



# The InSIDE Word

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

A newsletter by and for Southern IL District-LCMS

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Msg. from our District President	1
Updates on Calling Congregations	2
Prayer Requests	3
Pastor's Anniversaries Schools Calling	4
Rikli Ordination	5
UNITY call to mission work	6
Report from Golf Scramble	7
Invitation for retired church workers	8
Day of Spiritual Renewal	9
Registration Form for Day of Spiritual Renewal	10
Events/Schedules in the District	11

## Presidential Activities June 2009

- 11 Individual Consultations
- 2 Meetings with Roger Sprengel
- 4 Congregational Meetings
- 7 District Meetings
- 7 Preaching/Speaking engagements
- 1 Synodical Meetings
- 1 Days Vacation
- 1 Ordination
- 1 Installation
- 6 Presidential Visits
- 1 District Golf Scramble

## Great Is Thy Faithfulness...

...says the refrain of the popular hymn: *"Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!"* (LSB 809).

The phrase, of course, is based on this passage from the Lamentations of Jeremiah: *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. 'The Lord is my portion,' says my soul, 'therefore I will hope in Him.' The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord."* (Lamentations 3:22-26).

If you know the situation in Lamentations, in some ways this passage seems way out of place in a book of laments and funeral dirges the Spirit led the prophet Jeremiah to write after the fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC, a book that begins: *"How lonely sits the city that was full of people! How like a widow she has become, she who was great among the nations! She who was a princess among the provinces has become a slave. She weeps bitterly in the night..."* (Lamentations 1:1-2).

The Lord was punishing His people Israel for their unfaithfulness. They had gone after other gods and refused to repent, so the Lord was afflicting them and allowing them to be taken into exile, all so that they would turn to Him and again trust His promise.

For a moment, just imagine that you are Jeremiah. You are to speak whatever the Lord gives you. For years the Lord has revealed to you that the temple will be destroyed and the people carried off into exile. All the other so-called prophets are proclaiming peace, but the Lord has given you word of disaster to come. Kings try to silence you, friends desert you, they throw you into a cistern, but you have been given the Word of the Lord. You cannot keep it in.

Now everything you have prophesied has come true – the city is destroyed, the people carried off into exile. It would be tempting, would it not, to say, "I told you so!"? Instead, Jeremiah laments: *"I am the man who has seen affliction under the rod of His wrath; He has driven and brought me into darkness without any light; surely against me He turns His hand again and again the whole day long"* (Lamentations 3:1-3).

But through it all, the Lord always brings Jeremiah back to His promises to His people. Jeremiah says to the Lord, *"Remember my affliction and my wanderings, the wormwood and the gall! My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me. **But this I call to mind and therefore have***

**hope:** *The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:19-23). Those who trust in the Lord are to be assured: “The Lord will not cast off forever, but, though He cause grief, He will have compassion according to the abundance of His steadfast love...” (Lamentations 3:31-32).*

Truly, the Lord’s great faithfulness had worked in Jeremiah great faith in the Lord. St. Paul was possessed of the same great faith when he wrote to Timothy: *“The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with Him, we will also live with Him; if we endure, we will also reign with Him; if we deny Him, He also will deny us; if we are faithless, He remains faithful – for He cannot deny Himself” (2 Timothy 2:11-13).*

He cannot deny Himself. He has given His one and only Son into death for us. He has raised Him from the dead, and with Him He has raised us, all who are baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus. His mercies, His promises never come to an end.

He cannot deny Himself. He has given His one and only Son into death for us. He has raised Him from the dead, and with Him He has raised us, all who are baptized into the death and resurrection of Jesus. His mercies, His promises never come to an end for you – they are new every morning. Great is the Lord’s faithfulness for you!

Trust that, believe that, hang onto that promise! It’s also how the Lord will keep you faithful, just as He kept Jeremiah, just as He kept St. Paul. For it’s not our faithfulness that lasts, but His. It’s not our promise that counts, but His. It’s not our work that remains, but His. And this is why St. Paul also wrote: *“Therefore my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain” (1 Corinthians 15:58).*

Enjoy the summer! In the faithfulness of the Lord!

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## CALLING CONGREGATIONS

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**ZION, BETHALTO**—Entering self study process to prepare to call Senior Pastor

**OUR SAVIOR, CARM**— Entering Call process, 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.

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

**ZION, STAUNTON**– Entering Call process, Rev. Bill Gleason of Hamel, IL. is Vacancy Pastor.

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

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## PRAYER REQUESTS ....



For the family of **Harold Kern**, father of Pastor David Kern, St. Paul, West Frankfort, who was called home to be with our heavenly father on June 15.

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

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 recently has been diagnosed with colon cancer and is recovering at home following surgery.

