

District Convention to Consider Regional Realignment, Elect Leaders



Gregory Walton

David Weidner

Jonathan Frusti

Victor Belton

David Benke

Daniel Preus

Matthew Harrison

Planning is well under way for the 31st Regular Florida-Georgia District Convention, set for June 22-24 in Lake Mary, FL.

“Much effort will be placed into the 2012 District Convention to focus our efforts on revitalizing our congregations to poise them for renewed passion and zeal to proclaim the good news about Jesus,” said Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton.

“The greatest hope, the greatest joy, the greatest peace we can offer anyone is found only in Jesus.”

David Weidner, DCE, Assistant to the District President, is the convention manager. Worship leader will be Rev. Jonathan Frusti, pastor of Grace Lutheran-Winter Haven, with Rev Dr. Victor Belton, pastor of Peace Lutheran-Decatur, as Bible study leader. Atlantic

District President David Benke will serve as convention essayist.

Synodical representative to the Convention will be Rev. Daniel Preus, fourth vice president of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, with LCMS President Matthew Harrison scheduled to preach at Sunday morning’s communion worship.

One of the first orders of business will be a vote on the Florida-Georgia Board of Directors proposed restructuring of the District into five regions. Currently the geographically large region one, Georgia and North Florida, has 79 out of the 193 congregations in the District.

Splitting this region would equalize the size of the regions. More information on this proposal is on page 10 of this issue of *Lutheran LIFE*.

Elections will be held for District president, secretary, vice presidents and board members.

Convention registration and the exhibit area will open at noon on Friday, June 22. Opening worship is scheduled for that evening at 6^{pm}, following by the first Convention session and the President’s Reception.

Saturday’s agenda opens with devotions and will include Convention sessions two and three. President Walton will preach at that evening’s memorial service, which will be followed by regional elections for Board members.

Convention worship is scheduled for 8^{am} on Sunday, followed by the fourth and final business session. Newly elected officers will be installed during closing worship. ■



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 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 and should be received at our publication offices no later than the 10th of the month prior to the publication date. We make every attempt to use all submitted information in the next issue of LIFE, space considerations prevent us from guaranteeing that stories will be used immediately. Advertising is welcome; rates and information is available from Lutheran Life's office. Changes of address including e-mail changes, additions or deletions should be directed to our production office as well.

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A New Year's Challenge: Resolve to

The world in which we live is not the world our grandparents grew up in, that's for sure! So much has changed, some for the better, and some not. Perhaps among the most significant changes is the current attitude toward the church. In a sense, it's almost unprecedented. We call it the post-church generation, and it's all about how our culture embraces our Christian faith and values.

I love the way the KJV puts Proverbs 23:7a, "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." Perhaps what the writer is observing is that the way we think of ourselves is often how we conduct ourselves. Sometimes how we see ourselves is very different than how

others see us. The same is true for how we in the Church see the Church. Do you see the Church as the rest of the world does, or even as God does? Of course, in our limited way, we don't see things as clearly, but nonetheless, **God is calling us to open our eyes to the harvest all around us.**

The Florida-Georgia District recently hosted the Lutheran Hour Ministry Regional Outreach Conference. Presenter Rev. Dr. Robert Newton, President of the LCMS' California Nevada Hawaii District, led a session entitled "Missionary Churches in a Post-Church World," Using the example

Connect People to Jesus in the New Year

of a GPS, Dr. Newton put a new spin on a familiar Scripture verse from Matthew 4, "Recalculate for the Kingdom of God is at hand."

In many ways the Church of today is off course. We are in the middle of tremendous cultural clashes, but by failing to realize that we are off course, following the wrong map, we frustrate ourselves and inhibit the free flow

of the Gospel. No longer do we have the denominational loyalty that we once enjoyed. In fact, we struggle to maintain a loyalty to the Christian faith.

Newton told us that the cultural clashes we're facing are the church in the social context. In other words, it's how we fit in the world around us relationally. For so many years the church people were the "cultural insiders" who were in the know, in control and running the show. "Cultural outsiders" are those who don't share those values or hold to differing values.

The fact is, in effect we are now the cultural outsiders, but we are still convinced that we're the cultural insiders. Our evangelism efforts, our worship styles, our attitudes all reflect this mentality.

There was a day when all you had to do was open the doors of the Church and people came. That was a church culture. We aren't as comfortable in this post-church world. It doesn't make sense to us because we think that everyone should think the way we do, while we know the world around us doesn't really care. **While we wage wars in our churches over**

trivial things, at least eternally speaking, the lost and erring are dying and going to hell. We fight about power and control, when we

should be submitting to the power and control of Jesus.

In a church culture, the "saved" are more familiar with church politics and inner turmoil. It's been part of our history from the beginning. But for the true cultural insiders living outside the church, this simply confirms what they already believe. They see the church as hypocritical and

judgmental. They hear about love and grace, but they often fail to see it. The world sees when we talk about the needy and helpless and then fail to actually do something to help. When we make mountains out of molehills, in the name of Jesus of course, the world watches.

But we can change that perception, one person at a time. It begins by being in the world but not of the world, getting to know the culture we live in, and discovering how to best share the good news of Jesus in relevant ways. It starts when each of us determines to build relationships with those who don't know Jesus and then shares the love of Jesus with them.

We can make a difference when we keep the focus on Jesus and not on our agendas, when we allow His grace to permeate us as we come in repentance to receive the Lord's Supper, and then live out His love in the world. We can make a difference as we become a "little Christ" in the world, as Luther urged. We can change the world if we'll take God at His Word and shine the light of Jesus.

As we look to the future of the church, there is no doubt that



Greg Walton
District President



we are in for some challenges. Satan will not relent until that final day. In the meantime, we need to continually learn and grow in God's Word. We need to come to His Altar regularly for the strengthening of our faith in the Holy Meal. We need to be diligent in prayer for the church, but also for the world around us. Mostly we need to follow what the Bible says in Hebrews 12:2-3, **"Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."**

As we look at this New Year, may the new you that God has fashioned in Jesus be recalculated and put back on track that together we might equip, empower and engage to connect people to Jesus!

Blessing in Jesus,
Greg

CAPSULES by Greg Walton District President

CALLING CONGREGATIONS Pastors

Albany GA.....Trinity
Casselberry, FL.....Ascension
Delray Beach FL.....Trinity (Senior)
Estero FL.....Estero Mission
Kingsland GA.....Holy Trinity
Lakeland FL.....St. Paul
Lilburn GA.....Oak Road
Melbourne, FL.....LC of the Redeemer
Ocala FL.....St. John
Tampa, FL.....Holy Trinity
Vero Beach FL.....LC of the Redeemer

Principal

Davie, FL.....Gloria Dei
Ft Lauderdale, FL.....Shepherd of Coast
Jacksonville, FL.....Grace
Sarasota, FL.....Good Shepherd

DCE

Boca Raton, FL.....St. Paul

CALLS ISSUED

Rev. Dennis Bartles
Trinity-Delray Beach, FL

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. Kenyatta T. Cobb
Our Savior Lutheran-Orlando, FL
Rev. David K. Horn
Bethlehem Lutheran-Jacksonville Beach, FL

TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

Rev. Michael A. Klafehn.....Michigan
Rev. Kenyatta T. Cobb.....Eastern
Rev. David K. Horn.....Minnesota South

ORDAINED/COMMISSIONED MINISTER ASSIGNMENT

Rev. Marc E. Nauman
from Concordia Seminary-St. Louis
to Trinity Trinity, FL

ORDAINED/COMMISSIONED MINISTER INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Oslet Maccenat – Pastor
Tabernacle-Fort Lauderdale, FL
Rev. Bernard Julmiste – Pastor
Grace Tabernacle-Fort Lauderdale, FL
Rev. Todd Kuehn – Pastor
Beautiful Savior-Sarasota, FL
Rev. Francis J. Cantwell – Pastor
Holy Trinity-Kingsland, GA
Rev. Richard Knapp – Interim Pastor
Ascension-Casselberry, FL

