



The InSIDE Word

www.sidlcmms.org

A newsletter by and for Southern IL District-LCMS

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Presidential Activities January 2008

- 8 Individual Consultations
- 3 Speaking/ Preaching Engagement
- 12 District Meetings
- 1 District Interview
- 4 Meetings with Dan Roth
- 3 Congregational Meetings
- 2 Days COP Conference in Nashville, TN.
- 1 Day Symposium in Ft. Wayne
- 1 Day Event Re: Ethnic Ministry in St. Louis
- 1 Day Planning Retreat-Zion Staunton
- 3 Travel Days

The Word of God Is Life!

Whatever the lectionary, the First Sunday in Lent (this year February 10th!) we focus in the Gospel on the temptation of Jesus. The test our first parents failed, “Did God really say...?” Jesus passed completely. “If you are the Son of God...” was Satan’s sly attempt. But Jesus gave him no quarter. “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God’” (Matthew 4:4).

Twice more Satan tried. Twice more Jesus responded with a simple, “It is written!” Even when the devil misapplies Scripture, Jesus comes back with, “Again, it is written!”

Now Jesus puts in our hands, our mouths, our hearts the self-same weapon He used to defeat the devil – the living Word of God. There is no greater power. “*Let there be light,*” and light exploded into being (Genesis 1:3). “*Let the earth bring forth...*” and it happened (Genesis 1:11 *et al*). “...my word ... that goes forth from my mouth ... shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:11).

“Take heart, my son, your sins are forgiven” (Matthew 9:2). And then to show that these were not mere words, but the very power of God, Jesus followed that with, “*That you may know that the Son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins*” – He said to the paralytic – “*Rise, take up your bed and go home.*” And he did. Soon after, Jesus went into the room of a little girl who had just died, “*Talitha cumi,*” He said. “*Little girl, I tell you, arise!*” And He gave her back to her parents.

The Word of God is life, I tell you! In the Law it has the power to bring sinners up short, convict them, and prepare them to hear Jesus say, “*All that the Father gives me will come to me; and him who comes to me I will not cast out*” (John 6:37). The Word of God is the life-saving rock on which, when we build on it, we persevere no matter what this world’s storms and floods may throw against us (Matthew 7:25).

“*The Word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God*” (1 Corinthians 1:18). That’s because it is the Word of the One who keeps His word.

Jesus told the disciples many times that He “*must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised*” (Matthew 16:21). Then He went and did exactly that. All so that His Word will be filled with life, “*he who hears my Word and believes Him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life*” (John 5:24).

This is the Word we are given, and given to speak. This Word is life!

But if you are tracking with me this far, you are also realizing how often we still listen, like Adam and Eve, to the lie, “Did God really say?” “If you are a child of God...” The end result is that we hold the Word of God at arm’s length, we set it

aside, we find a way to minimize those things that discomfort us.

Personally, I am convinced that one of our besetting sins in the LCMS is our lack of faith in the power of the Word of God to change people, to change us. We give it lip service, but we look for something else.

When the Word of God does not work on our time-table, we keep trying other things. Instead of the hard work of coming together with those who disagree with us in the church, coming together around the Word of God to help each other hear that Word clearly, we say of them, "They'll never change." That's like saying, "I believe the Word of God works on me, but I'm not sure it can work on you!"

We do not have here the time or space to list all the ways, but I believe this explains many of the problems in our fellowship and in our congregations – our anemic evangelism, our treatment of one another, our concern for ourselves first and foremost. It doesn't take much, I'm sure, to think of many more ways this sin rears its ugly head among us.

What are we to do?

Lent is the season of repentance, when we see our sins for what they are, but then hear God in Christ speak by His prophet, "*Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become as wool*" (Isaiah 1:18). Repentance leads out of death to life!

During Lent we walk with Jesus to the cross, after we have heard him say, "*Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it!*" (Luke 11:28, Lent 3). In repentance, we hear again His Word of life! We stand again, during Lent, with Jesus at the tomb of Lazarus to hear, "*I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die!*" (John 11:25-26, Lent 5).

