



Seminary to host 18th annual choir member workshop

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will offer its 18th Annual *Schola Cantorum*: An Adult Choir Member Workshop, on Saturday, Jan. 23. The workshop will be held in The Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus and the Clara and Spencer Werner Audio-

rium on the seminary campus.

The *Schola Cantorum* is open to all choir members, choir directors, and ministers of music. The schedule for the day begins with registration at 8:15 a.m., Morning Prayer at 8:45 a.m., and rehearsal sessions at 9:15 a.m. The day concludes at 3:30 p.m. after the

Closing Prayer service, which will include some of the music learned that day. Dr. Christopher Aspaas will serve as this year's clinician.

Dr. Christopher Aspaas, assistant professor of Choral/Vocal Music at St. Olaf College, received his Ph.D. in choral music education at The Florida State University in Tallahassee, his M.M. in choral conducting from Michigan State University in East Lansing, and his B.M. in voice performance from St. Olaf. Christopher has served on the faculties of Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Wash., and Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Mass.

At St. Olaf, Aspaas conducts the Viking Chorus, an 88-voice ensemble of first-year student men, and also leads the Saint Olaf Chapel Choir, a 120-voice ensemble specializing in the performance of oratorio and larger multi-movement works. Most recently, Aspaas led the Chapel Choir and St. Olaf Orchestra in a performance of Felix Mendelssohn's monumental oratorio, "Elijah."

In addition to conducting, he teaches choral literature, choral conducting, and private applied voice. In 2008, Aspaas was appointed music director and conductor for Magnum Chorum, a

Twin Cities choral ensemble whose goal is "Transforming Audiences through Artistry and Spirit."

"We hold the *Schola Cantorum* as a way of serving the church at-large," commented Rev. Henry V. Gerike, choral director at Concordia Seminary. "By attending, choir members and directors will learn and rehearse new choral music that can be used in their own churches. They will also learn better the art of singing. Each of our clinicians provides great insights into singing the praises of our Lord."

A choral reading session will be held Friday, Jan. 22 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. In the session, Aspaas will guide participants through an evening of choral and instrumental song in which he will preview new and current titles of music. The session is open to all, but is especially designed for choir
(Continued on Page B.)



New Member Sunday at Olive Branch—Sherry Morgan was received into communicant membership at Olive Branch Lutheran Church on June 28, 2009, by profession of faith. A luncheon was held after the service to welcome her to the Olive Branch family. She is shown here with Pastor Hans Trinklein on the day of her confirmation.

EDITOR

Send news, articles, and photos:

Lois M. Engfehr
2408 Lebanon Ave.
Bellefonte, IL 62221

Or e-mail to:
sidlw@earthlink.net

March deadline:
Jan. 15

CHOIR WORKSHOP

(Continued from Page A.)

directors. There is no charge to attend but registration is required.

The cost for the *Schola Cantorum* is \$60 per individual or \$110 per congregation (\$70 or \$125 after Jan. 8). For the congregation fee, a choir can send as many members as it desires. Lunch and the choral music are not included in the fee.

For more information or registration forms, call 314-505-7486 or e-mail ce@csl.edu.

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. Thank you!

SID hosts pastor/elder workshop on Jan. 31

The Southern Illinois District will host the

Pastor/Elder Workshop on Sunday, Jan. 31, at two different churches in the district.

One workshop will be held at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Hamel from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The other workshop will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Nashville from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The theme will be "Partners in the Gospel: The Identity and Work of Pastors and Elders." Topics discussed will be "The Church's Treasures," "The Church's Challenges," and "The Church's Opportunities."

The speaker will be Dr. Harold Senkbeil, former professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., and now executive director for Spiritual Care of Doxology: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel.

The cost is a \$20 registration fee per congregation and can include an unlimited number of people.

For more information, contact the Southern Illinois District office at 618-234-4767.



