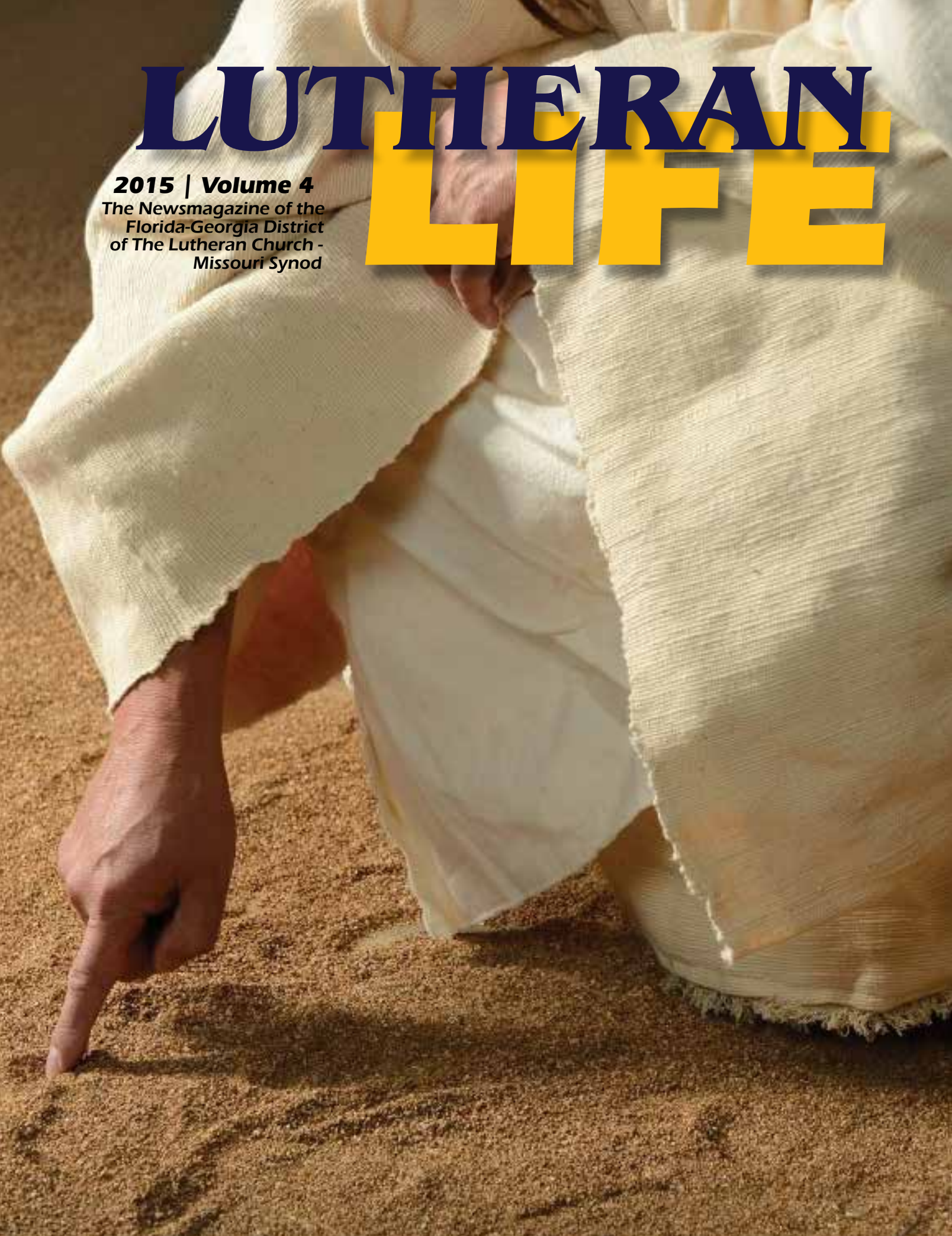


# LUTHERAN LIFE

**2015 | Volume 4**  
The Newsmagazine of the  
Florida-Georgia District  
of The Lutheran Church -  
Missouri Synod







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

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E-Mail photos, news, address updates to:  
[LutheranLife@aol.com](mailto:LutheranLife@aol.com)

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

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

[www.flgadistrict.org](http://www.flgadistrict.org)

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

# Registration Opens for Pastors, Teachers Conferences

The 2015 Pastors and Educators Conferences will be sharing calendar dates and a venue this year: September 23-25 on the campus of St. Paul Church & School / Lakeland, FL. This is the first time a District church/school campus will host these events.

Online registration is open for each conference on the District website: [flgadistrict.org](http://flgadistrict.org).

All District pastors and ministers — including Vicars, Deaconesses, DCEs, Music Ministers and Outreach Ministers not attending the Educators Conference — are

invited to the Pastors Conference. The theme of “Excellence ... pressing on towards the goal” is drawn from Philippians 3:12-14.

Among those speaking on that theme will be Rev. Dr. Robert Newton, President of the LCMS’ California Nevada Hawaii District.

“Talented” is the theme of the Educators Conference, inspired by the parable of the talents as told in Matthew 25:14-30. Featured speaker will be Dr. Tim Elmore, a best-selling author, international speaker and president of Growing

Leaders, a nonprofit that helps develop emerging leaders under the philosophy that each child is born with leadership qualities.

The 2015 Conferences introduce a new partnership with the two groups, who will join in worship, opening celebrations and meals.

Intentionally mirrored schedules will help with ministry



Rev. Dr. Robert Newton



Dr. Tim Elmore

teams traveling to the respective conferences together.

For additional information regarding the conferences visit [flgadistrict.org](http://flgadistrict.org). ■

## LERT Training Available

*Providing works of mercy to the communities that surround your congregation is part of what we are called to do as the Body of Christ.*

*If your congregation is interested in receiving LCMS Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT) for members or your congregation, it is now available through the Florida-Georgia District. If you have questions about LERT Training or would like to schedule a training session for your congregation, please contact John Elliott, the District Disaster Response Coordinator, at the District office: 877-457-5556 x7 or [jelliott@flgadistrict.org](mailto:jelliott@flgadistrict.org).*



## DISTRICT CAPSULES

by Greg Walton District President

### CALLING CONGREGATIONS

First/Clearwater, FL .....Sole Pastor  
Faith/Hialeah, FL .....Sole Pastor  
St Paul/Lakeland, FL ..... Associate Pastor  
Faith/N Palm Beach, FL .....Sole Pastor  
St John/Ocala, FL ..... Senior Pastor  
Faith/Parrish, FL .....Sole Pastor  
Our Savior/Plantation, FL ..... Senior Pastor  
Grace/St Cloud, FL .....Sole Pastor  
Our Savior/St Petersburg, FL .. Assistant Pastor  
Messiah/Tampa, FL ..... Senior Pastor  
Trinity/Toccoa, FL .....Sole Pastor

### CALLS ISSUED

Grace/Atlanta, GA  
Pastor-Elect Adam Ellsworth as Sole Pastor

Beautiful Savior/Lehigh Acres, FL  
Rev. Dr. Juan Gonzalez as Sole Pastor

### CALLS ACCEPTED

Grace/Atlanta, GA  
Pastor-Elect Adam Ellsworth as Sole Pastor  
Living Faith Korean/Cumming, GA  
Pastor-Elect Min Soo Kim as Associate Pastor  
Beautiful Savior/Lehigh Acres, FL  
Rev. Dr. Juan Gonzalez as Sole Pastor

Good Shepherd/Starke, FL  
Rev. Enwood Nevis as Sole Pastor

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

### CALLS DECLINED

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

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

### TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS

Timothy D. Leinberger ..... Michigan (C)  
Elizabeth A. Leinberger ..... Michigan (C)  
David O. Geidel ..... Nebraska (C)

### TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

Rev. Rory M. Hermann .....Southern (O)  
JoAnna Tubbs .....Texas (C)  
Rev. William F. Caughey ..... Kansas (O)  
Kip Sandersfeld .....Northern Illinois (C)  
Mary P. Middleton .....New Jersey (C)  
Rev. Michael Duchene ....Pacific Southwest (O)

