



The InSIDE Word

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A newsletter by and for Southern IL District-LCMS

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Presidential Activities December 2008

- 7 Individual Consultations
- 3 Meetings with Roger Sprengel
- 3 Congregational Meetings
- 6 District Meetings
- 5 Preaching/Speaking engagements
- 1 District Interview
- 1 Reinstatement Interview
- 1 KFUO engagement
- 5 Days Vacation in Nebraska with grandchildren

A Blessed New Year to All!

While the world celebrates the New Year (we in the Church did that already on the First Sunday in Advent), we observe January 1 as "The Circumcision and Name of Jesus." This is the 8th day from His birth, the day on which under the old Law He was circumcised, as the Gospel informs us (Luke 2:21). Therefore, this day we sing:

*The Ancient Law Departs, And all its fears remove,
For Jesus makes with faithful hearts A covenant of love.*

*The Light of Light divine, True brightness undefiled,
He bears for us the pain of sin, A holy, spotless child.*

*His infant body now Begins the cross to feel;
Those precious drops of blood that flow For death the victim seal.*

*Today the name is Thine At which we bend the knee.
They call Thee Jesus, child divine; Our Jesus deign to be
(LSB 898, st. 1-4).*

Jesus Christ was born for this, to give Himself in our place under the Law. It began already with the 8th day of His life on earth. But by this action, which we remember the first day of our secular year, Jesus has made holy for us every day of the year, has even sanctified us, for as His word promises, "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 2:7).

Under that blessing, we move into 2009 with great confidence and joy, no matter what the year may bring. Again, we sing:

*Jesus! Name of wondrous love,
Human name of God above;
Pleading only this, we flee
Helpless, O our God, to Thee
(LSB 900, st. 6).*

A blessed New Year in Jesus to one and all!

Just one more thing.....

Make That Call!

Please indulge me in a brief “presidential observation,” but before I get into it let me also admit my own culpability. This is something with which I struggle as well.

What am I talking about?

Have you ever realized that you needed to talk with someone, but for one reason or another you hesitated to make the call? It could have been simple procrastination, maybe a bit of fear or whatever, but you put it off. Here’s the observation (often quite obvious) – putting it off almost never helps.

So, go ahead and make the call.

It could be the parent of a child in your class who needs the extra attention. It could be the person on your church council who has opposed you on something but now needs pastoral care (he is sick, or her relative has died). Go make the call! Most of the time waiting never helps. If now is not the right time, it will be clear in the phone conversation and you can set a different time. But at least you let them know you were thinking of them.

I bring this up because one of the most important aspects of a pastor’s relationship with his people, or a teacher’s relationship with the parents of her students, is to **let them know that you care**. But they cannot know it unless you call. People will forgive many other faults and failings, but if they believe you do not care, they will quickly begin to drift.

But what if we believe the situation is such that they should call first? It may well be true that they should call first, but go make the call anyway! It’s what Jesus did for you and for me, His lost sheep: “Does he not leave the 99 in the open country, and go after the one he has lost, until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing” (Luke 15:4-5).

Now go make the call! It’s what I need to do as well!

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

ZION, BETHALTO—Entering Call process, (Pastor Willard Meyer senior pastor is retiring)

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

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

TRINITY, HARVEL—entering call process

ST. PAUL, TROY—Called Rev. Mitch Schuessler of Immanuel, Altamont, IL. (Received and Accepted)

ST. SALVATOR, VENEDY/ST. PETER, NEW MEMPHIS—Entering Call process (Pastor David Fletcher is retiring)

SID PASTOR’S CALLS RECEIVED/ACCEPTED/RETURNED

REV. DANIEL DECKER, Zion, Bethalto to Living Faith Lutheran Church, Clive, Iowa (Received and Declined)

PRAYER REQUESTS



For **Dawn Mueller**, wife of Pastor Tim Mueller, (St. John's, New Minden and St. Luke, Covington) as she recovers from surgery on Nov. 20.

For the family of **Rev. Mark Meschke**, (emeritus) who was called home by our heavenly Father on December 12.

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

For health concerns for baby **Laura Braun**, infant daughter of Pastor Allen and Laura Braun, (formerly of SID).

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, deployed to Iraq.

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 soon to 3 months at sea.

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 mp.

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.

Please call Donna at 618-234-4767 to add your prayer request, or update the information above.

