



SID Student Aid Golf Scramble

The fifth annual Bob Streuter Memorial Golf Scramble will take place on Saturday, May 2, at the Roland Barkau Golf Course in Okawville.

Bob Streuter was an avid golfer and served for four years on the Planning Committee for this tournament. Bob was also Southern Illinois District treasurer for six years and served on the district Finance Committee.

Our heavenly Father called Bob to his home last year, after a fight with cancer. Bob was a member of Immanuel, Mur-

physboro. The Planning Committee has dedicated this and future scrambles in honor of Bob Streuter.

Tee-off time on May 2 will be at 12:30 p.m. Because of a management change at the Roland Barkau Golf Course, two tee times—8 a.m. or 12:30 p.m.—were offered. Since some golfers need to drive for one to two hours to get to the course, the Planning Committee chose the 12:30 p.m. tee-off time.

Once again the cost will remain at \$75 per player. Registration forms will be sent to all congregations or may be obtained by

calling the district office at 618-234-4767.

St. John, Red Bud, to hold dinner auction

The Parent-Teacher League of St. John's Lutheran School in Red Bud will hold a dinner auction on Saturday, March 21, at the St. Patrick's Center on Highway 155 just west of Ruma. The doors will open and the silent auction will begin at 5 p.m. The dinner will be served at 6 p.m. with the live auction following.

The menu will be garden salad, roast beef,

roast pork, potatoes, glazed carrots, home-style green beans, and gourmet desserts. The ticket price is \$25. A cash bar will be available.

Included among the items to be auctioned are professional sports tickets, weekend getaways, home improvement items, golf outings, and many more.

"Celebrity guest auctioneers" will include District President Herbert Mueller Jr., and Illinois State Senator Dave Luechtefeld. Proceeds will be used to purchase new playground equipment.

For tickets or more information, please contact Amber Piel at 618-282-5334 or e-mail at apiel@htc.net.

District Convention results

Full coverage of the 2009 Southern Illinois District Convention held Feb. 19-21 will be featured in the April issue of the Southern Illinois District *Lutheran Witness*.



Pictured are winners of the Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville, Spelling Bee 2009. The bee was held Wednesday, Jan. 7. The students are, from left, Christian Vanhooser (Grade 8); Emily Falbe (Grade 3); Sarena Clements (Grade 4); Sophia Swarthout (Grade 2); John Collins (Grade 5); Paul Falbe (Grade 1); and Morgan Schneider (Grade 6). Christian Vanhooser, eighth-grade winner, will represent Good Shepherd at the St. Louis Post-Dispatch Spelling Bee on March 7 at Maryville University in St. Louis.

EDITOR

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Or e-mail to:
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May deadline:
March 15

LWML scholarships available

The Southern Illinois District of Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is offering scholarships to students from our 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 seminary scholarships 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 the 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 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.

Jill Hasstedt named 2009 LEA Master Director of Christian Education

Director of Christian Education (DCE) Jill Hasstedt, director of family ministry at Zion Lutheran Church in Belleville, Ill., is Lutheran Education Association's (LEA) 2009 Master DCE.

Hasstedt earned a bachelor of science degree and DCE certification and Lutheran Teacher Diplo-



Hasstedt

ma from Concordia University Nebraska, Seward, Neb. She also earned a master of arts degree with honors in family life education from the University of Illinois, Springfield. She has served schools and congregations in Kansas, Nebraska, Texas, and in Springfield, Ill.

Past ministries include service as a youth staffer and director and teacher. Jill has been active in many district and national events, including National LCMS Youth Gatherings, KINDLE, and LEA Board of Directors. She also is an independent facilitator for "Love and Logic" programs.

The nomination of Hasstedt read, in part, "She has strong leadership gifts and a heart for leading people to deeper walks in their faith with the Lord Jesus. She is committed to serving the Lord and does so with an excellence that is contagious."

Hasstedt's personal mission is "... to develop, implement, and nurture systems that encourage faith connections to, for, and with God's people in families so Jesus becomes the center of every heart and home." She implements her mission through work with lifespan educational ministries, volunteer programs and management, small-group development, parent ministry, financial education ministry, adult education, and other congregational initiatives.

