



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 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 you may call the district office at 618-234-4767. Information can also be found on the Southern Illinois District Web site at www.sidlcms.org.



The newly constructed gym at Christ, Jacob, was dedicated on Feb. 14. A tornado destroyed the school's gym in May 2009.

Gym dedication at Christ, Jacob

The newly constructed gym at Christ, Jacob, was

dedicated on Feb. 14 with a special service and potluck meal.

A tornado destroyed the school's gym in May 2009. Full replacement costs of \$450,000 were paid by the congregation's insurance company. Additional donations of \$20,000 from members and Southern Illinois District congregations also were used.

Current enrollment in the school is 39 students—the highest enrollment during the past decade!



On March 14, Trinity, Harvel, received six new members who have all completed adult confirmation classes. A cake-and-coffee reception was held in their honor following the worship service. Pictured are, from left, Rich Ganter, Karen Fesser, Megan Busacker, Rev. Scott Busacker, Pam Bergman, Angie Gerlach, and John Herman.

EDITOR

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Waterloo member helps earthquake victims in Haiti

Armed with her new Creole language book, paramedic Julie Valerius, a member of Immanuel, Waterloo, went to Haiti for her second mercy medical team mission since the earthquake on Jan. 12.

She accompanied the LCMS World Relief and Human Care group for a week. "I grew a bond with these people. It was a blessing, a good learning experience," she said.

Valerius wanted to do more and signed up for a March 11 to 21 trip. In addition, she raised \$1,200 for the relief effort through a benefit she organized.

"I will be sending the money to LCMS World Relief and Human Care. If they feel that there is a need for some of the money to go to Chile, I will leave that up to them. I trust their judgment," she said. "This group is doing awesome things."

A paramedic with the Monroe County Ambulance Service for four years, she was determined to go with an open mind. "I thought about what I might see, the things on the news that stuck in my mind, and the stories I heard," she said.

"We have simulated training here about mass casualties, but nothing like what you saw in Haiti."



Julie Valerius, a member at Immanuel, Waterloo, went on a second trip to help earthquake victims in Haiti.

Valerius didn't imagine how touched she would be about the human sacrifice and resilient spirit she witnessed.

"They're very adaptable. They do what they need to do," she said.

She gets emotional recalling how she helped reunite a mother and baby who had been trapped for three days and separated for medical treatment. The baby's arm was crushed and she was being flown out. The mother couldn't quit smiling to be able to see the baby again, Valerius said.

"It's good to know that you can make a difference," she said.

She also benefited from her previous career as a high school Spanish teacher for six years. She has bachelor's and master's degrees in Spanish from

St. Louis University. The medical personnel used an interpreter for the French Creole dialect.

Her group worked at a new two-story clinic in the Dominican Republic on the Haiti border. They were fortunate to have operating rooms, recovery rooms, and supplies. They had bottled water and food was delivered. They were in a better situation than most.

But still, the demands of what was needed were great. They basically worked 15-hour days, slept on mattresses in an adjacent vacant house, and pitched in wherever needed.

The number of people needing care as well as the severity of the injuries was nearly overwhelming at times. Many amputations and fractures needed to be

tended to, and the threat of infections was serious. Getting a routine, making sure there were records and they were updated, as well as following up with antibiotics and treatment were important priorities.

Worries about the upcoming rainy season and the spread of disease were a concern. And then there were aftershocks.

"The people were so God-fearing and faithful. They were grateful and thankful, for just the simplest things. They would be singing morning devotions in the midst of all this. It was pretty humbling. They have their values and priorities straight," she said.

This article by Lynn Venhaus appeared in the Belleville News Democrat on March 8.



The Sign of the Resurrection

by Herbert C. Mueller

Some of those who did not believe during Jesus' earthly ministry demanded He give them a sign. Do some miraculous work we can accept, and then we'll believe in you! But Jesus told them no sign would be given then except the sign of the prophet Jonah: "Just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the great fish, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:40). The one sign we are given is the sign of the resurrection.

