

LHM Regional Outreach Conference Kicks Off New Year

Designed to energize and equip God's people to be mission-minded witnesses of Jesus Christ, Regional Outreach Conferences from Lutheran Hour Ministries have been drawing capacity crowds in venues across the US. The eighth and final event in the series comes to the District January 13-14, 2012.

Highlights of the two-day conference include:

- Prominent speakers such as Rev. Greg Seltz, Speaker of The Lutheran Hour; Rev. Dr. Bob Newton, President of the LCMS' California-Nevada-Hawaii District; and Rev. Doug Kallesen, Florida-Georgia District Executive Director of Outreach.
- Breakout sessions covering a variety of outreach topics to reach today's culture.

- A Spanish-language track of workshops.
- LHM's five14 witnessing-training track for teens and outreach-themed activities for younger kids.
- One-on-one or group tutorials with experts in social media and outreach. The social networking and technology room is designed to train people how to effectively incorporate the latest technological tools into sharing the Gospel. The outreach consultant room will be staffed by leaders who have personally spearheaded outreach movements and trained others.

Registration fees for ROC are \$89 for adults; \$69 for teenagers (grades 8-12) participating in the five14 track; and \$39 for children (K-7). A special

family rate of \$225 is available for parents and their children under age 18. There is no charge for children preschool age and younger. The registration fee includes main stage and breakout sessions; all meals on Saturday; access to resources in the exhibit area; and continued training post conference.

For accommodations information call Doubletree Resort 407-352-1100 and mention "Lutheran Hour Ministries Conference." Other details and special offers are available at www.lhm.org/roc or contact Faith Spelbring, LHM Regional Outreach Conference Manager, at 800-944-3450 extension #CALLING CONGREGATIONS

**Regional Outreach Conference
January 13-14, 2012
Orlando, Florida**



Greg Seltz



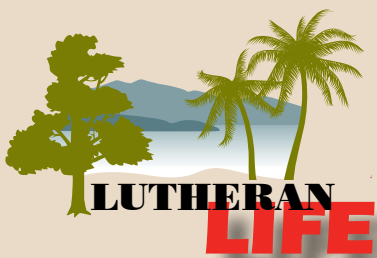
Doug Kallesen



Bob Newton

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES





LUTHERAN LIFE

Every congregation is a church in mission, and every member is a missionary; with all of us working together under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, empowered by His Gospel to share His love. Lutheran LIFE is the official communications instrument of the Florida-Georgia District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod. Lutheran LIFE is designed to inform LCMS church and school members of the activities, the personalities and resources offered by the Synod and the District. Lutheran LIFE may also provide a forum for Lutherans to express their views and ideas on a wide range of topics. We welcome and encourage editorials, emphasizing that the views and opinions expressed are not necessarily shared by Synod or District personnel or by the editors, churchworkers or personnel of the Synod's or District's congregations or schools. Lutheran LIFE is published bimonthly. Editorials, news items and photos are encouraged and should be received at our publication offices no later than the 10th of the month prior to the publication date. We make every attempt to use all submitted information in the next issue of LIFE, space considerations prevent us from guaranteeing that stories will be used immediately. Advertising is welcome; rates and information is available from Lutheran Life's office. Changes of address including e-mail changes, additions or deletions should be directed to our production office as well.

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Let the Old Year Die

It's hard to believe that 2011 is mostly a memory. The Psalmist wrote, "Man is like a breath; his days are like a fleeting shadow." (Psalm 144:4). I hope you will take some time during this busy season to slow down enough to reflect on this past year and look to the new.

