



The InSIDE Word

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A newsletter by and for Southern IL District-LCMS

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Msg. from President Mueller	1
Updates on Calling Congregations	2
Prayer Requests	3
Bible Study Reading Program	4
Pastor/Elder Workshop	5
Pastor's Anniversaries Celebrated and other district events	6
Official Notice	7
Events/Meetings in the District	9

Presidential Activities December 2007

- 9 Individual Consultations
- 1 Speaking/ Preaching Engagement
- 1 Installation
- 4 District Meetings
- 4 District Interviews
- 2 Meetings with Dan Roth
- 2 Congregational Meetings
- 8 Vacation Days

What's New About the New Year?

...Nothing, and at the same time, everything. What do I mean? First of all, let's admit it, there is nothing magic about January 1. Our culture could have chosen any one of the other 365 (or 366 in the case of 2008) days as New Year's Day.

We have to pick one, I suppose, and January 1 is just as good as any other, but it is quite arbitrary, isn't it? So what's new about the new year? Yes, it is an election year, but once we're a month or so into 2008, it will probably seem like every other old year.

Same problems, same sins, same catastrophes, just different people and different places. In fact, the Bible tells us people will feel this way. *"Scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing,"* Peter writes to us, *"following their own passions and saying, 'Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things have continued since they were from the beginning of creation'"* (2 Peter 3:3-4).

So what's new about the new year? Actually, everything! It begins on January 1 when the Church remembers The Circumcision and Name of Jesus. The simple statement of the Gospel is our focus this day, *"At the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb"* (Luke 2:21), as the angel had told Joseph, *"You will call his name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins"* (Matthew 1:21). We sing it in one of my favorite hymns:

Jesus! Name of mercy mild, Given to the holy Child
 When the cup of human woe First He tasted here below.
 Jesus! Only name that's giv'n Under all the mighty heav'n
 Whereby those to sin enslaved Burst their fetters and are saved. (LSB #900, st. 4-5)

In Jesus Christ, God brings into our old world a new reality, something that has been here for years and years, but is ever new. It is what Isaiah prophesied, *"Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?"* (Isaiah 43:18-19).

That last question implies the new thing God is doing is perceived only by faith. And so it is. Old Simeon held in his arms the infant Savior, but it was Spirit-given faith that led him to proclaim, *"Lord, now you let your servant go in peace, according to your Word, for my eyes have seen your salvation which you have prepared in the presence of all people..."* (Luke 2:29-31). John the Baptist pointed to Jesus and said, *"Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"* (John 1:29), but it still takes faith to see it.

The world sees in Jesus a dead man on a cross – a good man, perhaps, yet a total failure – but to the eyes of faith He is God in the flesh crucified for our sins and raised again for our justification (Romans 4:25). The new reality, the new thing

God is doing, comes front and center in the resurrection of Jesus from the dead. *“This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. But God raised him up, having loosed the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it”* (Acts 2:23-24) was the apostles’ Pentecost proclamation.

Yes, it takes faith to see it, but that does not make it any less real. In fact, the new thing, what the Church proclaims in Jesus, is actually the new reality. This old world where nothing really changes and things just go round and round in a cycle of death has been invaded by something totally NEW, in Jesus!

God brings this new reality to us in His Word when we hear the promise, *“If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold, the new has come”* (2 Corinthians 5:17). We see the new reality at work when people filled with the Spirit of God are reconciled to one another because, *“now in Christ Jesus, you who once were far off have been brought near in the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, who has made us both one, and has broken down the dividing wall of hostility”* (Ephesians 2:13-14).

We taste and see (Psalm 34:8) the kindness of the Lord (1 Peter 2:3) when we receive His body and blood given and shed for the forgiveness of sins. It’s all the new reality God gives in Christ. Even when the old comes crashing down on us when we stand before the grave of someone we love, God’s Word brings the new with the promise, *“as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ”* (1 Corinthians 15:22-23).

Our churches and schools are the places where God is doing His new thing in Jesus all the time. And He is using you and me, wonder of wonders, to bring it into the lives of your people, your students. For you are filled with hope in Christ, and in that hope you tell all the new things He has done in Jesus.

That makes your church, your classroom, a place where the future, God’s future, is NOW! Together we lead people to see ahead with eyes of faith to the time when *“He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.”* And he who sat upon the throne said, *‘Behold, I make all things new!’* (Revelation 21:4-5). And while we wait, while we look ahead, we also remember, *“that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but is forbearing toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance”* (2 Peter 3:8-9).

