



# The InSIDE Word

[www.sidlcms.org](http://www.sidlcms.org)

A newsletter by and for Southern IL District-LCMS

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## Presidential Activities November 2009

- 9 Individual Consultations
- 2 Meetings with Roger Sprengel
- 3 Congregational Meetings
- 11 District Meetings
- 3 Preaching/Speaking engagements
- 1 Installation
- 3 Days COP
- 3 Days LCEF Conference
- 4 Days travel

## Unto You... And You... And You...

“Unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11).

Unto you! That means YOU are included. That’s right, pastor, teacher, church worker. Unto you, because you need a Savior just like the rest of the world, just as I need a Savior. You are not the Savior, but the Lord Jesus was born to be your Savior and mine.

Sometimes I fear, however, you and I begin to act as though Christ is not really for us, but for others only, those who really need a Savior. Of course, we never say that. But we can act that way. It happens, for instance, when we beat ourselves up for our mistakes and failings in ministry, instead of confessing them and trusting God to forgive for the sake of Jesus. It happens when we think it all depends on us and that if we mess up in some way, all will be lost. No, dear pastor, dear teacher, deaconess or DCE, Christ was born for YOU, too. The Church lives by grace, grace also for church workers, as the catechism says, “In which Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all sins to me and all believers...” So go and live and work in the grace of God. Do you best, but trust the Savior born for you.

We also forget Christ was born for us when we point to the good things that have happened in our congregation or school and begin to take credit for them ourselves. “I accomplished this because I worked hard,” we say, or, “I did the right thing: that’s why this event went well” – whatever. Yes, you may have worked hard, but it is also still true that “except the Lord build the house, those who build it labor in vain” (Psalm 127:1). Be careful. If what you think is your accomplishment goes bad, self-righteousness may quickly turn into despair. No, Christ was born to be YOUR Savior, dear pastor, your Savior even from your own misplaced trust or confidence.

This truly is “good news of a great joy that will be for all the people” (Luke 2:10). Unto you is born a Savior! Unto you is born the one who will be “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1:29). Born for us, He humbled Himself, became obedient even to death on a cross, all to carry and to blot out the sins of the whole world. But that includes also YOUR sins. Preacher and

teacher, hear again and again the promise that He has come to take away your sins. Then you will be filled with the Spirit to proclaim and teach, with the deep joy of sins forgiven, of Him who died and rose for you.

Then you will help your people, help your students, see again Christ born also for THEM. And not only for them, but for ALL the people around them. As the angels sang, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased” (Luke 2:14). “On earth, peace...” they sang. When the angel announced “unto you,” the “you” is plural. It includes not only you individually, but all the people around you – simply, all the people.

Now our great privilege as forgiven people, as the rescued and redeemed children of God, as those called to preach and teach, is to be the angel and messenger of God for others. We get to tell them! We get to tell people who may never have really heard it before, “Unto you is born this day a Savior!” So many have not heard, at least not at a time and circumstance when they were ready to hear. So many have wandered from Him. You go tell them! You lead your people to invite them, your children to tell them. Christ was born for YOU, and for you, and for you... Believe you me, it may be the best Christmas ever, for them AND for you!

May God grant you His peace in Christ, born for you and for all!

Merry Christmas!

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## CALLING CONGREGATIONS

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**TRINITY, ANNA**— Rev. Wade Butler of Evansville, IN serving as Vacancy Pastor.

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

**ST. PETER, CAMPBELL HILL**—Will begin call process soon.

**OUR SAVIOR, CARM**— Called Rev. Dean Spooner of Henderson, KY. (Received and Accepted.

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

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

**IMMANUEL, OKAWVILLE**—Pastor Darwin Schrader serving as interim pastor.

**ZION, PINCKNEYVILLE & TRINITY, CONANT**—Called Rev. Randall Moritz, Wood Lake, MN.  
(Received and Accepted)

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## SID PASTOR’S CALLS RECEIVED/ACCEPTED/RETURNED

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**Rev. Gregory J. Schultz**, St. Peter, Campbell Hill to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, North Tonawanda, NY.  
(Received and Accepted.)