One of my favorite Christmas movies is **Holiday Inn**, with Bing Crosby, Fred Astaire, Marjorie Reynolds and Virginia Dale. Here's a line from one of the songs that Bing sings as they prepare to celebrate the New Year:

*"Let's watch the old year die
With a fond good-bye
And our hopes as high as a kite;
How can our love go wrong if
We start the new year right?"*

Let me import a little theology into what is not at all theological. As we reflect on the past year, we quickly realize that while there may be things we would like to change about it, the time and opportunity for that is past. So let the old year die with a fond good-bye. Hang on to those pleasant memories and celebrate them. Edith and I will cherish the events of our older son's wedding last May and our younger son's engagement in July. I will not quickly forget the transition in 2011 from 49 to 50. I will remember with fondness the President's Convocation, the people who came, the speakers, the staff that did such an awesome job bringing it all together. And I remember, with thanksgiving, God's call on my life, and the honor and trust you bestow

CAPSULES by Greg Walton District President

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

Pastor

Albany GA Trinity
Casselberry, FL Ascension
Delray Beach FL Trinity (Senior)
Esteros FL Estero Mission
Kingsland GA Holy Trinity
Lakeland FL St. Paul
Lilburn GA Oak Road
Melbourne, FL LC of the Redeemer
Ocala FL St. John
Orlando FL Our Savior
Tampa FL Holy Trinity
Vero Beach, FL LC of the Redeemer

Principal/Administrator

Sarasota, FL Good Shepherd

DCE

Boca Raton, FL St. Paul

CALLS RECEIVED

Rev. Matthew Wallis, Sanford FL,
from Holy Cross-Lake Mary FL
Rev. George Poulos, Gloria Dei-Davie FL
from Trinity-Keene NH

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. Matthew Wallis, Sanford FL
from Holy Cross-Lake Mary FL
Karla Kemerling, teacher,
from LC of the Cross-Punta Gorda, FL
Cynthia Tillman, director, from Peace-Naples, FL

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Jeffrey Scheich,
Christ-Lincoln NE from St. John-Ocala FL

CHANGE OF TITLE

Rev. Jeremy Lucke, Grace-Jacksonville FL,
from Associate Pastor to Senior Pastor
Rev. Richard S. Engel, Grace-Jacksonville FL,
from Senior Pastor to Associate Pastor
Rev. Anthony D. Masinelli, Gloria Dei-Davie FL,
from Sole Pastor to Senior Pastor
Rev. George E. Poulos, Jr., St. Mark's-Hollywood
FL – merged with Gloria Dei, Davie FL,
from Sole Pastor to Associate Pastor

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS

Rev. Mark E. Peterson (Candidate) to Iowa West
Rev. Matthew J. Wallis (Candidate) to SELC
Rev. Paul E. Koch, Holy Trinity-Kingsland GA
to Pacific Southwest
Rev. Wayne Wilke to Pacific Southwest

TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

Julia R. Malenke (teacher) from North Wisconsin
Karla Kemerling (teacher) from Northern Illinois
Angela Ruch (teacher) from Indiana
Cynthia Tillman (teacher) from Southeastern

COMMISSIONED MINISTER ASSIGNMENT

Caledonia Gerth, Concordia-Nebraska
to Trinity-Holly Hill
Molly E. Millard, Concordia-Nebraska
to St Paul-Peachtree City, GA
Kiara M. Denholm, Concordia-Chicago
to St. Paul-Peachtree City, GA
Holly Pettet, Concordia-Nebraska
to Trinity-Rockledge, FL
Ann Elizabeth Henny, Concordia-Nebraska
to Trinity-Rockledge, FL

CONGREGATIONS MERGED

St. Mark's-Hollywood FL, merged with
Gloria Dei-Davie FL, September 25, 2011

EMERITUS

Rev. Dr. Wayne, Wilke October 3, 2011

CALLED TO GLORY

Dorothy Ebert, September 19, 2011

CHANGE OF STATUS WITHIN DISTRICT

Rev. E. Enwood Nevis from Active to Candidate
Cynthia A. Lincoln from Active to Candidate
John Payne from Active to Non-Candidate
Richard C. Kiesel from Active to Non-Candidate
Rachel L. Vryndy from Active to Non-Candidate
Erica McCain from Active to Non-Candidate
Laura K. Peirce from Active to Non-Candidate

REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER

Shirley Janisko by action of the District President

With A Fond Goodbye!

upon me by allowing me to serve as the District President.

