

LUTHERAN LIFE

The Newsmagazine of the
Florida-Georgia District of the
Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
November/December 2019





LUTHERAN LIFE

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 e-mails. 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:

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As Of November 1, 2019

Calling Congregations

Peace/Decatur, GA.....Sole Pastor
King of Kings/Jasper, GA.....Sole Pastor
Christ/Lakeland, FL.....Sole Pastor
Oak Road/Lilburn, GA.....Sole Pastor
Woodlands/Montverde, FL.....Senior Pastor
Good Shepherd/N Fort Myers, FL...Sole Pastor
Epiphany/Tallahassee, FL.....Senior Pastor
Timothy/Woodstock, GA.....Sole Pastor
Holy Trinity/Rome/GA.....Sole Pastor

Calls Issued

Christ the King/Commerce, GA
Called Aaron Reinking as Sole Pastor
King of Kings/Jasper, GA
Called Jeremy Lucke as Sole Pastor
Oak Road/Lilburn, GA
Called Augie Iadicicco as Sole Pastor
Woodlands/Montverde, FL
Called Jon Thomas as Senior Pastor
Good Shepherd/North Fort Myers, FL
Called Robert Davis as Senior Pastor
Timothy/Woodstock, GA
Called Daniel Brammeier as Sole Pastor

Calls Declined

Jeremy Lucke to King of Kings/Jasper, GA
Augie Iadicicco to Oak Road/Lilburn, GA

Transferred OUT to Other Districts

Heidi Blank (C) to California/Nevada/Hawaii
Amanda Bell (C) to Southeastern
Mark Harris (O) to Texas
Thomas Eggebrecht (O) to Missouri
Bradley Heinecke (O) to Mid-South

Transferred IN from Other Districts

Richard Rossow (O) from Michigan
Margaret Ruehle (C) from New England
John Weiler (O) from Missouri
Timothy Handrick (C) from Rocky Mountain
Jeffery Moore (O) from Kansas
Michael Mueller (O) from Pacific Southwest
James Knuth (O) from Southeastern

Ordained/Commissioned Minister Installations

7/28/19 Ms. Margaret Ruehle (C)
as Deaconess at Grace/St Petersburg, FL
8/10/19 Rev. Luis Diaz (O)
as Pastor at Faith/Hialeah, FL
8/11/19 Rev. Richard (Scott) Henze (O)
as Pastor at St Paul/Weston, FL
8/11/19 Ms. Jessica Wittcop (C)
as Teacher at Redeemer/Stuart, FL
8/11/19 Mr. Ron Pawlitz (C)
as Principal at First/Clearwater, FL
8/18/19 Mr. Timothy Handrick (C) as Director
of Youth Ministry at St John/Ocala, FL
8/18/19 Ms. Brenda Dean (C)
as Teacher at Holy Trinity/Tampa, FL

Status Change in the District

Byron Einspahr (C)
from Candidate to Emeritus
John Weiler (O)
from Active to Emeritus

Called to Glory

Rev. Norman Edward Steinke 9/5/19

Church Change

Christ the King, Commerce, GA ,Initial Member

Rev. Norman Steinke Called to Glory

The Rev. Norman Edward Steinke, 80, was called home by the heavenly Father on September 5, 2019. He is survived by his wife of nearly sixty years, Marilyn Steinke; his son; Norm Steinke and wife Claire Steinke; his son; Brian Steinke; his daughter; Nancy Isham and husband Kurt Isham; five grandchildren; Lauren Steinke, Weldon Steinke, Carl Steinke, Hayden Isham, and Luke Isham.



Pastor Steinke was born in Bowler, Wisconsin on April 24, 1939. He graduated from Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in 1959 and from Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois, in 1963. He served as pastor in 13 congregations over his career always heeding the Lord's call. He built and/or designed churches in Schofield, Wisconsin; Woodbury, Minnesota; and Fort Worth; Abilene and Waco, Texas.

"Pastor Norm" dedicated more than 50 years of his life faithfully serving God. The Lord blessed him with the talent to organize, motivate, and inspire people to build the kingdom of God here on Earth and he continued this passion to serve throughout his life. There was hardly ever a time when he wasn't dreaming up his next project.

His commitment to his family was unparalleled. He enjoyed watching his children and grandchildren's accomplishments and relished in their successes. He took great pride in providing for his family in all ways. ■

District Education Pioneer, Marilyn Sagehorn, Called Home

Don and Marilyn Sagehorn were legendary education pioneers in the Florida Georgia District. They served the Lord with joy, enthusiasm, unending dedication, and a sincere faith devoting their lives to spreading God's Word and love through Lutheran education.

Don served as principal, teacher, church organist, choir director, school athletic director, Bible class/ Sunday school teacher, various church boards and committees. Don passed away in November of 2012.

Marilyn passed away last April in Bermuda Run, NC. In her active years she was especially involved in woman's Bible study and leadership roles within the District as well as with the LWML District and national organization.

The Sagehorns would help a new teacher find an apartment, often driving them around the community, inviting them for meals, creating a local family for them. Many of those teachers were recent graduates of one of the Concordia colleges like River Forest or Seward. These young educators were far from their homes and the Sagehorns made them feel like family.

Don was born March 22, 1927 in Tilden, Nebraska and was graduated from Concordia Teachers College River Forest, IL in 1949. He went on for his masters degree in education from Indiana University. Marilyn was born June 3, 1930 in Schaumburg, Illinois and was graduated from Concordia/River Forest in 1951. She and Don were married in June, 1952. Marilyn went on for her masters degree from Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL.

The Sagehorns served St Paul/Hammond, IN before moving to the Florida-Georgia District to serve Grace/Key West, FL (1954); St. Mark/Hollywood, FL (1962); Peace/Fort Lauderdale, FL (1975). Peace later through a merger with Grace/Fort Lauderdale became Shepherd of the Coast.

Marilyn and Don both received numerous accolades in education: the Dr. Ben Eggers Outstanding Lutheran School Educator; Good and Faithful Servants; Servants of Christ and others.

Don and Marilyn were married 60 years when Don passed in 2012. Marilyn moved to North Carolina to be closer to her children.

Marilyn was known for her expansive vocabulary — using her love of words to keep busy, encourage others, expand friendships and share humor and laughter. Her room in her North Carolina retirement

community became the epicenter for Scrabble games and Bananagrams! She used to like to say there was another beatitude — Blessed are the flexible, for they shall not be bent out of shape!

Marilyn always ordered extra Portals of Prayer to share with neighbors. She attended Bible study led by a retired Navy Chaplain, and quickly became known for her biblical knowledge and keen insights into God's Word. When possible, she attended St. John's/Winston-Salem, NC where she enjoyed worshiping and connecting with LWML friends.

Marilyn's positive outlook shined and she used her sense of humor and wit to help others with the process of aging. Her apartment encouraged discussions of faith — her favorite crosses, religious artwork and books all demonstrated what she deemed important in life: God. At Christmas, she loved introducing Don's homemade Chrismons to new residents and staff, explaining their various meaning.

Marilyn's kindness was widespread — she became a grandma figure to many young staff members at her facility. They frequently came to her for advice and despite the age difference, looked to her for friendship! They would often come from other buildings to spend their break time talking with Marilyn. She always made her family and many former students feel important, special and loved! Her Gospel light continued to shine!

Marilyn always appreciated the little things in life. She didn't treasure things,



4 generations — Marilyn holding great-granddaughter, Talia Sage Wicclair, with daughter Paula (Sagehorn) Jones and granddaughter, Brandi Wicclair

but rather relished relationships and experiencing nature in God's beautiful world — feeling the tree bark, examining flower petals, listening for birds and observing landscape changes. But during walks, lamb's ear became her cherished plant! She held her favorite plants' multiple memories close to her heart — "I am Jesus' Little Lamb", The Lord is my Shepherd and her own personal mission of leading little ones to Christ! ■



Marilyn with son and daughter-in-law- Dan and Mary Sagehorn

*"Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."
— Martin Luther*

Break Forth!

O Beauteous Heavenly Light

A Season of Singing!

☞ It seems like it happened just yesterday. I remember so well the first time, in high school chorus, I heard the hymn, "Break Forth, O Beauteous Heavenly Light." I attended a public high school, but our director, who also played for a local church, included this wonderful piece in our Christmas program repertoire in my sophomore year. I sang with the basses and we learned our part rather quickly.

☞ They hymn, written in 1641 by Johann Rist with the tune by Johann Schopp, is in the Lutheran Service Book in a setting by another Johann — Johann Sebastian Bach! It caused great joy for me, and every time I have the chance to sing it, it takes me back to that chorus room when I first heard it. Of course, I attributed it to Bach, with some degree of Lutheran pride.

☞ We have many great Advent and Christmas hymns in our hymnals. Christmas music of all kinds will hit the airwaves in many places following Thanksgiving and on some of the streaming stations Christmas music is already playing!

☞ I have always found music to have the ability to transport me back to a moment in time. In the midst of stress, it can provide relief. In the midst of sorrow, it can provide comfort. It makes people want to dance, especially if no one is watching. Luther understood the power of music and was himself a bit of a musician. He felt so strongly about it he wrote, "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world."

☞ Luther actually had a lot to say about music. Is it any wonder we are a singing church? Luther wrote, "Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us." One more, just to set the stage: "Nothing on earth is so well-suited to make the sad merry, the merry sad, to give courage to the despairing, to make the proud humble, to lessen envy and hate, as music."

☞ Nowhere is this truer than when we sing God's Word set to music . . .

☞ The holiday season, which really begins sometime near Thanksgiving and goes on at least for many of us, to Epiphany, is, literally, full of joyful songs of praise. It was always fun to plan worship services during Advent, trying to fit in all my favorite Advent hymns, systematically moving us closer to the celebration of our Savior's birth.

