

LUTHERAN LIFE

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

2017 | Volume 6



MIDNIGHT CLEAR



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 in the Master's business ... 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, 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. *Lutheran LIFE* is published bimonthly. News items and photos are encouraged. Please send scanned photos 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 — if possible via e-mail: LutheranLife@aol.com

LUTHERAN LIFE

Lutheran Life Publishing:
971 SW Pepperidge Terrace
Boca Raton, Florida 33486

<http://flgadistrict.org/lutheran-life/>

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

John List & Eileen Bishop
Editors

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

www.flgadistrict.org

District President, Greg Walton
School Ministry, Mark Brink
Finance/Administration, Dan Reichard
Business Manager, John Elliott
Legal Counsel, Rusty Huseman

In Memoriam: Marvin Krehmeyer

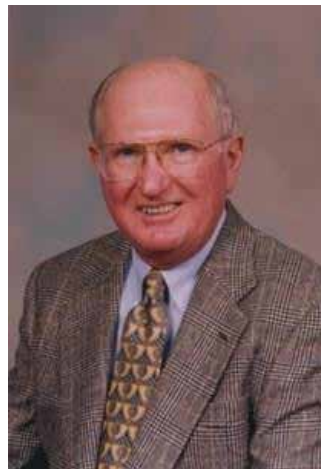
Former Florida-Georgia District lay leader Marvin Krehmeyer, 82, passed away on October 18.

A native of St. Louis and a lifelong member of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, Krehmeyer served in the US Air Force before pursuing a civilian career in accounting that brought him to Atlanta. He served his local congregations in numerous ways and was elected to the Board of Directors of the Florida-Georgia District.

In 1998, he was appointed by the Synod President to serve on an LCMS Task Force on Synod Relations.

He and his wife, Sharon, who survives him, enjoyed traveling. Together they experienced many memories and sights throughout the world on trips that spanned across five continents. Other survivors include sister-in-law Jeanne Krehmeyer, and many cousins, nieces, and nephews.

A memorial service was held at Rivercliff Lutheran/Sandy Springs. ■



DISTRICT CAPSULES *floridageorgia*

by Greg Walton District President

Calling Congregations

Faith/Hialeah, FLSole Pastor
Lake Oconee/Lake Oconee, GA.Sole Pastor
Marco/Marco Island, FL ... Associate Pastor
Christ the King/Orlando, FLSole Pastor
Live UCF.Orlando, FL..... Campus Pastor
St Paul/Peachtree City, GASenior Pastor
Our Savior/Plantation, FLSole Pastor
Rivercliff/Sandy Springs, GA Associate Pastor
Trinity/Savannah, GASole Pastor
Redeemer/Stuart, FL Missionary to Port St Lucie
Epiphany/Tallahassee, FLSole Pastor
Trinity/Toccoa, GASole Pastor
Lakeside/Venice, FLSenior Pastor
Redeemer/Vero Beach, FLSole Pastor
Trinity/Holly Hill, FLSole Pastor

Calls Issued

Holy Trinity/Lutz, FL
Rev. Steven Naylor as Sole Pastor

Calls Accepted

Holy Trinity/Lutz, FL
Rev. Steven Naylor as Sole Pastor

Calls Declined

Lake Oconee/Lake Oconee, GA
Rev. Dr. David Brockhoff as Sole Pastor

Transferred to Other Districts

Ms. Ann Blanken Indiana (C)

Transferred from Other Districts

Rev. Curtis W Adams Michigan (O)
Ms. Joyce A Adams.....Michigan (C)
Rev. George F LobienSoutheastern (O)
Rev. Steven Naylor Eastern (O)

School Changes

Faith School/Fort Lauderdale, FL..... Closed

Ordained/Commissioned Minister Installations

Rev. Doug Kallesen - Senior Pastor
Trinity/Orlando, FL (O)

Rev. Steven Naylor – Pastor
Holy Trinity/Lutz, FL (O)

Emeritus

Rev. Ronald P Scheer (O)
Rev. Randy Winkel (O)

Called to Glory

Rev. Bernhard F Kurzweg (O)

Removed from the Roster

Ms. Elizabeth F Haney

DISTRICT CALENDAR

2018 Hearts for Jesus Project

Flood Bucket Program

District Wide

2018 High School Youth Gathering

What's Next?

February 2-4, 2018

Marriott Sawgrass Resort,

Ponte Vedra Beach, FL

School Music Festival

February 23, 2018

Grace Lutheran Church

St. Petersburg, FL

Veterans of the Cross Retreat

March 5-7, 2018

Life Enrichment Center

Fruitland Park, FL

Interim Pastors Training

Spring 2018

Orlando Area

Florida-Georgia District Convention

June 22-24, 2018

Orlando

National Lutheran Church Workers

Conference

July 8-11, 2018

Minneapolis, MN

2018 Educators Conference

September 26-28, 2018

Daytona Beach Hilton Resort

Florida-Georgia District Veterans of the Cross Retreat is Coming!

The 2018 Veterans of the Cross retreat features an exceptional program. The theme is bold in the spirit of Martin Luther: "Risk Takers in Re-Formation." The Retreat is scheduled for March 5-7, 2018, at the Life Enrichment Center Methodist Retreat Center in Fruitland Park, FL, and is for pastors, teachers and other professional church workers of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod. As a special incentive for those retirees who have never attended the retreat, there will be a \$50 discount on the registration fee (\$100 per couple).

The 2018 program includes Dr. Dale Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary/St. Louis, who is the keynote speaker and will be speaking to the retreat theme. In addition a representative of Concordia Seminary will give a presentation inclusive of important curriculum changes at the seminary.

Dr. Robert Scudieri, former North American Missions Director for the Synod and author of the blog "Another Missionary to America," will be also be presenting throughout the conference.

An additional seminar by Dr. Paul Foelber and Dr. Lyle Muller titled "Seniors Witness to Seniors" will address the issue that seniors are worshipping less and many are leaving the church.

The featured mission presentation will be by Julie and Jay Dass, representing Voice of Faith mission, who will speak on Muslim evangelism. The couple will share their unique experience of Christians living in Pakistan, a Muslim country – helpful for Americans in view of the current Islamization of formerly Christian Europe and the strong growth of Islam in the United States.

"The food is excellent, the outdoor setting peaceful and the people are first class! Reserve the date of March 5-7, 2018, and join us in a stimulating retreat," District President Greg Walton said.

Registration and further information are available on the Florida-Georgia District website, <https://flgadistrict.org>; for questions call the District President's office 407-857-5556, ext. 8. ■



Dr. Dale Meyer



Dr. Robert Scudieri



Dr. Paul Foelber



Dr. Lyle Mueller

One

“

There is no better time for us to reach out to the world around us than during this season of Advent and Christmas.

”

gw

of the most beloved Christmas hymns, *Away in the Manger*, was attributed to Martin Luther. In fact, some referred to it as *Luther's Cradle Song*.

The only problem is that the tune was written by American hymn writer James R. Murray. Perhaps it was a shrewd marketing ploy, but Murray stated in his popular songbook,

wrote the beautiful hymn, but what a great reminder of God's love and grace in sending Jesus. In a strange way this little carol has connected God's grace with the Reformer who proclaimed God's grace!

In this year when the celebration of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation leads us into the 70th Anniversary of the Florida-Georgia District, we continue to celebrate the grace of Jesus that

a time when the known Church was very much focused on the keeping of the law and traditions of men. Many have suggested that the reason we've seen such decline in the mainline Churches is because we've majored in minors, meaning we've made less important things very important — like the color of the carpet, service times, and personal preferences — things that serve us, and not kept the

that authority to the evil one and the world he continues to dominate, or we can stand boldly in our faith in Jesus and break down the gates of hell for the sake of the Gospel.