Of course, as I reflect on 2011, there are a number of less than pleasant circumstances, too. I can't escape the reality of what they mean for my life or ministry. However, I can choose how I will deal with them. Paul writes, "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Another way to translate "temptation" is "trial." Maybe we should read it this way: "No trial (trying time) has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; He will not let you be tried beyond what you can bear. But when you are tried, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it." Interestingly, the difference between tried and tired is just a little letter changed. Those trials do make us tired — physically, and spiritually.

Here's where our hopes can fly as high as a kite — and even higher! That's because our hope is in Jesus, whose coming we celebrate at Christmas, but who bore a cross on our behalf to say, in no uncertain terms, that He is our Emmanuel — God with us. Our future is built on Him, and is blessed through Him. So, hear again the words of the Prophet Jeremiah, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11) That's the way to kick off a brand new year—trusting in Jesus, who promises His own that He will never leave nor forsake us. He's with us in the good and bad times, patiently and gently calling us to live in Him.

Let me continue with my "theology of Bing." "How can our love go wrong if we start the new year right." Bing is singing about

romance and a special someone. But let's talk about love in terms of John 13, where Jesus says: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know



that you are My disciples, if you love one another." (John 13:34-35) I imagine you can think of the many ways love "goes wrong" in our lives in the New Year: when we focus on ourselves and our own needs above everything else; when we starve ourselves of God's Word and Sacrament by neglecting worship; when we leave little sins that result in broken relationships to fester and live without forgiveness in our hearts. That love goes wrong in so many ways that impact how we'll live our lives in 2012.

As we remain connected to Jesus, through the good and the bad, we can be certain not only of His love, but of our love for each other that flows through Him, and that's a great start to the New Year! Christmas reminds us of God's grace

in Jesus ... of a love made manifest in the Incarnation. It reminds us of the importance of family and relationships, and how our love for each other reflects God's love for us and our love for Him. The season reminds us of the hope we have through faith in Jesus, and that's what enables us to look to the New Year with great joy and anticipation of all that God is going to do in us and through us in 2012.

The book is all but closed on 2011, but before us are the blank pages of 2012. This, too, is a gift from God. Don't let this year slip by without recognizing God's purpose and plan for you, and how you can touch other lives with the love of Jesus. Then when you reflect on your life in 2012, and "watch it die with a fond good-bye," you can rejoice,

knowing that it was a good year because it was filled with God's love in Jesus—and maybe somebody even experienced it through us!

Many blessings as we look to the year ahead. God has some great opportunities and surprises in store, so let's keep trusting Him!



Peace in our Incarnate Lord,

*Greg Walton
District President*

Greg

Fall President's Convocation

More than 800 professional and lay church and school leaders from around the Florida-Georgia District gathered for the 2011 President's Convocation, held late September in Daytona Beach under the theme, "EPIC: Equipping People in Christ."

Internationally known leadership expert Dr. John Maxwell and noted Lutheran educator Dr. Dina Vendetti presented the keynote addresses. Florida-Georgia District President Emeritus Rev. Thomas Zehnder, was the devotion/Bible study



Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton with Convocation Keynote (and Concordia-Bronxville classmate) Dr. Dina Vendetti. The principal of St. John's Lutheran School-Dover, DE, she was the 2006 recipient of Dover Delaware's Great Person Award. St John's is the only elementary Lutheran school in the State of Delaware. She charged us with raising the next generation of leaders by being intentional about teaching leadership skills in our Lutheran schools — the "three L's of leadership" LOVE, LEARN and LEAD!



District Board of Directors member from Region IV, Jean Gillis, and Rev. Tim Hartner — both of St. Paul-Weston, FL — with the resource offered by the Church Worker Family Care Commission, "My Spiritual Journey." The booklet, which was written by Ann Eissfeldt, Rick Armstrong and Kurt Bickel, leads church workers through a personal retreat.



Holding the commemorative plate in honor of his 55th anniversary in the ministry is Former District Vice President Rev. Robert Strickert with his wife, Eunice.