☞ Hymns are a wonderful way to remember the truth of God's love and salvation for all people. Hymns tell a story and remind us of God's truth. God's Word, His truth, has an impact. Isaiah reminds us, "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy and be led forth in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall break forth into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands."

☞ If we believe and trust God's Word, then consider this. Every time someone like Frank Sinatra sings "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" or Bing Crosby sings "Adeste Fideles" (O Come, All Ye Faithful), or even the Bare Naked Ladies singing, "We Three Kings," the truth of God's Word is going out into the world, and His promise is it will not return to Him void!

☞ What this says to me is that even when I walk into Publix, Walmart, Target or Macy's, and they are playing some of the traditional Christmas music, mixed, of course, with popular ones like "Rudolph" and "Jingle Bells," God is at work in ways we may not see or understand. It's as another hymn-writer put it: "Almighty God, Your Word is cast Like seed into the ground; Now let the dew of heaven descend And righteous fruits abound!" (LSB 577)

☞ The power of God's Word does not depend on any of us, and yet God makes it clear that He desires us to share that Word with

the world. Even as Jesus sent His disciples, He now sends us into the world with the good news of His love and forgiveness for all people. We are entering a season that truly provides opportunities for us to share the power of His love, the extent He was willing to go to show us His love, during the season before us.

habits, occupies, lives in and among us when we praise Him. While music is certainly not the only way we can offer Him praise, music is one of the major ways we praise Him. We offer these praises so well at this time of year. Let Him live in your praise so the entire world can see Jesus living in you!

☞ People are more open to the story of Jesus at Christmas time than almost any other time of the year. There is great receptivity in this season and people are more willing to listen. God can use this season for His glory if we will simply share the joy that He has placed in our hearts as forgiven sinners, combined with the joy we experience in this season as we lift our voices in praise.

☞ The sounds of the season bring such great memories to many minds and hearts. As you hear these old familiar songs, let them delight your heart as you sing with gusto and celebrate the One who took on human flesh to grant us eternal life. Break forth into singing! Let this be a season of singing! Let those songs remind you of His grace and celebrate Jesus, as we proclaim Him with great boldness to the world. ☞



Sing We All Noel!
GREG

☞ Advent helps us anticipate His coming, and Christmas celebrates His incarnation and love made manifest. These songs are full of joy, hope, and celebration. Not only do they give us handles by which we might share the good news, but also God's Word is doing its transformative work all the time.

☞ Who in your life might you reach out to share the love of Jesus by listening with them to a Christmas song and then taking a few moments to explain to what the song is referring? Maybe it is your grandchildren or children, maybe a parent or other relative; maybe it is a neighbor or colleague, a friend or even a stranger. Certainly we trust God's Word to grow His kingdom, but He also entrusts us with the privilege and responsibility of sharing that Word with those all around us, whether in word or maybe even a song!

☞ In Psalm 22:3, in the King James Version, it reads, "But Thou art holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel." Our holy God in-

Veterans of the Cross to Convene in March

Retired church workers and their spouses will once again gather at the Methodist Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg, FL March 2-4, 2020 for the annual Florida-Georgia Veterans of the Cross Retreat.

“The theme of the retreat and the focus of the Bible study will be ‘Climbing New Hills,’” explains Chris Rau, a member of the retreat planning committee. “Rev. Dr. Rick Armstrong will be this year’s featured speaker. Leading the Bible study will be Rev. Dr. Jon Diefenthaler, former District President of the Southeastern District. Don Wharton will lead us with his musical talents, and Rev. Vic Belton will serve as our Devotional Leader and Preacher. There will be mission presentations, fellowship opportunities, and time with old and new friends. Participants will also be able to choose from a number of break-out sessions that will appeal to a variety of interests.”



Jon Diefenthaler

Rick Armstrong

Don Wharton

A highlight of the Retreat is the presentation of the Behnken Medallions to “veteran servants” in four categories: Pastor, Teacher, Layperson, and Church at large.

According to Rau, this retreat was established in 1979 by the late Florida-Georgia District President Dr. L. Lloyd Behnken to stimulate retired church workers with relevant ministry.

“Originally called the Behnken Retreat, the gathering was renamed Veterans of the Cross and has been expanded to include friends and retired church workers from around the Synod.” Retreat registration will be available online through the District website at <http://flgadistrict.org>, in early December. Newly retired workers are encouraged to contact the Florida-Georgia District office at 407-857-5556. ■

Is Your College Student Starting Anew in Spring?

by Pastor Jay Winters, University Lutheran/Tallahassee, FL

She sat down across the table from me and told me what it was like to come in as a new student, but in January instead of August. In some ways, it seemed like it was easier. The pomp, circumstance, and hoopla of the Fall semester had died down by January. Weekends weren’t automatically planned out by football games or sorority events. But it was also difficult coming into a new school when it seemed like your timing was all wrong.

People had questions that were prompted by coming to a new school in January instead of the usual August. And many people had already solidified their friend groups, and as such, weren’t as friendly as they might have been in the Fall.

Yet statistics bear that several new students start university in the Spring semester. There are several reasons that this may be the case. It may be because they were transferring from a school, or that they were delayed for some reason

like a health issue, or because they knew that if you want to maximize your chances to get into a tough university you apply for the Spring semester. For whatever reason, you may know a student who is going to be attending a new college or university in January. So what do you do?

Honestly, the same thing that you would do for a student in the Fall. First, keep in touch with the student and let them know that they are loved by you and by God. Don’t skimp on the “Jesus loves you,” text messages, there is a good chance that nobody else is sending them. Second, connect them with a campus ministry or nearby church. It is often difficult to be a Christian on one of the many college campuses in Florida and Georgia, it is even MORE difficult to be one without a community.

Actively problem solve with your student about the Christian group or church that they might be a part of, let them make the choices, but help them

see how to make good choices. Lastly, check in. On their weekly Skype call with my children, my parents ask them every Sunday, “what was the children’s message about?” and that’s not a bad way to go about things. Just ask how it went and be ready to help them process what happened at church.

Several Florida and Georgia congregations and ministries have aligned themselves to be able to help your students, especially when they show up in January. But we need your help! We need your prayers. We need your help in identifying your student (believe it or not, God doesn’t send us a note when your student arrives on campus, and the campus administration certainly doesn’t either). We need your support from afar to not shut themselves off from faith, but to receive it joyfully.

We’re looking forward to serving your student. Help us do so. ■



An expert on humor and aging, Richard Bimler has mastered the perfect blend of wit and wisdom. Rich is Ministry Consultant and Ambassador for Health, Hope, and Aging! for Lutheran Church Charities. Based out of the Chicago area, he writes, speaks and consults with agencies and organizations throughout the world. He is author of 17 books, editor for Hope-Full Living: Daily Devotions for Christian Seniors and writer for www.richandcharlie.com. He has served in local churches, district and national denomination positions and on numerous boards and advisory groups. Rich continues to enjoy his family, grandparenting, jogging, writing, laughing and the Chicago Cubs. ■

Pre-Event Veterans of the Cross Cruise!

Fun-Filled 4-Night February Getaway With Lutheran Humorist Rich Bimler On Mariner of the Seas

Educational Opportunity Tours is offering a cruise just prior to the Veterans of the Cross retreat (above) departing February 24th from Port Canaveral. In addition to ship and shore activities, guests will discover bustling markets and placid beaches and the Nassau Straw Market, three blocks from the port where you can browse the duty-free shops and downtown vendors.

Off the ship you’ll find authentic Cuban cigars artwork and more. On Paradise Island, across the bridge, shop for couture and upscale brands. Nassau’s culinary bounty emerges from the ocean — dishes like fried snapper served with grits and grouper drizzled with butter. Try conch, the marine mollusk of the iconic shell, presented as conch fritters, conch chowder, cracked conch, even raw conch in fresh lime juice.

There will be plenty of excitement with Rich Bimler’s lectures and humor as he pokes fun at Lutheran aging and family dynamics. Additional information is available from Educational Opportunities Tours Facebook page or website: www.eo.travelwithus.com/#eotours. ■



Being “The Church” in the Florida-Georgia District

The Florida Georgia District churches and schools are filled with loving people, dedicated pastors and professional church workers. They gather every Lord’s day to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus who is the Savior of all and the light of the world. Our two states are among the fastest growing in the country. Yet they are also in many places some of the least churched. People are not necessarily inclined to search for a church for worship or fellowship, let alone the comfort and peace that comes from Jesus Christ. This is the perfect definition of both a challenge within an opportunity.

The congregations of the FL-GA district are responding by not only endeavoring to be a welcoming and loving church should they come but intentionally shifting their efforts at the same time. The first shift is toward an ever greater external focus. If people are not seeking out a church, nor its programming or people then we as the church need to seek them. Just as Jesus said that He came to “seek and to save the lost” (Luke 19:10) and urged the church to be “salt” and “light” (Matthew 5), the church will look for opportunities to love people in the name of Jesus. This is increasingly happening through community based servant evangelism.

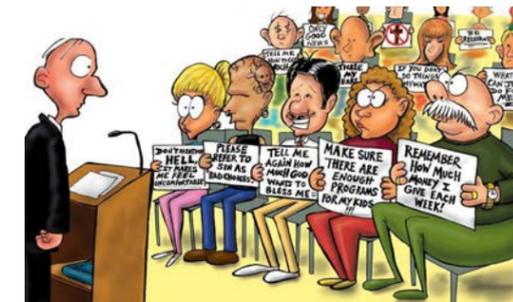
Our churches are leaving their property and preparing meals, feeding hungry people, cleaning up neighborhoods, establishing centers of support and care, volunteering at public schools and other places. They are opening their doors for neighborhood associations and tutoring programs. Our churches and people are not waiting for people to come to them, they are “going” (Matthew 28) and carefully and intentionally helping and loving and caring for them.

