



The InSIDE Word

www.sidlcms.org

A newsletter by and for Southern IL District-LCMS

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Presidential Activities February 2010

- 3 Preaching Engagements
- 2 Presentations to Black Ministry
Caucus
- 1 Sunday Presiding for Holy
Communion at Unity
- 4 Circuit Meetings
 - 1 Congregational Meeting
 - 8 District Meetings
 - 3 Meetings with Roger Sprengel
 - 9 Individual Consultations
 - 1 District Interview
 - 2 Hospital Calls
 - 5 Days COP and Synod Meetings
 - 2 Days travel

What Does It Mean To Be Faithful?

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, the pastors and teachers, DCEs and Deaconesses of the Southern Illinois District – what does it mean to be faithful? Now there's a provocative question! Something District Presidents talk about a lot, both for ourselves and for you. How do we help one another be faithful? Let's spend a little time this Lenten season of repentance considering these questions.

What makes a faithful pastor? A faithful teacher? Well, of course, we are called to be faithful to God's Word and to the confessions of our church, which are drawn from God's Word. But why? What's the deal? The promises we make at ordination or commissioning center us in Christ and His Gospel. We take the confessions of our church and make them our own.

But more than that, we promise that we will conform all our preaching, teaching and service to these confessions. Again, why? For the sake of the people, we want, as the Scripture says, "to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" (1 Corinthians 2:2).

That's why pastors promise faithfully to instruct both young and old in Christian teaching, to forgive the sins of those who repent and never to divulge the sins confessed to them. Pastors promise to minister faithfully to the sick and the dying, demonstrating to the people a constant and ready ministry centered in the Gospel, as well as admonishing the people to holy living. What is more, they promise to be diligent in prayer for the people they serve, diligent in the study of Scripture and the confessions for them, and to adorn the Gospel with a holy life (see LSB Agenda).

Teachers and DCSs make similar promises to grow in love for those they serve, strive for excellence in skills and to adorn the Gospel with a holy life.

But once more, why? Why do we make these promises? And what do they mean, really?

It's all about the people. It's all about connecting people to Jesus. It's all about bringing the Word of God, law and Gospel, into the lives of people. It's about making sure nothing gets in the way of bringing the Gospel to people. It's about making sure we do everything possible to make God's Word clear to people.

Faithfulness is more than showing up on Sunday morning and preaching a law and Gospel sermon. Faithfulness is more than being in the classroom, going through the motions, even diligently. Faithfulness includes carrying the people, carrying your students, in your heart and in your prayers. Especially for pastors, faithfulness includes going out to look for the sheep, particularly the lost ones, whether they are members of the congregation or people in your community. Faithfulness includes helping your people look, not only to themselves, but to

look outward at the people around us who do not know Jesus.

Consider the parable of the sower. You know the parable. You are the sower. You have been given the good seed of the Word of God (actually, Christ Himself is sowing the Word through you). What does the sower do? He scatters His seed profligately! That's a big word for "all over the place," to such as like or like it not. No, the Word will not bring forth fruit in everyone right away, but you do not know the Lord's time table for bringing fruit. But yes, God's Word WILL, in some, bring forth fruit, a hundred fold, sixty fold, or thirty fold.

There is a line in the ordination service, drawn from Article V of the Augsburg Confession, that always impresses me: "God gathers His Church by and around His holy Gospel, and thereby also grants it growth and increase *according to His good pleasure*" (emphasis added). We are not responsible for the growth of the Word of God. BUT, we are responsible for, and we have been given the task of sowing that Word, of scattering the seed. And the impression I get from the parable is that we are not to be stingy in scattering, planting that seed.

What are the opportunities God has given you? Faithfulness involves taking every opportunity, making every effort to bring the Word of Life to people. God will give the growth, but He calls you and me to speak the Word. In some ways, my brothers and sisters, this seems like such a commonplace. Yet we have no higher calling than this – bring the Word of God into every situation. "Give us lips to sing Thy glory, Tongues Thy mercy to proclaim, Throats that should the hope that fills us, Mouths to speak Thy holy name" (LSB 578, st. 5).

What does this mean? We are called to be tireless in speaking God's truth in every situation. We are called, not just to talk about the Word of God, but to deliver the gifts of God in His Word: "Your sin is forgiven you!" "God sees you in Jesus as His child!" "The life I live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). How is this done? Opening your mouth to speak! Going the extra mile to find those who need to hear. Doing whatever it takes to bring the life of God in Word, in water, in body and blood, to sinners who need it. If they don't come to hear, we go to seek them, pray with and for them, invite them, bring them.

