

LUTHERAN LIFE

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

2012 | Volume 4

FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT ANNUAL REPORT | TRIENNium CONVENTION COVERAGE



TIME

TALENT

TREASURE



Every congregation is a church in mission, and every member is a missionary; with all of us working together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, empowered by His Gospel to share His love. **Lutheran LIFE** is the official communications instrument of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. **Lutheran LIFE** is designed to inform LCMS church and school members of the activities, the personalities and resources offered by the Synod and the District. **Lutheran LIFE** may also provide a forum for Lutherans to express their views and ideas on a wide range of topics. We welcome and encourage your letters and editorials emphasizing that the views and opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by Synod or District personnel or by the editors, churchworkers or personnel of the Synod's or District's congregations or schools. **Lutheran LIFE** is published bimonthly. Editorials, news items and photos are encouraged. Please send scanned photos of approximately 300 DPI as a .jpg attachment rather than embedded in your emails. Or mail your photo print in a good quality resolution to our address below. Advertising is welcome and encouraged; rates and information are available from **Lutheran LIFE's** office. Changes of address including e-mail changes, additions or deletions should be directed to our production office.

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CAPSULES by Greg Walton District President

Calling Congregations

Trinity/Albany GA..... Pastor
St. Paul/Boca Raton FL.....DCE
Trinity/Delray Beach FL. Discipleship Pastor
Estero Mission/Estero FL..... Pastor
Grace/Jacksonville FL.....Principal
Zion/Fort Myer FL.....Senior Pastor
St. Paul/Lakeland FL..... Pastor
Oak Road/Lilburn GA..... Pastor
LC of the Redeemer/Melbourne FL..... Pastor
Good Shepherd/Sarasota FL.....Principal
King of Kings/Jasper GA..... Pastor
St. Mark/Tucker GA..... Pastor
LC Redeemer/Vero Beach FL..... Sole Pastor

Calls Accepted

Michael Heidle accepted the call to
Immanuel/Danville, IL as Senior Pastor
Andrew Schermbeck accepted the call to
Holy Trinity/Tampa, FL as Pastor

Calls Declined

John Roth declined the call to St. Marks/
Battle Creek, MI as Pastor

Transferred to Other Districts

10/1/2012 Rev. Christopher Bodley to
Michigan District – Ordained
6/14/2012 Cory C. Smith to Texas District
Commissioned Minister
6/14/2012 Rebecca W. Smith to Texas District
Commissioned Minister
6/7/2012 Greta Gieseke to Pacific Southwest
District Commissioned Minister

Transferred from Other Districts

5/4/2012 Ms. Jenna A. Weingart from
California/Nevada/Hawaii District
Commissioned Minister
6/2/2012 Rev. Thomas J. Eggebrecht from
South Wisconsin District Ordained
5/1/2012 Rev. John P. Jackson from Southern
District Ordained

Ordained/Commissioned Minister Initial Assignments

6/18/2012 Rev. Aaron Michael Simms -
Concordia Seminary/St. Louis – SMP
– Pastor, Living Faith/Cumming, GA –
Ordained

Ordained/Commissioned Minister Installations

5/13/2012 Ms. Jenna A. Weingart – Teacher
Concordia Lutheran School/Tampa, FL –
Commissioned Minister
10/16/2011 Rev. Robert C. Besalski
Intentional Interim Ministry Pastor
St. John/Ocala Ordained

Emeritus

10/1/2009 Rev. Frederick Schultz
Active to Emeritus Status, Ordained

Called to Glory

6/14/2012 Rev. Phillip E. Vance, Ordained
6/8/2012 Rev. Edmund P. Nieting, Ordained

Change of Status within the District

10/16/2011 Rev. Robert C. Besalski from
Emeritus to Active, Ordained
6/14/2012 Rebecca W. Smith from Active to
Candidate, Commissioned Minister



KATHY KEENE is the new Administrative Assistant for Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton. She has been a member of the District administrative staff for six years, most recently as a member of the LCEF



team. Previously Keene was the Guest Services Director at Woodlands Camp for 11 years. A member of Woodlands Lutheran-Montverde, she has been on the Praise in Motion dance team for 20 years. She and her husband, Jeff, have two children: Matthew, who lives in St. Augustine, and Sarah, who is in Clermont. Keene calls Psalm 90: 17 one of her favorite scripture verses: *May the favor of the Lord our God rest upon us, establish the work of our hands for us, Yes, establish the work of our hands.*

Walton Unanimously Endorsed for Second Term in Realigned District



Delegates to the 31st Regular Convention of the Florida-Georgia District — meeting in Lake Mary, FL, June 22-24 under the theme *Stewards of God's Grace: Empowered by the Word* — by acclamation returned President **Gregory S. Walton** to office for his second term. Walton, 50, has been in the District since his ordination in 1987, serving as pastor at Trinity-Toccoa, GA, then at Faith-Marietta, GA, before being elected as Florida-Georgia President in 2009.

Delegates also affirmed a restructuring of the District from four to five geographic regions. Endorsed by a 99.1% majority, the action divides the former Region 1 in two, with the northern two-thirds of Georgia now comprising Region 1 and the lower third of the state joining with the northern third of Florida to form Region 2.

Existing Regions 2, 3 and 4 maintain their structure and have been renamed Regions 3, 4 and 5. In a separate action, delegates by an almost 98% majority approved a resolution to move the Heartland Circuit from Region 3 to Region 5 “to strengthen [its] ministry and partnership in the District.”

Vice President Elections

With the regional realignment came a change in the composition of the Board of Directors. The two vice presidents — both pastors, one from each state — and regional pastor representatives have been replaced by five regional vice presidents. Other board representation was unchanged.

Elected as regional vice presidents, in order of ranking, were: Rev. **David Brighton**, 56, of Mount Calvary-Warner Robins, GA, Region 1. The District's former First Vice President, Brighton served pastorates in Nebraska and West Virginia before accepting the call to Mount Calvary 13 years ago. Rev. Dr. **John Roth**, 51, of First-Gainesville, FL, Region 2. Roth for the past three years was the District Secretary. He has been at First Lutheran for nine years, with previous service at churches in

Louisiana, Alabama and California. Rev. **James Guelzow**, 64, of Messiah-Tampa, FL, Region 4. A former District Vice President and regional representative, Guelzow has been in the Florida-Georgia District for all 38 years of his pastoral ministry. He served at Peace-Okeechobee before accepting the call to Messiah.

Rev. **Stephen Wipperman**, 59, of Our Savior-Lake Worth, FL, Region 5. Wipperman previously served as a regional representative. The former Mission Executive for the Minnesota South District, he has been at Our Savior for seven years.

Rev. Dr. **Brian Kneser** of Woodlands-Montverde, FL, Region 3. Most recently a regional representative, Kneser has been in the Florida-Georgia District for 31 years, serving at St. Mark's-Hollywood, FL, before accepting the call to Woodlands.



Below, from left — Newly installed Regional Vice Presidents in order of ranking (l-r) Rev. David Brighton of Mount Calvary-Warner Robins, GA, **Region 1**; Rev. John Roth of First-Gainesville, FL, **Region 2**; Rev. James Guelzow of Messiah-Tampa, FL, **Region 4**; Rev. Stephen Wipperman of Our Savior-Lake Worth, FL, **Region 5**; and Rev. Brian Kneser of Woodlands-Montverde, FL, **Region 3**.



In his acceptance speech, President Greg Walton thanked the Convention “for your trust and the awesome responsibility to serve... I will serve to the best of my ability and seek above all else God's will in all my actions... I am continually thrilled by the enthusiasm and love for Jesus that is so evident around this District.” He expressed his gratitude to the District staff, and thanked his “dear wife Edith for her love and support. I am so blessed to have the support of my family.” Thanking the delegates for their service, Walton noted, “Together we make an impact. We are connecting people to Jesus.” According to Walton, the next three years will be focused on “revitalizing congregations, schools and laity to reach out to others and connect them to Jesus... It's always all about Jesus. May all we do focus on Jesus.”

Revitalizing Congregations to

Connect People to Jesus

My thanks to all who made the 31st Triennial Florida-Georgia District Convention such a wonderful success. It was a bit intimidating going into the convention never having really experienced it from the “podium” perspective. I had no idea of all the details that go into the planning and implementation of this event. Thanks to the great work of a very dependable staff and many volunteers, I found it to be a very positive experience. My hope is that those who participated in it found it uplifting as well.

Our focus was, and is, on Jesus, and connecting people to Him. As stewards of God’s grace we are so privileged to have the vast wealth of His love and salvation lavished on us. Paul tells us, “He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.” (Titus 3:5)

Do you know the difference between a river and a reservoir? A river allows water to flow through it, and a reservoir simply holds water. I believe that God has called us to be more like a river than a reservoir. In other words, what He’s so graciously given us I believe He desires to flow through us to others. We are stewards, or managers, of His grace, empowered by His Word.

However, we should never forget that it is His grace, and He gives

it to us with purpose. Peter tells us, “But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light.” (1 Peter 2:9)

The reason God chose us is to connect people to Jesus!