They are also experiencing a second shift — relationships are being formed with people in their communities. Then along the way, through those relationships, the people of our Lutheran churches and schools are introducing people to the most important relationship of all, which is with Jesus. Programs will not attract people who are not looking. Worship and preaching and the sacrament will not appeal to those who see no value in it. Yet as those in our communities are far away from Jesus, they come near to His love through a relationship with our people.

No, not to twist their arms to come to church, but in deed and later also through words, to first introduce them to the love of Jesus and then to introduce them to the person of Jesus. After a time, God willing, they will come to holy baptism and celebrate the resurrection with us.

In the past, when people saw the value of churches and church going, we welcomed them as they came into our doors. Yet now in these days of steady population increases with increased loneliness, our district is turning their attention to how they can be the church. They are loving unconditionally, paying attention to the needs around them and in big ways and small ways making a difference in the lives and eternities of others. It is a shift in how we see and do things, but it is a wonderful way to be the church in a world of challenge and opportunity.

If you would like more information about how you can work with our mission support team to live into these shifts more intentionally, contact the FL-GA district office at 407-857-5556 ■



District Pastors and Educators Convene in Daytona Beach



The Florida-Georgia District LCMS held back-to-back conferences in late September in Daytona Beach, FL providing opportunity for abundant leadership workshops, keynote speakers, worship and plenty of camaraderie.

The clergy had 231 attendees and 29 exhibitors who provided resources for ministry. Worship was hosted at Trinity/Daytona Beach under the leadership of the Rev. Paul Sizemore. At that communion service several anniversaries were recognized, including the Rev. David Ludwig and Carol who were celebrating 60 years of service in ministry.

Business conducted at the Pastors Conference consisted of adopting the Florida-Georgia Pastors Conference Policy Manual — which was reviewed and updated through the work of District secretary, the Rev. Jay Winters and his team consisting of President Greg Walton, District attorney, Rusty Huseman and the Rev. Stephen Reynolds.

The Rev. Dr. Leo Sanchez, Director of the Center for Hispanic Studies at Concordia Seminary/St. Louis, MO, and David Zahl, Director of Mockingbird Ministries were the keynote speakers.

The Educators Conference immediately followed the clergy event, affording the opportunity for several pastors coming from congregations with schools participation in the two-day conference themed “So Much More!” — mined from Ephesians 3:20-21.

For the first time since 2007, attendance topped the 500 threshold. Featured presenter was the Rev. Matt Popovits, pastor at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church and School in Houston, TX. He is a frequent speaker at youth ministry and leadership events, and is a gifted communicator and motivator.

The “honors banquet” for the Educators Conference was a festive affair that included recognition of schools receiving National Lutheran School and Florida-Georgia District Accreditation, ministry anniversary celebrations ranging from ten to 50 years of service.

The Rev. Andrew Ritchie from St. Paul/Lakeland, FL was honored as the recipient of the “Barnabas, Son of Encouragement Award.” Kelly Reilly, principal at Holy Trinity/Tampa; Sherri Mackey, principal at Holy Cross/North Miami; and Jim Essig, principal at

Redeemer/Stuart — all Florida residents — were honored as recipients of the Dr. Ben Eggers, Outstanding Lutheran School Educator Award.

Throughout the conference participants benefitted from Ed Camp sessions as well as nearly 50 breakout sessions. The Rev. Jeff Skopak, Grace/Jacksonville, FL, served as the Conference Chaplain and District President Greg Walton delivered the closing service homily.

Conference participants completing surveys indicated this was the best conference they had attended.



President Greg Walton, left, introduces the regional vice presidents to new members of the Florida-Georgia District at a breakfast roundtable for all new clergy, vicars, deaconesses and educators. From left, James Rocky, Region 2; Steve Carretto, Region 5; Charles Reich, Region 3; and Jon Zehnder, Region 4. Not shown, First VP, David Brighton, from Region 1.

Sherri Mackey, principal at Holy Cross/North Miami, FL is introduced by her pastor, Dennis Bartels as she is about to receive her award.



Pastors Conference Keynote Speaker David Zahl of Mockingbird Ministries



Pastors Conference Keynote Speaker Leo Sanchez of Concordia Seminary



Jim Essig, principal at Redeemer/Stuart, FL is lampooned on stage by members of his staff prior to him receiving the Dr. Ben Eggers Outstanding Lutheran School Educator Award.



Opening worship for the Pastors Conference at Trinity/Daytona Beach was hosted by the Rev. Paul Sizemore.



From left, John List/St Paul-Boca Raton; Oscar Benavides/FiveTwo Network; Steve Carretto/St Paul-Boca Raton, Scott Henze/St Paul-Weston; Jacob Roedsen/Our Savior-Lake Worth and Dennis Bartels/Holy Cross-North Miami gather for fellowship on a free evening.



A table of Lutheran Educators from St. Luke’s/Oviedo, FL



St. Paul/Boca Raton, FL was well represented at the Educators Conference.



Jim Essig Redeemer/Stuart, FL principal, accepts the Dr. Ben Eggers Outstanding Lutheran School Educator Award.



The Rev. David Ludwig and Carol celebrated their 60th anniversary in ministry at the Pastors Conference opening worship service.



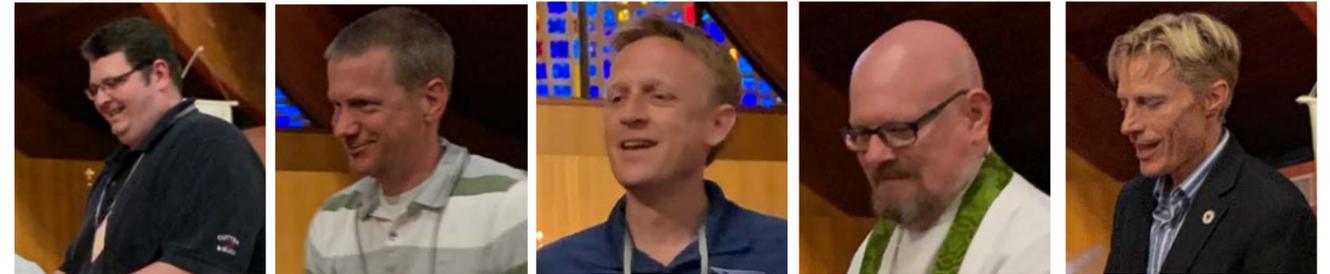
Celebrating milestone anniversaries at the opening worship were — from left — Gil Kuehn, Bruce Lieske, Robert Jacobs, Gerald Seaman, David Ludwig

Clergy Anniversaries

Curt Adams/Sarasota, FL.....	10
Steven Naylor/Lutz, FL.....	10
Sam Clay/Statesboro, GA.....	15
Greg Michael/Athens, GA.....	15
Bruce Alberts/Titusville, FL.....	20
Tim Droegemueller/Cumming, GA.....	20
Paul Meseke/Brooksville, FL.....	20
Albert Oren/St. Augustine, FL.....	20
Jeff Shanks/Ocala, FL.....	20
Kenneth Green II/Orlando, FL.....	25
Kevin Loughran/St. Petersburg, FL.....	25
Dean Pfeffer/Plant City, FL.....	25
Paul vonWerder/Orlando, FL.....	25
Angel Ramos/Clewiston, FL.....	25
Tim Brown/Orlando, FL.....	30
David Albers/Stuart, FL.....	35
Gary Dehnke/Lawrenceville, GA.....	35
George Murdaugh/Douglasville, GA.....	35
Philip Vangen/Bristol, TN.....	40
Richard Armstrong/Winter Park, FL.....	40
Paul Droutz/Lawrenceville, GA.....	40
John Glamann/Lake Wales, FL.....	45
Gilbert Kuehn/Tampa, FL.....	50
Bruce Lieske/Orlando, FL.....	50
Robert Jacobs/Jacksonville Beach, FL.....	55
Jerry Seaman/Casselberry, FL.....	55
David Ludwig/Orlando, FL.....	60

Educator Anniversaries

Kate Frazer.....	10	Kim Tenney.....	20
Barb Pennekamp.....	10	Wendy Clark.....	20
Stephanie Finley.....	10	Eric Macke.....	20
Lisset Santana.....	10	Jeremy Becker.....	20
Suzanne Hakimipour.....	10	Jan Tumminello.....	25
Lisa Crowley.....	10	Kimberly Newman.....	25
Joy Alfonso.....	10	Soraya Trujillo.....	25
M.V. McCullough.....	10	Anita Allwardt.....	25
Amy Lutton.....	10	Donna Hascup.....	25
Sandy Wargo.....	15	Jeff Walcheski.....	30
Fritz Anne.....	15	Lynette Tegmeier.....	30
Elizabeth McKinney.....	15	John Glanzer.....	30
Ricky Mercado.....	15	Karri Klemm.....	35
Nick Utech.....	15	Karyn McChrystal.....	35
Kelly Allen.....	15	Robert Schaaf.....	40
Shirley Polk.....	15	Robert Boyd.....	40
Cynthia Butt.....	15	Deb Wagner.....	40
Michelle Henry.....	20	Ralph Utech.....	45
Lori Schwan.....	20	Keith Hutchison.....	45
Shelly McGovern.....	20	Jim Essig.....	45
Jessa Popp.....	20	John Westol.....	50
Jennifer Tanner.....	20		



Steve Naylor

Greg Michael

Sam Clay

Bruce Alberts

Tim Droegemueller



Several "first time workers" in the Florida-Georgia District were recognized at opening worship.

Paul Droutz

Dean Pfeffer

Bruce Lieske



East Coast DPs Meet With Sem Students

President Greg Walton and other LCMS District Presidents from the east coast of the United States met with students at Concordia Seminary/ St. Louis, MO in late September to share information about ministry opportunities.