### ORDAINED/COMMISSIONED MINISTER INITIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Rev. Jeffrey H. Carlson  
Concordia Seminary/St. Louis, MO, Pastor  
Trinity/Fort Lauderdale (O)

Kristen L. Martin  
Concordia/Austin, TX, DCE  
St. Michael/Fort Myers (C)

### ORDINATION

Rev. Eric A. Longman  
Concordia Seminary/St. Louis, MO, Pastor

### ORDAINED/COMMISSIONED MINISTER INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Robert Steinke, Pastor  
Faith/Dunedin, FL (O)

Rev. Enwood E. Nevis, Pastor  
Good Shepherd/Starke, FL (O)

Laura A. Blank, Outreach Minister  
Florida-Georgia District  
on behalf of LiveUCF/Orlando (C)

### EMERITUS

Erick Hoffert (C)  
Corinne Hoffert (C)

### CALLED TO GLORY

Rev. Thomas P. Armour (O)  
James R. Cruise (C)  
Rev. Warren J. Thomason (O)

### CHANGE OF STATUS WITHIN THE DISTRICT

Rev. Thomas Hackett  
from Active to Emeritus (O)

Rev. Jonathan Frusti  
from Active to Emeritus (O)



**AS** I reflect on the District Convention and our theme of “Engaging in the Master’s Business,” I feel a great deal of joy because of conversations at the Convention with numerous attendees who understood where we are headed.

They got it! Many agreed that it’s time for the church to stop all the talk and start to *walk the walk!*

It was a meaningful theme for me, personally, as it reminds me that there is still much to be done; I have three more years to help our ministries become better equipped, empowered and engaged to connect people to Jesus. So much time and energy went into the planning and preparation for the convention, and I hope it showed.

However, it’s time to stop talking about engaging in the Master’s business and *actually start engaging in the Master’s business.*

*There is much work to be done.*

There can be no question in our minds, if we are keeping up with the news these days, that the Church is under attack. Peter’s words to the early Christians seem worth reviewing: “*Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that*

*the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.*” (1 Peter 5:8–9)

How easy it would be to run and hide, to shelter ourselves in our churches, safe from the evil world all around us! Yet, this is the very world that we have been called to reach with the good news of Jesus’ life and death. This is the very world that Jesus willingly died to redeem. We now have the privilege of being His chosen representatives in the world. Jesus said, “*You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last...*” (John 15:16) Imagine that!

God chose each of us to bear fruit for Him in the world. That’s where we’ve been called to serve — in the world!

How often in Scripture do we find Jesus in the Temple or Synagogue? Certainly there are occasions when we find Him there, but more often where we find Him is in the world. We find Him sitting in the homes of tax collectors and talking to prostitutes and the sick

and hurting. We find Jesus seeking out the outcasts and lifting up the hungry and dejected ones.

Interestingly, the same is true of the early Apostles. They traveled from place to place, often in homes,

sometimes in the public square, sharing their personal experiences and their faith in Jesus.

One of the resolutions passed at our District Convention called for congregations to enhance their culture of outreach and be intentional in their mission to BE the church outside of their institutional walls. It’s a desire to impact the hurting world all around us with the good news of Jesus. And now, more than ever, God is providing us with opportunities. We shouldn’t cower in fear. We should stand boldly in God’s love, offering forgiveness and peace in the midst of chaos.

Jesus said, “*But I tell you who hear Me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.*” (Luke 6:27-31)

## Let’s Get Engaged!

These are difficult words for us to hear, especially when we already feel mistreated. We often talk about how the church culture is gone, that we are living in a post-church world.

Perhaps a better way to look at it is that we are living in a pre-church world. In many ways the world is more akin to the world in which Jesus entered. No one recognized Him, everyone was looking for something and they just didn’t know what. Jesus came and brought healing, hope and peace. He offered forgiveness and love, just the opposite of what people expected of God. They saw God as harsh and One who sat in judgment and didn’t care about them.

*We often talk about how the church culture is gone, that we are living in a post-church world. Perhaps a better way to look at it is that we are living in a pre-church world.*

Ironically, this is the view that many in our world today have of the Church. Many in the world see the Church as judgmental and self-righteous, looking down our nose in disgust at those wicked sinners all around us . . .

I suspect that most of us are familiar with the time Jesus encountered a woman about to be stoned because she was caught in the act of adultery. In the words of John Quiñonas, “*What would YOU do?*”

We may shake our head and say, “*Well, she probably deserved what was coming...*” The law actually demanded that she be stoned. Jesus taught a powerful lesson that day.

Listen again to the story: “*The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in*

*adultery, and placing her in their midst they said to Him, ‘Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?’ This they said to test Him that they might have some charge to bring against Him. Jesus bent down and wrote with His finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask Him, He stood up and said to them, ‘Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her.’ And once more He bent down and wrote on the ground. But when they heard it, they went away one by one, beginning with the older ones, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before Him.*

*Jesus stood up and said to her, ‘Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?’ She said, ‘No one, Lord.’ And Jesus said, ‘Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.’” (John 8:3–11)*

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if the Church became known as a compassionate leader in sharing the forgiveness of Jesus? I don’t mean simply among ourselves, but among those who are so desperate to know God’s forgiveness and often have no hope. These folks are all around us. They are in our neighborhoods; we shop with them; they are on the highways; sitting in the next booth at the restaurant; standing at the bus stop; in countless bars or hospital waiting rooms. We have something wonderful to share. We have real hope and real peace that emanate from the Cross of Jesus.

The world around us is changing drastically *and quickly*. The values we once cherished are being crushed and disregarded. Churches have lost credibility in their communities, and attendance is shrinking in many congregations that fail to embrace their community and meet real needs.

It is time for us to rise up and engage in the Master’s business. It’s time to act on our profession, to let deeds follow our creeds and become little Christ’s wherever God places

## LIFELINES

us. Now is the time, and we have some great ministry partners to help you get to where God desires you to be — in your community as a light for Jesus!

*It’s time to boldly move forward, trusting our Lord Jesus to guide us, by conducting His business on His behalf to connect people to Jesus! Let’s not just “play” Church! Let’s impact lives with the good news of Jesus for now and all eternity!*

The Outreach Initiative and Lutheran Hour Ministries have tremendous resources, even available online. There are all kinds of evaluations and processes to help you determine how and what your congregation can do to reach your community and engage in the Master’s business. It’s time to boldly move forward, trusting our Lord Jesus to guide us, by conducting His business on His behalf to connect people to Jesus! Let’s not just “play” Church! Let’s impact lives with the good news of Jesus for now and all eternity!

We can be confident in the battle because Jesus already won the war!

*Your fellow soldier  
for Jesus!*  
**GREG**





# Online Racing Game Offered by Thrivent Financial to Benefit Habitat for Humanity



Through a new interactive game introduced in June by Thrivent Racing, fans not only have the chance to win prizes, they can be part of a \$95,000 donation from Thrivent Financial to Habitat for Humanity®. Plus, just by playing, they'll also be entered into a grand prize drawing for a VIP trip for two to the championship race weekend on November 22 in Homestead, FL.

Thrivent Racing represents the partnership of not-for-profit

time updates and access to behind-the-scenes action with McDowell.

Now through October 15, fans can engage even further by playing the "Driven to Thrive - to 95" game for the chance to win prizes and live generously through Thrivent's contribution to Habitat for Humanity.

"This game is a fun way for us to engage with NASCAR fans and let them experience Thrivent's mission to live generously while benefitting a cause that's especially meaningful to us," said Craig Stacey, director of Marketing at Thrivent. "Habitat for Humanity is an organization Thrivent has partnered with for many years, and now we welcome the NASCAR community to join us. Plus, we are giving fans a chance to win No. 95 merchandise and even a trip to the championship race in Miami where the lucky

winner will get to meet our driver, Michael McDowell."

After launching the online game at ThriventRacing.com, participants will click to uncover nine tiles to reveal "hidden" game symbols. By matching three like symbols, the player wins one of the various prizes. Uncovering one special tile will unlock a donation by Thrivent to Habitat for Humanity in an amount ranging from \$1 to \$95.

Thrivent Racing prizes include No. 95 diecast cars, branded koozies, autographed hero cards and more. All players will be entered to win the grand prize: a VIP trip for two to the championship race at the Homestead-Miami Speedway.