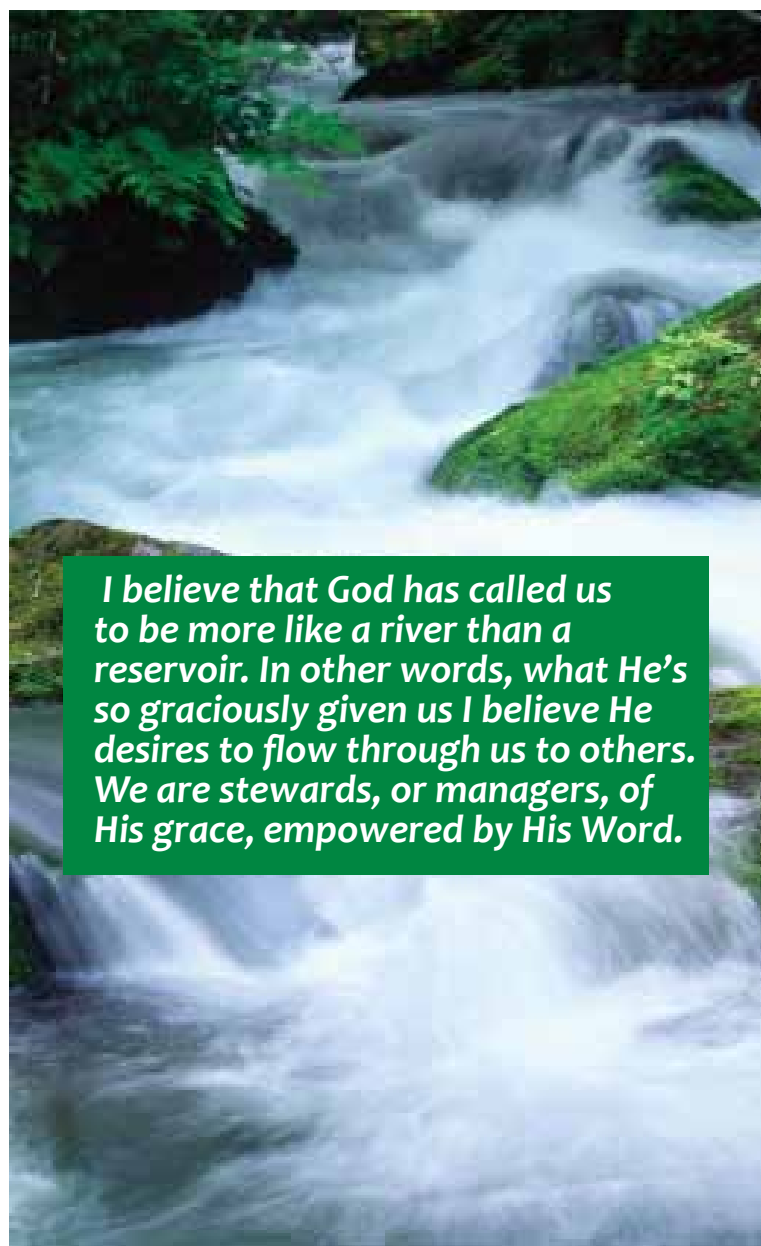
This is why the District focus for the next triennium will be on revitalization and renewal within congregations. Healthy congregations plant healthy

missions and build strong and healthy believers who aren’t afraid or ashamed to proclaim Jesus! It’s time to really stand up for Jesus, and live out our faith in Him. The days are growing ever shorter until our Lord’s return.

How can we impact the culture and communities in which God has purposefully placed us as we await our Lord’s return? Paul reminds us, “Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will.” (Ro 12:2) We need to be empowered by God’s Word so that He has more and more of our heart and mind.

What does this renewal or revitalization look like? Certainly there are steps that can be taken to revitalize and renew a congregation, and we will be talking about them. However, true renewal starts on the inside. So we cry out with King David, “Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from Your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.” (Ps 51:10–12)

Transformation takes place in individuals before it happens in congregations.



I believe that God has called us to be more like a river than a reservoir. In other words, what He’s so graciously given us I believe He desires to flow through us to others. We are stewards, or managers, of His grace, empowered by His Word.

meeting was Franklin Graham, and his son Billy became a Christian during the meeting.

Corporately, all these men have touched hundreds of thousands of people with the good news of Jesus. Billy Graham’s legacy and the ministry he built continue to actively serve the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It all became possible because of the obedience of God’s people to His call. As has often been said, God is not so much concerned with your abilities as He is with your availability.

So how does this

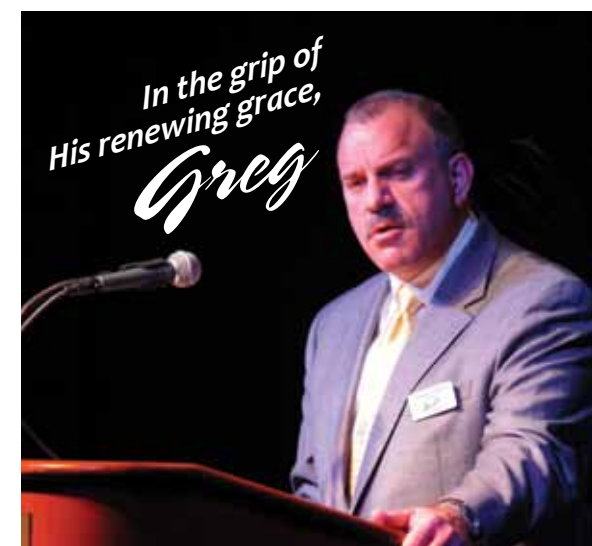
The reason God chose us is to connect people to Jesus! It’s time to really stand up for Jesus, and live out our faith in Him.

revitalization happen? It starts with you. A.W. Tozer once wrote, “Revivals come only to those who want them badly enough. The problem is not to persuade God to fill us, but to want God sufficiently to permit Him to do so. The average Christian is so cold and so contented with his wretched condition that there is no vacuum of desire into which the blessed Spirit can rush in satisfying fullness.” There is no such thing as half-hearted revitalization because anything less than full commitment isn’t revitalizing. I once heard the story of a man who asked an evangelist “How can we have revival?” The evangelist answered by asking “Do you have a place where you can pray?” “Yes,” the man replied. “I’ll tell you what to do, go to that place and take a piece



of chalk along. Kneel down there, and with the chalk draw a complete circle around you and pray for God to send revival on everything inside that circle. Stay there until He answers, and you will have your revival.”

The need for revitalization and renewal are evident and all around us. God’s desire is that we would make a difference for the sake of Jesus. My prayer for you, and my prayer for me, is that revival would begin in our hearts—first my own, and then through me in the lives of others. I pray that the overwhelming joy of Jesus living in me would overflow, spill out and drown those caught in sin, so that in death they might find the true life which is ours in Jesus! Be that river of God’s grace, and not a reservoir as together we are equipped, empowered and engaged to connect people to Jesus! ■





Convention PhotoBooth



Super Heroes — The 31st Regular District Convention opened with a bang on Friday, June 22, with a clever video written, illustrated and produced by **Kent, Anders, Aaron and Cindy Hammerstrom**. Shown here with their superhero shirts inspired by that video are (l-r) District President **Greg Walton** and the executive team **Mark Brink**, School Ministries, **Daniel J. Reichard**, LCEF and Administration, **Doug Kallesen**, Mission & Outreach, and **David Weidner**, Executive Assistant to the President. The video is posted on www.flgadistrict.org under the Convention report.



Who's On Stage? — **David Weidner**, executive assistant to President Gregory Walton and Rev. Dr. **David Benke**, president of the Atlantic District, were the convention "look-a-likes." If it weren't for Benke's colorful clerical collars — violet, pink, silver — it would have been nearly impossible to determine which of them was on the convention stage. Weidner served as Convention Manager coordinating all logistics and overseeing all activity.



Rev. **Douglas Kallesen**, District Missions & Outreach executive introduces Rev. **Miguel Sanabria**, and his daughter, **Diana**, from Hispanic Mission, Tampa, FL



At left — Newly elected Region 5 Vice President Rev. **Steve Wiperman** (at left) chaired Floor Committee 1 — *The Church in Mission*.



Rev. **David Brighton** chaired some of the convention proceedings in his role as District First Vice President. Judge of Elections, Rev. **Daniel Schepmann** mixed voting instructions with abundant amounts of humor.



District School Executive **Mark Brink** provided an update on educational programs. **Gretchen Jameson** talked about branding the church through social media in a post-church world.



Rev. **Pat O'Brien**, long-time former secretary of the District, served as Parliamentarian. Outgoing Treasurer, **Jim Ingersoll**, served the maximum term limit and presented the financial overview.



Convention Worship Assistants: The Revs. **Bernard Julmiste**, **Dean Pfeffer**, **James Wiggins**, **Ron Pennekamp**, **Charles Reich**, **Tom Block**, **Tod Shouse**



Just Saying! — **BIBLE STUDY LEADER** Rev. Dr. **Victor Belton** of Peace-Decatur, GA, focused on the Convention theme "Stewards of God's Grace: Empowered by the Word," based on 1 Peter 4:10. He challenged those in attendance to emulate Jesus and be "servant foot washers" to take the message of the Gospel to Florida and Georgia. Echoing a theme presented by President Greg Walton in his Convention Report, Belton emphasized that the "grace of God will be at the center of revitalization." Noting that "good stewards surrender all to Jesus," Belton emphasized that "God paid a debt we could not pay ... It was paid by the blood of Jesus." He encouraged those in attendance to "do better with the resources God has so freely given."



Daniel J. Reichard, Vice President-LCEF/Executive Director-Finance & Administration, reported that LCEF investments in the District have grown from \$69.6 million to \$71.8 million in the past two years. During that time, loans have increased from \$106.1 million to \$106.6 million, with another 10 loans "in the pipeline." Delinquent loans have been reduced from \$27.7 million to \$1.2 million. About 4.3% of confirmed Florida-Georgia members are LCEF investors. "Our target is to have 15% of the members be investors in Lutheran Church Extension Fund, helping to fund churches and schools," Reichard emphasized.