We confess this sign in the Apostles' Creed: "On the third day He rose again from the dead." The resurrection of Jesus is an event so big that we spend an entire seven-week season of the church year celebrating. Indeed, the resurrection is the greatest of the signs John was talking about when he wrote, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book, but these things are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name" (John 20:30-31).

A "sign" in biblical language is a marker, a point-



Rev. Herbert C. Mueller Jr.
District President

er for something greater. Especially in the Gospel of John, the miracles of Jesus are called signs. The wonder of each such event points to the greatest wonder of all: God Himself has invaded our earth to overcome sin, hell, and even death. Jesus displayed power over disease by healing those who came to Him in faith. He showed His power over nature by calming the storm. Several times during His ministry, He demonstrated power over death by raising the dead: a 12-year-old girl, the widow's son at Nain, and then, two weeks before His own death, Lazarus, four days dead!

Each of these signs pointed to the greatest sign, what Jesus called "the sign of Jonah," His own resurrection from the dead.

All who followed the signs believed in Him, received life in His name. It's the same for us. Jesus has given us the sign of His cross, where He died to take for us the due punishment for our sins, and the sign of His resurrection, by which He conquered our last enemy, death.

As great a miracle as the resurrection of Jesus is, it is also a sign pointing to something even more wonderful: You and I, together with all who believe in Him, will also be raised to life.

"The Lord Jesus Christ ... will transform our lowly bodies to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him to subject even all things to Himself" (Phil. 3:20-21).

With these words we comfort one another graveside, looking forward to the time when Jesus will "wipe away every tear from our eyes, and death shall be no more ..." when He will "make all things new" (Rev. 21:4-5). It sounds incredible to skeptical ears, impossible to modern minds, foolish even. Yet this is what Jesus assures us by His resurrection.

Often I ask groups, "What is the one thing you have that is uniquely

yours to give to God?" "My love," "my heart," "my faith" are all things God has given us first. But the one thing we have that God did not give us is our sin and our death. Yet, our sin is the one thing Jesus, dying for us on the cross, has come to take. And our death is actually the only thing God can work with because, in Jesus, God is in the business of raising the dead. His ultimate purpose is to raise us to life with Him forever.

All those aches and pains we experience now are simply signs of the day when the Lord will ask, "That body I gave you, which you corrupted by your sin? Turn it in, give it up, because I am about to give you a brand new body, no longer touched by sin or death, immortal, that will never die, glorified like my body." And we will live with Him forever.

"On the third day He rose again from the dead" expresses our confident trust that resurrection is sure and certain in Jesus. Now it is a matter of faith.

When Christ returns, we will see it with our own eyes. But Christ has not left us without signs of the resurrection (His and ours) even now!

(Continued on Page E.)

Lutheran education by Roger Sprengel

Private/Non-Public Education Nationwide

A total of 23 percent of all schools in the United States are private, non-public schools. Currently, private, non-public education in the United States enrolls about 11 percent of the total students in elementary and secondary schools. Private schools, thus, tend to be smaller than most public schools.

More than 80 percent of these private school students attend parochial schools. Lutheran schools enrolled 255,176 students during the current 2009-10 school year in early childhood centers, elementary, and secondary schools (preschool-12th grade).

Our Lutheran schools in Southern Illinois lost a total of 110 students (-2.8 percent) during the past year. In The Lutheran



Roger Sprengel
Schools and General
Executive

Church—Missouri Synod, our schools lost a total of 15,736 students (-5.8 percent).

While there is no qualitative or definitive reasons for these declines, we know two distinctive facts: baptisms and confirmations in LCMS congregations continue to decline annually, and families in the United States continue to lose

jobs and income due to recessionary conditions.

How big are our schools?

Synodwide, an “average” Lutheran early childhood center enrolls 50 students; an elementary school, 114 students; and a high school, 187 students. Lutheran schools in the Southern Illinois District tend to be slightly smaller than the average across other districts: freestanding preschools average 30 students (preschools that are part of a K-8 program average 41 students), elementary schools average 106 students, and our high schools average 110 students.

The future of Lutheran education in the South- ern Illinois District

The biggest challenges for most of our Lutheran schools remain two-fold: funding and enrollment. These two areas are con-

nected because most of our schools tend to be enrollment sensitive and tuition driven: greater enrollment means greater sources of income.

