



SID Student Aid Golf Scramble

The sixth annual Bob Streuter Memorial Golf Scramble will take place on Saturday, May 1, 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 also was Southern Illinois District treasurer for six years and served on the district Finance Committee.

Our heavenly Father called Bob to his home in 2008 after a fight with cancer. Bob was a mem-

ber of Immanuel, Murphysboro. The Planning Committee has dedicated this and future scrambles in honor of Bob Streuter.

Tee-off time on May 1 will be at 12:30 p.m. A light lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Once again the cost will remain at \$75 per player.

Registration forms will be sent to all past participants and to all congregations or by calling the district office at 618-234-4767. Information also can be found on the district Web site at www.sidlcms.org.

CTS reaches out to victims in Haiti

Although it is thousands of miles away, the victims of the Haiti earthquake are held closely in the hearts and prayers of the faculty, staff, and students of Concordia Theological Seminary (CTS), Fort Wayne, Ind.

There are CTS students and family members who currently are in Haiti. Deaconess intern Alyssa Stone and her daughters, Andrea and Kristin, are in La Cayes, which was not in the epicenter of the quake. Alyssa has made contact with the United

States and reports that some houses did collapse and there was some panic, but there was not the extreme damage as seen in other areas of the country. Others in the seminary community are still awaiting word from family members and they are held up in prayer.

The seminary will send a team of students and faculty to assist in Haiti as soon as they receive clearance to travel. Those interested in sending support for this mission may donate online at www.ctsfw.edu/supporthaiti, or by calling 260-452-2212.

Information on how to support the efforts of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod World Relief and Human Care may be found on the same Web page or on the LCMS Web site at www.lcms.org/ca/worldrelief/.



Pictured are winners of the Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville, Spelling Bee. The bee was held Jan. 5. The students are, from left, Emma Knoebel (fourth grade); Sarena Clements (fifth grade); Carson Philipps (second grade); Josh Vogeli (sixth grade); Sophia Swarhout (third grade); Bigtyme Price (eighth grade); and Evan Bohler (first grade). Bigtyme Price, eighth-grade winner, will represent Good Shepherd at the St. Louis Post Dispatch Spelling Bee, on March 6 at Maryville University in St. Louis.

EDITOR

Send news, articles, and photos:

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

Or e-mail to:
sidlw@earthlink.net

May deadline:
March 15

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

NEWS

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 an LCMS Southern Illinois District congregation, you may apply for one of the following scholarships:

Mite Project Scholarships

One LWML mite grant for the 2008-10 biennium is for seminary scholarships

to become pastors. Four \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded in June 2010 for the 2010-11 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 may also 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 which have been invested in the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

Application forms for all scholarships are available on the LWML Web site at www.sidwml.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, completed applications must be returned by May 1.

Calls in the district

Call 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 Tona-wanda, 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 Tona-wanda, N.Y.



Confirmation was held Jan. 24 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Ferrin. Pastor Scott Niermann and the congregation welcomed Mike Hilmes, Brittany Kleiboeker, Steve Hoffmann, and Linda and Greg Reckling after the confirmation service. "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).



'Was Crucified, Died and Was Buried'

by Herbert C. Mueller

Birth and death are the two experiences common to all. Everyone alive today was born. Everyone alive today will die (unless Jesus returns first). And before we ourselves die, we most likely will experience several times over the death of someone close to us.

Our Lord Jesus, in this respect, is no different from any of us. He was born a real human being. He lived on this earth, breathed our air, ate our food. After 33 years He died and was buried by some of those close to Him.

While living here, He stood with us at the grave of someone He loved, even wept at the death of His friend, Lazarus. In these respects, Jesus also knows death as a human experience. He can and does understand our grief and our emotion at the thought of death.

Yet, the death of Jesus Christ, something we confess in the language of the Apostles' Creed, "was crucified, died and was buried," includes much more than His ability to sympathize with us. He was crucified FOR US, as the Bible explains, "Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for



Rev. Herbert C. Mueller Jr.
District President

us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree' (Gal. 3:13 ESV).

