



# The InSIDE Word

[www.sidlems.org](http://www.sidlems.org)

A newsletter by and for Southern IL District-LCMS

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## Presidential Activities June 2008

- 9 Individual Consultations
- 4 Speaking/ Preaching Engagements
- 6 District Meetings
- 3 Meetings with Dan Roth
- 5 Congregational Meetings
- 4 Days—Grace Place Retreat
- 3 Days Vacation

## ON THE JOURNEY

President Herbert C. Mueller, Jr.

*"Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying,  
'This is the way. Walk in it'" (Isaiah 30:21).*

As I write to you, I am on a journey – quite literally – for my wife and I are on our way to Connecticut to spend some vacation time with her family. It's over 1000 miles, so it takes some time. There's a beginning, a middle and an end. It cannot be done all at once.

You and I are also on a spiritual journey. The Christian life is both a matter of being (we are redeemed, justified, forgiven, always only in Christ) and a matter of becoming, of living toward the purpose for which God has called us in Christ. The Bible speaks of this as our walk: *"For you know how, like a father with his children, we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory" (1 Thessalonians 2:11-12)*. Because *"there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus" (Romans 8:1)* we are then told to *"walk by the Spirit" (Romans 8:4)*. Well, that sounds like a journey to me. But what does this mean? How is this done?

First of all, this journey begins and ends in Christ. Here's the crucial difference Jesus makes. Remember the old beer commercial, "you only go 'round once in life, so grab all the gusto..." or something like that. OK, so I've dated myself, but that little snippet illustrates a Christ-less (i.e. pagan) understanding of life as a circular trip, beginning and ending with nothing. Whatever meaning it has along the way is something you have assigned. The best this world view has to offer is reincarnation – if you don't get it right this time, maybe there's a chance to come back and do it all over again, but you still spin around in the same circle.

Life in Christ, however, is a walk, a journey with it's beginning and ending in the cross. We begin with our death and resurrection in our Baptism. Daily we return to that Baptism to die and to rise with Christ. There God daily makes us *"alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross" (Colossians 2:13-14)*. Jesus also promises, *"whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life. He does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life" (John 5:24)*.

So our journey is not an endless cycle of the same thing all over again, but it begins in Christ's death and resurrection for us and ends with Christ's return to raise us from the dead to take our place around His throne forever. In Christ we know where we come from (we are created, redeemed) and we know where we are going (destined for life eternal). In between is the journey, what we in theology call sanctification. St. Paul urges us to *"walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which*

*you have been called*" (Ephesians 4:1). Walk by the Spirit, not the flesh, he says (Galatians 5:16). But I've noticed something about this journey, too. It's not automatic. It cannot be done all at once. There's a discipline, a process.

Paul is writing about the journey when he tells us to "*work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure*" (Philippians 2:12-13). Note that it is still God who works, for our journey must be formed, shaped and powered by the Word of God. Especially we church workers are called to be in the Word of God. We are invited to pray the Psalms, to meditate on Scripture and then to lift up our voices in supplication to God. We live in a community of the Word, where we "*let the Word of Christ dwell in [us] richly,*" as we teach and admonish "*one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God*" (Colossians 3:16). The power comes from God in His Word.

We are redeemed in Christ, declared righteous – that's a given. Now we are becoming Christ's holy people in the world. For what purpose? Check out this Scripture: "*For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 1:5-8). God calls us to "*grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ*" (2 Peter 3:18) so that we will bear fruit in works of love and grace that serve the neighbor and testify to the hope that is within us, so that we invite others to "come and see" Jesus and receive life in His name.

This is still, however, a journey, a life-long process of becoming. God shapes the path as we hear and meditate on and respond to His Word. God's grace in Christ redeems our detours as He daily brings us back to the beginning, our death and resurrection with Christ in Baptism. God's forgiveness in Christ liberates us from the crippling bondage of our previous wanderings from His path. Then the transforming presence of God's Spirit in the Word meets us at every turn in the road as our Lord walks the journey with us, even "*in the valley of the shadow of death*" (Psalm 23:4). That's also why Jesus Himself feeds us for the journey with the "medicine of immortality" in His Body and Blood, given and shed for us. And there at the altar, we also recognize we are not alone in the journey, but intimately connected to one another and to all who are connected by faith to Jesus.

"*Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways*" says the Psalmist (Psalm 128:1). All of this is from God, whole and complete in Christ. All of this also unfolds as we walk with Him day by day in the Word of God. All this is also what we have to give away when we invite others on the journey with us. And all of it, the beginning, the end, as well as the journey in between, are God's gift in Jesus by His Word.