Luther didn't stand idly by in the face of the threat to the church in indulgences. Instead, he stood his ground for the sake of the freedom of the Gospel. The Reformation happened because of the lay people who woke up to understand that they had been saved by grace through faith, but saved for a purpose — to change the world for Jesus.

God's mission heart calls His redeemed to be in His mission field, and currently we are living in the third largest mission field in the world. There is no better time to be the Church than now, when the opportunities to be in mission to connect people to Jesus seem so abundant and the world around us seems so blind.

The Florida-Georgia District covers more than 125,000 square miles — almost one-third of the Eastern Seaboard; in one of the fastest growing parts of the nation. Almost 1,000 people move to Florida every day, and the growth in Georgia is not far behind it. Yet while the population grows, our churches continue to shrink, and seemingly become ineffective at reaching beyond their own campus to impact the larger community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In some ways it seems we've grown weary and afraid of the very world Jesus sent us to with the light of His Gospel. We have so many opportunities to reach into

our communities and make a difference for Jesus! All it takes is a willingness to tell people what Jesus means to you!

There is no better time for us to reach out to the world around us than during this season of Advent and Christmas. It is a time of year when people are somewhat more open to hearing the story of Jesus and the Manger. If we're creative we connect many of the familiar Christmas objects, from lights to trees to even ornaments, to point people to Jesus. The truth is, many in our day just don't know that Christmas has anything to do with Jesus. A 2014 survey of children in the UK found that fully one-third of children between 10 and 13 years old had no idea that Christmas celebrates the birth of Jesus. I suspect that we, in the States, aren't far behind. Jesus told us that the harvest is plentiful. Each of us are the workers. He is calling each of us to reach the world, beginning in our own neighborhoods.

Consider the message we get to share. In the iconic words from LUKE 2:8-11 we hear of God's grace for all: "And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, 'Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a

baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.'"

That manger marked a major part of God's plan of salvation. There God's promise became reality.

Each year, as we celebrate this good news, we have the opportunity to impact other lives with this simple story. It's so easy to get caught up in the revelry and gift buying, giving and receiving that we sometimes forget that this holiday marks the greatest gift for all mankind. God gave us the gift of hope, peace, joy and love in Jesus. He delivered the forgiveness of sins and new life in that little manger. Don't miss it and be like the lady who was

whipped Him, spat on Him, beat Him, taunted Him, nailed Him to a cross; stripped Him and then crucified Him."

In the midst of this season set aside time and prepare your heart and home for Christmas. Recognize God's call on your life, on your church family to reach beyond to an unbelieving world right outside your front door. Let the symbols of Christmas point you to Jesus so that you can point others to Him.

Decorating and socializing are wonderful parts of the holiday and they can be bridges to build relationships, especially with non-

THE MAJOR MANGER



Dainty Songs for Little Lads and Lasses, that not only had Martin Luther written this lullaby, but he sang it to his children each night before bedtime. In fact, some believed that many German's sang it to their children at bedtime.

It certainly seemed a likely story.

The ironic thing is the Germans had never heard of this hymn until it arrived in Europe from America. The truth is, we don't really know who

arrived in a manger — a feeding trough for farm animals. The King of Kings and Lord of Lords lowered Himself to be born in humble conditions, showing us right from the start, the heart of God toward mankind — His deep desire to reach all people with His love and forgiveness.

That little manger was a major conduit of God's love for all. It was this very love that Martin Luther sought to communicate in

focus clearly on Jesus.

As I have reflected on recent news about what some have called the "slow death of the Church," I am reminded of the promise Jesus gave to His disciples that the gates of hell would not prevail against His Church. Jesus said, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but My Words will not pass away!" (MARK 13:31). As believers in Jesus, we actually have a say in what happens to the Church! We can relinquish



doing some last minute shopping with her kids in tow. She was finding what she wanted, and her kids were not on their best behavior. She was exhausted and frustrated, and as she shoved her way into a crowded elevator, she said, "I don't know who's responsible for all this Christmas stuff, but they ought to arrest him, string him up, and shoot him." Someone from the back of the elevator quietly said, "Don't worry, they did. They arrested Him,

believers. Boldly invite your neighbors to come and worship the Newborn King with you this Christmas. It just might make a major difference in how you approach the manger! ■

God's blessings for a very Merry Christmas!
GREG

LWML Events Offer Blessings on District, National Levels

As we come to the close of another year, we begin to reflect on what has happened in the LWML Florida-Georgia District during this year.

existence and most of all the fellowship that we had with the 300+ who attended this convention. Yes, we do put on a terrific convention; both

I think we all needed some time to reflect on what was going on in our lives and have some time to just relax. Yes, the island did lose power for approximately an hour during the dinner time, but we survived it well. We enjoyed our speaker, Eden Keefe, who is a past Vice President of Christian Life for LWML. But I think the highlight of the retreat was the

Dennis and Deaconess Lorna Meeker, who run 4kenyaskids.org. While there, you will be building a mud hut for one of the women in the village, sprucing up the Ladies Community Center (it actually is the living room of one of the elderly ladies!) and you will get to play with the kids and share with them the joy of the Living Christ!



FUTURE & HOPE
by Joan Koch
LWML District Vice President
for Communications

First, we attended the LWML Convention in Albuquerque, NM in June. What a fantastic time was had by all. There were terrific speakers, a delicious banquet and incredible entertainment; a wonderful slide show that showed the highlights of the 75 years that LWML has been in

on the district level and on the national level. How could we not do that? We are women on a mission!

Second, we had an LWML Florida-Georgia District retreat in September at the Villas by the Sea in Jekyll Island, GA. What a wonderful weekend. After Hurricane Irma,

Lutheran Charities K9 Comfort Dogs, Lizzie and Luke, on Saturday. Not only are they beautiful dogs, but gentle, loving and so darn cute! Just sit down and pet them and all your stress leaves. What an awesome ministry this is, and we are so blessed to have them in our district.

So now as we look ahead to the new year, we are excited that we have a mission trip to Africa coming in in January 2018. Our mission trip coordinator, Scarlet Holcombe, is leading a mission trip to Africa; just outside Kisumu, Kenya to be exact! You will be working with Pastor

If you would like more information, please contact Scarlet at scarlet2@mindspring.com. Scarlet LOVES to talk mission trip. It seems that she is on one almost every month. So please contact Scarlet for more information about this trip as it is coming up quickly.

We praise our God for the blessings He has given us this past year and we pray that He will continue to bless not only our district, but all of God's children everywhere. ■



Comfort Dogs Lizzie and Luke were special guests at the Florida-Georgia District retreat in September on Jekyll Island, GA.

Lutheran Services Florida: "Ready for School, Prepared for Life."