Baptized for us by John in the sinners' baptism, betrayed into the hands of sinful men, tortured, then crucified, Jesus was taking all our sin and death into Himself, receiving in His own body death, the sinners' punishment.

Though He had no sin of His own, He was given the burden of all our sin. There was no reason for Him to die except that He was given our death. "For our sake he (God) made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God" (2 Cor. 5:21 ESV).

Remember that Jesus Christ is at one and the

same time fully human and fully God. That means He unites in His one person everything it takes to be God and all it takes to be human. This One, the God-Man, is the One who was hanged on the cross, who died and was buried. As the Scripture says, "In him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross" (Col. 1:19-20 ESV).

Soon it will be Good Friday, the day on which the church prays, "Almighty God, graciously behold this Your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was willing to be betrayed and delivered into the hands of sinful men to suffer death upon the cross ..." (*LSB Altar Book*, p. 512). In other words, the most important thing to remember about Christ's death and resurrection is that it was FOR US!

I remember one particular confirmation class in which I asked the class, "For whom did Jesus die?" They had various answers. "He died for all people." "He died for sinners." "He died for the believers." In each case, I responded, "Yes, that's true, but it's not the answer I'm looking for today." All at once there was in the front row a

wide-eyed young man waving his hand. "Pastor, Pastor, I know," he said, "Jesus died FOR ME!" "Yes! That's the answer I'm looking for!"

We take it right out of Scripture, "I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself FOR ME" (Gal. 2:20 ESV, emphasis added).

There's the reason we confess that Jesus "was crucified, died and was buried." He did it for you and for all, yes, but in faith we each mean, He did it FOR ME.

But it does not end with Christ's death. In the Lutheran funeral service, we pray at the graveside: "Almighty God, by the death of Your Son Jesus Christ You destroyed death, by His rest in the tomb You sanctified the graves of Your saints, and by His bodily resurrection You brought life and immortality to light so that all who die in Him abide in peace and hope ..." (*LSB Agenda*, p. 130).

For us, though death is still a fearsome monster
(Continued on Page D.)

SID Missions and the Great Commission

by Roger Sprengel

Throughout the remainder of 2010, you will learn more about missions in the Southern Illinois District (SID). (See accompanying article on Page E from the Mission Board.) Many times when we think about the Great Commission that Jesus gave to the church and ALL disciples in Matt. 28:18-20, we focus on people in faraway places who have not yet heard the Gospel in their own language and are in need of world missionaries or Bible translators.

The Mission Board, with the help of our webmaster, recently placed a link on the Southern Illinois District Web site (www.sidlcms.org) that gives our members throughout the district a better understanding as to the opportunities and extent of our focus on missions—here in our own district and throughout the world. (Go to the Web site at www.sidlcms.org and find “SID Missions” about three-quarters of the way down on the left side of the front page.)

These mission opportunities are supported both within the SID budget and directly through gifts and contributions from our members.



**Roger Sprengel
Schools and Executive
Assistant**

Next month, I will give a more specific breakdown of that support and summarize “where our offerings are spent.” Think of it as kind of a “State of the District” message to inform each member.

An exciting mission challenge to look forward to in the coming year is a special mission offering being organized here in our Southern Illinois District. Each member will have an opportunity to support our mission efforts to an even greater extent by choosing from one or all of the selected programs.

Our Mission Board is in the process of establishing a prison ministry task force to assist and sup-

port our personnel (both paid and volunteer) who currently serve at 26 locations throughout our district!

We live in exciting and challenging times! The economy has been in recession for two years, unemployment is at an all-time high, and contributions to non-profit entities (yes, that includes the church) have been difficult to maintain—especially for those on fixed incomes or those who rely on income from investments.

Yet, there are more and more people, even here in our own part of the world, who are living in spiritual darkness and need to hear the precious Gospel message of salvation!

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 Lois M. Engfehr, 2408 Lebanon Ave., Belleville, IL 62221; or e-mail at sidlw@earthlink.net.

Photos must be 300 dpi and e-mailed separately.

'CRUCIFIED, DIED AND WAS BURIED'

(Continued from Page C.) that takes away those we love and cuts short our time here on earth, death can no more separate us from God or hold us forever.