“Ministry along the eastern seaboard is significantly different than ministry in the Midwest — or even along the west coast, the southern districts like Texas or elsewhere,” Walton emphasized.

“Together we spoke with about 30 students, many from east coast districts and some who vicared in east coast congregations and others who just had an interest in ministry along this portion of the county.”

Then later — in mid October — the East Coast Common Endeavor (ECCE), comprised of most of the east coast District Presidents, gathered in West Hartford, CT as guests of the New England District. The meeting focused on helping DPs learn how to better identify donors as well as overall development opportunities. ■

Human Care Ministry Thanks Veterans With Gift Bags



The members of the Human Care Ministry Team of **Hope/Plant City, FL** decided to offer a simple “thanks” for all the men and women who are residing at Grace Manor Care Center in Plant City.

“We are constantly reminded of the tremendous sacrifice of America’s veterans,” team leader, Sandy Howell, stated. “In a simple way of thanks to God for all these men and women have done for our nation. We asked the members of Hope to donate cards, games, personal items and more for our team to prepare ‘thank you’ bags for veterans.”

The congregation responded abundantly. The bags were delivered by Hope’s Human Care Ministry Team on behalf of the entire congregation.

Pictured behind the bags are some of the members of the Human Care Team (from left) Sandy Howell (team leader), Pam Lantz and Sue Griffin. ■

Online Christian Coaching Class Offered to Circuit Visitors

At the August CV meeting there was discussion to determine the level of interest District circuit visitors might have in an online class in Christian Coaching. The course will consist of seven online meetings, one video viewed on your own, reading a coaching book (the participant’s choice from a provided list) and some coaching homework to be scheduled by the learner during the seven weeks.

The class is being offered January 9, 16 and 30 through February 20. Exact dates and times will be confirmed with enrollment. Inquiries can be directed to

Scott Gress at scottgress@me.com or 561-542-4472.

The class fee is \$50 payable to the FLGA District. This can be paid either through the District website, flgadistrict.org utilizing the Online Giving button and choose “other,” indicating Online Coaching Class in the adjacent box, or by mailing a check payable to the FLGA District to the attention of Kathy Keene.

Once registration and payment has been received,



COACHING LEADER
by Rev. Scott Gress
Lutheran Counseling Services
Leadership Coach

additional information will be sent to you. Please do not hesitate to contact Kathy Keene to verify receipt. ■

What’s This Talk About Conflorida?

For almost a decade there has been talk about Concordia/Mequon, WI opening a satellite campus “opportunity” somewhere in the Florida area. The code name, Conflorida, has gained some traction. And while it’s very likely to be years away, details are emerging with overwhelming support and encouragement from alumni, clergy and prospective students.

Currently none of the Lutheran universities reach into Florida-Georgia. There has been talk about merging areas of excellence from several Concordia Universities — Seward, Mequon, New York, Chicago — and concentrating on graduate-level education options such as nursing or pharmacy. It may not require brick and mortar purchase of a campus at the onset keeping initiation costs minimized.

At the summer LCMS national convention in Tampa, Dr. John Nunes, president of Concordia/New York, cautiously tossed around the idea concerning a “ConFlorida,” as did Dr. Patrick Ferry, president of Concordia/Wisconsin. But the appearance of something like this would be rather

unconventional. Since the national picture of higher education is constantly changing, there are challenges in planning and forming a new educational presence in any community.



President Ferry indicated opportunities in several areas of success by all the Concordia colleges and universities — such as healthcare and the medical science fields — could be explored.

Tampa and Orlando both seem to be strong contenders for a regional headquarters — offering transportation access via airports, abundant undergraduate schools, affordable housing and options for student internships in healthcare companies. ■

Peter Meier Joins Florida-Georgia as New Missions Executive

The Rev. Peter Meier was unanimously backed at the November Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors meeting to become the new Executive Director for Missions. He comes with a wealth of experience — most recently as Executive Director for the Center for US Missions.

Previously Peter served in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod’s Minnesota South District as Executive Assistant to the President (2005-2006), and Assistant to the President for Missions (2005-2013). He served as Senior Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church and School in Mayer, MN from 1982-2005.

Peter was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin to Frederick and Helen Meier, Lutheran educators. He attended Mt. Calvary Lutheran School, Milwaukee Lutheran High School, and Marquette University. Following graduation Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, IL, he received his theological degree and Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 1982.

His Doctor of Ministry degree was granted in 2011 by Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana upon completion and successful defense of his dissertation, “Missional Leadership in Lutheran Schools: A Key

Component in Lutheran Schools as Mission Outposts.”

Peter is married to Kathy, a Special Education teacher at Mayer Lutheran High School. They have three married children, and two granddaughters.

“I am extremely enthusiastic about having someone ‘back in the field with boots on the ground,’” President Greg Walton emphasized to the board when making the announcement.

“When I heard Peter Meier had accepted the Call to be the Mission Executive I could barely contain my excitement, offered the Rev. Victor Belton, one of the mission coordinators for the Florida-Georgia District and pastor at Peace/Decatur, GA, “I have worked with Peter Meier on a number of projects through the Center for United States Mission. The work we have done that is the foundation for everything else is on prayer initiatives for the Center and for mission efforts in the wider LCMS. I believe Peter is the man for this season and that our work together will help advance the Kingdom agenda of our Father as well as facilitate growth in the congregations and outreach efforts of our District. Let’s fold our hands in prayer. Then lace up our sneakers and prepare to get busy in support

for Peter and his vision for missions in the Florida-Georgia District.”

“Peter Meier is a seasoned veteran with a heart for the mission of Christ,” added the Rev. Gerald Kieschnick, Chief Executive Officer for Legacy Deo and former LCMS President.

Peter joins the Florida-Georgia District staff in February but will be in attendance at the January Board of Directors meeting at the District Office in Orlando. ■

Below — Peter and Kathy Meier enjoyed a trip to the Holy Land. They are standing at The Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem’s Kidron Valley and the Temple Mount.



Rebecca Beikman Hartmann Joins Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors

Rebecca Beikman Hartmann has been elected to the Florida-Georgia District board of directors as the Region 3 layperson replacing Katie Abercrombie, who retired to relocate out of the District.

“Becky will be a welcome addition — even though we hated to see Katie move away,” said President Greg Walton. “Becky comes from a family of educators. Her father, Ralph Beikman, was principal at Faith/Fort Lauderdale for many years as well as a member of Lutheran High School’s/Fort Lauderdale/Davie board of directors.”

Becky is happily married to Ken Hartman, a transportation engineer. They have two daughters, Yulia and Svetlana, who are now a senior and junior in high school. She has taught in various Lutheran and Christian schools throughout Florida in the areas of art, English, and religion, and she home-schooled their daughters for seven years.

The Hartmanns are members of Hope/Plant City, FL, and enjoy the leadership of Pastor Dean Pfeffer. “One of my favorite things to do is teach God’s Word and help people see the applications of it in their lives,” Becky said. “Another favorite thing is helping people express their faith through the visual arts. One of my greatest joys at Hope is working with the Confirmation students to help them create a piece that visually expresses their Confirmation verse. The students can execute this in any medium — watercolor, print-making, pottery, etc. They create a piece of permanence and quality so that it will be with them the rest of their lives.”

“The students then write a description of their artwork and read this on their Confirmation Day — replacing the sermon time on that day. It really makes for a special day for the students, families and congregation.”

Becky will join the board effective with the January 24, 2020 meeting. ■



LWML Kicks Off L.E.A.D. Workshops

Often the first response a person gives when asked to serve as an officer or chair of any group is "I'm not a leader" or "I don't know how." That certainly is how I responded many years ago — and even four years ago when asked to be on the ballot for District President. Thankfully, I can testify that God does equip those who answer the call to serve.

The LWML takes leadership training seriously. Every three years an Assembly of Leaders is held in St. Louis; a three-day training for District presidents and two or three other representatives from each district. The 2018 Assembly of Leaders included the Junior Pastoral Counselors — a first! The team from the FL-GA District is: Vice President Communications Pat Powell, Junior Pastoral Counsel Paul Meseke, Young Woman Representative Jamie Bass, and myself as District President. The four of us have made the commitment to bring that training back to our District and conduct training workshops.

We are calling this program L.E.A.D. — *Leadership Exploration and Development* — for several reasons.

Leadership: The main purpose of the program is to strengthen and equip those who lead.

Exploration: One does not have to be in an elected or appointed position to attend as we are exploring what it means to be a leader and how one goes about leading.

Development: Many are born with a natural ability to lead and others need to learn how, but all can use, and improve those skills, with training.

The topics covered in a L.E.A.D. Workshop include: Engaging and Retraining Volunteers; Essential



Pat Powell, LWML District VP Communications



Paul Meseke, LWML District Junior Pastoral Counsel



Jamie Bass LWML District

Technology; S.A.L.T. — Sharing Active Leadership Techniques; Resources: Where to Find Them/How to Use Them; Basics of Protocol and Structure; Mission Grant Development and Selection. There's also a game included: **The Purple Feud!**

Workshops have been held for the District Board of Directors and six zones in central Florida. Information on upcoming workshops will be in the Winter Evangel, due out the end of November, as well as posted on www.flgalwml.com.

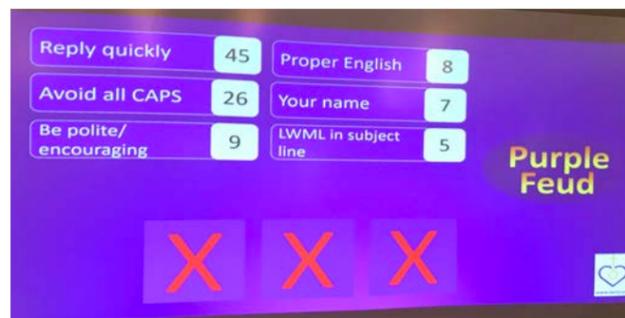
The Florida-Georgia District also offers excellent leadership programs: Emergent Leaders and Lay Leadership Summits. The L.E.A.D. Team will present two breakout sessions at the Region 2 Lay Leadership Summit, November 15-16, at Abiding Savior in Gainesville, FL.