Rev. Walt Volz (at right holding commemorative plate) was honored for his 50th anniversary in the ministry. He is shown with Terry and Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, President Emeritus of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



Was Truly An Epic Event!

leader. Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod President Emeritus Gerald Kieschnick and his wife, Terry, shared their perspectives from a lifetime of ministry.

The Luther Institute of Southeast Asia (LISA), established to provide quality Lutheran theological education for the emerging churches of Thailand



District Executive for School Ministries Mark Brink with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representatives Kathy Emanuelson (center) and Mary Weibel (right) — and the \$5,000 check that the organization donated to the Florida-Georgia “Hearts for Jesus” campaign to help Haiti in earthquake relief.



Pastor Ben Haupt, Good Shepherd-Gainesville, GA, was worship leader for the festival closing worship in the main ballroom. He also was a member of the Convocation Planning Committee

District President Emeritus, Rev. Thomas Zehnder, was the devotion/Bible study leader for the conference and brought a powerful mission message for the work of the LCMS.



and Cambodia, received the \$3210 offering collected at the closing worship service.

Those funds “will help us provide materials for our students and sponsor classes and seminars to equip them for their service,” said Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael Jr., LISA Executive Director and also District President Emeritus. “We have nearly 90 students studying in six locations.”

Some of the highlights of the three-day Convocation are shown here. For more photos, visit the Florida-Georgia District on facebook.com. ■

Leadership guru and author John Maxwell kicked off the Epic conference Wednesday evening . . . mixing plenty of good advice with abundant humor. He poked plenty of fun at himself and professional church workers.



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Sundays at 5:30 PM
Orlando Area

WACX CH. 69
Sundays at 5:30 PM
Gainesville Area

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Seltz and Roth to Highlight 2012 Veterans Of The Cross Retreat

All retired church workers and their spouses are invited to the annual Church Workers Retreat — Veterans of the Cross — at the Methodist Retreat Center, Leesburg, FL, on March 5 - 7, 2012. The Retreat theme and the focus of the Bible study will be “Hope for a Hopeless World.”

Highlighting the program will be Rev. Greg P. Seltz, Lutheran Hour Speaker, and Rev. John Roth, First- Gainesville, FL. The Concordia University System will be represented by Rev. Dr. Brian L. Friedrich, president of Concordia University-Nebraska.

Holden Evening Vespers will be led by David G. Ludwig Jr. This service will be enhanced by a liturgical dance group from Woodlands Lutheran Church that is mentored by Kathy Keene.

Retirees can look forward to inspiring Bible study, meeting old friends and gaining new ones, recreation, nature walks along beautiful Lake Griffin and evening socials. Participants will be able to choose from a number of break-out sessions that will appeal to a variety of interests.

Retreat registration forms were mailed December 15. Registration may be made by mail or online. Onsite registrations will not be accepted.

Church worker retirees from across the United States are welcome and encouraged to participate. For more information contact the Florida-Georgia District office (877-457-5556 or www.flga-lcms.org). ■



2012 District High School Servant Event for Ocala National Forest

High school students from throughout the Florida-Georgia District are invited to participate in the June 24-30 Servant Event at the SoZo Camp in the Ocala National Forest.

Registration is limited to 150 participants. The event is for high school students who have completed their 9th – 12th grade years. Adult leaders must be at least 21 years of age. A specific ratio of one leader for every seven students is required.

Participants will be working with the HELP agency, a Christian organization that reaches out to the people of the Ocala National Forest through feeding programs, human care projects, after-school programs and more. The group will also work with Forest Lutheran Church-Silver Springs, a District congregation that works with HELP in addition to its own community outreach programs.

Among the planned activities are painting and/or repairing a house/trailer; spending time with children at a mentor center; leading a VBS at Forest Lutheran; repair/construction projects at the camp; hosting a community event; and helping with a food outreach event.

Registration is \$225 per person, which covers housing, food, servant events and programming. Registration information is available at the District website – flga-lcms.org. For more information contact Nick Moss at 863-644-7710 or nmoss@stpaulakeland.org. ■

New Facilities Under Way for Christ-Perry

Members of Christ Lutheran-Perry gathered recently on the congregation's nine-acre Langston Road parcel to break ground for facilities that will include a 5,500-square-foot sanctuary with four dedicated classrooms, two dual-use classrooms, a multipurpose fellowship hall, administrative office space and restrooms.

