



CPH to hold warehouse sale Nov. 7

Concordia Publishing House announces its annual warehouse sale—the largest sale of the year—on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8 a.m. to noon.

For one day only, excess inventory from the nonprofit Christian publisher is sold at deeply reduced prices. Sale items include Bibles, curricula, music, adult and children's books, boxed greeting cards, and church resources at savings of up to 75 percent.

Concordia Bookstore, located in the Concordia Publishing House build-

ing, offers its own savings during the warehouse sale. Customers save 20 percent on nearly every item in the store. Bookstore hours during the sale are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Shoppers can register to win one of four certificates good for \$50 in warehouse sale purchases by listening for details on KFUE 850 AM in St. Louis and by calling KFUE at 314-505-7850 or toll-free 800-730-2727. Contestants must be present Saturday, Nov. 7, at 7:45 a.m. to win.

Each certificate is good for the Nov. 7 warehouse sale only; certificates are not valid in

Concordia Bookstore.

Concordia Publishing House and Concordia Bookstore are located at 3558 S. Jefferson Ave., south of Interstate 44 and north of Interstate 55. Free parking is available on Miami Street, east of Jefferson.

For more information about the warehouse sale, call toll-free 800-774-0274. For more information about the Concordia Bookstore sale, call 314-268-1268.

CCCS hosts benefit campaign

"Hope Starts Here," a campaign to benefit the Children's Christian Con-



cern Society, will kick off in St. Louis on Saturday, Nov. 7, at Concordia Seminary's Koburg Hall with a complimentary luncheon at 11:45 a.m. and a Spirit of Sustenance social hour at 7:15 p.m.

Guest visionary Ken Petersen, former Lutheran Hour Ministries' Latin American area counselor, will speak, and the musical group AriSon will be the entertainment.

Friends and donors make the education of more than 17,000 children in 19 countries possible. CCCS wants to share that "Hope Starts Here."

Please reserve your spot by Nov. 1 at cccs@kslcms.org or call 785-357-7688. Availability is limited.



Pictured are staff and students at Christ Our Savior Lutheran High School in Evansville in front of the new classroom and office facility which was dedicated Sunday, Aug. 30. Laborers For Christ completed this project in about four months, with the help of local volunteers.

EDITOR

Send news, articles, and photos:

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Or e-mail to:
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December deadline:
Oct. 15

Galen retires from Trinity, Edwardsville

Pastor Gary Galen, D.Min., retired June 30 after 38 years in the ministry and 19 years at Trinity Lutheran Church, Edwardsville, as director of Pastoral Care, Stephen Ministry, and Older Adult Ministry.

The speaker at the services was Pastor David Wollenburg, Swansea, who recently retired from Concordia Seminary. Wollenburg was a classmate of Galen beginning in 1959 through the six years of prep school at Saint Paul's College and High School in Concordia, Mo., and all the way through the seminary in St. Louis.

Following the service, a banquet was given by Trinity congregation at the Moose Lodge. The speaker was Dan Kostencki, Metro-East Lutheran High School's principal. Kostencki was a childhood friend of Galen in their hometown of Carlinville, where Galen's father was a pastor.

A native of Southern Illinois, Gary Galen will continue to be involved in a special project in the district for the Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support, plus remain active in general ministry, older adult ministry, and

volunteering in the area of alcoholism recovery.

Nehrt receives D.Min. degree

Rev. Jeffery Nehrt earned his doctor of ministry degree May 25 at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis during the evening commencement exercises. Nehrt serves as pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Greenville.

The doctor of ministry degree is the highest professional degree in ministry, distinctly different from the academic degrees of the graduate school. It is intended to equip men in parish ministry for a higher level of competence in the practice of pastoral ministry. The program leading to the degree promotes professional growth and vocational renewal.

Students working on the degree must earn 54 credit hours, which includes six hours for a major applied project.

Nehrt's applied project was titled "How a Hearer Listens to a Sermon: Setting the Presuppositions of the 'Second Text.'" The purpose of the project was to answer the question, "Can preachers influence how a hearer hears a sermon?"

To answer the question, 70 pastors from the LCMS



Rev. Jeffery Nehrt, left, pictured with seminary professor Dr. Bruce Hartung, earned his doctor of ministry degree May 25 at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

Southern Illinois District were asked if they ever used a pre-sermon Bible study to help the listener hear the sermon.

A seven-week pre-sermon Bible study was developed and taught based on four filters of hearing: logos, ethos, pathos, and community.