Take advantage of the opportunities God is giving us to



FUTURE & HOPE
by Trish Aamoth
President
LWML FL-GA District

learn more and grow as leaders, as well as to build relationships throughout our District and our church body. It will be time well spent. ▲



At left — Space Coast Zone LWML members attending the L.E.A.D. event on October 5, 2019.

Above — the Purple Feud scoreboard.

Below — Young Woman Representative, Jamie Bass.



2020 President's Equip Conference: September 24-26

President Greg Walton's final District conference — as president anyway — will be September 24-26 at Buena Vista Palace in Orlando. Under the theme "One Body, Many Parts," the conference merges District laity, clergy and educators with the Florida-Georgia LWML conference — a first for these organizations. Approximately 1,200 participants can be expected.

Entertainment will include The Skit Guys — comprised of Tommy Woodard and Eddie James. These men have been best friends since high school. Think of them as the wise guys in class who had everyone laughing and managed to make a career out of it. They've been teaching God's word using comedy, drama for more than 20 years. They are consistently a hit at conferences.

Bible study leader will be Donna Pyle, a soul-stirring, engaging speaker, author, Bible teacher, and worship leader. Donna Pyle has a passion for studying and teaching God's Word. Her clear, down-to-earth style encourages people of all ages to wholeheartedly love, serve, and live for Jesus Christ.

Since launching Artesian Ministries in 2007, Donna has scratched out more than 20 Bible studies and enjoys the incredible privilege of traveling throughout the U.S. and internationally to speak and teach where the Lord opens doors.

Donna writes regularly on her blog, Hydrated Living, as she seeks to find beauty in the quiet and



The Skit Guys



Donna Pyle

sacred in the chaos, treasuring that this path is a holy experience planned by God before the beginning of time.

When not speaking, this Texas native enjoys writing, snapping copious photos, watching documentaries and home improvement shows, immersing herself in research, and reading faith-based books — "as many as I can inhale," she says. "I'm a marginal housekeeper, closet chef, and dabbling gardener, but home is always my favorite place to be." She has been a frequent participant at LWML events. ■

District Mission Facilitators, Advisory Council Continue to Fill Gaps

District Mission facilitators, Pastors Vic Belton, Scott Gress and Michael Mast, continue their work serving as facilitators throughout Florida and Georgia. They meet monthly online via ZOOM with Oscar Benavides of FiveTwo Network.

Together they have been responsive to congregational needs, exploring new opportunities and covering areas while the District has been without a Missions Executive. They'll be part of the transition team assimilating Dr. Peter Meier into his new role as Executive Director for Missions early in 2020.

Pastor Curtis Deterding is replacing Pastor Kevin Koenig on the Mission Advisory Council — Koenig is retiring. Mr. Bruce Dellinger, a member of Bethlehem/Jacksonville Beach, FL, also joined the council as a region 2 representative.

The council is investigating participation in Babcock Ranch, a large master-planned community located in southeastern Charlotte County and northeastern Lee County Florida consisting of approximately 17,000 acres. The planned community was approved as part of a public-private partnership with the State of Florida and local governments. ■

Aimee Dierks Installed as Early Learning Center Director

Amazing Grace, Oxford/The Villages, welcomed its new Early Learning Center Director, Aimee Dierks, on Sunday October 27. Aimee was installed during a joint worship service with Pastor and Regional Vice President, James Rockey officiating, and Mark Brink, Florida-Georgia District Executive Director for School and Youth Ministries assisting.

Aimee comes to Amazing Grace from Concordia University/Chicago where she served as the Early Childhood Education Center Director of a program with more than 200 students. Aimee is highly regarded and known not only for her passion for early learning ministry, but for connecting children and families to Christ.

"Aimee is truly the right person at the right time! She brings great gifts of leadership, vision and a commitment to not only serving families with excellent education and care, but in ministering to the whole family," Pastor Rockey said. "We rejoice in the Lord providing us with such a servant leader and pray that our work together will bear great fruit for the Kingdom!"

Amazing Grace's early learning center opened in 2018 and currently has 48 full-time students. The need in the area for such a program remains strong and Amazing Grace is preparing to serve more families. "This is a joyful time at Amazing Grace and Aimee's spirit will only further the joy," Rockey concluded. ■



Mark Brink, Aimee Dierks and James Rockey



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Jay Wendland
District Vice President
 Florida-Georgia District
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 Jay.Wendland@lcef.org

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FLORIDAGEORGIA

REGIONAL NEWS

Out and About in the Florida-Georgia District

King of Kings/Jasper, Georgia hosted its first annual Fall Family Festival on Saturday, October 12th. King of Kings moved to a new location and facility in May of this year. The fall festival provided an opportunity to share the new location and to reach out to families in the surrounding communities with the Good News of God's abiding love in Christ in the mountains of North Georgia. The event ran from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

"The Festival was family oriented and featured Bible-themed games and prizes for kids of all ages," reported Barry W. Hixson, a member of the congregation's board of elders. "We had food, treats and Bible-coloring materials. The games were largely constructed by members of the congregation and included: David and Goliath; Jacob's Ladder to Heaven; Wandering in the Wilderness Manna Toss; Wall of Jericho; Noah's Rainy Day of Golf; God Made the Dirt; Jonah and the Whale Bean Bag Toss; and the Miraculous Catch."

Food included hot dogs, brats, sauerkraut, chips, cookies and other treats, and beverages. "The weather was perfect! Abundant sunshine and warm temperatures," Hixson said. There were many in attendance and everyone had a wonderful time in play and family fellowship.

King of Kings plans to retain the games and supplies, and to make the Fall Family Festival an annual fall event as part of its larger Outreach Program. The Festival will be just one program of many by which King of Kings' seeks to live out its motto: "Sharing God's love in the north Georgia mountains." ■



The **Northeast Georgia Circuit** congregations gathered for a joint LWML Circuit Rally/LHM Witnessing Workshop with more than 50 in attendance. The NE GA Circuit is setting its sights in making their Circuit Convocations regular events to occur in the Spring and Fall each year. ■



All Saints/Blairsville, GA had a busy October in both learning and implementing their Outreach skills. Their "Embrace of Grace" ministry hosted a "baby shower" for the Union County Women's Enrichment Center which assists families with physical and educational needs in the birth and care of newborns, infants, and toddlers. Three of All Saints' members currently serve as "coaches" at the Center. In the above photo — Pastor Dave Wesche, Betty Mason, Becky Dyer (Director of the Women's Center), Carol Blackburn. ■

All Saints/Blairsville Rocks Karaoke at Grumpy Old Men Brewing

A group of **All Saints/Blairsville, GA** members have become regular fixtures on Karaoke Thursdays at Grumpy Old Men Brewing in Blue Ridge, GA. On October 10, they hosted a "Pizza Night" to start conversations and develop relations for the sake of the Gospel.

At right — Sally Wesche, Ted Knoke, Steve Curlee, Pastor Dave Wesche, Denise & Gene Windham

Below Right — Pastor Dave Wesche, Denise Windham, Lisa Blackwelder

Below — Steve Curlee, Lisa Blackwelder, Pastor Dave Wesche, Ralph Mason



REGION 1



- Vice President:**
David Brighton
Mount Calvary/Warner Robins
- Laity Board Members:**
Gary Engel | King of Kings/Jasper
Karen Cerny | Faith/Marietta
- Commissioned Minister Board Member:**
Tamie Worthington | St Paul/Peachtree City
- Circuit 1 NE Georgia Circuit Visitor:**
Zachary Hoffman | Good Shepherd/Gainesville
- Circuit 2 Atlanta N Circuit Visitor:**
Jeffrey Jordan | Rivercliff/Atlanta
- Circuit 3 Atlanta S Circuit Visitor:**
George Murdaugh | Prince of Peace/Douglasville
- Circuit 4 E Central Georgia Circuit Visitor:**
John Lehenbauer | Christ/Perry



▲ Participating in the ordination and installation of the Rev. Laird van Gorder at **The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity/Macon, GA** are (from left) Rev. Andrew Howe, Rev. David Bernthal, Rev. Laird van Gorder, Rev. David Brighton, Rev. John Lehenbauer. The service took place last July. van Gorder is a participant in the Specific Ministry Program. He's completed two years of study and has another two years or study ahead. ▶



▲ Rev. Aaron Reinking (left) and District President Greg Walton are all smiles at the chartering of **Christ the King/Commerce, GA** in mid-August as the congregation became an official member of the LCMS and Circuit #1 in the Florida-Georgia District. ■



Deaconess Kate Warnke was commissioned and installed at **Christ Our Savior/Griffin, GA**, in a special Sunday service in July. Above, District First Vice President, Rev. David Brighton, officiant and preacher; Deaconess Kate Warnke and her husband, Rev. Joe Warnke, pastor of Christ Our Savior, liturgist. In above photo



— fellow deaconesses in attendance: Carol Olday Schroeder of **Trinity/Athens, Georgia**; Dr. Gillian Bond, Director of the Residential Deaconess Program at Concordia Seminary/St. Louis, MO; Kate Warnke and Holly Lustila of Eternal Shepherd/Seneca, South Carolina. ■



Lutheran Noles Celebrate 40 Years in Current Facility

REGION

2



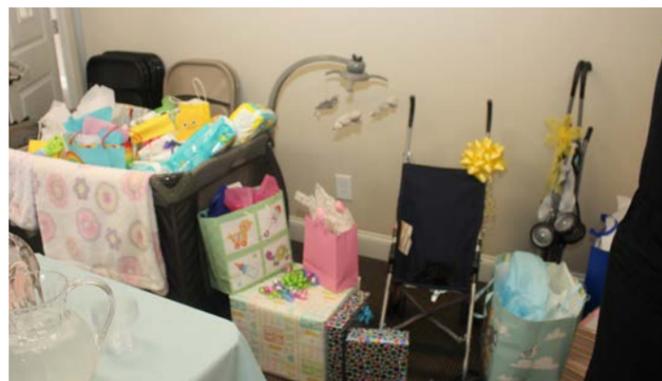
- Vice President: James Rocky, Amazing Grace/Oxford
- Board Secretary: Jay Winters, University Church Student Center/Tallahassee
- Liaison Board Members: Donald Kaufman | St. John/Ocala; Lois Schaefer | Amazing Grace/Oxford
- Circuit 5 Tallahassee Circuit Visitor: Frank Kinast | Messiah/Valdosta
- Circuit 6 First Coast Circuit Visitor: Dana Brones | Bethlehem/Jacksonville
- Circuit 7 N Central Florida Circuit Visitor: Alan Struckmeyer | Abiding Savior/Gainesville

Lutheran campus ministry has been happening at Florida State University since at least 1949, but this year **University Lutheran/Florida State University/Tallahassee, FL** celebrated 40 years in their current building. Why did they do it? To reach out to their neighbors. "This year we figured that there was no better excuse for joy and connection with us than to celebrate our birthday (even if it DID make us look a little younger than we actually are)," quipped pastor Jay Winters.