Convention Chaplain Rev. **Jonathan M. Frusti** of Grace-Winter Haven shared information on Operation Barnabas, a network of care to USA military members coordinated by the LCMS. He urged District congregations to join Operation Barnabas and "make a difference in the lives of our military personnel and their families." Additional information on the program is available at www.lcms.org.



District President **Greg and Edith Walton** with **Janet and Viji George**.

Convention PhotoBooth



District Welcomes Special Guests

Interspersed among Convention business items were presentations and greetings from various special guests.

Rev. **Gary Danielson**, who just retired after 18 years as Executive Director of Lutheran Services of Georgia, was presented with a picture of the Good Samaritan in honor of his ministry. "There are lots of people who want someone to love them," he said in thanking the Convention. "We are Jesus' hands and feet to take love to our communities."

Lutheran Services Florida Development Director **Steve Cecchetti** accepted a picture of the Good Samaritan in celebration of the social ministry's 30 years. "Thank you for your support and prayers," he said.

Concordia University-New York President Dr. **Viji George**, who recently announced that he will be retiring from that post in June 2013, shared an update on the University. District President Greg Walton — a Concordia New York graduate, as is his wife Edith — presented Dr. George with a graphic representing the elements of grace offered through the Lord's Supper.

Other special guests included Rev. **Terry Tieman**, Transforming Church Network Executive Director; Rev. **Karl Krueger**, President of the LCMS' SELC District, whose Convention was in nearby Ovideo; Rev. **Ed Benoway**, Bishop of the Florida/Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; **Marilyn Treanor**, President of the Florida-Georgia Lutheran Women's Missionary League; **Ed Wright**, Communications Director for the District Lutheran Laymen's League; and **Scott Morris**, Managing Partner for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Florida Region Regional Financial Office. Thrivent hosted lunch for the convention delegates. ■



Rev. **Terry Tieman** of TCN;



Scott Morris of Thrivent



Gary Danielson, Lutheran Services Georgia



Ed Wright, LLL, brought greetings and humor; **Marilyn Treanor** encouraged convention delegates and guests to drop purple \$5 bills into the mite boxes or the donation box at the LWML booth; **Steve Cecchetti** of LSF received the "Good Samaritan framed art" on behalf of Lutheran Services Florida in recognition of the ministry's 30 years of service.





Worship Opened, Closed Convention Proceedings

Worship was an integral component of the Convention, including opening and closing services and a special memorial service on Saturday evening.

Convention Chaplain Rev. Jonathan M. Frusti, pastor of host congregation Grace-Winter Haven, FL, presided at the closing service with assistance from area

pastors. Rev Matthew Harrison, President of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, shared a message focusing on the Convention theme of “Stewards of God’s Grace: Empowered by the Word,” inspired by 1 Peter 4:10.

“We are stewards of the Gospel ... speak it!” President Harrison urged the congregation.

The Convention anthem, *Of Faith and Service*, was sung by a group of delegates joined by members of Grace’s choir and accompanied by members of the host congregation’s praise team under the leadership of their Director of Music and Worship, Wynn Bonner. ■



“OPEN YOUR OPPORTUNITY EYES to see all that needs to be done in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,” exhorted Rev. **Dennis Bartels**, Chairman of the District Stewardship Advisory Council. Noting that 70% of congregations are involved in supporting the work of the District, he continued, “God doesn’t ask us to do anything more than what He provides for... Stewardship is showing up... When we show up, God shows up to us... We need to connect people to Jesus. We’re God’s people. Let’s show up!”



DISTRICT PRESIDENT EMERITUS Rev. Dr. **Gerhard Michael Jr.**, now Executive Director of the Luther Institute of Southeast Asia (LISA), shared an update on the theological education program. The worship offering — more than \$4,250 — was designated for LISA.



Wynn Bonner (from left) with **Kathy Miller** and **Gary Stone** at closing worship. Music throughout the convention blended a fantastic mixture of traditional and contemporary hymns.



SYNOD REPRESENTATIVE Rev. **Daniel Preus**, 4th Vice President of the LCMS, shared a video summarizing activities of the national church body since 2010. He also led a Bible study on *Witness*, one of the three emphases of the LCMS. (At right) **Preus** installs District President **Greg Walton** into his second term of office.



NOW “IS ONE OF THE GREATEST TIMES to be alive as LCMS Lutherans,” said Convention Essayist Rev. Dr. **David Benke**, president of the Atlantic District. “We have so much for the world today – a wonderful message, a wonderful means of grace.” He echoed District President Greg Walton in emphasizing that the goal is to connect people to Jesus. Each individual Christian has a call, Benke said, urging all present to “carry out your vocation... We also have a corporate vocation to be the Body of Christ. When we are called to our vocation, we are called into the Body of Christ... We need to be hospitable ... and carry Jesus wherever we go and bring others in,” he concluded. Benke received a lengthy standing ovation for embracing the convention theme throughout his message.



Preaching at closing worship LCMS President **Matthew Harrison** noted that all are sinners in need of Jesus. “Because of Him, we are unlikely stewards of God’s grace. Jesus did everything perfectly for us.”

Convention Elects New Board Members



Rev. **Jay Winters**, 34, who has served at University Church & Student Center-Tallahassee, FL, since his 2007 ordination, is the new District Secretary. He has been the pastoral advisor for Lutheran Student Fellowship-National since 2008 and a board member of the Lutheran Campus Mission Association board since 2009, serving as secretary since 2011.

Elected as lay representatives to the Florida-Georgia Board were:

Region 1: **William Gaik**, incumbent, Trinity-Toccoa, GA; **Jay Wendland**, Living Faith-Cumming, GA.

Region 2; **Lois Schaeffer**, Amazing Grace-Oxford, FL; **Donald Kaufman**, St. John-Ocala, FL.

Region 3: **John Brazee**, incumbent, Christ-Cape Canaveral, FL; **Sonia Tellez**, Prince of Peace-Orlando, FL.

Region 4: **Maggie Bowles**, incumbent, Peace-Naples, FL; **Jeff Richards**, incumbent, Hope-Bradenton, FL.

Region 5: **Nancy Volz**, incumbent, Our Savior-Plantation, FL; **Karen Smith**, incumbent, Peace-Okeechobee, FL.

Commissioned Ministers of Education (at large) elected were: **Robert Ziegler**, incumbent, St. Michael-Fort Myers, FL; **Lois Ford**, Faith-Marietta, GA; **Tamara Worthington**, St. Paul-Peachtree City, GA. ■

Newly elected members of the Board of Directors installed at closing worship included (l-r) **William Gaik**, **Karen Smith**, **Jon Brazee**, **Nancy Volz** (back), **Maggie Bowles**, **Lois Schaeffer**, **Jeff Richards**, Secretary **Rev. Jay Winters**, **Tamara Worthington**, **Jay Wendland** and **Lois Ford**. Not pictured are **Sonia Tellez**, **Donald Kaufman** and **Robert Ziegler**.



Resolutions Address Church in Mission and Action

Convention delegates passed all resolutions presented by the two floor committees.

Church in Mission

Encouraging Congregations to Engage in Foreign Mission Work.

This involvement involves prayer, identification and encouragement of missionaries, financial support and hands-on activities.

Endorsing the Work of the Luther Institute of Southeast Asia (LISA).

One of two motions passed unanimously, this one urges support of LISA through prayers, encouragement and financial gifts.

Supporting the Work of Mission:

Haiti. The District is encouraged to continue its partnership of Mission: Haiti; congregations are urged to pray for and support the ministry.

Affirm the Importance of Campus Ministry.

Delegates unanimously supported the appointment of a task

force to propose ways to strengthen current ministries and develop new programs.

Encouraging Continuing Education for Church Professionals.

The District President will oversee development and implementation of a life-long learning system for Florida-Georgia professional church workers.

Commending Lutheran Social Service Agencies within the District.

With this action, delegates thanked Lutheran Services Florida, Lutheran Services of Georgia, Lutheran Social Services of Northeast Florida and Lutheran Services of North Florida.

A final resolution referred an overture on the Gold Coast Circuit to the Mission Advisory Council and one on Muslim Outreach to the new Muslim Ministry Task Force.

Church in Action

In addition to approving motions on District restructuring (please see

story on page 3 for details) delegates passed three resolutions that will be sent to the national Synod for consideration for the 2013 LCMS Convention:

To Promote Harmony, Unity and Koinonia Among Synod Presidents.

This motion encourages the LCMS to invite past presidents to the national convention and be involved in the installation of new officers.

To Seek to Clarify the Ministry of the Word in Connection to the Laity.

Administration is asked to “clarify what role laity is to play and what opportunities they have to serve in the church’s task of ‘Witness.’”

To Allow E-Meetings for Voting by Circuit, District and Synod.

This motion requests permission for entities to hold “valid meetings” for voting and asks that they be encouraged to use this option which would save resources. ■

District Participates in Summer Food Program

District President Greg Walton and his executive assistant David Weidner were at Orlando's Nap Ford Community School for the May 22nd launch of Summer BreakSpot, Florida's summer nutrition program for students 18 and younger.

The Florida Department of Agriculture partnered with thousands of community organizations and schools to offer free meals for the youth.

Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam officiated the program launch, which was attended by local media and representatives from

agencies and organizations that support efforts to feed low-income students during the school year.