Jill Hasstedt was selected to receive this award by LEA's Directors of Christian Education Network Leadership and LEA staff. Award standards are available at www.lea.org/forms/awards/nommdce.pdf.

Send in your news

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

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





A Prayer for Our Leaders

by Herbert C. Mueller

Perhaps some of you will remember that originally Inauguration Day for a new president was March 4. The 20th Amendment to the United States Constitution changed Inauguration Day to Jan. 20 beginning in 1937.

I thought of that bit of history because you are reading this message in March while I am writing just a day or two after the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

Whatever our politics, we can thank God for the changes in our nation that have made possible the election of the first African-American president, an amazing event in and of itself. We thank God also for the peaceful transition of power for our nation, something that does not always happen so peacefully in other parts of the world.

That brings another thought. We are actually enjoined by Scripture to pray for our leaders, whoever they are. *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet*



Rev. Herbert C. Mueller Jr.
District President

life, godly and dignified in every way. This is good, and it is pleasing to God, our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth" (1 Tim. 2:1-4).

All of us are called to pray for those in authority, including President Obama and our national government, as well as the government of Illinois, and that of each of our local communities. Why? So that we may have civil peace and, having that, may have room to spread the Gospel. For the proclamation of the Gospel is, after all, what matters most, because of the eternal consequences.

So, whether we voted for President Obama or not, we are obligated to pray for our president.

"But Pastor Mueller," you might argue, "Barack Obama supports abortion on demand (and Jan. 22 was the 36th anniversary of the Supreme Court's abortion decision)!" Yes, but that's all the more reason to pray, isn't it? We observed Jan. 22 in Southern Illinois with our first annual "Day of Fasting, Prayer and Reflection." A number of pastors, vicars, and laypeople met at St. Paul, Columbia, for prayer and theological reflection on Lutheran outreach with the Gospel.

We prayed for President Obama and all our government leaders, that God would protect them and give them wisdom for their tasks. We also prayed for an end to abortion, among many other needs.

For instance, we prayed for our district convention (which will be over by the time you read this) and for the president and leaders of our Synod, for all our parishes, and much more.

As the Scripture also says, "Confess your sins to one another and pray for one another. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working" (James 5:16).

However, we need here not only to *talk* about

prayer. So, would you pray with me?

Dear Lord, our heavenly Father, we thank you for our country and for the peaceful transition we have just experienced. We ask you, Lord, to grant wisdom to our president and government so they will discern what is right and also grant them courage to do what is right. O Lord God, You alone give life, so we pray that You would move through us and through many others to bring an end to the evil of abortion. Send people, indeed send us, to help those tempted to use abortion as a solution. Move us and many more to provide the means to help those in difficult circumstances. We pray as well, O God of peace, that You would bring peace with justice to our nation and to the nations of the world. Most of all, Lord God, we pray that You continue to grant strength and zeal for us to proclaim the Good News of Your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whom alone is life and in whose name we pray. Amen.

I trust you will add your prayers to mine and to many more. God be with each of you for Jesus' sake!

Share your faith

by Roger Sprengel

Our church body, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, committed our members to a vigorous program of outreach and faith-sharing at the 2004 synodical convention. This program was titled *Ablaze!* and has set the following goals:

- share the Gospel with 100 million unchurched people, including 50 million in the United States, by 2017 (500th anniversary of the Reformation);
- plant 2,000 new faith communities (church plants) in the United States;
- revitalize 2,000 existing congregations (all by 2017); and
- start 3,000 mission outposts in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America.

So, how do we help reach these objectives here in our small “Southern Illinois” corner of the Synod? Or in fact, do we do anything at all?

God’s Command

What does Scripture say to us regarding this task of sharing our faith and reaching out to the lost? “*As the Father has sent Me, so I send you*” (John 20:21). “*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of*



Roger Sprengel
Schools and Executive Assistant

self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord” (2 Tim. 1:7-8). “*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”* (Matt. 28:19).