Who is capable of this? Not me. Only Christ, who was faithful for me. But remember, as Jesus said, "He who hears you, hears me" (Luke 10:16). When we speak His Word, it is Christ speaking through us. When we scatter the seed, Christ is sowing His Word into the hearts of people. And here is what His Word says about His faithfulness for us: "Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it" (1 Thessalonians 5:23-24).

A blessed Lent to one and all!

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

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—Received Call list on Feb. 1; Rev. Mark Buetow serving as Vacancy Pastor.

EMMAUS, DORSEY—Calling a Seminary Graduate

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

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

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

SID PASTOR'S CALLS RECEIVED/ACCEPTED/RETURNED

PRAYER REQUESTS



For the family of **Robert C. Schwarz**, father of Donna and Rev. Al Janneke, St. Mark , Steeleville, as he was called home by our heavenly Father on February 23.

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

For **Paula Nelson**, principal at Trinity, Edwardsville, as she has returned to the hosp. several times this past month.

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 undergoes chemotherapy.

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

For the **Mission Efforts** going on in Saline County, Illinois.

For **Jonathan Mueller**, brother of Pres. Herbert Mueller, who is recovering from rotator cuff surgery in Michigan.

Please keep our brothers and sisters serving our country 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, 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.

PRAISE REPORTS:

For the blessings of healing and recovery for **Mrs. Ruth Mueller**, Mother of Pres. Herb and Pastor Tim Mueller, after a Fall and Winter of recuperation in Fort Wayne, IN.

PASTORS' ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

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

35 Years
(including years as a teacher)

02/28/2010

Adult Baptism at Our Savior, Carmi

We rejoice with Ward Wuornos as he was baptized into Christ at Our Savior, Carmi on Sunday, January 31, 2010. Ward is continuing studies in the catechism to become a communicant member.

Pictured left to right: Ward, Pastor Dean Spooner, and Carole Sandusky.



University A Cappella Choir From Concordia, Seward, Nebraska—March 12 through 21

The internationally acclaimed University A Cappella choir from Concordia in Seward, Nebraska, Dr. Kurt E. von Kampen, conductor will be performing a concert of sacred and secular choral anthems representing many historical periods. The choir will perform traditional choral works by Mendelssohn, Górczycki, Cheubini, Bruckner, and Bohm and contemporary works by Gwyneth, Morten, Lauridsen, Moses Hogan and others.

The award-winning University A Cappella Choir has traveled extensively throughout the United States and abroad. Recent international tours have taken the choir to Australia, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, France, Italy, Austria, and Spain. The choir exists to perform music at the highest artistic level to honor God and proclaim the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

Trinity Lutheran School, Edwardsville, IL. Thursday, March 18—1:30 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church, Edwardsville, IL. Thursday, March 18 -- 7:00 p.m.

Family Convocation
At
Messiah Lutheran Church
Carlyle, IL
April 24, 2010

ROOTED AND ESTABLISHED IN LOVE
Building Forever Families

“I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge, being filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.” Ephesians 3: 16-19

WHO ? Topics for every kind of family, including empty-nesters, young or old, whether struggling with Parenting challenges or other spiritual issues, family, single, or widow (er), all will find topics geared toward helping build homes on Christ the Savior.

WHAT ? This conference on and for the family seeks to present Christians of all ages Biblically-sound anchoring our homes in God’s grace in Christ. Speakers will address family worship and devotional life, prayer, setting Godly relationship boundaries, discipline of children, raising up-apologetically Godly men and women, identifying our roles after divorce and loss of spouse, and more.

WHEN ? April 24, 2010—8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m.

WHERE ? Messiah Lutheran Church—1091 13th Street—Carlyle, IL. 62231; 618-594-3912 or email: carlylemc@sbcglobal.net (subject line please type in: Registration Family Convocation)

SCHEDULE

:30-8:45 Registration/Snacks – Coffee and Donuts

8:45-9:00 Welcome – “Challenges and Opportunities – Why are we here? And What can we do?”

Rev. Steve Sommerer

(The breakout topics are numbered and explained below. Read through the offered presentations and choose one per breakout session. As you RSVP by phone, mail or email, please let us know your desired breakout sessions by number or presenter’s name.)

9:00-9:55 Breakout—choose from 1,5,6, or 7 (presentation 5 is in 2 parts)

10:00-10:45 Breakout—choose from 4,5, or 12 (part 2 of session of 5)

11:00-12:00 Lunch

12:15-1:00 Breakout—choose from 2, 9, or 11

1:15—2:00 Breakout—choose from 3,8, or 10

2:00-2:30 Closing Devotions

(Breakout topics and list of presenters on next page)

“ROOTED AND ESTABLISHED IN LOVE” Breakout Topics and Presenters

Choose 4 topics to include with your RSVP!

