



The InSI De Word

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A newsletter by and for Southern IL District-LCMS

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Presidential Activities July 2010

- 1 Preaching Engagements
- 3 Individual Consultations
- 2 Congregational Meeting
- 5 District Meetings
- 1 Staff Meeting
- 2 Meetings with Roger Sprengel
- 1 Day—Synod Floor Committee Mtgs.
- 1 Day Blk Ministry Convocation
- 8 Days LCMS Convention
- 8 Days Vacation

How to Say Farewell?

How does one adequately say farewell after 16+ years in a position? In a vocation I have truly enjoyed among people I love? I can only quote Jesus – “Peace be with you!” May God’s peace which we have in Christ fill each of you with hope and joy. As you know, as of September 1, 2010, I will be transitioning into a new position: First Vice President of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, elected to serve with our new Synod President, Rev. Matthew Harrison.

At the moment, I am a bundle of all kinds of feelings. I’m honored, humbled, excited, challenged, even terrified (because I know many of my sins and failings), and a whole lot more, yet trusting God’s grace in Christ, seeking His strength, receiving His forgiveness, desiring to be faithful to His Word. Most of all, we need your prayers. We have a steep mountain to climb. Thank you to each one of you for your love, care and prayers. You are all very precious in the Lord to me.

Here are just a few facts about the transition. All officers of Synod take office officially on September 1. The installation of President elect Matthew Harrison, Synod Vice Presidents, Board of Directors members, etc., will take place Saturday morning, September 11, 2010, in the Seminary Chapel in St. Louis at a time TBA. We plan to install **Pastor Timothy Scharr** (SID First Vice President) as Southern Illinois District President at Trinity, Nashville, on Sunday afternoon, August 29, 2010, at a time also TBA. Apparently the staff is planning a farewell service for me for Sunday, September 19, at St. Paul, Columbia (I’m sure you’ll hear more elsewhere). But of course, you are all invited September 11, 2010, for the installation at the seminary. After all, there were four others elected to office from Southern Illinois – **Pastor Michael Kumm**, Pastor of Trinity, Millstadt, was elected to the Board of Directors of Synod; **Pastor Will Weedon**, Pastor of St. Paul, Hamel, was elected to the Board of Regents of Concordia Chicago; **Mrs. Leslie Sramek**, lay member of Christ Our Savior, Freeburg, was elected to the Board of Regents of Concordia Ann Arbor; and **Mr. Jeffrey Schwarz**, lay member of St. Paul, Hamel, was elected to a lay position on the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. Please pray for Pastor Scharr and all of those elected, that Christ’s mission and God’s Kingdom may be advanced by our work together.

As we prepare for the transition, one good thing (especially from my wife’s point of view) is that we will not have to move. Our home in Waterloo is about the same distance (time-wise) from the International Center as it is from the SID Office. So we still plan to be around SID.

Please let me be clear about the SID’s transition to the administration of President Timothy Scharr. We have several meetings scheduled to work out details, but I stand ready to help him wherever possible. Pastor Scharr is a very capable and faithful pastor who will serve you very well. I have no doubts about his ability to serve and have every expectation that the SID is in very good hands.

God has provided you with an excellent man to be your new District President.

There are too many people I need to thank here (so many have been instrumental in our work together) but I do need to name a few now – Donna Wiesen is an excellent servant of the Lord as the DP's administrative assistant whom I will deeply miss (Ellie Gibson and Vicki Nicely also served well in this position). The entire SID Office staff – Roger Sprengel as SAGE does a wonderful job, Dennis Klussman, Dan Roth, Ruth Bush, Ruby Geiser are all a delight to work with. Our prison chaplains, missionaries, our pastors, all the circuit counselors and vice presidents, past and present, and many more too numerous to mention here, plus our present presidium – 1st VP Tim Scharr (now DP); 2nd VP George Gude; Secretary Tony Troup; Treasurer Gary Hemmer – thank you for everything! You are all loyal friends and wonderful co-workers in Christ.