So, what’s new about the new year? In Jesus – everything!

Happy New Year – in Jesus!

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

TRINITY, ANNA—(Pastor Carl Miller, Vacancy Pastor)

TRINITY, EDWARDSVILLE - (Senior) Called Rev. Scott Schmieding, Pastor, Trinity, Baton Rouge, LA.
(Received)

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

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

TRINITY, HOYLETON – Calling Seminary Graduate.

ZION, LITCHFIELD – Called Rev. John G. Fleischmann II, Christ Lutheran Church, East Moriches, NY.
(Received and Declined)

HOPE, MT. CARMEL—Rev. (Emeritus) Robert Reinhardt, IN/ District, Vacancy Pastor

SID PASTOR’S CALLS RECEIVED/ACCEPTED/RETURNED

PRAYER REQUESTS



For **Mary Owens**, Mother of Ellie Gibson, our SID webmaster, who is seriously ill and in ICU at Barnes Hospital. For the family of **Wilma Byers**, Mother of Pastor Gary and Kathy Byers (Zion, Belleville). Wilma Byers went home to be with our heavenly Father on December 14.

For the family of **Ann Marie Lindsey**, Mother of Jay Lindsey, teacher at Metro East Lutheran High School. Ann Marie Lindsey went home to be with our heavenly Father on December 10, 2007.

For the family of **Barbara Helmkamp**, wife of Lyndel Helmkamp and teacher at Zion, Bethalto for many years. Barbara was called home to be with our heavenly Father on 12/09/2007.

For **Julie Heimgartner**, wife of Gail Heimgartner, Our Redeemer, Golconda (seminary student at Ft. Wayne, IN.). Julie is in the hosp. in Ft. Wayne undergoing treatment for holes in her esophagus.

For the family of **Herbert LeRoy Zechiel**, father of Pastor Tim Zechiel (West Point and St. Paul, Steeleville) who was called Home by our heavenly Father on November 25, 2007.

For **Pastor Mark Meschke**, formerly of Southern Illinois, is battling soft-tissue cancer and after several rounds of treatments the cancer has returned rather rapidly. Please keep Pastor Meschke and his family in your prayers.

For **Mrs. Louis Theiss**, Mother of Pastor Steven Theiss, (St. Paul, Columbia) has had successful surgery and is now recovering.

For **Rev. Walt Byerley**, Zion, Farmersville, undergoing treatment for prostate cancer.

For **Pastor Leroy Eckert**, Emeritus, who has suffered a stroke along with other complications and is still recovering.

Please keep our brothers and sisters serving our country in your prayers

Active duty Chaplains from the SID: **Lt. Col. Gary Brooks, Major Gregory Jans, CDR Gregory N. Todd, LT. COL. David Wilshek, and Capt. Keith GeRue.**

SPC Chris Willig (son of Mark and Paula Willig) is back in the United States. **Praise God**

Lt. Commander Craig Muehler (brother of Cindy Nebel, teacher at Trinity, Centralia) US Navy Chaplain now serving in Iraq.

Lt. Carl Muehler (brother of Cindy Nebel) US Navy Chaplain now serving at Camp Fuiji, Japan.

Sgt. Aaron Richardson (son of Faith Richardson, (Immediate Past President of the SID LWML & member of the Southern Africa Mission Task Force) has returned from Baghdad and is safely home, **Praise God**

Capt. Joshua Henschen (son of Ron and Ellen Henschen, teachers in Edwardsville) at Ft. Hood, TX.

Capt. Warren Kostencki, (son of Dan and Jean Kostencki, Dan is principal at Metro East Lutheran High School), is back home. **Praise God**

Capt. Drew Ponivas (son of Nancy Ponivas, teacher at Faith, Godfrey) is being to deployed to Iraq.

MM2 John Ponivas (son of Nancy Ponivas, teacher at Faith, Godfrey) has been deployed on the USS Albuquerque (submarine).

Lt. Col. Robin Schultze (daughter-in-law of Shirley Schwartzkopf) is now in Command of the 36th Medical Operations Squadron in Guam.

Sgt. Matthew Kasten (son of Steve and Marge Kasten, Hoyleton, IL.) U.S. Army has returned to Baghdad for 18 mp.