Drink deeply of those words, my brothers and sisters. For the words He speaks, Jesus says, "*they are spirit and they are life*" (John 6:63). The life is in the Word! It's for you! Hear it! Hold it! Speak it! Live in it! For "*man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds from the mouth of God.*" (Matthew 4:4). May God grant you a blessed Lent, with repentance to life!

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

TRINITY, ANNA—(Pastor Carl Miller, Vacancy Pastor)

TRINITY, EDWARDSVILLE - (Senior) Called Rev. Scott Schmieding, Pastor, Trinity, Baton Rouge, LA. (Received and Declined)

ZION, FARMERSVILLE—(Rev. Walter Byerley is serving)

CHRIST, FAIRFIELD—(Served by seminary students, and profs)

TRINITY, HOYLETON – Calling Seminary Graduate.

ZION, LITCHFIELD – Called Rev. Charles E. Brandt of Trinity Lutheran Church, Toledo, OH. (Received)

HOPE, MT. CARMEL—Rev. (Emeritus) Robert Reinhardt, IN/ District, Vacancy Pastor

SID PASTOR'S CALLS RECEIVED/ACCEPTED/RETURNED

PRAYER REQUESTS



For **Cathy Bevirt and Melissa Combs**, teachers at Holy Cross, Collinsville, for strength and courage while both are fighting cancer.

For **Ed Cook**, teacher at Trinity, Edwardsville, who is recovering from vertebrae surgery.

For the family of **Charles Schrader**, father of Pastor Darwin Schrader (interim pastor) who was called home to heaven on January 14.

For **Mary Owens**, Mother of Ellie Gibson, our SID webmaster, who is seriously ill and has been transferred from Barnes Hospital in St. Louis to a rehab. center in Mt. Vernon, IL.

For **Bob & Corrine Streuter**, of Murphysboro, both are undergoing medical treatments and need our prayers for strength and courage.

For **Pastor Mark Meschke**, formerly of Southern Illinois, is battling soft-tissue cancer and after several rounds of treatments the cancer has returned rather rapidly. Please keep Pastor Meschke and his family in your prayers.

For **Rev. Walt Byerley**, Zion, Farmersville, undergoing treatment for prostate cancer.

For **Pastor Leroy Eckert**, Emeritus, who has suffered a stroke along with other complications and is now recovering at home.

.Please keep our brothers and sisters serving our country in your prayers

Active duty Chaplains from the SID: **Lt. Col. Gary Brooks, Major Gregory Jans, CDR Gregory N. Todd, LT. COL. David Wilshek, and Capt. Keith GeRue.**

SPC Chris Willig (son of Mark and Paula Willig) is back in the United States. **Praise God**

Lt. Commander Craig Muehler (brother of Cindy Nebel, teacher at Trinity, Centralia) US Navy Chaplain now serving in Iraq.

Lt. Carl Muehler (brother of Cindy Nebel) US Navy Chaplain now serving at Camp Fuji, Japan.

Sgt. Aaron Richardson (son of Faith Richardson, (Immediate Past President of the SID LWML & member of the Southern Africa Mission Task Force) has returned from Baghdad and is safely home, **Praise God**

Capt. Joshua Henschen (son of Ron and Ellen Henschen, teachers in Edwardsville) at Ft. Hood, TX.

Capt. Warren Kostencki, (son of Dan and Jean Kostencki, Dan is principal at Metro East Lutheran High School), is back home. **Praise God**

Capt. Drew Ponivas (son of Nancy Ponivas, teacher at Faith, Godfrey) is being deployed to Iraq.

MM2 John Ponivas (son of Nancy Ponivas, teacher at Faith, Godfrey) has been deployed on the USS Albuquerque (submarine).

Lt. Col. Robin Schultze (daughter-in-law of Shirley Schwartzkopf) is now in Command of the 36th Medical Operations Squadron in Guam.

Sgt. Matthew Kasten (son of Steve and Marge Kasten, Hoyleton, IL.) U.S. Army has returned to Baghdad for 18 mp.