Today, as I began to work on issues of what the transition will take, I see again how much of my failings and shortcomings you have had to forgive. There are so many things I could have done better, so many visits that should have been made, so many mistakes you overlooked (or kindly shared with me so that we could correct them together), in short, so many times I have not done as well as I should. Yet you have so often forgiven me for the sake of Christ Jesus, and in His strength and under His Word we have worked together well for more than 16 years. Everything good comes from God. Everything less than what should have been is my doing. Where I have failed or sinned against any of you, please forgive me for Jesus' sake. If anyone wishes to speak with me regarding anything, I am very open to that – please contact me. But please know that you and I are both forgiven, washed clean in the blood of Jesus. For that reason the Lord has given me a great sense of His peace. I seek every day to hold you in prayer and to say with St. Paul, *"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ"* (Philippians 1:3-6).

Please accord to President Scharr the same love, prayers, support and partnership in the Gospel you have shown to me. Remember him in prayer. Encourage him. Work with him in all things. Together God will enable you to serve faithfully for the sake of Christ's mission.

Thank you once more for your love and prayers!

Yours in Christ's peace,

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

TRINITY, ANNA— Seminarian Gail Heimgartner (Ft. Wayne) placed by COP, ordained and installed June 20, 2010.

ZION, BETHALTO—Engaged in self study process to prepare to call Senior Pastor.

ST JOHN, CHESTER—Assistant Pastor, Seminarian Peter Ill, St. Louis will be ordained and installed August 1,2010.

EMMAUS, DORSEY—Pastor, Seminarian David Stratmann, St. Louis will be ordained and installed August 8, 2010.

TRINITY, EDWARDSVILLE—Associate Pastor, Seminarian John Shank, Fort Wayne was ordained and installed June 19, 2010.

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

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

OUR REDEEMER, GOLCONDA/FAITH MISSION, HARRISBURG/ELDORADO—Vicarage application not filled, considering options, possible call for seminary graduate.

TRINITY, NASHVILLE—Senior Pastor, Rev. Timothy Scharr will be SID District President

ST. LUKE'S, OLMSTED—Rev. Paul Donner, Paducah, Ky. serving as Vacancy Pastor.

SID PASTOR'S CALLS RECEIVED/ACCEPTED/RETURNED

PRAYERS:



For **Tom Schultze**, son of Shirley Schwartzkopf, who has suffered a stroke. Tom is a Lutheran School Teacher in Giddings, Tx.

For Pastor **Elvin Harms**, Emeritus, who is recovering from back surgery.

For **Vicki Nicely**, wife of Chaplain Doug Nicely, also former secretary to Pres. Mueller and Pres. Kollmann, as she continues recovery and goes through physical therapy.

For **Karen Kern**, wife of Pastor David Kern (St. Paul, West Frankfort), as she continues her recovery from hip replacement surgery.

For **Bart Anderson**, father of Faith Mueller, who suffered a heart attach May 24th and is receiving treatment in Dothan, Alabama.

For the mission efforts going on in **Saline County**, for **Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School**, for the **Freed In Christ** program, and ALL the other mission efforts throughout the Southern Illinois District.

Please keep our brothers and sisters serving our country in the military in your prayers:

Active duty Chaplains from the SID: **Lt. Col. Gregory Jans, Capt. Gregory N. Todd, Lt. Col. David Wilshek, and Capt. Jon Smithley.**

For **Pfc. Adam Burch**, son of Mary Barnett, Holy Cross, Collinsville, has returned from Iraq, is now at Ft. Leonard Wood.

For **Khotsi Tswaedi**, son of Bishop David and Lucy Tswaedi, Southern Africa, in the U.S. Army, has returned to the US and serving in Dothan, Alabama.

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

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 Camp Carroll in Daegu, S. Korea.

MM1 John Ponivas (son of Nancy Ponivas, teacher at Zion, Bethalto) is now on the USS Nautilus, Groton, CT.

Lt. Col. Robin Schultze (daughter-in-law of Shirley Schwartzkopf) promoted to Col. effective July 2010 and being transferred to Travis AFB

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) is now back at Ft. Campbell, KY.

