



The InSIDE Word

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A newsletter by and for Southern IL District-LCMS

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Presidential Activities January 2009

- 13 Individual Consultations
- 3 Meetings with Roger Sprengel
- 2 Congregational Meetings
- 14 District Meetings
- 3 Preaching/Speaking engagements
- 2 Presidential Visits of Pastors
- 1 Day of Prayer & Theological Reflection
- 1 Conference at Synod for Disaster Relief

"One Sure Hope"

District Convention Special

"If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep" (1 Corinthians 15:19-20 ESV).

Jesus Christ is our "One Sure Hope." There's the theme of the 55th Regular Convention of the Southern Illinois District of the LCMS. Jesus is the only one who has come back from the dead. In His death and resurrection we have life, every blessing and our one sure hope for the future. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you..." (1 Peter 1:3-4 ESV)*

What shall we expect at the convention? First of all, look for a **theological essay**, based on the above two Scripture passages, from Rev. Matthew Harrison, Executive Director of LCMS World Relief/Human Care. Friday at 1:15 p.m. and Saturday at 8:10 a.m. are the times for the essay.

Our worship has been prepared for us on the basis of the Scripture lessons for Epiphany VI and the Transfiguration of our Lord, Series B. Our thanks to Pastor Michael Walther and Pastor Paul Hemenway and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, for serving as host congregation for the opening service. Devotions for the sessions are based on the scripture lessons from the one year series in Lutheran Service Book.

What is **different** this time around? Well, there are several things. First of all, the convention begins with the **Opening Service at 7:00 p.m. Thursday, February 19, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1300 Beltline, Collinsville.** The bylaws of the district specify that the President of the Synod will preach for this service and that it be a service of Holy Communion. Note that we will have registration at Good Shepherd Lutheran School, beginning at 5:00 p.m. February 19th.

Following the **Opening Service** there will be a **Presidents' Reception** in the Good Shepherd school gymnasium, hosted by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, including President Gerald Kieschnick and President Dale Meyer.

The convention itself begins at 7:55 a.m. Friday, February 20, with Opening Devotions at the **Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville.** Elections will begin about 8:30 a.m. and President Kieschnick will give his report at 8:50 a.m. (Q & A at 10:45 a.m.). If you don't pick up your registration package Thursday evening, you can still pick it up at the convention center Friday

morning.

Because we are using **electronic voting** for the first time, we believe we can shorten the convention (no business session Thursday evening, finish by Saturday, February 21, at 1:00 p.m.) and save money by providing only two meals instead of four. This also means, however, that we will have a **Friday evening business session**. Please take note of these changes!

Southern Illinois enjoys a **mission partnership** with the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. Representing the LCSA will be Bishop David Tswaedi, whom many of you have met before, as well as a lay representative from the LCSA Church Council, Mr. Mpolaise Masibi. We welcome them into our midst. Bishop Tswaedi will be presenting one of the devotions.

The reports presented to our convention demonstrate the goodness of God and ought to humble us before His majesty and power at work in our midst. Proposed resolutions have been prepared by the floor committees. Voting delegates will receive these in the mail, while others will receive them at registration. Please note also that Friday afternoon, from 3:25-5:30 p.m., we will be hearing from Synod's **Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance**. This is a progress report being presented to all districts regarding the work of this task force proposing various structural changes to our Synod. One of our floor committees has prepared resolutions responding to these proposals.

May everything that is done at our 55th Regular Convention of the Southern Illinois District show forth the **One Sure Hope** that fills us and empowers our congregations. Jesus is the center of our life and our proclamation.

Yours in Christ Jesus!



CALLING CONGREGATIONS

ZION, BETHALTO—Entering Call process, (Pastor Willard Meyer senior pastor is retiring)

ST. JOHN, CHESTER— Calling Candidate as Assistant Pastor, exclusive request for Adam Filipek (St. Louis)

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

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

TRINITY, HARVEL—Application for Delayed Vicar, Exclusive request for Mark McCrory (St. Louis)
Application Denied.