Death is the last enemy, but it's an enemy defeated, a monster defanged by Christ's death and resurrection. That's why the Scripture says that Christ “died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised” (2 Cor. 5:15 ESV).

We'll continue these thoughts on the Apostles' Creed next month as we celebrate the Resurrection of Our Lord. Until then, “... he himself (Christ) is our peace, who has made us both one ... reconcil(ing) us to God in one body through the cross” (Eph. 2:14,16 ESV). God bless your Lenten season!





Mission work in the district

by Rev. Kirk Clayton

Did you know that the Southern Illinois District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is heavily involved in mission work both within the boundaries of the district and around the world? In each of *The Lutheran Witness* issues for the rest of the year, the Board of Missions will focus on a mission of the Southern Illinois District, considering how and where the Lord is at work in His mission field.

First, let's think for a moment about how the Lord works in missions. As Lutherans, we believe that salvation is God's work alone, from beginning to end. We cannot by our own reason or strength come to Him or believe. He initiates salvation; He completes salvation; He does it all. We do not receive any credit at all for saving ourselves through our works.

This also means that we do not have any ability to save others through our efforts, works, or merits either! This points to the heart of mission work. In its truest sense, mission work is not something we as humans can do, filling churches through our own human efforts by employing the latest gimmicks or carefully researched strategies. Drawing people to Him-

self and creating faith is the work of God alone. He receives all the credit, honor, and glory.

Article V of the Augsburg Confession explains how God works:

“Through the Word and the sacraments as through instruments the Holy Spirit is given, who effects faith where and when it pleases God in those who hear the Gospel.”

Truly it is God who is at work in missions, and He works through the Word and sacraments.

The story of mission work in the SID, then, is the story of proclaiming God's Word and administering His sacraments according to Christ's institution. That is how mission work is done.

In the coming months, we will see not only how mission work is done, but also where mission work is done. In the coming months, you will read about the Lord's work through “Freed in Christ”—a prisoner re-entry program, the Acts 1:8 Mission Society, Prison Ministry at more than 20 prisons and jails across southern Illinois, Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School in East St. Louis, campus ministry at SIU-Carbondale and SIU-Edwardsville, a new mission plant in Saline County called Faith Lutheran, and our district mission partnership with

the Lutheran Church of Southern Africa. Each of these mission locations will be in the spotlight in coming months, as they are all supported by the SID, enabled by your gifts in the offering plate on Sunday morning.

We are at work in the Lord's mission fields. He is at work in Word and sacraments to bless His people. Throughout the district, we have the privilege to be partners in this great work through our hands-on help, contributions, and prayers. In the coming months, read more about it!

Rev. Kirk M. Clayton is pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Mascoutah, and chairman of the Southern Illinois District Board of Missions.

Young adult Web site

Looking for a great resource for post-high school into the 30-somethings? Check out 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.

Calendar of events

March

- 4—S.A.M.T.F. meeting, 7 p.m.
- 7-13—National Lutheran Schools Week
- 20—Mission Board Meeting, Trinity, Edwardsville, 9 a.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.

May

- 1—The Bob Streuter Memorial Golf Scramble (SID Foundation) at Okawville
- 3—Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9 a.m.
- 5—Lutheran Older Adult Advisory Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 6—Prison Ministry Workshop at Camp Wartburg
- 6—S.A.M.T.F., 7 p.m.
- 31—Holiday; district office closed.

NEWS

St. Luke's, Covington, celebrate 125 years

St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Covington, plans to celebrate its 125th anniversary with a festival on Sunday, April 11. The theme for the day is "125 Years of God's Grace: One Generation to Another."

District President Herbert C. Mueller Jr., will serve as guest speaker for the 10 a.m. service. All current and former members—especially confirmands—as well as neighbors and friends are invited.

A catered meal will follow in the St. John's, New Minden, schoolhouse basement. For a reservation, call Pastor Tim Mueller at 618-478-5544.



St. Luke's, Covington, will celebrate its 125th anniversary on Sunday, April 11.