Capt. Anthony Skeesick (son of Pastor Dale and Kathy Skeesick, St. Peter, Prairietown) serving in the US Air Force and rejoicing over his return back to the United States following three years in England. In August he will report to Fort Campbell, Kentucky where he will serve with the 101st Airborne.

Lt. Col. John Pepin (son-in-law of Pastor [Emeritus] and Lois Eckert) is now serving in Iraq.

Do you have a prayer request you would like to share...please call Donna at (618) 234-4767. OR send an email to secretarysid@cbnstl.com Thank you

PRAISE REPORTS:

Thanks and praises to God for the healing and recovering granted to **Julie Heimgartner**, wife of Gail Heimgartner, Our Redeemer, Golconda (seminary student at Ft. Wayne). The healing process that has occurred looks as if surgery will not be needed.

Bible Study/Confessional Reading Plan - Continued

We have put together a Bible and Confessions reading plan, the first month of which was published in the January InSiDe Word. Here is the schedule for February. Please note that it includes 6 days of readings per week (Saturday and Sunday are combined). My plan is to follow through the confessions topically, following the topics thematically from the Augsburg Confession – we are the “Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.” The chapters of Scripture to be read each day generally relate to the topic selected for that day. Following this guide, you will average 1-2 chapters of Scripture per day, plus about 3-7 pages in the Tappert edition of the Book of Concord. Under “Pages in Tappert Edition,” where a decimal is used (e.g. 597.30) the number before the decimal refers to the page, while the second number refers to the paragraph number in Tappert, where appropriate. Confessional abbreviations: AC = Augsburg Confession; Ap = Apology to the Augsburg Confession; SC = Small Catechism; LC = Large Catechism; SA = Smalcald Articles; Tr. = Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope; FC = Formula of Concord.

I pray this will help us be even more “rooted and built up in [Christ] and established in the faith” (Colossians 2:7). We read Scripture because it is the inspired Word of God. We read the confessions because they are in accord with the Word of God and help us keep Christ central. Blessings on your study!

February Date	Topic	Chapters of Holy Scripture To Read	Confessional Reference	Pages in Tappert Edition
1	Means of Grace	2 Timothy 3-4	FC 6	pp. 563-568
2-3	Means of Grace	Ephesians 5	LC 2, 34-70	pp. 415-420
4	Means of Grace	Matthew 16	Review Ap 4	pp. 107ff
5	Means of Grace	Matthew 18	Review Ap 4	pp. 107ff
6	Baptism	Matthew 28	AC 9	p. 33
7	Baptism	Romans 6	Ap 9	p. 178
8	Baptism	1 Peter 1	LC 4	pp. 436-438
9-10	Baptism	1 Peter 2	LC 4	pp. 439-441
11	Baptism	1 Peter 3	LC 4	pp. 442-446
12	Baptism	Acts 2	SC 4	pp. 348-349
13	Baptism	John 3	FC 12	pp. 632-636
14	Baptism	Titus 3:4-7; Galatians 3:23-29	AC 13	pp. 35-36
15	Baptism	Mark 16	Ap 13	pp. 211-214
16-17	Lord's Supper	Matthew 26	AC 10	p. 34
18	Lord's Supper	Mark 14:1-31	Ap 10	pp. 179-180
19	Lord's Supper	Luke 22:1-30	AC 22	pp. 48-51
20	Lord's Supper	Ezekiel 34	Ap 22	pp. 236-238
21	Lord's Supper	1 Corinthians 10	AC 24	pp. 56-63
22	Lord's Supper	1 Corinthians 11	Ap 24	pp. 249-255
23-24	Lord's Supper	Psalms 23	Ap 24	pp. 255-261
25	Lord's Supper	John 10:1-30	Ap 24	pp. 261-268
26	Lord's Supper	Matthew 26:26-28	SC 6	p. 351
27	Lord's Supper	Acts 2:37-47	LC 5	pp. 447-457
28	Lord's Supper	John 6:1-24	FC 7	pp. 481-486
29	Lord's Supper	John 6:25-51	FC 7	pp. 568-574

Southern Illinois District
Pastor/Elder Workshop

Topic:

