web activities
- Report Card extra credit
- Service Hours extra credit
- College Scholarship program
- Contests and fun!

3.5%



Little Lambs
Ages 0-6



Mission Builders
Ages 7-12



World Changers
Ages 13-18



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

LCEF—Florida—Georgia District Team:

Daniel J. Reichard, Vice President, DReichard@lgedistrict.org *
Mary Byrd, Loan Consultant, Byrd7980@bellsouth.net: (352) 592-3316
Debbie Talbot, Administrative Assistant, dtalbot@lgedistrict.org *
lgedistrict.org * (877) 457-5556, ext. 4
National Office: St. Louis lcef.org 800-843-5322

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. StewardAccount access services are offered through UMB Bank n.a. StewardAccount is not available to investors living in South Carolina.

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Go In Peace ... No!

The title of this article is taken from Acts 16, and quotes both the jailer in Philippi and Paul. The jailer's "Go in peace" was spoken under the orders of the magistrates who realized that Paul and Silas had been illegally imprisoned. They feared repercussions from higher authorities, and wanted the whole incident to "go away" as quickly as possible.

Paul said, "No! Let them come themselves and escort us out." (Acts 16:37) There are times in life when we as Christians must say, like Paul, "No!" when some injustice has occurred.

The pictures of burning Egyptian Christian churches are still in my mind, along with reports that a Christian orphanage and three Christian bookstores were burned to the ground. Some estimate that as many as 80 churches were destroyed – including the beautiful Amir Tadros Church in Minya, whose pastor told an interviewer, "We forgive them for they don't know what they

are doing." The homes of many Christians were pillaged and looted by Muslim Brotherhood mobs.

Christians comprise a sizable minority in Islamic-dominated Egypt – approximately 20% of the population. Several months ago 200 Christian homes and two churches were burned in the Christian section of LaHore, Pakistan, because allegedly "somebody insulted the prophet (Muhammad)." These Christians in Egypt and Pakistan are part of the Body of Christ. They are our brothers and sisters in Jesus.

We need to say "No!" to actions like these.

Paul didn't tell the jailer, "Well, maybe it was an honest mistake. It's OK." He and Silas publically pointed out the injustice, and demanded an apology. Speaking of the Body of Christ, God says: "If one part suffers, every part suffers with it; if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it." (1 Corinthians 12:26)

In August three members of

BURNINGBUSH

by Bruce Lieske
District Task Force on Muslim Evangelism

one of our LCMS congregations in Orlando said "No!" to a group of Muslims who were demonstrating in favor of the Muslim Brotherhood at Lake Eola in downtown Orlando. The three Christians quietly held up their signs saying, "Stop burning Christians churches in Egypt" – and the 20-30 demonstrators decided to move to another location.

The Gospel was not proclaimed, and nobody was invited to church. But a tiny measure of support was given for the wounded Body of Christ.

We are not like the Muslim Brotherhood, which many say is the real "mother lode" of radical Islam. We are a Christian brotherhood and sisterhood who will love and forgive our enemies, but who also not ignore their acts of destruction. ■

Note: a 4 minute video clip of the incident at Lake Eola is available, and can be emailed to you on request to blieske7@bellsouth.net.

Adidas Puts Concordia-Selma Team Back on Field

Less than a week after losing more than \$70,000 of equipment in

a bus fire, the Concordia College-Selma Hornets were sporting brand-new football jerseys, helmets, pants and shoes, courtesy of Adidas, the German sportswear company with U.S. headquarters in Portland, OR (location of another LCMS Concordia University).

"It's just a miracle," Concordia-Selma Trainer William Hall said of the boxes of Adidas gear that

arrived on the College's campus just five days after the fire.

All 62 people on the bus — players, coaches and the bus driver — escaped unharmed when the vehicle blew two tires, igniting the gas tank and setting the bus on fire en route to Birmingham on Saturday, September 21. ■

At left — Concordia's Khalil Osborn unpacks his jersey in the locker room at Demopolis High School, as the Hornets prepared for their game against the University of West Alabama.



