



The InSI De Word

www.sidlcms.org

A newsletter by and for Southern IL District-LCMS

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Presidential Activities October 2009

- 13 Individual Consultations
- 3 Meetings with Roger Sprengel
- 4 Congregational Meetings
- 9 District Meetings
- 3 Synodical Meetings
- 5 Preaching/Speaking engagements
- 2 Installations
- 2 Days Midwest DP Conference
- 3 Days Travel

HIS TIME IS SHORT

“... the devil has come down to you in great wrath, because he knows that his time is short!” (Revelation 12:12).

This line comes from the broader picture in the Book of Revelation that, even though the devil has been defeated, “*thrown down*” (Revelation 12:10), he is still trying to take as many of God’s children as he can down with him. He is like a mortally wounded monster thrashing about in his death throes. Yes, he is defeated. He has no power over those who are in Christ. Yet his powerful tail still swings to and fro seeking to destroy us.

St. Peter says he “*prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour*” and then call us to “*Be sober minded, be watchful*” and to “*resist him, firm in your faith*” (1 Peter 5:8-9).

There are any number ways Satan will prowl, but one thing he loves to do with church workers is to tempt us to do things in secret, under cover. “No one will ever know. No one has to know!” he tells us.

Perhaps it will be the text messages sent in secret to a secret admirer. No one else will ever see the picture you send by cell phone... Who cares what I put up on my face book page, no one will see it? Don’t fool yourself!

Many consider internet pornography to be relatively harmless – it’s private, no one will know. No one gets hurt. Don’t believe for a moment these lies from the pit of hell. Remember, the devil is an expert liar, making the lie appear true. Internet porn – all forms of porn, really – ARE harmful. First of all to you! Even if the person in the picture or video is an adult, the one who observes the porn is led into lust for her (or him!), the one in the picture.

In addition, you have to consider the demeaning effect of the porn on those who are pictured. What God intends for marriage is sinfully abused and precious, blood-bought souls are turned into objects of sinful lust. And then, if it’s child pornography, one becomes involved in felony crime according to federal law!

Alcohol can also become the devil’s trap. This is a bit more “tricky” since alcohol can be used without abuse. However, particularly in people susceptible to the disease of alcoholism, when alcohol is abused it will take over your life. Even when sober, you will be looking for ways to cover up or excuse your drinking, working to evade responsibility for what you did while drinking and, in general, look for the time when you can

drink again. Alcoholism, in my experience, turns people into liars. Yes, there is a disease component to it, but the abuse of alcohol frequently ends up in sinful behavior.

Many church workers are also afflicted with depression, an illness that, while not necessarily sinful in itself, can become the occasion for the devil to tempt us to despair of God's grace. No, I'm not becoming a pietist here by listing these things. There are so many tools the devil can use. Especially if you are a pastor or teacher, one who is called to follow Christ and to serve Him publicly, the devil has a target on you, front and back. I say this, not so that we will cower in fear, but that we might be realistic, and might be driven more deeply into the Word of God and that we might run to the arms of our Savior!

For there is One who has defeated the devil and relieved him of all his power. His name is Jesus, the One crucified and raised from the dead. His resurrection victory is ours, by faith in Him. St. John, in Revelation, says, *"I heard a loud voice in heaven saying, 'Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God'" (Revelation 12:10).* Our accuser, Satan, has been thrown down, defeated, defanged, made impotent for those who are in Christ.

Yet the question remains. What do we do when we find ourselves troubled by these temptations? Go to the Word of God. Come to receive the body and blood of Jesus. Visit your confessor to hear absolution and receive direction. Talk with a trusted friend or brother or sister in Christ. Get help understanding, facing and, in Christ, dealing with your temptations before they take you down. Know that all of God's servants face trials and temptations. Trust God's Word of promise forgiving your sins. When temptation comes, run! Run the other way! Run into the arms of Christ, who carried *"our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed" (1 Peter 2:24).*

God's peace be with you, in Jesus! May His love surround you, His saving power protect you, His grace enfold you.

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

OUR SAVIOR, CARMI— 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—Called Pastor Darwin Schrader to serve extended interim.