LSF Program in Focus: The Head Start Awareness "World of Nations" Event at the end of October was a hit. Lutheran Services Florida Duval County Head Start/Early Head Start program celebrated, TOGETHER! The children, families and staff enjoyed the tastes, the sounds and the sights of variety of cultures. The event promoted Head Start and Early Start together, with the goal of continuing to partner so that every child is: "Ready for School, Prepared for Life." ■



Lutheran Social Services of North Florida recently launched the KidSafe program to increase access to affordable child safety seats for young children from infancy to kindergarten in the community. In six months' time, the agency has provided low-cost child safety seats for 40 children through partnering agency referrals. The organization is expecting to double or triple the order capacity in the next year so every child can ride safely and legally. ■

Lutheran Services Georgia Receives Wendy's Grant

Lutheran Services of Georgia has been a recipient of the Wendy's Wonderful Kids grant from the Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption since 2010. Through this grant, LSG employs two specially trained adoption professionals, dedicated to finding permanent homes for children in foster care, typically those who have been waiting the longest for an adoptive family. The WWK recruiters have lower case loads and use creative recruitment strategies to find adoptive families for specific children in awaiting adoption. ■



**Dave Thomas
Foundation
for Adoption®**



pending a weekend with 500-plus middle school youth might not be on everyone's bucket list, but the Florida-District Middle School Youth



YOUTH MATTERS

by Jeremy Becker
District Youth Ministry Council

Gatherings has become one of my favorite weekends of the year.

This year was no exception. With the theme of "What's Next" through the lens of Luke 24 (Resurrection, Road to Emmaus and Ascension) in front of us we set out to help the middle schoolers think about how the Spirit might be burning inside them to go out in life and live unafraid for Him... knowing that God grants us His peace in the midst of it all. The November 3-5 event was hosted by Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center.

Shelli Haynes, DCE from California, was our incredible speaker. Rev. Cris Escher, Grace/Port

St. Lucie, our gathering pastor, and Wesley Wright, St. Paul/ Weston, our gathering Emcee also worked to connect this theme in wonderful ways to the middle schoolers at the gathering. *Bread of Stone* was back again with their high energy music as our gathering band.

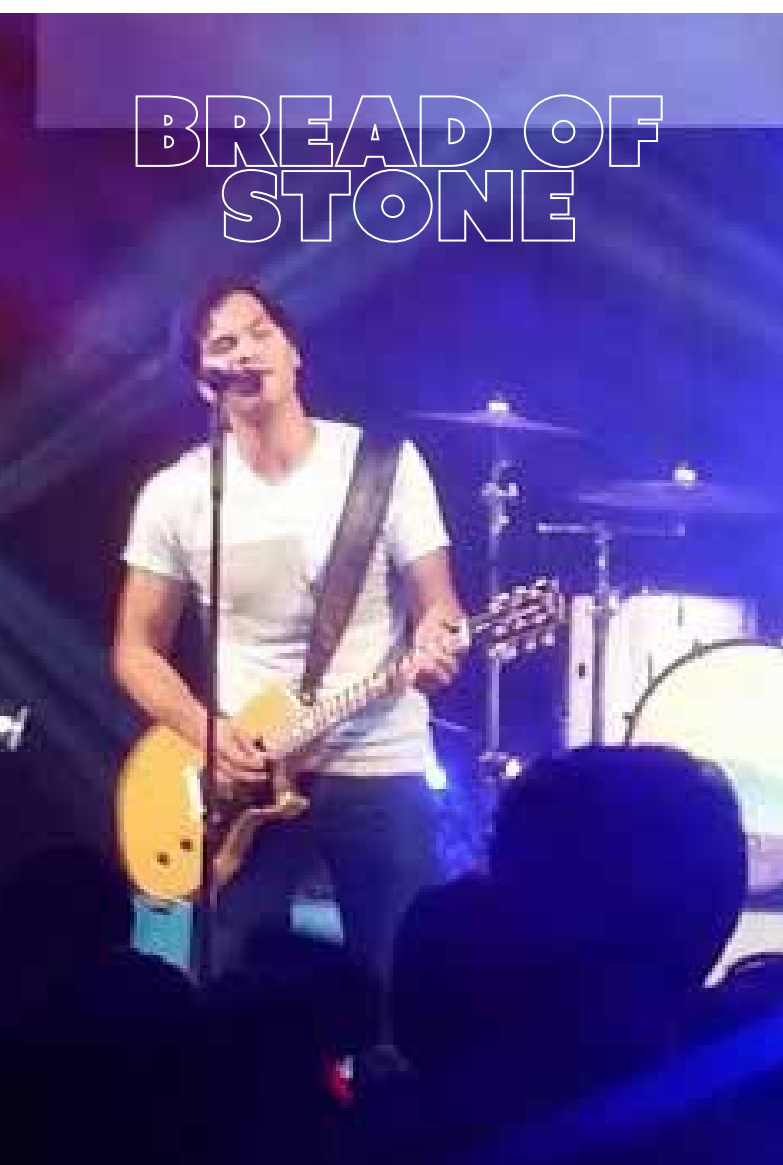
I am very thankful for the opportunity to lead an amazing group of volunteers who planned this event. They worked hard to make sure that the middle school youth had opportunities to serve others, grow in their faith, and have fun as they built relationships within their church groups and with other churches. ■

District Middle-School



Youth Explore ???? "WHAT'S NEXT?"





The end of October was a time of celebration for Mission: Haiti — a Reunion Weekend of people who have been part of outreach efforts in the island country of Haiti for the last 25 years.

"Some have retired and some continue on," said Helen Roenfeldt, Executive Director of Mission: Haiti.

Participating in the weekend were Rev. Darrell Stuehrenberg, 18 years, North Fort Myers, FL; Howard Bogusat, 20+ years, Niagra-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada; Rev ST Williams, 20+years, Los Angeles, CA; Paul Klenner, 25 years, Sacramento, CA; Gary and Carol Lyn Fink, retired after 10 years of service, Oviedo, FL; Lophane Laurent, 12 years, Port-au-Prince, Haiti; Helen and Lloyd Roenfeldt, 18 years, Fort Myers, FL.

"Each of these wonderful people have sacrificially contributed time, talent and resources to further the growth of the Kingdom of God in Haiti, and Mission: Haiti is honored to know them, learn from them and share with them," Roenfeldt continued.

She paid tribute to her "wonderful husband, Lloyd, for all these years of the behind the scenes support and prayers. Even though he has not been able to travel to Haiti, he has run errands, picked up and delivered people to the airport dozens and dozens of times, held down the fort when I have spent more than four years (a week or two at a time) away from home and he has never complained and always been encouraging and supportive."

Summarizing the work of Mission: Haiti, Roenfeldt emphasized, "We unashamedly proclaim Jesus and Him crucified and resurrected for our salvation. We strive to show the Light in darkness. We do not always succeed, but we continue to try.

"We've had successes and failures, ups and downs in the 18 years that we have been privileged to work alongside these other amazing folks in Haiti. We give all the Glory to God for successes and thank him for allowing us to learn from our not-so-successes. And we especially thank those folks who have stood with us through both!" ■

Mission: Haiti Celebrates Milestone in Ministry



Celebrating Mission: Haiti's reunion weekend were (front, l-r) Lloyd and Helen Roenfeldt; Lophane Laurent; Gary and Carol Lyn Fink; (back, l-r) Paul Klenner; Rev. ST Williams; Howard Bogusat; Rev. Darrell Stuehrenberg.

District Board Begins June 2018 Convention Plans

Meeting in Orlando in early November, members of the Florida-Georgia Board of Directors reviewed current mission activities and began planning for the 2018 District convention.

"It was great to have so many of you at the President's Equip Conference and I am very grateful to all who participated and how it all turned out," District



BOARD ROOM

by John List
District Communications Director

President Greg Walton told the Board "Now we set our sights on the next project: the District Convention"

In anticipation of that June 2018 event, District Secretary Jay Winters guided Board members

through the process, especially with the Charter and Bylaws.

