



Mueller re-elected to sixth term as district president

Delegates to the 55th LCMS Southern Illinois District convention, Feb. 19-21 in Collinsville, re-elected Rev. Herbert C. Mueller Jr. of Waterloo to his sixth term as president.

Mueller, whose re-election came on the first ballot, was installed during the convention which met under the theme "One Sure Hope," from 1 Peter 1:3-4.

Other district officers elected and installed at the convention included:

- Rev. Timothy Scharf of Nashville, Ill., first vice president.
- Dr. George Gude of Dorsey, Ill., second vice president.
- Rev. Antonin Troup of Waterloo, secretary.
- Gary Hemmer of Columbia, Ill., treasurer.

Among resolutions adopted, the district voted to "not formally participate" in the synodwide *Fan into Flame* campaign that seeks to raise \$100 million for the *Ablaze!* Gospel-sharing initiative, but to instead establish a committee to study and possibly coordinate a districtwide mission appeal beginning in 2010 that would fund mission projects within the dis-



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trict and worldwide.

Delegates also voted to:

- continue the district's mission partnership with the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa through LCMS World Mission. District congregations have contributed nearly \$200,000 over the past nine years to the LCMS partner church, and plan to continue to provide a goal of \$40,000 per year to the African church body for seminary scholarships, lay leadership training, church planting, books for pastors, and HIV/AIDS workshops.

Attending the convention was the church body's Bishop David

Tswaedi and a lay representative, Mpolaise Masibi.

- support an effort to bring revitalization in the Word of God to district congregations, for the sake of Christ's mission to the lost.
- encourage the district's 96 congregations to "intentionally reach Hispanic families" through Lutheran Sunday and day schools, vacation Bible schools, and other congregational ministries.
- encourage continued support for the district's prison ministry by providing funding, volunteers, and prayer. A related resolution asks district

congregations to support "Freed in Christ," a new program that connects non-violent ex-offenders with LCMS congregations.

Delegates also adopted several resolutions that relate to LCMS structure, asking to continue the existing structure of districts, the current Synod boards, the present balance of voting delegates (one lay, one clergy), and equal representation for all congregations.

During the convention, representatives of the LCMS Blue Ribbon Task Force on Synod Structure and Governance presented the task force's preliminary proposals and possible recommendations—as they will do for all 35 district conventions this year.

Synod President Gerald B. Kieschnick preached during the convention's opening service, and during business sessions he presented a report and answered questions.

EDITOR

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June/July deadline:
April 15

Bob Streuter Memorial Golf Scramble is May 2

The fifth Annual Southern Illinois District Student Aid Golf Scramble has been renamed to honor Bob Streuter, who passed away last year. Bob was district treasurer from 1997 to 2003 and also served on the district finance committee.

Bob was instrumental in getting this golf scramble started and served on the planning committee until his death. Bob was a member at Immanuel, Murphysboro.

When—Saturday, May 2

Where—Okawville
Roland Barkau Golf Course

Tee-off Time—12:30 p.m.

Cost—\$75 per player

Prizes—three flights, longest drive for men/women, closest to the pin contest.

Registration form—will be sent to all congregations, download from the district Web site, www.sidlcmms.org, look under forms or call the district office, 618-234-4767.

Profits—go into the district Student Aid Endowment Fund

Those who do not golf may still make a donation by being hole sponsors at a cost of \$50 or multiples

of \$50. Contact your church office or the district office at 618-234-4767 for a form.

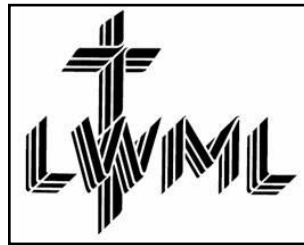
Corporate sponsors pay \$1,000 and are entitled to send a team of four golfers to the scramble at no additional cost and also receive publicity at the scramble. Contact the district office at 618-234-4767 for a form.

The goal this year is to have a minimum of 32 teams in the scramble.