Camp Trinity Posts 17th Successful Summer



Some of the Trinity Woods campers (left); Trinity Woods Camp 2013 Director Lee Hopf (center) with his senior staff during the week they were leading various tribes. The kids selected the names for their tribes.

Kids between the ages of 5 to 13 years old packed Trinity Woods Summer Day Camp in Macon from May 28-August 9.

A ministry of Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity-Macon, Trinity Woods Summer Day Camp is a Christ Centered outdoor experience where participants enjoy nature around the 17-acre Trinity Woods and Trinity Creek. A small congregation with an average attendance of 20 in weekly worship, Holy operates the largest Day Summer Camp program in the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod.

Directing the camp was Lee Hopf, a member of Mount Calvary-Warner Robins, GA, who is studying for full-time pastoral ministry at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis. A former college football player and graduate of Birmingham-Southern College, Hopf previously has served as a Junior Counselor, Counselor Assistant and Counselor. ■

REGION 1 CONNECTIONS

Vice President: Rev. David Brighton | Mount Calvary/Warner Robins
Liaison Board Member: Mr. William Gaik | Trinity/Toccoa
Liaison Board Member: Mr. Jay Wendland | Living Faith/Cumming
NE Georgia Circuit Counselor: Rev. David Wesche | All Saints/Blairsville
Atlanta N Circuit Counselor: Rev. Ray Borchelt | St. Mark/Tucker
Atlanta S Circuit Counselor: Rev. Larry Townsend | Christ Our Savior/Hampton
E Central Georgia Circuit Counselor: Rev. Roger Schwartz | Our Redeemer/Augusta



Rev. James Stoltenberg was installed as Intentional Interim Pastor at Lake Oconee Lutheran-Eatonton recently. Lake Oconee Pastor Ron Schornhorst retired from full-time ministry last spring, leaving a vacancy. Shown at the installation are (l-r) Pastors Greg Michael, Christus Victor-Athens; Dave Bernthal, Juliette; James Stoltenberg, Lake Oconee-Eatonton; Roger Schwartz-Our Redeemer-Augusta; and Dave Brighton, Mount Calvary-Warner Robins and First Vice President of the Florida-Georgia District.

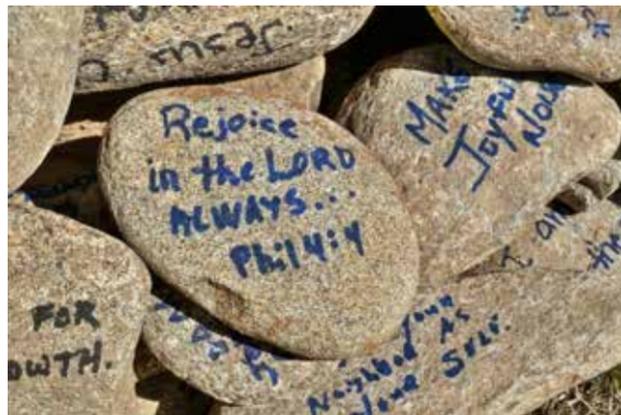
Amazing Grace Celebrates Groundbreaking

Members, special guests and friends of Amazing Grace Lutheran—The Villages gathered on the afternoon of September 29 to break ground for the congregation's new church/ministry center.

For the past five years the congregation has served the community out of First Baptist Church of Oxford's Education Annex. The new Amazing Grace facility — an 8,200-square-foot

building that will seat 290 people for worship and provide meeting and fellowship space — will be built on a 10-acre tract on Rainey Trail. AGLC has set aside land to provide a Community Garden.

Amazing Grace Pastor James



Rockey, who was called by the Florida-Georgia District as a Mission Developer and installed in June 2007, led the groundbreaking service. Among those participating were Rev. Doug Kallesen, District Executive Director of Missions & Outreach, and Daniel Reichard, Vice President Lutheran Church Extension Fund and District Finance and Administration Executive.

