



The InSIDE Word

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A newsletter by and for Southern IL District-LCMS

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Presidential Activities July 2009

- 11 Individual Consultations
- 4 Meetings with Roger Sprengel
- 3 Congregational Meetings
- 7 District Meetings
- 5 Preaching/Speaking engagements
- 2 Installations
- 10 Days Vacation

The Mystery of Redemption

Some not so random thoughts late on a Thursday afternoon – after doing some digging of late both in Ephesians and in Revelation. There is a connection!

Revelation 21 describes “that moment” of which we have a pale reflection in many wedding services. Pastors see it all the time. The groom is waiting at the front of the church, the bridesmaids have all come down the aisle and then, out from the shadows, often on the arm of her father, steps the bride – totally “decked out” in her wedding dress, wonderfully “adorned for her husband.” It’s a great moment in most every wedding!

With far, far greater glory and splendor, there will be another moment like that at the end of time, when the Church, as a bride, is presented to Christ, her husband. “I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband...” (Revelation 21:2).

You and I will be there, part of the bride of Christ, His Church, by faith in Him. Ephesians talks about the same thing with these words: “Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:25-27). Paul has admonished husbands and wives to reflect in some small way the relationship of love and care between Christ and His Church. But in so doing he points to this far greater reality. Christ cleanses His Church. Christ washes her, prepares her. Christ presents the Church to Himself holy and without blemish.

Do you see yourself there, dear co-worker in Christ, dear believer? (Yes, men, we are part of the bride, along with the women, in this image!) You are washed. You are cleansed. You are made holy in Christ.

Oh, I know the Church often does not look like the bride of Christ. Believe me, I know. Sometimes she dresses herself in rags, yes, but no matter. She is still the bride of Christ. And this is part of what I mean by the mystery of redemption.

There was literally nothing at all in you or me that distinguished us or made us stand out from the rest of fallen humanity. All who are saved are saved purely by grace, by God’s undeserved favor in Christ. Dead in sin we were, following the course of this world, yet out of overflowing mercy and love, God made us alive together with Christ – “by grace you have been

saved – and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus” (Ephesians 2:5-7).

You have done nothing for this. It is all the gift of God, His work. We who were “far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ” (Ephesians 2:13). He gives access to the Father. He builds us into a holy temple in the Lord. He prepares us so that He can present us to Himself as His holy, precious bride.

And then, right there in the middle of Ephesians, is this beautiful prayer, first prayed by Paul for the Church in Ephesus, but recorded also for us, so I don’t think I’m stretching it too far to make it also my prayer for you: “For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, ¹⁶that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, ¹⁷ so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, ¹⁸may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3:14-19).

“To know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge...” What is that but to know that Christ loves YOU! That everything Christ has done for our salvation, He has done for YOU. Yes, you! Sinner though you are. His death proves it. His resurrection guarantees it.

There is “that moment” when Christ sees YOU as His spotless bride. It will be fulfilled, of course, in the consummation of all things at His return, but it also happens now, we believe, when you hear the Word, “Your sin is forgiven you, go in peace!” When you are reminded, “you are baptized!” When you, by the Spirit, respond to His holy invitation, “O taste and see that the Lord is good!” (Psalm 34:8) and so receive His body and blood.

Ah, there’s the mystery of redemption, the mystery revealed!

“Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.” (Ephesians 3:20-21).

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

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

OUR SAVIOR, CARM— Rev. Dean Spooner of Henderson, KY serving as Vacancy Pastor.

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

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

IMMANUEL, OKAWVILLE—Pastor Darwin Schrader serving as interim, engaged in call process.

ZION, PINCKNEYVILLE & TRINITY, CONANT—Entering Call Process.

ZION, STAUNTON— Has call list, Rev. Bill Gleason of Hamel, IL. is Vacancy Pastor.

SID PASTOR’S CALLS RECEIVED/ACCEPTED/RETURNED

Rev. Steve Sommerer of Messiah, Carlyle to Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Loveland, CO. (Received)

Rev. Timothy Mueller of St. John, New Minden/St. Luke, Covington to Good Shepherd, Midwest City, OK. (Received)

PRAYER REQUESTS



For the family of **Garry Ritter**, father of Pastor Jim Ritter, Emeritus, Collinsville; who was called home by our heavenly Father on July 16.

For **Rev. David Kollmeyer**, chaplain for Chester Mental Health and Menard Correctional Center, as he recovers from heart procedures at Missouri Baptist Hospital.

For **John Eggerding**, member of the SID Board of Directors, as he deals with the recent diagnosis of colon cancer.