On Sunday, Nov. 8, 2009, Immanuel Lutheran Church in Waterloo thanked the Lord for their pastor, Dr. Tony Troup, during a special service. Dr. Troup was recognized for the 25th anniversary of his ordination and for the completion of his doctor of ministry degree. Dr. David Peter, a professor at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and Dr. Troup's academic adviser, was the guest preacher. Immanuel's associate pastor, Rev. Matt Clark, and two of Immanuel's field workers, Brian Lee and Zach Holdorf, also participated in the special service. Immanuel's music director, Ann Frank, arranged many special vocal and instrumental pieces to compliment the service. Most of the hymns used were among some of Dr. Troup's favorites. Much of Dr. Troup's family was in attendance to enjoy this special day with him. Pictured are, from left, Cindy Troup, Dr. Tony Troup, Elizabeth Troup, Christina Troup, Kristen Troup, and Tim Troup.



'Suffered Under Pontius Pilate'

by Herbert C. Mueller

Happy New Year! 2010. This is already the 10th year of the century! Can you believe how quickly time moves forward! With each passing year, it seems to move faster and faster.

Time is very real. 2008 gave way to 2009, which now in turn gives way to 2010. We are born at a certain time. We live out the days God has allotted for us and then, for believers in Christ, He calls us home. But we each have a definite time. This month, I pray you are thanking God for another year in time, for each day is a gift from God's gracious hand.

The passing of the year gives us the opportunity to think a little about the nature of history and time. If we can place something in time, we know it is real. It's history. It really happened.

Certain dates in time have impressed themselves on us. My parents remembered Dec. 7, 1941, exactly what they were doing and where they were when the attack on Pearl Harbor was announced. For my generation, Nov. 22, 1963 (the day President Kennedy



Rev. Herbert C. Mueller Jr.
District President

was shot) comes to mind or, more recently, Sept. 11, 2001. Who can forget that day?

Because we can mark them in time, we know those were real events, not legends and stories. In the Apostles' Creed, on which we are reflecting, there is a specific line that anchors the Christian faith in time, real history. We say that Jesus "suffered under Pontius Pilate."

There was a time when certain historians debated whether or not Pontius Pilate ever really existed. Until, that is, June 1961 when a monument stone was unearthed in Palestine indicating that an ancient building was dedicated to Tiberius (Roman emperor when Jesus was crucified) by "Pontius Pilate, Praefect of Judea." There it was, inscribed in stone.

In other words, Pontius Pilate was a real person who lived in a real place at a real time in history, under the real Roman Emperor Tiberius. Now, when we repeat the phrase "suffered under Pontius Pilate," we are confessing that Jesus Christ is not a myth or a legend. His crucifixion for us was not a story that happened "a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away."

No, the events of the Christian Gospel took place on our earth, in real history, at a specific place and time.

When Jesus' ministry began, St. Luke marked it in time in this way: "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John" the Baptist ... " (Luke 3:1-2).

All of this supports the Christian proclamation. The events we confess really happened. It doesn't matter who you are or what you think. You have to deal with Jesus. You cannot dismiss Him as legend.

Even more important, we believe and proclaim that Jesus' suffering under Pontius Pilate was FOR YOU. January 1 in the Church Year is observed as "The Name of Jesus," because Jesus was circumcised and named on the eighth day after His birth. The angel had told Joseph, "She will bear a son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins" (Matt. 1:21).

"Jesus," of course, means "the Lord saves." His suffering and death were in your place and in mine. He is "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). He is "Immanuel," our "God with us," even in our sin and suffering. (Matt. 1:23). He came "not to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many" (Matt. 20:28).

That's what we believe. That's all in His name—Jesus. That's what we proclaim.

And never forget. It really happened, here in time, in our world. Jesus suffered and died just as we die. More than that, He rose from the dead. He is alive today to raise us from the dead and give us eternal life. That's also real.

(Continued on Page D.)

Building self-esteem correctly

by Roger Sprengel

What Is Self-Esteem?

Self-esteem is the “set of all opinions we have about ourselves.” Self-esteem is based on facts as well as our emotional responses to those facts. Building a child’s self-esteem is important and needs to be reality based. Parents and teachers should serve as a mirror, reflecting back to kids an accurate appraisal of how they’re doing.

Myth #1: Self-esteem comes first and leads to success.

Spending time and energy trying to make kids feel better about themselves does not ensure their academic success. Researchers could not find any correlation between high self-esteem scores and popularity among high school students.

Myth #2: Self-Esteem = Feeling Good.

Misguided programs to improve self-esteem teach kids that “feeling good about yourself is more important than performance.” By confusing the two, we run the risk of protecting our kids from the very experiences that build true self-esteem. Healthy self-esteem and feeling good are two different things.