Capt. Anthony Skeesick (son of Pastor Dale and Kathy Skeesick, St. Peter, Prairietown) serving in the US Air Force and rejoicing over his return back to the United States following three years in England. In August he will report to Fort Campbell, Kentucky where he will serve with the 101st Airborne.

Lt. Col. John Pepin (son-in-law of Pastor [Emeritus] and Lois Eckert) is now serving in Iraq.

Do you have a prayer request you would like to share...please call Donna at (618) 234-4767.

PRAISE REPORTS:

Bible Study/Confessional Reading Plan

Five years ago we published a combination Bible Study and Confessional reading plan. It's time to do it again. Why not start out the new year resolving to dig into the Word of God and the confessions of our church more deeply that God may form and shape you in your service to Him. Here we offer a schedule for January 2008. More will follow in future editions. Please note that it includes 6 days of readings per week (Saturday and Sunday are combined). My plan is to follow through the confessions topically, following the order of the Augsburg Confession – we are the “Church of the Unaltered Augsburg Confession.” The chapters of Scripture to be read each day generally relate to the topic selected for that day. Following this guide, you will average 3-5 chapters of Scripture per day, plus about 7-10 pages in the Tappert edition of the Book of Concord. Under “Pages in Tappert Edition,” where a decimal is used (e.g. 597.30) the number before the decimal refers to the page, while the second number refers to the paragraph number in Tappert, where appropriate. Confessional abbreviations: AC = Augsburg Confession; Ap = Apology to the Augsburg Confession; SC = Small Catechism; LC = Large Catechism; SA = Smalcald Articles; Tr. = Treatise on the Power and Primacy of the Pope; FC = Formula of Concord. Put this guide in your Bible and use it for your personal devotions.

I pray this will help us be even more “rooted and built up in [Christ] and established in the faith” (Colossians 2:7). We read Scripture because it is the inspired Word of God. We read the confessions because they are in accord with the Word of God and help us keep Christ central. Blessings on your study!

January Date	Topic	Chapters of Holy Scripture To Read	Confessional Reference	Pages in Tappert Edition
1	Creeds	2 Timothy 1-4	Prefaces & Creeds	pp. 1-21
2	Confessing	Matthew 10; 2 Peter 1-3	Prefaces AC & FC	pp. 23-27
3	God	Genesis 1-11	AC 1, SA 1	pp.27-28; 463-465; 501-508
4	God	Ex. 3-4; Deut.5-7	LC 1	pp. 365-379
5-6	God	Ps. 33, 90, 103, 104, Is. 54	LC 1	pp. 411-415
7	Original Sin	Romans 1-7	AC 2; Ap 2	pp. 29; 100-107
8	Original Sin	1 John 1-2; Psalm 51	FC 1	pp.466-469; 508-519
9	Original Sin	1 Timothy 1-3	LC 1; SA 3,1-2	pp.407-411; 302f.
10	Christ	John 1-8	AC 3; Ap 3	pp. 29, 107
11	Christ	1 John 3-5	SA 2, 1	pp. 292
12-13	Christ	Philippians 1-2	LC 2	pp. 411-420
14	Christ	Philippians 3-4	FC 8	pp. 486-492
15	Christ	Colossians 1-2	FC 8	pp. 591-597.30
16	Christ	Colossians 3-4; Romans 8	FC 8	pp.597.31-603.63
17	Christ	1 Corinthians 1-2, 15	FC 8	pp. 603.64-610
18	Justification	Romans 3	AC 4; Ap 4	pp.30, 107-117.74
19-20	Justification	Galatians 1-3	Ap 4	pp.117.75-132.182
21	Justification	Galatians 4-6	Ap 4	pp.132.183-143.253
22	Justification	Ephesians 1-2	Ap 4	pp.143.254-153.297
23	Justification	Psalms 31, 37, 143	Ap 4	pp.153.298-160.343
24	Justification	Genesis 15; Isaiah 61-66	Ap 4	pp.160.344-168
25	Justification	Psalm 119	SA 2,1; FC3-4	pp.292; 472-477
26-27	Justification	Ps.32; Dan. 9; 2 Cor.1-3	FC 3-4	pp. 539-551
28	Means of Grace	Romans 10; Ephesians 3-4	AC 5; LC Creed	pp. 31; 415-420
29	Means of Grace	2 Corinthians 4-5	SA 3,4-8	pp. 310-313
30	Means of Grace	1 Corinthians 12	FC 5&6	pp. 477-481
31	Means of Grace	2 Timothy 2	FC 5	pp. 558-563