CHANGE OF STATUS WITHIN DISTRICT

Rev Karl K. SchmidtActive to Emeritus
Rev. Alan W. Havekotte.....Candidate to Emeritus
Rev. Mark A. Steinke.....Candidate to Non-Candidate
Rev. Stephen Paul RoehrsCandidate to Emeritus
Rev. David G. Hinman.....Candidate to Non-Candidate
Rev. Robert Lee HinzCandidate to Emeritus
Rev. Paul N. DroutzCandidate to Non-Candidate
Rev. Eugenio W. Flor.....Candidate to Non-Candidate
Rev. D. M. HackbardtCandidate to Non-Candidate
Deanna SkudaNon-Candidate to Emeritus
Janet R. Carlton.....Candidate to Non-Candidate
Letz Brown.....Candidate to Non-Candidate

District Board Approves 2012 Work Program

Meeting in Orlando January 27-28, the Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors unanimously approved a balanced work program for fiscal year 2012 (February 1, 2012 through January 31, 2013). “The fiscal year 2012 budget is really a continuation, or a carry-forward, of fiscal year 2011,” said Daniel J. Reichard, District LCEF Vice President and Executive Director of Administration.

Expenses are budgeted at almost \$2.8 million, a slight increase from 2011 resulting from: \$91,000 increase in distributions from the District Mission Advisory Committee upward adjustment of \$23,000 in commitment to The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod 3% cost of living increase “The Synod commitment was adjusted upward from 12% to 13% of projected congregational

giving,” said District President Greg Walton. “That equates to 10% of the overall income projected for the next fiscal year. “Our goal is to continue to increase that commitment each year.” In his report, District Treasurer Jim Ingersoll summarized the just concluded fiscal year as “overall, a pretty good year.” Staff was diligent on holding back costs and expenses, he added. Reichard gave a “thumbs up” to describe the District’s financial results and cash position. ■

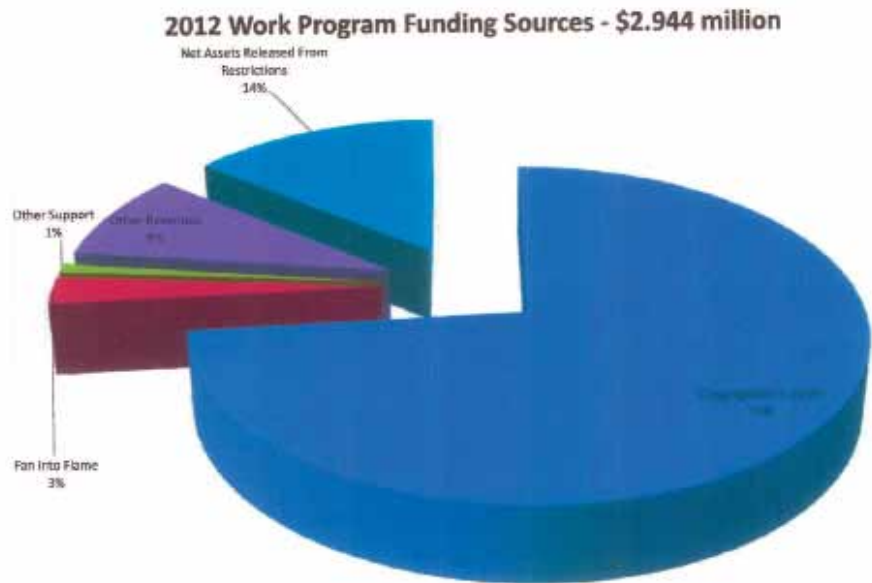
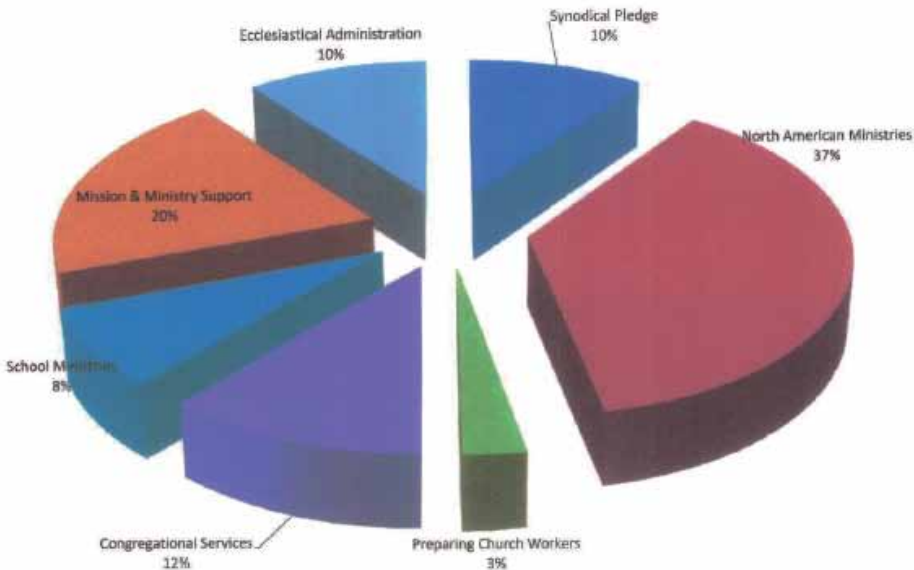


Chart below represents expenditures of the congregational support portion of projected giving for Fiscal Year 2012

2012 Work Program Expenses - \$2.784 million



“The economic realities of the past few years extend into 2012 and probably into 2013. Congregational budgets, and therefore contributed dollars, are tight and these facts really drive the District budget.” The bulk of the almost \$3 million targeted for total revenue for the new fiscal year will come through congregational support — or approximately \$180,000 per month from the almost 200 congregations in the District.

Enrollment Falling in LCMS Elementary Schools

In his Annual Report to the Florida-Georgia Board of Directors, Mark Brink, Executive Director of School Ministries, provided an insightful look at LCMS schools nationally and in our two states. He identified several major changes and their effects — beginning with the declining number of Synodically trained teachers serving in District schools. The effect, Brink said, has been “an increase in colloquy and the ‘Lutheranization’ of workers.” Colloquy is a process that allows teachers to complete a series of courses and be included on the LCMS official roster of Commissioned Ministers of Religion.”

Another major change has been the growth of early childhood education. Brink identified effects as including an increase in baptisms of students and their families, an increase in memberships as families join Lutheran churches affiliated with the ECE facilities and increased outreach opportunities. Among the statistics shared: • In 1990 there were 1,031 LCMS elementary schools serving 158,000 students. in 2010, those numbers had declined to 899 schools with 98,000 students. • In 1990, the LCMS counted 999 Early Childhood Centers serving 77,500 students; in 2010, those tallies had jumped to 1,393 facilities with some 128,000 children.