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**, **CDR Gregory N. Todd**, and **LT. COL. David Wilshek**.

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:

**Pastor Gary Galen** is offering a prayer of thanksgiving for his 38 years in the ministry, 25 of those years have been in the Southern Illinois District, and now as he enters into retirement, he asks for continued blessings.

## PASTORS' ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

The following pastors celebrated anniversaries of their ordination into the Holy Ministry in **June** and received certificates. If you, or someone you know had an anniversary (20, 25, 30, 35, etc.) during the month of **June** 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. Willard Meyer	40 Years	June 22, 2009
Rev. James Norton	30 Years	June 10, 2009
Rev. Mark Wiesner	25 years	June 24, 2009

### Schools Calling for Teachers/Administrators

Bethalto, Zion	Early Childhood Director, Called Annalisa Roggow of Woodruff, S.C. (Accepted)
Collinsville, Good Shepherd	Teachers, Grades 1 and 7 designated Jasmine and Justine Biermann (CUW) – (Accepted)
Columbia, St. Paul	Called Sarah Schultz, Grade 8 (Accepted)
Edwardsville-MELHS	E.C. Director (part-time) Contracted Becky Boerner, (Accepted)
Evansville, Christ Our Savior LHS	Designated Zachary Schnare (Concordia, Seward) to teach Art Administrator—Called Glenn Rollins of Minneapolis, MN (Declined)
Godfrey, Faith	EC Director/DCE
Hamel, Trinity/St. Paul	Teacher, grade 1-2, Designated Christina Warnier of Seward
Hoffman, Trinity	Principal/Teacher—Called Steven Burger, of Hartland, MI. (Accepted)
Jacob, Christ	Principal/Teacher—Called Daniel Burk of California (Declined)
Murphysboro, Immanuel	Teacher—grades 5/6
Nashville, Trinity/St. John	Associate Pastor/Principal—COP placed Russell Johnson, (Accepted)
Prairietown, St. Peter	Principal / Teacher grades 6-8— Contracted Joy Roberson of Edwardsville (Accepted)
St. John, Red Bud	Teacher, grades 3-5—Called Sharon Zilm of Godfrey, IL. (Accepted)
Staunton, Zion	Child Care Director
Steelville, St. Mark	3 Vacancies (new listing)
Troy, St. Paul	Principal / Teacher—Called Rebecca Rowe of Florida, (Accepted)
Unity, East St. Louis	Teacher, grades 7/8
	Teacher , grade 5—Contracted Lillie Hardieway (Accepted)
	Teacher, grade 6 —Called Mark Belli, of Trinity, Hoffman, (Accepted)

**Ordination of Richard Lee Rikli  
At  
St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Hamel, Illinois**



Pictured left to right—back row: Rev. Brian Holle, Messiah, Lebanon; Rev. Kirk Clayton, Zion, Mascoutah; Rev. Jerry Hays, Concordia, Kirkwood, Mo.

Left to right—front row: President Herbert C. Mueller, Jr., Southern Illinois District; Johnathan Clayton, Crucifer; Richard Rikli, Ordained; Rev. William Weedon, St. Paul, Hamel; Rev. Dr. Rick Marrs, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Richard Rikli had served from 1996-2006 as principal of Trinity/St. Paul Lutheran School, Hamel/Worden, IL. In the Southern Illinois District. He was ordained at St. Paul, Hamel, June 20th and will be installed as pastor of Immanuel, Linn, Kansas on June 27, where he had also served his vicarage.



# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! FOR UNITY LUTHERAN!

ALL MEMBERS OF ALL SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT CONGREGATIONS  
ARE INVITED TO HELP WITH THE

## HAWTHORNE SCHOOL CLEAN UP!

WE NEED AS MANY AS POSSIBLE TO HELP GET THE BUILDING READY  
FOR OUR DISTRICT MISSION SCHOOL.

### MAJOR WORK DAYS

July 11

July 18

July 25

August 1

### MOVING DAY

August 8

We need lots of painters, cleaners, and movers.  
If you can only come during the week, that's ok, too!

Call Paul Miller to let us know when you're coming and  
how many you're bringing.

It may look like painting, cleaning, and moving,  
but it's really MISSION WORK!

Available: Lowry (home model) organ with double keyboard and full foot pedals. For more information please call Karen at 288-5106. Good for a church start up.....

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## Report on District Golf Scramble

Who would expect June 22 to be 94 degrees and very humid? But that is what twenty-five golfers put up with as we held our Southern Illinois District Golf Scramble at Oakbrook Golf Club in Edwardsville. The one major change for our best ball scramble was that it was decided to hold just one SID scramble instead of two as we have done in the past and the attendance seemed to indicate that this was a good decision.