During Amazing Grace's morning service, each worshipper received a "River Stone" and was asked to write a prayer or Bible verse on it. Those stones were used as a part of the groundbreaking service and later will become part of the foundation of the building, reminding all that we are building on the Rock of Jesus Christ.

A block party followed the groundbreaking. ■

Shown, at left, during the moment of prayer after turning over shovels of dirt are (l-r) Chap Dinkins, Fabian Dinkins Construction, Inc.; Doug Kallesen and Dan Reichard, Florida-Georgia District; Hal Barrineau, H. W. Barrineau & Associates, Inc.; Ken Hovis, Amazing Grace President; Pat McDonald, Building Committee Chairman; James Rockey, Amazing Grace Pastor; Don Manley, First Baptist Church Oxford.



Y Y Y Y REGION 2 CONNECTIONS

Vice President: Rev. Dr. John Roth | First/Gainesville
 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 Counselor: Rev. Mark Schultz | Epiphany/Tallahassee
 First Coast Circuit Counselor: Rev. Dana Brones | Bethlehem/Jacksonville
 N Central Florida Circuit Counselor: Rev. James Rockey | Amazing Grace/Oxford



Peace-Dunnellon Celebrates Milestone

Peace Lutheran — The Church On The Hill — celebrated its 50th Anniversary October 20 under the theme "Fifty Years In His Grace."

Rev. Douglas Kallesen, Executive Director Mission-Outreach for the Florida-Georgia District, was the guest preacher for

the 10am Divine Worship Service. A catered luncheon and program of celebration followed the service.



"Fifty years of grace and blessing aptly describes the history of Peace Lutheran Church," noted Liz Koehlinger, public relations director for the congregation.

"First established as Rainbow Lakes

Lutheran Haven Welcomes New Administrator

Janet McCloud is the new Administrator of the Lutheran Haven Home Healthcare organization. A long-time resident of the Central Florida area, McCloud is an experienced home care professional and a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church-Oviedo.

Lutheran Haven Home Healthcare is an option that the Haven has provided for individuals requiring in-home nursing and therapy services since 2007. With a full range of nursing services, as well as physical, occupational and speech therapies, LHHH provides services through a Medicare certified program. Recently, LHHH has expanded its service to VA Aid and Attendance recipients living at home, and to subscribers of other private insurances.

In addition to the skilled services described above, LHHH provides in-home personal care and companion programs. These services include assistance with personal care, such as bathing and dressing, light housekeeping and laundry, transportation to doctor's appointments or to the grocery store, and the like.

The home care staff members serve not only Haven residents, but residents in the greater Seminole, Orange and Osceola counties as well.

"Bridging services to the surrounding community is another way for Lutheran Haven to care for those in need," said Linda Kirk, CEO. ■



Lutheran Church in Rainbow Lakes Estates, the congregation moved to the present location north of Dunnellon and was renamed Peace Lutheran Church in 1999, as a place to worship, learn, grow, serve and put faith into action."

The current church building was constructed by Laborers for Christ, with the help of Peace members. Rev. Terry McKee, Pastor, has served Peace since 2004.

The Mission of Peace Lutheran is, "We are a family of Christians called, equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed through God's Holy Word and Sacraments." ■

In photo above — Peace Pastor Terry McKee with members Gerhard "Bud" Koehlinger, George Daniels, Jackie Hucker, Liz Koehlinger are shown at an anniversary planning meeting.

ANNUAL SALUTE TO GRANDPARENTS — On September 18, the PTL of Trinity Lutheran School-Holly Hill hosted the annual Grandparents' celebration. Grandparents attended chapel, participated in classroom activities, and ate breakfast with their grandchildren. Established more than 25 years ago, Trinity Lutheran School serves students for the pre-K 3 to fifth-grade levels.



DCE Intern Serving at Hope-Plant City



Brittany Arlow has joined the ministry team at Hope Lutheran-Plant City as the Director of Christian Education & Youth, Intern.