Preschool students from Trinity Lutheran School, Edwardsville, worshiped together with high school students at Metro-East Lutheran High School (MEHLS), Edwardsville, recently. The chapel service was led by Dave Redden, athletic director and teacher at MELHS, and consisted of singing, a puppet play put on by the high school students, and a special message to the students—both young and old.

Seminary Chorus announces 2010 spring tour

The Concordia Seminary Chorus, under the direction of Rev. Henry V. Gerike, will visit Lutheran churches in Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Louisiana, and Illinois during its 2010 spring tour.

The chorus will provide sacred concerts in the form of choral Evening Prayer that includes prayer, Scripture readings, and congregational singing.

The Seminary Chorus will perform at the following district church:

Sunday, March 14, 4 p.m. —St. John Lutheran Church, Red Bud, Ill.

The Concordia Seminary Chorus, which includes the spring tour group, numbers about 60 seminarians who commit to balancing full course loads with weekly rehearsals and special tour rehearsals. The chorus has performed in more than 30 states and provinces in North America during the last 22 years. The seminarians are preparing for full-time service as pastors in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

For more information or to order CDs of chorus recordings, contact the Concordia Seminary Bookstore at 314-505-7315 or bookstore@csl.edu.



Lutheran fraternity celebrates homecoming at U of I

The Alpha Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi held another successful celebration during the Homecoming weekend of Oct. 10-11, 2009, at the University of Illinois in Champaign/Urbana.

In addition to attending the football game as a group, an annual dinner/dance was held to present deserving awards to alumni. Active members living in the Fraternity Chapter House also participated in the scheduled activities.

The National Lutheran fraternity emphasized the three "S's" (spiritual, scholastic, and social). The current Chapter House was appropriately complemented at the business meeting, because the men's collective grade point average was second



A large group from the Southern Illinois District gathered for this picture during the evening banquet. They are, from left, seated, Merle Aukamp and Bill Keel, Zion, Belleville; Michael Nolte, St. Paul, Columbia; standing, Rev. Peter Kirby, Zion, Carlinville; Mark Keel, Zion, Belleville; Jake Payne, St. Paul, Columbia; Kirk Meyer, Trinity, Hoyleton; Tyler Mathews, Zion, Belleville; Brett Ruecker, St. Paul, Troy; Tony Keel, Zion, Belleville; and Steve Meyer, Trinity, Hoyleton.

highest among all the fraternities at the University. This collegiate atmosphere provides a very desirable learning environment for young Lutheran men.



Jacobs Payne, a student at the University of Illinois, chose to affiliate with Alpha Chapter of Beta Sigma Psi on Sept. 30, 2009. Beta Sigma Psi is a national fraternity for college men of the Lutheran faith. It emphasizes spiritual, scholastic, and social excellence among its members. Jacobs joins a brotherhood of more than 8,000 collegiate and alumni mem-

bers around the country and the world. Jacobs is the son of Chris and Lynn Payne who attend St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Columbia, Ill.



Trinity, Edwardsville, recently added to its pastoral staff. Joining Senior Pastor Martin Springer, center, are Pastor Mark Sell, left, as part-time visitation pastor, and Vicar John Shank to work in the areas of outreach and assimilation. May God bless their work together.

CHURCH/PEOPLE

Church/People news in Southern Illinois

The members of **Messiah Lutheran Church, Alton**, recently celebrated in thanksgiving to God those members who are 80 years old and older. The congregation recognized the blessings that God has given to Messiah through the participation of these 37 members in the ministry of Messiah over the years.

The members of Messiah also honored veterans of the Armed Forces and those now serving. Members were asked to submit names of members and family members who are or were veterans or who are currently serving. It was found that 23 members of Messiah are or were veterans—nine of whom have gone to be with the Lord and 14 whom are living of which two are currently serving.

The names of 67 family members were submitted who have served over the years or are currently serving. A couple of members even submitted names of family members who served during the Civil War.

The congregation gave thanks to God for these 90 individuals and their service to our country.

* * *

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.

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 held in Portland, 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



Hilgendorf

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 \$35. The fee includes a continental breakfast,

catered lunch, two workshops, and the keynote.

This year a Friday night event was added 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 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!