The District provides assistance through Florida Impact, an organization dedicated to reducing poverty and hunger through programs such as Summer BreakSpot.



District President Greg Walton (center, right) with Florida Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam (center, left) other Florida state officials and mascots from Florida professional sports teams at the launch of Summer BreakSpot.

During the school year, more than 1.6 million Florida students

receive free or reduced price school meals through the National School Lunch Program. Those same students received free, healthy summer meals at more than 2500 locations around the State through the BreakSpot

District LWML Convention Weeks Away

The women of the LWML in Florida and Georgia will gather in Orlando just weeks from now to select mission projects for the 2012-2014 biennium, elect new officers and participate in worship, fellowship and servant events. The convention will convene on Friday, September 28 at the Orlando Airport Marriott Hotel and close with worship and installation of officers on Sunday, September 30. Registration form and more information are available on-line at flgalwml.com.

Convention Highlights

Pretty in Purple Party: This year, the LWML celebrates 70 years of God's blessings. Saturday evening's banquet will be a Purple Party and all attendees should wear their favorite purple outfit to help celebrate this milestone!

Keynote Speaker: Virginia Von Seggern, 1999-2003 LWML president, is a member of the

following foundations/boards: Lutheran Hour Ministries Foundation; Lutheran Bible Translators, Nebraska District Board of Directors; Lutheran Ministry Foundation of the Nebraska District. **LWML Rep:** Carolyn Blum, VP of Organizational Resources, has served as district president, associate and news editor of the Lutheran Women's Quarterly and as a Mission-Ministry Vision Consultant. Passionate about mission work since a child, she has been to Latvia, Puerto Rico and most recently, Kyrgyzstan.

Guest Speaker: Cynthia Khan, a native of Pakistan, has lived in four countries and now resides in Troy, MI. She serves as Director of Women and Youth Ministries. Her topics include the basics of Islam, the agenda of Muslims in North America, women in Islam and a comparison of Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Sikhism and Christianity. **Gifts From The Heart/Ingathering:**

Matthew's Hope Ministries, Winter Garden, FL. Please see the convention tab at flgalwml.com for details on requested donation items. All monetary offerings will go to Lutheran Services of Georgia. Servant Events Crafting sleeping mats will be for the homeless and flannel dolls for premature infants. **Mission Pledge Walk:** Funds from this Saturday morning event will go to District Mission Grants.

Special Activities

There will also be special activities for all the Young Women Representatives; dedication of the Gifts from the Heart; and the formal invitation to the 2013 LWML Florida-Georgia District Retreat by the hosting zones – Atlanta North, East Central Georgia and Northeast Georgia.

Register now and "Shine like stars – as you hold out the Word of life!" ■

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Named to Star Tribune's Top Workplaces 2012

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans was recently named to the *Star Tribune's* 2012 Top 100 Workplaces in Minnesota. This is the third consecutive year the organization has been named to the list, based the results of an employee-based survey. Thrivent Financial was listed as the 21st top workplace in Minnesota and was also named to the inaugural list of National Top Workplaces.

Top Workplaces recognizes the most progressive companies in Minnesota based on employee opinions about company leadership, communication, career opportunities, workplace environment, managerial skills, pay and benefits. The analysis included responses from more than 71,200 employees at Minnesota public, private and nonprofit organizations.

The rankings in the *Star Tribune* Top 100 Workplaces are based on survey information collected by Workplace Dynamics, an independent company specializing in employee engagement and retention.

"We strive to create a workplace that reflects our culture," said Anne Sample, senior vice president and Chief Human Resources Officer for Thrivent Financial. "Talented and engaged employees are critical to our ability to serve our members and to our strength and stability as an organization. We are honored that our employees consider Thrivent Financial to be a top workplace in the Twin Cities."

Star Tribune Publisher Michael J. Klingensmith said, "The companies in the *Star Tribune* Top 100 Workplaces deserve high praise for creating the very best work environments in the state of Minnesota. My congratulations to each of these exceptional companies."

To qualify for the *Star Tribune* Top Workplaces, a company must have more than 50 employees in Minnesota. More than 1,360 companies were invited to participate. Rankings were composite scores calculated purely on the basis of employee responses.

The *Star Tribune* Top Workplaces special section was published in the *Star Tribune* on Sunday, June 17. The report can also be found at StarTribune.com/topworkplaces2012.

For more information about careers at Thrivent Financial, visit www.thrivent.com/careers.



Anne Sample, Senior VP and Chief Human Resources Officer for Thrivent Financial

For more information on career opportunities with Thrivent Financial in the Florida & Georgia Region, please contact Shep Griffith at 843-670-4245. We have opportunities in Jacksonville, Tallahassee and Miami, Florida and in Atlanta and Savannah, Georgia. ■

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For more information, contact:

Shep Griffith
Recruiting Manager
407-942-1332
Fax: 407-942-1025
shep.griffith@thrivent.com

Being part of this organization allows you to know many movers and shakers in our Lutheran community. If this is not for you please let me know if you know others that this might be a good opportunity for.

Thrivent.com/careers

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LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Good Shepherd-Gainesville Celebrates Groundbreaking for Expansion

Because they are “alive with the Spirit,” member Jim Wetherton said the Good Shepherd-Gainesville, GA, congregation has had to expand its church to accommodate the number of people coming to worship there. And the project to build on to the church has moved ahead quickly thanks to that spirit and a sense of urgency to serve the community.

“We very much have a team ministry,” said Rev. Ben Haupt, Good Shepherd’s pastor. He continued, “God brought together a strategic team,” meaning that members bring complementary strengths to the mission of the church and all work well to accomplish God’s plans for the congregation.

The plans for expansion go beyond the building, but also for more ministries, more outreach, all helped along with the newly called Director of Christian Education intern Wynn Derong.

Haupt and Wetherton both acknowledged that the expansion will provide more opportunities for the congregation to focus on serving young families and youth ministries. Over the last two years, the Lord brought 99 new baptized members into His church, and youth-group participation and average worship attendance have increased significantly (nearly 175 on average attend weekly services). With close to 300 members, they are “filled to the gills” in their current facilities, Haupt said.

Construction is set to begin mid-August, with completion expected about six months later. Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has been a partner along the way, assisting with strategic planning, architectural advice, stewardship and leadership development, as well as with a loan.

Built in the late 1960s, Good Shepherd’s main structure was later expanded to add fellowship and classroom space. The new project incorporates a 150-seat fellowship

hall, a larger education wing, office space, a choir room, a youth suite with a grouping of rooms for junior and senior high ministries and an expanded parking lot.

To learn more about Good Shepherd, visit www.goodshepherd.info/#/ video. ■



Above: The Good Shepherd-Gainesville congregation celebrated groundbreaking for a church addition June 10, with Pastor Ben Haupt at the helm of the plow pulled by members. Doug Fuge reflected that even though the weather had been extremely dry, rain during the service reminds us “as the water makes things grow, the Lord showers us with His blessings so that His flock will grow.”



Gathering after the Good Shepherd-Gainesville groundbreaking celebration were (l-r) Daniel J. Reichard, Florida-Georgia District Vice President for LCEF and Administration; building committee members Doug Fuge, Bart Eberle, and Brad Jovaag; Rev. Ben Haupt; Jack Enkemann, congregation president; and Doug Haupt, head trustee and building committee member. Not shown is building committee chair Jim Fitzgerald.

Debra A. Talbot Joins LCEF Team

Debra A. Talbot is the new LCEF Administrative Assistant in the Florida-Georgia District. “Debbie brings more than 20 years of experience coordinating, planning and supporting daily operational and administrative functions,” said Daniel J. Reichard, District Vice President-LCEF / Executive Director-Finance & Administration.



Talbot has an Associate Degree from Burlington County Community College. She has two daughters and has one grandson, Zane.

She replaces Kathy Keene, who is the new Administrative Assistant for Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton. “I am excited for both Ladies and expect great things from them both,” concluded Reichard. ■

BUILDING COMMUNITIES —

Building Lives, Building Faith was the tagline for Concordia-Irvine’s winning entry in the inaugural LCEF National Student Marketing Competition. The challenge to develop a marketing campaign to attract new and younger LCEF investors was also undertaken by teams from Concordias in St. Paul, Austin and River Forest. LCEF President/CEO Rich Robertson called all the teams -- and LCEF -- winners in the competition that offered practical work experience for Concordia undergrads and an opportunity for LCEF to tap into the fresh perspective of young adults. “God has incredible ways to work through each one of us,” Robertson said.

“Sharing the wealth of opportunities we have to share the Gospel is what this competition is all about -- and what LCEF is all about.” Shown here

making their winning presentation are Concordia-Irvine students (l-r) Danielle Daviscourt, Zack Freeno, Melissa Merrill and Samantha Moser.



New Enrollment Tool Facilitates “MyAccount”

MyAccount is a secure online service in which investors and borrowers can quickly access LCEF investment and loan information and statements, as well as conduct transactions from certain accounts.

An enhancement made in March of this year has made it even easier for individual investors to enroll in MyAccount services online without having to print the form and fax or mail it to LCEF. Organizations and businesses must still send in an application via fax or mail.

To enroll, visit www.lcef.org/myaccount/apply.cfm and click on the appropriate link based on the type of user: individual or organization.

By using the MyAccount online services -- including e-statements -- investors help reduce administrative costs, which in turn allows us to keep loan rates to churches, schools and rostered church workers as low as possible.

For more information, please call 800-843-5233. ■

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Funds are available to empower your ministry in its kingdom-building efforts through loans for:

- New equipment
- Updates to lighting/other systems for efficiency
- More-accessible space
- New classrooms or fellowship space
- New construction—with just one closing!