No purchase is necessary to participate, and fans will have the choice to add their own contribution to Habitat for Humanity to the Thrivent donation or express interest in volunteering for a Habitat build, if desired.

The game furthers Thrivent's commitment to Habitat for Humanity and offers race fans a chance to participate in the effort. Thrivent is the largest nongovernmental supporter of Habitat through a unique partnership called Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity, which is in its 10th year.

More than 4,000 homes have been built or repaired in the U.S. and abroad as part of Thrivent Builds, and 4.4 million volunteer hours have been contributed by Thrivent member volunteers through this program.

Leavine Family Racing and Michael McDowell recently participated in a Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity Repairs project in North Carolina alongside Thrivent Financial representatives and members.

"I'm really glad that Thrivent is able to bring what they do with Habitat to the NASCAR community," said McDowell. "We really enjoyed being hands on and giving back at the Thrivent Builds event, and I'm thrilled that we can bring a part of that to NASCAR fans who can help us donate \$95,000 to this great cause and have a chance to attend the championship race

weekend in Miami."

A digital speedometer housed on the Thrivent Racing website will track progress toward the \$95,000 commitment to support Habitat for Humanity's mission of bringing people together to build homes, communities and hope.

After completing the game, players can earn bonus entries into the grand prize drawing for each friend that enters through a link they share via Facebook and Twitter.

The online game launched on June 22, 2015 and ends October 15, 2015. For official rules and more information, please visit [ThriventRacing.com](http://ThriventRacing.com). Race fans can like or follow Thrivent Racing on Facebook ([facebook.com/ThriventRacing](https://facebook.com/ThriventRacing)) and Twitter (@ThriventRacing) for the latest news, photos and videos from the team.



Thrivent Financial is a Fortune 500 financial services organization that helps Christians be wise with money and live generously. As a membership organization, it offers its nearly 2.4 million member-owners a broad range of products, services and guidance from financial representatives nationwide. For more than a century it has helped members make wise money choices that reflect their values while providing them opportunities to demonstrate their generosity where they live, work and worship. The organization has \$105.4 billion in assets under management/advisement (as of Dec. 31, 2014), and has been named one of the World's Most Ethical Companies for four years in a row by The Ethisphere® Institute (2012-2015). For more information, visit [Thrivent.com](http://Thrivent.com). Insurance products issued or offered by Thrivent Financial, the marketing name for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Appleton, WI. Not all products are available in all states. Securities and investment advisory services are offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN 55415, a FINRA and SIPC member and a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent. For additional important information, visit [Thrivent.com/disclosures](http://Thrivent.com/disclosures).

Habitat for Humanity International's vision is a world where everyone has a decent place to live. Anchored by the conviction that housing provides a path out of poverty, since 1976 Habitat has helped more than 5 million people through home construction, rehabilitation and repairs and by increasing access to improved shelter through products and services. Habitat also advocates to improve access to decent and affordable shelter and offers a variety of housing support services that enable families with limited means to make needed improvements on their homes as their time and resources allow. As a nonprofit Christian housing organization, Habitat works in more than 70 countries and welcomes people of all races, religions and nationalities to partner in its mission. To learn more, donate or volunteer, visit [habitat.org](http://habitat.org). 1 Thrivent will make a \$95,000 contribution to Habitat for Humanity International in connection with this promotion. Unlocking a tile is for entertainment purposes only and will not affect Thrivent's contribution amount.



Michael McDowell, 30, is an American stock car racing driver. He currently drives the No. 95 Ford Fusion for Leavine Family Racing in the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series. He is married to Jami and they have three children, Trace, Emma and Rylie.



financial services organization Thrivent Financial, Leavine Family Racing and NASCAR driver Michael McDowell. Thrivent is a primary sponsor of Leavine Family Racing's No. 95 NASCAR Sprint Cup car and McDowell for the 2015 NASCAR race season. Their relationship has been extended to include fans through ThriventRacing.com, a microsite that brings fans under the hood of a growing race team and offers real-



# District Congregations Recognized for Efforts to Connect People to Jesus

God is good ... all the time ... God is good!

He is at work across our District accomplishing His mission and His will in the lives of people like you and me. And He is using people like you and me as vessels of His mercy and grace!

On behalf of the Florida-Georgia District, the following congregations were awarded certificates to acknowledge their efforts and the Spirit's work in the areas of child baptisms, professions of faith or adult confirmations. These ministries are in the top ten of our District in their respective areas.

❖ Salem Lutheran Church/Lake Worth, FL, reported 30 professions of faith mostly as a result of community outreach through revivals and mercy ministry projects. Pastor Elie Louissaint told me that he already has received more than 18 new adults into his confirmation class and has another revival scheduled.

❖ Hospital de Alma/Leisure City, FL, had 18 child baptisms, and Pastor Benito Perez Lopez is seeing growth overall again in his congregation. Attendance and giving are also up. He and his wife, Deaconess Jesse, are worker priests who serve as hospice chaplain and hospital chaplain respectively. Their connections through their tent making positions actually enhance their

ministry by connecting them to more people who are open to the Gospel.

❖ Our Savior/Plantation, FL, was awarded a certificate for 31 child baptisms. As I met with staff I heard of the public school that was adopted by the congregation where children are mentored, loved and prayed for, and how God Almighty deepened many of those relationships. The congregation, which currently has a pastoral vacancy, is poised and ready for community outreach as they seek ways to connect people to Jesus.

❖ St. Paul/Weston, FL, Pastor Tim Hartner gave me a tour of the new sanctuary. I awarded him with a certificate for 34 Adult Confirmations, the most in 2013 for our Florida-Georgia District. "God is so amazing, He keeps sending us people," said Hartner. "We try to do our part."

❖ Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School/North Miami, FL, was my final stop on this road trip. I was able to worship midsummer in a church that was surprisingly full. I heard a wonderful Gospel message on traveling "First Class" with Jesus in a Lutheran service that was blended. There was a baptism scheduled, and I was able to award another certificate to one of our top ten congregations for child baptisms. Pastor Dennis Bartels announced that the congregation is going to launch into a



Top left, Pastor Dennis Bartels with District Mission Executive Doug Kallesen; top right, Pastor Elie Louissaint; lower left, Kallesen with Benito and Jesse Perez Lopez; lower right Pastor Tim Hartner

Bible study program called "The Story" in an effort to engage more Holy Cross people in the study of God's Word in 2015.

• 3,500 new believers annually – we had 2,635 in the first year of the Outreach Initiative through child baptisms, professions



## MISSION POSSIBLE

by Rev. Doug Kallesen  
District Executive  
for Mission & Outreach

Other top ten congregations will be given their certificates throughout the year on my travels throughout the District. Certificates are awarded based on LCMS statistics submitted by our congregations for 2013.

The Outreach Initiative and the District Board of Directors have established the following goals:

of faith and adult confirmation.

- Increase in Worship in at least 50% of our congregations.
- More people engaged in the study of God's Word in at least 50% of our congregations.

New Outreach Initiative online resources are waiting for you at [www.lhm.org/outreachinitiative](http://www.lhm.org/outreachinitiative). ■



# Inaugural Stewardship Summit a Success

More than 150 members of various Florida-Georgia churches gathered at Prince of Peace/Orlando on August 14-15 for the District Stewardship Summit.

The session was a forum for congregational teams to gain ideas for stewardship programs; talk to others facing similar challenges; and be encouraged to try new stewardship approaches.

Keynote presenters included:

- Howard Dayton, Founder & CEO of Compass – Finances God's Way;
- Rev. Max Biesenthal, LCEF Senior

Vice President-Ministry Support;

- Ron Chewning, Founder of Stewardship Advisors; and
- Rev. Mark Frith, Director for Lutheran Hour Ministries' full-time program being piloted in the Florida-Georgia District to create a culture of outreach.

"This was an exceptionally well done event with five great breakout sessions," said John List of the St. Paul/Boca Raton team. "The focus was not just on dollars and budgets; it encompassed full use of our time, talents and treasures from the Lord

for the good of His church.

Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton moderated the summit along with Pastor Dennis Bartels, chairman of the District Stewardship Advisory Council. Rev. Ken Green and the Prince of Peace praise team led worship. District Region Five Vice President Steve Wipperman led morning devotions. A range of workshop leaders kept an enthusiastic pace going throughout the two-day event. ■



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Speaker of  
The Lutheran Hour®

**DAVID KINNAMAN**  
President  
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## LWML Convention in Des Moines

# Elections, Adoption of \$2 Million Mission Goal Highlight Gathering

What a convention! Excitement, fellowship, meeting old and new friends – those were all elements of the 2015 International Lutheran Women’s Missionary League Convention. How could you possibly go wrong at this convention?

The convention theme was *Bountiful! Sow, Nourish, Reap*. Isn’t that what God does to us? We are sowed by the Holy Spirit, nourished by His Word and we reap the benefits in our lives!

It began on Thursday, June 24, with registration (and let me tell you that there were many, many registrants!). Some 4,600 people attended this convention – including 486 ladies who were First Timers.

There were servant events, choir rehearsals, caucuses and looking at the exhibits to fill the time on

Thursday. The opening worship service that evening featured Pastor Gregory Seltz – speaker for “The Lutheran Hour” – as the proclaimer. It was wonderful to see many pastors attending the worship service! LWML Florida-Georgia District Pastoral Counselor, Rev. Michael Zwemke, took part in this service.

On Friday delegates took their places, all ready to vote in the business portion of the day.

The District banner procession began with the Young Women Representatives and District Presidents. Our Young Women Representatives, Darla Schutte and Chelsea Storr, walked with our District President, Bunnie Koelsch. Six LWML past presidents were in attendance, including our own Betty Duda.

A mission goal of \$2,000,000 was adopted; 19 mission grants were

selected with one receiving a partial grant. A Florida-Georgia mission grant, Redeeming Life Maternity Home in Sanford, FL, received a \$100,000 grant.

After all of this, we heard from many speakers including Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod President Matthew Harrison and Lutherans for Life President James Lamb. Then came the Bountiful Bash Party; 4,600 people entered the exhibit area to have a great time with fun and games to end the day.

Saturday began with another Banner Procession. Our YWRs walked with the Heart to Heart Sisters and

Unsung Heroes. Darla and Chelsea held the banner and flag for Kenya. Our Unsung Heroes were Pastor Ed and Sheryl Dewitt representing Redeeming Life Maternity Home.

There were more reports given and then the introduction of candidates. Patti Ross was elected the 18th LWML President. The entertainment for the evening was the hilarious duo of Dina Vendetti and Jan Struck. While Dina entertained us with her fantastic piano playing, Jan introduced us to the different eras of the LWML from the 1950s up to the present.

Sunday worship service made us realize that it was almost over. The time had come. Our final service together; our saying goodbye to wonderful friends both old and new and heading off in different directions. Some heading home, some off on vacations. But will we do this again? You bet we will: 2017 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Look out Mormons, the Lutherans are coming!

Convention offerings totaled: \$182,173.94 with \$61,926.90 going towards the LWML Mission Goal for 2015-2017. ■



Florida-Georgia Vice President of Communications & columnist Joan Koch



All living past LWML presidents attended the convention: (l-r) Jan Wendorf (2007-2011); Virginia VonSeggern (1999-2003); Linda Reiser (2003-2007); Kay Kreklau (2011-2015); Ida Mall (1991-1995); Betty Duda (1987-1991); Gloria Edwards (1995-1999)



Florida-Georgia District members Phyllis Derda and Trish Aamoth



The Florida-Georgia District was well represented at the national convention.



# What Are You Doing to Reach and Retain Today's Millennial Generation?

During a church council meeting some years ago the topic of investing in youth ministry came up. To pour the resources of the congregation into programs and hiring a DCE was the discussion.

One normally quiet member of the council spoke up: "Will each of you name five youth in

church culture shifts to tweaks to ministries.

For today though, to start this discussion, we need to all find ourselves in the council meeting of the aforementioned church. Can you name five millennials in your church? Some of us will struggle for a specific practical reason: we don't

campaigns; it's about getting to know the young people God has placed around you and then working to engage them in ministry.

What could that mean for your congregation? Can a 19-year-old be on your church's council? Could a 23-year-old teach a Bible study?

Will you take the time to build a relationship with someone generations younger with you simply because you love them as a brother or sister in Christ?

Yes, of course!

Here's your challenge: Get to know five millennials. Engage one of them in real ministry leadership. Keep the conversation going.

*God's blessings and guidance.*

*Rev. Billy Brath*

*Billy@RevCreative.org*

*Billy Brath works with churches and leaders to develop and produce creative ministries that work to effectively reach the culture today. Formerly a dancer/performer, with an undergrad in secular Religious Studies and experience in digital arts & design, he is currently Pastor, Urban Missionary and church planter in Orlando, FL.*

have anyone in our congregation that age! (Thus the importance of the topic!)

If this is the case for you, seek out a few millennials in your community or family. Get to know them, listen to them, engage with them even if it just means small conversations where they work.

We as a church have to first get to know the people we want to reach. This relationship approach is timeless and yet often forgotten. Reaching millennials isn't about creating new programs or PR

our church." Most could barely name one. "Reaching our youth shouldn't be about hiring it out; it should start with us and grow into our church culture."

We've all seen the numbers. Church attendance in declining, and some say we have lost or are losing an entire generation, the millennials, those said to be born after 1980 up to current college students. In upcoming issues of *Lutheran LIFE*, we will explore different ways to rethink the topic of reaching this generation from

REVCREATIVE

by Rev. Billy Brath  
www.revcreative.org



**WHERE SAVING MONEY IS FUN...  
AND HELPS OTHERS  
LEARN ABOUT JESUS.**

Explore Lutheran Church Extension Fund's new website for toddlers, tweens and teens, playing fun and educational games, and learning stewardship concepts.

**Y! CLUB**

**Y! CLUB.LCEF.ORG**

## Lutheran Church Extension Fund › florida-georgia district

### LCEF—Florida—Georgia District Team:

Daniel J. Reichard, Vice President, [DReichard@flgadistrict.org](mailto:DReichard@flgadistrict.org) \*  
 Laura Zirbel, Loan Consultant, [lzirbel@flgadistrict.org](mailto:lzirbel@flgadistrict.org) \*  
 Debbie Talbot, Administrative Assistant, [dtalbot@flgadistrict.org](mailto:dtalbot@flgadistrict.org) \*  
[flgadistrict.org](http://flgadistrict.org) \*(877)457-5556, ext. 4  
**National Office: St. Louis [lcef.org](http://lcef.org) 800-843-5233**

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. LCEF StewardAccount® access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. StewardAccount is not available to investors in South Carolina.



# LCEF Architectural Advisory Committee

## Do Your Facilities Match Your Ministry Needs?

The **Architectural Advisory Committee (AAC)** is a service of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund that helps LCMS Congregations plan and build or remodel church buildings, schools, and other church-related structures.

AAC strives to help pastors and building committees with their facility questions, offering them advise on how to plan and build worship facilities that are functional, beautiful and give clear witness to the Christian Faith.

In the **Florida-Georgia District**, our AAC Advisor is Greg Beste. Greg along with District VP, Daniel J. Reichard, travel to congregations that want advice concerning design, planning and construction.



**LCEF's AAC Analysis will help you determine the best use and capacity of exiting land and facilities!**



## Make Good Facility Decisions by Getting Expert Analysis

**Greg Beste, AAC Advisor**, experienced in the design and planning of LCMS congregations and schools, will use your existing site and facility plans, current design standards, agency requirements for your site, and congregation and/or school statistics to conduct an analysis.



### Cost:

This is a **FREE** service to congregations. The FL-GA District covers the costs relating to this service.