Roger Sprengel
Schools and Executive Assistant

Myth #3: Stress, challenge, and disappointment damage self-esteem.

Disappointment, discouragement, and frustration help build character and self-esteem. Dealing with disappointments and setbacks is part of coping with the ups and downs that we experience in life.

Building Positive Self-Esteem

Dr. David Walsh, noted psychologist and author, suggests using the following “Parent Tool Kit” to avoid the myths and to build a child’s positive self-esteem!

1. Self-discipline is a building block for positive self-esteem.
2. Children learn from disappointment and failure.
3. Competency builds self-esteem.
4. Use “honest praise” with your child.

5. Children are encouraged to express their opinions.

6. Support your children’s teachers.

7. Encourage your child to gain new skills.

8. Reward real effort.

9. Expect children to do chores.

10. Support your children as they learn new skills and competencies and let them work things out on their own.

Christian Analogy

Living the Christian life for sinners can be compared to building positive self-esteem in our children. God daily sees us as sinners and confronts us with our failures (Law) in our relationship with Him and one another. When we come to the realization that we are poor, miserable sinners, we are comforted through the grace and mercy of knowing that our Savior died and rose victoriously for our sins (Gospel).

We could apply the following “Christian Tool Kit” to build a stronger relationship with God in our daily lives!

1. Discipline through daily prayer and Bible study.
2. Daily repent of our sins and renew our commitment to God.
3. Trust God’s perfect love through Jesus Christ.

4. Lift one another up through prayer, sacrifice, and service.

5. Be a Christian witness in thought, word, and deed.

6. Support the church (*synod* means “walk together”).

7. Study Scripture, worship regularly, and apply God’s Word to our Christian living.

8. Be thankful in all circumstances and for all things.

9. Be a servant and give of your time, talent, and treasure.

10. Grow in your faith, establishing new relationships and restoring broken ones.

‘SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE’

(Continued from Page C.)

Now, just think of it. Before He ascended into heaven, Jesus told His disciples, “I am with you always, to the close of the age” (Matt. 28:20). He goes with us into the new year.

Whatever 2010 brings for us, Jesus will be there. Even if our last day comes in 2010, Jesus will be there to take us home. So, in Jesus’ name, Happy New Year!



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 tenth 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,



Hilgendorf

Ore. Her presentations 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.

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 on March 12, from 7 to 9 p.m. 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.

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!

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.

Dean Spooner, candidate, Henderson, Ky., to Our Savior, Carmi.

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.

Dean Spooner, candidate, Henderson, Ky., to Our Savior, Carmi.

LWML seeks grant requests

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?



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

The grant request forms are available on the Web site at www.sidlwml.org or call Mickey Roth at 618-277-3649, or e-mail danmicroth@charter.net.



2010 Men's Retreat planned for Camp Wartburg

"Be Strong and of Good Courage" is the theme for the 2010 Men's Retreat that will be held Jan. 15-16 at Camp Wartburg in Waterloo, Ill. All men or men's groups are invited to attend. The cost of the retreat is \$35 per person.

The retreat will highlight what it takes to be a man and to be a Christian: What are the challenges? What are the natural connections? This weekend is not only an opportunity to explore the topic but also to try your hand at the adventurous activities your kids do at camp, such as caving or rock climbing.

Men will be able to apply their muscles to a servant project, enjoy hearty meals and fellowship, and give themselves a break that will speak to their head, their heart, their stomach, and their hands.

To register, send \$35 to Camp Wartburg, 5705 LRC Road, Waterloo, IL 62298 by Jan. 8.

Calendar of events

January

- 5—Task Force on Prison Ministry, 6 p.m.
- 7—S.A.M.T.F. meeting, 7 p.m.
- 11-13—Theological Convocation on Worship at Concordia

Lutheran Church,
Kirkwood, Mo.

- 16—Mission Board meeting, 9 a.m.
- 21—LWML Board of Directors, 9:30 a.m.
- 21—Finance Committee meeting, 5:15 p.m.
- 22—Office and Personnel Committee, 4 p.m.
- 25—Fund Advisory Committee, 4:30 p.m.
- 25—District Praesidium, 3 p.m.
- 28—Youth Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.
- 29-31—Youth Leader Training, Camp Wartburg.
- 30—SID Board of Directors, 9 a.m.