***“Jeremiah – Surviving Disasters:
Helping Pastors and Elders Serve Together”***

Presenter:

Dr. Reed Lessing

(formerly vicar at St. Mark, Steeleville, now professor
at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO)

Date:

Sunday, February 10, 2008

Two Choices for Place and Time:

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Hamel, IL
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Nashville, IL

Cost: \$10 registration fee per congregation

Use the Registration Form in the Pastors Packet – Bring as many people as you like

Some Issues to Consider:

*How do the Scriptures help pastor and elders work together?
What are the duties of the elders? Who is capable of these things?
How do elders support the work of the pastor?*

“Jeremiah – Surviving Disasters.”

*Surviving through honesty; surviving through confession of sin;
surviving through the written Word and through worship are the emphases.
What does the life of survival look like?
This promises to be helpful, hands on and realistic!*

Registration forms in the Pastor’s Packet

Sponsored by the District Office at the Request of Various Elders and the Board of Congregational Support

Preliminary Announcement!

Southern Illinois District Pastoral Conference Spring Session – 2008

**A One-Day Conference
Tuesday, April 8, 2008
Camp Wartburg, Near Waterloo, Illinois**

**Topic: A Lutheran Response to Islam:
Teaching Our Congregations about Islam**

Main Presenter – Dr. Adam Francisco, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne

Tentative Schedule – Tuesday, April 8, 2008

7:30 – 8:30 Registration (snacks, etc.)
8:00 – 8:45 Morning Prayer
8:45 – 9:00 Break
9:00 – 10:30 Presentation, Part One
10:30 – 11:00 Break/Private Confession and Absolution
11:00 – 12:30 Divine Service
12:30 – 1:30 Lunch
1:30 – 3:00 Presentation, Part Two
3:00 – 3:30 Break
3:30 – 4:00 District Business
4:00 – 5:00 Presentation, Part Three
5:00 – 5:30 Q & A (any unfinished district business)
5:30 – 6:15 Vespers
6:15 – 7:00 Dinner
7:00 – ??? Gemuetlichkeit

Cost - \$40.00 registration fee for Pastors and Deaconesses and DCEs
\$16.00 for retired pastors, vicars and wives (cost of food)

Stewardship Life: Free* Training and Resources

The 2006 SID Convention passed Resolution 5-04 mandating a stewardship training process in the District. The Board for Congregational Support appointed a Stewardship Task Force to plan events and activities. NOW is the time to plan for the Southern Illinois District Stewardship Life: Free* Training and Resources workshop to be held at three different locations the second weekend in April 2008. The first is Saturday, April 12, 2008, from 9:00-11:00 a.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wood River. The second and third will be on Sunday, April 13, 2008, from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in New Minden, and from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at St John Lutheran Church in Red Bud. You have your choice!

Rev. Wayne Knolhoff, new Director of Stewardship for the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, will give a one hour presentation on “Congregational Stewardship Culture.” There will be a half hour presentation on “Consecrated Stewards,” a stewardship program for proportional giving published by Capital Funding of the Lutheran Church – Extension Fund. There will also be plenty of time for Q & A.

Plan now to attend. Fill out and send in your registration form to the district office by March 31, 2008. We also plan to have registration available soon on the SID website – www.sidlcms.org.

(* Your presence is required to receive free training and resources.)

Registration Form

**Stewardship Life:
Free* Training and Resources
Rev. Wayne Knolhoff,
Director of Stewardship for the LCMS**

Saturday, April 12, 2008
or
Sunday, April 13, 2008

Congregation: _____
Pastor(s): _____
We will bring _____ People (approximate).
Names: _____

We will attend at the following location:
_____ 9:00-11:00 a.m. Saturday - St. Paul, Wood River
_____ 2:00-4:00 p.m. Sunday - St. John, New Minden
_____ 6:00-8:00 p.m. Sunday - St. John, Red Bud

JACOB MUELLER ARRIVES SAFELY IN SOUTH AFRICA

Jacob Mueller (pictured below, with his father, grandmother and uncles) arrived safely in South Africa January 15th. After a week of acclimation to the different climate (hot - it's summer there) and eight hour time difference, Jacob is doing well. In between college and seminary, Jacob decided to spend six months in South Africa at the Lutheran Theological Seminary Tshwane (Pretoria) studying with the students of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. Under the auspices of LCMS World Mission as a short-term volunteer, Jacob will get to know how the Gospel comes to people in other cultures. We'll have further reports in the future. This is all part of our district's partnership with the LCSA.