A native of Palmer, AK, Arlow came to Hope through the Director of Christian Education program at Concordia University- St. Paul. As a student in the program, she has completed two years of study at Concordia, will serve this year at Hope and then return to Concordia for a final year of study and preparation to be certified for full-time ministry in the church body.

Hope has a tradition of training ministry interns. The congregation welcomed Arlow this summer with a special celebration that, according to Hope's Senior Pastor Dean Pfeffer, "will truly remind her that Florida is very different from either Alaska or Minnesota."



He added, "The members of Hope have truly welcomed this young servant of Christ into their hearts as she works with all ages of our congregation." ■

At left — Hope Pastor Dean Pfeffer with WWDCE Intern Brittany Arlow

Above — Hope Lutheran's campus Plant City

Y Y Y Y Y REGION 3 CONNECTIONS

Vice President: Rev. Dr. Brian Kneiser | Woodlands/Montverde
 Board Treasurer: Ms. Renee Varga | Woodlands/Montverde
 Laity Board Member: Mr. Jon Brazee | Christ/Cape Canaveral
 Laity Board Member: Ms. Sonia Tellez | Prince of Peace/Orlando
 Commissioned Minister Board Member: Lois Ford | Faith/Eustis
 Commissioned Minister Board Member: Nick Moss | St. Paul /Lakeland
 Space Coast Circuit Counselor: Rev. Gary Held | Risen Savior/Palm Bay
 Orlando East Circuit Counselor: Rev. Jeffery Moore | Trinity/Orlando
 Orlando West Circuit Counselor: Rev. Dr. Milan Weerts | Emeritus/Clermont
 Winter Haven Circuit Counselor: Rev. Dean Pfeffer | Hope/Plant City



REV. JUAN GONZALEZ is serving as part-time Interim Pastor at Beautiful Savior-Lehigh Acres. Former pastor Rev. A.J. Neugebauer recently accepted a call to Arkansas. A member of Bethlehem-Fort Myers, Gonzalez has been at Hope-Bonita Springs on a part-time basis. He previously served a congregation in Miami. Gonzalez and his wife, Eva, were involved with outreach to unchurched Alaskan natives through an LCMS organization this summer. Shown here is Pastor Gonzalez with District President Greg Walton

BLIND OUTREACH — On the fourth Sunday of the month, volunteers from Messiah-Tampa pick up residents from the community who are blind and bring them to the church for lunch. "It is a time of friendship, networking and getting to know one another," said Messiah Pastor Jim Guelzow. "We have a short Bible study after the luncheon then dessert, then departure. We have six people who are blind, only one of whom is a member of Messiah. This ministry is a blessing to us and to the participants. It is just one more way of sharing Jesus and being the embodiment of His love." Guelzow is shown in the rear row, third from the right, with the participants of the fourth Sunday blind outreach group.



Christ The King hosted a well-received concert weekend October 12-13 on its Largo campus featuring the popular Christian rock band Remedy Drive. Admission to the event included tent set up space, a free afternoon BBQ preceding the Saturday evening concert as well as a free continental breakfast on Sunday. Those attending the concert were invited to Sunday worship with the Remedy Drive Band.

Y Y Y Y Y REGION 4 CONNECTIONS

Vice President: Rev. James Guelzow | Messiah/Tampa
 Laity Board Member: Mr. Jeff Richards | Hope/Brandenton
 Commissioned Minister Board Member: Mr. Robert Ziegler | St. Michael/Fort Myers
 Suncoast Circuit Counselor: Rev. David Brockhoff | Holy Trinity/Masaryktown
 St. Petersburg Circuit Counselor: Rev. Arnold Piering | Emeritus/New Port Richey
 Tampa Circuit Counselor: Rev. Kevin Yoakum | Christ the King/Riverview
 Sarasota Circuit Counselor: Rev. Rossetter Leavitt | Beautiful Savior/Sarasota
 SW Circuit Counselor: Rev. Jon Zehnder | St. Michael/Fort Myers





2013 CONFIRMATION

Shown at their confirmation with their Pastor Miguel Sanabria (middle, back row) are members of Messiah Hispanic-Tampa Isabelle Sophie Corps, Jaqueline M. Navarro, Stephanie Abreu, Katherine Abreu, Sofia Paulino, Lara Radovanovic, Keishley González, Sebastian Riviere, Randy Medina, Alexander Santana.