A review of District missions and activities centered on Florida-Georgia's two critical targets — Leadership and Outreach.

LEADERSHIP: District and congregational leaders are loving, visionary people of the Word, models of

healthy Christ-centered living and life-long learners committed to equipping and empowering others to join in fulfilling the Church's role in God's mission.

▲ **President's Equip Conference:** One of the results of this successful conference for professional and lay leaders is a leadership summit for laity beginning next August. Professional church worker events are already well established.

▲ **Grace Place Wellness:** From October 16-20 President Walton served as chaplain for the first Grace Place Wellness Retreat in the District. Led by Dr. Darrell Zimmerman, it was held in Sarasota with nine clergy couples participating. "It was a wonderful week for me to have with these couples as God worked in our midst," Walton said. A second retreat is being planned for early 2018 to focus on those recovering from Hurricane Irma.

▲ **District President Administrative Assistants:** Hurricane Irma forced the rescheduling of the annual DPAA conference from September to December of

this year. Florida-Georgia is hosting the event, which will bring 34 Assistants from throughout the Synod to Orlando.

▲ **Adult Youth Leader Training:** The District Youth Ministry Council, under the leadership of Jeremy Becker, DCE, St. Paul/Weston, FL, has committed to providing training for lay adult leaders in Youth Ministry at all District youth events. Breakouts for adult leaders are included in the programming for both the Middle and the High School Gatherings.

▲ **Emergent Leaders 2018:** Eleven participants have registered for the next session of Emergent Leaders, set for first quarter 2018. A number of District Board members have participated in the process.

▲ **Veterans of the Cross:** March 5-7, 2018, are the dates for the next Veterans of the Cross Retreat, once again to be held at the

Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park, FL. The theme is "Risk Takers in Re-Formation" with Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer and Rev. Dr. Robert Scudieri presenting.

▲ **Lay Leader Summit:** A summit to help equip and encourage lay leaders in partnering in their local ministry for the sake of Jesus is tentatively set for August 23-25. Planning is in the very early stages.

▲ **District Pastors Conference:** Planning has begun for the Florida-Georgia Pastors Conference, September 24-26, 2018, at the Hilton Daytona Beach prior to the Educators Conference, set for September 26-28, 2018, at the same venue.

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.

▲ **Mission Advisory Board:** The MAC is going through some transition as the District continues with the vacancy in the Executive Director of Missions role after Rev. Doug Kallesen returned to parish ministry. Four emerging missions are in the works: Lake Wood Ranch adjoining Sarasota and Bradenton, FL; The Pelican in Naples, FL; Port St. Lucie Cornerstone Mission, a daughter of Redeemer/Stuart, FL; and Missionary at Large Hispanic Atlanta.

▲ **Outreach Initiative:** The Outreach Initiative with Lutheran Hour Ministries is being reshaped and will primarily provide resources on the web through a portal. The new director is Rev. Tony Cook, who said he would like Florida-Georgia to serve in the beta testing section of this new format and

material. This will likely roll out the first quarter of 2018.

▲ **Five Two Miami:** The District will begin specific work in the Miami area with Oscar Benavides, who has joined the staff of Five Two. The goal is to see how the District can revitalize and begin new ministries in this urban context.

▲ **Revitalization:** The District is working with the congregation in Tifton, GA, to see if revitalization is possible. Rev. Doug Hudson of Trinity/Albany, GA, is working a few days a week with the people in Tifton.

▲ **2018 District Servant Event:** Jeremiah Bauer, DCE, St. Paul/Boca Raton, FL, is spearheading the planning for the District High School Servant Event that will engage youth in the ongoing recovery work in SW Florida or the Florida Keys.

▲ **2018 High School Youth Gathering:** Joe Guagliardo, recently retired Youth Director at Faith/Merritt Island, FL, is leading the planning team for the February 2-4 event at Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach.

▲ **2019 LCMS Youth Gathering:** Youth and adult leaders will gather July 11-15 in Minneapolis, MN, under the theme "Real. Present God." Each District appoints a coordinator who attends an orientation and training session early in 2018 to prepare them to provide timely information, help coordinate potential District events and generally be the "go to" person for Gathering information. Joe Guagliardo will be serving that role for Florida-Georgia. ■

The next District Board meeting is set for January 19-20, 2018 in Orlando

Hurricane Irma Recovery Continues

Florida-Georgia congregations continue to recover from the damaging September visit of Hurricane Irma, which came ashore at Marco Island, FL, continued up the west coast of the state and into Georgia before exiting just south and west of Atlanta.

"Due to the size of Irma, there was no part of the Florida-Georgia District that was left untouched," reported John Elliott, District Business Manager and Disaster Relief Coordinator.

Some storm stats:

-48 congregations reported damage, mostly in Florida.

-Two congregations sustain sizeable damages: Grace/Key West and Marco Lutheran/Marco Island.

-Donations for disaster assistance through October 24, 2017: \$99,166.25.

-Two congregations have received \$35,200 thus far from LCMS disaster relief.

A 2018 District High School Servant Event is being planned that will engage youth in the ongoing recovery work in SW Florida or the Florida Keys. ■



Worship at Marco Lutheran is being held in the Great Room because of Irma damage to the sanctuary. The cross fell onto the roof damaging the sanctuary ceiling, letting water into the building and ruining newly laid carpet. Tiles by the altar have cracked as the floor has started to buckle due to the damp floor.

LCMS Recognized for Service to Military Personnel

The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod has been recognized by the United States Department of Defense for its support of employees who also serve in the military.

At an awards banquet in late summer, Kathy Milner of LCMS Human Resources received the "Above and Beyond" award on behalf of the Synod. It was presented by the Missouri division of the DoD's Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) program.

The Synod was nominated for the award by LCMS Director of

Security Joel Rivers. Asked why he nominated the Synod, Rivers said, "As I approach the end of my Navy career I thought it was appropriate to nominate the LCMS because in my 18 years working here the LCMS has been very supportive and accommodating of everything I've had to do for the Navy — from my once-a-month drills to the two weeks of annual training to my two deployments. This was just a small way for me to show my gratitude for this support over the years." ■



Kathy Milner, LCMS Department of Human Resources, and Joel Rivers, director of LCMS Security, hold the Employee Support of the Guard and Reserve award given to the LCMS by the U.S. Department of Defense.

Remember the time your parent “helped” you with that thing you were trying to do? Did you appreciate how they: A) did it for you, B) criticized everything you did wrong, C) kept looking over your shoulder, D) ignored you, E) never spoke words of

and Timothy. Ministry and service in Jesus’ name was not meant to be a solo act. We are in it together. Sure some are less experienced and even less capable. So how do we help one another? How do we best offer our help? As a coaching leader we first

church gets things done. Making decisions, determine plans, recruiting volunteers, budgeting and approvals, reserving space, promotional means through print, announcements, digital and social media and so on. It is not surprising that people avoid stepping up to serve as this all may seem daunting, even as it seems “old hat” to the long term servants at a church.

So what can be done? Perhaps a few people designated just to help people get things off the ground. Many volunteer because of their affinity for a particular task or because a friend is also volunteering.



That does not mean they know how to do that long list of steps to get things done.

So why not have a support person or team to “coach” the various boards, committees or task forces and individuals seeking to do the good work that every church tries to accomplish? They can put together a list of “how to’s” and “best practices” as they are accomplished at your church. So whether it is recruiting volunteers, reserving space, making decisions, running a meeting, budgeting and council approval processes, promotions through all the various media, there will be a “go to” person or small group that can help them walk through the maze of how to get things done.

