

Today's Business

Rev. Mueller gives report to convention body

President Mueller addressed the 55th regular convention of the SID on Friday, Feb.19. Special guests of the convention include LCMS President, Gerald Kieschnick and First Vice President William Diekelman; Bishop David P. Tswaedi of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and Mr. Mpolaise Masibi, a lay representative from the Church Council of the LCSA.

The convention theme, "One Sure Hope" is based on 1 Corinthians 15:19-20. President Mueller said, "We are facing difficult financial times in our country...but we will go forward, not in fear, but in hope, hope sure and certain in Christ, for Christ is always faithful to his promises".

Three resolutions from the last convention included visiting all parishes in the district regarding, missions, Holy Communion and worship practices. With Circuit Counselors and Vice Presidents, two study documents were developed, and it was decided to conduct visits in three phases; not all of which are completed. Phase #1 – visit every active pastor in the district - 90 pastors were visited in 2006-2007. Phase #2 – visit pastors and lay leaders together to discuss the mission of the church as well as communion and worship practices. Forty congregations have been visited, with 56 more to go. Phase #3 - return to the congregation and visit voters' assemblies regarding all three issues. Not yet started.

Results of the 130 completed visits:

- Our pastors are seeking to be faithful and are working hard at their Christ-given tasks
- Pastors are in need of encouragement from the Word of God
- Some congregations practice a less stringent Lord's Supper than others; however I am not aware of any of our congregations practicing completely "open communion".
- 75-80 percent of our parishes have moved to the Lutheran Service Book
- Several congregations do have a form of "contemporary worship" but to my knowledge all seek to follow at least portions of the *ordo* of the liturgy of the church

"In the past triennium, I was privileged to travel to South Africa twice – In May 2007 with Mark Willig and Tim Scharr and again in May 2008 with Tim Scharr. Both trips were funded privately and helped build and strengthen our partnership with LCSA.

Significant amounts of my time are devoted to helping

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2009 Southern Illinois District Convention

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy. He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you." 1 Peter 1:3-4 ESV

Thought For The Day

***"Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord."* Psalm 31:34**

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congregations in conflict. Prison ministry has experienced transitions. On Aug. 19, 2007 Trinity Lutheran Church in Herrin resigned from membership in the Synod," he said.

There are currently 96 congregations in the District.... plus Faith Lutheran in Litchfield, an independent Lutheran congregation which is in fellowship by permission of Pastor Les Mitkos under guidelines adopted by the Council of Presidents,.... two "preaching stations" – Saline County Church Plant, an effort of Our Redeemer, Golconda, in cooperation with the District, to plant an LCMS congregation in Harrisburg/El Dorado. Regular worship began the middle of November, and they have already started an adult instruction class that is set to be completed in time for Easter, God willing. And, Pastor Randy Wilken, working with the Acts 1:8 Mission Society is gathering a group to develop a congregation at the east end of East St. Louis.

Rev. Mueller said, "In early 2008, we helped Pastor Wilken transition from Unity Lutheran, East St. Louis to serving full time as the executive director of the Acts 1:8 Mission Society. This transition opened the door for DELTO Vicar Dr. Willie Stallworth to serve Unity. Unity congregation no longer needs ongoing district subsidy; but the district does help with grants for specific mission efforts."

Unity Lutheran Christian Elementary School now enrolls 85 students in preschool through grade 5. That's good but they have outgrown the space available at the church. The District Board of Directors, the Unity School Board and Unity Church are working hard to find answers. Approximately \$600,000 has been raised for the Unity School building fund.

What will the future bring to SID? Here are some things for which to pray:

- Continuing visitations
- Expansion of Prison Ministry
- Development of the "Freed in Christ" program for ex-offenders
- Developing our mission efforts in East St. Louis
- Hard Work in SID to improve our financial picture
- Cross District Cooperation – meeting regularly with President Ray Mirly
- Participation in Synodical efforts

Rev. Mueller said, "The most important work for the future will be to focus our parishes ever more keenly on the LIFE OF GOD IN JESUS CHRIST. How is this done? Synod has set the goal of revitalizing 2000 parishes for mission outreach. I pray that we are developing a Gospel and Word of God centered approach for this effort in SID.

The basic assumptions are found in our convention workbook (p.109-132)

One Sure Hope – Growing Together in Christ-

The local congregation gathered around Word and Sacrament

Every congregation matters because every congregation has Christ in its midst

The purpose of the District and Synod are to support congregations in their mission

Our only power is the Word of God – so we need to be in the Word constantly

Confession and outreach are inseparable

The Word of God always calls to repentance and faith – so everything we do for Christ is a fruit of that faith.

Ephesians 1:3-10 tells us that as we are chosen in Christ we have every spiritual blessing, are redeemed by His blood and lavished with His grace. To us He has revealed the mystery of His will in Christ – His plan for the fullness of time. This is God's goal in everything – to unite all things in Christ.

That's what God is up to in your parish...through your work to bring the Good News of Jesus. That is also God's aim with YOU – He will do everything possible to bring you eternal life. And send you with that life to others.

Are WE up to the task? NO! But Jesus IS! He is our ONE SURE HOPE!"