The educational leadership in our district is very focused and stable! We currently have one administrative opening, with a call being extended. Our congregations remain very supportive and team-ministry is evident in most of our locations.

Please keep all our programs of Christian education in your prayers and consider your gifts of time, talent, and treasure in their ongoing support!

Send in your news

The Southern Illinois District Edition of *The Lutheran Witness* is designed for you.

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.

CORRECTION: In the March issue of the Southern Illinois District *Lutheran Witness*, a photo caption of the University of Illinois Lutheran fraternity incorrectly identified Brett Ruecker from St. Paul, Troy. The caption should have stated Brett Ruckman from Good Shepherd, Collinsville.

State of Lutheran Schools for 2009-10

Southern Illinois District	2009-10	2008-09	Increase/Decrease
# of Preschools	14	14	same
# of Elementary schools (P/K-8)	25	26	-1 (-4%)
# of Secondary schools (9-12)	3	3	same
# of Preschool students	1,202	1,185	+17 (+1%)
# of Elementary students	2,337	2,436	-99 (-4%)
# of Secondary students	329	357	-28 (-8%)
LCMS (All Districts)	2009-10	2008-09	Increase/Decrease
# of Preschools	1,400	1,406	-6 (0%)
# of Elementary schools	945	986	-41 (-4%)
# of Secondary schools	99	108	-9 (-8%)
# of Preschool students	129,351	131,361	-2,010 (-1.5%)
# of Elementary students	107,370	120,684	-13,314 (-11%)
# of Secondary students	18,455	18,867	-412 (-2%)



SIGNS OF THE RESURRECTION

(Continued from Page C.)

In Holy Baptism, we are washed with water and the Word, united with Christ in His death and resurrection. Living in baptism, by repentance we daily die to sin and daily rise to new life in the forgiveness of sins in His name.

Weekly, Jesus seeks to gather us at His Table to refresh us with His body and blood, as Jesus Himself promises, "Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:54).

He can do this because, as next month's portion of the creed assures, He is the One in charge, even now, for He has "ascended into heaven" to sit "at the right hand of God the Father Almighty."

Calendar of events

May

- 1—The Bob Streuter Memorial Golf Scramble (SID Foundation) at Okawville, 12:30 p.m.
- 2—Scholarship Endowment Sunday
- 3—Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9 a.m.
- 4—Revitalization Group Meeting, 11 a.m.
- 5—Lutheran Older Adult Advisory Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m.

6—"See The Miracle" breakfast, 9 a.m., Unity School, East St. Louis

6—Prison Ministry Workshop at Camp Wartburg

6—S.A.M.T.F., 7 p.m.

7—Central Illinois District/Southern Illinois District staff meeting, Springfield, Ill.

8—Pastors Spring Conference and Day of Prayer, St. Paul, Columbia, 8:30 a.m.

13—"See The Miracle" lunch, noon at Unity School, East St. Louis

16—"See The Miracle" Sunday dinner, 1 p.m. at Unity School, East St. Louis

21-24—Floor Committee meetings at the IC

31—Holiday—district office closed.

June

1—Pastoral Conference Program Committee, 9 a.m.

1—Revitalization group meeting, 11 a.m.

3—S.A.M.T.F. meeting, 7 p.m.

7-9—Funding Academy, Carlinville

12—Mission Board meeting, 9 a.m.

27—Pre-Convention open meeting for delegates (all are welcome), Good Shepherd, Collinsville, 2 p.m.

28—Church Workers Golf Outing, Oak Brook, Edwardsville, 9 a.m.

July

1—S.A.M.T.F. meeting, 7 p.m.

9-18—LCMS Convention, Houston

31—District Board of Directors, 9 a.m.

August

4—L.O.A. Advisory Committee, 6:30 p.m.

5—S.A.M.T.F. meeting, 7 p.m.