Congregations that have recently taken advantage of the Architectural Advisory Committee Service:

- Beautiful Savior Sarasota
- Bethel Clearwater
- First Gainesville
- Living Faith Cumming
- Our Redeemer Augusta
- Trinity Delray Beach

For more information, please contact:  
**Daniel J. Reichard,**  
LCEF District VP  
toll free (877) 457-5556 ext 4  
[dreichard@flgadistrict.org](mailto:dreichard@flgadistrict.org)



### Florida-Georgia District LCEF Team

Daniel J. Reichard, Vice President, [dreichard@flgadistrict.org](mailto:dreichard@flgadistrict.org)  
Laura Zirbel, Loan Consultant, [lzirbel@flgadistrict.org](mailto:lzirbel@flgadistrict.org)  
Debbie Talbot, Administrative Assistant, [dtalbot@flgadistrict.org](mailto:dtalbot@flgadistrict.org)

[www.flgadistrict.org](http://www.flgadistrict.org)



# Lutheran Services of Georgia Fights Hunger at the 2015 Walk/Run

On March 15, 289 walkers and runners came out to Atlanta's Turner Field to fight hunger with Lutheran Services of Georgia at the 2015 Hunger Walk/Run.

A project of the Atlanta Community Food Bank, the Hunger Walk/Run is an annual 5K walk and "fun run" that

supports organizations addressing hunger. Together, LSG supporters raised more than \$77,000 to support LSG's services and other hunger-fighting programs throughout Georgia.

"LSG appreciates all those who walked, ran, volunteered, or otherwise supported the event," said Communications Manager Abi Koning.

Florida-Georgia District churches participating in this year's event included:

- Rivercliff /Atlanta, 8th highest fundraiser for LSG at \$2,735;
- St. Mark /Tucker, \$1,663;
- Oak Road/Lilburn, \$1,120;
- Peace/Decatur, \$665;
- Grace/Atlanta, \$580;
- Faith/Marietta, \$535;
- Christ/East Point, \$309;
- Christ Our Savior/Hampton, \$225.

For more information about LSG, visit [www.lsga.org](http://www.lsga.org). To learn how you can join LSG at the 2016 Hunger Walk/Run, contact Special Events Manager Allison Hood at [ahood@lsga.org](mailto:ahood@lsga.org). ■



# Lutheran Services Florida Good Samaritans Honored for Sharing the Light of Jesus

Lutheran Services Florida honored volunteers from Miami-Dade and Monroe County congregations at a June 7 dinner celebration hosted by Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Daniel J. Reichard, Florida-Georgia District LCEF Vice President, shared greetings on behalf of District President Greg Walton and gave a short presentation about LCEF. Steve

Cecchetti, LSF Director of Development, was the master of ceremonies for the evening.

Members of five Florida-Georgia congregations were among those honored:

- Duane Shelton of Martin Luther Chapel/Marathon.
- Michael Schur of Concordia/Miami
- Mary Reed of St. Paul/Miami
- Boris Rebolledo of San Pablo

Apostol/Miami  
 -Carlton Layne of Bay Shore/Miami.  
 The evening concluded with the singing of "A Mighty Fortress." ■



Daniel J. Reichard, Florida-Georgia District LCEF Vice President



Carlton Lane (center) of Bay Shore Lutheran/Miami with Bay Shore Pastor Erwin Perez-Archie (left) and Sam Sipes (right)



Mary Reed of St. Paul/Miami with LSF President & CEO Sam Sipes (left) and St. Paul Pastor Alan Sielk (right)



Boris Rebolledo (center) of San Pablo/Miami is congratulated by Sam Sipes (left) and Pastor Alan Sielk (right)



Michael Schur of Concordia/Miami with Concordia Pastor Chris Patterson and Sam Sipes



Dwayne Shelton (center) of Martin Luther Chapel/Marathon with Martin Luther Pastor Anthony Mandile (left) and Sam Sipes



# Real Challenges, Real Rewards:

Someone once told me that if mission work were easy everyone would be doing it. If that is true, and it is, then Haiti is a fine example of that statement. Not easy, ever. But with all things that take a great deal of effort and often sacrifice come genuine rewards.

The last few months of work in

children received medication for parasites and scabies. Children and parents received hygiene instruction and vitamins along with kits of soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, wash cloth and a snack.

Hundreds of children and adults received clothing and shoes. We thank the many LWML ladies and

other individuals who sewed shorts and pillowslip dresses for children.

We have integrated a simple Gospel presentation with stories and a craft into our Children's

Clinic so that every child and parent who attends hears the Good News of Jesus Christ. Local pastors and elders are always visible so that attendees are encouraged to connect to the local churches.

Another important aspect of the Community Health Outreach is to identify families in exceptional need. We were able to provide several very needy families with food for at least a month, connect them

with a local pastor and/or nurse for follow up and sent several patients to a reliable local doctor for care that we could not give.

There is only one doctor for every 10,000 people in Haiti, and most doctors are located in major cities. It is very difficult for people in the outlying villages, where we go, to get any kind of medical attention due to both scarcity of care and lack of money. Mission: Haiti care and medication are free. We would like to especially thank Waterman Hospital of Tavares, FL, for sending more than 30 medical professionals and construction workers who not only gave excellent care but also constructed the foundation and walls for the new orphanage kitchen.

The boys and girls orphanages have been receiving lots of attention — and the kids are loving it. The most recent team from Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church/ San Antonio, TX, repaired the water system that had broken down last year, working in searing temperatures so there is running water to both the boys and girls sides of the facility and the dear cooks don't have to walk more than a few

# Haiti Awash in Activity, Evangelism

feet for water. All the children can take real showers now, and no one has to carry heavy buckets of water for basic daily care. Water was run to the area becoming a garden so that real irrigation can be installed.

The girls just finished their first school year and were so proud of their report cards. Three young men entering high school this year will go to a special year of university prep instruction to prepare for the difficult university entrance exam next spring. Please pray for the men and women who work with these children every day.

Probably our biggest challenge was the Homes for Jubilee project. A unique type of low-cost, disaster resistant dwelling has been developed that can be a real life saver, literally, for Haiti. Costing \$4,000, the structure looks like a geodesic dome but with straight sides and can be constructed in about a week. The structure has no heavy ceiling to collapse and utilizes materials that work with the high saline content water of Haiti rather than rebar that begins to deteriorate immediately upon construction.

We successfully constructed five foundations. There were some very unusual delays and roadblocks in the beginning of this project, but we are confident that these are behind us now and that as funding is received, construction will move ahead quickly and the first home will be completed in September. Not only will this provide much needed housing, a team of men from Jubilee is being trained in the construction methods and is setting up a company so that they may move ahead on their own after six or so months of mentoring.

God is doing great work in Haiti. Men, women and children are coming to faith in Jesus Christ. People are asking for help to become self-sufficient, learn new skills and educate their children. By the grace of God and with His provision, Mission: Haiti plans to continue to walk alongside these precious brothers and sisters sharing skills and training, giving hope and help, offering love and encouragement so that God may be glorified.

If you can help us, if you would like to be part of a mission trip, if you would like to sponsor a child,

if you would like us to visit your congregation, if you have questions, contact us at [missionhaiti99@aol.com](mailto:missionhaiti99@aol.com), web, [missionhaiti99.org](http://missionhaiti99.org) or on Facebook at [Mission: Haiti](https://www.facebook.com/Mission-Haiti). Our mailing address is: Mission: Haiti, 2269 S University Dr., #227, Davie, FL 33324; phone number 954-868-8218.

Current needs are:

- Sponsorship for orphans — \$25-\$75 per month;
- Uniforms and books for school — \$60 per child for 27 children;
- Tuition for 2 older boys — \$20 per month for 10 months;
- Underwriting for Homes for Jubilee — any amount but \$4,000 builds a home;
- Team members for home construction September 5-18 (one or both weeks) — \$1,300 plus airfare
- Team members for Community Health Outreach October 17-24 — \$1,300 plus airfare.

We are so grateful to you, the Florida-Georgia District, for your support and encouragement. ■

*Helen Roenfeldt*  
Executive Director of Mission: Haiti

**MISSION HAITI**  
by Helen Roenfeldt  
Executive Director  
for Mission: Haiti



Haiti have been just that — filled with days of challenge but glittering with hope and reward. Four teams spent a total of five weeks in Haiti from April through July.

Two Community Health Outreach teams saw hundreds of patients and gave workshops to expectant and new mothers, teaching them about self care, baby care and nursing. Some at-risk babies were given special attention, and hundreds of





# FLORIDA GEORGIA REGIONAL NEWS

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

## Mount Calvary Members Enjoy Busy June

Vacation Bible School, a youth mission trip and a softball championship were some of the summer highlights for members of Mount Calvary / Warner Robins – and that was just for June!