There were 64 LCMS high schools in 1990 — and 90 in 2010. The number of students enrolled barely changed: just under 16,000 in 1990 and slightly more than 16,000 in 2010. The latest statistics for Florida-Georgia show: • 47 free-standing early childhood centers • 32 elementary schools • 1 high school Additionally, according to Brink, the District School Ministries’ team works with eight schools affiliated with the LCMS’ SELC, English or Southern District as well as with eight Evangelical Lutheran Church in America facilities. ■

Concordia University System Enrollment at New High

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod’s Concordia University System fall enrollment of 28,421 at its 10 colleges and universities nationwide established a new record high – an increase of 967 graduate and undergraduate students (3.5%) over last year. This marks the 19th consecutive year that CUS enrollment has grown. The total number of graduate students increased by 344 (3%), from 12,565 students last year to 12,909 this year. Undergraduate enrollment was up by 623 (4%) from 14,889 to 15,512 students. “This is a clear indication of the value people place on a faith-based education,” said Rev. Dr. William Meyer, CUS Director of Development. “CUS schools offer a Christian, Lutheran, high-quality education that is widely respected. “As the gap in tuition between public and private

universities is closing – owing to decreased government funding for public universities – more and more students are choosing a faith-based institution over a secular one because they know they’re going to get a quality education with an ethical, spiritual bonus.” While overall enrollment was up, CUS schools in Chicago and St. Paul, MN, posted losses. This fall’s enrollments – including both graduate and undergraduate students – at individual CUS schools are as follows:

- Concordia University Wisconsin: 7,618 (up 133 – 2%).
 - Concordia University-Portland: 2,509 (up 395 – 19%).
 - Concordia University Chicago: 5,134 (down 89 – 2%).
 - Concordia College- Selma: 719 (up 62 – 9%).
 - Concordia University-St. Paul: 2,800 (down 42 – 1%).
 - Concordia University Nebraska: 2,196 (up 50 – 2%).
- For more information about LCMS colleges and universities, visit www.lcms.org/cus. ■

Jump Starting Intentional Outreach to Connect People to Jesus

Lutheran Hour Ministries and the Florida-Georgia District teamed up to host the January 13-14 Orlando ROC event (Regional Outreach Conference) to some 250 attendees, and let me say it was truly ROC'n with powerful speakers like Rev. Greg Seltz new Lutheran Hour Speaker, and Rev. Bob Newton, President of the California-

We also mightily worshiped our Lord through a mighty message delivered by Rev. Seltz and music offered by New Song, the Prince of Peace-Orlando praise team. Special thanks to Phil Larson and Randy Wendt for spear heading congregational contacts and our many volunteers at the ROC.

It is my hope that this event will help jump start our congregations wanting to do more intentional outreach through

Nevada-Hawaii District. Tools, techniques and outreach training were offered by a cadre of speakers from Lutheran Hour and our District covering two dozen breakout workshops including workshops for Hispanic and Muslim ministry.

Resource downloads are available at www.lhm.org/roc (look for resources and breakout sessions).

programs such as MISSION U. As Florida-Georgia President Greg Walton has said numerous times, "it's about connecting people to Jesus." There are many resources available to congregations, schools and individuals either through our District, Lutheran Hour Ministries and these presenters.

It is estimated that on any given Sunday only 17% of our community's

population will be in church. My friends, we have many people to tell and to teach. I want everyone to hear the saving message of Jesus.

I want to turn my attention to the individual sitting in the pew wondering what difference they can make. It is my belief that Jesus chooses to work through individuals such as you reaching individuals; the woman at the well, Lazarus, the blind man and the leper are but a few of many examples. Each of these individuals lives were touched by Jesus, who became very real to them in their world and their life! Once the woman at the well saw who Jesus was she ran back to the town and told everyone ... she even left her water pot empty at the well!

If you would like to know where to begin, how to share your faith, to help your church become more involved in outreach please contact my office 407.857.5556 or 877 ext. 2. Let's partner together to connect people to Jesus! ■

Clearwater First Lutheran School Hosts Outreach Training Workshop

Elaine Popp, principal of First Lutheran Church and School, Clearwater, Florida contacted me about doing outreach training with their pastors and teachers. "We want to connect with our communities, kids, their families and our church," Popp explained.

With that assignment in mind, a workshop



was held, January 20. It was a fun exchange of ideas that I hope we can do more of in the future with schools throughout our District.

Some of the areas we covered were:

- ✓ understanding our role as God's witness; today's culture and our role;
- ✓ types of outreach (incarnational vs. attractional, net fishing vs. line fishing);

- ✓ churches that "get it";
- ✓ surveying your community to discover needs and using the G.A.P. principal; the natural witness;
- ✓ labs;
- ✓ discovering and telling your story;
- ✓ witnessing should lead to discipling ... schools are the perfect place.

If your church or school would like to schedule an outreach training session please contact me at 407.857.5556 ext. 2 ■

EIIT Graduates Installed In Fort Lauderdale

On Sunday, January 22, Pastor Oslet Maccenat of Tabernacle Worship Center-Fort Lauderdale and Pastor Bernard Julmiste of Tabernacle de la Grace Lutheran Church of Broward (Fort Lauderdale) were installed into their respective congregations. Their stories are unique and worthy of briefly telling.

Pastors Oslet and Bernard completed their Ethic Immigrant Institute of Theology training (EIIT) in 2008, part of a class of five Haitian men who were ordained. Pastors Oslet and Bernard were called through Shepherd of the Coast-Fort Lauderdale to launch or initiate Haitian ministry in the greater Fort Lauderdale area. (We have a total of 8 Haitian ministries in our District).

As their respective ministries grew in size and structure, the congregations developed a constitution and by-laws and were chartered. Their installations as pastors of Tabernacle Worship Center and Tabernacle de le Grace complete another milestone in their ministry.

Pastor Oslet Maccenat and Bernard Julmiste are both worker priests who gain a salary through outside employment. Oslet recently lost his job but has an HVAC – heating and air conditioning -- background. Bernard is employed as a chef at the Ritz Carlton and Denny's. Both men are highly dedicated to the ministry to which the Lord has called them.

Tabernacle de le Grace last year purchased the Faith Lutheran-Fort Lauderdale property and leases back space for the school and Anglo congregation. Tabernacle Worship Center also worships on this same campus. It is truly good to see how Tabernacle de le Grace has continued to grow and provided this opportunity for all these ministries to have space. ■



Celebrating the January pastor installations in Fort Lauderdale are (l-r) Florida-Georgia District Executive Director of Outreach Rev. Doug Kallesen, Pastor Oslet Maccenat, Pastor Bernard Julmiste and Florida-Georgia LCEF Vice President and Finance Executive Daniel J. Reichard.

Lutheran Television

Television broadcasts in Florida:

WFTX Ch. 4 Sundays at 8 AM Fort Myers Area	WACX Ch. 9 Sundays at 5:30 PM Tallahassee Area
WACX Ch. 55 Sundays at 5:30 PM Orlando Area	WACX Ch. 69 Sundays at 5:30 PM Gainesville Area

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This is the largest church planting conference in the nation.

Last But Not Least: ROC Equips Participants for Witness

The eighth last of the Regional Outreach Conferences (ROC) occurred on the weekend of January 13-14 at the Double Tree Resort in Orlando with an attendance of 250 eager attendees who wanted to expand their



spiritual outlook.

The Lutheran Hour Ministry staff, led by new Lutheran Hour Speaker Greg Seltz and Executive Director Bruce Wurdeman along with Rev. Doug Kallesen, LCMS Florida-Georgia District Executive Director of Outreach, put together a blend of subjects and activities to keep everyone busy at the conference. The two-day event included uplifting worship, Bible study and rock-solid and relevant presentations.

Prominent speakers and workshop presenters from around the country and our District kept the sessions informative and motivating. The reason for the ROC events stemmed from the decision



by the League to go to biennial International conventions occurring in the even years and to initiate regional conferences in the odd years to keep information current about all the projects and plans the ministry is engaged in locally, nationally and globally. ■

At left, President Greg Walton welcomes ROC participants; above, District Executive for Outreach Doug Kallesen leads morning devotions at the ROC conference.



GOD'S PROMISE FOR ALL — For the 62nd year, Lutheran Hour Ministries and the Southern California District of the International Lutheran Laymen's League teamed up to sponsor the LHM float, the only religious float in the parade. Under the theme of "God's Promise For All," the LHM float was covered with symbols of the promises that are ours through a personal relationship with God: the picture of Jesus, who is the sole path to heaven; the stream of life where hope springs eternal; the doves, symbolizing a peace which will only be complete in heaven; and the butterflies which remind us of the new life which is ours in Jesus Christ.

LLL Heading to Saskatoon in July

Mark your calendar for July 26-28, reminding you to register for the 94th Int'l. LLL Convention at the TPU Convention Center in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. The theme of the convention is "SONrise to Sunset."