To celebrate the 40 years, University Lutheran handed out boxes of cupcakes to neighborhood businesses, apartment complexes, and dorms. They also hosted a larger than normal tailgate party for the homecoming weekend festivities at Florida State which coincided with the birthday week, and students are planning a service project that will benefit the neighborhood. Driven by the question, "If your church closed its doors tomorrow, would anyone notice?" leaders at University Lutheran created what they hope is the first of many annual University Lutheran birthday celebrations.

"It's getting harder and harder to find people that will celebrate what we believe," said Winters, "but the connection to what we believe might start with a celebration of our anniversary. If people will celebrate that we've been around for 40 years, maybe we can get to sharing why we're around today."

University Lutheran continues to look for current and former FSU students. If you know of a student that could benefit from plugging into this campus ministry, please contact Pastor Jay Winters at pastor@universitylutheranchurch.org or connect at lutheranoles.org. ■



The ladies of **King of Kings/Jasper, GA** held a Baby Shower for the North Georgia Pregnancy Center (NGPC) at the end of summer. NGPC provides Christian counseling, free ultra-sounds, videos and other teaching aids to prepare these mothers, and in some cases the fathers, for the introduction of a baby into their home. A large pile of baby gifts was donated by those in attendance as well as others who could not attend this year. The gifts are used by the Pregnancy center as incentives for the young mothers or mothers-to-be to take classes on how to care for their babies. Some of these mothers are



Some of the Agape Women/LWML of King of Kings/Jasper, GA

not much older than the children themselves. The Agape Women/LWML group periodically brings in a speaker ▲ from the Pregnancy Center to update them on how young women and babies have been helped over the past year and share how the lives of these mothers and their babies, and in some cases families, are touched by the support. The Center is highly successful in counseling young women away from considering an abortion, and the Baby Shower is just one way the ladies support the center each year. ■



Multiple generations of Region 2's **First/Gainesville, FL** gathered together in Mid-October for a Thrivent Action Team Event. They filled backpacks with school supplies that had been gathered from the congregation. Then later in October the congregation hosted Trunk or Treat with dozens of member's cars being decorated with various themes and games that were shared along with candy for both church and community members. ■



Grace/St. Cloud, Florida's Dave Brueggemann led a Thrivent Action Team to pack "Bags of Grace" which were distributed to the homeless of central Florida. "Bags of Grace" are quart-size

ziplock type bags packed with a variety of hygiene items including disposable razors, combs, toothpaste/toothbrush, deodorant, shampoo, soap, lotion as well as granola or protein bars, snack crackers, tissues, and clean socks. Twenty two volunteers — ranging in age from 4 to 81 years old — packed more than 100 packages.

have given them out at our lakefront parks when they are out walking or biking while others have handed them to people from their vehicles at intersections. ■



Osceola County Public Schools started school in mid August and students of all ages from **Grace/St. Cloud, FL's** Early Learning Center, the congregation and the St. Cloud community were invited to worship and bring their school bags to worship to receive a "backpack blessing." Pastor Josh Obermann prayed over the students with their bags during the service. The students also receive a carabiner clip with a Bible verse to place on their backpacks to reassure them that God is always present. ■



A multigenerational group of volunteers (at left and above) from Grace/St. Cloud, FL are shown at the Thrivent Action Team project to serve the homeless population of central Florida.



Members of **Our Savior/Zephyrhills, FL** packed 120 backpacks for those in need at West Zephyrhills Elementary. According to the Rev. Tod Shouse, pastor at Our Savior, they were delivered prior to the start of school earlier this fall. ■

REGION 3



- Vice President:**
Charles Reich | Grace/Winter Haven
- Board Treasurer:**
Renee Varga | Woodlands/Montverde
- Laity Board Members:**
Rebecca Hartmann | Hope/Plant City
Sheryl DeWitt | Redeemer/Sanford
- Commissioned Minister Board Member:**
Lois Ford | Faith/Eustis
- Circuit 8 Space Coast Circuit Visitor:**
Bruce Alberts | Good Shepherd/Titusville
- Circuit 9 Orlando East Circuit Visitor:**
Ken Green | Prince of Peace/Orlando
- Circuit 10 Orlando West Circuit Visitor:**
Marc Kappel | Faith/Eustis
- Circuit 11 Winter Haven Circuit Visitor:**
Dean Pfeffer | Hope/Plant City



Prince of Peace/Orlando, FL received a Proclamation from the City of Orlando Declaring September 16 Prince of Peace Lutheran Preschool Day in recognition of their 60th Anniversary! ■

Trinity Downtown Orlando Celebrates 100th Anniversary

Trinity/Orlando, FL celebrated the kick off of their 100th anniversary on September 15th with food, fellowship and worship with more than 300 people packed into the sanctuary. “The congregation worshipped mightily as her history was shown in picture and word,” proclaimed the Rev. Doug Kallesen, senior pastor at Trinity. “A special choir anthem composed by David Ludwig, Jr. was performed by the choir and Trinity’s bell choir and praise team also participated.”

Kallesen’s message discussed where the congregation had been 100 years ago, where they are at this time and where they are headed. “We are in God’s business! We are here at 123 East Livingston to go and to make disciples. That was God’s mission more than 2000 years ago and it is the same today — we are in the disciple making business,” he emphasized. “Everything we do must filter and flow through the lens of discipleship. We must always ask, ‘does this help make disciples?’” Going with the theme of *Back to the Basics*, Kallesen outlined how the church must master how she worships for the good of the community.

“How she witnesses or shares her beliefs in Christ and how we engage discipling people through the study and application of God’s Word, how we fellowship and build community, and how we steward all the resources God gives us to advance His Kingdom,” he said.

Trinity was started in 1919 at the close of WWI and built her current sanctuary in 1926, three short years before the

great depression in 1929. Many of the founding members left, returning to their former midwestern roots in search of employment.

“Orlando’s great boom became a gigantic bust but a firm foundation of faith had been established and the congregation continued to grow,” Kallesen explained. “Trinity sold sandwiches to tourist to help make the mortgage payments and keep the lights on!”

The founding pastor, the Rev. George Trapp, served until his death. The congregation has had 13 pastors in her history and has also had vicars and associate pastors. The congregation has been served by three District Presidents — Ronald Fink, Lloyd Benken and Thomas Zehnder as well as two District Mission Executives — Gerald Seaman and now Douglas Kallesen.

God has been faithful throughout Trinity’s history allowing her to purchase more than five acres of property in the heart of downtown Orlando, start a school and child development center which today has more than 300 children. Sadly the

elementary school closed last year due to declining enrollments and resources.

Two new additions to Trinity’s ministry now are Quest, a training center for children with disabilities and The Morgan Center, a preschool for children with cancer who have a suppressed immune system.

“We see the hand of Almighty God as we focus on the future — going to make disciples in all that we do,” Kallesen concluded. ■



The music for the 100th anniversary celebration was expansive, with (above) Nathalie playing the violin and both the handbell and adult choirs participating.



At left — Trinity’s Comfort Dog, Peace, greets Mary Beth Brink at the 100th anniversary.



Eric Eichinger Authors Story of Olympian Who Inspired Chariot’s of Fire

When Rev. Eric Eichinger was eight years old, he watched *Chariots of Fire*, a movie based on Scotsman Eric Liddell’s 1924 unlikely Olympic win in the 400-meter race ... and something inside him ignited. Liddell and the (now) Pastor Eichinger of Bethel Lutheran Church in Clearwater, not only shared a first name, because of the movie and Eric Eichinger’s enjoyment of it, they also, in time, shared a love for running and a love for missionary work in China. And both met their brides in the “Land of the Red Dragon.”

At the end of *Chariots of Fire*, viewers are made aware that Eric Liddell died in the country he’d chosen over fame and fortune — China. But within the near-two hours of the movie, nothing much was said of his upbringing, or of the life Eric had enjoyed — and endured — between 1924 and 1945 when he passed away at the age of 43 from a brain tumor.

For years, an idea to tell that story stirred inside of Eichinger. Eventually, Tyndale House Publishing offered a contract for the biography. Realizing that Eric Eichinger’s primary professional role was that of pastor, Tyndale next contacted accomplished author, Eva Marie Everson, to see if she would be willing to work on the writing alongside Eichinger.