“One Sure HOPE”

Today's Business Staff

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Stage set for convention at opening service

The Divine Service for the opening of the 55th Convention of the SID of the LCMS was held at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville on Feb. 19 at 7 p.m.

Pre-service music with brass and strings, organ, and choir was presented under the direction of choir director Eric Hipple, Metro East Lutheran High School. The organist was Karen Shimkus, Good Shepherd and the Adult Choir was from Good Shepherd, Collinsville. Members from Holy Cross, Collinsville, Christ our Savior, Freeburg, Good Shepherd, Collinsville, St. Paul's Troy and Trinity Anna comprised the string section

The instrumental members were from MELHS, Good Shepherd, Collinsville, Zion, Belleville, Holy Cross, Collinsville, Zion Bethalto and St. Paul Wood River. They included: David Shimkus, Hannah Keseman, Denise Daniels, Barb Rattelmuller, Josh Shimkus, Tally Elbert, Jenell Wright, Karen Shimkus, Pastor Stephen Manz, Melissa Waldie, Jon Giordano, Eric Rogers, Fred Hasstedt, John Malvin, Mary Barnett, Jim Rohe, Krista Rohe, Eric Hippel.

The host pastors were from Good Shepherd: Senior Pastor Michael Walther and Associate Pastor Paul Hemenway. The Liturgist was Rev. Herbert C. Mueller, Jr., President, Southern Illinois District, LCMS. The preacher was Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President, The Lutheran Church –Missouri Synod. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, President Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri was the Lector. Pastor John P. Lukomski, Convention Chaplain, St. Paul Lutheran, New Athens, offered the prayers.

Holy Communion was served by Dr. George Gude, SID 1st Vice President, Emmaus Lutheran, Dorsey, Pastor Timothy Scharr, SID 2nd Vice President, Trinity Lutheran, Nashville and Bishop David Tswaedi, The Lutheran Church in Southern Africa.

President Kieschnick spoke of the hope of eternal life we all have because we have been justified by His grace (Titus 3:7). He said that hope in Christ needs to be spread now at this time in our country. Without Christ, our lives are without hope but we no longer live in despair or fear; we live in hope because we are sure of our salvation. In Jesus there is hope and life. We are called to proclaim that message.

After the service the ladies from Good Shepherd hosted a reception in the gym.

News Around The District

LLL Convention March 29

An invitation is being extended to attend the 75th Southern Illinois District Lutheran Laymen's League Convention on Sunday, March 29 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Red Bud.

Registration starts at 2 p.m. Bruce Wurdemann, Director of U.S. Ministries, will be the speaker during the business session and also at the banquet.

The banquet will be served at 5:30 p.m. For reservations, call Jim Guebert at 618-473-2787 or pick up a registration at the Lutheran Hour Ministries booth here.

Trinity has double anniversary

Trinity Lutheran Church (Prairie) Red Bud observed the 100th anniversary of its historic organ in December. A CD of Trinity's Favorite Hymns, played on the organ, was produced, and they are still available. It was also the 140th anniversary of the church that was built in 1868 and is the present house of worship. For information about the CD, call the church office at 618-282-2881 or see Jane Lucht in the press room at the convention.



The **Pages** for the Convention are from Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Collinsville. The teacher coordinating them is Mr. Keith Rincker. The seventh and eighth grade students are Taylor Reese, Lila Musegades, Katie Goetter, Chelsea Kilzer, Amelia Biggs, Brandon Johnston, Jordan Clover, Joseph Valencika, Patrick Clessa, Tyler Clover, Bigtyme Price.

Convention committees make things happen

Committee One – Missions – Rev. Mark Willig, Capitol Settlement Circuit Counselor

Committee Two – Theology – Rev. Michael Walther, Collinsville Circuit Counselor

Committee Three – Congregational Support and Finance – Rev. Stephen Krenz, Upper Kaskaskia Circuit Counselor

Committee Four – Synod and District Structure – Rev. Steven Theiss, Mon-Clair Circuit Counselor

Committee Five – Nominations and Elections – Rev. Frederic Baue, Greater Belleville Circuit Counselor

Committee Six – Convention Arrangements – Mr. John Eggerding, Signal Hill, Belleville

Events Around the District

March 7—Women's Day of Renewal, Good Shepherd Collinsville

March 21—New Officers Orientation Day

March 28—LWML Spring Retreat, Carlyle

March 29—LLL Convention, St. John's, Red Bud

April 28—Spring Pastors Conference, Camp Wartburg



Requests can be brought to the press room

- For good weather throughout the convention
- For safe travel to and from the convention site
- For Bonnie Piel, sister of Jane Lucht and best friend of Jerri Eggerding, for her upcoming surgery and recovery
- For the Church Plant effort in Harrisburg and Eldorado
- For the Mission Partnership in Southern Africa

Thank you and God bless!

The **banner** which displays our convention logo was constructed by Mrs. Margo Wolf and Mrs. Ruby Geiser of Zion, Belleville. The **convention logo** was designed by Mellisa Iehl Merker formerly of Holy Cross, Collinsville now living in Apex, NC.

The **keyboard** being used for our convention is courtesy of St. Paul Lutheran of Wood River.p

Today's Business Online

To make the issues of *Today's Business* available to those who were not able to attend, it can be read by going to the Southern Illinois District website at www.sidlcms.org.