LWML scholarships available

The Southern Illinois District of Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is offering scholarships to students from the Southern Illinois District that are preparing for full-time service in the church. If you hold membership in a Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod Southern Illinois District congregation, you may apply for one of the following scholarships:

Mite Project Scholarships. One of LWML mite grants for the 2008-10 biennium is for seminary scholarships for men who plan to become pastors. Four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in June 2009 for the 2009-10 academic year to four men preparing for the pastoral ministry.



Student Assistance Fund Scholarships.

These scholarships are given to church workers taking graduate courses through one of our synodical schools or to seminary students. If funds permit, scholarship money also may be provided to support undergraduate students in professional church-worker programs in our synodical colleges.

The money in the Student Assistance Funds comes from interest earned from bequest monies, memorials, and joy gifts that have been invested in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Application forms for all scholarships are available on the Web site (www.sidlwml.org) and by either e-mail or regular mail. Send e-mail requests for applications to danmicroth@charter.net. Send mail requests and a self-addressed envelope to Mickey Roth, 110 Foxbrush Drive, Belleville, IL 62221.

To be considered, the completed application must be returned by May 1.

Lutherans For Life Conference is April 25

Lutherans For Life of Illinois will hold its state conference on Saturday, April 25, at Saint Peter Lutheran Church, 310 N. Broadway St., Joliet, IL 60435.

Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

For more information, refer to the Illinois Lutherans For Life Web site at www.lylofillinois.org or e-mail Northern Illinois District President at Al Benson at 1fl_ni@prodigy.net or Central/Southern Illinois District President Jeanne Strubbe at jeannestrubbe@yahoo.com.

Calls in the district

Calls Extended

Stewart Rethwisch, Holy Cross, Wartburg, to Trinity, Harvel.

Nathan Meador, Zion, Staunton, to St. John, Plymouth, Wis.





President's report highlights

by Herbert C. Mueller

Our Southern Illinois District met in convention Feb. 19-21 at Collinsville. Besides welcoming Synod President Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick and LCMS First Vice President William Diekelman, we welcomed representatives from the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa, Bishop David Tswaedi and Mr. Mpolaise Masibi, a layman from the Church Council of the Lutheran Church of Southern Africa.

Under the convention theme, "One Sure Hope," here are some highlights of our report to the delegates. The visitation of all our parishes regarding missions, Holy Communion, and worship practices was an important focus. After consulting with the circuit counselors and vice presidents, we developed a measured approach to conduct the visits in three phases.

Phase One was to visit every active pastor in the district simply to provide encouragement in the Word of God and prayer.

Phase Two is to visit pastors and lay leaders together to discuss the mission of the church, as



Rev. Herbert C. Mueller Jr.
District President

well as communion and worship practices.

Phase Three is to come back to visit congregational voters assemblies regarding all three issues.

How have we done?

Phase One is 90 percent complete, though this will always be ongoing as new pastors come into the district. As of our most recent count, a total of 90 visits to encourage pastors have been made—42 by the district president, 41 by the local circuit counselor, and seven by a vice president. That means at least 11 more pastors still need to be visited.

Phase Two involves visits of pastors with the Board of Elders and/or Church Council. Here 40 visits have been made—19 by the district president, 14 by the local circuit counselor, and seven by a vice president. So,

we have 56 congregations to go. Phase Three has not yet started. This effort will be a major focus for the next 18 months.

What have we found in the 130 visits that were made? Our pastors are seeking to be faithful and are working hard at the tasks Christ has given them, yet they also are in need of encouragement from the Word of God. There are congregations whose practice of the Lord's Supper may appear to be less stringent than others (our study document on communion practices gives us a tool to talk about and come to greater agreement on what faithful practice looks like).

However, I am not aware of any of our congregations that are practicing completely "open communion." Charitably speaking, I believe all are working at being faithful.

In the area of worship practices, most of our parishes have moved to *Lutheran Service Book*—at least 75 to 80 percent by my estimation. Before *LSB*, we were divided equally between *Lutheran Worship* and *The Lutheran Hymnal*. Several of our congregations do have some form of what is called "contemporary worship," but to

my knowledge, all are seeking to follow at least portions of the order of the liturgy of the church. More work and study together needs to be done to come to greater agreement. The study document on worship, I believe, has been quite helpful.

