



The InSIDE Word

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A newsletter by and for Southern IL District-LCMS

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Presidential Activities April 2009

- 9 Individual Consultations
- 3 Meetings with Roger Sprengel
- 2 Congregational Meetings
- 5 District Meetings
- 1 Preaching/Speaking engagements
- 2 Synodical Meetings
- 4 Days Off
- 4 Days COP
- 1 Day of Placements
- 2 Days of Travel
- 1 Day of Pastoral Conference

Resurrection Morning

This year it was raining, so we could not go to the cemetery for the sunrise service. Too wet. The clouds scudding low over the Nebraska hills hid the sunrise from our view anyway. But the sun still rose, appearing briefly later in the day.

Many of you know that the past several years my wife and I have become "Christmas and Easter members" of our son's parish in central Nebraska. His congregation is actually an amalgamation of two congregations, the one in town, the other 7 miles out in the country. When the two merged, they moved the parsonage into town and built a new church. The only thing left at the country site is the cemetery. That's where, every Easter at sunrise, they gather for a service. It's a beautiful spot on a hill facing east and a moving service, standing amongst the graves of those who have gone before. But this year we stayed in town, inside where it was dry.

No matter. The Son still rose! At early dawn, as the Scripture says, "*On the first day of the week, at early dawn, they went to the tomb, taking the spices they had prepared*" (Luke 24:1). When the women who had come looked down into the tomb, there was no body there! He was gone. Two angels broke the unbelievable news, "*Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen!*" (Luke 24:5-6). It was just as He had told them. He would be given into the hands of sinful men. They would kill Him, but on the third day He would rise.

50 days later on Pentecost, before some of the very people who had called for Jesus' death, Peter stood and proclaimed, "*This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. God raised Him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for Him to be held by it*" (Acts 2:23-24). Because He is the Author of Life, there was no way death could maintain its icy grip on Him. As the Lutheran pastor and hymnwriter, Paul Gerhardt, teaches us to sing: "*My Lord will leave me never, whate'er He passeth through. He rends death's iron chain, He breaks through sin and pain, He shatters hell's grim thrall, I follow Him through all*" (TLH 192, st.6).

There's the reason we go to the cemetery for the sunrise service. It was from the grave that Jesus rose again. And it will be from the grave that Jesus will call us out on that great resurrection morning to come. "*I follow Him through all.*" Here's also how Jesus' resurrection becomes ours.

It begins when we are “buried with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His” (Romans 6:4-5). This new life continues when He calls us daily to deny ourselves, take up our cross, and follow Him (Matthew 16:24). Jesus Himself feeds this life when, again and again, He gives us the bread of life. “I am the living bread that came down from heaven,” Jesus said, “if anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. And the bread that I shall give is my flesh for the life of the world” (John 6:51).

What do we have to give Him in return? Everything we have comes from Him. Oh, except for one thing. There is one thing we have we did not receive from Him. And that’s our death, caused by our sin.

Yet, and here is the greatest wonder of all, our death is exactly what He has come to take. It is the one thing we have to give, but it’s also the one thing God can work with. After all, He’s in the business of raising the dead. It’s what He does best, in fact.

So we daily die to sin and rise again in Christ. We confess our guilt because He’s going to remove it. We give Him our death so that He can raise us to life. “For this is the will of Him who sent Me,” Jesus told His disciples, “that I should lose nothing of all that He has given Me, but raise it up at the last day. For this is the will of my Father,” He continued, “that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in Him should have eternal life, and I will raise Him up on the last day” (John 6:39-40).

Maybe next year we will be back in the cemetery for Easter sunrise unless, of course, Jesus comes back first! What a glorious resurrection morning that will be! Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

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

OUR SAVIOR, CARM— Entering Call process

ST. JOHN, CHESTER— Receiving Vicar, G. Robert Heimgartner.

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

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

TRINITY, HARVEL—Called Rev. Stuart Rethwisch, Holy Cross, Wartburg. (Received and Declined), COP has placed Scott Busacker, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

TRINITY, NASHVILLE—Russell Johnson, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne has been placed by COP.

IMMANUEL, OKAWVILLE—Pastor Lloyd Helland on sick leave, will resign for health reasons. Pastor Darwin Schrader serving as interim.

ZION, STAUNTON— Entering Call process

ST. SALVATOR, VENEDY/ST. PETER, NEW MEMPHIS—Arthur Eichhorn , Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, has been placed by COP.