Opportunities

As God’s people, we can perform God’s request on a personal basis (one-on-one), or through our congregation, school, or district. We must first pray that God would strengthen each of us through His Holy Spirit and give us the courage to step out in faith and share His precious message of hope and salvation!

Our own Southern Illinois District statistics indicate that in the past 10 years (1996-2006), our baptized membership has

decreased and our weekly attendance has decreased by 12 percent. President Mueller has shared this information, along with a revitalization plan titled “One Sure Hope—Growing Together in Christ” to the Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision and the 2009 Southern Illinois District Convention held this past month.

The two most populous counties in the Southern Illinois District (Madison and St. Clair) have a combined population of more than a half-million people (2000 Census figures). Data from the Association of Religion Data Archives indicate that 40 percent of the population of these two counties is UNCLAIMED (meaning NO religious affiliation)! While we have other counties that might be considered “more Christian” and “less populous”, (such as Washington and Randolph), even these counties indicate 25 percent of their residents as UNCLAIMED! (Check the data for your county at www.thearda.com.)

Ablaze!

Even if you disagree with some of the methodologies of *Ablaze!*, the bottom line is that each of us has been given the charge of sharing the Gospel message and

being a committed disciple of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! What can each of us do to make this important goal become a reality in our congregation, school, or community?

Ideas

- Pray for the opportunity to witness to a friend, colleague, neighbor, or coworker.
 - Share a faith story at the next Bible class, congregational or organizational meeting, or at school/Sunday school.
 - Have your pastor, elder, or congregational chairperson contact the district office and find out more about the “One Sure Hope” revitalization program.
 - Pray for and support the efforts of our new church plant in the Eldorado/Harrisburg area (Saline County). A new mission has begun through the efforts of members of Our Redeemer, Golconda, and Ambassadors For Christ. Christ Our Savior, Freeburg, and Trinity, Millstadt, are looking at the Smithton area for witnessing opportunities. Acts 1:8 Mission Society is gathering a small group for worship in the Swansea community.
 - Pray for and support Unity Lutheran Christian
- (Continued on Page E.)



SHARE YOUR FAITH

(Continued from Page D.)

School in East St. Louis. This mission project of the Southern Illinois District is growing and anticipating a new home soon! Funds are needed for operational costs as well as future building.

- Register your congregation or school on the LCMS *Ablaze!* Web site (www.lcms.org/ablaze). Check out the many congregational programs available (such as “50 Days Ablaze,” or “Friendship Ablaze”). Share your faith stories and be a part of the goal by reaching at least ONE person for Christ!

Celebrating 85 years of KFUO Radio

The public is invited to join KFUO Radio in celebrating its 85th anniversary at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 29, at Westborough Country Club, 631 South Berry Road in St. Louis.

The event will include a reception with KFUO-AM personalities, followed by dinner and a presentation from guest speaker Dr. Paul L. Maier, LCMS second vice president.

Tickets are \$125. To purchase tickets or for more information, call 314-505-7874.

Trinity (Prairie), Red Bud, celebrates anniversaries

Trinity Lutheran Church at (Prairie) Red Bud celebrated the 100th anniversary of its organ and the 140th anniversary of its present church building in December 2008. The celebration was observed with a music festival on Dec. 6, 2008, including an organ concert and congregational singing of hymns “Praising God Through the Church Year.” The organists were Sarah Koester, Deb Stamm, and Dorothy Wilkening.

German immigrants who settled in the Horse Prairie community organized Trinity in 1842. The first church was built in 1844 and a larger one in 1851. As more settlers arrived, there was a need for a larger church. Work was begun early in 1868, and the cornerstone was laid in May. Brick was hauled from Belleville by horses and wagons. Almost all the inside work was handcrafted.

On Dec. 3, 1868, the present church was dedicated. It cost \$14,200. It has been renovated several times during its history.

The first organ was purchased in 1859. It was exchanged two years later for a larger one with eight stops. In 1908, the congregation purchased its current organ from the Kilgen



The Trinity Lutheran Church (Prairie), Red Bud, organ as it looked 100 years ago.

Organ Company in St. Louis at the cost of \$1,850. (Actually it was \$2,000, but Kilgen took the old organ for \$150.) It is a two-manual, 16-stop (rank) organ, containing 902 pipes.