Saskatoon has more daylight hours than any other Canadian major city and has all the amenities desired. Would you enjoy a train ride through the Canadian Rockies? If you would, a pre-convention train leaving from Vancouver that will take you on a two-day trip through the majesty of the Rockies is planned. Please remember that a passport is required for your Canadian visit, and we have been instructed it must have six months or more before it expires from the convention date. ■

Florida-Georgia District Welcomes New Pastors

Florida-Georgia District members K. Anthony Durante, Trinity Lutheran-Delray Beach, FL; Albert Matlock, Trinity Lutheran-Crawfordville, FL; and Kevin Ogle, Miramar Lutheran-Miramar, FL; were among the 19 men placed as DELTO pastors recently.

These men are graduates of the Concordia Seminary-St. Louis Distance Theological Education Program (DTEP), which is the designation for the course of study that has served as a transition from the DELTO (Distance Education Leading To Ordination) program to the Synod's Specific Ministry Pastor Program (SMP). The DELTO program has now come to an end.

DELTO was begun in the mid-1990s to provide a path to ordination for the lay deacons who often served in situations where a called and ordained pastor was unavailable. This category of service was authorized by the 1989 Convention of the LCMS in Wichita, Kan.

DELTO classes were originally offered using the "Theological Education by Extension" model



Shown at the DTEP/DELTO chapel service are (front, left-to-right) Seminary President Dr. Dale Meyer, King Crawford, Kevin Ogle, David Nielsen, Randy Stroming, Dr. David Wollenburg; (middle, l-r) Dr. Robert Hoehner, Christian Schultz, David Brockhouse, Lawrence McReynolds, Scott Holoubek, K. Anthony Durante; (back l-r) back row, Andrew Sorenson, Albert Matlock, Dan Cohn, Ken Bose, Henry Albrechtsen, Brian Roehrborn, Dr. Timothy Saleska.

through which instructors met with students in the field and students would submit their work through the mail for grading.

Over the years DELTO became more of a distance education (DE) program which also required regular study visits to the campus, and the Seminary and the students

became more engaged. "With the placement of these 19 men Concordia Seminary will have formed 78 men for pastoral ministry in the Lutheran Church through DELTO," said Dr. David Wollenburg, director of the Seminary's SMP. ■

Concordia-NY President to Step Down

breathe new vision and direction into the life of an institution," George said. "After 14 years in my post, I believe that it is the right time for a transition."

George was elected Concordia College president after serving almost 20 years on the faculty as a professor of psychology.

During his presidency, the school's operating revenues more than doubled and enrollment grew by 44 percent. Under George's direction, Concordia received several of the largest gifts and grants in its history, added its first graduate-degree program -- in

special education -- and launched an acclaimed nursing program.

The school has "invested strategically" in its facilities, including a recent \$5.6 million state-of-the-art energy savings project. George also spearheaded initiatives that strengthened Concordia's ties with the local community through programs like the "Business Breakfast" series and "Travel and Learn" trips to India and elsewhere.

Concordia's Board of Regents has appointed a search committee of regents, faculty and staff to coordinate the selection of a new president. ■



Dr. Viji D. George, president of Concordia College-New York since 1999, has announced plans to step down from the position effective June 30, 2013.

"Periodic changes in leadership

Proposed District Circuit Realignment Would Equalize Regional Areas

Florida-Georgia Board members at their January 27-28 meeting again affirmed the proposal to change the regional structure of the District, from the current four to five regions for better representation and efficiency.

Each region would continue to be represented by three board members: one pastor and two laypersons. However, instead of having two additional pastors serve on the board as state vice presidents, the clergy regional representatives would be designated

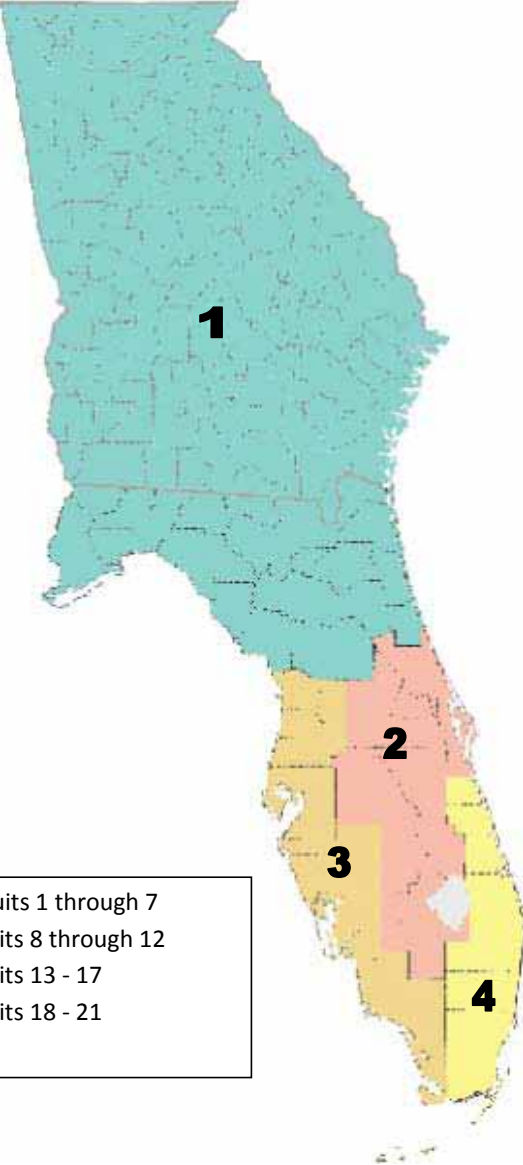
as vice presidents for their respective areas.

Three at-large commission ministers would complete the board, a continuation of the current structure.

The net result would be one additional person serving on the Board of Directors. All board members serve as unpaid volunteers.

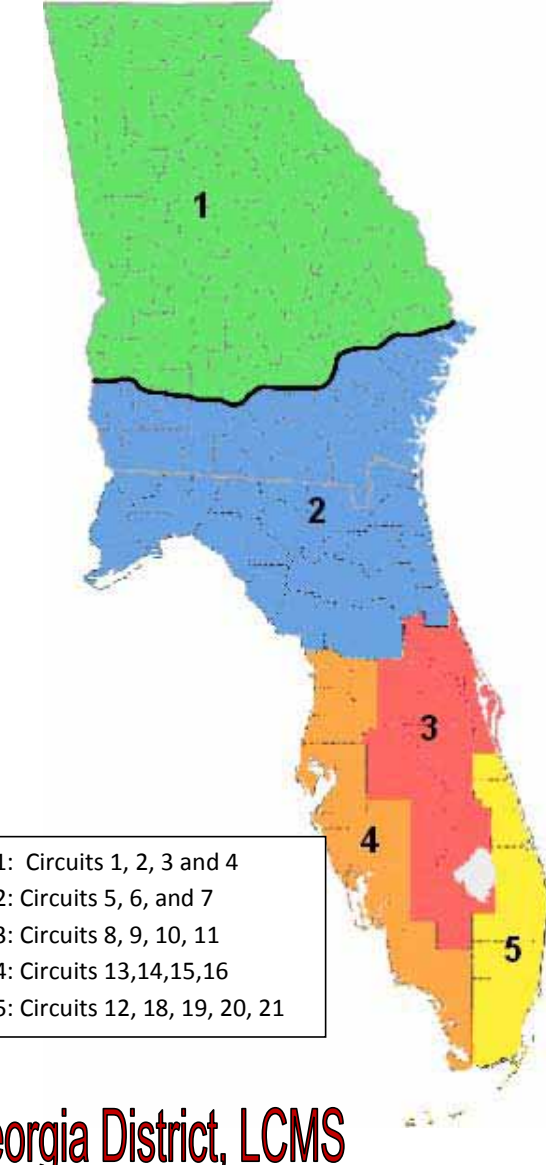
The schematic below illustrates the current and the proposed District regional structures.