## PRAYER REQUESTS ....



For **Pastor Gary Galen**, emeritus, for recurring problems with pneumonia.

For **Pastor Elmer Schwartzkopf**, emeritus, as he is dealing with health concerns.

For **Marilyn Hebenstreit**, sister to Vicki Nicely (our district archivist), dealing with the return of cancer and undergoing more tests.

For **Paula Nelson**, principal at Trinity, Edwardsville, as she undergoes radiology and chemo treatments.

For the family of **Rev. Walter Schwane**, emeritus, who was called to glory on 11/06/2009.

For **Andy Kollmeyer**, son of Rev. David Kollmeyer, who has Acute Myelogenic Leukemia and undergoing chemo.

For **John Eggerding**, member of the SID Board of Directors, as he recovers from surgery.

For **Pastor Tim Weiser**, Trinity Iuka, as he continues with his cancer treatments.

For the **Mission Efforts** going on in Saline County, 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) has returned with the USS Albuquerque and is now in San Diego.

**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) is now serving at Scott AFB, IL.

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

Where can I find:

A copy of the 2009/2010 databook?

Registrations for conferences and other events?

A current copy of the District Salary Guidelines?

Current news and events?

At:

**[www.sidlms.org](http://www.sidlms.org)**

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## PASTORS' ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

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

### Three Special Retreats!

Grace Place Lutheran Retreats is pleased to announce three special retreats for pastors and teachers and their spouses for 2010. We encourage you to access these continuing education and spiritual information retreats on wellness. Please register at [www.graceplaceretreats.org](http://www.graceplaceretreats.org) or call 314-842-3077.

1. Grace Place in the Rockies: June 21-25, 2010. Stonebridge Inn Snowmass at Aspen, Colorado. Leaders: Dr. and Mrs. John Eckrich and Dr. David and Kathy Ludwig. Open to all pastors, teachers, and spouses. Limited to 15 couples. Cost \$360 per couple.
2. Grace Place in Wisconsin: July 26-30, 2010. Heartwood Conference Center, Trego, Wisconsin. Leaders: Dr. and Mrs. John Eckrich and Dr. David and Kathy Ludwig. Open to all pastors, teachers, and spouses. Limited to 25 couples. Cost: Thrivent member—\$225 per couple; Non-member—\$360 per couple.
3. Grace Place for Single Church Workers: September 1-5, 2010. Retreat House at St. Benedict's Trappist Monastery, Snowmass, Colorado. Leaders: Dr. John Eckrich & Rev. Dr. Mel and Dr. Mary Jacob. Limited to 21 singles. Cost \$360 per person

Yours in Christ Jesus,

John D. Eckrich, MD  
Executive Director  
Grace Place Lutheran Retreats  
8460 Watson Road, Ste. 136  
St. Louis, MO. 63119  
Office: 314-842-3077  
[jeckrich@graceplaceretreats.org](mailto:jeckrich@graceplaceretreats.org)



# 2010 Men's Retreat

**Connect your men's group to a getaway retreat where everything is planned...you just have to show up. The food will be hearty. God's Word will be especially relevant to you. If you dare, free activities will make you feel like an adventurous kid again. Your group will have the time to meet and plan the upcoming year, and work together on a camp service project. Make it a weekend for men!**

**Be Strong...and of  
Good Courage**

**January 15-16  
Camp Wartburg, Waterloo, IL  
All Men or Men's Groups are Invited!  
Cost per person: \$35.00**

**God's Word • Fellowship  
• "Manly" Activities • Campfire  
Time for your group to meet and plan  
Response coupon on next page.**

## Be Strong and of Good Courage

This retreat is for men. In the first chapter of Joshua, “Be strong and of good courage” is emphasized four times. In today’s world, what does it take to be a man AND to be a Christian? What are the challenges? What are the natural connections? This weekend is an opportunity to explore the topic a bit, but also to try your hand at the adventurous activities your kids do here at camp (and you always wanted to try!). Apply your muscles to a servant project, enjoy hearty meals and fellowship, and give yourself a break that will speak to your head, your heart, your stomach and your hands.