PRAISE REPORTS:

Let us praise God for the birth of **Kiernan Christine Janneke** to Kory and Heidi Janneke. Kiernan is the granddaughter to Rev. Al and Donna Janneke, St. Mark, Steeleville

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.

No Anniversaries celebrated in December

LCMS Servant Events Offers Record Number of Events for 2009

Over 100 Servant Events are planned for 2009! All kinds of events are available, from construction, human care, and outreach events to crisis, multicultural, and environmental events. There are also events especially for families, and for the first time in 2009, there will be an event just for young adults.

LCMS Servant Events give young people across the country the experience of learning that serving others can make a difference because of Jesus Christ. Since 1981, LCMS youth and adults have participated in more than 1,000 Servant Events and have made a difference in the lives of thousands of others by contributing to the development of resources and facilities of Synodical camps, congregations, and other service agencies.

Visit LCMS Servant Events online at www.lcms.org/youth for a complete listing of events and to search by type, date, and region of the country. For a free DVD about LCMS Servant Events, contact the LCMS Youth Ministry Office at youth.ministry@lcms.org or 1.800.248.1930 x1155.



Make January 22 a Day of Prayer and Reflection

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus!

At a very busy time Jesus called His disciples to “‘Come away by yourselves to a desolate place and rest a while.’ For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. And they went away in the boat to a desolate place by themselves” (Mark 6:31-32). We are hereby **inviting each of you** to come away for a time to spend time in prayer and reflection, humbling ourselves “under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time He may exalt [us], casting all [our] anxieties on Him, because He cares for [us]” (1 Peter 5:6-7).

Therefore, **mark your calendar now** for a “*President’s Day of Prayer and Reflection*” to be held **Thursday, January 22, 2009, at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Columbia, Illinois**. The schedule will be from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM but come any time for as much time as your schedule will allow. You are invited, together with your people, to participate in this special event, sponsored by my office for prayer, fasting (if you desire) and theological reflection.

The **theme of the theological reflection will be: Lutheran Outreach – Theology and Practice**. We are inviting various pastors in Southern Illinois to help us reflect and to grow in the Word of God and the task of outreach.

The **focus of our prayers** will be on the needs of our parishes, our pastors, our people, our country, our district and Synod. There will be time in structured prayer, as well as time for unstructured and individual prayer. Why this? Why now? What a way to prepare for our District Convention one month later! What a way to prepare for our Floor Committees set to meet also at St. Paul the following Sunday, January 25! What a way to hold up before the Lord the needs of our nation and our people!

Many thanks to Pastor Fritz Baue, outgoing chairman of the District Pastoral Conference and Circuit Counselor for the Greater Belleville Circuit (#5) for helping to plan this event. As we develop further details we will publish a more complete schedule. At the present we are looking at something like this (though we will be flexible as time allows):

Tentative Schedule:

8:00 AM –	Morning Suffrages
8:30 AM –	Theological Reflection on “Lutheran Outreach – Theology and Practice”
10:30 AM –	Matins
11:15 AM –	Time for Individual Prayer
12:00 Noon –	The Noon Suffrages
12:30 PM –	Time for Rest, Reading, Individual Prayer, and the consolation of fellow Christians
2:00 PM –	Theological Reflection – Part Two
3:30 PM –	Brief Vespers
4:15 PM –	Opportunity for Confession/Absolution, more time for prayer, individually and informally
5:00 PM –	Divine Service hosted by St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbia
6:00 PM –	A Light Meal to “break the fast” served by St. Paul, Columbia.

The issues facing us in the life of our church call us to seek the Lord and ask for His divine intervention. All are therefore invited to this “*President’s Day of Prayer and Reflection*.” The purpose of this convocation is to withdraw with Jesus, as it were, into the desert for a time. There we will pray, meditate, learn and especially repent of our sins and the sins of our church. The challenges we face will not be resolved by political means, but only in the Word of God and in prayer. This is where Jesus meets us and makes us one in Him.

Circuit Counselors may remember that we discussed this in our November meeting. If you wish, you may attend this conference in lieu of a January Circuit Meeting. If not, that’s fine, too. But all are still invited, as you are able, to come away for a time of prayer and reflection.

Again, **mark your calendar for January 22, 2009, at St. Paul Columbia**. Come for as much as you are able.

May God grant you and yours a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year! God’s peace be with you!

+ Herbert Mueller
District President

What's Happening at Convention?