CURRENT REGIONS



Region 1: Circuits 1 through 7
Region 2: Circuits 8 through 12
Region 3: Circuits 13 - 17
Region 4: Circuits 18 - 21

PROPOSED REGIONS



Region 1: Circuits 1, 2, 3 and 4
Region 2: Circuits 5, 6, and 7
Region 3: Circuits 8, 9, 10, 11
Region 4: Circuits 13,14,15,16
Region 5: Circuits 12, 18, 19, 20, 21

Florida-Georgia District, LCMS

Charitable Giving: Where Head and Heart Meet

How can a person support organizations that help people in need? Some may choose to give their time and abilities through volunteer service, while still others provide financial support. Charitable giving provides an opportunity to engage both head and heart in making a difference.

The following tips can help donors make the most of their charitable gifts:

♦ Choose a reputable organization.

Never give to an organization without first knowing its purpose and effectiveness. The Philanthropic Advisory Service of Better Business Bureaus and National Charities Information Bureaus can help.

♦ Budget for donations.

Systematic gifts spread throughout the year may help donors give more than if they give a one-time gift based on their financial leftovers. Keep good records. To deduct donations for tax purposes, people must keep appropriate records of their contributions. The type and value of one's gift may require specific forms of acknowledgement from the recipient organization. For details, see Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Publication 526. Take advantage of tax benefits. For a charitable donation to be tax-deductible, the charity must be recognized by the IRS as a qualified organization.

♦ Give generously and wisely.

From wills, living trusts, charitable gift annuities, endowments and mini-foundations to gifts of appreciated stock, retirement funds or real estate, there are many vehicles through which individuals can make charitable gifts. Special care should be used to determine the option that meets one's financial circumstances. Gifting

some assets to IRS-recognized charities may potentially reduce capital gains tax. Life insurance may also be an excellent option to magnify a gift.

♦ Consult with experts.

Always consult a financial, legal and/or tax professional before putting a gifting plan into action.

When moved to make a difference, donors should remember there are many options for making a financial gift. Just be sure to explore the options and enlist appropriate support along the way. By fully planning a charitable gift, a person can ensure that both head and heart are satisfied.

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District LCEF Team Is Mission-Minded

The mission of Lutheran Church Extension Fund is to support the Church in fulfilling its mission of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ by being a Christ-centered servant partner of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), ensuring that funds and services are available now and in the future.

There are additional ways to become a part of the LCEF ministry, collectively doing the work God has planned for us. Join us in: prayerful support, investment support, volunteer support and gift support.

To share in the excitement

of working with this team of volunteers, please contact the Florida-Georgia LCEF Team, Daniel J. Reichard, District Vice President, Chyrl Durling, John Elliott, Kathy Keene at the District office 877 457-5556, or Mary Byrd at 352 592-3316. ■



Dan Reichard
District V.P.
LCEF



John Elliott



Kathy Keene



Mary Byrd



Chyrl Durling

LCEF's phones are answered by friendly, exceptionally informed staff members who are ready to assist you including (back, l-r) Lori Deffenderfer, Donna Cole, Sharon Bollinger, (front, l-r) Kathy Klink, Ronna Stropnik and Amanda Bovaconti. We believe personal service is quality service. Have a question about an LCEF investment, loan or ministry-enhancing service? Talk to a person dedicated to getting you the right answer. We want to provide the information you need, with the genuine care and respect you deserve. While giving special attention to every call we receive, there may be an occasion when you are invited to leave a message. If you have to do so and it is before 4 p.m. on a weekday, you can expect a return call within two hours. After that time, we'll call you back the next business day. We look forward to talking with you!



LET'S TALK!
1-800-843-5233
7:45 a.m.-4:15 p.m. CT

LCEF Welcomes District Congregational Representatives

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) held the first Congregation Representative Workshop on January 21. The day opened with a devotion on Exodus, chapter 18, led by Rev. Douglas Kallesen.

Ten congregations of the Florida-Georgia District were represented, with 21 individuals attending this one-day seminar on LCEF's Investments, Loans and Services. LCEF is your Ministry Partner! The individuals pictured have joined in this partnership to

bring this unique ministry-through-investment opportunity to their congregations and beyond.

Carl said, "The best he had seen done!"

Tamie shared, "A fabulous event!"

Cliff reported, "Cathy and I have been investors in LCEF for over 12 years. LCEF directs their funds to the needs of LCMS churches [and rostered church workers]."

LCEF, incorporated in 1978, is a continuation of the Synod's service to the entire LCMS. In

fiscal year 2011*, LCEF welcomed nearly 500 new loan customers. Congregations and schools gained funds for building, upgrading or remodeling facilities, and rostered church workers secured reasonable housing and consolidation loans. LCEF partners with more than 55,000 investors to make the funds available for these loans. Together, these partnerships have resulted in a total asset portfolio of \$1.8 billion.

Church Extension has been an important part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) for well over 100 years. ■



Harry Barkley
Christ
Perry, GA



Gerry Ellis
Forest Oaks
Spring Hill, FL



Gerry Ellis
Forest Oaks
Spring Hill, FL



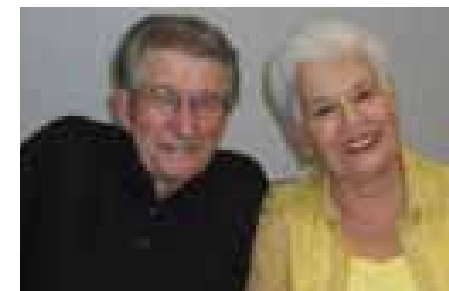
Gerry Ellis
Forest Oaks
Spring Hill, FL



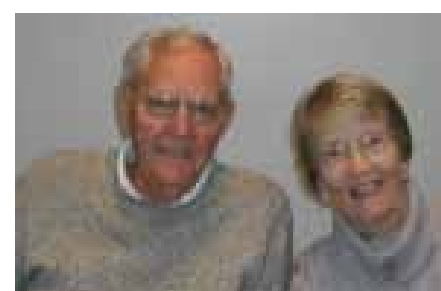
Doug Fuge
Good Shepherd
Gainesville, GA



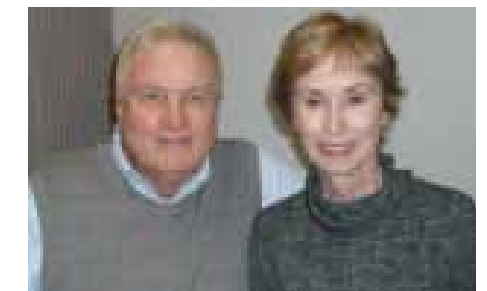
Jay Wendland
Living Faith
Cumming, GA



Jud & Joyce Moote
Trinity
Summerfield, FL



Carl & Norma Scheuman
Peace
Naples, FL



Clifford & Cathy Skarr
Christ Our Savior
St. Augustine, FL



Marv Timm
Our Redeemer
Augusta, GA



David & Tamie Worthington
St. Paul
Peactree City, GA



Doug Kallesen
FL-GA District
Dir. of Outreach



Building Ministry with LCEF Financing

Trying to find a lender for your church financing can be frustrating. Your ministry's loan needs are unique and commercial lenders may not share your vision.

The LCEF Difference

With LCEF, we have the loan resources, expertise and understanding to work with you each step of the way to realize your ministry's plan.

Your Ministry is Our Mission

Thousands of LCMS ministries have already partnered with LCEF for their low-cost financing projects. Let us help you respond to your ministry-building decisions.

Learn more about your new or next LCEF loan opportunity today at www.lcef.org.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund
10733 Sunset Office Drive, Suite 300
St. Louis, MO 63127-1020
1-800-843-5233

“My Spiritual Journey” Recommended Resource for Rejuvenation



by Ben Haupt, Pastor of Good Shepherd
Lutheran, Gainesville, Georgia

Don't get me wrong – I love my family, friends, and congregation, but it seemed that just about everybody on the planet was laying claim to a bit of my time on that cold November day when I left for my spiritual retreat. It had been a busy Fall with a couple of weddings, funerals and a building program on top of all the other regular ministry duties. A 60-70 hour work week had become the norm, and you can forget about regular exercise and adequate sleep with a young family at home.