Southern Illinois District
Pastor/Elder Workshop

Topic:

***“Jeremiah – Surviving Disasters:
Helping Pastors and Elders Serve Together”***

Presenter:

Dr. Reed Lessing

(formerly vicar at St. Mark, Steeleville, now professor
at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO)

Date:

Sunday, February 10, 2008

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: \$10 registration fee per congregation

Use the Registration Form in the Pastors Packet – Bring as many people as you like

Some Issues to Consider:

*How do the Scriptures help pastor and elders work together?
What are the duties of the elders? Who is capable of these things?
How do elders support the work of the pastor?*

“Jeremiah – Surviving Disasters.”

*Surviving through honesty; surviving through confession of sin;
surviving through the written Word and through worship are the emphases.
What does the life of survival look like?
This promises to be helpful, hands on and realistic!*

Registration forms in the Pastor’s Packet

Sponsored by the District Office at the Request of Various Elders and the Board of Congregational Support

DOXOLOGY

DOXOLOGY announces the inaugural presentation of its unique training program designed to provide pastors with advanced skills in counseling and pastoral care. DOXOLOGY, The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel, supports pastors by equipping them with new tools to help people struggling with ever-increasing personal, family and social complexities. A new Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, DOXOLOGY seeks to provide pastors with advanced training rooted in the classic cure of souls and informed by the insights of contemporary Christian psychology. Lecture, peer learning, and optional personal consultation and mentoring are interwoven throughout a sequence of three training events held over the course of a twelve-month period.

Executive Directors of the Center are Dr. Beverly Yahnke, licensed psychologist and Director of Christian Counseling Services, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, and Dr. Harold Senkbeil, associate professor of pastoral ministry and missions at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Enrollment Information Congregations are encouraged to enroll their pastor in the program to ensure that he will be provided with important new tools for his ministry. The training package also enhances parish support for pastoral work. The second training event invites lay leaders to learn how the congregation can provide a supportive environment for its pastor's work in the critical area of quality spiritual and emotional care. The training package will be provided in retreat settings around the country. The first training event will be offered at two sites, beginning in 2008.

July 13-16, 2008 Oconomowoc, Wisconsin
July 27-30, 2008 Schuyler, Nebraska

The second part of the training program will be offered in November 2008. The final part of the training program will be held in summer, 2009. Enrollment is limited. Register now! Visit www.doxology.us for more information and registration details. A generous grant from the LCMS Board of World Relief and Human Care greatly reduces costs to participants in this initial cycle.

PASTORS' ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED

The following pastors celebrated anniversaries of their ordination into the Holy Ministry in **December** and received certificates. If you, or someone you know had an anniversary (20, 25, 30, 35, etc.) during the month of **December** 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. Mark Willig 25 years 12/19/2007

Women's Day of Renewal VIII "The Utterly Amazing Life!"

Women of all ages are invited to the eighth annual **Women's Day of Renewal** on Saturday, **March 8, 2008**, from 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Michelle Thompson, the Keynote Speaker, is the strategic leader for the Next Generation Ministries at St. John Lutheran church in Ellisville, MO. Michelle enjoys taking the simple things of life & turning them into big things for God. Through laughter, practical examples, glimpses of wisdom & scripture, she shares a message of God's overwhelming love & His desire for our lives to be filled with His overflowing joy.

The registration fee is \$25 if paid by February 24, & \$30 thereafter. This fee will include a continental breakfast, catered lunch & two workshops. (Checks must accompany all reservations.)

For registration or more information contact GSLC at (618) 344-3151 or visit the website at www.goodshepherdcollinsville.org.

Official Notice:

In the late spring of 2008, Mr. Dan Roth, the Schools and General Executive of the Southern Illinois District, plans to retire from that position. He will still be working for the district on a part-time basis in the area of Lutheran Church Extension Fund promotion, but the Southern Illinois District needs to call a new person to fill the position of Schools and General Executive. A "SAGE Search Committee" consisting of the Office and Personnel Committee (Pr. Tim Scharr, Mr. Bob Mayhew, Mr. Wayne Muskopf), plus several school principals (Mrs. Paula Nelson, Mr. Mark Belli, Mr. Steve Rockey) working with President Mueller has prepared a job description and is preparing for the next phase of the search. Below, please find the official notice to the district of this position opening. The SAGE Committee plans to meet February 29, 2008 to go over nominations and applications with a view toward interviewing and making recommendations to the April 26, 2008, SID Board of Directors meeting. Please publish this to your congregations and schools. Thank you – President Herb Mueller.