**Daniel J. Reichard, Vice President
Florida-Georgia District**
(877) 475-5556
dreichard@flga-lcms.org



LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF’s Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks.



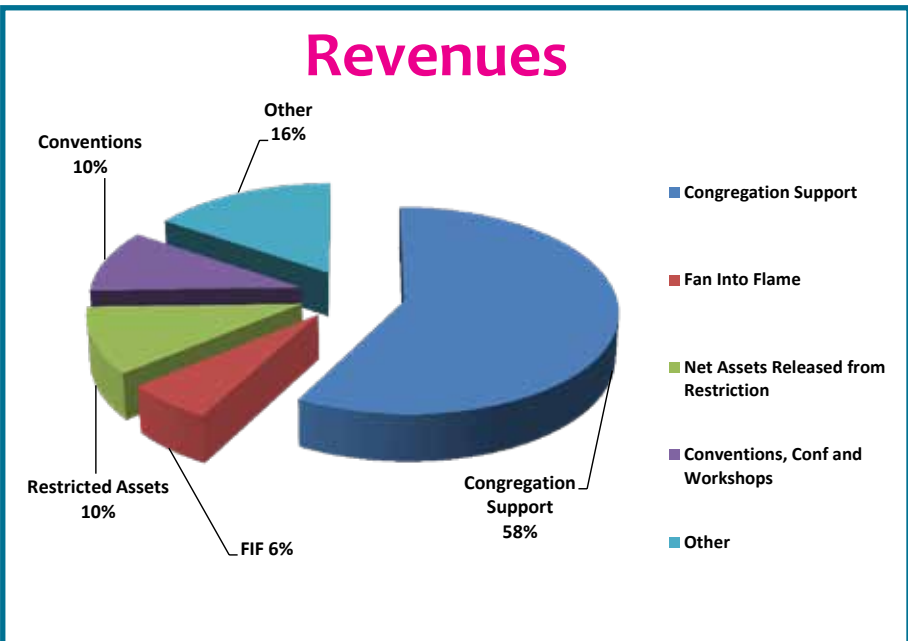
District Financials “On The Right Track”

The following is a financial recap of the Fiscal Year Ending (FYE) January 31, 2012.

If you have a copy of last year's results, you will notice a marked difference in the Statement of Financial Position. Due to the terms of the sale of the Montverde Property, the rules of GAAP disallowed the recording of the entire loan receivable. This caused a \$2,046,861 deferred gain entry and moved the Undesignated Net Asset balance to negative territory. The current Statement of Financial Position for FYE January 31, 2011 reflects this change.

Additionally, over the past year, the District has been fervent in the restoration of Temporarily Restricted Net Assets. Our auditors noted at FYE 2011 that we had utilized cash restricted

by donors for ongoing operations in the amount of \$797,000, I am pleased to report that at FYE 2012, we



Florida-Georgia District - LCMS Statements of Financial Position Preliminary Audit Results			
	Jan 31, 2012	Jan 31, 2011	
Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$527,766	\$188,153	
Accounts Receivable	51,331	74,322	
Prepaid Expense	23,689	24,350	
Contributions Receivable	702,042	713,689	
Loans Receivable	290,000	300,000	
Installment Sale Notes Receivable, net	1,261,318	1,273,728	
Property and Equipment, net	1,305,228	1,871,450	
Advance Sites	461,166	455,188	
Long-Term Investments	1,690,847	1,448,927	
Other Assets	1,431,726	1,098,882	
Total	\$7,745,113	\$7,448,689	
Liabilities and Net Assets			
Accounts Payable	\$336,908	\$358,084	
Grants Payable	21,500	22,200	
Notes Payable	3,087,639	3,246,290	
Other Liabilities	232,161	227,420	
Total Liabilities	3,678,208	3,853,994	
Undesignated	(1,038,536)	(1,761,596)	
Net Investment in Land, Buildings and Equipment	1,271,058	1,609,910	
Board Designated	260,783	183,355	
Temporarily Restricted	1,935,285	1,917,325	
Permanently Restricted	1,638,315	1,645,701	
Total Net Assets	4,066,905	3,594,695	
Total	\$7,745,113	\$7,448,689	

had reduced the deficit to \$243,000. While the restoration is not yet complete, the improvement is significant and on the right track.

Statement of Activities:

Year over year, unrestricted support from congregations totaled \$2,127,599. We give thanks to God for your faithful support and recognize that the ministries God has commanded us to do can only be accomplished if we continue to walk together.

Net assets released from restriction fund specific projects or needs and are not utilized to fund ongoing operations or ministries. Investment income from endowment funds are the exception as said income is utilized for the donor restricted purposes, e.g., to partially fund student aid.

The total change in Net Assets for the past fiscal year was an increase of \$472,210 compared to a decrease of \$354,958 for the year ended January 31, 2011. This variance is largely due to the sale of property in Georgia, some large donations and a pull back on spending in the District budget.

For Asset Restoration, Good Stewardship

Total expenses for 2011 were \$3,214,867 versus \$4,081,593 for 2010, or a reduction of \$866,726. We continually



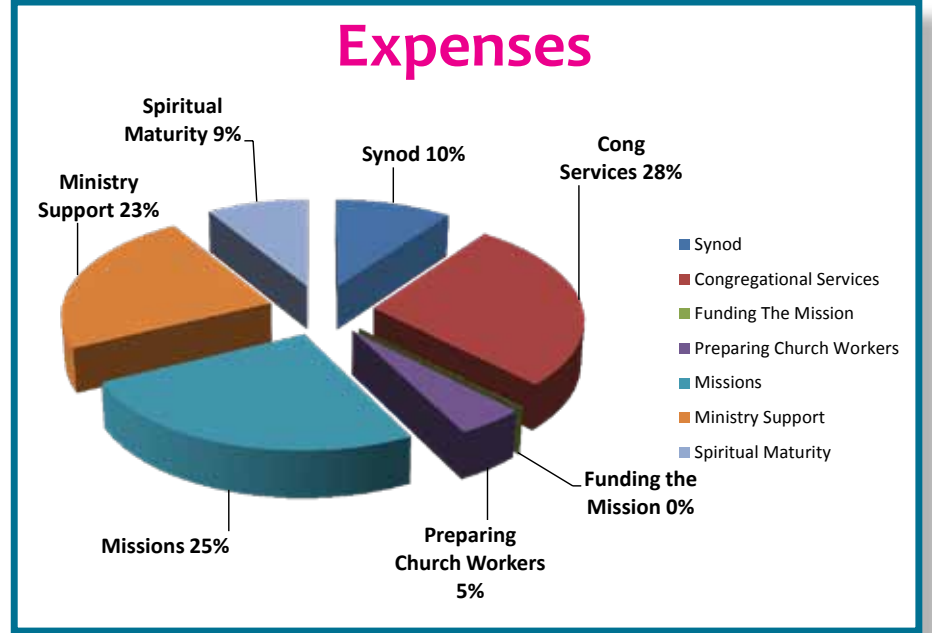
strive to model good stewardship with the funds you have entrusted to us in a manner that meaningfully benefits and supports ongoing ministry.

2012 Work Program

The highlights of the 2012 work program are as follows: Congregation support was budgeted at \$2,160,000. Fan Into Flame revenue was budgeted at \$81,000. Through unanimous support of the Board of Directors, Synod support was increased to 13% of congregational support. The District continues to set aside 3% of unrestricted support to fund TCN and District revitalization efforts. Mission support remains at \$600,000 and supports 19 missions within the District. The Missions Advisory Council continues to assist staff in evaluating the various missions supported.

We have attempted to provide a work program for 2012 that is fiscally responsible, within our current funding forecast and continues to restore Temporarily Restricted Net Assets. The goal is to maintain and improve current District ministries and services while righting the balance sheet. The Board of Directors and District Staff are closely monitoring operations and will make necessary adjustments to ensure this happens.

May God continue to bless our work together as we reach out to connect people to Jesus! ■



Florida-Georgia District - LCMS Statements of Activities Preliminary Audit Results For Years Ended January 31, 2012 and 2011			
	Jan 31, 2012	Jan 31, 2011	
UNRESTRICTED REVENUES			
Congregation Support	\$2,127,599	\$2,135,527	
Fan Into Flame/Forward Together	225,995	265,645	
Net assets Released from Restriction	387,257	641,485	
Convention, Conferences and Workshops	362,021	483,048	
Other	573,631	245,709	
Total Revenues	3,676,503	3,771,414	
EXPENSES			
Synod	323,796	324,533	
Congregational Services	885,019	800,672	
Funding The Mission	2,206	2,297	
Preparing Church Workers	150,543	160,186	
Missions	813,301	1,044,200	
Ministry Support	752,122	821,262	
Spiritual Maturity	283,145	274,193	
Other	4,735	654,250	
Total Expenses	3,214,867	4,081,593	
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS			
Unrestricted	461,636	(310,179)	
Change in Net Assets from Discontinued Operations	-	(6,180)	
Temporarily restricted	17,960	(112,658)	
Permanently restricted	(7,386)	74,059	
Total change in net assets	472,210	(354,958)	
NET ASSETS - BEGINNING OF YEAR	3,594,695	3,949,653	
NET ASSETS - END OF YEAR	\$4,066,905	\$3,594,695	