For **Pastor Steve MacDougall**, (Trinity, Red Bud) as he recovers from surgery.

For **Pastor Tim Weiser**, Trinity Iuka, who has been diagnosed with colon cancer and has begun chemo treatments.

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

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

Active duty Chaplains from the SID: **Major 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, serving in the U.S. Army in Iraq.

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 Georgia.

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 for 6 months on the USS Albuquerque.

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) is now back at Ft. Campbell, KY.

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

A1C Steven Long (grandson of Pastor & Janet Kumm, Trinity, Millstadt) in now serving in the Air Force in Lake Hill, England.

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

PRAISE REPORTS:

A prayer of thanksgiving and praise for the marriage of Rev. Larry Meinzen and Peggy Sachtleben.

Praise God for Navy Chaplain Gregory Todd who has received his D. Min. from Gordon Conwell Seminary and has been promoted to Captain in the Navy.

Praise God for Ezra Sommerer, born on July 13 to Pastor Steve and Melanie Sommerer of Messiah, Carlyle.

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.

Rev. Rueben Ankney	20 Years	July 2, 2009
Rev. Brian Feicho	25 Years	July 1, 2009
Rev Dr. Al Kollmann	55 Years	July 25, 2009
Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr.	30 Years	July 1, 2009
Rev. Timothy Scharr	25 Years	July 22, 2009
Rev. Gregory Schultz	20 Years	July 2, 2009
Rev. Antonin Troup	25 Years	July 15, 2009
Rev. Michael Walther	25 Years	July 1, 2009

Schools Calling for Teachers/Administrators

Godfrey, Faith	EC Director/DCE
Hoffman, Trinity	Teacher, grades 1/2 Offered contract to Mrs. Karen Belli, Hoffman, IL.
Murphysboro, Immanuel	Teacher—grades 5/6 Called Tim Hansen of Minnesota
Immanuel, Okawville	Teacher—grades 7/8
Staunton, Zion	Principal Contracted Mary Ann Mitteis –upper grade teacher Contracted Sheila Langendorf—upper grade teacher (Declined)
Troy, St. Paul	Teacher, grades 7/8

S.I.D. RETIRED PASTORS, TEACHERS & CHURCH WORKERS

You Are Invited

To join other retired pastors, teachers and church workers of the district for a nice lunch and good fellowship!

Thursday, September 17, 2009
Roland Barkau Memorial Golf Course and Country Club
1500 N. Waterworks Road
Okawville, IL

We plan to meet in the country club “Banquet Room” about 11:00 a.m., have lunch about 11:30 a.m. and visit until about 2:00 p.m. sharing with old and new friends, our activities and trips taken during this last year. Please contact Rev. C. F. Campbell—(618) 826-3605 with your RSVP as soon as possible. The price of the meal is \$15.75