1. Discover the keys to unlocking the mysteries of discipline and problem solving for your children of all ages by offering choices using Love and Logic. -Mrs. Cindy Spenner
2. You are the “Ye” in “Go Ye Therefore . . .” How can God use you, as you are. -Mr. Alan Crocker
3. Seeing yourself as God sees you and defining your role in the body of Christ after divorce. -Rev. Scott Niermann
4. Home Devotional Life – Nurturing outposts of light in a world of darkness. Effectively using family devotional time to equip “soldiers of the cross.” -Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Karen Belli
5. Teach me to pray – a guide to using the gift of prayer in your family, regardless of age, sex, marital status. -Mr. & Mrs. Ed & Verdell Hermsmeyer; Mr. & Mrs. Ray & Eunice Hausler
6. Celebrating and nurturing the Marriage Encounter-Rev. Tim and Dawn Mueller
7. Answering the tough questions???? What is God saying in illness, suffering and death? Where do we turn? -Mrs. JoAnn Sugg and Mr. Bo Arvin
8. How to put on the Full Armor of God, for you and your children-Rev. Joshua Theilen
9. Losing and Finding-Losing a spouse or loved one and finding hope and peace in the midst of grief. -Rev. John Lukomski and Mr. Jim Rohe
10. Unashamedly, unapologetically raising your Godly man. -Rev. Tim & Dawn Mueller
11. Unashamedly, unapologetically raising Godly women. -Mrs. Sue Lentini
12. Living the “Love Dare” -Rev. Perry Schefelker

PRESENTERS:

Mr. & Mrs. Mark & Karen Belli, Trinity Lutheran Church, Hoffman, IL
Mrs. Cindy Spenner, Teacher at Trinity Lutheran School in Hoffman, IL
Mrs. Sue Lentini, Salem Lutheran Church, Salem, IL
Mr. & Mrs. Ed & Verdell Hermsmeyer, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ferrin, IL
Mr. & Mrs. Ray & Eunice Hausler, St. John Lutheran Church, New Minden, IL
Mrs. JoAnn Sugg, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ferrin, IL
Rev. Joshua Theilen, Trinity Lutheran Church, Hoyleton, IL
Mr. Bo Arvin, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ferrin, IL
Rev. John Lukomski, Trinity, Darmstadt-St Paul, New Athens, IL and KFYO radio personality
Mr. Jim Rohe, Teacher, Zion, Bethalto, IL
Rev. Perry Schefelker-Trinity, Centralia, IL
Mr. Alan Crocker, Messiah, Carlyle, IL
Rev. Tim and Dawn Mueller, St. John, New Minden, IL
Rev. Scott Niermann, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ferrin, IL

Contact Information:
Messiah Lutheran Church
1091 13th St.
Carlyle, IL 62231
Phone: 618-594-3912

Email: carlylemc@sbcglobal.net. Add Subject line: Registration Family Convocation

Concordia Publishing House will have a booth with family, parenting and devotional resources available at the conference.

- RSVP by April 17th by phone to 594-3912 or by email to carlylemc@sbcglobal.net. Please include number of children who will need free babysitting, as well as your chosen breakout topics. (For planning purposes.)
 - Cost for the conference is \$7/participant which covers the cost of lunch.
- Babysitters will be provided at no charge. Please let us know how many will need babysitting when you register!

**Ambassadors of Reconciliation
Presents
“Blessed Are The Peacemakers”**

Seminar Teaches Biblical Conflict Resolution

Everyone experiences conflict. Few people know how to resolve conflict according to biblical principles. To address this issue, Ambassadors of Reconciliation will present a seminar, *Blessed are the Peacemakers*, on Saturday, March 13, 2010 at Altamont Lutheran School from 9:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

The *Blessed Are the Peacemakers* seminar teaches people how to resolve family, business, and church conflicts in a manner consistent with the Bible’s teaching. People worldwide have benefited from the wisdom and skills learned in this one-day event. Attendees learn how to achieve genuine reconciliation through sincere confessions, constructively confronting others, negotiating just agreements, and forgiving the unforgivable.

Ambassadors of Reconciliation helps thousands of people resolve family, business, employment, and church disputes. The seminar features stories from some of the people who used the principles taught and experienced reconciliation in seemingly impossible situations.

Ambassadors of Reconciliation is dedicated to assisting people to *live, proclaim, and cultivate lifestyles of reconciliation*. This non-profit organization provides resources and training for biblical conflict resolution. In addition, the ministry helps people in specific disputes through conflict coaching, mediation, arbitration, and consulting services. More information is available at www.HisAoR.org or by calling 1-406-698-6107.

Altamont Lutheran School is making it possible for this seminar to be available in our area. A \$12 registration fee covers lunch. To learn more or to register for the *Blessed Are the Peacemakers* seminar, call the school at 618-483-6428.

Registration form inserted separately ...