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.



St. Paul, Troy, hosts first mother/ daughter/friend banquet

The LWML of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Troy held its first annual Mother/Daughter/Friend Banquet on Oct. 13, 2009, in the Ministry Center.

The event was titled "Aprons: Past, Present, Future." Everyone was asked to search cedar chests, closets, etc., for an apron they could share with the group.

Moms were asked to bring a salad for her daughter or guest and herself. A clothesline with aprons was hung down the middle of the room. Each had a decorative tag with the owner's name and history of the apron if provided.

LWML President Grace Fincham welcomed the women and their guests. The men of St. Paul's served beverages and placed desserts on the table.

A short history of aprons was read by co-chairman Grace Cottingham. Co-chairman Mary Ann Miller designed 16 different centerpieces of mini-aprons depicting the uses mentioned. The programs were decorative paper aprons. The entertainment was provided by Marianna Taylor who gave her rendition of a fractured fairy tale, "Rendercilla."



A clothesline with aprons was hung at the LWML mother/daughter/friend banquet at St. Paul, Troy, depicting the theme, "Aprons: Past, Present, Future."

One woman brought her mother's apron. It was unusual in that it had no neck strap and had to be pinned on the bodice of her dress. She told how precious it was to her because her mother died when this woman was only 15.

Another woman brought her grandmother's apron. Her grandma died in 1933. Part of the story attached to the apron read: "Not china or pearls did I inherit, but the apron has been a treasure to me because it shows the simple life she lived."

Another woman also brought her grandmother's apron. Her grandma was born in Germany but immigrated to this coun-

try. The apron was well over 100 years old as the grandma died in 1905.

Many of the aprons showed that a great deal of time was spent making them as they were embroidered, had lots of lace, were smocked, or otherwise very detailed.

Awards were given in a non-traditional manner. There were aprons of various designs and "mini" aprons that draped a dishwashing liquid bottle. A lavender apron was given to the woman who could answer what colors of the LWML stood for.

The participants gave their "past" style apron to the person wearing the most brown items. They gave their "present" style matching mother/daughter aprons to the mother

and daughter who had the most pink in the outfits they were wearing. They gave a "future" style apron to a young woman age 12 to 25 who could remember the most uses given in the history of aprons.

Aproned dishwashing liquid bottles were given to the person wearing the most rings (seven), the person who had the most buttons on clothing they were wearing (22), the guest who traveled the farthest (Arizona), the person who had the most number of items in their purse excluding their wallet and its contents (72 plus), and finally the person who brought the salad with the most ingredients (18).

CHURCH/PEOPLE

Church/People News in Southern Illinois

Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School, East St. Louis, is hosting a special Volunteer Work Day on Saturday, Feb. 20. Volunteers will start renovating more classrooms for use in the future.

A special offer is being made that day for volunteers to "Give a Day and Get a Day." All volunteers that day will be eligible to receive a free one-day pass to Disney World.

For more information, contact **Principal Paul Miller** at pmiller@unityesl.org or call 618-874-6605. Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School is located at 1600 N. 40th St., East St. Louis, IL 62204.

Send in your news

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

Photos must be 300 dpi and e-mailed separately. Digital files, sent via e-mail, are preferred. The submission deadline is the 18th of each month, two months before publication.



Five students and Principal Ida Doyle of St. Paul's Lutheran School, Troy, are pictured here with the food items the school collected. The school children gathered non-perishable items and offerings to support the local food pantry of Ministries Unlimited. In the first quarter of the school year, they collected 1,002 items to give to the food pantry. They delivered the items to the pantry on Tuesday, Oct. 27, 2009, with the assistance of Jim Walls and Pastor Mitchel Schuessler.



The Trinity (Red Bud) Youth Group presented a check for \$450 to Preschool Director Lisa Luekemann. The youth group collected the money from summer refreshments they offered each Sunday during the summer. The preschool program is in its second year of all-day preschool. Pictured are, from left, Sarah Stellhorn, youth group secretary; Kailey Schoenbeck, vice president; Hannah Stamm, president; preschool Director Lisa Luekemann; and Dillon Salger, treasurer.