May God bless your journey with Him!

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## CALLING CONGREGATIONS

**TRINITY, EDWARDSVILLE** - Working with an updated call list.

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

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

**BETHLEHEM, FERRIN**— Rev. Darwin Schrader serving as interim pastor.

**HOLY CROSS, LIVINGSTON**—Pastor Maurice Alms has retired but for now is serving as vacancy pastor.

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## SID PASTOR'S CALLS RECEIVED/ACCEPTED/RETURNED

**Rev. John Palka**, Troy, Candidate Status, to Christ Lutheran Church (Associate Pastor), La Mesa, CA.  
(Received)

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## PRAYER REQUESTS ....



For **Marian Martens**, former SID Treasurer, who has been recently diagnosed with cancer and inclusive body myositis as she continues with chemo treatments.

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: **Lt. Col. Gary Brooks, 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.

**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 Fuji, 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 at Fort McNair, DC. for additional training.

**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.

**Capt. Keith GeRue** has returned home. Praise God.

Please call Donna at 618-234-4767 to add your prayer request to our monthly newsletter.

## PRAISE REPORTS:

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## SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT- LCMS Fall Pastoral Conference Schedule *October 6-8, 2008*

***Pere Marquette Lodge, near Grafton, Illinois***

**“Preaching – Law and Gospel and Narrative Sermons”**

*Dr. Carl Fickenscher (Concordia, Fort Wayne) and Dr. Glenn Nielsen (Concordia, St. Louis)*

Monday, October 6, 2008

- 12:30 p.m. Registration  
1:00 p.m. Opening Devotion – Matthew 22:1-14  
1:15 p.m. Session I – “Matthew 22:1-14 – Two Homiletic Approaches”  
*(Drs. Nielsen and Fickenscher)*  
(10 minute homily plus 30 minutes explanation each; Discussion with Moderator – 25 minutes]  
3:00 p.m. Break  
3:30 p.m. Discussion and Review of Proposals for the Changes in Synod’s Structure  
*(President Herbert Mueller)*  
5:00 p.m. Opportunity for Confession/Absolution  
5:30 p.m. Divine Service  
7:00 p.m. Dinner on your own, followed by Gemuetlichkeit at the Lodge (9:00 p.m.)

Tuesday, October 7, 2008

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast at the Lodge  
8:30 a.m. Matins  
9:15 a.m. Session II – Sermon Preparation and Structure *(Drs. Nielsen and Fickenscher)*  
[40 minutes each; Moderated Discussion 25 minutes]  
11:00 a.m. District Business – Conference Committee Elections  
12:00 p.m. Lunch  
12:55 p.m. Noon Suffrages  
1:00 p.m. Session III – Sermon Delivery and Reception *(Drs. Nielsen and Fickenscher)*  
[40 minutes each; Moderated Discussion 25 minutes]  
2:45 p.m. Recreation  
7:00 p.m. BBQ Banquet – Todd Wilken, Banquet Speaker  
8:00 p.m. Evening Prayer  
8:30 p.m. Gemuetlichkeit/Reading of letters of excuse

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

- 7:30 a.m. Breakfast  
8:30 a.m. Matins  
9:15 a.m. Session IV – Responders: Pastor John Lukomski on Walther (20 minutes)  
Pastors Holle & Curtis on Forde (20 minutes)  
10:00 a.m. Q/A Panel Discussion with Presenters and Responders  
11:00 a.m. District Business  
11:30 a.m. Itinerarium

## **PASTORS' ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED**

The following pastors celebrated anniversaries of their ordination into the Holy Ministry in **June** and received certificates. If you, or someone you know had an anniversary (20, 25, 30, 35, etc.) during the month of **June** 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. Bert Eickhoff	20 years	June 26, 2008
Rev. Martin Schultz	20 years	June 26, 2008
Rev. William Engfehr	30 years	June 25, 2008
Rev. Josepha Lecke	30 years	June 27, 2008
Rev. Kit Belk	35 years	June 17, 2008
Rev. Ernest Wentzel	55 years	June 28, 2008