Helping, not doing it yourself or doing it for them makes all the difference! ■

Rev. Scott Gress is called by Lutheran Counseling Services as an independent contractor in the areas of leadership training, consulting and coaching. Contact Scott through LCS (407- 644-4692) or through email scottgress@me.com or his blog page scottgress.com.

Help? But How? It Makes All the Difference

affirmation, F) other?

Serving at and with the church can often feel the same way. It is supposed to be a team effort but sometimes the “help” one receives is worse than being left alone. Most

of all don’t want to be guilty of “hoarding” the ministry and just doing it ourselves. The task of every leader is to help other people to find their special place and opportunity to serve God.

Secondly, we don’t want to do someone’s “homework” for them. That can be discouraging and off putting. We need to respect people’s boundaries for what is theirs and what is ours.

of the time people mean well. Our fellow church members and leaders have a genuine heart to bring support to those who are trying to get things done. Yet many times what is actually given is not very helpful.

God invented the church, the body of Christ. He gave gifts to the people in the church (1 COR 12; ROM 12; EPH 4; etc). Jesus also sent out the disciples two by two (MARK 6 & LUKE 10). We see Peter and John together in ACTS 3 and 4. Paul had close associations with Silas, Barnabas

Then with that love and respect for those we are trying to help we will be very intentional in asking: How can I help? If they say they don’t need any right now, we will respect and honor that. If they want to give up and give the task to us, we will define what we mean by help: it is not doing it for them but supporting them as they do it.

Sometimes people may not even know what kind of help they really need. There are so many things that are unique to how a

Seminary Campaign Hits Historic Mark

Officials of Concordia Seminary/ St. Louis in early December announced a total amount raised to date of \$195,536,625 in the Generations Campaign, the largest giving campaign in Seminary history.

In announcing the campaign upon its launch, Seminary President Dr. Dale Meyer said, “This is a different world from the one in which I grew up. What will it be like for our children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and the generations that follow? Will there be healthy, loving, Gospel-proclaiming congregations to nurture and sustain them in their heavenward way? Answering ‘yes’ to that question under God’s enabling grace is the special responsibility of Concordia Seminary.

“This Generations Campaign is designed to help Concordia Seminary

meet those challenges. God help us through this campaign to provide coming generations ‘with confidence and cheerful courage’ in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!”



Seminary officials attribute the campaign success to “the generosity of friends and supporters committed to helping to ensure future generations will be served by faithful, relevant and relational pastors.” ■

Buying or selling a home in South Florida?



Sometimes the right choice isn’t always obvious.

Real estate broker John List expertly guides clients through myriad challenges to secure the home that meets their needs. He knows and understands market conditions, the importance of being near excellent schools, churches, retail, recreational, financial and business centers. John takes the time to learn each client’s goals before researching available properties and connecting them to those that best answer their needs. His personalized service continues through every step of the process until a successful closing. John is equally adept at selling homes, offering 30 years of proven experience backed by a powerful marketing program and an extensive broker network. If you’re considering the purchase or sale of a home, call John today.



John List, Senior Broker Associate
Douglas Elliman Real Estate
40-Year Member of Florida-Georgia District
John@JohnList.com
561.212.2112 • elliman.com/johnlist
444 E Palmetto Park Road
Boca Raton 33432



James D. Franskousky
MBA LPL Wealth Advisor

Retirement • Estate • Investment
Insurance • Tax • Tax Resources
Money • Lifestyle



561.409.0678/Direct
561.702.6564/Mobile

370 W. Camino Gardens Blvd.
Suite 101
Boca Raton, FL 33432
James.Franskousky@LPL.com
www.private-wealth.us



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
 > where investments build ministry

CONGREGATION LOANS

Supporting LCMS congregations now and in the future.

Since 1978, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has been the financial partner for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS)

We know the unique challenges you face. We customize loans that banks can't. We also structure loans to fit your congregation perfectly.

Financing a loan is a major undertaking. That's why it is important to partner with an organization that appreciates your congregation's unique mission and vision of sharing the Gospel.

Types of Congregation Loans

There are a variety of loans that follow a project throughout its entire timeline.

- Secured
- Construction
- Construction Bridge
- Church Improvement
- Line of Credit
- Jump Start
- Soft Cost
- Specialized Ministry
- Parsonage/Housing

Interested in an LCEF loan?
 Contact us today!

LCEF—Florida-Georgia District Team:
 Daniel J. Reichard, Vice President,
DReichard@flgadistrict.org
 Laura Zirbel, Loan Consultant,
lzirbel@flgadistrict.org
 Debbie Talbot, Administrative Assistant,
dtalbot@flgadistrict.org
flgadistrict.org *(877)457-5556, ext. 4

Lutheran Church Extension Fund
 > florida-georgia district

District Ministry Awarded LCEF Kaleidoscope Fund Grant

On November 6, Lutheran Church Extension Fund announced the 2017 recipients of the Kaleidoscope Fund, a granting program. A total of \$601,000 was awarded to 11 Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod ministries throughout the United States.



Consistent with LCEF's mission, the committee selected ministry ideas that are related to the expansion, enrichment and energizing of Christ's Church.

Among those ministries is one in the Florida-Georgia District: Christ the King Lutheran Church/Largo, FL. They were awarded a grant to expand Loving Arms, their Christian preschool, to provide qualified and affordable services to families with children who have sensory needs. Open year-round, Loving Arms offers a quality, Christ-centered atmosphere serving children from the ages of 12 months to 6 years old.

"On behalf of Loving Arms and Christ The King, we are truly honored, humbled and blessed by the grant announcement," said Joe Boeche, Business Manager for Christ the King Ministries.

"Our focus is to always turn limited resources into unlimited ministry.



Christ the King/Largo, Florida

We have always relied on Christ to guide our way. This opportunity is no different. We have been able to minister to families in a unique way, and this gives us the opportunity to take that ministry to the next level."

Christ the King is led by Pastor Joe Adams. Jess Miller is the Open Arms Preschool Director.

"It's wonderful to see the variety of ideas

and creativity in the grant applicants from around the country and church body," said Kurt Fuhr, LCEF Regional Vice President – Central Region and Chair of the Kaleidoscope Fund Committee. Entities eligible to apply for the grant include the Synod; a congregation of the Synod (including its school or childcare); or a member district of LCEF. ■

MISSION STATEMENT



Loving Arms Christian Preschool exists as a mission of Christ The King Lutheran Ministries providing a nurturing and safe environment where children of our community will grow in love, acceptance and respect for themselves and others as they learn to Love God and Love Neighbor.

LOVE GOD. LOVE NEIGHBOR.



FLORIDAGEORGIA

REGIONAL NEWS

Out and About in the Florida-Georgia District

Dahlonege Celebrates Reformation's 500th Anniversary

In commemoration of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation 500 years ago on October 31, 1517, A Day in Dahlonega Celebrating the Reformation was held October 24. The main event was a lecture by Rev. Dr. Scott Hendrix, "Martin Luther: Controversial Reformer and the Reformation 500 Years After" in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium at the University of North Georgia. Hendrix is a retired professor of Reformation History at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Sponsored by UNG's Department of History, Anthropology, and Philosophy in collaboration with the Lutheran Student Fellowship, the event was open to the public.

That morning began at St. Peter's Lutheran Church where clergy and religious leaders gathered for conversation, refreshments, a brief time of worship and a major presentation by Rev. Dr. Albert Garcia, retired theology professor from Concordia University Wisconsin, on "Sola Agape Dei: The Way to Reimagine the Reformation 500 Years After."