Lt. Col. John Pepin (son-in-law of Pastor [Emeritus] and Lois Eckert) is now serving at Scott AFB, IL.

Please call Donna at 618-234-4767 or email to: sidexecsecretary@sidlcms.org to add your prayer request, or update the information above.

PRAISE PRAYERS:

PASTORS' ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

The following pastors celebrated anniversaries of their ordination into the Holy Ministry in **July** and received certificates. If you, or someone you know had an anniversary (20, 25, 30, 35, etc.) during the month of **July** 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.

Dr. Paul Bramstedt	July 20	55 Years
Rev. Leroy Eckert	July 25	45 Years
Rev. Vernon Lintvedt	July 8	20 Years
Rev. Mark Nebel	July 22	20 Years

Mission Festival At Faith, Godfrey

On August 8, Faith Lutheran Church in Godfrey will be celebrating a Mission Festival with guest speaker, Pastor LaBoube of Lutheran Bible Translators.

Pastor LaBoube will be the guest preacher for the 9:00 a.m. service and the adult Bible class at 10:30 a.m. and a Special Mission Festival Service at 2:00 p.m.

EVERYONE IS INVITED AND WELCOME TO THIS SPECIAL MISSION FESTIVAL
(At one or both services)

**Faith Lutheran Church
6809 Godfrey Road
Godfrey, IL.**

618-466-3833

Outreach Event at Our Redeemer, Greenville

Brian Young from Creation Instruction Association will be presenting his seminar on "**Creation**,"

Saturday, September 18 at 7:00 p.m.

At

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
1540 State Rt. 140
Greenville, IL. 62246



Our delegates and spouses that attended our Synodical Convention in Houston are pictured above. They are:

Front row, L to R: Mr. Dale Koester, Pastor Fritz Baue, Pastor Ralph Laufer, Pastor (soon –to-be president) Timothy Scharr, President Herb Mueller, Mrs. Janet Kumm, Pastor Michael Kumm, Mrs. Nita Neunaber, Mr. Neil Neunaber.

Middle row, L to R: Mrs. Anna Rowden, Pastor Mark Girardin, Mr. Dave Klein, Mr. Cliff Ascher, Mrs. Donna Ascher, Pastor Peter Kirby, Pastor Matthew Gehrke, Pastor Ted Mayes, Mr. Joe Kirby.

Back row, L to R: Mr. Mark Harris, Pastor Will Weedon, Mr. Walter Blotevogel, Mr. Wayne Muskopf, Mr. Roger Sprengel, Mr. Wayne Decker, Mrs. Sandy Bowers, Mr. Glenn Fesser, Mrs. Mary Fesser, Mr. Frank Glaub, Mrs. Donna Glaub, Pastor Mark Willig.

Also in attendance at the convention but not pictured were: Pastor Michael and Carol Walther and Pastor Timothy Mueller.



SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT GOLF SCRAMBLE

The annual Southern Illinois District golf scramble was held at Oakbrook Golf Club, Edwardsville, on Monday, June 28, 2010. Twenty-five golfers attended this event. The winning team shot a 69, two strokes below par which is 71. The winning foursome consisted of: Rev. Mike Walther (Good Shepherd-Collinsville), Rev. Scott Busacker (Trinity-Harvel), Mr. Kirk Mueller (Gift Planning Counselor for SID/Missouri), and Mr. Norman Rowold (Zion-Mascoutah). The closest to the pin on hole #2 and hole #14 was Wally Streuter. The winner of the longest put on hole was #9 was Rev. Mike Kumm and hole #16 was Dan Roth. Lunch was cooked for us by Thrivent Representatives Kevin Rust and Ken Koeber.

The following golfers played in the scramble. **Active and Retired Pastors:** Rev. Herb Mueller, Rev. Mike Walther, Rev. Mike Kumm, Rev. Jim Norton, Rev. Scott Busacker, and Rev. Alvin Kollmann. **Active and Retired Teachers:** Mark Sochowski, Roger Sprengel, Dan Roth, Jim Rohe, Bill Keel, Paul Walther, Dave Klein, Richard Crouse, Warren Frank, Kirk Mueller, Mark Belli, and Roger Wittman. **Laity:** Norm Rowold, Cliff Ascher, Tom Kopatz, Wally Streuter, Steve Henry, Maxine Goetting, and Ruth Waeltz.