10—Day of Spiritual Renewal at Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School, East St. Louis



Ward Wuornos was baptized into Christ at Our Savior, Carmi, on Sunday, Jan. 31. Ward is continuing studies in the catechism to become a communicant member. Pictured from left, are Ward, Pastor Dean Spooner, and Carole Sandusky.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

Good, Shepherd, Collinsville, celebrates Lutheran Schools Week

One may ask the question, “If April showers bring May flowers, then what does March bring?” The answer is, “National Lutheran Schools Week.”

During the second week of March, Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville joined thousands of other Lutheran schools around the country in a weeklong celebration under the theme, “Securing Each Child’s Future—for a Life of Service,” with 1 Cor. 12:5 as the theme verse.

To kick off the week, the faculty and Cherub Choir (first- and second-graders) sang at the three worship services.

The school’s hot-lunch menu even coordinated with the dress-up days! Students also had the opportunity to decorate hands, feet, and heart shapes, which decorated the school lobby.

The most anticipated week of the school year began on Monday with “Clash Day,” where Good Shepherd’s students and faculty dressed in mismatched clothing.



Students at Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville, participate in a school assembly during National Lutheran Schools Week. Students are dressed for “Double Identity Day.”

Tuesday revealed the school spirit in everyone through the wearing of school colors (maroon, gray, and white) from head to toe on “School Spirit Day.”

“Double Identity Day,” which was by far the most favorite of the students, took place on Wednesday. On this day, the students and faculty dressed as their favorite fictional or nonfictional character.

Thursday brought out the best in everyone as they dressed their best for “Black Tie Affair Day.” Prom gowns, tuxedos, and princess dresses were popular choices that day.

The weeklong celebration concluded with Friday’s theme of “Team Dress Day.” Although the most popular team apparel was definitely Cardinals gear, apparel from various sports teams from all across the globe was visible.

In addition to the fun dress days, Good Shepherd sponsored a service project. Throughout the first two weeks in March, more than 1,500 pairs of used shoes were collected for “The Shoeman Project.” This mission provides affordable shoes to thousands of needy people while also supplying Rev. George Hutchings (the “Shoeman”) with proceeds (from selling the used shoes) to buy rigs and drill water wells in Kenya.

Other activities included an assembly with Christian singer David Horn on Wednesday, a Thursday evening talent show featuring current students and alumni, and Grandparents/Special Friends Day.

It truly is an eternal blessing for children to have the opportunity to receive a Christ-centered, high-quality education from our Lutheran schools!



Eighth-graders Chelsea Kilzer and Maddie Taylor pose with the “Shoeman,” Rev. George Hutchings, in front of a sculpture they created to promote Good Shepherd’s service project during National Lutheran Schools Week. More than 1,500 pairs of shoes were collected to help purchase a drilling rig to bring clean water to Kenya.



Trinity, Hoyleton, celebrates, remembers, and fights back

On March 10, the students and staff of Trinity Lutheran School, Hoyleton, celebrated National Lutheran School's Week with a Mini Relay for Life. For organizer Dawn Mueller, it was a chance to give back to the community that supported her through her battle with cancer. It was just a year ago that Mueller, preschool teacher at Trinity, returned to school after her mastectomy.

Using materials from the American Cancer Society, Mueller created a mini relay that involved the whole school. Students were divided into teams, led by the seventh- and eighth-graders. Each team prepared a skit based on four ways to promote lifestyles that help prevent cancer. These skits were incorporated into the laps in the relay.

The relay was held in the school activity center, with luminarias placed on the lines for the volleyball court. Pastor Joshua Theilen opened the festivities with prayer. The teams were introduced. The first lap was done by special guests, family members, and loved ones who have survived cancer.

A different kind of lap was chosen to represent each hour of an imaginary day. Each team sent repre-

sentatives to make a lap using a pool diving stick as a baton. The first lap, which marked 10 a.m., was a regular walking lap. The next lap, for 11 a.m., was more difficult as everyone had to walk backwards. At high noon, it was time for the "Sun Safety" skits, by the Hornet and Cardinal teams.

Next, it was the "Slip, Slop, Slap, Wrap Lap" where students had to slip on a big T-shirt, slop on some sunscreen, slap on a hat, and wrap a pair of sunglasses around their face. Carrying an umbrella for the next segment showed that you can bring your shade with you to protect yourself from the sun.