Get Your Free Resource From LHF

Do you serve, or would you like to serve, Spanish-speaking people in your community with the Gospel? Or are you planning a mission trip to Central or South America? If so, the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) has a free resource that will soon be available to you: the Spanish edition of the *Holy Bible*, bound with *Luther's Small Catechism*. To pre-order copies, visit the LHF website at www.LHFmissions.org/Spanish Bible Poll, where you can also take a poll to help LHF decide how many copies of the Bible/catechism to print, in what version, in hardcover or soft cover. LHF's materials are provided at no charge to those who need them.

**Beta Sigma Psi
2 Fraternity Dr.
Rolla, MO 65401
(573) 364-8575**

To all future Missouri S&T students,

As you begin to prepare for school, I would like to let you know that Beta Sigma Psi is looking for new members. Every year we also give out a \$1000 scholarship to one incoming Lutheran male at Missouri S&T.

Beta Sigma Psi (nicknamed Beta Sig) is the National Lutheran Fraternity and has been on campus since 1952. At Beta Sig we live our lives by what we call the three S's: Spiritual, Scholarship, and Social. Each of these is fundamental to a successful collegiate and professional career.

Spiritual is the number one S and gives us something to live by and for. Once a month we attend church as a whole house and take care of many responsibilities including ushers, readers, and greeters. We also have at least one work day per semester where we help out the members of our local congregation with tasks around their houses that they need help with.

We also take great pride in academics. We have been top in grades for the past thirteen semesters. At a school like Missouri S&T that is quite an accomplishment. We have a scholarship program that will help you achieve a successful transition from high school to college.

At Beta Sig we also take pride in our reputation as a very social house. We have many socials every year with the sororities on campus and are very involved in many campus organizations. When you leave college the time you spent with Beta Sig will allow you to present yourself in a confident manner and be comfortable in social situations.

We have many opportunities for you to meet members of the house in casual situations including professional baseball games, paintball, and a float trip. If you cannot make it to one of these events but are interested we would love to see you on your PRO day and show you the house and feel more than welcome to hang out with us. We do offer a PRO day trig review the night before the required math test and would enjoy having you spend the night at the house.

Feel more than welcome to give either of our rush chairs a call or email if you have any questions or concerns. You can check out our website betasig.mst.edu for some pictures of the house and other Greek facts. We also have created a new Facebook group, Rush Beta Sigma Psi – Eta Chapter. Feel free to join it and see what's going on this rush season.

Fraternally,

Kyle Pfitzinger
(479) 263-2289 krpxwc@mst.edu

Casey Bollmann
(918) 713-2938 cabdcd@mst.edu

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

MARCH

- 4 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 7-13 National Lutheran Schools Week
- 11 Youth Advisory Committee, 2:00 p.m. ay Camp Wartburg
- 12 Wine Tasting at Red Bud Opera House, 7:00 p.n. benefit for Unity School
- 20 Mission Board Meeting at Edwardsville, 9:00 a.m.

APRIL

- 1 Maundy Thursday
- 2 Good Friday
- 4 EASTER
- 7 Office & Personnel Committee, 4:00 p.m.
- 8 Youth Advisory Committee, 2:00 p.m.
- 8 Board for Congregational Support, 5:30 p.m.
- 11 District LLL Convention
- 15 SID LWML Board of Directors, 9:30 a.m.
- 15 "See The Miracle" Pastors' Lunch at Unity School in E. St. Louis
- 15 Finance Committee Meeting, 5:00 p.m.
- 17 SID Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.
- 19 Fund Advisory Committee Meeting, 4:30 p.m.
- 21-22 Lutheran Older Adult Retreat at Pere Marquette
- 22 Stewardship Advisory Committee, 4:30 p.m.
- 27 Call Day at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis
- 28 Call Day at Concordia Theological Seminary-Ft. Wayne

MAY

- 1 The Bob Streuter Memorial Golf Scramble (SID Foundation) at Okawville
- 2 Scholarship Endowment Sunday
- 3 Board of Spiritual Care & Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 5 Lutheran Older Adult Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 6 "See The Miracle" Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. at Unity School in E. St. Louis
- 6 Prison Ministry Workshop at Camp Wartburg
- 6 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting 7:00 p.m.
- 7 CID/SID Staff Meeting, Springfield, IL.
- 8 Pastor's Spring Conference and Day of Prayer, St. Paul, Columbia
- 13 "See The Miracle" Lunch, Noon at Unity School in E. St. Louis
- 16 "See The Miracle" Sunday Dinner, 1:00 p.m. at Unity School in E. St. Louis
- 20 "See The Miracle" VIP Dinner, you must have an invitation, location TBA
- 21-24 Floor Committee Meetings at the I.C.
- 31 Holiday—District Office closed