PASTORS' ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

The following pastors celebrated anniversaries of their ordination into the Holy Ministry in **January** and received certificates. If you, or someone you know had an anniversary (20, 25, 30, 35, etc.) during the month of **January** and their name is not on this list, please call Donna at the District Office so this can be taken care of right away. Thank you.

Rev. Tim Mueller	20 years	1/17/08
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On January 13, 2008, St. John's, New Minden and St. Luke's, Covington, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the ordination of Pastor Tim Mueller and his 20th anniversary as pastor of this dual parish with a surprise celebration and dinner. President Herb Mueller (Pastor Tim Mueller's older brother) was the preacher for the service and Pastor Bill Mueller of Wayzata, Minnesota (Pastor Tim Mueller's younger brother) was the liturgist. A special aspect of the service was the commissioning as a missionary volunteer to South Africa of Jacob Mueller (Pastor Tim Mueller's son). Pictured are, from left to right, President Herb Mueller, Jacob Mueller, Mrs. Ruth Mueller (mother of all three pastors, who was present as part of the surprise), Pastor Tim Mueller and Pastor Bill Mueller.

What is OAFIC?

Ongoing Ambassadors For Christ (OAFIC) is an “ongoing” witnessing movement for youth and adults of the LCMS. This nationwide, recognized service organization of the LCMS has been available to all congregations since 1970. OAFIC has one goal, to be used of God to emphasize the saving Gospel –Jesus suffered, died and rose in victory for all sins so that all people can be certain of going to heaven. All OAFIC materials are Christ- centered so that people can see the ONE WAY TO HEAVEN. OAFIC activities include:

- † Witnessing to all of Jesus Christ, our Savior
- † Inviting the unchurched to the congregations we serve
- † Training other youth and adults to witness for Christ

A WEEKEND is where ambassadors come together at a hosting congregation in their area, generally once a month at a different congregation. During the weekend they conduct neighborhood surveys to share the saving Gospel and find prospects for the host church. They also witness of Christ’s love and salvation at a nursing home, during Sunday School, and in the church service.

THE LOCAL AMBASSADOR GROUP is the heart of the OAFIC movement. Here monthly weekends are held in sponsoring churches. Generally, each church hosts a weekend once a year. If needed the churches of two or three synodical circuits may join together to fill the schedule. The Southern Illinois District has two such local groups assisting congregations. These groups are:

- † The SIL group leader is Kevin Wudtke from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville, IL.
- † The SEIL group leader is Nathan Ruppert from Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church in Nokomis, IL.

OAFIC AMBASSADORS are primarily youth (Jr High age and older), but more and more adults are also participating and many of these are being trained as leaders for the local groups. Any area can begin the OAFIC ministry by inviting trained Ambassadors to come and train their adult leaders and youth. The Southern Illinois District is blessed to have two OAFIC groups working to help congregations share their faith in Jesus.

Ambassadors share the Gospel and love of Jesus Christ in six ways:

- † SONG – youth love to sing and share their faith in singing. Scriptural songs also help them remember God’s promises in their daily lives.
- † DRAMA – Messages can be strongly emphasized through drama and the Gospel can be related to any circumstance of life portrayed by a drama.
- † PERSONAL WITNESS – Sharing the story of how God has worked through the experiences of your life to reveal His love and confirm the truth of His Word can strengthen and encourage others.
- † PUPPETS – Puppets can talk honestly and openly, revealing how we act and think and can relate the Law and Gospel in this way. Children especially listen closely to the message of puppets.
- † WITNESSING METHODS – Witnessing methods are a key to helping people verbalize their faith in a way that is clear, concise, and doctrinally correct. This helps them in their everyday witness as well.
- † BIBLE STUDY – This involves searching God’s Word which is the source of our faith and the power and motivation for effective witness.