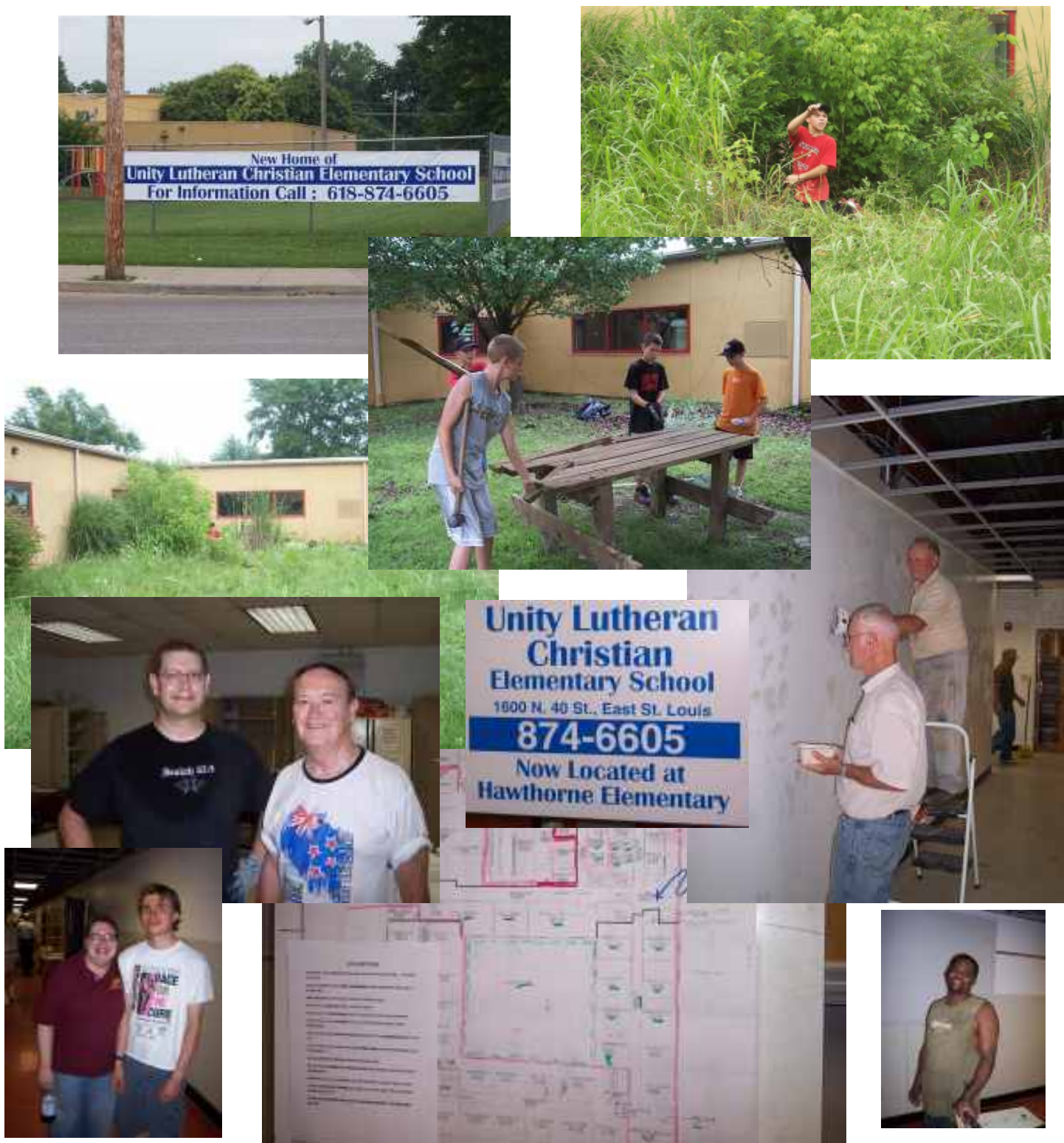
Installation of Scott Busacker At Trinity Lutheran Church Harvel, Illinois



Trinity Lutheran Church, Harvel, Illinois, installed Rev. Scott Busacker, a 2009 graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, as their pastor on Sunday, June 28. He had been ordained at his home congregation in Minnesota earlier in June. President Herbert Mueller preached for the service and resided for the installation of Rev. Busacker.

Participating pastors included the following (L-R): Pastor Walter Byerley (EM) of Zion, Farmersville, Pastor Keith GeRue of Trinity, Girard (Circuit Counselor), Pastor James Norton of St. Paul, Nokomis (Vacancy Pastor), Pastor Scott Busacker, Pastor William Gleason, Vacancy Pastor of Zion, Staunton, Pres. Mueller, and Pastor Rodney Blomquist of Trinity, Taylorville, Illinois.

After the service, a wonderful meal was served by the members of Trinity.



Look for more pictures on our webpage at: www.sidlcms.org, as the work progresses with the new location of **Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School** at 40th Street and Caseyville Avenue in East St. Louis.

Rev. Michael Walther Celebrates 25th Anniversary of Ordination



On June 28, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, IL., celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the Ordination to the Holy Ministry for its Senior Pastor, Rev. Michael P. Walther. Ordained on July 1, 1984 at St. John's Lutheran Church, Beemer, Nebraska, Pastor Walther has served since 1991 at Good Shepherd. Pictured here are (L-R) SID President Herbert Mueller, Mrs. Carol Walther, Pastor Michael Walther and Pastor Paul Hemenway, associate Pastor at Good Shepherd. President Mueller preached for the celebration services on the theme, "Rejoicing the Lord's Faithfulness," and the congregation presented Pastor and Carol Walther with a special gift and a reception after all the services. God be praised for faithful pastors!

Emmaus, Dorsey Celebrating 150th Anniversary



Emmaus, Dorsey (Pastor George Gude) has been celebrating their 150th Anniversary all year long by asking former field education students to come back and preach. Sunday, July 12, the preacher was Pastor William Mueller of Suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Yes, he is the brother of both Pastor Timothy Mueller of New Minden in our district and President Herb Mueller. Pictured here are (left to right) Vicar Steven Frentz of Emmaus; Rev. Dr. George Gude, Pastor of Emmaus, and Rev. William Mueller.