Everson — who ironically had been chosen back in 1981 as part of the test audience for *Chariots of Fire* — jumped at

the chance. “What Tyndale didn’t know was that Eric and I had worked on the novelization of the screenplay a year earlier and had established a firm friendship. To me, delving deeper into the life of Eric Liddell with him would be nothing short of an honor,” Everson explained.

Eric Eichinger (the two authors formed a fun exchange of calling each other “EE” and “ee”) agreed. “It was a privilege to explore and share the fascinating theological narrative of Eric Liddell’s life, amidst the backdrop of one of the most extraordinary times of the last century.”

The two worked together closely for six months — sending chapters back and forth, one to the other and back again — until they were pleased with the final outcome.

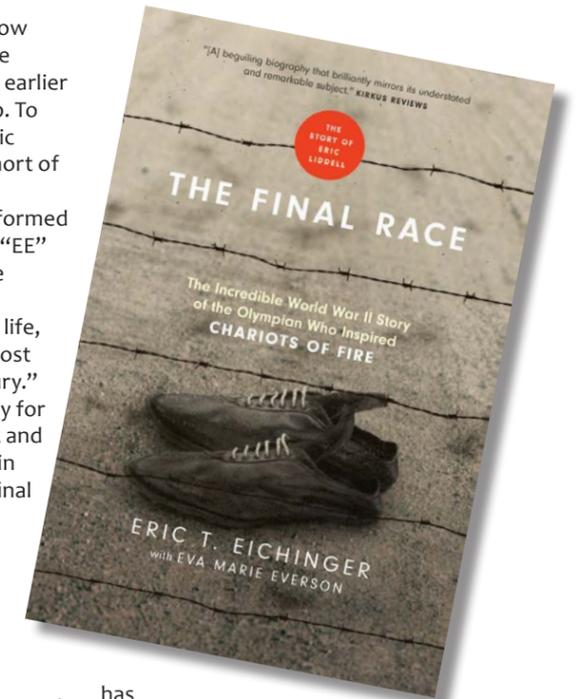
Both authors came away from the project amazed at how the life of a man who lived and ministered nearly 100 years before continues to influence lives today.

“Studying Eric Liddell’s life has gifted me with a sense of discipline toward my expectations of the Christian life — allowing myself to be a vessel of Christ. He is an exemplary model for Christians, and particularly young men today,” Eichinger said.

“I’ve never been more spiritually challenged than during the time EE and I worked together on Eric Liddell’s life story. What I learned from working on this story

has changed me forever,” Everson concluded.

The book, *The Final Race — The Incredible World War II story of the Olympian Who Inspired Chariots of Fire* — was originally released in hardcover in 2018. It is now in trade-paperback, available at Barnes & Noble, Amazon, and everywhere books are sold. ■



Eva Marie Everson (co-author) and Eric Eichinger (in photo at left) did a book signing at the District LWML event this past year.

REGION 4



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Pentecostal Lutherans?

Well not quite, but recently when Pastor James Rockey of **Amazing Grace/Oxford, FL** was preaching about God's people "Not Being Meant...to be Alone," it looked that way! Rockey made reference to Exodus 17 where Aaron & Hur held up Moses' hands in the battle with the Amalekites. Rockey had the congregation hold up its hands and then as they grew tired, had them hold one another's hands, illustrating how we are given to one another. We may not be "Pentecostal" but we are filled with God's Spirit through our Baptism and His Word, and given to one another for life, encouragement and witness! ■



Trinity/Cape Coral, FL first year confirmand students received a copy of Luther's Small Catechism as they launched their studies this fall. In photo at left, Pastor Charles Kanefke presents the book to first year confirmand, Kristian Wydysh.



Deaconess Margaret Ruehle was welcomed to the Florida-Georgia District when she was installed at **Grace/St. Petersburg, FL** on Sunday July 28th. She will serve the congregation as the Director of Youth and Parish Education. Pictured are (from left) Vicar John Kyle, Deaconess Margaret Ruehle and Rev. Kevin Loughran. ■



During the last week of July, **Immanuel/Brandon, FL** hosted Michael Ersland, Lutheran Bible Translator's (LBT) missionary to Ghana, West Africa. For the past three years Michael has been living and working in Gbintiri, Ghana to translate the Old Testament into the Komba language. While in Brandon, the Thrivent Action Team and Volunteer Missions Coordinator, arranged lodging, host dinners, a Youth night event, a sports outing and an appreciation luncheon. Ersland gave informative and personal presentations at both Sunday and Tuesday Bible study hours. Collections during the week raised nearly \$740 for LBT. Ersland is on a one-year furlough to continue his Masters studies at Dallas International University, Dallas Texas. Pictured above are Michael Ersland (far left) with Immanuel's youth group, ILC President Morrissey, youth leaders and Pastor Daniel G. Brammeier. ■

Immanuel/Brandon Begins Year-Long 50th Celebration

1969 was a memorable year: The Apollo 11 Moon landing, the NY Mets won the World Series, Woodstock ... and a notice in a Brandon newspaper soliciting Lutherans who would like to start a Brandon, Florida congregation. That ad on October 1 started it all, resulting in **Immanuel/Brandon, FL** launching it's first worship service the following year on April 5, 1970.

Founding members Don and Rita Fowler remember that day. "We've come a long way. God has been so good to us," said Rita. Don chimed in with "God has blessed us so much." They were one of the five couples in the original group, led by Nate and Eunice Kraxburger, who initiated the efforts to begin a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregation. Others included Jack & Mary Lou Nash, Larry and Katie Unterfer, and Dan and Willa Jackson.

"My grandfather, George Lambertus, had been a part of starting Redeemer/Louisville, KY in 1888," noted Rita. "It was part of my family's heritage to start a church."

This fall, Immanuel begins the observance of their 50th year in ministry with Back To Church Sunday. "There will be a focus on our half century of God's grace, as reflected in our mission statement: Sharing the Love, Joy, and Peace of Jesus," said Rev. Kenneth Farnsworth, Pastor.

Throughout this year and next there will be a number of events and worship services that will focus on the various ministries of the congregation. Immanuel Lutheran School will begin its fortieth year in September of 2020. "Our congregation is part of the educational legacy of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod," explained Rev. Daniel Brammeier, Pastor. "Our school is an important part of our outreach with the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our community." ■



The Rev. Robert Davis was installed as Pastor at **Good Shepherd/North Fort Myers, FL** on Sunday, November 3, 2019. District Vice President, the Rev. Jon Zehnder, officiated. In photo above — Back row (from left) Bob Selle, Hank Simon, Scott Weiler, Jon Zehnder, Mark Gaertner, Mike Duchene. Front Row (from left) Fred Koehler, Seth DeBartolo, Robert Davis, CJ Kanefke, Richard Browning.

Our Savior/Plantation Gets New Roof Just Before Hurricane Dorian's Arrival

The congregation of **Our Savior/Plantation, FL** has reason to rejoice and raise the roof — they've raised more than \$204,000 to put a new roof — an undertaking that has taken about a year, many fundraising events, lots of volunteer efforts, donations from many, and plenty of prayers.

"It all started in the summer of 2018, when leaks in the roof had gotten so bad that church members had to put buckets out to catch water dripping into the sanctuary," illustrated Dorothy Schawk, a congregation member and retiree who heads up the 17-member roof replacement committee. John Strang led the team that vetted the roofing contractors.

Initial inspections and guesstimates showed both the church and school roofs needing replacement or repairs in excess of \$350,000. If it was not fixed as soon as possible, the church's roof posed the greatest risk. So, the fundraising began to get money to replace it. Contributions — which came through lump sums and pledged donations within the congregation — has topped \$157,000 while relatives and friends have given more than \$30,000. In March of 2019, the church signed with a qualified roofing contractor to begin the project — estimated at \$215,000. After six months of bake sales, selling homemade products, monthly fundraising dinners, direct donations, and some money from the church's reserve fund, the congregation had \$100,000.

"There have been so many fundraising events," said Schawk. "We've had dinners, and we're making a lot of handcrafted material. Two groups in particular, the women's group and the paper-crafting group, have contributed \$20,000 in the



past year. And, we're seeing a nice response from some of the relatives and friends of OSL members, as well as vendors who are buying ads on our placemats. It really has been amazing."

Despite all this hard work, the congregation was still short the money it needed to pay for the construction and it was decided that the summer was the best time to complete the work, while school was on break. So, it turned to the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and secured a short-term loan for \$75,000.

Best Roofing of Fort Lauderdale began their work July 8th. About eight weeks later, when Hurricane Dorian threatened South Florida, most of the roof was already done, with just a metal portion that needed to be finished. Nevertheless, the church was protected!

"Isaiah said of the Lord, 'You ... have been a shelter from the storm and a shade from the heat' That is literally what it means to be under the new roof," said the Rev. Tony Durante. "It means finding shelter as we receive God's love and mercy in worship."

"There has been a tremendous response to the church's needs from the congregation," Schawk pointed out. "It is amazing what we have done in such a short period. I am hopeful that we will be able to pay off our loan within a year." The church also has started a GoFundMe account to help raise the remainder that it needs. Once all the bills are paid for the new church roof, OSL still has another major challenge ahead. It needs to fix the roof over the school. ■



Top photo — Our Savior's new roof nears completion. Above — John Strang, who led the roofing contractor search team, Dorothy Schawk, roof committee chair; Don Muzzarelli, project manager for Best Roofing; and the Rev. Tony Durante, pastor at Our Savior/Plantation.