OAFIC has often been referred to as the “BEST KEPT SECRET” in Missouri Synod. Isn’t it time that you experience the wonderful benefits of OAFIC known only to those who have hosted OAFIC in the past. OAFIC needs you and your youth to join us to help us multiply our ministry and keep it “ongoing” for generations to come.

For information on hosting a weekend, or an starting an OAFIC group in your area, refer to the [directory](#) for a list of the contacts listed above in your area, and/or send an email through the OAFIC website: www.oafc.org written by: Nathan Ruppert, Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Nokomis, IL.

Official Notice:

In the late spring of 2008, Mr. Dan Roth, the Schools and General Executive of the Southern Illinois District, plans to retire from that position. He will still be working for the district on a part-time basis in the area of Lutheran Church Extension Fund promotion, but the Southern Illinois District needs to call a new person to fill the position of Schools and General Executive. A "SAGE Search Committee" consisting of the Office and Personnel Committee (Pr. Tim Scharr, Mr. Bob Mayhew, Mr. Wayne Muskopf), plus several school principals (Mrs. Paula Nelson, Mr. Mark Belli, Mr. Steve Rockey) working with President Mueller has prepared a job description and is preparing for the next phase of the search. Below, please find the official notice to the district of this position opening. The SAGE Committee plans to meet February 29, 2008 to go over nominations and applications with a view toward interviewing and making recommendations to the April 26, 2008, SID Board of Directors meeting. Please publish this to your congregations and schools. Thank you – President Herb Mueller.

Southern Illinois District Schools and General Executive:

The Southern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is seeking qualified candidates for the full time position of District Schools and General Executive. The Schools and General Executive in the Southern Illinois District promotes and provides professional guidance for early childhood, child care centers, elementary, and secondary Lutheran schools. She/He serves these schools in all aspects of their operation including accreditation, certification, funding, administration, supervision, continuing education, and personnel and all other issues affecting Lutheran schools and preschools.

Position duties include: providing personnel services – including both the provision of Call lists to congregations and schools as requested and assisting personnel in finding position changes; providing guidance and resources for new school starts, educational networking for schools and their

staffs, evaluation services to schools and preschools to assist them in developing and improving their ministries, regular visitation of all the schools, preschools and child care centers of the district. This person serves as a consultant and facilitator to Lutheran schools in developing funding and marketing initiatives for their ministries, and serves as a liaison between LCMS schools, other private schools and the State of Illinois. The person in this position also consults with schools and preschools in resolving staff and/or other issues related to schools or preschools, and serves as liaison between the district's Youth Advisory Committee, the Board for Congregational Support and the district at large to promote the district's youth program. Finally, this person serves as business manager (ca 15% of time) of the Southern Illinois District in accordance with the duties outlined in the district bylaws.

Position requirements include: full commitment to the doctrinal position of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the objectives the Southern Illinois District, listing on the official roster of the Synod as a minister of religion, either ordained or commissioned, at least 10 years of successful experience in Lutheran ministry as a teacher and administrator (service in a congregation also preferred but not required), holding a minimum of a Master's Degree in Education. A Master's Degree in Educational Administration is preferred.

Conditions of employment include compensation according to the SID Salary Guidelines, benefits and transportation supplied according to Board of Directors policy. The emphasis of this position is approximately 80% education and 20% other duties (e.g., business manager and youth).

For a full listing of the job description and district bylaws concerning this position, please contact President Herbert Mueller, 2408 Lebanon Avenue, Belleville, IL 62221 (618-234-4767) at SIDPresHCM@aol.com.

Please send applications or nominations with resume' and permission to request LEIF or PIF and SET forms to President Mueller at the same address by February 28, 2008. Thank you.