The Kretzer's team did a rhyming skit to show that "Smoking Is No Joke." Then to mark the 2 p.m. hour, kids kicked big cigarette butts, made from toilet paper tubes, around the track. Chewing gum instead of tobacco was reinforced in the next section. Students had to blow a bubble and then walk. If it popped, they had to blow another before proceeding.

The importance of good nutrition was explained in the next skits by the

Hoyletonia and Cool Campers teams. The diving sticks were replaced with a banana for the next lap, which had to be eaten before the next team member made a lap. Then to show the benefit of a well-balanced meal, students carried cafeteria trays with an apple, carrot, and potato.

The Thunderbolts and the Five Musketeers showed the benefits of "Staying Active." To demonstrate this, the next laps found the students dribbling a basketball, swimming with floatation devices and, as the lights started to go down, taking a quick jog around the block.

Finally, it was time to light the luminarias. As each name was read, students and family members lit battery-operated candles in the bags. All the team members joined on the track for a quiet walk in the glow of the luminarias. The 10 p.m. hour was marked by the rising of the stars. A glowing

wand replaced the diving stick. Glow bracelets also were shared. In the next hour, students wore robes and carried teddy bears to signal that it was time for bed. The midnight-snack lap followed, with those who walked the lap enjoying a mini Milky Way bar. At 1 a.m., everyone did a sleep walking lap.

Flashlights lit up the room as the walkers and watchers sang "This Little Gospel Light of Mine." This was a reminder to pray when you wake in the night for those who need Jesus' special blessing. Of course, the loud singing woke the "babies," and dolls were carried in the next lap.

The 4 a.m. hour was marked by some impressive snores, as sleepwalkers rounded the track. Finally, it was quiet again, as the participants focused on the luminarias and those they loved. Slowly the lights came on as the day broke. At 6 a.m. the early birds took flight, delighting everyone with their melodic tweets. A sour neon gummy worm rewarded team members.

The last three laps showed that people have to support each other in the fight against cancer. A three-legged lap showed that one never has to walk alone. Next, students used their arms to form a chair and carried the youngest team member.

(Continued on Page H.)

Teacher Dawn Mueller gets her hair painted pink by Mitchell Kroeger, a student at Trinity, Hoyleton, as part of the Relay for Life.



CHURCH/PEOPLE

Church/People news in Southern Illinois



Eighth-graders from Holy Cross, Collinsville, participated in the VFW's Patriot's Pen Essay Contest. Winners received savings bonds and were recognized after a recent chapel service. First place went to Kyle Teschendorf, second place to Emily Rull, and third place to Danielle Slusher, right.



Trinity Lutheran School, Hoyleton, finished fourth in the recent Scholar Bowl tournament hosted by Christ Our Rock Lutheran High School. The students who participated include, from left, front row, Alyssa Schnitker and SammiJo Schnitker; middle row, Mrs. Bourgeois, Mitchell Kroeger, Blake Kasten, Jared Brammeier; back row, Kyle Schnitker, Lindsey Hafford, Jessica Weihe, and Miss Bachmann.

TRINITY, HOYLETON

(Continued from Page G.)

The last lap, marking 9 a.m., had each team member take the track. With a quick lesson by the teachers and staff, the whole school did the Bunny Hop, to show that everyone has to "hop to it" to get the word out.

Mueller also explained, "Even though we do all we can to prevent cancer, sometimes we still get it. Always remember, God is not punishing you if you have cancer. You will experience many blessings from family and friends that you never expect. When people bring you wonderful meals, send you cards and flowers, drive you to your appointments, tell you that they are praying for you, that is God sending His love to comfort you and give you peace. As you trust in Jesus as your Savior from sin, even if you die, the cancer has not won; God has given you eternal life!"

To show her appreciation for the children's efforts, Mueller allowed the team leaders to use pink spray to color her hair.

The sale of the luminarias and purple ribbons that decorated the gym raised \$530 for the American Cancer Society. These will be saved and used for the Washington County Relay for Life to be held in May.