IMMANUEL, OKAWVILLE—Pastor Lloyd Helland on sick leave, will resign for health reasons. Pastor Darwin Schrader serving as interim.

ST. SALVATOR, VENEDY/ST. PETER, NEW MEMPHIS—Calling Seminary Graduate

SID PASTOR'S CALLS RECEIVED/ACCEPTED/RETURNED

PRAYER REQUESTS



For **Vicar Terrence O'Brien's father** who was taken to the hosp. unexpectedly on Jan. 20. Vicar O'Brien is at Our Redeemer, Golconda.

For the family of **Robert Schelp**, father of Keith Schelp (Principal at St. Peter, Prairietown) as he was called home by our heavenly Father.

For the **Mission Efforts** going on in Harrisburg, Illinois.

For **Marian Martens**, former SID Treasurer, who is now under the care of Hospice.

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

For **Laura Leistico**, wife of Pastor James Leistico (St. Peter/St. John, Evansville/Ruma) who is having some difficulties during her pregnancy with twins.

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

Active duty Chaplains from the SID: **Major Gregory Jans**, **CDR Gregory N. Todd**, and **LT. COL. David Wilshek**.

For **Khotsi Tswaedi**, son of Bishop David and Lucy Tswaedi, Southern Africa, in the U.S. Army, deployed to Iraq.

Lt. Commander Craig Muehler (brother of Cindy Nebel) US Navy Chaplain now serving in San Diego.

Lt. Carl Muehler (brother of Cindy Nebel) US Navy Chaplain now serving at Norfolk, VA.

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

Capt. Drew Ponivas (son of Nancy Ponivas, teacher at Zion, Bethalto) is stationed at Ft. Benning, GA..

MM1 John Ponivas (son of Nancy Ponivas, teacher at Zion, Bethalto) will be deployed soon to 3 months at sea.

Lt. Col. Robin Schultze (daughter-in-law of Shirley Schwartzkopf) is now at Fort McNair, DC. as a National Defense University Nurse.

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

Capt. Anthony Skeesick (son of Pastor Dale and Kathy Skeesick, St. Peter, Prairietown) serving in the US Air Force has been deployed to Afghanistan.

Lt. Col. John Pepin (son-in-law of Pastor [Emeritus] and Lois Eckert) has returned from Iraq -Praise God.

Please call Donna at 618-234-4767 to add your prayer request, or update the information above.

PRAISE REPORTS:

Praise God for the birth of **Sophia Luise Wood**, on December 24, 2008, to Pastor Eric and Emily Wood (Our Savior, Carbondale). Sophia was 18.5 inches and weighed 5 pounds 7 ounces.

Praise God for the birth of **Judah Nicklaus Theilen**, on January 6, 2009 to Pastor Joshua and Rebekah Theilen (Trinity, Hoyleton).



See you at the convention...Feb. 19, 20, 21
in Collinsville!

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.

No Anniversaries celebrated in January

Schools Calling for Teachers/Administrators

Good Shepherd, Collinsville	1st grade Teacher
	8th grade Teacher
Bethel, DuQuoin	Preschool Director/Teacher
Christ Our Savior L.H.S., Evansville	Administrator
Faith, Godfrey	Principal/DCE
Trinity, Hoffman	Principal/Teacher
Christ, Jacob	Administrator
Trinity-St. John, Nashville	Associate Pastor/Principal (calling a S em. Grad.)
St. Peter, Prairietown	Principal/Teacher
	Teacher
St. Mark, Steeleville	Principal/Teacher
St. Paul, Troy	Administrator
	7th/8th grade Teacher

Lutherans For Life

Lutherans for Life of Illinois will hold its state conference on Saturday, April 25, 2009 at Saint Peter Lutheran Church, 310 N. Broadway Street, Joliet, IL. 60435-1769. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. For more information refer to the website for Illinois Lutherans for Life at www.lfllfillinois.org or email Illinois Northern District President at Al Benson at 1fl_ni@prodigy.net or Central/Southern Illinois Districts President, Jeanne Strubbe at jeannestrubbe@yahoo.com Conference information details will be available by late February 2009.