### **June Golf Scramble A Success**

The first district scramble was held on Monday, June 2, at Roland Barkau Memorial Golf Course in Okawville. The following participants experienced a warm, humid day: Pastors Elmer Schwartzkopf, Rev. Nathan Meador, Rev. Ernie Wentzel, Rev. Dr. Alvin Kollman, Rev. Michael Kumm, Vicar Scott Busacker, Teachers: Richard Crouse, Jim Rohe, Dan Roth, Bob Dosien, Dave Klein, Terry Fark, and Keith Schelp, Laity of District Boards/Committees: Ruth Waeltz and Maxine Goetting, and Josh the son of teacher Keith Schelp. Thanks to Thrivent Financial Consultant Wally Streuter for providing a lunch for the golfers. Winning Edge in Centralia once again provided the trophies. Our new SID LCEF Vice President, Mr. Dennis Klussman, provided a sleeve of balls for each participant. Rev. Nathan Meador was the winner of the closest to the pin on Hole #10 and Dan Roth on hole #2. The winning team with a score of 71 was Rev. Nathan Meador, Vicar Scott Busacker, Terry Fark and Josh Schelp. The golfers also had to play a pink ball on each hole. Mixed reviews were given but we might try it again at our next scramble, on August 4 at Oakbrook in Edwardsville, tee off time is 9 AM.



## Southern Illinois District Golf Scramble

- WHEN:** Monday-August 4, 2008 at 9:00 AM
- WHERE:** Oak Brook Golf Club  
9157 Fruit Road  
Edwardsville, IL
- FOR WHOM:** Pastors, teachers, lay members of SID Boards & Committees,  
spouses, your high school/college age children.
- COST:** \$22 with a cart for everyone
- LUNCH** Provided by Thrivent

**Come and meet some new golfers! Come and have a good time! Teams will be chosen by drawing names from a hat. Every player will receive a sleeve of balls, compliments of the Southern Illinois District Lutheran Church Extension Fund. We may try the pink squirrel challenge again!**

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## **Lutheran Heritage Foundation Publishes Spanish Bible with Catechism**

Free Resource: The Holy Bible and Luther's Small Catechism, translated into Spanish and published in a single volume, is now available from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF), a recognized service organization of the LCMS.

Rev. Dan McMiller, a mission executive for the South Wisconsin District of the LCMS, first saw a need for the Bible with catechism when he was a missionary in Panama five years ago.

"We'd have the 'people's Bible,' as Martin Luther called it, right here in one resource," he said. When witnessing the faith and planting churches among Hispanics, he said, "it is always very important that we have the Bible and the catechism there, side-by-side."

"Because Luther wrote the catechism for the common man with a limited education, the unchurched Latino, no matter his social status, understands it, they appreciate the clarity, and the lights keep going on and on."

Pastors, missionaries and laypeople are encouraged to order a copy (or multiple copies, if there is a need in your congregation or area) by calling (800) 554-0723, or by visiting the LHF website at [www.LHFmissions.org](http://www.LHFmissions.org)

LHF is a mission organization dedicated to translating and publishing Lutheran materials into languages around the world.

There usually is no charge for any LHF materials, but donations of \$10 per Bible to help cover shipping and handling costs are greatly appreciated.

### **For more information, contact:**

Jennifer Bagnall, public relations  
[jbagnall@LHFmissions.org](mailto:jbagnall@LHFmissions.org)

The Lutheran Heritage Foundation  
51474 Romeo Plank Rd.  
Macomb, MI. 48042  
800-554-0723

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

### July

- 4 District Office Closed
- 11-13 LCMS National Children's Ministry Conference—Schaumburg, IL.
- 16 Finance Committee, 4:00 p.m.
- 17 District LWML Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m. in Collinsville
- 26 SID Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.
- 28 Fund Advisory, 4:30 p.m.

### August

- 4 District Golf Scramble, Edwardsville, 9:00 a.m.
- 6 Older Adult Advisory Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 7 Board of Congregational Support, 4:15 p.m.
- 7 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 SID Convention Planning Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 13 Day of Spiritual Growth, St. John-Red Bud, 8:30 a.m.
- 25 Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9:00 a.m.

### September

- 4 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 18 Mission Staff Meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 19-20 LWML Convention, Good Shepherd-Collinsville
- 27 Mission Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.

### October

- 2 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 2-3 Teachers Conference in Springfield, IL.
- 6-8 SID Fall Pastoral Conference, Pere Marquette
- 13 SID Convention Planning Committee Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 15 Finance Committee Meeting, 4:00 p.m.
- 16 LWML District Board, 9:00 a.m.
- 25 SID Board of Directors, 9:00 a.m.
- 27 Fund Advisory, 4:30 p.m.
- 30 Mission Staff, 9:30 a.m.

### November

- 3 Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9:00 a.m.
- 5 Older Adult Advisory Meeting 6:15 p.m.
- 6 S.A.M.T.F. Meeting, 7:00 p.m.
- 8 SID Mission Board, 9:00 a.m.
- 8 "Carload" Conference, St. Mark, Steeleville
- 27 Thanksgiving Day—District Office closed
- 28 District Office Closed