



### **Our Savior, Carbondale, hosts meal for Chinese students**

"Twas the Friday before Thanksgiving when all through God's house, there were 120 Chinese students gathered for a meal and to learn about the love of Jesus Christ.

What a joy to have so many people at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Carbondale for a wonderful meal and then to sing hymns and receive the good news of salvation!

A recent trip by the chancellor at Southern Illinois University to China promises to bring even more young people

to Carbondale. This mission opportunity is met through support by our district, through LWML grant money, and through our local congregation. "I thank my God ... because of your partnership in the Gospel."

### **'Reaching Out Together' Conference set for Feb. 13**

The second annual "Reaching Out Together" evangelism conference will take place on Feb. 13 at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. It is designed to inspire, encourage, teach, and give opportunity for putting into practice prin-

ciples for talking about Jesus to others, especially the uncommitted or unchurched.

This event is presented by the Saturday Outreach School in partnership with Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), and LCMS North American Missions *Ablaze!*

"Reaching Out Together" is for pastors, evangelism boards, church leaders, and laypeople in the Missouri District and in adjacent LCMS districts.

Featured break-out session speakers include Dr. Thomas R. Zehnder,

executive director of LCMS World Mission; Kay L. Meyer, author of *Witnessing—A Lifestyle*; Rev. John Rathje, pastor of Christ in the City Lutheran Church, St. Louis; Rev. Peter Kirby, Ongoing Ambassadors For Christ; Rev. Kevin Parviz, Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism; and Rev. Brad Aldrich, CrossPollination Ministries.

The registration fee is \$20 per participant for the first four people from a single congregation, and \$15 for each additional participant. The fee includes lunch and all materials.

The registration deadline for "Reaching Out Together" is Feb. 5.

For more information, contact Concordia Seminary, Continuing Education, 801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105; 314-505-7486; [ce@csl.edu](mailto:ce@csl.edu).



**Our Savior, Carbondale, hosted a meal for Chinese students the Friday before Thanksgiving Day 2009. They sang hymns and learned about the love of Jesus Christ.**

### **EDITOR**

Send news, articles, and photos:

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*April deadline:*  
*Feb. 15*

Photos should be submitted in JPEG format with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.

## **Wheat Ridge Ministries announces \$251,800 in grants**

Wheat Ridge Ministries of Itasca, Ill., is awarding \$251,800 in grants to fund efforts of eight "health and hope" ministries, including four related to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

"We are so grateful for the support we receive from the thousands of supporters of Wheat Ridge Ministries around the world that makes it possible for us to provide seed money grants for these outstanding new ministries," said Brian Becker, vice president for ministry programs at Wheat Ridge. "Each of these efforts is a great example of God's people responding to the Good News of Jesus Christ through service to people in their congregation, neighborhood, and community."

Grants to the four LCMS-related ministries are:

- \$50,000 to Lutheran Social Services of the South, Inc., to create or expand health services to

assess the unmet needs of older individuals, their families, and caregivers through Care-Connect of Austin, Texas.

- \$40,000 to Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, St. Louis, to address the growing number of uninsured adults and their lack of access to health care by increasing staff and purchasing equipment to provide safe rehabilitation for post-surgical patients.

- \$20,000 to the Kuwaa Health Project of Bethany Lutheran Church, Slidell, La., to dig wells to provide safe drinking water in the Kuwaa area of Liberia, West Africa, and to build and equip health clinics for the remote area.

- \$9,300 to Lutherans and the Hungry Poor, Seattle, for training leaders and volunteers in the area's food programs to strengthen their commitment and leadership skills toward the goal of alleviating hunger and poverty.

For more information about Wheat Ridge grants, send an e-mail to [grants@wheatridge.org](mailto:grants@wheatridge.org) or visit the Web site: [www.wheatridge.org](http://www.wheatridge.org).

## **LWML scholarships available**

The Southern Illinois District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is offering scholarships to students from the Southern Illinois District who 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 the LWML mite grants for the 2008-10 biennium is for scholarships to seminary students. Four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in June for the 2010-11 academic year to men preparing for the pastoral ministry.