District Congregational Support

City/State	Congregation	Financial Support*	Confirmed Members**	Support/Member
Circuit 1 - Northeast Georgia				
Athens GA	Christus Victor	2,500	57	43.86
Athens GA	Trinity	20,900	324	64.51
Blairsville GA	All Saints	17,181	214	80.29
Clarksville GA	Grace Mission	0	0	—
Gainesville GA	Good Shepherd	13,000	221	58.82
Lilburn GA	Oak Road	38,792	397	97.71
Toccoa GA	Trinity	3,058	143	21.38
Winder GA	Arms of Grace	600	42	14.29
		\$96,031	1,398	\$68.69
Circuit 2 - Atlanta North				
Atlanta GA	Grace	5,500	59	93.22
Atlanta GA	Rivercliff	11,200	431	25.99
Cartersville GA	Savior of All	8,087	281	28.78
Cumming GA	Living Faith	8,300	116	71.55
Dahlonega GA	St Peter	0	0	—
Jasper GA	King of Kings	250	45	5.56
Kennesaw GA	Living Hope	12,000	348	34.48
Marietta GA	Faith	21,600	507	42.60
Rome GA	Holy Trinity	5,400	183	29.51
Tucker GA	St. Mark	9,018	154	58.56
Woodstock GA	Timothy	29,627	377	78.59
		\$110,982	2,501	\$44.38
Circuit 3 - Atlanta South				
Columbus GA	Bethlehem	7,000	89	78.65
Columbus GA	LC of the Redeemer	19,168	211	90.84
Decatur GA	Peace	2,312	178	12.99
Decatur GA	Sudanese	0	20	—
Douglasville GA	Prince of Peace	0	189	—
East Point GA	Christ	550	50	11.00
Hampton GA	Christ Our Savior	6,329	52	121.71
Peachtree City GA	St. Paul	44,794	319	140.42
Riverdale GA	Holy Cross	1,138	142	8.01
Stockbridge GA	Lord of Life	3,003	158	19.01
Tucker GA	Incarnate Word	0	39	—
Villa Rica GA	Ablaze Mission	0	0	—
		\$84,294	1,447	\$58.25
Circuit 4 - East Central Georgia				
Augusta GA	Our Redeemer	43,067	433	99.46
Eatonton GA	Lake Oconee	21,599	171	126.31
Macon GA	L.C. of Holy Trinity	3,850	46	83.70
Milledgeville GA	Hope	2,080	36	57.78
Perry FL	Christ	3,600	101	35.64
Savannah GA	Trinity	36,341	412	88.21
Statesboro GA	St. Paul's	4,991	66	75.62
Warner Robins GA	Mount Calvary	70,750	677	104.51
		\$186,278	1,942	\$95.92
Circuit 5 - Tallahassee				
Albany GA	Trinity	7,501	96	78.14
Crawfordville FL	Trinity	550	42	13.10
Lake City FL	Our Redeemer	3,504	188	18.64
Tallahassee FL	Epiphany	27,660	424	65.24
Tallahassee FL	University	6,877	94	73.16
Tifton GA	Peace	3,830	132	29.02
Valdosta GA	Messiah	6,000	143	41.96
		\$55,922	1,119	\$49.97

Please Note:

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

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

City/State	Congregation	Financial Support*	Confirmed Members**	Support/Member
Circuit 6 - First Coast				
Jacksonville FL	Grace	0	577	—
Jacksonville FL	Guardian	872	205	4.25
Jacksonville FL	Holy Cross	0	87	—
Jacksonville FL	Hope Mission	0	44	—
Jacksonville FL	Our Redeemer	500	154	3.25
Jacksonville FL	St. Paul	10,000	197	50.76
Jax'ville Beach FL	Bethlehem	18,417	667	27.61
Kingsland FL	Messiah Mission	0	0	—
Kingsland GA	Holy Trinity	6,542	104	62.90
Middleburg FL	St. Peter's	10,365	255	40.65
St. Augustine FL	Christ Our Savior	600	51	11.76
Starke FL	Good Shepherd	2,100	25	84.00
		\$49,396	2,366	\$20.88
Circuit 7 - North Central Florida				
Chiefland FL	Good Shepherd	350	58	6.03
Dunnellon FL	Peace	500	57	8.77
Gainesville FL	Abiding Savior	15,742	245	64.25
Gainesville FL	First	35,867	503	71.31
Inverness FL	First	2,150	329	6.53
Lecanto FL	Faith	11,458	245	46.77
Ocala FL	Our Redeemer	24,494	413	59.31
Ocala FL	St. John	6,500	411	15.82
Oxford FL	Amazing Grace	6,635	107	155.47
Silver Springs FL	Forest Evangelical	4,083	43	94.95
Summerfield FL	Trinity	47,739	643	74.24
		\$165,518	3,054	\$54.20
Circuit 8 - Space Coast				
Cape Canaveral FL	Christ	4,338	75	57.84
Holly Hill FL	Trinity	9,999	379	26.38
Melbourne FL	LC of Redeemer	8,522	191	44.62
Melbourne FL	Zion Ev Haitian	0	150	—
Merritt Island FL	Faith	5,200	588	8.84
Merritt Island FL	Grace	0	105	—
Palm Bay FL	Risen Savior	1,000	60	16.67
Rockledge FL	Trinity	0	133	—
South Daytona FL	Holy Cross	0	345	—
Titusville FL	Good Shepherd	14,363	277	51.85
		\$43,422	2,303	\$18.85
Circuit 9 - Orlando East				
Casselberry FL	Ascension	27,066	520	52.05
Deltona FL	LC of Providence	0	106	—
Orlando FL	Esperanza Viva Mission	0	242	—
Orlando FL	Hope	9,769	232	42.11
Orlando FL	Iglesia Sublime Gracia	0	0	—
Orlando FL	Journey of Life	7,700	55	140.00
Orlando FL	Prince of Peace	10,200	868	11.75
Orlando FL	Trinity	78,044	1104	70.69
Sanford FL	Living Water	1,100	51	—
Sanford FL	LC of Redeemer	3,500	115	30.43
St. Cloud FL	Grace	0	141	—
		\$137,379	3,434	\$40.01
Circuit 9 - Orlando West				
Apopka FL	St. Paul	0	110	—
Eustis FL	Faith	48,382	792	61.09
Winter Garden FL	Zion New Life	0	108	—
Leesburg FL	Bethany	15,156	197	76.93
Montverde FL	Woodlands	22,279	550	40.51
Orlando FL	Christ the King	11,000	507	21.70
Orlando FL	Our Savior	0	101	—
		\$96,817	2,365	\$40.94

For Fiscal Year Ending January 31, 2012

City/State	Congregation	Financial Support*	Confirmed Members**	Support/Member
Circuit 11 - Winter Haven				
Bartow FL	Redeemer	2,000	52	38.46
Lake Wales FL	Lake Wales	0	233	—
Lakeland FL	Christ	20,950	247	84.82
Lakeland FL	St. Paul	33,639	1055	31.89
Plant City FL	Hope	22,547	339	66.51
Winter Haven FL	Grace	42,251	1586	26.64
Zephyrhills FL	Our Savior	7,445	156	47.72
		\$128,832	3,668	\$35.12
Circuit 12 - Heartland				
Avon Park FL	Christ	4,265	28	152.32
Belle Glade FL	St. Peter's	3,600	34	105.88
Clewiston FL	Faith	2,425	45	53.89
Lake Placid FL	Trinity	2,539	211	12.03
Okeechobee FL	Peace	0	452	—
Sebring FL	Faith	20,823	124	167.93
Wauchula FL	Peace Valley	3,000	38	78.95
		\$36,652	932	\$39.33
Circuit 13 - Suncoast				
Brooksville FL	Christ	2,608	244	10.69
Hudson FL	Hope	10,385	324	32.05
Lutz FL	Holy Trinity	3,333	528	6.31
Masaryktown FL	Holy Trinity	14,941	180	83.01
New Port Richey FL	Faith	12,553	316	39.72
Spring Hill FL	Forest Oaks	6,034	277	21.78
Trinity FL	Trinity	500	65	7.69
		\$50,354	1,934	\$26.04
Circuit 14 - St. Petersburg				
Clearwater FL	Bethel	24,000	863	27.81
Clearwater FL	First	40	550	0.07
Dunedin FL	Faith	7,392	111	66.59
Largo FL	Christ the King	43,000	891	48.26
St. Petersburg FL	Grace	18,623	835	22.30
St. Petersburg FL	Our Savior	57,695	736	78.39
		\$150,750	3,986	\$37.82
Circuit 15 - Tampa				
Brandon FL	Immanuel	0	422	—
Lithia FL	Lamb of God	4,875	170	28.68
Riverview FL	Christ the King	4,730	118	40.08
Tampa FL	Holy Trinity	0	152	—
Tampa FL	Messiah	54,512	696	78.32
Tampa FL	St. Matthew	0	192	—
Tampa FL	Zion Ev.	0	40	—
		\$64,117	1,790	\$35.82
Circuit 16 - Sarasota				
Arcadia FL	Grace	1,500	75	20.00
Bradenton FL	Hope	7,813	398	19.63
Englewood FL	Redeemer	500	221	2.26
Parrish FL	Faith	13,500	242	55.79
Port Charlotte FL	LC of the Cross	0	246	—
Punta Gorda FL	Faith	5,250	212	24.76
Sarasota FL	Beautiful Savior	49,786	515	96.67
Sarasota FL	Concordia	9,405	203	46.33
Sarasota FL	Good Shepherd	0	242	—
Venice FL	Lakeside	28,171	712	39.57
		\$115,925	3,066	\$37.81
Circuit 17 - Southwest				
Bonita Springs FL	Amigos en Cristo	1,200	33	—
Bonita Springs FL	Hope	5,000	435	11.49
Cape Coral FL	Abiding Savior Mission	0	2	—
Cape Coral FL	Trinity	12,298	223	55.15
Fort Myers FL	Bethlehem	0	90	—
Fort Myers FL	St. Michael	43,000	856	50.23
Fort Myers FL	Zion	37,600	1013	37.12