A post-sermon survey was given and separated into two categories, those who attended the pre-sermon Bible study and those who did not. Nehrt said the results were fairly conclusive that those who attended the pre-sermon Bible study had greater attachment to both the sermon and the preacher.

Nehrt has been part of the prison ministry at the Greenville Federal Correctional Institute for more than 16 years.

For five years, Nehrt served as president of the

Prison Family Hospitality Group. He participated in spring and fall prison training, has served as public relations person for the "Catch The Vision" prison ministry conference, and has supervised training deaconess candidates for prison ministry.

Rev. Nehrt currently serves as a public relations representative for prison ministry for the Southern Illinois District.

Calls in the district Calls Declined

Timothy Mueller, St. John, New Minden, and St. Luke, Covington, to Good Shepherd, Midwest City, Okla.

Steven Sommerer, Messiah, Carlyle, to Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Loveland, Colo.



God's Masks

by **Herbert C. Mueller**

"I believe that God ... richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life" (Small Catechism, *Lutheran Service Book*, p. 322). This is what we say we believe when we confess the creed, "I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth."

We talked about creation two months ago. We talked about suffering last month. Now we ask, just how does God "provide me with all that I need ..."?

Here we consider a teaching that often is ignored or little understood—the doctrine of Christian vocation. What is your calling in life? Most of us have more than one: father, mother, son, daughter, employer, employee, etc. For instance, I am a father, a son, a husband, a pastor, church leader. Each one entails various responsibilities before God.

What are your vocations? In other words, how has God called you to serve? What is your job, your occupation? What are your responsibilities? How do you carry them out? Scripture tells us "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the



Rev. Herbert C. Mueller Jr.
District President

inheritance as your reward" (Col. 3:23-24). We are to do this, St. Paul also says, "not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man" (Eph. 6:6-7).

In other words, whatever your honest occupation, whatever your responsibilities in life, you are called by God to do them well, "as to the Lord." That is your calling, your vocation from God. Why? Because God is using you in your calling to provide for others.

Think of all the people you deal with from day to day—gas station attendant, grocery clerk, your child's teacher, your doc-

tor, your employer, even the policeman who pulled you over because you were speeding! Each of them and so many more are called to serve you, just as you also are called to serve.

Of course, many do not know it, but God uses them to provide for you just the same. Therefore, even something as simple as the toast you ate for breakfast comes from God through people working in the vocations God has provided. There was the farmer, the trucker, the millworker, the baker, the grocer, each one doing his or her job so that God could give you breakfast.

Lutheran teaching describes all of these as God's masks. Behind their faces and hands, we are called to see the hands and face of God. God is at work through them all, even if some of them are not aware of it.

And that's also what you are in your work for others—God's mask. God is providing for others, using you! How does that now elevate in your thinking the seemingly mundane things you do from day to day?

We are to work, not for ourselves, but for the Lord. The Lord, of course, needs nothing from us, but our neighbor does need our love. In fact, God cares and provides for us through our neighbor, and for our neighbor

through us. Behind the masks of all the good and honest activity in society, God is at work.

So you, in your various stations in life, serve as God's mask, in the sense that God is at work through you to care for your children, your grandchildren, your coworkers, your friends—everyone you serve.

This is how all of life is infused with the presence of God for us, especially when we do the work God has given, "as to the Lord." But what happens when we fail, as we will? God's Word then calls us to confess and to repent, that He might take our sin Himself and forgive us for the sake of Christ and His cross.

You may remember that the catechism, when it teaches us to confess our sins, asks us to "consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments ..." (*LSB*, p. 326). Whatever vocations God has given us, that's where we daily sin much and need God's forgiveness in Christ constantly. Thank God for His promise, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). God then sends us back into our

(Continued on Page D.)

NEWS

Welcome, new workers!

A new school year always brings changes: new curriculum, building renovations or improvements, new students, and new staff members! We welcome all the professional church workers to the Southern Illinois District and wish them God's richest blessings in their ministry!

Unity Lutheran School, East St. Louis, dedicates building

Unity Lutheran Christian School, in East St. Louis, has dedicated its new school for the 2009-10 school year. The school is located at 1600 N. 40th St. in East St. Louis and is the newly renovated Hawthorne facility.

The Southern Illinois District has entered a lease with the local school board for this facility with an eventual option to purchase.

Hundreds of volunteers from throughout the Southern Illinois District have donated thousands of hours in cleaning and renovating this new home for Unity! Your continued support of our district mission school is needed.

Check out ways you can help by visiting the Web site at www.unityesl.org.