Our Savior Lutheran Welcomes New Members



On Sunday, January 11, 2009, Our Savior, Hillsboro welcomed Jeremy and Jami Schmidt and their sons Cooper and Chase.

It is interesting to note that with the addition of Cooper and Chase there are now three sets of twins that belong to Our Savior, Hillsboro. The other two sets of twins are Kord and Kreed Lewey and Michael and Marissa Johnson. A triple double is a great statistic in basketball and a neat statistic for the membership of a church. They are a double blessing to their families and to Our Savior, Hillsboro.

Pictured left to right: Pastor Moyer, Jami and Jeremy Schmidt and twins, Cooper and Chase.

Lutheran Education Association Named Jill Hasstedt (Zion, Belleville) LEA Master Director of Christian Education for 2009

DCE Jill Hasstedt, Director of Family Ministry at Zion, Belleville earned a B.S. and DCE certification and Lutheran Teacher Diploma from Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska. She also earned an M.A. with honors in family life education from the University of Illinois, Springfield. She has served schools in Kansas, Nebraska, Texas and Springfield, Illinois before coming to Belleville.



The LEA says, in part: “She has strong leadership gifts and a heart for leading people to deeper walks in their faith with the Lord Jesus. She is committed to serving the Lord and does so with an excellence that is contagious.”

Southern Illinois District Pastoral Conference

Spring Session 2009 – A One Day Conference

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Camp Wartburg, Near Waterloo, Illinois

(5705 LRC Road, just off Maeystown Road 4 miles SW of Waterloo, just past Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Wartburg)

A Theological Approach to Unity

Main Presenter – Rev. Matthew Harrison, Executive Director of LCMS World Relief/Human Care together with Pr. Herb Mueller

Main Conference Day - Tuesday, April 28, 2009

Conference will be held in the new dining hall at the top of the hill. Drive all the way through the camp, past the new dorms, to the new dining hall parking lot.

7:30 – 8:00 Registration & Refreshments (Confession/Absolution available)
8:00 – 8:45 Matins
8:45 – 9:00 Break (Confession/Absolution available)
9:00 – 10:30 Presentation (Session One) - “A Theological Approach to Unity”
10:30 – 11:00 Break (Confession/Absolution available)
11:00 – 12:30 Divine Service – Hosted by Trinity, Worden
12:30 – 1:30 Lunch
1:30 – 3:00 Presentation (Session Two)
3:00 – 3:30 Break (Confession/Absolution available)
3:30 – 4:00 District Business
4:00 – 5:00 Presentation (Session Three)
5:00 – 5:30 Q & A (and unfinished district business)
5:30 – 6:15 Vespers
6:15 – 7:00 Dinner
7:00 Gemuetlichkeit in the Dining Hall
Tuesday, late evening – Travel (if not spending the night)

Call Camp Wartburg (618.939.7715) to make arrangements to stay overnight at the Camp. You will need to bring your own bedding. There is also a Super 8 Motel in Waterloo, about 5 miles from Camp, located at 112 Warren Drive, just off IL-3 at the north end of Waterloo. Check it out on the internet (www.super8.com) or call 618.939.2020 to make your reservation. The conference will be held in the new dining hall, a first class facility with plenty of meeting and eating space.

Cost - \$40.00 registration fee for Pastors and Deaconesses and DCEs (same as last year)
\$16.00 for retired pastors, vicars and wives (cost of food)
(Please use registration form included in Pastors Packet.)