City/State	Congregation	Financial Support*	Confirmed Members**	Support/Member
Immokalee FL	Immokalee	900	0	—
Labelle FL	Christ the King	100	28	3.57
Lehigh Acres FL	Beautiful Savior	2,409	73	33.00
Marco Island FL	Marco	61,981	412	150.44
Naples FL	Grace	52,000	384	135.42
Naples FL	Messiah	0	156	—
Naples FL	Peace	22,063	50	441.26
N Fort Myers FL	LC of Good Shep	5,929	145	40.89
		\$244,480	3,900	\$62.69
Circuit 18 - Treasure Coast				
Fort Pierce FL	Trinity	9,625	271	35.52
Hobe Sound FL	Bethel	0	74	—
Lake Worth FL	New Alliance	0	8	—
N Palm Beach FL	Faith	39,000	387	100.78
Port St. Lucie FL	Grace	19,153	182	105.24
Stuart FL	Redeemer	32,435	659	49.22
Vero Beach FL	LC of Redeemer	5,462	181	30.18
W Palm Beach FL	Redeemer	0	115	—
		\$105,675	1,877	\$56.30
Circuit 19 - South Palm Beach				
Boca Raton FL	St. Paul	54,167	1504	36.02
Boynton Beach FL	Son Life	12,811	345	37.13
Delray Beach FL	Emmanuel Haitian	0	225	—
Delray Beach FL	Trinity	10,340	568	18.20
Lake Worth FL	Epiphany	0	169	—
Lake Worth FL	Our Savior	14,238	314	45.34
Lake Worth FL	Salem Haitian.	0	125	—
		\$91,556	3,250	\$28.17
Circuit 20 - Gold Coast				
Davie FL	Gloria Dei	927	371	2.50
Fort Lauderdale FL	Faith	0	46	—
Fort Lauderdale FL	LC of Good Shepherd	0	50	—
Fort Lauderdale FL	Shepherd of the Coast	0	231	—
Fort Lauderdale FL	Trinity Haitian	0	0	—
Fort Lauderdale FL	Trinity	730	152	4.80
Hollywood FL	Prince of Peace	2,025	46	44.02
Lauderdale Lakes	Tabernacle	0	150	—
Miramar FL	Miramar	0	30	—
Fort Lauderdale FL	Le Tabernacle Grace	0	75	—
Plantation FL	Our Savior	1,200	427	2.81
Weston FL	St. Paul	57,243	846	67.66
		\$62,125	2,424	\$25.63
Circuit 21 - Monroe-Miami-Dade				
Hialeah FL	Faith	4,225	150	28.17
Hialeah FL	St. Andrews	2,400	45	53.33
Kendall FL	Concordia	5,004	201	24.90
Key West FL	Grace	0	140	—
Leisure City FL	Hospital del Alma	0	256	—
Marathon FL	Martin Luther Chapel	0	94	—
Miami FL	Bay Shore	0	70	—
Miami FL	Our Saviour	0	46	—
Miami FL	Redeemer	0	11	—
Miami FL	San Pablo	500	80	6.25
Miami FL	St. Matthews	0	72	—
Miami FL	St. Paul	8,579	110	77.99
Miami FL	Trinity	0	36	—
Nassau Bahamas	LC of Nassau	3,800	80	47.50
North Miami FL	Holy Cross	19,877	218	91.18
Tavernier FL	Immanuel	840	35	24.00
		\$45,225	1,644	\$27.51

Grand Totals/Avg: \$2,121,730 50,400 \$42.10



LSG Welcomes Floyd Blair As New President-CEO

Lutheran Services of Georgia on July 10 introduced Floyd R. Blair, Esq., as its new President and CEO.

Blair, who has many years of leadership experience managing diverse education and health and human service systems, is succeeding former President and CEO Gary Danielsen, who retired in June after 18 years of service.

Raised in foster care in the public housing projects of Brooklyn, NY, Blair received his undergraduate degree from the College of New Rochelle School of New Resources. He attended graduate school at Long Island University School of Education and received a law degree and graduate certificate in health law from the University of Maryland. Blair holds a certificate of advanced study in pastoral counseling from the Saint Francis Academy and is now enrolled at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in a Master of Divinity program.

A licensed attorney and member of the state bar and the U.S. District Court of Maryland,



Blair served as a governor-appointed Deputy Commissioner for Connecticut's Department of Children and Family Services and Deputy Secretary for Maryland's Department of Human Resources. Prior to that, he served as the governor-appointed Executive Director for the Baltimore City Department of Social Services.

Blair served as an appointed Senior Advisor to President Bush's White House Faith-Based & Community Initiatives Program. He also served as a Congressional Fellow for Congressman Edolphus Towns, 10th Congressional District of Brooklyn.

Blair and his wife have five children.

LSG for 30 years has provided services to people in need throughout Georgia. The agency has offices across the state in Atlanta, Rome, Augusta, Athens, Albany, Columbus and Savannah. ■

Macon Welcomes Rod Houppert



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY-Macon welcomed Rev. Rod Houppert as congregation pastor earlier this year. District President Greg Walton performed the installation, with area pastors sharing blessings and encouragement. Shown here after the installation service are (l-r) Rev. John Hopkins, Trinity-Savannah; District President Greg Walton; Florida-Georgia District; Vicar Luke Anderson, Mount Calvary-Warner Robins; Rev. Rod Houppert, The Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity-Macon; Rev. David Brighton, Mount Calvary-Warner Robins; Dr. David H. Bernthal, Retired; Rev. Roger Schwartz, Our Redeemer-Augusta. ■

CHRIST-PERRY members and guests on July 15 gathered for the dedication of the new facility — including a sanctuary with 200-plus seating, a smaller fellowship/dining area and space that will be used for new outreach to children. Started about five years ago as a daughter congregation of Mount Calvary-Warner Robins, Christ is led by Rev. John Lehenbauer. After several years of worshiping in rented storefronts, the congregation partnered with Laborers For Christ to build on a nine-acre site in a growing area of Perry. A ministry of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), Laborers work for LCMS congregations that want to tackle their own church-related construction and build ministry in congregations and communities. Christ Lutheran also turned to LCEF for loan support to purchase the land and get the ball rolling on the first step of this multi-phase building project. ■



REGION 2 NEWS

Regional News From Around the District

REGION 1 NEWS

Blairsville Hosts a Seder Supper

ALL SAINTS Lutheran Church-Blairsville, GA celebrated a Seder dinner on Wednesday, March 28, with about 75 members and friends in attendance. Leading the Seder was Rev. Kevin Parviz, the executive director of Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism and pastor of Congregation Chai v'Shalom-St. Louis. All Saints members in attendance described the events as a "a wonderful family night, with Pastor Kevin recalling what it was like being a Jewish child and truly waiting for Elijah to come and sit at the family table." For additional information regarding LIJE and having Parviz visit a congregation, visit www.lije.org. ■



Hope Plant City Welcomes Cary Hoff

On Sunday, June 17, the members and staff of Hope-Plant City welcomed Cary Hoff to their family as Director of Christian Education and Youth Intern.

Hoff, an April, 2012 graduate of Concordia University-Austin, will serve his one-year internship at Hope prior to certification as a full-time worker in the church body.

A native of Texas, Hoff has served on more than 20 mission experiences both stateside and overseas where he led



Pastor Dean Pfeffer and Cary Hoff

various educational ministries and opportunities. At Hope, he will be responsible for heading up Christian Education ministries which include Vacation Bible School, the G.I.F.T program and Sunday and Wednesday educational experiences, as well as youth and young adult ministries.

According to Hope Senior Pastor Dean Pfeffer, "We are all very excited to welcome Cary into our Hope Family. He brings many gifts to us that we know the Lord will use in many and different ways." ■

REGION 3 NEWS

Faith Embraces, Encourages Change

To say that the pastors of Faith-Eustis were excited when the LCMS presented the ‘Witness, Mercy, Life Together’ logo and its emphasis for the church, would be an understatement, they recently shared.

Senior Pastor Marc Kappel and Associate Pastor Eric Eichinger immediately began sharing this emphasis with the congregation

through Bible study, sermons and various committees.

“Then, along came the ‘blue cross’ in the LCMS logo and all that it implied ... change,” said Shanon M. Burke, Faith Administrative Secretary and member.

“Many were surprised and maybe a bit dismayed by the change, but not our pastors. They are thrilled with the possibilities

that this color change can offer.”

Both Kappel and Eichinger are physically active. Kappel has been an avid cyclist for years and can often be seen riding around Eustis to visit homebound Faith members or going to church. A passionate runner, Eichinger coaches the track and cross country teams for Faith Lutheran School and runs daily whenever possible.

Several Faith members share these interests. Jay Burke -- an avid cyclist and former cycling coach with the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society’s Team In Training program -- with the blessings of Faith’s pastors and the LCMS, designed a cycling “kit” (jersey and short set) and a “tech-t” (dry fit t-shirt for runners). His goal is to start a casual cycling group that will meet once or twice a month to get people biking to better health while increasing community awareness of Faith Church & School.