On June 1, congregation youth and several adult leaders left for a mission trip to Nashville. During their eight-day visit the Mount Calvary team completed several service projects to help the Nashville community, participated in Bible study and enjoyed free time and fellowship.

This year's servant trip continues a congregation tradition for youth in 8th through 12th grades. Most of the planning for the annual excursions is done the previous fall.

Children from age three through 7th grade gathered at Mount Calvary from June 8-12 for VBS. The morning program was themed "Rock the House."

On June 12, Mount Calvary's

Crusaders were victorious in the final games of the Spring 2015 church softball league. The team won the Division 2 championship, a title they had also claimed in Spring 2014. ■



Above — The Nashville servant trip team from Mount Calvary included youth from 8th -12th grade and adult leaders



Mount Calvary Crusaders – the Spring 2015 Church League Division 2 Champions



### REGION 1

**Vice President:**  
David Brighton  
Mount Calvary/Warner Robins

**Laity Board Members:**  
Jay Wendland | Living Faith/Cumming  
Robert Chambers | Grace/Atlanta  
**NE Georgia Circuit Visitor:**  
David Wesche | All Saints/Blairsville  
**Atlanta N Circuit Visitor:**  
Jeffrey Jordan | Rivercliff/Atlanta  
**Atlanta S Circuit Visitor:**  
Larry Townsend | Christ Our Savior/Hampton  
**E Central Georgia Circuit Visitor:**  
Roger Schwartz | Our Redeemer/Augusta



The St. Paul Church & School float in the Peachtree City Independence Day Parade entertained spectators and shared a strong message. Local singer Lisa Kelly was the grand marshal for the annual event.



VBS students at Living Faith / Cumming filled a boot with coins totaling \$627.35 during the June 15-19 program to support Georgia Firefighters Burn



Good Shepherd/Gainesville hosted an evening VBS from May 31-June 4 with the theme SonWest Round Up. On opening night, Miriam told the story of how her brother Moses was rescued out of a basket in the Nile River.



St. Mark / Tucker, GA, hosted Camp Discovery for its June 22-26 Vacation Bible School. The program was open to children from age 3 through sixth grade; middle and high school students joined adults as volunteers.





## REGION 2

**Vice President:**  
Frank Marshall  
St Paul/Jacksonville

**Board Secretary:**  
Jay Winters, University Church  
Student Center/Tallahassee

**Laity Board Members:**  
Donald Kaufman | St. John/Ocala  
Lois Schaefer | Amazing Grace/Oxford

**Tallahassee Circuit Visitor:**  
Mark Schultz | Epiphany/Tallahassee

**First Coast Circuit Visitor:**  
Dana Brones | Bethlehem/Jacksonville

**N Central Florida Circuit Visitor:**  
James Rockey | Amazing Grace/Oxford

## New Charter Installs Pastor



Rev. Patrick McKenzie (at right) on May 31 was installed as pastor of Hope/Jacksonville, which early this year became a chartered congregation of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod within the Florida-Georgia District.

Located on the south side of Jacksonville, Hope congregation offers weekly worship and adult Bible study. Hope ministers to the community through three ministries:

- Family Promise, an outreach to families who are experiencing homelessness, unemployment and hunger.
- Lifetree Cafe, a conversation venue where people gather in a safe environment to discuss important societal topics — and where God’s perspective is brought in through Biblical teachings and prayer.
- Garden of Hope, a Christian-based tutoring and mentoring program that focuses on the mental, physical and spiritual growth of children 4-12 years old.

Rev. Frank Marshall (at left above), Florida-Georgia District Region 2 Vice President, officiated at the installation service. ■

## Bethlehem Visits Hometown Nazareth



Vacation Bible School students at Bethlehem / Jacksonville Beach explored the hometown of Jesus during morning visits from July 13-17. Sites included Mary’s house, where they heard about Jesus at the temple as a youth. Another highlight of the week was the VBS petting zoo. Approximately 105 children attended the VBS program. ■



ST. JOHN LUTHERAN / OCALA — the only high school program in the Florida-Georgia District — recently introduced new additions to its athletic program. John Bauman (top) is the new athletic director and boys basketball coach, and Chris Martin (below) the Saints’ new football coach. ■



St Peter’s / Middleburg Vacation Bible School students enjoyed a week at Camp Discovery from July 19-23. Students from pre-K through eighth grade were part of the fun and collected more than 500 pounds of food for local impoverished families. Bible stories, games, refreshments and fun were part of the week. This group photo (above) is a closing ‘selfie’ from Camp Discovery. ■



Thailand Trek was the theme of the June 26-29 cross culture Vacation Bible School at Abiding Savior/Gainesville, FL.

The evening program provided children from age 3 through 5th grade with the opportunity to learn new songs and rotate through age-appropriate stations on Bible adventures, Thailand experiences, Thai treats and Thai games. An adult VBS was also offered. ■

## First Lutheran Debuts New Logo

First Lutheran / Gainesville has a new logo that captures its rich past and its mission stance for today and the future.

The logo features a white cross formed by four rounded squares, reflecting the church’s foundation and direction in Jesus Christ and Him alone.

Now known as First Lutheran, the church has had various names in the past — beginning with St. Matthew in 1931. The current

branding decision — to use the moniker FLC Gainesville — reflects not only a posture toward simplicity, but also humility.

First’s proud history is reflected in the orange square on the bottom left of the logo. The church emerges out of its storied past and the ministry done in decades gone, a solid footing for today’s focus to grow beyond the current position as members INVITE, DISCIPLE, and SEND.

These three essential mission statements are reflected in the three blue squares and in the words undergirding the church’s name.

FLC’s campus has been undergoing renovations and updates, including work on the fellowship hall, classrooms, the church and campus improvements. ■





# Hope / Melbourne Impacts Community with Annual Mission Week



## REGION 3

### Vice President:

Brian Kneser | Woodlands/Montverde

### Board Treasurer:

Renee Varga | Woodlands/Montverde

### Laity Board Members:

Tom Reagin | Hope/Plant City  
Katie Abercrombie | Prince of Peace/Orlando

### Commissioned Minister Board Member:

Lois Ford | Faith/Eustis

### Commissioned Minister Board Member:

Nick Moss | St. Paul /Lakeland

### Space Coast Circuit Visitor:

Gary Held | Risen Savior/Palm Bay

### Orlando East Circuit Visitor:

Ken Green | Prince of Peace/Orlando

### Orlando West Circuit Visitor:

Milan Weerts | Emeritus/Clermont

### Winter Haven Circuit Visitor:

Dean Pfeffer | Hope/Plant City

Members of Hope/Melbourne kicked off the congregation's third Annual Mission Week on July 21 with a potluck dinner. The work began on July 22 with the first project: scrubbing floors at Pregnancy Resources in Melbourne.

Projects two through ten followed throughout the week:

- Caroling in July at Sonata Assisted Living, the Gills and Sun n' Green Condos.
- Cleaning up and planting at Joe's Club, a daycare center for Alzheimer clients. Pepsi Co. provided water and soft drinks for the volunteers, while funding from a Thrivent Action Team grant paid for the plants, pots and soil.
- Packing care kits for Christ Is The Answer (CITA) homeless rescue mission (60), His Place Ministries (35), Consulate Nursing Home (15) and for Lutheran Church of the Redeemer's handouts associated with its food pantry.
- Assembling 15 backpacks for children at Sherwood Elementary School.
- Delivering the 60 care kits along with non-perishable food to CITA – then serving approximately 50 men dinner provided by Two Chicks and a Pot Catering with support from Thrivent.
- Meeting with Nation Veterans Homeless Support near the Daily Bread in Melbourne to coordinate future assistance including participation in the Annual Homeless Veteran Stand Down October 3.
- Presenting this year's VBS program, "Camp Hope & Joy," to the residents at Consulate Health Care, distributing the 35 care kits and 20 lap blankets made by Hope members.
- Painting and flooring work at a local Habitat for Humanity project.
- Sponsoring a food drive at a local Walmart, with donations going to Bread of Life Food Pantry at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, one of the few area food pantries open on Saturday.