New teachers serving in their first positions in a Lutheran school in the Southern Illinois District are, from left, front row, Lillie Hardieway, Unity, East St. Louis; Lindsey Pfanstiel, St. John, Red Bud; Justine Biermann, Good Shepherd, Collinsville; Christina Warnier, Trinity/St. Paul, Worden; Sue Harre, Trinity/St. John, Nashville; back row, Amber Giesecking, St. Paul, Troy; Joy Roberson, St. Peter, Prairietown; Brendan Morris, Immanuel, Okawville; Jasmine Biermann, Good Shepherd, Collinsville; Rev. Russell Johnson, Trinity/St. John, Nashville; and Zach Schnare, Metro-East Lutheran High School, Edwardsville.



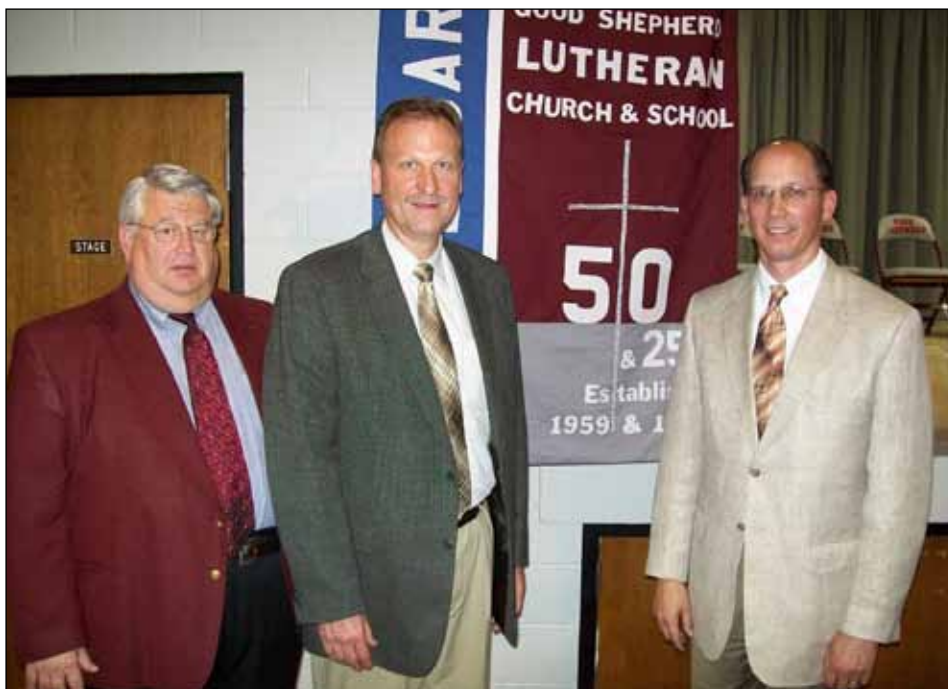
Teachers new to the Southern Illinois District are, from left, Rebecca Rowe, St. Mark, Steeleville; Annalisa Roggow, Zion, Bethalto; Steve Burger, Trinity, Hoffman; Karen Belli, Trinity, Hoffman; Becky Boerner, St. Paul, Columbia; and Randy Truluck, St. Mark, Steeleville.

GOD'S MASKS

(Continued from Page C.)
vocation so that He might continue to “provide all we need to support this body and life.”

Next month, we'll start a closer look at the second article of the creed, by which we confess, “I

believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. ...” We'll talk more then. God's peace be with you all!



Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Collinsville, celebrated its 25th anniversary. Former and current principals, are from left, William Cochran (first principal, 1984-1992), Robert Mayhew (current principal, 2000-present), and Paul Brandt (1992-2000).



Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Collinsville, celebrated its 50th anniversary. Former and current pastors are from left, Rev. Alvin Kollmann (first pastor and Southern Illinois District president emeritus), Rev. Michael Walther (current senior pastor), Rev. Paul Hemenway (current associate pastor), and Rev. Lester Seto.

Calendar of events

October

- 1—S.A.M.T.F. meeting, 7 p.m.
- 1-2—Southern Illinois District/Central Illinois District Teachers Conference, Belleville/O'Fallon, Ill.
- 5-7—Pastors Fall Conference, Rend Lake Resort, Ina, Ill.
- 8—Finance Committee meeting, 5:15 p.m.
- 10-12—Junior High School Youth Gathering—Camp Wartburg
- 15—LWML District Board of Directors, 9:30 a.m.
- 22—Youth Advisory Committee meeting, 6:30 p.m., district office.
- 24—SID Board of Directors, 9 a.m.