The winning team consist of Teacher Mark Belli (Unity-East St. Louis), Josh Schelp-youngest son of Teacher/Principal Keith Schelp (St. Peter-Prairietown), Rev. Mike Walther (Good Shepherd-Collinsville), and Rev. Herb Mueller (President SID). They shot a 67 which was four under par.

Mark Belli also won the closest to the pin on hole number two. Ruth Waeltz (lay member of the Board of Directors) won the closest to the pin on hole number fourteen. The longest putt on hole number sixteen was won by Retired Teacher Jim Rohe who taught at Zion-Bethalto.

Lunch (brats, chips, drink) was provided by Wally Streuter, Kevin Rust, and Ken Koeber, all Thrivent Financial Representatives. Each player received a sleeve of three golf balls, compliments of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund of the Southern Illinois District.

The following golfers participated in this district scramble.

Pastors (both active and retired): Rev. Herb Mueller, Rev. Mike Kumm, Rev. Elmer Schwartzkopf, Rev. Les Mitkos, Rev. Mark Nebel, Rev. Mike Walther, Rev. Paul Bramstedt, and Rev. Dr. Alvin Kollmann.

Teachers (both active and retired): Mark Sochowski, Bob Mayhew, Roger Sprengel, Dan Roth, Keith Schelp, Bob Dosien, Richard Krause, Dave Klein, Chip Harms, Mark Belli, Roger Wittmann, and Warren Frank.

SID Board Members: Ruth Waeltz, Paul Walther

Family Members of Golfers: Josh Schelp, Janet Kumm

Guest: Bill Keel

The tentative date for the 2010 golf scramble is Monday, June 21.

## **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



**Metro East Lutheran High School** baseball team are shown here receiving their second place trophy from State. Good job team!

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## The 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Southern Illinois District Day of Spiritual Renewal for Professional Workers and Spouses.

**DATE:** Tuesday, August 11, 2009

**PLACE:** Metro-East Lutheran High School  
6305 Center Grove Road  
Edwardsville, IL 62025

**PROGRAM:** Bible Study on Philippians Chapter 1 by Rev. John Lukomski  
(The Theme for our SID/CID Teachers' Conference in October is "UNDER CONSTRUCTION" based on Philippians 1:6. Pastor Lukomski will help us focus on this thought in context.

After lunch, A Panel of District Pastors and Teachers will focus on "The Missionary Opportunities of Our Schools". How can pastor, principal, teacher and church / school work together to utilize our schools as tools for mission opportunities and work together to enable His church to grow?!

Please note: Workers should come prepared to participate and share in this discussion (practical ideas, examples, and challenges)!

**TIME:** **TENTATIVE SCHEDULE**

8:30-9:00 am	Registration
9:00-10:15 am	Worship with Communion
10:15-10:30 am	Welcome/Announcements
10:30-11:30 am	Bible Study (Bring Bibles!)
11:30-12:30 pm	LUNCH
12:30- 2:00 pm	Panel Discussion
2:00 - 2:15 pm	Closing Announcements
2:15 - 2:30 pm	Closing Devotions and Dismissal

**REGISTRATION FEE:** \$12.00 per person covers refreshments, lunch, and program.  
Retired Workers - \$8.00.

**REGISTRATION FORM ON NEXT PAGE**

**2009 REGISTRATION FORM**  
**DAY OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL**  
**PROFESSIONAL WORKERS and SPOUSES**  
**AUGUST 11, 2009**  
**Metro-East Lutheran High School, Edwardsville**

**CHURCH / SCHOOL** \_\_\_\_\_

**LOCATION** \_\_\_\_\_ **CITY** \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_ I have enclosed the \$12.00 fee per person. Make check out to the **Southern Illinois District**. The cost for a Retired Worker is \$8.00 per person.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will pay the \$12.00 (or \$8.00for Retired Workers) when I arrive.

Registration forms are due in the District Office by **August 4, 2009**. Mail the Registration form and check to the Southern Illinois District, 2408 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221.

**NAMES OF PARTICIPANTS**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
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- 10.
- 11.
- 12.

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

### JULY

- 2 Office & Personnel Committee Meeting, 1:00 p.m.
- 2 Finance Committee Meeting, 3:00 p.m.
- 2 Board of Congregational Support—5:30 p.m.
- 2 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 LWML District Board of Directors. 9:30 a.m.
- 25 SID Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.

### AUGUST

- 6 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 Day of Spiritual Renewal—Metro East Lutheran High School —**Note change of date!**
- 24 Board of Spiritual Care & Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 27 Youth Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the District Office

### SEPTEMBER

- 3 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 CID/SID Staff Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 19 Board of Missions, 9:00 a.m.
- 24 Youth Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the District Office

### 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
- 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.
- 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