### **Student Assistance Fund Scholarships**

These scholarships are given to church workers taking graduate courses through a synodical school or to seminary students. If funds permit, scholarship money may also be provided to support undergraduate students in professional church workers programs in LCMS 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 LWML Web site at [www.sidlwml.org](http://www.sidlwml.org) and by either e-mail or regular mail. Send e-mail requests for applications to [danmicroth@charter.net](mailto: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.

## **Calls in the district Calls Extended**

Randall Moritz, Wood Lake, Minn., to Zion, Pinckneyville, and Trinity, Conant.

Gregory J. Schultz, St. Peter, Campbell Hill, to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, North Tonawanda, N.Y.

## **Calls Accepted**

Randall Moritz, Wood Lake, Minn., to Zion, Pinckneyville, and Trinity, Conant.

Gregory J. Schultz, St. Peter, Campbell Hill, to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, North Tonawanda, N.Y.





## Reflections on the Names of Jesus

by Herbert C. Mueller

Last month, reflecting on the Apostles' Creed, we began the year "in Jesus' name." We remembered how He "suffered under Pontius Pilate," thus anchoring our salvation in real space-time history. Today, we consider how His is the name above all names, the name at which "every knee shall bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Phil. 2:10-11).

In fact, every time we use the name of Jesus, we are making this confession of faith. JESUS—the Greek form of "Ye'shua," also "Joshua," means, "the Lord saves." His name tells who He is—the Lord, Yahweh God Himself—and what He has come to do—"save His people from their sins." But that's not all. The Bible is full of comforting names for our Lord Jesus.

We call Him Jesus Christ, more correctly Jesus the Christ, for CHRIST is actually a title, the Greek form of "Messiah," in Hebrew, "MASH-EE-ach," the anointed one. He is chosen of God and precious, the One designated by God to be Lord and Savior, as the voice from heaven spoke



**Rev. Herbert C. Mueller Jr.**  
District President

at Jesus' baptism, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17).

In Jesus the Christ, all the prophecies of the Old Testament find their "yes" (2 Cor. 1:20).

Another name explains it: IMMANUEL, Hebrew for "God with us." That's our Jesus. God Himself with us, even in our death, to give us life. "A virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel" (Is. 7:14). Our God with us.

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***This is the point of all of Jesus' names. He is God come to be with us in order to save us. Every name of Jesus reveals His everlasting love for us.***

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John the Baptizer pointed to Jesus and called Him "the LAMB OF GOD who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

This is what He did when He "suffered under Pontius Pilate." He gave His life as "a ransom" for us all (Matt. 20:28). But how can His suffering and death be for all humankind? Only because of who He is, our God come down to us. Therefore, here's another name for you: I AM.

"Before Abraham was, I AM," Jesus told His Jewish hearers (John 8:58). They took up stones to throw at Him because they didn't believe Him. They thought He was dishonoring God, who had revealed Himself to Moses as "I AM WHO I AM" (Ex. 3:14). But we know and confess it is true. Jesus is the Lord God Himself in our flesh. His claim is real. He is "the great I AM."

The BREAD OF LIFE—So when the people asked Jesus, "Lord, give us this living bread you talk about always," Jesus responded, "I am the bread of life!" (John 6:34-35). I am the one who feeds you. I will give you My own body and blood. I am the one who gives you life. Several more of Jesus' I AM sayings come to mind here.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD—"I am the light of the world; he who follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). Jesus is the Light of whom John wrote:

"In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines on in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

I AM THE DOOR OF THE SHEEP—Jesus said (John 10:7). He is the entry point. Through Him, we enter life. Through Him, God gives every blessing.

I AM THE GOOD SHEPHERD—same chapter, similar comparison. David had written, "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want" (Ps. 23:1). If Jesus is the Lord, the I AM, then He can say, "I am the Good Shepherd." He showed it when He laid down His life for the sheep, that is, for us.