November

- 2—Board of Spiritual Care and Supervision, 9 a.m.
- 4—Mission Staff meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- 5—Southern Illinois District Prison Ministry Workshop, 8:45 a.m.-2:45 p.m., Camp Wartburg.
- 5—S.A.M.T.F. meeting, 7 p.m.
- 14—Board of Missions, 9 a.m.
- 26—Thanksgiving Day
- 27—Southern Illinois District office closed.

2010

January

- 21—Finance Committee meeting, 5:15 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.

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.



St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Bud welcomed the Perry County (Missouri) Lutheran Chorale to its Saturday evening worship service on June 13. The chorale, under the direction of Tyson Wunderlich, sang nine selections of sacred music. They closed their portion of the worship service with the song "Abide With Me" as the choir members encircled the congregation. This 20-member chorale visited St. John's as part of its regional tour.

8. Is it current and ready for implementation?

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

10. Names of people to contact if more information is needed.

Submit six copies of your grant request with two to six pictures by Feb. 1, 2010, to:

Mickey Roth, Vice President of 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.



St. Peter's, Prairietown, celebrated the anniversaries of Keith and Kathleen Schelp and bid them a fond farewell in a special worship service, dinner, and reception on June 14. The Schelps served their entire ministry (35 years) at St. Peter's and moved to Florida to live with Kathy's elderly mother. The entire Southern Illinois District wishes Keith, Kathy, and family God speed and best wishes in their new location and future service to the church!



District Youth Gathering Coordinators meet

District coordinators for the 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans, “We Believe,” are hard at work providing resources and services to congregations. Some of the things they do for congregations and districts include:

- making transportation arrangements for districts;
- coordinating special district events at the Gathering; and
- generating district materials such as T-shirts, buttons, banners, etc.

The coordinators for the Southern Illinois District are Eric Dunn, Trinity, Edwardsville; KerriAnn Schmid, Zion, Belleville; and Roger Sprengel, Southern Illinois District office. They are looking at several options for a district event and will announce the date and location in the near future. Here are some other things they are working on:

- T-shirt design ideas;
- District Facebook site (Southern Illinois District High School Youth).

If you have questions about the Gathering, or if you have not received Gathering materials such as the poster or pre-Gathering DVD, contact Eric at edunn@tledwardsville.org or KerriAnn at kkothe@zionbelleville.org, or Roger at sidsage@sidlcms.org.



KerriAnn Schmid and Roger Sprengel, Schools and General Executive for the Southern Illinois District, attended a special district coordinator training held last May in St. Louis.

Send in your news

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

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



Pictured are, from left, Vicar Steven Frentz and Dr. George Gude, pastor both of Emmaus, Dorsey, and Rev. William Mueller, of suburban Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Fort Wayne, Ind. Emmaus, Dorsey, has been celebrating its 150th anniversary all year by asking former field education students to come back and preach. On Sunday, July 12, the preacher was Pastor William Mueller, the brother of both Pastor Timothy Mueller of New Minden in the Southern Illinois District and District President Herbert Mueller.

CHURCH/PEOPLE

Church/People News in Southern Illinois

On July 11, **Trinity Lutheran Church in Hoffman** sponsored a community food drive for the Village of Hoffman. Throughout the month of June and the first part of July, food was collected from congregation members, and names of those who could use this assistance were submitted to the committee working on this food drive.

On the day of the food drive, 32 banana boxes were each filled with a variety of food essentials. These boxes were assembled by more than 30 congregation members and were delivered to a variety of house-



Trinity Lutheran Church, Hoffman, sponsored a community food drive for the village of Hoffman.

holds that afternoon.

After delivering items to those whose names were submitted ahead of time, the members of Trinity

went door to door in the village offering free boxes of groceries. In addition to the groceries, an outreach brochure was

included in each box.

Thanks be to God for His blessings on this event.



St. Paul Lutheran Church, West Frankfort, held vacation Bible school Aug. 3-7 with the theme "Animals in the Bible." They visited Breezy Hill Farm, outside of West Frankfort, to see animals, enjoy mazes, and play on the playground. Participants were Lauren Adams, Kieresten Bejmovicz, Matthew Chaplin, Meredith Cheek, Rebecca Cunningham, Tanya and Tiler Gulliksen, Jessi Jones, Kristin King, Josh Lenard, Kameron, Kendra, and Shelby Metzger, Kyla Mitchell, Jacob Moak, Justis Pirdie, Addysen Studer, and Aryn and Austyn Studer. Helpers were Pastor Kern, Liz Robinson, Brenda Toms, Jonathan Toms, Jane Perr, Leslie Adams, Kitten Taylor, Cheryl Tessone, and Diane Metzger.