St Paul/Weston, FL hosted their annual Family Fall Festival — an afternoon of fun that included games, bounce house, horse-drawn hay ride, chili cook-off, cupcake wars, cornhole tournament, minute to win it games, free cotton candy, popcorn, prizes and more! At right, the Martins get ready to compete in the cornhole tournament. Left, Pastor Scott Henze welcomes characters to St. Paul's Weston campus. Below, two lovely festival members enjoy treats while Pastor Henze and St. Paul's Director of Youth and Family Ministry, Jeremy Becker, get ready to man the DJ Music Booth. ■



St. Paul/Boca Raton, FL hosted their annual Trunk or Treat event drawing more than two dozen vehicles with elaborately decorated trunks and creative costumes. The community and congregation kids participated in games, dancing on a sound stage and posing for plenty of photos. Below, a witch conducts a game of skill tossing rings to a witches hat; bottom left, Vicar Josh LeBoriosis commands the youth group crew who grilled hot dogs and hamburgers served with chips and choice of soft drink. Top right photo, Pastor Andrew Kubowicz, son, Logan and wife Nikki pose under a giant jelly fish in their scuba gear while in photo at bottom right a young trunk-or-treater poses with a tiger at one of the safari-themed trunks. v



REGION



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Stephen Bradshaw | Trinity/Lake Placid

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Mark Stillman | Faith/North Palm Beach

Circuit 19 S Palm Beach Circuit Visitor:

Dennis Glick | St Paul/Boca Raton

Circuit 20 Gold Coast Circuit Visitor:

Timothy Hartner | St. Paul/Weston

Circuit 21 Monroe-Miami-Dade Circuit Visitor:

Tony Mandile | Martin Luther/Marathon

High School Youth Leadership Training Coming to Florida-Georgia District

A new event this year in the FL-GA District is the *High School Leadership Event*. For many years the District has sponsored a High School Youth Gathering for all High School Youth in the FL-GA District on years that didn't have a National Youth Gathering. These district gatherings were successful events for many years — but in the past decade participation numbers have continued to decrease despite encouragement and promotion.

The District Youth Ministry Council has spent time the past few years to try and find a solution to the drop in participation while wanting to bring our District's youth together to encourage them in their Faith. In January of 2019, the DYMC met with a number of District high school youth and youth leaders at a one-day summit to explore the possibilities of ministry to high school youth today.

"One of the outcomes from the discussions was interest in leadership training and making connections with

other youth in their region," explains Nick Moss, director of christian education at St. Paul/Lakeland FL. "Some roadblocks for gathering together were identified as expenses and adult volunteer shortage. To achieve some of these outcomes and overcome some roadblocks, a decision was made this past spring to forgo the High School District Youth Gathering this school year (2019-2020) and replace it with an event called the *High School Leadership Event*."

According to Moss, this event will offer high school youth a program that will help them identify the gifts and personality traits that God has given them and how they can apply these to their life. "This event will take place the same time as the Middle School Youth Gathering — but will be a separate event, Moss emphasizes. "We hope by having these events take place at the same time



YOUTH MATTERS
Nick Moss, Member of Florida-Georgia District Youth Ministry Council

and at the same location, more churches will be able to participate. Each church is encouraged to send one or two high school youth to this event."

Some may be asking this question, "Will there ever be a High School Youth Gathering again in our District?" The short answer is no, not in 2020. But the District is still committed to equipping High School youth to connect others to Jesus. At this point, there are plans to have a High School Servant Event in the summer of 2021. ■



For more than 35 years, thousands of Lutheran youth have participated in Servant Events nationwide — learning that serving others can make a difference because of Jesus Christ. The District's Youth Ministry Council is working on events to equip the high school youth to grow in their faith through serving, sharing Christ and developing relationships.

Humanitarian Crisis Escalates in Haiti

My dear partners in the Gospel and brothers and sisters in Christ. By now you most likely have seen or heard of the turmoil in Haiti. It actually started more than a year ago and has been a dynamic reality as we have tried to do ministry in Haiti throughout 2019. We have actually accomplished most of our goals for the year despite roadblocks, demonstrations and political unrest.

The current president has been implicated in widespread corruption and refuses to step down and it has caused substantial unrest in the general population as well as the political opposition. Gas, diesel and propane costs have nearly doubled, gangs wield unprecedented power, people are afraid to go to market to buy or sell, schools,

banks, government offices, and hospitals are closed or closing due to lack of electricity and supplies. Normal commerce is at a virtual standstill in the entire nation. It is no overstatement to say that people are dying because of the situation. Rampant inflation has doubled the cost of food; a bag of rice that will feed a family of 4 for nearly a month used to cost \$1750 gordes, now costs close to \$3500 gordes, and most Haitians make less than 200 gordes a day — when they can work.

Many charitable organizations have suspended or abandoned work in Haiti at a time the average person needs help the most. They can't open their feeding programs or move food in big trucks for fear of theft or violence. The situation in Haiti is becoming a true humanitarian crisis. Many, many people are unable to work, earn money or purchase food. Several elderly ladies told our Field Director, Lophane Laurent that they had not eaten anything for almost a week. Our driver and mechanic Benjamin works repairing cars, but no one is calling him because they have no money to pay him, so he has no money to buy food for his daughter, Jemina.

Lophane used some of his own money to buy food for the ladies and is sharing his food with Benjamin. Families who rely on school lunches to feed their children, can't send their kids to school and can't afford food because they can't go to work because roads are blocked or people are afraid they will get caught on the wrong side of a demonstration.

Even though we have had to cancel teams traveling to Haiti, we feel the call to help those we can. Lophane has a friend who owns a food warehouse and he can supply food to Lophane in amounts that Lophane can carry discreetly in our small pickup truck. Together they are able to get food to the elderly, single parent families and those he knows are the most nutritionally vulnerable — if we can pay for it. Thirty dollars will buy enough rice, oil, maggi, canned fish, pasta and soup to



MISSION MOMENT
Helen Roenfeldt
 Executive Director
 Mission: Haiti

feed one person two meals a day for two weeks.

If you can help supply food for our Haitian brothers and sisters you can send your donation through our website: missionhaiti99.org — or mail a check to Mission: Haiti, 3850 S. University Dr. #290171, Davie FL 33329. Please follow our progress on our facebook page: Mission: Haiti. If you are not able to help financially please pray for peace and justice in Haiti and that the lives of the Haitian people can return to calm and normalcy.

Each of us are an important part of how God shows his mercy and love to those who know him and those who do not know him. Everything Mission: HAITI does we do in the name of Jesus Christ and give all the glory to God.

Thank you so much for you love, support and constant encouragement. ■



Lophane's family packing up rice for those in need.



Widows and single mothers receiving needed food.



Lophane and Maxime have been working on a "sample" garden learning and testing the new things Lophane brought from his Independent Study at ECHO Global Farms in North Fort Myers, FL. The garden is growing and the guys have skills to teach once the situation stabilizes and they can get out.

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The BACKPAGE

Longest tenured LCMS Seminary President in history

Dale Meyer Announces Retirement at Concordia Seminary



“My wife Diane and I both feel the time has come to retire. This has not been an easy decision. We love this Seminary, and we have been singularly challenged and blessed to serve the people of the church and our Lord through it.” Those were the words the Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer spoke at the

Concordia Seminary chapel service in October.

“We fully believe that this is the Lord’s Seminary and He will guide it into a greater vision than I can presently imagine. It’s a great time to be at Concordia Seminary and it’s a great time to be the church of our Lord Jesus Christ — that’s truer today for us all than ever before!”

Meyer was first named Interim President by the Board of Regents in November 2004 before being elected President in May 2005. He was renewed by the Board of Regents in 2010 and 2015 for additional five-year terms and is only the 10th president since the Seminary’s founding in 1839.

Dale Meyer is respected

across The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) and among its global partners as a scholar, preacher, leader, teacher and churchman. Students, faculty and administration have regarded Dale and Diane as ambassadors of the Seminary and for creating a friendly, welcoming and community-involved campus.

Students will remark that despite Meyer’s busy schedule, he is regularly at chapel and seen throughout campus getting to know students, celebrating their joys, empathizing with their struggles, and offering advice and encouragement.

During Meyer’s tenure, the Seminary’s long-term

debt has been eliminated and the Seminary’s endowment has quadrupled. He led the Seminary’s Generations: The Campaign for Concordia Seminary from 2012-18, which raised more than \$200 million and provided for a transformation of the Seminary’s library into a state-of-the-art learning center. He was at the helm of the Seminary’s previous campaign, How Will They Hear?, from 2005-10, which raised \$80 million. At present, Meyer is leading the Generations 20/20 Campaign, which has a \$66 million goal — all for the sake of the church and the Gospel. Dr. Meyer is the longest tenured president in history. ■

Tom Eggebrect to Spearhead LCEF Ministry Support for East Region

This past September The Rev. Tom Eggebrect began a new calling as **Lutheran Church Extension Fund Vice President of Ministry Support for the East Region**. For the past seven years Tom had served as Senior Pastor of **Ascension/Casselberry, FL**. In his new role he will be helping churches discover who God has called them to be and where He is leading them into the future.

Eggebrect will also help equip leaders of congregations as they generate a dynamic strategic plan to move ministries forward. In conjunction with these ministry

plans, congregations will create campus plans and financial plans.

“These plans will provide efficiency in ministry and enable congregations to pursue ministry targets and ministry goals that will, by the grace of the Holy Spirit, expand the Kingdom of God,” Eggebrect explains.

Tom brings 28 years of experience to this role, having served as pastor of congregations in North Carolina, Virginia, Wisconsin, and Florida. He spent 13 years as an adjunct professor of Theology at Concordia

University/Wisconsin, and also served as a police chaplain in Casselberry, Florida. He is a prolific writer and blogger on the topics of creativity, ministry, culture, social media, and the church. His writing has been published in *Portals of Prayer*, *The Lutheran Witness*, by Creative Communications for the Parish, and in various other church-related publications.

Most recent Eggebrect wrote and released the book, *Fully and Creativity Alive: How to Live a More Joyfully Fulfilling Life*. Tom is married to Tammy (nee Wessler), and they have two children, Ashlyn (Josh) Swenson



and Benjamin (Emily), and three grandchildren. ■