Maybe you can relate to a bit of that as either a professional church worker or a lay person who is keenly aware of the health of your church staff. Such was the state of my health when I got around to checking off one more thing from my ministry to do list – go on a spiritual retreat.

I had first heard about the idea at the 2011 Florida-Georgia President's Convocation. Before I left Daytona, I vowed that I would take the free little booklet and carve 24 hours out of my schedule to make it happen. Though it was challenging

to find a block of time, I finally did and booked an overnight stay at a campground about a half hour from home. That night, as I basked in my North Georgia camp site, the last few leaves falling from the trees and a nice warm fire which was about to cook me a great supper, I was able to breathe again. It had been months since I sat down and took stock of myself, my health, my priorities and my roles in family and vocation.

The “My Spiritual Journey” booklet helped me to do a bit of that right off the bat, and then it quickly led me to the Great Physician in studying several passages of Scripture. There was so much grace to be had in returning to my baptismal identity in Christ, which I spend so much time leading other people to see but rarely take time to consider for myself. Mixed with Bible Study and considering goals for better spiritual, emotional, physical and relational health was plenty of time for recreation. I ended my time



It Was Epic!

with a couple hour hike on what becomes the Appalachian Trail.

When I returned back to my family, friends and church, I was a healthier, happier, and more effective servant of Jesus. I'm hoping that the church workers in our district will join me and many others on a similar “Spiritual Journey” sometime soon. ■



Celina, Aidan, Noah and Ben Haupt

Who Was Ampliatus? Is He Still Relevant Today?

Paul, the Jew, was the great missionary to the Gentiles.

His letter to the Church at Rome forms the basis of much of Lutheran Christian theology. And chapters 9-11 reveal important doctrine regarding Jewish evangelism. Chapters 12-15 give concrete application of God's Word for real life situations.

But what is the purpose of Chapter 16? Why do we need to know about Paul's friends (26 are specifically named)?

God, through the pen of Paul, is telling us something here. It isn't heavy doctrine, or a logbook of Paul's journeys. God is simply telling us that people are important, that friends matter, that God works through personal relationships to touch people.

BURNINGBUSH

by Bruce Lieske
Lutherans In Jewish Evangelism

Your LIJE team in Orlando has been busy with ministry activities and with personal challenges. Rev. Kermit Rickenberg, Branch Leader of LIJE/Orlando, was recently able to purchase a new home in the Orlando area at a good price and move his family (wife and four

children) out of extremely cramped quarters in Lutheran Haven.

Because of vacancies Lutheran Haven was able to rent quarters for the family at a reasonable rent. Pastor Kermit and I are thankful to Lutheran Haven for their hospitality.

Rev. Rickenberg takes no salary from LIJE and supports his family by working at Fed Ex. He continues to develop the “Books for Missions” program which will ultimately generate enough funds so he can be compensated by the ministry. Books for Missions solicits the donation of used books, which he sells over the Internet. The move from Lutheran Haven slowed down the ministry, but we anticipate accelerated progress in 2012 -- and covet your prayers and support!

I have been busy working

with my new wife, Barbara, to move her household effects from Vienna, Austria, to Winter Springs, FL. Barbara and I

were high school sweethearts, and we reconnected at a high school reunion after my wife died in 2009.

Barbara retired last year as the Head of the Art Department, and undergraduate advisor at Webster University in Vienna after serving there for 26 years.



We were married in August last year and are now in the process of blending two households. One challenge of the “blending” process is to make room for her furniture. We prayed for a buyer for my dining room furniture, and within two days a couple appeared who have a strong interest in Jewish evangelism. They had been praying for and hoping to get furniture so that they could hold Bible studies in their home. God answers our prayers in ways that we could never imagine.

My apologies if this is all a bit too personal, the usual exhortation to share the Gospel with Jewish people and encouraging you with some helpful hints. But all of this resonates with Romans 16. No, I don't know anything more about Ampliatus except what Paul said: “Greet Ampliatus, whom I love in the Lord.”

Pray for us and go find somebody to “love in the Lord!” You can reach us at 407-857-5556 X121. ■



At left, the Cubiculum of Ampliatus;
Catacomb of Domitilla, Rome:

2011 LWML District Retreat: Clothe Yourself in Love

More than 250 LWMLers from Florida and Georgia gathered at the Lake Yale Baptist Conference Center the first weekend of October. The weekend was blessed with perfect weather, Jan Struck as retreat leader and a fantastic sunrise for the Sunday morning lakeside devotion.



Retreat leader Jan Struck

Friday night, everyone clothed themselves for a pajama party, including LWML President Jan Wendorf; Saturday afternoon t-shirts were decorated with sayings and artwork so we could clothe ourselves as witnesses on leaving the retreat; and Sunday the LWML purple was brought out!

The recipient of the retreat Gifts from the Heart was LifeStream, an Orlando organization dedicated to helping those in need, especially U.S. service men and women.

Pamela Walker, the LifeStream representative, needed need two pickup trucks and two SUVs to transport the items. During the Servant Events, a case of Bibles bound for the Orange County Correctional Facility were marked; 145 Christmas cards were created and signed for military personnel; and donated eyeglasses were collected for the next mission trip to Nicaragua.

Retreat offerings of \$1,947.69 were designated for Lutheran Services Georgia and earmarked for tornado relief in North Georgia. ■

33rd Biennial Convention: Shine Like Stars

Friday, September 28 – 30, 2012

Orlando Airport Marriott, Orlando, FL

Convention registration form and information will be published in the Spring 2012 *Evangel* and posted on the Florida-Georgia LWML website by the end of February.

Mites in Action

Access to government education is denied to children with disabilities in Yambio, South Sudan. The Hands of Mercy Training Center with the diaconal partnership of LCMS Deaconess Patricia Nuffer, working since 2006 to meet adult needs, has a new goal of reaching out to special needs children. A Florida-Georgia LWML mission grant of \$8,000, funded by mites, will help provide the center with a classroom for both Christian and basic life skills training for these children. Adults will be trained to assist



District LWML President Marilyn H. Treanor, International LWML President Jan Wendorf as “Flat Jan,” and District Spiritual Growth VP Chynsia Fowler

where possible in the classroom and those who are capable will have further opportunities to develop and share their gifts and talents with the children who also have disabilities.

We’ve Gone Electric!

The *Evangel*, the Florida-Georgia LWML quarterly newsletter, has gone electronic! Every LWML member, society and church can now subscribe at no cost. Just email Karen Gott, Membership Resources Chair, at subscribe@flglwml.com and include name, email address, name of your church and zone and phone number. Email subject line should read: Subscribe to e-Evangel.

The *Evangel* and more Retreat photos are on the Florida-Georgia LWML website: www.flglwml.com. ■

Tallahassee LWML Zone Hosts a New Kind of Rally

In August of 2011, the Tallahassee Zone of the Florida-Georgia District Lutheran Women’s Missionary League tried something different and took an adventure!

The Zone is 147 miles across, which makes it difficult for many members to travel that distance very often. So this year, they gathered at a restaurant in a central

location for devotion, prayers and lunch, then compiled more than 36 sets of school supplies and numerous teacher supplies for a first grade at-risk classroom.

Their caravan then traveled to the Cook Primary School, where they had the pleasure of presenting the supplies to the children and

teacher, with the principals and even a news crew present.