Report from SID Board of Directors Meeting

January 31, 2009

The Board received the final financial reports from 2008 showing:

Congregations remitted \$974,808.57 on pledges of \$995,205.00. Given the present state of our nation's economy, we are blessed to have received this much! Indeed, we had thought the situation would be worse, but through your congregations the Lord provided \$291,959.95 in income during the last month of 2008. That's more than we have ever received in one month before. Thank you so much for your faithfulness in difficult times!

Our total expenditures were down, but our reduced income meant that at the end of the year (in order to have enough money in the bank to cover expenses in the first two months of 2009) we had to keep back two of our monthly checks to the Synod (\$50,580 total). The Board of Directors hopes to make that up during 2009 if there is at any time any surplus. Full reports will be made to the convention later this month.

The Board also heard a report regarding progress being made on finding or providing a permanent location for Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School, our mission school in East St. Louis. A Unity Working Group with representatives from the Board of Directors, the School and Unity Lutheran Church is working together toward this end. At the moment we are investigating the possibility of leasing or purchasing Hawthorne School (about 1 ½ blocks from Unity's present location). The Board voted to support these efforts but much prayer for God's guidance is needed before final decisions are made. The Lord has provided through His people over \$600,000.00 toward the Unity Building Fund.

The Board of Directors also adopted a Ministry Spending Plan for 2009:

This budget for 2009 includes a number of changes made necessary by our reduced income. Here are some of the elements of the 2009 budget adopted:

We project income from the congregations of \$950,000, down \$45,000 from the 2008 budget. Thus far 14 congregations increased their commitments by a total of \$17,650 but 17 congregations decreased their commitments by a total of \$46,090. But we thank God for all our congregations and know that you are doing your best in difficult times. We also have reduced income in other areas due to the economy.

Therefore, expenses had to be reduced in a number of areas, for example:

All salaries are at 96.5% of 2009 SID Salary Guidelines

Significant reductions were made in several mission areas – East St. Louis, Prison Ministry, etc.

We also reduced our commitment to Synod from 30.5% of congregational commitments in 2008 to 28% in 2009.

Some areas were increased, however, because of new opportunities – most notably our mission plant in Harrisburg/El Dorado and Freed in Christ, our new effort to help ex-offenders.

Please keep all of this constantly in your prayers as we seek to be who we are – the body of Christ. The Church lives by the Word of the living Christ. The Church serves in the strength He gives by His Spirit in that Word. God's peace be with you all!

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & EVENTS IN AND FOR THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT 2009

FEBRUARY

- 2 Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 5 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Lutheran Schools- LESA Open House
- 12 Metro East Administrators Meeting—Noon at Zion, Belleville
- 19-21 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT CONVENTION
- 26 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), 6:30 p.m. at Zion, Belleville

MARCH

- 1-7 National Lutheran Schools Week
- 5 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 Lutheran Older Adults Retreat Committee, 11:00 a.m.
- 12-14 LEA Administrators' Conference—Atlanta, GA
- 21 Board of Directors and all Boards Day of Orientation at Good Shepherd, Collinsville, 9:00 a.m.
- 26 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), 6:30 p.m. at Zion, Belleville

APRIL

- 2 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Good Friday—District Office Closed
- 12 Easter—Celebrate— HE IS RISEN INDEED
- 16 LWML District Board of Directors, 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Call Day at Concordia Theological Seminary— Ft. Wayne
- 22 Call Day at Concordia Seminary—St. Louis
- 23 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), 6:30 p.m. at Zion, Belleville
- 28 SID Spring Pastor's Conference at Camp Wartburg

MAY

- 2 SID Student Aid Golf Benefit
- 4 Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 7 Prison Ministry Conference—Camp Wartburg
- 7 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 SID LLL Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Memorial Holiday—District Office closed
- 28 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), 6:30 p.m. at Zion, Belleville

JUNE

- 2 Pastor's Conference Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 4 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 12-13 Senior H.S. Youth Gathering—Carlinville
- 17-19 All Illinois Administrators' Conference—Camp Wartburg
- 25 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), 6:30 p.m. at Zion, Belleville