SID PASTOR’S CALLS RECEIVED/ACCEPTED/RETURNED

Rev. Stuart Rethwisch of Holy Cross, Wartburg to Trinity, Harvel, IL. (Received and Declined)

Rev. Nathan Meador of Zion, Staunton to St. John’s, Plymouth, WI. (Received and Accepted)

Rev. James Kress of Our Savior, Carmi to Redeemer, Englewood, FL. (Received and Accepted)

PRAYER REQUESTS



For **Katie and Nathan Messer family**, (Katie is the daughter of Lynn Lukomski, principal at Immanuel, Okawville), The family was in a car accident and although the injuries were minor for Katie, Nathan, and daughter Kayla, their unborn child died. Please pray for the family and let us remember Christ has conquered death. He is risen!

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

For the family of **Pastor Brian Hamrick** of Florida, Brother-in-law of Pastor Jon Smithley, Pinckneyville/Conant, who was called home by our heavenly father on April 23.

For **Pastor Tim Weiser**, Trinity Iuka, who recently has been diagnosed with colon cancer.

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

For **Marian Martens**, former SID Treasurer, who is now under the care of Hospice.

For **Cathy Bevirt and Melissa Combs**, teachers at Holy Cross, Collinsville, for strength and courage while both are fighting cancer.

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 **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) serving in the US Air Force has been deployed to Afghanistan.

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) is 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 for **Rev. Gary Galen** for his recovery after spending 8 days in the hosp. and 3 weeks at home suffering with pneumonia.

PASTORS' ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

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

April no anniversaries celebrated

Schools Calling for Teachers/Administrators

Bethalto, Zion Collinsville, Good Shepherd	Early Childhood Director Teachers, Grades 1 and 7 designated Jasmine and Justine Biermann (CUW) – (Accepted) Called Cory Emily (Kansas City, KS) 8 th grade/Asst. Prin. E.C. Director (part-time)
Columbia, St. Paul Edwardsville-MELHS Evansville, Christ Our Savior LHS Godfrey, Faith Hoffman, Trinity	Called Zachary Schnare (Concordia, Seward) to teach Art Administrator—Called Glenn Rollins (Minneapolis, MN) Principal / DCE Principal/Teacher—Called Steven Burger, (Hartland, MI.), Accepted
Jacob, Christ Murphysboro, Immanuel Nashville, Trinity/St. John Prairietown, St. Peter	Principal/Teacher-Called Robert Sandcork Teacher—grades 5/6 Associate Pastor/Principal—COP placed Russell Johnson Principal / Teacher grades 6-8– Contracted Joy Roberson of Edwardsville Teacher, grades 3-5—Called Sharon Zilm of Godfrey, IL. Child Care Director 3 Vacancies (new listing)
St. John, Red Bud Staunton, Zion Steelville, St. Mark Troy, St. Paul Unity, East St. Louis	Principal / Teacher-Called Rebecca Rowe of Florida, Accepted Teacher, grades 7/8 Teacher , grade 5—Contracted Ronald Madlock Teacher, grade 6 –Called Mark Belli, Trinity, Hoffman

St. John's Lutheran Church in Baldwin has a **Riso** that is about 12-15 years old that they are getting ready to replace. If you are interested in acquiring this Riso please call 618-785-2344 right away!

NOTE: **Ruth Rincker** is available for fill in vacancies as organist, for more info please call 618-448-0121

LUTHERAN CHILD & FAMILY SERVICES OF ILLINOIS
POSITION DESCRIPTION at Camp Wartburg

POSITION TITLE: Development Assistant
IMMEDIATE SUPERVISOR: Executive Director
GENERAL FUNCTION: To coordinate and execute special events and fundraisers, and support the general development function at Camp Wartburg

JOB DIMENSIONS:

Key Responsibility Area: Provide leadership and coordination in the execution of Camp's *Let Your Love Shine* annual charity auction.

Specific Duties:

Develop and implement strategies for the recruitment of the auction chairperson and council members.
Recruit volunteers to support the auction.
Plan and execute all auction solicitations.
Plan and execute all auction activities.

Key Responsibility Area: Provide leadership and coordination in the execution of Camp special events.

Specific Duties:

Plan and execute all special events to include volunteer recognition, the chicken dinner, and other "friend-raising" events.
Assist in the planning and execution of the *Golf Classic*.
Recruit volunteers to support all events.

Key Responsibility Area: Office support for the overall development function.

Specific Duties:

Assist in the process of thanking Camp donors
Assist in the process of computer data entry for the development function.
Other duties as assigned by the executive director

REQUIRED COMPETENCIES:

1. Cognitive
 - a. Demonstrates exceptional organizational and planning skills
 - b. Able to think creatively and apply planning to meet the needs of different audiences
 - c. Understands how to get things done through volunteers
- d. Behavioral
 - e. Demonstrates the ability to relate successfully to all people, but especially to people with wealth
 - f. Goal oriented and determined to meet assigned goals
 - g. Ability to competently communicate orally and in writing with individuals in and outside the organization.
 - h. Ability to apply work hours where assignments require it.
 - i. Will work some weekends and evenings
- j. Affective
 - k. Demonstrates an ability to handle stress on occasion

Supports the values and philosophy of the organization

QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Education High school graduate (two years of college or more desired)
2. Experience/skills Previous experience achieving goals through volunteers
Previous experience in marketing, sales or fundraising preferred
Computer literate, able to learn new software programs, and adept at using Word and Excel as business tools.
Maintains a valid driver's license and vehicle.
Able to operate normal office equipment (copier, scanner, fax, etc.)
3. Physical Capable of carrying weights of 20 to 30 pounds.