Over the past 100 years, it has remained intact and has never been altered. Maintenance and tuning have been part of its continued care. The pipes have been repainted.

The organ was inspected in 1992 and found to be in excellent condition. The inspector marveled at

the instrument and reported there was no other organ in southern Illinois like the one at Trinity.

In 1994, the organ was completely dismantled and restored by St. Louis Pipe Organ Co. The cost of the project was \$31,000.

To commemorate the event, a professional company produced a CD featuring many favorite hymns played on the organ by the organists at Trinity. The CDs are available by calling the school office at 618-282-2881.

Bethalto Lutherans to offer Living Last Supper experience

Zion Lutheran Church, Bethalto, will present the Living Last Supper at 7 p.m. performances on Palm Sunday, April 5, and Monday, April 6.

The production, which features members of the congregation portraying the characters in Leonardo da Vinci's painting of the Last Supper, is performed in tableau. During the performance, each character "comes to life" and seeks to know who will betray Jesus, asking the soul-wrenching question, "Is it I, Lord?"

"This presentation provides a glimpse into emotions the disciples experienced during the days leading up to Jesus' crucifixion," said Terry Dossett, the program's director. "I want this to be a community event that will help people know that the events of Holy Week really happened, and that Jesus truly sacrificed His life for each of them."

Dossett, who also per-

forms in the production, said, "Being in the production is a spiritually renewing experience for me. Walking in the disciples' shoes is humbling."

Exceptional lighting, costumes, and make-up enhance the quality of the program so that the audience truly feels it is viewing a life-size copy of the da Vinci painting. The program also will include special musical performances appropriate for Holy Week.

Zion is located at 625 Church Drive in Bethalto. For information, phone 618-377-8314 or e-mail zionchurchoffice@charter.net.

International Student Conference

International Student Ministry, Inc. (ISM, Inc.) will host its 2009 ISM Enabling Conference designed to bring together experienced ISM workers/volunteers and "interested and new" people to learn together and encourage one another in this ministry among international

students on our college and university campuses.

The conference will be held May 28-31 on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, with lodging at nearby Fontbonne University.

This event, offered only every two years, involves worship, Bible study, workshops, and interaction with very knowledgeable and Christ-centered leaders in this specialized ministry.

A registration fee of \$125 per person covers programming, lodging, and meals from Thursday dinner through Sunday lunch. For those not needing housing, a registration fee of \$75 per person will cover programming and meals.

The deadline to register is April 15. A late registration fee of \$50 will be added following April 15.

For more information and the registration form, visit www.isminc.org; isminc@isminc.org, or 715-677-4877; or the St. Louis contact Vicki Jameson at vljameson@att.net or 314-304-6401.

Lutheran Forum at Concordia Seminary

"Will Adam Go AWOL? Will Eve?" This is the motto of a unique forum on science and theology at Concordia Seminary's Werner Auditorium on Thursday, March 26, at 7 p.m. Prepared by The Center for Lutheran Theology and Public Life (CLTPL), this event will be the second in a series of conferences called "Male and Female He Created Them (Gen. 1:27)."

"Last year we looked at the role of women in God's order of creation," said CLTPL director Dr. Uwe Siemon-Netto. "This year, Dr. Robert W. Weise, a professor of practical theology and a cellular biologist, will discuss the theological, social, and scientific ramifications of procreation technologies without recourse to sex. The issue here is the probable emergence of a new post-human species bred in test tubes without the involvement of parents. Hence the conference's provocative subtitle, 'Forum on Planned Non-Parenthood.'"

Registration by March 19 is required. Admission is free. For more information or to register, call 314-505-7486, e-mail ce@csl.edu or visit the seminary Web site at www.csl.edu.



Zion, Bethalto, members portray the characters of Leonardo da Vinci's famous painting in a previous production of the Living Last Supper. This year's performances are at 7 p.m. on Palm Sunday, April 5, and Monday, April 6.



Calendar of events

March

- 5—S.A.M.T.F. meeting, 7 p.m.
- 12-14—LEA Administrators Conference—Atlanta, Ga.
- 21—Board of Directors and Boards Day of Orientation, Good Shepherd, Collinsville.