Deb Buenrostro, Zone president, reported that as the “LWML purple ladies drove away, God’s light had touched the future of many people that day and we are very thankful to be a part of it! Serve the Lord with gladness!” ■

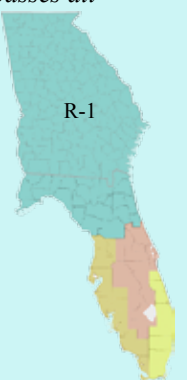
FUN AND PROFITABLE – The 2011 Christmas tree sale sponsored by Grace Lutheran-Atlanta (photo at right) raised \$7,107.79, a tally that included a \$1,600 matching grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Proceeds benefited Atlanta charities, including Lutheran Services of Georgia, Intown Collaborative Ministries and Stepping Stone Mission. ■



OUR REDEEMER-AUGUSTA has chosen as the theme Bible verse for its 75th anniversary Joshua 24:15b: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!” Anniversary committee members have been diligently working to ready a celebration in 2012. Noted historian/bestselling author Rev. Dr. Paul Maier, who serves as Third Vice President of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, will be at a Fall celebration event. Many special events are planned for that weekend. ■

REGION 1 NEWS

The largest geographic sector of the District, Region 1 encompasses all of the State of Georgia and approximately the upper third of the State of Florida. Representing Region 1 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Frank Marshall of Jacksonville, FL, who recently retired as pastor of St. Paul-Jacksonville; Jean Weinrich, a member of All Saints-Blairsville, GA; and Bill Gaik, a member of Trinity Lutheran-Toccoa, GA.





REGION 1 NEWS

FIFTH SUNDAY FOOD DRIVES –

Every 5th Sunday for the past three years, members of St. Paul Lutheran Church & School-Peachtree City have collected food to support the ministry at Real Life Center. This partnership helps reach community families who are hurting. In 2011, Real Life Center distributed more than 225,000 pounds of food, bread and vegetables to families in need of food assistance in 2011. ■

YARNWORK MINISTRY -- Members of the Yarnwork Ministry of Trinity Lutheran-Athens have produced and shared items such as ten scarves and five afghans that were mailed to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota as Christmas gifts to their Elders. Gift tags identified Trinity's Yarnwork Ministry. Other items have been given to members of the congregation. The group cworks on afghans, scarves, hats, crosses and prayer/friendship shawls for local and national charities. ■



ONGOING OUTREACH --- The Angels and Prayer Shawl Ministries of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church-Orlando are meeting and crafting every other Friday. The ministries have two sewing machines and many boxes of yarn to keep them busy with many on-going projects. Prince of Peace Angels and Prayer Shawl Ministries reach out to Winnie Palmer Hospital NICU, Arnold Palmer Hospital, Hubbard House, BETA, as well as friends and family of Prince of Peace. Shown here are some of the recipients of the groups' "pillowcase" dresses. ■



Hope Lutheran Stephen Ministers Serve Church, Community

Hope Lutheran-Plant City has more than 20 Stephen Ministers, including three newly commissioned members. Stephen Ministers complete 50 hours of training and undergo continuing education, meeting at least twice per month for supervision and training.

"Stephen Ministers are very special and dedicated individuals," said Hope's Senior Pastor, Rev. Dean Pfeffer. "We see our Stephen Ministry as an outreach to our Plant City community as well as to those who are a part of Hope." ■



Pictured following the commissioning are new Hope-Plant City Stephen Ministers (back, l-r) Todd Warner, Karen DeBord and Andy Anderson with (front l-r) Stephen Leaders Libby Voigtman; Deaconess Lyn Senkarik; Rev. Dean Pfeffer and Adene Benton.

'Church on the Hill' Hosts Annual Pancake Supper

Peace Lutheran Church-Dunnellon continued its tradition by hosting the 21st Annual Potato Pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday.

This popular event features potato or Southern pancakes. The menu includes ham, fruit cup, dessert and beverage. Peace members do all the work: peeling the potatoes, mixing the batter, cooking the pancakes, carving the ham, greeting, serving and cleaning up.

Known as 'The Church on the Hill,' Peace offers Bible Study on Sunday, 9:00 a.m., and on Wednesday, 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. The evening Bible Study begins with a potluck supper. Sunday Worship is held at 10:00 a.m. ■



Peace member Bud Koehlinger, ready with the coffee refills for diners at last year's potato pancake supper.

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL-WINTER HAVEN

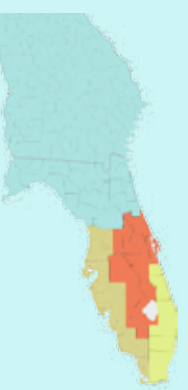
was once again one of the local organizations who participated in The Mission's Children of the City Christmas Project. Members of Grace collected gifts for the December 17, 2011, event. More than 300 families with 1,500 children in the Winter Haven area were shown the joy of Christmas. While the parents



"shopped" for gifts, their children were entertained by members of the community. Grace had a balloon art booth and also had a drawing to win a picture of Jesus. ■

REGION 2 NEWS

Region 2 is the only one to share borders with the District's other three regions as well as with the Atlantic Ocean. Representing Region 2 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Brian Kneser, pastor of Woodlands Lutheran-Montverde, FL; Karen Smith, a member of Peace-Okeechobee, FL; and Jon Brazee, a member of Christ Lutheran-Cape Canaveral, FL.



FELLOWSHIP HALL DEDICATION –

Christ the King-LaBelle on January 15 dedicated the new Fellowship Hall. Special music was provided by a visiting choir from Beautiful Savior Lutheran-Lehigh Acres and a brass ensemble from Grace Lutheran-Naples. Rev. Jon Zehnder, pastor of Saint Michael Lutheran-Fort Myers and Southwest Circuit Counselor, was the guest preacher. Ten area pastors participated in the celebration, including (front, l-r) Robert Selle (Amigos en Cristo-Fort Myers), Paul Koepchen (retired, member of Zion-Fort Myers), Nick Moskovites member of Zion-Fort Myers), Juan Gonzalez (member of Bethlehem-Fort Myers) AJ Neugebauer (Beautiful Savior-Lehigh Acres) (back, l-r) Fred



Koehler (Christ the King-LaBelle), Jon Zehnder (Saint Michael-Fort Myers), Steve Graebner (Light of the Glades-Estero), Darrell Stuehrenberg (Bethlehem-Fort

Myers), Keith Lynch (Grace-Naples). Graebner was pastor of Christ the King from 2000 until 2005. Koehler has been leading the 29-year-old congregation since 2005. ■

Southwest Florida Churches Merge Ministries

Last fall, members of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church & School-Hollywood and Gloria Dei Lutheran Church & Academy-Davie voted to merge their ministries.

All ministry activities have been moved to Gloria Dei’s campus and operate under that name.

St. Mark’s Lutheran Church was established in 1953, with the school organized in 1956. Before its merger with Gloria Dei, St. Mark’s School served approximately 200 students from the nursery/preschool through grade eight levels.



Gloria Dei was established in 1973 as a mission congregation with leadership from area congregations including St. Mark’s. Gloria Dei Academy serves more than 220 students from the pre-k through grade eight levels.

With the merger, Rev. George Poulos Jr., formerly of St. Mark’s, joins the Gloria Dei ministry team headed by Senior Pastor Rev. Tony Masinelli. The Rite of Merger Service to celebrate the combined ministries was held at Gloria Dei last September with President Greg Walton officiating (left). ■



THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS from St. Michael Lutheran Church & School-Fort Myers Donned Christmas hats and rang bells for The Salvation Army. Joined by chaperones, the students served at Salvation Army red kettles throughout the community, singing and ringing their bells. They heard from passers-by of ways that The Salvation Army had helped their families in times of need. Members of the St. Michael Church Youth Group and adults also volunteered to help ring bells for The Salvation Army. They covered a post at the Edison Mall for ten hours on December 22. ■

Penny Power Boosting Community Outreach

Members of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church-Masaryktown are encouraged to search pockets, wallets, drawers and catch-all places for pennies that are “laying around” to donate to the Penny Power Jar.

Donations are part of the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund, used to help people who just stop by the church office in the course of the week. Holy Trinity

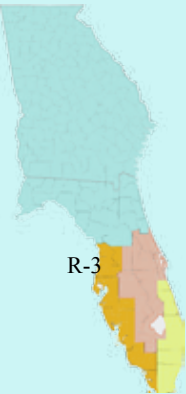
has helped people with needs ranging from diaper purchases and gas money to tire repair and an emergency stay at a hotel.