Thrivent Action Team Funds totaling \$1,000 contributed to the success of the week as did donations from Pepsi and Dr. Maryam Brazda. ■



THE BEARDED STORY TELLING LADY was part of the mid-June Vacation Bible School program at Woodlands/Montverde. The theme of the program was Camp Discovery. ■

# Lakeland Youth Travel to Atlanta to Support Stepping Stone Mission

THE HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH MINISTRY of St. Paul / Lakeland spent the week of July 18-25 serving the homeless and hungry in Atlanta. One afternoon was dedicated to working on a renovation project at a building that belongs to Stepping Stone Mission. The youth took down and disposed of more than 500 ceiling tiles ... plus a few rats. A Recognized Service Organization within the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Stepping Stone Mission is run by Rev. Joseph

Song. This mission was one of two ingathering recipients of the Florida-Georgia Convention this past June. ■



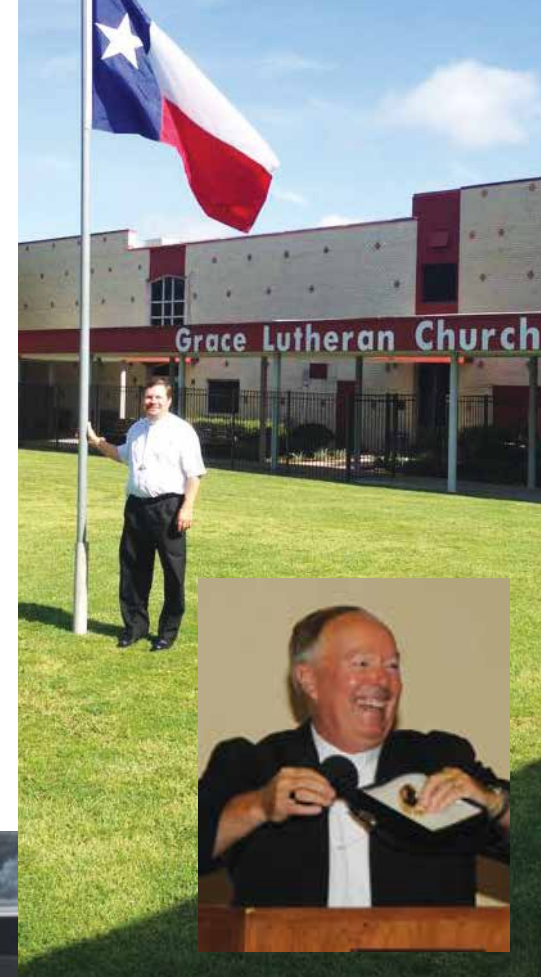
# LiveUCF Launching Second Year

LiveUCF has learned a lot in its first year worshipping on the campus of the University of Central Florida in Orlando!

"Since we gather in the Student Union as a student organization we are on the schedule of the University, and although we've been throw a few curve balls, God is good and we are ready for the Fall semester to begin," reported Rev. Billy Brath, lead pastor.

UCF is the second largest university in the United States, "so we know many Florida-Georgia members, friends and family members are students here," he continued. "Please connect us with your students by emailing [Connect@LiveUCF.com](mailto:Connect@LiveUCF.com)."

LiveUCF is hosting a back to school gala on Saturday, September 12. Details and tickets are available at [LiveUCF.com/Gala](http://LiveUCF.com/Gala). ■



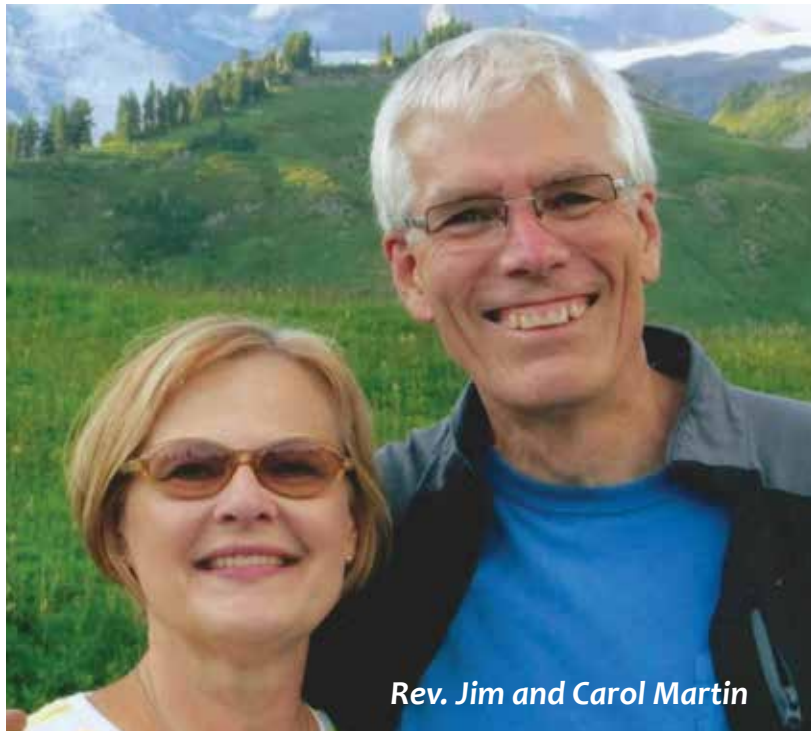
# Grace/Winter Haven Celebrates Transitions

Rev. Jon (inset photo) and Fern Frusti were guests of honor at a retirement luncheon following July 12 worship at Grace/Winter Haven. Frusti had served as Grace's senior pastor for the past five years following 25 years as a Navy chaplain. On July 19, Rev. Charles Reich — above at flag — was installed as Grace's Senior Pastor. The Texas native has been serving Grace as associate pastor. ■





## Trinity Downtown Orlando Welcomes Interim Pastor



Rev. Jim and Carol Martin

Rev. Jim Martin has joined the ministry team of Trinity/Orlando as interim pastor. A 1973 graduate of Concordia Seminary/Springfield, Martin has served as a mission developer in Fort Lauderdale and pastor of Holy Cross Lutheran/Riverdale, GA. He was pastor of Royal Redeemer Lutheran/North Royalton, GA, from 1982 until retiring in 2014. After his retirement, Martin completed the LCMS Intentional Interim Pastor training with the plan of serving congregations in transition. He completed such an interim at Historic Trinity in Downtown Cleveland before coming to Orlando. Martin and his wife, Carol, were married in 1969 and have three children and five grandchildren. They began their ministry with Trinity in late June. ■

## Evangelism Mariachi Style at Amigos en Cristo



Amigos en Cristo and Zion/Fort Myers sponsored a unique evangelism event at the Immokalee Amigos Center in late July, sharing Gospel through the music of Mariachi San Pablo.

“Since 70% of Immokalee residents speak Spanish at home, it makes sense to present the Gospel through music that speaks to the soul,” said Rev. Robert Selle, Executive Director for Amigos en Cristo.

In addition to the music, the event featured food, children’s activities, a prayer booth, conversations with the Amigos Center immigration staff and tours of the ministry center.

Mariachi San Pablo is an intergenerational music ministry of Ysleta Lutheran Mission Human Care in El Paso, TX, one of the poorest communities along the border with Mexico. The group has traveled to 17 different states as well as into northern Mexico.

Immigration attorney Lindsay Ray is the newest member of the Amigos team. A 2012 graduate of Ave Maria School of Law, Ray previously worked at Catholic Charities until joining the Amigos Center, which offers family-based and country specific immigration services. Amigos Center also has a special program for immigrant victims of crime.

Ray, the sole immigration practitioner in this program, spends half of her time working exclusively with victims of crime. She meets with every client individually and tailors a plan that meets their immigration needs and fits their lives. ■



Immigration attorney Lindsay Ray is the newest member of the Amigos team

## Bethlehem VBS Visited Everest

“It does take a village to lead a week of VBS,” said Bethlehem/Fort Myers Pastor Darrell Stuehrenberg.

Specifically, more than 30 adult, high school and middle school volunteers helped kick off and lead Bethlehem’s Everest Vacation Bible School from July 20-24. Between 30 and 40 children were in attendance each day.