Laborers for Christ are to begin construction in early January, with a tentative completion planned by July. Lutheran Church Extension Fund is providing the mortgage.

At the groundbreaking, Pastor John Lehenbauer related how District President Emeritus Gerhardt Michael Jr. – who at the time was pastor of Mount Calvary-Warner Robin – “had always told leadership how there needs to be a mission started in Perry or nearby Kathleen.”

Rev. Dave Brighton, now pastor of Mount Calvary and Florida-Georgia District First Vice President, carried that vision forward. In 2006 Brighton started a daughter congregation with then Vicar Steve Shave who, following his ordination, was called as the mission developer at Christ. The congregation became involved in the community and assumed the responsibility for Three Father's Table, which today feeds 70 to 80 people weekly with 15 to 20 congregation volunteers.

Lehenbauer was called to Perry in 2009. The congregation's community outreach has expanded to include nursing home ministries and Grace Community for troubled teens.

Ministry objectives going forward include Christian education to the young, senior ministry and planting a daughter congregation. Lehenbauer hopes to start a pre-school in the new facility, adding “We are going to do a summer camp for youth and expand our midweek ministries for all ages in our new home.”

Christ Lutheran's story is one of partnership and leadership. Mount Calvary, the mother congregation, truly gave sacrificially to the mission start in Perry, releasing 70 members to launch the mission.

“They were among our best givers and they were all leaders,” said Pastor

Brighton. Mount Calvary financially supported the mission a total of \$40,000 over five years and \$15,000 for vicarage support.

“We have rebounded and recovered from all of this support and now are reaching more people in our

MISSIONMOMENT

by Doug Kallesen

Executive Director Mission & Outreach

county,” Brighton added, “and that's what it's all about!”

He hopes to see two more missions started at Mount Calvary — one of them before the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017.

The Florida-Georgia District over the same period contributed \$150,000 to the Perry mission. Mission dollars given from congregations across our District make such work possible. We are reaching people who would not have been otherwise reached!

Today Christ Lutheran worship attendance averages in the mid-90s and has broken 100 several Sundays so far this year with 200-plus on Easter. At the groundbreaking worship there were two adult baptisms and six new members joined!

We praise God for such blessings and outpouring of God's Spirit upon the work of Christ Lutheran. Attending this worship service and ground breaking was a real treat to me.

I was able to see something that we, the Florida-Georgia District, have done together. You have helped give birth to a healthy daughter congregation that is making a difference in the community and is changing eternity for people through God's working. We must continue our work together across the District!

In photo below, among those participating in the groundbreaking were (l-r) District First Vice President Dave Brighton, District President Emeritus Gerhard Michael Jr., District Executive Director of Outreach Doug Kallesen and District LCEF Vice President Dan Reichard.



Walton Among LCMS Contingent Meeting With USA Leaders



Among those representing the LCMS were (l-r) Ed Szeto, special projects coordinator for LCMS World Relief and Human Care Life Ministries; Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton; Deaconess Dorothy Krans, director of Recognized Service Organizations; Rev. Bart Day, executive director of the Office of National Mission; Barbara Below, assistant to LCMS President Matthew Harrison; and Rocky Mountain District President Randall Golter.

Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton was chosen to be a member of the contingent of Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod leaders who met with representatives on Capitol Hill on October 27 and took part in the first-ever Lutheran Services in America Day at the White House October 28.

The 17 Missouri Synod representatives met with 18 congressmen and senators, encouraging them to be mindful of the importance of religious freedoms and other key LCMS positions. The group also met with members of the House and Senate who attend LCMS congregations, thanking them for sharing the Synod's views as public servants.

"We heard over and over that the presence of the LCMS is a missing dynamic in Washington, D.C., at the present time," said Walton. "We need to be involved ... We have a great truth to share."