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

ZION, STAUNTON— Rev. Joel Fritsche, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis will be installed November 8, 2009

SID PASTOR'S CALLS RECEIVED/ACCEPTED/RETURNED

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

PRAYER REQUESTS



For the family of **Clifford Dyroff**, father of Linda Rohe, emeritus teacher from Bethalto.
For **Pastor Gary Galen**, emeritus, who has been diagnosed with pneumonia again.
For the family of **Neil Krenz**, father of Pastor Stephen Krenz, Trinity, Hoffman, who was called home by our heavenly Father on September 27.
For **Andy Kollmeyer**, son of Rev. David Kollmeyer, who has been diagnosed with Acute Myelogenic Leukemia.
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 and deals with a set back when he developed blood clots in his left leg.
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.

PRAISE REPORTS:

Praise God for the best news possible for **Andy Kollmeyer**, the type of Leukemia he has is the most treatable kind and offers a 50 percent chance of a complete cure with chemo alone. He has started the chemo treatments and still needs our prayers. Let's also remember the rest of Andy's family in our prayers as they are going through this hard time in their lives.

A SPECIAL HAPPY BIRTHDAY

During its regular meeting on October 24, 2009 the Board of Directors of the Southern Illinois District, passed the following resolution:

Be it resolved, that the Board of Directors of the Southern Illinois District gives great thanks and praise to God for our District President Emeritus, The Rev. Dr. Alvin V. Kollmann, on the occasion of his 80th birthday, November 7, 2009.

Pastor Kollmann, May God
bless and
keep you always!



PASTORS' ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

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

FREE.... You take care of shipping

Immanuel, Mt. Olive has the following available:

- 1 flagon
- 1 chalice
- 2 patens (4" and 6")
- 1 ciborium
- 2 sets of six brass candle toppers

Gold wall mounted bracket and red glass insert (eternal light). 2 tops for the eternal light, also gold.

For more information, please call Pastor Dan Barbey at Immanuel, Mt. Olive 217-999-7442

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

Metro-East Lutheran High School Welcomes European Exchange Students



Pictured from left to right: Aino Pekkarinan (Finland), Barbara Walther (Switzerland), and Fabian Janda (Germany)

Metro-East Lutheran High School is pleased to welcome three European Exchange Students for the 2009-2010 school year. For many years, MELHS has welcomed exchanged students, however this is the first time the high school has hosted three students at the same time from European Countries. All three students live with local host families and participate in a variety of activities both at school and with their host families.

Aino Pekkarinen has come to Edwardsville from her home in Finland. She chose to spend this school year in the United States because she has had previous experiences in this country and has friends who have given positive reviews of the United States. When comparing the lives of students from the United States with students back home in Finland, Aino mentioned several differences. In Finland, there are no lockers, rather commonplace items in school hallways. Classes are also much shorter, with one class being fifteen minutes long, and lunch being one hour. There are also no detentions, and computers are used much more in school.

When discussing the social aspects of student life, Aino said, "Well, Americans are MUCH more social than Finnish people. You speak a lot and you speak all the time. You are also very polite." She also said that many students in her school do not really participate in activities outside of school. While students do participate in sports such as ice hockey and soccer, going to the movies, a rather popular activity among students in the US as well, is very expensive and requires that the tickets to be bought in advance. Aino also dances, acts and sings in a choir. According to Aino, "These are not common activities for Finnish people." Her favorite thing about life in the United

States is, "I like everything about the United States! I like it here because it is so different. I will have lots of new experiences when I go back to Finland!"

Barbara Walther has come to the United States from Switzerland to learn English, for personal growth and for the adventure of travelling abroad. Barbara says in Switzerland students participate in many of the same activities outside of school that they do here with an extra emphasis on winter sports, due to the Swiss Alps. Social interaction is completely different in the United States. Here, she comments, people are much more exuberant and seem to throw compliments around without a care in the world. People in Switzerland are more reserved where things like that are concerned, which, makes the compliment more meaningful. Walther said her favorite aspects of life here are, "Some parts of life are easier because shops are open late and people can go everywhere with their cars."

When asked about educational differences she named a few of the many differences such as classes start earlier and finish later in Switzerland, the classes are not as rushed, and there are longer break periods and lunch periods. In addition, the students do not move from classroom to classroom, the teachers do. Classes in Switzerland are organized by skill level, and the courses over here are easier than the courses she takes back home.