Pastors and Teachers, please share with your Youth Ministry Director

Youth Ministry

Conferences and Resources Available in 2008

LCMS Youth Ministry, a ministry area of LCMS District and Congregational Services, provides training and networking opportunities through its conferences and resources, available throughout 2008. "As we serve districts and congregations as the Youth Ministry Office of the LCMS, these annual conferences and resources are key ways LCMS meets its vision for youth ministry," shares Gretchen Jameson – Associate Director for LCMS Youth Ministry, "That vision is to faithfully lead, serve, resource and network those at work in congregational settings with hope and celebration in the name of Jesus Christ."

Two annual conferences are available for congregational youth workers.

The 2008 NATIONAL Lutheran Youth Workers Conference is scheduled for July 10-13, 2008 in Indianapolis, IN. "In addition to more than 20 workshop topics, daily Bible study, General Sessions, and fellowship opportunities, 2008 attendees also have the option to dig deeply into one topic of great interest to their ministry," shares Jameson. The event's new "Youth Ministry Intensives" led by Concordia University System faculty include: Adolescent Development and Spiritual Nurture, Confirmation and Youth Ministry Influence, Worship and Youth, Teaching for Influence: The "Teaching" Youth Ministry, and Building Youth to be Congregational Leaders.

Registration for NATIONAL is open online at www.NLYWC.com. Each January, the YM Symposium Series focuses on current issues in youth and congregational ministry. Designed as a smaller event, 115 professional church workers, district leaders and lay youth workers gathered to discuss young adult ministry in LCMS congregations. YM2009: Catechesis in a "Spiritual" Age is scheduled for January 9-11, 2009 in Houston. Keynote presenter, Dr. Lisa Kimball, Youth Development Leadership Program Coordinator for the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis and Research Assistant with the Search Institute, will join Rev. Dr. John Oberdeck of Concordia University – Wisconsin to explore the impact of a recent 15 country study on adolescent spirituality in the context of Lutheran youth ministry.

thESource for Youth Ministry, online at www.youthesource.com, provides cost-free access to articles, editorials, Bible studies, skits, and talk sheets for use in the Lutheran congregation.

Something New!

Have you checked out the Southern Illinois District Web Site recently? www.sidlcms.org is the place. We're putting more and more information there, from Salary Guidelines to registration forms to PIFs and SETs and LEIFs to the latest news.

Recently, we added another feature that may interest you. We have a section called "SID Forums" we are starting. Just go to the SID home page or go directly to <http://sidlcms.freeforums.org> to find various topics listed. Join the forum to comment (check out the forum rules and guidelines first), ask questions, post helpful items for others, share prayer requests, etc. **Check it out and let us know you were there.**

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & EVENTS IN AND FOR THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT 2008

February

- 1 SID Principals Conference at Camp Wartburg
- 2 SID Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.
- 4 Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 7 S. A. M. T. F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Pastor/Elders Workshop, St. Paul-Hamel at 2:00 p.m. OR Trinity-Nashville at 7:00 p.m.
- 28 Metro Principals Meeting at Zion, Belleville, 12:00 Noon
- 29 S.A.G.E. Search Committee, 1:00 p.m.

March

- 6 Board of Congregational Support, 4:15 p.m.
- 6 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Student Aid Golf Tourn. Committee, 11:00 a.m at Okawville
- 18 District LLL Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Good Friday—District Office Closed
- 23 EASTER—He Is Risen!
- 27 Mission Staff Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

April

- 3 Board of Congregational Support, 4:15 p.m.
- 3 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Mission Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 5 Stewardship Task Force Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 8 Pastoral Conference (one day), Camp Wartburg, Waterloo
- 12 Stewardship Workshop, St. Paul, Wood River, 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.
- 13 Stewardship Workshop, St. John, New Minden, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- 13 Stewardship Workshop, St. John, Red Bud, 6:00 p.m.-8:00 p.m.
- 16 Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
- 17 SID LWML Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 17 Unity “Time To Build” Dinner, 6:00 p.m.
- 24-26 LEA Convocation in Minneapolis
- 26 SID Board of Directors Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 28 Fund Advisory Meeting, 4:30 p.m.

May

- 5 Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 5 Metro Principals Meeting at Metro East Lutheran High School, (time to be announced later)
- 7 Older Adult Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:15 p.m.
- 20 District LLL Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 Memorial Day celebrated—District Office Closed