The following day, the Synod leaders joined some 140 others from almost 30 states and more than 50 Lutheran organizations to hear about and see firsthand the work of Lutheran Services in America (LSA), a joint alliance of more than 300 Lutheran health and human-service organizations that operate on behalf of the LCMS and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Volunteer Appreciation Nights Recognizes Service to LSG

Lutheran Services of Georgia hosted its 2011 Volunteer Appreciation Night on November 1.

Held at the Breman Jewish Heritage and Holocaust Museum, the night featured free admission to the national exhibit, "Torn from Home: My Life as a Refugee." The night also featured a program of recognition for LSG volunteers, including the LSG's first annual "Hands of Hope, Healing, and Strength" awards for volunteers who have gone "above and beyond in their service."

The recipient of the Longest-Serving Refugee Services Volunteer Award, Arlene Kateen "has been helping refugee services longer than LSG has been in existence," said Vice President of Agency Advancement Lorraine Dorough.

"Arlene and her husband were assisting LIRS when LSG [then Lutheran Ministries of Georgia] was founded, and they helped coordinate and recruit congregations to sponsor refugee families," Dorough continued. "She herself has helped to resettle many families and has kept in touch with a

number of them."

Kateen is now coordinating the efforts at her home congregation of Grace-Atlanta to support LSG's Refugee Services programs, such as coat drives and most recently, a housewarming party to collect household items to furnish refugee apartments.

Middle school students from St. Paul Lutheran School-Peachtree City were honored for making several hundred 2010 Angel Tree decorations. Coordinating their efforts was Becke Smith, wife of St. Paul Director of Youth Ministry Cory Smith.

A highlight of the evening was the announcement that the Volunteer of the Year award has been renamed in honor of Elsie Guenther, a member of Faith-Marietta.

"Elsie has firmly asked us not to give her any more awards," Dorough said, "so without her knowing anything about it until the announcement at the event, we chose to name the Volunteer of the Year award after her so that we can continue to acknowledge all that she does for LSG -- and still honor her

request for no more awards."

Guenther received LSG's Christi Amicus award in 2009, the highest honor bestowed by the agency to recognize an individual who exemplifies its mission to bring hope, healing and strength to people in need.



Arlene Kateen (right), the recipient of the Longest-Serving Refugee Services Volunteer Award, with Melanie Johnson, LSG Refugee Volunteer Coordinator

Thrivent Commits \$9.2 Million To Habitat For Humanity

For the seventh straight year, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans is committing millions to help create affordable housing in partnership with low-income families through its unique partnership called Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity.

Thrivent officials in early December announced that in 2012 the not-for-profit financial services organization will fund the construction and rehabilitation of 142 Habitat for Humanity homes in 32 U.S. states through a \$9.2 million contribution. Thrivent's total seven-year support of Habitat for Humanity will surpass \$160 million in 2012.

To date, more than 480,000 volunteers have donated more than three million hours to construct 1,600 homes in the U.S.

The Thrivent Builds Worldwide program of the partnership gives Thrivent Financial members and other volunteers an opportunity to build homes abroad or in the United States. During the past six years, approximately 5,800 volunteers forming 540 different teams traveled to build more than 1,000 homes in 33 countries through Thrivent Builds Worldwide.

Excluding government funding, Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity is Habitat's largest single source of funding, constructing more than 2,700 homes in the U.S. and around the world since 2005. For more information, visit ThriventBuilds.com.



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Florida-Georgia's Tabernacle de la Grace Re

Tabernacle de la Grace-Fort Lauderdale received the 2011 Fred E. Leitz Mission Project Award recipient at the Lutheran Church Extension Fund Fall Leadership Conference. Here is their story:

Faith Lutheran Church & School-Fort Lauderdale had been in the call process for several years with Frank Ahrens serving as principal, worship leader, elder, teacher and janitor. Rev. Bernard Julmiste, pastor of Tabernacle de la Grace, was leading the search for a new facility as they had outgrown their rented storefront and needed a permant home for the flourishing Haitian ministry.