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE—What is more profound than this name Jesus claims for Himself? He is standing near the grave of His friend Lazarus, now four days dead. In the face of death, He proclaims, "I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die" (John 11:25-26). Brave words? No, but words backed up with His action, "Why look for the living among the dead? He is not here. He is risen!" As He said He would (Luke 24:5f).

*(Continued on Page E.)*

## **Trust and the church**

by Roger Sprengel

I have been reading a new book titled *The Trust Edge*, by David Horsager. The premise of the book is that trust has become the world's most precious resource. Trust has been foundational to success of any kind. Trust is a requirement for strong friendships, families, and firms. Trust affects your influence and success—it impacts every level of business.

Those who are trusted are effective. Yet, we live in a world lacking trust—from massive fraud in business, to scandals in politics or athletics. We seldom talk about how to learn or practice TRUST!

### **Pillars of Trust**

The main body of Horsager's book is constructed around eight pillars of trust, and he proceeds to identify the attributes that leaders need to build trust in everyday applications. While these traits are addressed as individual skills acquired to build and gain productivity and commitment, I found the basic statements for each pillar to be applicable to our relationships with each other as part of the body of Christ when it comes to building TRUST in the church!

- People love to see the little things done consistently.



**Roger Sprengel**  
**Schools and Executive Assistant**

Consistency builds disciplined habits. How disciplined is your spiritual life: prayer, worship, Bible study, and service? We read and study God's Word—but we must put these words into action (application)!

- People immediately respond to results.

Christ delivered the supreme result—a sacrificial death on the cross! He wants us to respond accordingly: giving of our time, attention, resources, and opportunity.

- People want to follow and be around friends.

Trust is about relationships! Be a good listener. Engage ... interact ... connect!

- People trust the clear and mistrust the ambiguous.

Have a clear plan: vision, purpose, expectation, and communication. "Where there is no vision,

the people perish" (Prov. 29:18a KJV). Are your goals and tasks associated with achieving your mission meant for action?

- People have confidence in those who stay fresh, relevant, and capable.

Leaders constantly learn and grow. "He who walks with the wise, grows wise" (Prov. 13:20a). Consider mentoring a young confirmand by listening, encouraging, sharing experiences, and asking good questions.

- People notice those who do what is right over what is easy.

Integrity is being the same in thoughts, words, and actions! "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever" (Heb. 13:8). "Those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires" (Rom. 8:5b). How are you doing in your relationship with God? How are you doing living and sharing your faith this week?

- People put faith in those who care beyond themselves.

**LAWS** of compassion: Listen, Appreciate, Wake-up, Serve others. Caring leads to trust. Put people before things! Write personal, handwritten thank-you's. "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me" (Matt. 25:40).

- People believe in those who stand through adversity.

Sacrifice, responsibility, and commitment start with the leader and develop trust throughout the organization. Making a commitment creates hope, keeping that commitment builds trust! God gave mankind a promise to send a Savior after the Fall, and He delivered by sending His only Son, Jesus Christ, to fulfill that commitment!

### **Trust God/ Trust One Another**

As sinners, we live in a "fallen world." Our culture is suffering from a trust crisis, and we lack the necessary trust and confidence to build effective relationships. Even the motto "In God We Trust" on our currency has been challenged by a culture looking for some other source to transform or rebuild trusting relationships with one another. While other sources may provide a temporary or shallow sense of trust, only God can provide the depth needed to develop the degree of trust to completely construct all the pillars described above by our author!

"I will trust, and will not be afraid; for the Lord God is my strength and my song" (Is. 12:2).

*(Continued on Page E.)*



## CCCS expands into Cuba, Cambodia

Children's Christian Concern Society (CCCS), a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, will begin an official presence in Cuba where few outside Christian organizations are allowed.

Rev. Ishmael Laborde, president of the Lutheran Church of Cuba declares, "For 30 years we depended entirely on the Lord as we couldn't officially function as a church. Now Cuba is opening, and we have eight *Escuela Biblicas* (Bible schools) for children to start teaching them the Christian faith."

Working with Lutheran Hour Ministries, CCCS will support these eight Bible schools through materials and school supplies.