Eleven pastors of the Southwest Florida Circuit enjoyed lunch at the new Buca di Beppo's Italian Restaurant-Fort Myers ... in the "Pope Room" surrounded by photos of many Roman Catholic Popes. It was the day of the September Circuit meeting, which was well attended by 15 pastors. Hosting was Circuit Visitor Rev. Jon Zehnder, pastor of St. Michael-Fort Myers. The meeting was the final one for Rev. A.J.

Neugebauer, who at the end of September accepted a call to serve a congregation in Laffe, AR. Shown at lunch are (l-r) Jon Zehnder, St. Michael-Fort Myers; Andre Mezilus, Bethlehem Haitian-Immokalee; Bob Selle, Amigos en Cristo-SW Florida Circuit; Fred Kohler, retired clergy; AJ Neugebauer, formerly of Beautiful Savior-Lehigh Acres; John Roth, Mission Developer, Florida Gulf Coast University and Estero; Jerry Lawson, Good

Shepherd-North Fort Myers; Nick Maskovites, Christ the King-LaBelle; Paul Koepchen, retired clergy; Karl Glander, entering SMP program to serve as pastor to English speaking people at Immokalee; Darrell Stuehrenberg, Bethlehem-Fort Myers. Not pictured but in attendance at the Circuit Meeting were Peter Weeks, Zion-Fort Myers; Richard Browning, Hope-Bonita Springs; Juan Gonzalez, Hope-Bonita Springs; and Ken Garazin, Marco Lutheran-Marco Island.

The Arlington of Naples Celebrates Groundbreaking

The Arlington of Naples, the newest addition to Lutheran Life Communities, held a groundbreaking ceremony on October 15. The property, located in Lely Resort, spans 39 acres and will be home to Collier County's newest full continuum of care retirement community. This development is the first of its kind in 30 years in Collier County and the first ever faith-based community in Naples.

The \$190-million project is scheduled to be completed in the

summer of 2015.

The Arlington of Naples was the vision of several Naples area pastors who saw a need for a local faith-based community and asked Lutheran Life Communities to fill it. The Arlington of Naples will offer 132 apartments and 31 villa homes, with amenities including an indoor and outdoor aquatic center, fitness center and multiple gourmet dining options.

"As we break ground on this new community in Florida, our goal remains the same as it always

has been," said Lutheran Life Communities President and CEO Roger W. Paulsberg. "We will faithfully serve and exceed the expectations of each individual who chooses The Arlington of Naples to be their new home."

Lutheran Life Communities exceeded its pre-sales goal for The Arlington of Naples in June. At the time of groundbreaking, approximately 20% of the community's residences were still available, divided between apartments and villas. ■

Y Y Y Y Y REGION 4 CONNECTIONS

Vice President: Rev. James Guelzow | Messiah/Tampa
 Laity Board Member: Mr. Jeff Richards | Hope/Brandenton
 Commissioned Minister Board Member: Mr. Robert Ziegler | St. Michael/Fort Myers
 Suncoast Circuit Counselor: Rev. David Brockhoff | Holy Trinity/Masaryktown
 St. Petersburg Circuit Counselor: Rev. Arnold Piering | Emeritus/New Port Richey
 Tampa Circuit Counselor: Rev. Kevin Yoakum | Christ the King/Riverview
 Sarasota Circuit Counselor: Rev. Rossetter Leavitt | Beautiful Savior/Sarasota
 SW Circuit Counselor: Rev. Jon Zehnder | St. Michael/Fort Myers



Lamb of God Outreach Program Unmasks Guavaween in Tampa's Ybor City

Under the theme "Your Mask has Failed," Lamb of God-Lithia Pastor Mark Wood led a team into Ybor City/Tampa on October 26 during Guavaween, an annual Halloween event.