Significant amounts of a district president's time are devoted to helping congregations in conflict. This is tiring, yes, but, by God's grace, it is often very fruitful work. As we work together in the Word of God, Christ Himself brings His peace and a greater sense of harmony and purpose. It just often takes time.

Our district's extensive prison ministry was highlighted at this convention, recognizing the many years of service as district prison ministry coordinator by Pastor Maurice Alms, now retired. We also recognized that God is giving new joy working with our new Prison Ministry Coordinating Committee—Pastors Jim Rivett, Jeff Nehrt, and Jon Smithley.

We will continue this report next month with comments on our missions, East St. Louis, and congregational revitalization in the Word of God. Until then, God bless.

CONVENTION



Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, president of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, gives his report of the Synod at the convention.



Southern Illinois District delegates met and voted at the Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville.



New member Rev. Matthew Clark, Immanuel, Waterloo, signs the Synod's constitution, as Rev. Antonin Troup looks on.



Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, right, installs Rev. Herbert C. Mueller Jr. to his sixth term as district president.



The convention banner was constructed by Margo Wolf and Ruby Geiser of Zion, Belleville. The convention logo was designed by Melissa Iehl, formerly of Holy Cross, Collinsville, now living in Apex, N.C.

Rev. Matthew Harrison, executive director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, presented a theological essay on the convention theme, "One Sure Hope."



CONVENTION

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT



Bishop David Tswaedi of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa addresses the Southern Illinois District convention Feb. 20 in Collinsville, Ill. Delegates voted to continue the district's mission partnership with the African church through LCMS World Mission.



Pages for the convention were seventh- and eighth-graders from Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville. The teacher coordinating them was Keith Rincker. The students are Taylor Reese, Lila Musegades, Katie Goetter, Chelsea Kilzer, Amelia Biggs, Brandon Johnston, Jordan Clover, Joseph Valencika, Patrick Clessa, Tyler Clover, and Bigtyme Price.



The Gateway Convention Center in Collinsville, the site for the Southern Illinois District 55th regular convention.



Rev. Mark Hofferber, Zion, Bethalto, receives registration materials from Donna Wiesen, executive secretary to District President Herbert Mueller.



Former district president Rev. Alvin Kollmann.



Participants and guests enjoy fellowship during their meals at the convention.

CONVENTION



Delegate Rev. Kirk Clayton, Zion, Mascoutah, speaks to a resolution presented at the Southern Illinois District convention.



Roger Sprengel, Schools and General Executive, speaks with Donna Wiesen, executive secretary, at the registration booth.



LCMS President Gerald B. Kieschnick, left, and Southern Illinois District President Herbert C. Mueller Jr., right, welcome new professional church workers who signed the Synod's constitution as members of the Southern Illinois District.

Calendar of events

April

- 2—S.A.M.T.F. meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10—Good Friday, district office closed
- 12—Easter Sunday—district office closed
- 16—LWML District Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 21—Call Day at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.
- 22—Call Day at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
- 25—SID Board of Directors, 9 a.m.
- 28—SID Spring Pastors Conference, Camp Wartburg

May

- 2—SID Student Aid Golf Benefit
- 4—Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9 a.m.
- 7—Prison Ministry Conference, Camp Wartburg
- 7—S.A.M.T.F. meeting, 7 p.m.
- 19—SID Lutheran Laymen's League meeting, 7 p.m.
- 25—Memorial Holiday, district office closed

June

- 12-13—Senior High School Youth Gathering, Carlinville
- 17-19—All-Illinois Administrators Conference, Bloomington

July

- 16—LWML District Board of Directors meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 25—SID Board of Directors meeting, 9 a.m.



Lutheran school successes and challenges

by Roger Sprengel

NAEP Results

The latest results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress continue to document the success of our Lutheran schools and the quality of Lutheran education.