In Cambodia, childhood illiteracy is of great concern as are the slum children who are so poor they are unable to buy clothes of any kind to attend school. CCCS support will provide reading programs to improve the reading skills of these students.

CCCS shares the love of Jesus and provides educational opportunities through scholarships and teachers' salaries to more than 18,000 children in 21 developing countries. To learn more, visit [www.cccskids.org](http://www.cccskids.org).



**The Children's Christian Concern Society shares the love of Jesus and provides educational opportunities for children in Cambodia and 21 other countries. CCCS is the Southern Illinois District "Hearts For Jesus" project for 2010.**

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### REFLECTIONS ON THE NAMES OF JESUS

*(Continued from Page C.)*

All of this is the reason Jesus, the night before He died, told His disciples: "I am the WAY, the TRUTH and the LIFE; no one comes to the Father except through ME" (John 14:6).

Jesus is the only WAY to the Father. His Word is the TRUTH; you can stake your life on it. And He gives the only real LIFE there is. That's what we confess, speaking the name of our LORD, JESUS CHRIST.

Next month, we'll continue our reflections on the Apostles' Creed with the teaching that Jesus "was crucified, died and was buried." Until then, peace to you in Jesus!

### TRUST AND THE CHURCH

*(Continued from Page D.)*

"Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord God is an everlasting rock" (Is. 26:4).

"In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid. What can flesh do to me?" (Ps. 56:4). Read all of Psalm 56 for greater depth in your level of trust in God and for each other.

*(The Trust Edge, by David Horsager, Leaf River Publishing, © 2009.)*

## **Women's Day of Renewal at Good Shepherd, Collinsville**

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville is planning its annual Women's Day of Renewal for Saturday, March 13. The theme for this 10th anniversary year will be "Encouraged in Heart—United in Love," based on Col. 2:2-3: "My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

The keynote speaker will be Dr. Mary Hilgendorf, who currently serves as professor of education and ambassador for the Women's Leadership Institute at Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees in education from Concordia University at Seward, Neb., and received her Ph.D. in educational foundations from Marquette University, Milwaukee, Wis.

Dr. Hilgendorf gives presentations and leads Bible studies for women's groups throughout the country to encourage and equip women for Christian leadership. Recently, she was Bible study leader at the national LWML convention in Portland, Ore. Her presentations



**Hilgendorf**

are lively, humorous, entertaining, and thought-provoking, with a sound biblical message and foundation.

Hilgendorf grew up in Chester, Ill., and she still thinks of Southern Illinois as home.

Today's world offers amazing opportunities and challenges for women. How will women use their personal gifts to influence others for Christ and share their talents in God-pleasing ways to support others, especially women? Dr. Hilgendorf's message will share biblical responses to these questions and will challenge her audience to find avenues to use their special gifts in church, home, and community.

There will be an opportunity for women attending the Women's Day of Renewal to personalize their experience by

choosing two workshops from a variety of topics, including prayer, joy, mother-daughter relationships, mentoring, gospel and country music, hands-on missions, attitude adjustment, and flower arranging.

The cost for the day is \$30 if paid between Jan. 1 and Feb. 28; and \$35 thereafter. The fee includes a continental breakfast, catered lunch, two workshops, and the keynote speaker.

This year, we have added a Friday night event to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Women's Day of Renewal. The Women's Day of Renewal 10th Anniversary Tea Party will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. on March 12 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. Through very generous donations, this pre-Women's Day of Renewal evening celebration is being offered for the minimal cost of \$5 per person.

Phyllis Wallace, nationally syndicated radio host of "Woman to Woman," will present, "You Are a Designer Original!" You are the only "You" God will ever make. Come to the tea party, discover your uniqueness, and take away deepened friendships, party favors, and a personal design moment with your Designer.

For more information and to register for the Women's Day of Renewal

and/or the 10th anniversary tea party, contact Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville, Ill., at 618-344-3151, or visit the Web site at [www.goodshepherdcollinsville.org](http://www.goodshepherdcollinsville.org).

Plan to attend this exciting day of fun and renewal. It is a great opportunity for women of all ages to fellowship together, to be encouraged in heart and united in love!