“At Faith, we see the possibilities that change brings and we are embracing them,” agreed Kappel and Eichinger. ■

Modeling the Faith jersey and t-shirt at left are (l-r) Associate Pastor Eric Eichinger, Jay Burke and Senior Pastor Marc Kappel



Bethlehem-Fort Myers Graduates Tiny Tots

TINY TOTS GRADUATE – Pentecost Sunday was also graduation day for eight members of the four-year-old class at Bethlehem-Fort Myers. All of Bethlehem’s Tiny Tots were involved in the special service – which with 118 present for worship was one of the congregation’s “largest Sunday morning service attendance numbers ... ever!” according to Pastor Darrell Stuehrenberg. The graduation ceremony was coordinated by Bethlehem Pre-School Director Linda Kirsch and teacher Pam Connolly. A reception followed the service. Pictured here are (front, l-r) graduates Ella Boley, Donny Sepulveda, Sidney Sies, Cassidy Tannehill, Wyatt Simmons, Ethan Phillips, James Gromalski and Lucas Peterson with (back, l-r) Pastor Darrell Stuehrenberg, Tiny Tots Teacher Pam Connolly and Tiny Tots Director Linda Kirsch. ■



Youth Reach Out on “Servant Saturday”

Youth and their leaders from Grace-Naples, Zion-Fort Myers, St. Michael-Fort Myers and Marco Lutheran-Marco Island combined efforts for the third annual Southwest Circuit Servant Event, June 8-9.

Under the theme Redeemed, Reborn, Remade, the middle school youth visited three locations during their 24-hour experience.

They gathered Friday night at St. Michael for food, fellowship and games before a worship combining music, Scripture and a theatrical video on Jesus’ power over sin, death and the devil.

Saturday began with a visit to the Salvation Army Lodge, where the youth led a children’s craft and song time. The next stop was the Springwood Court Nursing Home, where the youth visited with residents and played BINGO.



Coordinating the event were Rebecca Duport, DCE, Family Life Minister at Zion-Fort Myers; Lori Schwan, DCE, Director of Nurturing Ministries at St. Michael-Fort Myers; Kami Jo Mogelvang, DCE of Grace-Naples; and Faith Rattei, Director of Christian Outreach at Marco Lutheran. They plan to offer quarterly ministry opportunities for middle and high school youth in the circuit. ■

Edward Krauss Celebrates Ministry Milestone

A Service of Recognition of 50 Years of Ministry by Pastor Edward Krauss was held Sunday, June 10, at Faith-Dunedin.

Pastor Peter Kolb of Faith was the liturgist, and Pastor Michael Thureau of Christ the King-Largo preached.

Krauss, who began his ministry in 1962 as Assistant Pastor at Immanuel-Belvidere, IL, served for 35 years in Michigan at Zion-Mount Pleasant, Pilgrim-Essexville and University Lutheran Chapel-Ann Arbor. After his retirement in 1999, he served as part-time Pastoral Assistant at Grace-St. Petersburg. He is currently the Music Director at Faith-Dunedin.



Shown with Rev. Ed and Janet Krauss are (front, l-r) Pastors Peter Kolb, Henry Baum, Drew Ross, Michael Thureau (back, l-r) J.R. Reinke, Richard Arndt, Robert Steinke, Roy Lidbom, Hubert Temme.

A reception followed the service, with Pastor Drew Ross of Our Savior-St. Petersburg as emcee.

On June 17, a Recognition of the Krauss’ 50th Anniversaries (ordination and wedding) was included in worship at Grace. A reception honored Pastor Ed and Janet Krauss for their years of service as pastoral assistant and teacher in the school. A special tribute was a video of a proclamation by Dr. Bill Brusick, Grace’s former music director who is now at Trinity-Spring, TX.

Contributions to honor the Krausses were dedicated to Hope Seeds, an agency that provides seeds to the hungry and hurting as well as teaches good gardening practices toward a more sustainable solution to world hunger. ■

Herman Glienke Marks Six Decades of Ministry

Long-time Florida-Georgia servant Rev. Herman Glienke was honored for his 60 years of ministry on June 10 at Faith-Hialeah, where he served for decades.

Glienke's pastoral ministry began during the summer of 1952 with assignment to Cuba. During his years in Cuba, he preached in Spanish, English and German. When Castro's takeover of Cuba forced the Glienke family to leave the country, they headed to South Florida. Glienke first served at Grace-Key West be-



Rev. Herman and Delores Glienke

fore accepting the call to Faith-Hialeah in 1970. He served there until retirement in 1992.

Cubans who came to the Miami area after their homeland's revolution were among the thousands of Hispanic immigrants to the area. Under Glienke's leadership, Faith began Spanish worship in 1970 along with an Hispanic vicarage program in partnership with LCMS seminaries in St. Louis and Fort Wayne. In 1975, Faith opened its school, which today serves students from the pre-school to grade eight levels.

Preaching at the anniversary service was Rev. Dennis Bartels of Holy Cross-North Miami. He was assisted by Rev. Mark Wessling, Faith's pastor and Glienke's son-in-law. Glienke's daughter, Ruth Wessling, is Faith's principal.

Among those attending the anniversary celebration were District President Emeritus Gerhard Michael Jr., and his wife Joan. ■

Our Savior Plantation Honored for Mentor Program

Our Savior Lutheran School-Plantation was Broward County Public Schools Outstanding Mentor Program of the Year for 2012.

"Our Savior made a commitment to fulfill its mission of 'Serving Christ - Serving Others, Changing Lives,'" said Pastor Edwin Nicklas.

"Through the guidance of Transforming Congregations network, Our Savior contacted Mirror Lake Elementary School and a Servant relationship was born!"

Our Savior provided 20+ mentors who were matched with students in need of academic motivation, reading and math assistance, improved self-esteem and a loyal adult friend. Mentors assist in classrooms, help out in the front office and accompany students on field trips. ■



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GUEST HOUSE RENTAL PROGRAM

This 4'x8' stained glass image of Jesus is in the lobby of Lutheran Haven's nursing home.

St. Paul Boca's VBS Supports Lutheran Malaria Initiative



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL students at St. Paul-Boca Raton this summer raised more than \$1200 in support of the Lutheran Malaria Initiative (LMI). LMI is a partnership of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Lutheran World Relief in the global effort to eliminate malaria deaths in Africa by 2015. The program works through local partners to educate families on malaria, increase access to treatment and provide prevention tools such as bed nets, which cost \$10 each. St. Paul students brought in pennies, nickels and dimes each day during VBS, raising enough to buy 120 nets. One student, Sydney Whalen, was inspired to sponsor her own lemonade stand to raise additional funds. She sold lemonade to fellow VBS students and was able to contribute \$200 to the offering being collected. Shown here are VBS students with a net provided by LMI. ■



Lutheran Life
2840 NW Boca Raton Blvd. Suite #205
Boca Raton, FL 33431-6634

At left: Roger & Lois Walker. Below top photo, l-r: President Greg Walton with former District President Tom Zehnder's son and daughter, Tom Zehnder & Karen Williams, and former District President Gerhard Michael and wife Joan. Below lower photo, l-r: LCEF District VP Dan Reichardt with Don & Louise Lauher

District Confers Doulos Tou Christou Awards to Walker, Zehnder, Michael and Lauher

Four Servants of Christ were honored at the 2012 **Florida-Georgia District Convention** in recognition of their service to the Church. Each received a *Doulos Tou Christou Award* – a bronze figure of Christ washing a disciple's feet.

Long-time Florida-Georgia educator **Roger Walker** was recognized for his more than 45 years of service to the Church, the last 30 of those in the District. "By the grace of God I became a servant of Christ," said Walker, who completed 13 years on the District Board of Directors at the end of the Convention,

Two former Florida-Georgia Presidents were honored: Rev. Dr. **Thomas Zehnder**, who led the District from 1987-1997, and Rev. Dr. **Gerhard Michael Jr.**, who served from 1997 until 2009. Accepting on behalf of their father were Tom Zehnder and his sister Karen Williams.

"It's amazing that in spite of my shortcomings and sins, God still used me," Dr. Michael said, "As Tom Zehnder said [in remarks read by his son], God uses His 'cracked pots' to relay His



message of grace to others."

The final *Doulos Tou Christou* award for 2012 was presented to **Don Lauher**, who served as the District Business Manager from early 2000 until retirement in November of 2011. In accepting the honor, Lauher quoted Ephesians 2:10, "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." He said, "I feel like I've done the job prepared for me. To God be the glory!" ■

District Doulos Tou Christou Awards Are Bestowed At Each Triennium Convention

2009 Award Recipients

Rev. Dr. John F. Johnson | Ordained
Mrs. Jane Anderson | Commissioned
Mr. William Arndt | Layperson

2006 Award Recipients

Rev. Robert Besalski | Ordained
Mrs. Marge Kemp | Commissioned
Ms. Lois Lohman | Layperson

2003 Award Recipients

Rev. Edgar Trinklein | Ordained
Mr. David Rose | Commissioned
Mr. Herbert Schnell | Layperson

2000 Award Recipients

Rev. Robert Strickert | Ordained
Don & Marilyn Sagehorn | Commissioned
Mr. Hans Tews | Layperson

1997 Award Recipients

Rev. Eugene Krug | Ordained
Mrs. Susan Gibson | Commissioned
Mr. Bob Miller | Layperson

1994 Award Recipients

Rev. Harold Storm | Ordained
Mr. Paul Wesche | Commissioned
Luther & Laura Bunge | Layperson