You were asking that question, right? Well, even if convention has not yet crossed your mind, we do have a District Convention coming up February 19-21, 2009, and your convention planning committee has been hard at work preparing. What's coming? There will be a few changes this convention compared to past conventions.

First of all, the **Floor Committee Meetings will take place, Sunday, January 25, 2009, at 2:00 PM at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Columbia, Illinois.** All Floor Committee members are expected to be present. The meetings are also open to anyone else who is interested. Check out your convention workbook for further information.

By the way, **District Convention Workbooks** are in the process of being distributed. We do not mail them, but someone from the district brings them by or provides them through the Circuit Counselor. If you have not yet received yours, call the office or ask your Circuit Counselor, Pastor or Principal. It will be coming!

We are doing something else this year to prepare for the convention. As you note elsewhere in this issue, a **Day of Prayer and Reflection** is planned for Thursday, January 22, 2009, at St. Paul, Columbia, Illinois. This is open to everyone. Come for the whole day. Come for an hour, or for however long you can. Spend time with your brothers and sisters in Christ in prayer.

The theme of this convention is **One Sure Hope**, based on 1 Peter 1:3-5 and 1 Corinthians 15:19-20. The resurrection of Jesus anchors us in a living and certain hope. Christ Jesus is the one who gives life and forgiveness, meaning and purpose. In our sin, we are looking for life in all the wrong places – pleasure, possessions, power. When God has shown us that none of these can give what they promise, Jesus, crucified for us and raised from the dead, remains our “One Sure Hope.”

The **Theological Essay** on the theme will be given by Rev. Matthew Harrison, Executive Director of Synod's Board for LCMS World Relief/Human Care. An engaging and Christ-centered speaker, Rev. Harrison will lead us through the Scriptures to anchor our hope in Christ.

Another different feature this convention is that **the opening service** will not be at the convention center but held at a church – **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1300 Belt Line, Collinsville, at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 19, 2009.** President Gerald Kieschnick will be the preacher for the service, followed by a Presidents' Reception sponsored by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

That means there will be **no business sessions Thursday evening**, but the business begins promptly at 8:00 a.m. Friday, February 20 and will dismiss, God willing, by 1:00 p.m. Saturday, February 21. That also means there will be no banquet program Friday evening, but we will have a Friday evening business session.

How will we get the business done? We will utilize **electronic voting for the first time** and will schedule a session for Friday evening. We have been able to shorten the convention, hold the opening service in a church, but keep approximately the same amount of time for debate and business. Some money will be saved by providing only 2 meals instead of 4.

The **President's Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance** has requested 2 hours of time for the presentation and discussion of their proposals. This will be granted Friday afternoon, but is in addition to the time we have scheduled for business and debate.

Much more information is found in the Convention Workbook. If you have any questions, please call or email the district office.



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

JANUARY

- Presidium Meeting, Noon
- 8 Mission Staff Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 8 Southern Africa Mission Task Force, 7:00 p.m.
- 9 DCE and Deaconess Gathering, 11:00 a.m.
- 15 Board of Congregational Support, 4:15 p.m.
- 17 Mission Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
- 21 Finance Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- 22 Day of Prayer and Reflection at St. Paul, Columbia, IL, 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
- 22 Youth Advisory Committee, Zion, Belleville, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 S.I.D. School Administrators Meeting, Okawville, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
- 25 S.I.D. Convention Floor Committees Meet, St. Paul, Columbia, 2:00-5:00 p.m.
- 26 S.I.D. Convention Planning Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 31 S.I.D. Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.

FEBRUARY

- 2 Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 5 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19-21 SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT CONVENTION

MARCH

- 5 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 12-14 LEA Administrators' Conference—Atlanta, GA
- 21 Board of Directors and all Boards Day of Orientation

APRIL

- 2 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 10 Good Friday—District Office Closed
- 12 Easter—Celebrate— HE IS RISEN INDEED
- 16 LWML District Board of Directors, 9:30 a.m.
- 21 Call Day at Concordia Theological Seminary— Ft. Wayne
- 22 Call Day at Concordia Seminary—St. Louis
- 28 SID Spring Pastor's Conference at Camp Wartburg

MAY

- 2 SID Student Aid Golf Benefit
- 4 Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 7 Prison Ministry Conference—Camp Wartburg
- 7 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 SID LLL Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 25 Memorial Holiday—District Office closed