As in the past, in 2007 private school students scored higher than public school students in reading and mathematics. The percentages of private and public school students in each performance level of NAEP 2007 are included below. For complete information



Roger Sprengel
Schools and Executive Assistant

payments? Can congregations continue to support their schools? A recent article in *USA Today* indicates that more parents will request financial aid or even be forced to

ways to fund their programs of Christian education and provide the necessary means for financial assistance to those who need it. Some schools are contacting alumni or formulating appeal letters that include matching funds from fraternal groups, such as Thrivent's GivingPlus® program.

Annual fund appeals and dinner auctions have become a part of the financial plan for many Lutheran schools. Some Lutheran schools have even added staff members with specific job descriptions to raise funds (development director) or increase enrollment (admissions counselor).

an schools remains congregational support and tuition. Nationally, 48 percent of school funding comes from tuition, and 42 percent from congregational support.

During the 2008-09 school year, the schools in the Southern Illinois District received 50 percent of funding from tuition and 38 percent from congregational support.

We still have three schools in the Southern Illinois District that charge NO tuition for their member families!

One aspect of funding Lutheran schools remains—the future of our

Lutheran schools depends on dedicated and committed members of our congregations and schools that give time, talents, and treasures for Lutheran education!

It is my fervent prayer that God will pro-

	Below Basic	At or Above Basic	At or Above Proficient	At Advanced
<i>Grade 4 Reading</i>				
Public	34	66	32	7
Private	19	81	46	13
<i>Grade 4 Mathematics</i>				
Public	19	81	39	5
Private	10	90	48	6
<i>Grade 8 Reading</i>				
Public	27	73	29	2
Private	11	89	51	7
<i>Grade 8 Mathematics</i>				
Public	30	70	31	7
Private	17	83	45	12

on NAEP results for private schools please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.

Financial Concerns

These are challenging economic times! Can parents afford tuition

remove their children from parochial education programs because of the effects of the current recession.

Lutheran schools and Lutheran school leaders are looking for creative

Financial Support

The Southern Illinois District is a very diverse region and includes many of the above components of providing financial resources. However, the most important method of support for our Luther-

provide the necessary resources for our Lutheran school system and all other agencies of His church that provide spiritual nurture to His people!

CHURCH/PEOPLE

Church/People News in Southern Illinois

Construction of a new classroom building is under way at **Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School** in **Evansville, Ill.** The new classroom building, which will house several rooms and the high school office, is beginning to take shape. The building will be ready for students next school year.

Laborers For Christ will finish the interior. Volunteers will be needed on Saturdays to help with the construction when Laborers for Christ arrive.



Rev. Mitchel Schuessler, formerly of Bethlehem, Ferrin, and most recently of Immanuel, Altamont, Ill., was installed Feb. 15 as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Troy, Ill., by Southern Illinois District President Herbert Mueller. Pastors assisting with the installation included, from left, back row, Rev. Kirk Clayton, Zion, Mascoutah; Rev. Darwin Schrader, interim pastor at Immanuel, Okawville; Rev. Daniel Barbey, Immanuel, Mount Olive; Rev. David Fielding, Hope, Granite City; Rev. James Hoppes, emeritus, Collinsville; Chaplain Thomas Elbert, USAF, Scott AFB, Belleville; front row, Rev. James Ritter, vacancy pastor at Troy; Schuessler; Rev. Leonard Laetsch, Hope, Highland; and District President Mueller.



At Trinity (Prairie), Red Bud, Eric Piel presented Sarah Koester with a check for Trinity's organ celebration. On Dec. 6, 2008, the church celebrated the 100th anniversary of its pipe organ. The contribution assisted with CDs that were produced, featuring the church members' favorite hymns. The youth group raised the funds at the annual "Cookie Bake."



Kaitlan Schoenbeck, left, Trinity (Prairie), Red Bud, presents a check to Prairie Preschool Director Lisa Luebke-mann for new start-up school supplies. This is the first year of the all-day full-time preschool program. The youth also donated "The Creation" and "The Flood" books to the classrooms. The youth group raises the funds at the annual silent auction held each May.