"While this event has a reputation for debauchery, the Chamber of Commerce is working hard to make it more family friendly," Wood explained. "Family activities are planned from mid-day until 8pm,

when an adult costume parade is held and the more traditional activities of Guavaween take over."

The Lamb of God team was present and active during the family-friendly activities and the transitional time. The message—Your Mask has Failed—used a play on words to gain attention and to capitalize on the nature of this event, according to Wood.

The group used visual aids, custom tracts and a dedicated website to engage people with the Word.

"We hope to make this an annual outreach event," Wood said. "The idea grew out of the Republican National Convention Outreach effort that we conducted in August 2012 in downtown Tampa." ■



St. Paul Boca Raton Took the Mountain to Belle Glade

The Mission Accomplished outreach team from St. Paul-Boca Raton spent three days this summer at First Baptist Haitian-Belle Glade, sharing the mountaintop experiences of faith through Vacation Bible School.

St. Paul Pastor Steve Carretto as Mountaintop Sam led the students to Mount Sinai and the story of the 10 Commandments with Moses; to Mount Carmel, where Elijah confronted the prophets of Baal; and to Golgotha, where Jesus was crucified before His victorious resurrection.

“During our music and worship time, we taught our VBS songs and the motions,” Carretto said. “Then the kids taught us some of their praise songs in Creole – and it was amazing.”

Other activities during the three-day visit included arts and crafts; a community barbecue; bounce houses; and a donation center where residents were able to fill one bag each with items brought from Boca Raton to Belle Glade. “We had so much given by St. Paul members that we had this donation center all three days,” Carretto noted.

Future outreach activities to Belle Glade are being planned by St. Paul. ■



Left — “Moses” (St. Paul Vicar C.J. Luttinen) talks with “Mountaintop Sam” (St. Paul Pastor Steve Carretto) on Mount Sinai.

Below — VBS students leading a praise song in Creole.

Lower Left — Tiffany Tipping, co-chair of St. Paul’s Mission Accomplished team, with some of the VBS students.



Y Y Y Y Y REGION 5 CONNECTIONS

Vice President: Rev. Steve Wipperman | Our Savior/Lake Worth
 Laity Board Member: Ms. Karen Smith | Peace/Okeechobee
 Laity Board Member: Ms. Nancy Volz/Our Savior-Plantation
 Heartland Circuit Counselor: Rev. Richard Norris | Faith/Sebring
 Treasure Coast Circuit Counselor: Rev. Kenneth Larson | Emeritus/Lake Worth
 S Palm Beach Circuit Counselor: Rev. Douglas Fountain | Epiphany/Lake Worth
 Gold Coast Circuit Counselor: Rev. Walter Volz | Emeritus/Plantation
 Monroe-Miami-Dade Circuit Counselor: Rev. Alan Sielk | St. Paul/Miami



AMANDA DUSEBERG, a teacher at Redeemer Lutheran School-Stuart, took theology courses and passed an interview at Concordia University-Chicago to successfully complete the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod’s Colloquy program. By doing so, she became eligible to receive a divine Call, which was extended after the congregation’s August Voters’ Assembly.