Luncheon and a reception followed, with the opportunity to meet Hendrix.

Another component of the anniversary celebration was the showing of the widely acclaimed documentary film, *Martin Luther: Idea that Changed the World*, Thursday, November 2, in the Hoag Student Center Auditorium. Sponsored by the Lutheran Student Fellowship of UNG, the movie was open to the public.

A series of interactive posters from the German government commemorating the Reformation was displayed in the Great Room at the Student Center in conjunction with the event.

According to Rev. Dr. Gerhard C. Michael, Jr., pastor of St. Peter Lutheran Church, "The desire of

the sponsors of these activities is not only to help participants sense how the Reformation has significantly helped to shape our modern world in terms of religion, politics, education and work, but also to help us consider which of the Reformation emphases are worth continuing in our times."

He expressed the hope that many in the community who attended these events would reflect on the Reformation heritage and consider how it might impact society in positive ways.

Hendrix is the author of numerous books and articles, including his most recent major work, *Martin Luther: Visionary Reformer*, published by Yale University Press in 2015. A graduate of Duke University, he earned his Master of Divinity degree from Lutheran Theological Southern Seminary in Columbia, SC and his doctorate from Eberhard Karls University in Tuebingen, Germany.

Garcia is a native of Cuba who came to the United States in his youth and became a Lutheran in his teen years in Miami. His basic theological education was taken at Concordia Theological Seminary/Fort Wayne and his doctoral work was done at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Chicago. He has translated Luther's *Latin Commentary on the Minor Prophets* into Spanish, as well as authored numerous articles and books, the latest of which he co-authored with John Nunes, *Wittenberg Meets the World: Reimagining the Reformation at the Margins*. ■



Dr. Scott Hendrix at UNG on "Martin Luther: Controversial Reformer and the Reformation after 500 Years"



Messiah/Valdosta hosted a Reformation 500 Walk as part of their celebration of the historic event. Members were stationed at various sites around the campus that replicated events and locales from the mid 1500s when Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to the church door. The event was open to the community. Shown here are one of the stations (below) as well as many of the volunteers (above) involved in the successful event. ■



The 2017 School of Fine Arts Recital at Living Hope Church/Kennesaw provided an opportunity for the students to showcase their skills and talents. The students performed for an appreciative audience. Living Hope's School of Fine Arts Instructor Maryellen Truelove was also in the news as the recipient of the Steinway Piano Galleries Grant. She was nominated and awarded the grant to further her own piano studies. ■



Christ Lutheran/Perry was one of the entries in the Georgia National Fair Parade in early October with a float that promoted the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Around 35 people rode on or walked alongside the church float. ■



Trunk 'R Treat was a rollicking success at Our Redeemer/Augusta in late October, with children making the circuit of decorated cars to play games and receive treats. The parking lot was filled with fun as dozens of children and their parents participated. ■

REGION 1



Vice President:

David Brighton

Mount Calvary/Warner Robbins

Laity Board Members:

Jay Wendland | Living Faith/Cumming

Robert Chambers | Grace/Atlanta

Commissioned Minister Board Member:

Tamie Worthington | St Paul/Peachtree City

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



Multiple Events Mark Reformation at Peace/Dunnellon

Members and friends of Peace Lutheran/Dunnellon celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with several joyful events — beginning with festive worship.

During that service, Trina Ruttinger was confirmed into her Christian faith and became a member of Peace. Also joining Peace during that worship were new members Trudy Kreuzer, Jerry and Janice Robertson, Alan and Linda Riedel, Bev and Ken West.

A luncheon followed in the church fellowship hall. Peace is led by Pastor Terry McKee.

Left — New Peace members (l-r) Trudy Kreuzer, Jerry Robertson, Janice Robertson, Alan Riedel, Linda Riedel, Trina Ruttinger, Bev West, Ken West. ■



St. John/Ocala celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with a day of activities that included worship, dinner and various

games — including pin the hammer on Luther. Shown at left side of the stage in the photo above is the new Luther Seal that was dedicated during the weekend. ■



LCEF Sundays were celebrated in Gainesville in November, first at Abiding Savior and then a First. LCEF District Vice President Daniel J. Reichard is pictured with Abiding Savior Congregation Advocate Jack Martin and Pastor Alan Struckmeyer. ■



Participating in the groundbreaking were Marla Adrian, Laurie Ullery, Jeff Robinson, Ron Biel, Chap Dinkins, Pastor James Rockey.

Amazing Grace Breaks Ground for Early Learning Center

Members and friends of Amazing Grace/The Villages on October 15 celebrated the groundbreaking for a new 6,000-square-foot Early Learning Center.

Just three years after dedicating the Ministry Center for the young congregation, the

congregation unanimously and joyfully joined together to respond to this need in the community and call from the Lord, according to Pastor James Rockey. Modeling its ministry after Jesus model of “going out” into the community to meet people where they are, Amazing

Grace committed 18 months ago to serving the surrounding community through this ministry.

“Through sacrificial giving and God’s rich blessing, we are within \$100,000 of covering all costs related to opening this new ministry,” Rockey reported.

The ELC will serve children 6 weeks old – PreK4 and has an initial capacity of 84 children.

“Our prayers are that the Lord will use this ministry to daily bring Christ to these children and the children and their families to Christ,” Rockey concluded. ■



Reformation was a weekend celebration at Bethlehem Church & Preschool/Jacksonville Beach. Events included Trunk or Treat, a Reformation Workshop and Reformation Festive Worship. That worship was highlighted by a children’s message from Vicar Nathan McCarty and special music from the bells. ■

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:
Frank Kinast | Messiah/Valdosta

First Coast Circuit Visitor:
Dana Brones | Bethlehem/Jacksonville

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



Real Grief, Real Comfort: Ministry After Miscarriage

October 15 is pregnancy and infant loss remembrance day. On October 18, Woodlands Church/Montverde offered a memorial service for church and community members who have lost children in the womb. The service was prepared by Woodlands Associate Pastor Joshua Pettit.

In 2013 Pastor Pettit and his wife, Elizabeth, experienced a miscarriage while on vicarage. Pettit spent that time taking care of his wife because family was far away. When they got back to the Seminary they found that they were not the only ones who had suffered the loss of a child; there were many more.

The Concordia Life Team, under the leadership of Dr. Jeffery Gibbs,

put together a forum and a memorial service for those families. Pettit and his wife were asked to share their experience. After the forum the Pettits were able to grieve together during an uplifting, hopeful service with the reminder that God is with them and will never forsake them. "Real grief was followed by real comfort from our LORD," Pettit said. Many hands were involved in putting the Woodlands service together and providing comfort for those in need. The choir from Our Savior/Orlando offered a song of healing.

Lutheran Counseling Services sent four counselors who were available after the service to continue the healing process.



Pettit, with the help of Woodlands Senior Pastor Brian Kneser and Minister of Music Charlie Crownover used the material from Concordia Life Team and adjusted it as needed. Member Ron Olsen built a cross with a small table at the foot of the cross. Worshipers were invited to come forward to place a flower at the foot of the cross for the loss of a child or in remembrance of a loved one who lost a child. Crownover wrote a musical piece for meditation as the flowers were brought forward.

Sixty-one people attended the service. Pettit said "When I was preparing this message I didn't know what to say. It is so hard and still painful for my wife and me. I received an article the morning of the service that shined the light of Christ. In the article the father who lost his child heard these words to the question: 'Why would God create a child to live for such a short time?' He didn't. God did not create us for a short time, two minutes, two years or 80 years, He created us for eternity."