Bring your men’s group with you and cut out some time for planning, building camaraderie and simply getting away from it all.

<h3>Men’s Retreat January 15-16, 2010</h3>	<b>Saturday, January 16</b>	
	8:00am	Breakfast
	8:45	Bible Study
	9:30am	“Manly Adventure” (caving, rock climbing or zip line)
	Noon	Lunch
	12:45pm	Your group meets together
	2:00	Servant project at Camp Clean up
	4:30	Bible Study
	5:30	Evening Meal
	6:30	Closing Worship – Sending
	7:00pm	Depart Camp Wartburg
	<b>Friday, January 15</b>	
6:30pm	Registration	
7:00	Intros & Ice Breakers	
7:30	Opening Devotions	
8:15	Keynote Speaker	
9:00pm	Snacks, campfire, fellowship	

Return this coupon, along with a check payable to Camp Wartburg by January 8, 2010.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Church \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of people registered \_\_\_\_\_

**For more information, contact Camp Wartburg at 618-939-7715, or email us at [wartburg@htc.net](mailto:wartburg@htc.net).**

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*Southern Illinois District*  
**Pastor/Elder Workshop**

*Topic:*

*“Partners in the Gospel:  
The Identity and Work of Pastors  
and Elders”*

- 1. The Church’s Treasures**
- 2. The Church’s Challenges**
- 3. The Church’s Opportunities**

*Presenter:*

**Dr. Harold Senkbeil**

(formerly Professor at Concordia, Fort Wayne; now Executive Director of  
DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel)

*Date:*

**Sunday, January 31, 2010**

*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: \$20.00 registration fee per congregation  
Bring as many people as you like*

# Registration Form

Pastor/Elder Workshop:  
“Partners in the Gospel:  
The Identity and Work of Pastors and Elders”

**Dr. Harold Senkbeil, Presenter**

## Sunday, January 31, 2010

*Congregation:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Pastor(s):* \_\_\_\_\_

*We will bring \_\_\_\_\_ Elders (approximate).*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*We will attend at the following location:*

\_\_\_\_\_ 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

\_\_\_\_\_ *Enclosed is our \$20.00 per congregation registration fee.*

*Please return this registration form with a check for \$20.00 made out to the Southern Illinois District Office (2408 Lebanon, Belleville, IL 62221) indicating how many will attend by January 21, 2010. Thank you.*

*Sponsored by the District Office in Cooperation with the Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision*

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

### DECEMBER

- 3 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 7 Lutheran Older Adult Retreat Committee meeting, 10:00 a.m.
- 10 Stewardship Task Force, 4:30 p.m.

## 2010

### JANUARY

- 5 Prison Ministry Mission Society, 6:00 p.m.
- 7 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11-13 Theological Convocation on Worship, at Concordia Lutheran Church, Kirkwood, MO.
- 14 Youth Advisory Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 21 LWML Board of Directors, 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Finance Committee Meeting, 5:15 p.m.
- 22 SID Administrators Conference—Roland Barkau Golf Course, Okawville, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
- 22 District Office and Personnel Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- 25 District Presidium, 3:00 p.m.
- 25 Fund Advisory Committee, 4:30 p.
- 29-30 Youth Leader Training at Camp Wartburg
- 30 SID Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.
- 31 Pastor/Elder Workshop, St. Paul, Hamel -2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.  
Trinity, Nashville—7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.

### FEBRUARY

- 1 Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 3 Lutheran Older Adult Advisory Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 4 Board of Congregational Support, 5:30 p.m.
- 4 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 17 Ash Wednesday
- 19-20 Regional Convention Delegate Caucus, St. Louis, MO.

### MARCH

- 4 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 6 Day of Prayer and Bible Study, St. Paul, Columbia
- 7-13 National Lutheran Schools Week

### APRIL

- 1 Maundy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 EASTER
- 15 SID LWML Board of Directors, 9:30 a.m.
- 17 SID Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.