METRO EAST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL AWARDED \$50,000 GRANT FROM THE BANK OF EDWARDSVILLE

Metro East Lutheran High School is pleased to announce that the Board of Directors from The Bank of Edwardsville has awarded Metro East Lutheran High School a 3 year, \$50,000 grant toward their *Building on the One Foundation Capital Campaign*.

“As the principal of Metro-East Lutheran High School, we are extremely grateful to The Bank of Edwardsville for the financial commitment to our Capital Campaign, and to Christian education in our community”, commented Dan Kostencki.

Our thanks go out to Mr. Tom Holloway, President and CEO, the Board of Directors and the whole family of The Bank of Edwardsville.



Left to right: **Rich Watson**, Senior Vice president/CEO, The Bank of Edwardsville; **Dan Kostencki**, Principal of Metro East Lutheran High School; **Roger Ernst**, Chairman of the Board, Metro East Lutheran High School; **Bill Alexander**, Executive Vice President, The Bank of Edwardsville

Welcome To The Southern Illinois District

Candidates Placed by C.O.P.

Scott Busacker, from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to Trinity, Harvel

Arthur Eichhorn, from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to St. Salvator/Venedy and St. Peter/
New Memphis

Russell Johnson, from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne to Trinity, Nashville

Vicars Assigned by C.O.P.

Sameul Beltz, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to Zion, Staunton

Derek Evans, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to Signal Hill, Belleville

Joshua Hayes, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to Our Savior, Carbondale

G. Robert Heimgartner, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne to St. John, Chester

Dennis Kootz, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to Emmaus, Dorsey

Jared Nies, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis to Zion, Litchfield

John Shank, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne to Trinity, Edwardsville

Matthew Tassej, Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne to Our Redeemer, Golconda



We ask that everyone keep these men in your prayers as they prepare to do their work for the Lord in our district.

Members of Trinity, Edwardsville Participated in a Mission Trip to Honduras.



A group of 27 Christians from the Edwardsville area participated in a medical mission trip to Tegucigalpa, Honduras in early February 2009. The group known as “Starfish Enterprise” provided ministry care in the following areas: optical, dental, general medical, and pharmaceutical. Other ministry activities included an evangelism station where the Gospel was shared with over 3,200 Hondurans. Children’s ministry, which consisted of shampooing the hair of the little ones, and a concrete ministry of providing concrete floors in the modest homes of local church members. The group provided care at four different sites in Tegucigalpa, blessing both the Hondurans and the medical team.



Exemplary Status Awarded to Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville

Left to right: Mr. Terry Schmidt, Director, National Lutheran School Accreditation and Mr. Robert Mayhew, Principal, Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville, IL. Mr. Terry Schmidt is presenting Mr. Mayhew with the certificate for *Exemplary Status* that has been awarded to Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville for 2009.

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

MAY

- 2 SID Student Aid Golf Benefit
- 3 Scholarship Endowment Sunday
- 4 Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 7 Prison Ministry Conference—Camp Wartburg—8:30 a.m.
- 7 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 LOAR Committee Meeting, 11:00 a.m.
- 19 SID LLL Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Memorial Holiday—District Office closed
- 28 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), 6:30 p.m. at Zion, Belleville

JUNE

- 3 Pastor's Conference Committee Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 4 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Lutheran School Accreditation Commission, 8:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m.
- 12-13 Senior H.S. Youth Gathering—Carlinville
- 16 NLSA Training Meeting, 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
- 20 Board of Missions, 9:00 a.m.
- 25 Youth Advisory Committee (YAC), 6:30 p.m. at Zion, Belleville

JULY

- 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

- 5-6 Midwest Stewardship Conference—Concordia Seminary
- 6 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Day of Spiritual Renewal—Zion, Staunton
- 24 Board of Spiritual Care & Supervision, 9:00 a.m.

SEPTEMBER

- 3 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Board of Missions, 9:00 a.m.

OCTOBER

- 1-2 S.I.D./C.I.D. Teacher's Conference—Belleville/O'Fallon, Il.
- 5-7 Pastor's Fall Conference
- 10-12 Junior H.S. Youth Gathering—Camp Wartburg
- 24 SID Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.