Reformation Weekend Events Highlight Ascension Observance

Funtober Fest opened a weekend of celebration at Ascension/Casselberry. Included in that weekend were special activities in honor of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Michael Nowici was the Funtober Fest DJ. Carnival games were set up around campus as part of the celebration.

David Preuss portrayed Dr. Martin Luther for an afternoon presentation, "Luther: A Test of Faith." Preuss was in period costume for the presentation.

Fellowship at an ice cream social followed that presentation. ■

David Preuss for his presentation "Luther: A Test of Faith."



Faith students and the completed Luther Rose.

Reformation Celebration Spans Weeks at Faith

On October 19, Faith Church and School/Eustis hosted a movie night at a local theater to help celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. The event was initiated through TUGG, Inc and was financially supported by Thrivent Financial.

A sold-out crowd saw the movie *Martin Luther: The Idea that Changed the World*. Faith Pastor Aaron Kappel introduced with movie, which was followed by a question-and-answer session by Michael Siefert. One attendee won a door

prize; everyone received a mug with information regarding Faith Church and School as well as the 500th Anniversary.

Later in the month, after Reformation chapel, Faith students and faculty enjoyed a Reformation Festival. The student body was organized into groups by age from three years old to 8th grade and went to eight different stations. The stations, which were led by teachers, included: story reading time about Martin Luther, dressing up at the Medieval photo booth,

musical chairs using 'A Mighty Fortress,' Bible smuggling relay race, Luther seal mosaic craft, diet of worms snack, stamp printing and finally coin in the coffer toss game and pin the 95 theses on the door.

Capping the day was a school photo taken around the chalk colored Luther Rose on the outdoor basketball court. Third-grade students drew and colored the cross and heart in the seal; seventh-grade students finished up with coloring the rose, the blue background and golden rim. ■



Right: Festively decorated cars filled a grassy area of the Our Savior/Zephyrhills campus for the annual Trunk or Treat event. Trick or treaters went from trunk to trunk for goodies, which were distributed by members of all ages. ■

REGION 3



Vice President:

Brian Kneser | Woodlands/Montverde

Board Treasurer:

Renee Varga | Woodlands/Montverde

Lay Board Members:

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

Commissioned Minister Board Member:

Lois Ford | Faith/Eustis

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



Vicar John Elliott of St. Luke's Lutheran/Oviedo recently led the worship at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer Sanford. He is shown here with LCEF Vice President Daniel J. Reichard, who noted, "His sermon comment on the OSU-UM football was favorably offset by his LCEF awards mention. Keep up the good effort, Mr. Elliott!" More information on the LCEF awards is on pages 30-31. Elliott is doing his vicarage at St. Luke's while maintaining his position as Business Manager of the Florida-Georgia District. ■



New banners in honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation were unveiled October 29 at St. Paul/Lakeland. The two banners were crafted by member Tabatha Pennekamp. ■



Participating in the service were (front, l-r): Rev. Andy Ritchie; Rev. Charles Reich; Rev. Shea Pennington; Vicar John Cabos; Rev. Dean Pfeffer; Rev. Tod Shouse; Rev. Miguel Sanabria; Vicar Miguel Sanabria; (back, l-r) Rev. Mark Harris; Rev. Ron Pennekamp; Rev. Dr. David Schmitt; Rev. Tom Block; Vicar Paul Radke; and Rev. Jonathan Horsman.

Winter Haven Circuit Gathers for Reformation 500

On Sunday October 29, the Winter Haven Circuit gathered for its annual Reformation Celebration — this year in observance of the historic 500th anniversary.

Host congregation was Hope/Plant City, with guest speaker Rev. Dr. David Schmitt, Professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary/St. Louis.

Participating in the service were the Winter Haven Pastors. A combined Circuit Choir, choir directors and organists all joined together "to make the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation a day of great Gospel centered celebration as we look forward to bringing the Gospel into our communities and Connecting People to Jesus," said Rev. Dean Pfeffer, Hope's Senior Pastor.

In his message, Schmitt emphasized that "we are called by the Gospel to hold on to grace and share that grace as we serve in our communities." He added that "we cannot let this one day of celebration overtake the work that is before us; we must take our joy and celebration into the world."

Following the worship, a traditional German dinner was hosted by the members of Hope. ■



Rev. Steve Naylor was installed as pastor of Holy Trinity/Lutz on Sunday, October 15. Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton performed the installation. Preaching was Rev. Rick Drankwalter. The congregation hosted a festive Oktoberfest after the service. Shown are pastors participating in the service (front, l-r) Rev. Dick Arndt; Rev. Greg Walton; Rev. Steve Naylor; Rev. Tom Wenndt; Rev. Dr. Kent Fuqua; (back, l-r) Rev. Dr. David Brockhoff; Rev. Dr. Hubert Temme; Rev. Bob Steinke; Rev. Rich Drankwalter; Rev. Paul Meseke. ■



Hurricane Irma was still very much on the minds of residents of Southwest Florida in mid-October. On the 16th of that month, Teams Luke and Sasha LCC K-9 Comfort Dogs visited the Amigos en Cristo Center/ Immokalee to share their quiet love with people still being affected by Hurricane Irma. Pastor Karl Glander, Service Director of the Amigos Center, has been coordinating filling the basic daily needs of the Haitian, Hispanic and Creole community in the hard hit area. On October 18, the Amigos disaster response team met with Mercy In Action to discuss plans to better serve and aid those affected by hurricane Irma. The focus at that time was centered on Bonita Springs

and Immokalee. Pictured are disaster response team members Rev. Robert Selle, Abdony Mezilus, Rev. Karl Glander and Evelyn Cardenas. ■



REGION 4



Vice President:
Jon Zehnder | St. Michael/Fort Myers
Liaison Board Members:
Jeff Richards | Hope/Bradenton
Evita Gonzalez | Beautiful Savior /Lehigh Acres
Commissioned Minister Board Member:
Jesse Crosmer | Our Savior/St. Petersburg
Suncoast Circuit Visitor:
David Brockhoff | Holy Trinity/Masaryktown
St. Petersburg Circuit Visitor:
Philip Rigdon | First/Clearwater
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



Special events at Lakeside Church & Preschool this fall included the October 31 Halloween Parade. Students dressed up and walked the campus. During the 11am worship on November 5 Interim Pastor Rev. Dr. George Lobien (below) confirmed the congregation's newest members (l-r) Claudia Albert, Kenna Tippman, Jacey Tippman, Lobien, Liam Straw and Havil Sargent. ■



Immanuel Church and School/ Brandon is celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation throughout the school year. The theme for the year is the same as that from the LCMS Reformation logo, "It's still all about Jesus." The classroom doors were decorated in October for Reformation Sunday and the celebration that the church is hosted after the service on October 29. One of the door decorations is shown here. ■



The Lutheran Church of the Cross/Port Charlotte Our Youth Group has been working on the congregation's Christmas in the Park project for several months. The finished work is on display in the Cross Monument Prayer Park through the Advent season. ■



Saint Michael Church & School Pastor Jon Zehnder on October 18 commissioned the team going to Guatemala the next week to serve at Orphan's Heart. According

to UNICEF, there are more than 370,000 orphans in Guatemala and the chronic malnutrition rate for children under five years old is 50%, the fourth highest in the world

In 2008, Orphan's Heart began helping meet the of these children at the Malnutrition Center in San Juan. ■