“Not bad for a small southwest Florida congregation at the leanest time of their worship attendance for the year with the snowbirds all up north,” Stuehrenberg added.

After five fun-packed days of Everest, the participants shared songs and stories with the congregation on the next Sunday. ■



### REGION 4

#### Vice President:

Jon Zehnder | St. Michael/Fort Myers

#### Lay Board Members:

Jeff Richards | Hope/Brandenton  
Beverly Nyce | Marco/Marco Island

#### Commissioned Minister Board Member:

Jesse Crosmer | Our Savior/St. Petersburg

#### Commissioned Minister Board Member:

Nick Moss | St. Paul /Lakeland

#### Suncoast Circuit Visitor:

David Brockhoff | Holy Trinity/Masaryktown

#### St. Petersburg Circuit Visitor:

Arnold Piering | Emeritus/New Port Richey

#### Tampa Circuit Visitor:

Kevin Yoakum | Christ the King/Riverview

#### Sarasota Circuit Visitor:

Rossetter Leavitt | Beautiful Savior/Sarasota

#### SW Circuit Visitor:

Richard Browning | Hope/Bonita Springs



# VBS Students Dance, Play, Learn and Move Toward Jesus

More than 120 participants and 75 leaders gathered for a week-long Vacation Bible School at Our Savior/St. Petersburg for Move, a curriculum designed to introduce via video people whose lives changed direction after encountering Jesus.

Stories studied during the week included the shepherds, John the Baptist, the calling of the disciples, Zacchaeus and Nicodemus.

"In addition to videos and storytelling, kids participated in arts and crafts, activities, games and a zumba-like dance party every night," said Meg Aiosa, Our Savior Director of Communications. "It was so much fun!"

Each night began with a free family dinner. Registrants then broke off into assigned color groups for VBS activities.

Our Savior Pastor Paul Burtzlaff conducted a three-day parenting workshop that ran simultaneously during VBS.

The week was planned, organized and facilitated by Angie

Meissner, Our Savior School 4th grade teacher, and Cassie Moore, Our Savior teacher and DCE.

"The week was a huge success full of energy, excitement and love for God," concluded Aiosa.

"We are looking forward to an exciting year for our Youth Ministry." ■



**MOVE**

**MOVE**



THE 2015 CONFIRMATION CLASS for Trinity/Cape Coral included Braysen Tandy, Joshua Gray, Jennifer Kolak and Jacob Kolak. This is the first time in recent memory that a Trinity parent was confirmed with their child. ■



**REGION 5**



**Vice President:**

Steve Wipperman | Our Savior/Lake Worth

**Laity Board Members:**

Karen Smith | Peace/Okeechobee  
Samuel Ludington/Holy Cross-North Miami

**Heartland Circuit Visitor:**

Richard Norris | Trinity/Lake Placid

**Treasure Coast Circuit Visitor:**

Craig Bode | Trinity/Fort Pierce

**S Palm Beach Circuit Visitor:**

James Weist | Epiphany/Lake Worth

**Gold Coast Circuit Visitor:**

Timothy Hartner | St. Paul/Weston

**Monroe-Miami-Dade Circuit Visitor:**

Alan Sielk | St. Paul/Miami

## Redeemer's Outreach Cornerstone Fellowship Hosts Outdoor VBS

Cornerstone Fellowship, a ministry arm of Redeemer Church & School/Stuart, hosted an outdoor Vacation Bible School at Whispering Pines Park in Port St. Lucie from June 15-19.

Themed "Living in God's Creation," the program covered God's creation of all living things, God's creation of man, man's fall into sin, Jesus' saving work on the cross and the students' roles as God's creatures in His creation.

This was the first time the church sponsored VBS in Whispering Pines Park. During the week attendance doubled from nine to 18 children.

Redeemer is planning to plant a new church in St. Lucie County about 30 minutes from its campus. The congregation has been hosting a variety of events in that region under the name Cornerstone Fellowship. ■





VBS week at Gloria Dei/Davie took 155 students and 54 helpers to Camp Discovery, where they learned of the many gifts they have received from Jesus: courage, wisdom, faith, salvation and love.

More than 225 people attended the closing night program, where parents had the opportunity to see VBS pictures and hear the children sing songs learned during the week. An ice cream social capped the evening.

The mission project for 2015 was the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod sponsored Big City Mission, which helps inner-city boys and girls by providing such things as lunches, backpacks filled with school supplies, basketballs and playground equipment.

Gloria Dei's total offering of \$1,503 from VBS, the Friday closing and following Sunday worship is the equivalent of 300-plus lunches or more than 60 backpacks and supplies or 15 kits of playground equipment.



A THRIVENT ACTION team at Our Savior/Lake Worth supported CROS (Christians Reaching Out to Society) summer camps, which provide a safe Christian environment for children to call 'home' when they are out of school. Campers are taught Biblical principles and values that they can share at home and enjoy field trips, academics, Bible stories, music, sports, arts and crafts. ■

**EVEREST**  
Conquering Challenges with God's Mighty Power

Jeremy Becker, DCE at ST PAUL / WESTON, led youth to Everest for a Vacation Bible School experience from June 8-12. The epic weeklong celebration had participants conquering abundant challenges with God's mighty power. ■



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

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



AGENTS FOR GOD – Faith/Sebring hosted a weeklong International Spy Academy Vacation Bible School program this summer that prepared participants to be agents of God. Students learned about the one true God and how to uncover counterfeits. They heard various Bible stories, including the baptism of Jesus and Moses and the burning bush. Agents made binoculars to help them see clearly. ■





Lutheran Life  
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 Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod  
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# The BACKPAGE

## LC of the Redeemer Celebrating Milestone

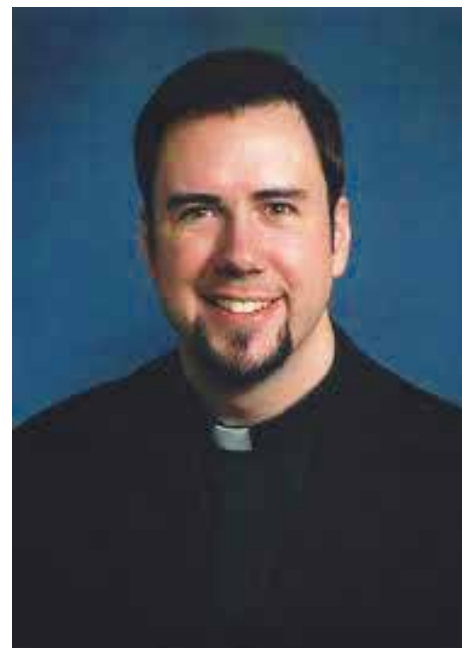
Lutheran Church of the Redeemer/Columbus, GA, is planning a gala weekend celebration of its landmark 75th Anniversary on September 19-20.

Redeemer's first pastor, Rev. Edgar Albers, also ministered to congregations in south Georgia,

David Bernthal; special music will be directed by Dr. Kristen Hansen. On Sunday, congregational son Rev. John Ninke will be guest preacher for the service along with current pastor Rev. Eric Estes.

During its history Redeemer has reached out to the community in many ways and had a parochial school and child care for 25 years.

For more information or to make reservations for the anniversary dinner contact Redeemer at 706-322-5026 or [rls31904@hotmail.com](mailto:rls31904@hotmail.com). ■



Pastor Eric Estes  
 Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
 Columbus, Georgia



Alabama and Florida as well as several area military installations during World War II. The congregation sponsored a well-attended Lutheran Service Center in downtown Columbus for soldiers stationed at nearby Fort Benning.

An anniversary video will include photos of Redeemer's early days from Albers' personal collection. A congregation time capsule will be opened, and special events are planned for the Sunday School.

Keynote speaker for Saturday night's catered dinner program will be former Redeemer pastor Rev.

### Now Presenting: A New Address For Fun and Stewardship

Check out Lutheran Extension Fund's new website just for kids. The games and other activities are age-appropriate and reinforce Bible studies and school lessons.

Explore [yiclub.lcef.org](http://yiclub.lcef.org) and have some Young Investors Club fun!



Lutheran Church Extension Fund  
 > where investments build ministry