April

- 2—S.A.M.T.F. meeting, 7 p.m.
- 10—Good Friday, district office closed
- 12—Easter Sunday—celebrate—HE IS RISEN INDEED!
- 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 Day holiday, district office closed

June

- 12-13—Senior High 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, 9 a.m.

LCMS Servant Events 2009

More than 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 also are events especially for families, and for the first time in 2009, there will be an event just for young adults.

Visit LCMS Servant Events online at www.lcms.org/youth for a complete list 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 800-248-1930, ext. 1155.

Women's Day of Renewal

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville is planning its ninth annual Women's Day of Renewal for March 7. The theme will be "Faith in the Midst of the Jungle."

The keynote speaker will be Elaine Bickel, a well-known humorous and inspirational speaker. She has served the church for more than 38 years and currently is principal at St. Paul Lutheran School, Millington, Mich.

Elaine has written curriculum for Sunday school, vacation Bible school, and Lutheran day schools, and has written Bible studies, devotions, and various articles. She feels blessed to be the child of One Awesome God, wife of Jim, thankful mother of two children, and the playmate of four grandchildren.

We've all said it, felt it, and lived it—"It's a jungle out there!" We live in a world where we're bound to get tripped up by things that so easily entangle us. The devil is roaming about like a roaring lion seeking to devour each one of us by luring us into traps he has set specifically for us.

It is scary until we remember we do not fight these battles alone. Satan roars like he is the king of the jungle, but our God

reigns! We are safe and at peace, even in the midst of the jungle, because we have faith in God alone.

Second Corinthians 5:7 reminds us to "Walk by faith, not by sight." Remembering this, we walk on, confident and unafraid of the pitfalls Satan wants us to fear.

Women attending the Women's Day of Renewal can personalize their experience by choosing two workshops from a large variety that focus on spiritual renewal and practical ways to deal with your everyday life (parenting, procrastination, family illness, and many other issues). The workshops are designed to instruct, encourage, and uplift the young woman, those in their middle years, and the seasoned senior.

The cost for the day is \$30. This fee includes a continental breakfast, a delicious catered lunch, plus two workshops!

To register, contact Good Shepherd Lutheran Church at 618-344-3151 or visit www.goodshepherdcollinsville.org.

Plan to attend this day of renewal, fellowship, laughter, and encouragement as participants focus on "Faith in the Midst of the Jungle."

CHURCH/PEOPLE

Church/People News in Southern Illinois

Student Historian Authors

Congratulations to three eighth-graders from **Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville**. Their articles were selected from articles submitted by students from across the state and have been published in the *Illinois History Magazine*, which is published by the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency.

The theme for this month's publication was "Women in Illinois History." Students who were published (and their article titles) were Amber Burns—*Marita Bonner: Writer and Teacher*, Leigh Ruckman—*Jennie Hodgers: A True Survivor*, and Melissa Urban—*Sarah Ann Hackett Stevenson*. Their articles may be viewed online at www.state.il.us/hpa/toc109ih.htm

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On Dec. 11, 2008, 63 people gathered at Ravenelli's Restaurant in Granite City for a luncheon to honor **Virginia Heins** for her more than 25 years of leadership for the braille work done in Southern Illinois. She was presented an engraved clock, a cross, and a corsage as a "thank



Three eighth-graders from Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville, were selected to have their articles published in the *Illinois History Magazine*.

you" for her thousands of hours of tireless work.

Each month, volunteers from six area churches met at **Concordia Lutheran Church in Granite City** for two hours each to make braille books assembly-line style.

Virginia organized the sessions, made certain all materials were ready, and then mailed the books to the Lutheran Braille Workers organization in Yucaipa, Calif.

The group was honored to have Michael Fisher and Rev. Philip Pledger from the home office in California join the luncheon.

Since February, the

group has continued its work under the direction

of **Delores Darnstaedt of Zion, Bethalto**.



Virginia Heins, Concordia, Granite City, was honored for her more than 25 years of braille work done in Southern Illinois.