## **Order Witness subscriptions now**

It is now time to order your Southern Illinois District *Lutheran Witness* subscription. Receive news about the Southern Illinois District today! Please send \$15 to your church office, which will forward the information to the Southern Illinois District office. Thank you!

## **Send in your news**

The Southern Illinois District Edition of *The Lutheran Witness* is designed for you—the pastor, teacher, or layperson.

Send news about your congregation, school, or an individual's achievements to Editor, 2408 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221; or e-mail at [sidlw@earthlink.net](mailto:sidlw@earthlink.net). Photos must be 300 dpi and e-mailed separately.



## MELHS welcomes exchange students

Metro-East Lutheran High School (MEHLS) in Edwardsville welcomed three European exchange students for the 2009-10 school year.

For many years, MELHS has welcomed exchange 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 came 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.

Barbara Walther has come to the United States from Switzerland to learn English, for personal growth, and for the adventure of traveling abroad. Barbara says that 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.

Fabian Janda traveled from his home in Germany. Fabian decided to come to the United States



**MEHLS exchange students, pictured from left, are Aino Pekkarinen (Finland), Barbara Walther (Switzerland), and Fabian Janda (Germany).**

this year to improve his knowledge of English, for the experience, and because he loves the United States.

Despite their cultural differences, Fabian, Aino, and Barbara have come to the United States with one united goal: 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 pro-

vide a shining example of the traditional values honored and respected by this humble country.

### Young adult Web site

Looking for a great resource for post-high school into the 30-somethings? Check out [www.lcmsYoungAdultMinistry.org](http://www.lcmsYoungAdultMinistry.org). You'll find monthly blogs written about young adults regarding their ministry, culture, and faith.

The Web site also has information about the

LEAD LCMS Young Adult Servant Event, young adult ministry, culture book reviews, and twitter feeds on the activity of the Young Adult Ministry Advisory Committee.

The committee's goals include enabling congregations to build a culture where young adults are able to fully participate in the life of the church and to enable young adults to become an integral part of the church community living out their faith in a global context.

# CHURCH/PEOPLE

## Church/People news in Southern Illinois

The Southern Illinois District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is requesting proposals for mission grants.

Reach out to others by submitting a grant request. Look within your community for outreach ministries that show God's love by serving cross-cultural groups, the homeless, aged, and underprivileged. Be alert for mission needs in the United States and abroad. Contact missionaries or individuals working in specialized ministries.

What should you include in the grant proposal?

a. The cover page must contain the name, address, phone number and e-mail address of both the person and/or agency submitting the proposal and the person or agency where the funds should be sent.

b. Discuss the following:

1. Briefly describe the project.
2. The need.
3. The mission focus of the project.
4. The amount of money requested or needed.
5. How the money will be used.
6. Who will handle the funds? Who or what organization to make check payable to?



**Pictured are some of the cast of characters from the Christmas program at Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School in East St. Louis on Dec. 16, 2009.**

7. Preferred date(s) to receive money.

8. Is it current and ready for implementation?

9. The organization or person(s) responsible for the project.

10. Names of people who can be contacted if more information is needed.

Submit six copies of your grant request with two to six pictures by Feb. 1 to:

Mickey Roth  
V.P. Gospel Outreach  
110 Foxbrush Drive  
Belleville, IL 62221

Grant request forms are available on the Web site at [www.SIDLWML.org](http://www.SIDLWML.org) or call Mickey Roth at 618-277-3649 or e-mail [danmicroth@charter.net](mailto:danmicroth@charter.net).

## Calendar of events

### February

- 1—Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9 a.m.
- 3—Lutheran Older Adult Advisory Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 4—Board of Congregational Support, 5:30 p.m.
- 4—S.A.M.T.F. meeting, 7 p.m.
- 17—Ash Wednesday

25—Youth Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.

### March

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

### April

- 1—Maundy Thursday
- 2—Good Friday
- 4—Easter
- 15—SID LWML Board of Directors, 9:30 a.m.
- 17—SID Board of Directors, 9 a.m.