Southern Illinois District Schools and General Executive:

The Southern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod is seeking qualified candidates for the full time position of District Schools and General Executive. The Schools and General Executive in the Southern Illinois District promotes and provides professional guidance for early childhood, child care centers, elementary, and secondary Lutheran schools. She/He serves these schools in all aspects of their operation including accreditation, certification, funding, administration, supervision, continuing education, and personnel and all other issues affecting Lutheran schools and preschools.

Position duties include: providing personnel services – including both the provision of Call lists to congregations and schools as requested and assisting personnel in finding position changes; providing guidance and resources for new school starts, educational networking for schools and their staffs, evaluation services to schools and preschools to assist them in developing and improving their ministries,

regular visitation of all the schools, preschools and child care centers of the district. This person serves as a consultant and facilitator to Lutheran schools in developing funding and marketing initiatives for their ministries, and serves as a liaison between LCMS schools, other private schools and the State of Illinois. The person in this position also consults with schools and preschools in resolving staff and/or other issues related to schools or preschools, and serves as liaison between the district's Youth Advisory Committee, the Board for Congregational Support and the district at large to promote the district's youth program. Finally, this person serves as business manager (ca 15% of time) of the Southern Illinois District in accordance with the duties outlined in the district bylaws.

Position requirements include: full commitment to the doctrinal position of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the objectives the Southern Illinois District, listing on the official roster of the Synod as a minister of religion, either ordained or commissioned, at least 10 years of successful experience in Lutheran ministry as a teacher and administrator (service in a congregation also preferred but not required), holding a minimum of a Master's Degree in Education. A Master's Degree in Educational Administration is preferred.

Conditions of employment include compensation according to the SID Salary Guidelines, benefits and transportation supplied according to Board of Directors policy. The emphasis of this position is approximately 80% education and 20% other duties (e.g., business manager and youth).

For a full listing of the job description and district bylaws concerning this position, please contact President Herbert Mueller, 2408 Lebanon Avenue, Belleville, IL 62221 (618-234-4767) at SIDPresHCM@aol.com. Please send applications or nominations with resume' and permission to request LEIF or PIF and SET forms to President Mueller at the same address by February 28, 2008.

Thank you.



On December 9, 2007 Pastor Paul Baumann was installed at St. James, Glen Carbon. Pictured left to right, front row: Pastor Robert Weiss, Concordia Seminary; Baumann, Pastor Leonard Laetsch, Hope, Highland; back row, left to right: Pastor Kelly Mitteis, Faith, Godfrey; President Herbert Mueller, SID; and Pastor David Fielding, Hope, Granite City.

The InSIDE Word is published monthly by the Office of the District President of the Southern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in Belleville, Illinois for the church workers and leaders of the Southern Illinois District.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS & EVENTS IN AND FOR THE SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT 2008

January

- 1 District Office closed
- 3 S. A. M. T. F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Mission Staff Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 10 Prison Ministry Coordinating Committee Meeting, 1:30 p.m.
- 10 Board of Congregational Support, 4:15 p.m.
- 11 Student Aid Golf Committee Meeting, 11:00 a.m., Okawville
- 12 Stewardship Task Force, 9:00 a.m.
- 14 Pastoral Conference Program Committee, 9:00 a.m.
- 14 SID Presidium Meets at 12 Noon
- 15 District LLL Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 Mission Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 23 Finance Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- 28 Fund Advisory Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- 30 Older Adult Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

February

- 1 SID Principals Conference at Camp Wartburg
- 4 Board of Spiritual Care & Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 2 SID Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.
- 7 S. A. M. T. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Pastor/Elder Workshop: 2:00 p.m. at St. Paul, Hamel and 7:00 p.m. Trinity, Nashville

March

- 6 Board of Congregational Support, 4:15 p.m.
- 6 S.A.M.T.F. , 7:00 p.m.
- 18 District LLL Board Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 Good Friday—District Office Closed
- 23 EASTER—He Is Risen!
- 27 Mission Staff Meeting, 9:30 a.m.

April

- 3 S.A.M.T.F., 7:00 p.m.
- 5 Mission Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 16 Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
- 24-26 LEA Convocation in Minneapolis
- 26 SID Board of Directors Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 28 Fund Advisory Meeting, 4:30 p.m.