Since Hurricane Irma came ashore along Florida's Gulf Coast in mid-September, members of the Thrive Community Church/Estero community have been active in helping the community recover. Weekends have been spent in cleanup mode — as evidenced by these students on November 11. While much progress has been made, efforts continue to restore the area to pre-Irma conditions. ■



Worship, fellowship, dinner and entertainment were all elements of the Reformation Celebration at Our Savior Church and School/St. Petersburg. Members and guests filled the fellowship hall for a festive dinner and themed entertainment. ■





Trinity Church & School/ Delray Beach students had the opportunity to dress in costume and parade around the campus on October 31. The annual Halloween parade is a favorite fall activity. ■



St. Paul Church & School/Boca Raton celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation with a weekend of events to end October. On Friday night, members and guests gathered on the back lawn of the St. Paul campus for worship and to watch the new Martin Luther movie. Saturday evening's festivities of worship with the praise team and an Oktoberfest dinner had to be moved into the fellowship hall to avoid rain — but the change in venue did not dampen the spirits of members and friends in attendance. Sunday's festival worship included special choral music with brass accompaniment under the direction of Minister of Music Mark Lohmeyer. Martin Luther paid a special visit during the service — which also featured the dedication of a new bronze rendition of the Luther Rose. ■



Faith Lutheran/Sebring celebrated the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation on October 31 with a worship service and German themed dinner following. More than 240 people attended this event, along with pastors from the Heartland Circuit. Guests were entertained during the dinner by The Sebring Show Choir. ■



In early November VPK students from Faith Church & School/North Palm Beach went to the Loxahatchee River Center. They learned about nocturnal and diurnal fish, how some fish live in saltwater and others in freshwater. They designed their own fish and even got to touch some fun creatures. The highlight of the visit was getting to see a baby gator. ■



First grade students from Redeemer Lutheran School/Stuart recently blessed the residents of Brookdale Senior Living with a visit. The young visitors sang at the monthly worship service under the direction of Joy Beach. ■



Above & below: Children's Day 2017 in late October was a major success at Grace Lutheran School/Key West. Members volunteered time and baked goods. ■



REGION 5



Vice President:

Steve Wiperman | Our Savior/Lake Worth

Liaity 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

Redeeming Life Ministry, Pastor Dennis Bartels

The Florida-Georgia District was well represented at the November 16-18 Lutheran Church Extension Fund Fall Leadership Conference in New Orleans.

In attendance in addition to the LCEF Florida-Georgia team of Vice President Daniel J. Reichard, John Elliott, Debbie Talbot and Laura Zirbel were Florida-Georgia District President Greg and Edith Walton and District Executive Director for School Ministries Mark and MaryBeth Brink. Former District LCEF Vice President Richard Neubauer and his wife Carol also attended. District delegates to the conference were Annette Shanks of St. John/Ocala; Sherri Mackey of Holy Cross/North Miami; Rev. John Roth of Thrive/Estero; Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser of Woodlands/Montverde; Rev. James Rockey of Amazing Grace/Oxford; and Rev. Jeff Jordan of Rivercliff/Atlanta.



LCEF District Vice President Dan Reichard with wife Andi.



"If you're afraid to get out of your comfort zone, you cannot achieve the unachievable. If you're afraid to get out of your comfort zone, you cannot love boldly," speaker Herman Cain told conference participants.



The Florida-Georgia District contingent at the annual conference.

Redeeming Life Maternity Home

Founded by Rev. Ed and Sheryl DeWitt, Redeeming Life Maternity Home exists to offer hope and opportunity to single, expectant women in crisis.

The facility provides a safe and comfortable home to women in crisis pregnancy as well as opportunities for them to gain the life skills necessary for success and an independent life. Each resident participates in education and/or employment planning, classes in financial literacy, cooking and household management.

Rev. Dennis Bartels

A 1982 graduate of Concordia Seminary/St. Louis, Bartels has served Holy Cross and the North Miami community since August of 1986. He was selected as the recipient of the Lietz Individual Ministry Award because of "his selfless dedication to ministry in general and Holy

Florida-Georgia District took home honors with two awards:

- ◆ Fred E. Lietz Mission Project Award to **Redeeming Life Maternity Home** in Sanford, FL
- ◆ Fred E. Lietz Individual Ministry Award to **Pastor Dennis Bartels** of Holy Cross/North Miami, FL



LCEF Florida-Georgia District Vice President Daniel J. Reichard presented outgoing LCEF President & CEO Rich Robertson with a framed page from a Lutheran LIFE issue featuring the organization.

Honored at LCEF New Orleans Conference

Cross and for his love and compassion for others."

His community involvement includes working with the North Miami Police Department, the Chamber of Commerce, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, His House Children's Home and A Caring Pregnancy Center.

LCEF's annual Fall Leadership Conference provides an opportunity for the organization to acknowledge and celebrate its partnerships with the individuals, congregations, schools and organizations who make ministry happen.

The three-day event also offers a time of fellowship with friends, partners and investors who make it possible for LCEF to support LCMS ministries.

The theme of the 2017 Leadership event was "Love Boldly" based on I Corinthians 13:13.



Florida-Georgia District delegates to the LCEF Fall Leadership Conference (l-r) were Annette Shanks of St. John/Ocala; Sherri Mackey of Holy Cross/North Miami; LCEF District Vice President Daniel J. Reichard; Rev. John Roth of Thrive/Estero; Rev. Dr. Brian Kneser of Woodlands/Montverde; Rev. James Rockey of Amazing Grace/Oxford; and Rev. Jeff Jordan of Rivercliff/Atlanta.



Award winners (center) Sheryl and Ed DeWitt of Redeeming Life Maternity Home with Rev. Mark Phillips, LCEF Board Chair (left) and Rev. Bart Day, LCEF CEO



Rev. Dennis Bartels and his wife Beth (center) with Rev. Mark Phillips, LCEF Board Chair (left) and Rev. Bart Day, LCEF CEO



Lutheran Life
Florida-Georgia District
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
5850 T. G. Lee Blvd., Suite 500
Orlando, FL 32822-4410

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BOCA RATON, FL
PERMIT NO 1928

The BACKPAGE

LCEF Conference Encourages Participants to Love Boldly

Hundreds of Lutheran Church Extension Fund executives, delegates and guests gathered in New Orleans from November 16-18 for the Annual Fall Leadership Conference.

The three-day event provided opportunity for fellowship, worship, encouragement from a range of speakers, updates on LCEF events around the country and acknowledgment of special accomplishments.

Two of those accomplishments were Florida-Georgia District connected: Redeeming Life Maternity Home in Sanford, FL, and Holy Cross/North Miami Pastor Dennis Bartels.

For full details on the conference and the Florida-Georgia presence, see pages 30-31. ■

*Above photo:
LCEF District Vice President Daniel J. Reichard (left) and Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton (right) with District award winners Rev. Dennis Bartels and Rev. Ed and Sberyl DeWitt of Redeeming Life Maternity Home.*



What Is Laborers For Christ?

Laborers For Christ (LFC) is a service provided by Lutheran Church Extension Fund to help Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries save money on their building projects.

Laborers are retired carpenters, handy people, farmers, school teachers and other willing workers. They are committed to working at minimum wage for LCMS ministries who desire to undertake the construction and improvement of their own facilities.



Join Laborers For Christ today.

To view future projects or fill out an application, visit lcef.org or call 314-885-6444.

Are you looking for a satisfying next chapter of your life?

 Lutheran Church Extension Fund
where investments build ministry