On the fourth Sunday of each month, Holy Trinity members are asked to bring dry goods and nonperishable foods to be placed on the altar during the morning worship service. Contributions are distributed to those in need in the community. ■



REGION 3 NEWS

Region 3 covers the lower southwestern sector of Florida, with much of its area bordering the Gulf of Mexico. Representing Region 3 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Jim Guelzow, pastor of Messiah-Tampa, FL; Jeff Richards, a member of Hope Lutheran-Bradenton, FL; and Maggie Bowles, a member of Peace-Naples. FL.



St. Paul Weston Presents to Full House!



THE KID’S CHOIR CHRISTMAS MUSICAL at St. Paul Lutheran Church & Preschool-Weston was presented to a full house on December 18. Shown here are members of the choir and cast. The group — described as a choir and drama team — is under the direction of Irene Villanueva. ■

“Table Talk” Debuts at Our Savior Plantation

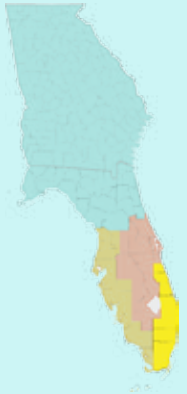
Members of Our Savior Church & School-Plantation were presented with a new in-home devotion for 2012: *Table Talks*!

Designed for use around the dinner table, the new program includes mini devotions and activities. Each month will have a theme and a variety of activities, crafts devotions and discussion starters for all-sized families.

At the end of each month, families will meet for a potluck supper and fellowship based on the monthly theme. ■

REGION 4 NEWS

Region 4 covers the lower southeastern sector of Florida, with much of its area stretching along the Atlantic Ocean and down into the Keys. Representing Region 4 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Stephen Wiperman, pastor of Our Savior-Lake Worth; Diana Geiger, a member of Trinity Lutheran-Delray Beach; and Nancy Volz, a member of Our Savior-Plantation, FL.





Sipes Appointed to Faith-Based Advisory Council

Samuel M. Sipes, President and Chief Executive Officer of Lutheran Services Florida, has been appointed to the Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council.



The Florida Faith-Based and Community-Based Advisory Council facilitates cooperation between state government and Florida's faith-based and community-based organizations in order to deliver services more effectively. Of the 25 council members, 17 are appointed by the Governor, four by the President of the Senate and four by the Speaker of the House.

House Speaker Dean Cannon appointed Sipes to complete the remainder of the term vacated by the resignation of Rep. Dennis Baxley. That term expires July 26, 2012.

Sipes, LCSW, BCD, joined LSF in September 2007. As President and CEO, Sipes manages 600 employees who oversee more than 60 programs with an annual budget of \$40 million. Prior to joining LSF, Sipes served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Lutheran Social Services of the South in Austin, which became the largest provider of children's residential services in Texas with an annual operating budget of more than \$100 million.

Sipes has served on numerous boards including the Council on Accreditation of Child and Family Services, the Florida Coalition for Children and Lutheran Services in America. ■

Lutheran Services Florida Makes Appointments



Florida-Georgia District members Rev. James H. Rockey (left) and Jon Wareham are new additions to the board of directors of Lutheran Services Florida, the statewide, nonprofit human services agency. Rockey is pastor of Amazing Grace



Lutheran Church-Oxford and Circuit Counselor for North Central Florida. He entered the ministry in 1998 after working for the Texas Department of Human Services and for Allstate Insurance as a Claims Manager.

He previously served at Zion Lutheran-Fort Myer and Our Savior Lutheran-Nashville.

Rockey serves as Sumter Ministerial Association President, United Way Allocations board member, Sumter County Economic Development Task Force Advisor, Harlem Heights Foundation board member, Florida-Georgia Pastors' Conference Program committee member and Hurricane Unmet Needs committee member for the District and Lutheran Services Florida.

Wareham is Principal of Trinity Lutheran Church and School-Rockledge. The school serves children from two-year-old preschool through eighth grade in Brevard County. He previously served as Principal and an Advisory Member of the Board of Christian Education at St. Peter's Lutheran-Belle Glade, Faith Lutheran-Sebring, and Trinity Lutheran-Marietta as well as the School Ministry Board at Faith Lutheran-Marietta.

Wareham also served as president of the Florida-Georgia Lutheran Administrators' Association and a board member of the District School Ministry Advisory Committee. He was a member of the Florida-Georgia President's Convocation Planning Committee in 2002 and 2005, and chaired the District Lutheran Educators' Conference Planning Committee in 2003.

Headquartered in Tampa, LSF has more than 60 programs located throughout Florida. Since it was established in 1982, LSF has helped more than 850,000 children and families. LSF's mission is to bring God's healing, hope and help to people in need. ■



Discover Lutheran Haven Retirement Center.

Where more than half the residents hail from Florida-Georgia District Congregations. You might meet some old friends there, and for sure, will make some new ones!



- ✓ Independent Living Cottages
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- ✓ Skilled Nursing Facility
- ✓ Home Healthcare



A ministry of the SELC District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Lutheran Haven has been a provider of retirement services for more than 60 years.

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CALL US ABOUT OUR SHORT TERM GUEST HOUSE RENTAL PROGRAM

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

Veterans of the Cross to Gather in Leesburg March 5th - 7th

Retired church workers and their spouses will be gathering in Leesburg March 5-7 for the annual Florida-Georgia Church Workers Retreat — Veterans of the Cross.

The theme for the retreat and the focus of the Bible study will be “Hope for a Hopeless World”.

Highlighting the retreat program will be *Lutheran Hour* speaker Rev. Greg P. Seltz and First Lutheran Church-Gainesville, FL, Pastor John Roth. The Concordia University System will be represented by Rev. Dr. Brian L. Friedrich, president of Concordia University Nebraska.

Holden Evening Vespers will be led by David G. Ludwig Jr. This service will be enhanced by a liturgical dance group from Woodlands Lutheran Church.

“Retirees can look forward to inspiring Bible study, meeting old friends and gaining new ones, recreation, nature walks along beautiful Lake Griffen and evening socials,” said Chris Rau, a member of the Retreat planning committee. “Participants will also be able to choose from a number of break-out sessions that will appeal to a variety of interests.”

There are a number of retirees whose employers did not participate in the Synod’s retirement benefits programs. These former employees receive no Synod pension. Some have no family to assist them. Through the Veterans of the Cross program, LCMS World Relief and Human Care and Concordia Plan Services provide small, periodic stipends for impoverished, aged pastors, teachers and their families to help pay for necessities like gas, electricity and food.

For more information contact the Florida-Georgia District office at 877-457-5556 or www.flga-lcms.org. ■



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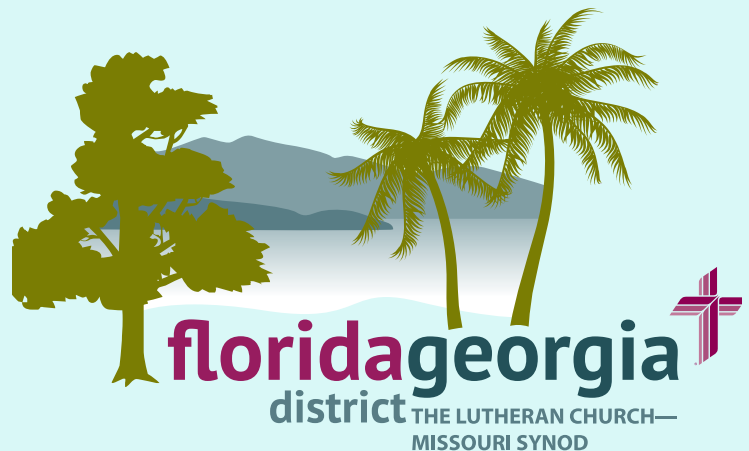
John Roth



Greg Seltz

District Unveils New Logo

There’s a new look for the District — one that “distinguishes and better defines” Florida-Georgia, notes President Greg Walton.



Natural elements from the two states are incorporated into the logo, as is the dimensional cross that has become a trademark of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The new logo was unveiled at the 2011 President’s Convocation. ■