In 2011 the golf scramble will be held on Monday, June 27.

Christ Academy—High School 2010 at Concordia Theological Seminary

For two weeks each summer high school-aged men of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are offered the opportunity to delve deeper into their faith, enjoy the seminary experience and make friendships that will last a lifetime while attending Christ Academy -High School. This year's event took place June 20-July 3 on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

“The growing eagerness of the youth of the church to learn Lutheran theology is given a wonderful complement in the Christ Academy experience at Concordia Theological Seminary,” commented Brian German, student director of Christ Academy-High School. This eagerness is demonstrated in the fact that this year participants came from all across the United States, Sweden and Indonesia.

The specific them for 2010 was “Evangelical Responses to Non-Christian Religions.” This Academy featured a day-trip to Chicago where participants visited the Baha’I Temple, a mosque and a Jewish synagogue. Students of Christ Academy 2010 explored how to present and defend the faith “*with gentleness and respect.*” (1 Peter 3: 15)



James Peterson from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Marion, Illinois attended this years Christ Academy.



On June 19, 2010 Rev. John C. Shank was ordained into the Holy Ministry and installed as Associate Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Ministries in Edwardsville, IL. Those participating in the service:

Left to Right: Rev. Terry O'Brien, St. Paul, Pana, IL.; Rev. Martin Springer, Senior Pastor at Trinity, Edwardsville; Rev. John Shank; Rev. Martin Schultz, St. Paul, Wood River; Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr, President of the Southern Illinois District; Rev. Mitchel Schuessler, St. Paul, Troy; and Rev. Dr. Gary Galen, Emeritus.



Grace Hassard (right) and Pastor Marty Springer, Trinity Lutheran Ministries in Edwardsville share a light moment as Grace prepares for her chemo-therapy treatment at St. Louis Children's Hospital. Grace, age 6, has undergone numerous surgeries and procedures to fight a malignant brain tumor; she is cancer free, thanks be to God! Grace is the daughter of Bart and Jerilyn and the little sister of Brylie.

**Rev. Timothy Scharr
To Be Installed
As the
President of the Southern Illinois District—LCMS**

**Sunday, August 29, 2010
3:00 P.M.
(light reception following the service)
At
Trinity Lutheran Church
680 West Walnut
Nashville, IL. 62263**

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & EVENTS IN AND FOR THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT 2010

AUGUST

- 5 Board of Congregational Support, 5:30 p.m.
- 5 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Day of Spiritual Renewal at Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School, 8:00 a.m.
- 11 Lutheran Older Adult - 6:30 p.m.
- 12 Youth Advisory Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
- 29 Installation of Rev. Tim Scharr as President of the Southern Illinois District
- 30 Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 2 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 6 Labor Day Holiday—District Office closed
- 9 Youth Advisory Committee Meeting, 2:00 p.m.
- 11 Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr. to be installed as 1st VP, LCMS, Rev. Michael Kumm will be Installed as a member of the Board of Directors of the LCMS, and Mr. Jeff Schwarz as a member of the Commission on Theology and Church Relations, at the Chapel of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
- 18 Mission Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 19 Service of Celebration and farewell for President Mueller, St. Paul, Columbia, IL.
- 20 Fund Advisory Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- 24-25 LWML Convention—Carlyle and Centralia

OCTOBER

- 4-5 SID Fall Pastor's Conference—Pere Marquette
- 7 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 9-11 Jr. High Youth Retreat at Camp Wartburg
- 21 SID LWML Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 30 SID Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER

- 3 Lutheran Older Adult Advisory Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Prison Ministry Workshop—Camp Wartburg
- 4 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Mission Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 19-21 LCEF Fall Leadership Conference-Nashville, TN
- 21 Unity Lutheran Elementary School Day
- 25 Thanksgiving Day—District Office Closed
- 26 District Office Closed

DECEMBER

- 2 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.