Homemade Ice Cream

As part of their 150th Anniversary, Emmaus, Dorsey, had an old-fashioned ice cream social after the worship service on July 12 with homemade ice cream. Pictured are the ice cream makers early Sunday morning from left to right, Eugene Bertels, Tom Boxdorfer, Jerry Dean and Iona Bertels. On the right is Mrs. Faith Mueller, visiting that day with President Mueller, looking for a taste of that ice cream.



**Installation of
Rev. Russell D. Johnson
(Associate Pastor/Principal)
Trinity Lutheran Church,
Nashville, IL.**



On July 12, 2009, Trinity Lutheran Church and Trinity-St. John Lutheran School at Nashville, Illinois installed Rev. Russell Johnson as associate Pastor of Trinity and Principal of Trinity-St. John Lutheran School. Participants in the service included (front, kneeling): Pastor Timothy Scharr, Senior Pastor of Trinity, Nashville; Pastor Rich Futrell, Shepherd of the Hills, Kimberling City, Missouri (former vicar at Trinity); Back row (left to right): Pastor Stephen Krenz, Trinity, Hoffman; Vicar Dr. John Eyer, Trinity, Nashville; Pastor Timothy Mueller, St. John's and St. Luke's, New Minden and Covington, IL. (preacher for the service and Circuit Counselor); Rev. Johnson; Pastor Darwin Schrader; interim pastor at Immanuel, Okawville; Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, President of the Southern Illinois District; Pastor Arthur Eichhorn, St. Salvator and St. Peter's, Venedy and New Memphis, IL.

A reception was held following the service.

District Pastoral Conference

Rend Lake Resort, near Ina, Illinois
October 5-7 (noon to noon), 2009

Details will be published soon, but mark your calendars now!

Topic: What is the role of the Church in the public square?
How do Christians speak truth to society and culture?
How do Christians speak truth to government?
What does this all have to do with the proclamation of the Gospel?

Tentative speakers include Congressman John Shimkus (R), member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Collinsville; Dr. David Adams, Professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis; Bishop Keith Ackerman, retiring Episcopal Bishop of the Quincy Diocese.

**Perry County Lutheran Chorale of Missouri
Invite you to attend a FREE Concert
Of
New and Old Sacred music
At
Christ Lutheran Church in Jacob, Illinois
(184 West Jacob Road)
On
Sunday, August 30, 2009
From
3:00—4:00 p.m.**

A free will offering will be collected following the concert to help pay for repairing the church roof and rebuilding the school gym following the May 8th storm. A new steel gym has already been ordered and repairs are well under way. The insurance company has been a big help, but miscellaneous expenses have been incurred. Light snacks will follow the concert. If you have any questions, please contact Tyson Wunderlich at (617) 943-7093 of the chorale or Pastor Mike Kettner at 618-763-4663.

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

AUGUST

- 3 Lutheran Older Adult Retreat Committee, 11:00 a.m.
- 6 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 Moving Day at Unity, E. St. Louis
- 11 Day of Spiritual Renewal—Metro East Lutheran High School, begins at 8:30 a.m.
- 27 Youth Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the District Office
- 30 Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School Dedication, 2:00 p.m.
- 31 Board of Spiritual Care & Supervision, 9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 3 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Mission Staff Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Youth Gathering Informational Meeting at Trinity, Edwardsville, 6:30 p.m.
- 11 CID/SID Staff Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 17 Board of Congregational Support, 5:30 p.m.
- 19 Board of Missions, 9:00 a.m.
- 24 Youth Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the District Office
- 26 Youth Gathering Informational Meeting at Zion, Belleville, 9:30 a.m.

OCTOBER

- 1-2 S.I.D./C.I.D. Teacher's Conference—Belleville/O'Fallon, Il.
- 1 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 5-7 Pastor's Fall Conference at Rend Lake Resort; Ina, Il.
- 8 Finance Committee, 5:15 p.m.
- 10-12 Junior H.S. Youth Gathering—Camp Wartburg
- 15 LWML District Board of Directors, 9:30 a.m.
- 22 Youth Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the District Office
- 24 SID Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.

NOVEMBER

- 2 Board of Spiritual Care & Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 4 Mission Staff Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 5 SID Prison Ministry Workshop at Camp Wartburg, 8:45 a.m.– 2:45 p.m.
- 5 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 14 Board of Missions, 9:00 a.m.
- 26 Thanksgiving Day
- 27 SID Office closed

DECEMBER

No meetings scheduled during December at this time.....