Fabian Janda travelled from his home in Germany. Fabian decided to come to the United States this year to improve his knowledge of English, for the experience, and because he loves the US. When discussing the differences between United States and German classes, Fabian said, "German students also spend the entire day in one room. Like schools in Finland, there are no lockers. "He also noted that there is a lack of school spirit at his school in Germany, and there are no school sports. Anyone wishing to participate in athletics would have to do so on his or her own time. Outside of school, students participate in a number of activities, including going to movies, playing sports and going to parties or nightclubs." He goes on to say, "I think the American people are nicer than Germans. They are more open." This is Fabian's second experience in the United States having spent two weeks in Los Angeles last year. That experience influenced his decision to come here. His favorite part of life in the United States is, "Everything! But especially school."

Despite their cultural differences, Fabian, Aino, and Barbara have come to the United States with one united goal. They have come to learn and expand their horizons by immersing themselves in a new culture and environment. Their decision should be applauded, and America should welcome these new arrivals with open arms, as they provide a shining example of the traditional values honored and respected by this humble country.

SID Youth Gathering At Camp Wartburg Oct. 10-12, 2009



If you weren't there, it looks as if you missed a good time.

Sixty-five youth and adults representing 10 Southern Illinois District congregations and seven circuits participated in the 5th annual Junior High Youth Gathering at Camp Wartburg in Waterloo on Oct. 10-12. The theme was "This then is how we know that we belong to the truth," based on 1 John 3:19. All district youth grades 6-8 are invited to the next district junior high youth gathering on Oct. 9-11, 2010!!!

Mission Opportunities . . .

Update for Next Steps

As reported in September, Next Steps is a pilot project of the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support. This project is one of several components designed to assist church workers from their terminal school through retirement, including such things as PALS and Continuing Education.

Next Steps focuses on those willing church workers, age 60 and beyond, desiring to continue being connected to churches, schools and community services in the Lord's Work in some special ways following their full retirement.

This will involve interviews for availability in a multiple of areas of gifts, interest, and talents, first made with those church workers willing, then schools, congregations and service organizations.

Currently I am busy setting up software, data bases, and other technology so as to be ready to make contacts after the first of the year. A small advisory committee, President Herb Mueller, and the CMGS office are assisting with their support. Funding is supported by special grants.

Please keep this project in your prayers. May your celebration of the Holy Days be blessed.

In His service
Pastor Gary Galen

Alaska Mission For Christ

Alaska Mission for Christ is prayerfully seeking someone with a heart for serving others and for reaching people with the Gospel to fill the position of **Missionary to Southwest Alaska**. The successful applicant will creatively coordinate and facilitate mission outreach in a area of Alaska the size of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. He will work with volunteers and local residents to share the Gospel through relationships in mostly small isolated rural villages. While interest in native languages is encouraged, English is the mode of communication for the missionary. The Alaska Mission for Christ is a non-profit corporation organized and directed by the churches of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in Alaska. For more information see

<http://www.alaskamissionforchrist.org> or call Todd Roeske at 907-259-5115 or email at: toddroske@alaskamissionforchrist.org

2009—2010

Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School Annual Fund Drive

Belong To Jesus Scholarship Fund

“Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.” Malachi 3: 10

Have you heard about the state of the economy? Of course, everyone knows that there has been a lot of “belt-tightening” in the last year. But God's open floodgate does not depend on the state of the economy! If He wants children to learn about Jesus, He will provide and He has!

YOU can be used by God to provide a Christian education for our students. Every family at Unity receives a partial scholarship in order to make it possible for their children to attend. Your generous donation directly supports our Belong To Jesus Scholarship Fund. Please be generous and faithful in your response to Unity's Fund Drive.

Sunday, November 22 (the Sunday before Thanksgiving, how appropriate) has been designated as Unity Sunday in the Southern Illinois District. Let's open the floodgates and help these children learn about Jesus.

**Call Paul Miller, Principal
Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School
618-874-6605**

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

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.
- 9 LOAR, 10:00 a.m.
- 12 Board of Congregational Support, 4:15 p.m.
- 14 Board of Missions, 9:00 a.m. (Our Savior, Carbondale)
- 26 Thanksgiving Day
- 27 SID Office closed

DECEMBER

- 3 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

JANUARY—2010

- 7 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11-13 Theological Convocation on Worship, at Concordia Lutheran Church, Kirkwood, MO.
- 21 LWML Board of Directors, 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Finance Committee Meeting, 5:15 p.m.
- 25 Fund Advisory Committee, 4:30 p.
- 28 Youth Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- 29-31 Youth Leader Training at Camp Wartburg
- 30 SID Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY

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

MARCH

- 4 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Youth Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.