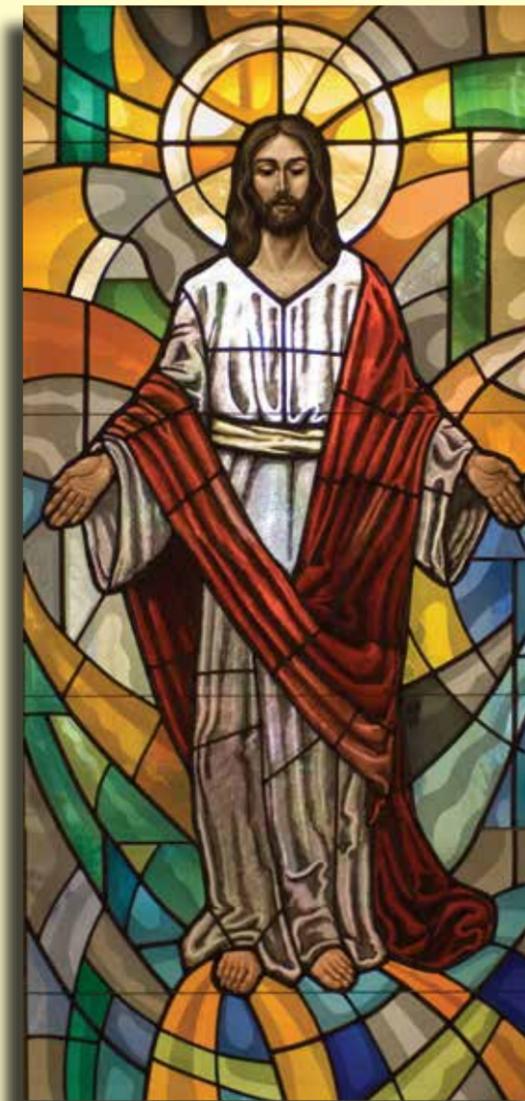


Redeemer began the current school year with 244 students enrolled, a jump from last year’s number of 179. According to Principal Jim Essig, one-fourth of the students are in the three VPK (4-year-old) classes.



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THE Back Page

Funding Boosts Start-Up Mission

Thrive Community Church, the new mission to Estero and Florida Gulf Coast University, received more than \$23,000 from Light of the Glades, a Lutheran mission that was concluding its ministry in Estero.

“The remaining members were happy to support this endeavor by the Southwest Florida Circuit and the Florida-Georgia District,” reported Rev. Dr. John Roth, who was installed as mission pastor for Thrive in January 2013.



The funds will enable Thrive “to more effectively reach out through purchasing AV equipment for the praise team and future worship plans,” Roth said. Roth has organized a campus ministry entitled Thrive@FGCU, begun house church meetings and is beginning to grow the core leadership for this mission. Speaking at the initial Thrive@FGCU meeting was Dr. Roy McTarnaghan, the founding FGCU President; his wife, Beverly, was one of the cooks for the evening’s meal. Senior Lauren Alles is the president of Thrive@FGCU, which meets weekly for dinner, Bible study, prayer

and fellowship. Mission trips and service projects are planned for future dates as the ministry grows.

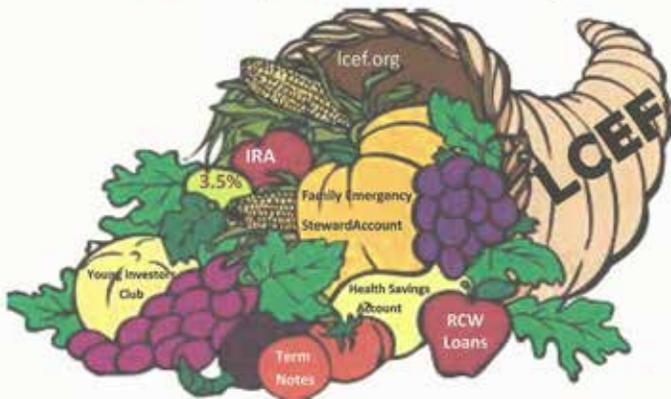
With a 14,000 enrollment, GCU is one of the fastest growing public universities in the country. Congregations with students attending FGCU are asked to contact Roth at johndavidroth@gmail.com. ■

Above photo — Thrive@FGCU President Lauren Alles, hands out information at the Student Involvement Fair.



Diana Guest, Judy Carter and Michael Doody (l-r), three members from Light of the Glades, with Thrive Pastor John Roth and Jim Kroenke, the treasurer for Thrive and a member of the Design Team helping establish the vision and strategic plan for the Estero/FGCU mission.

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