Logistically there were only three miles separating these two Lutheran congregations, however culturally, one was Anglo and one was Haitian. The goal was to equip Grace with a permanent home, and provide support to Faith so both could continue to provide Jesus' saving grace to the people of Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

An LCEF Specialized Ministry Loan enabled Tabernacle de la Grace to purchase Faith's property. With the facilities partnership, Faith continues to reach the community through their excellent school and worship at the site.

A deep respect for each other has developed between these groups. Tabernacle de la Grace has a permanent facility that is unheard of in most Haitian ministries, is worshipping an average of 140 on Sundays, has a music ministry that involves all ages and includes a Liturgical Dance Team. Pastor Julmiste continues his outreach with a

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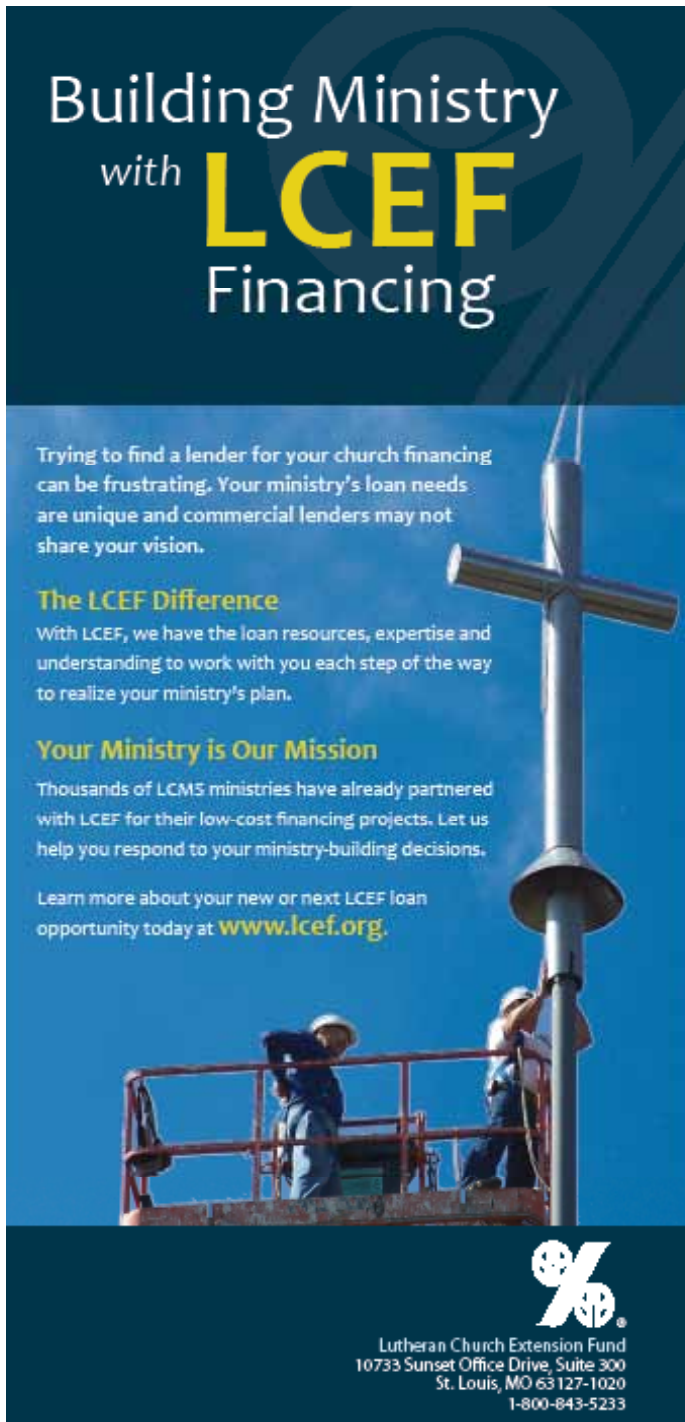
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Youth Mentoring Program, an Outreach for Leadership & Biblical Knowledge, a Mission Training Center and another mission congregation in Miami.

The members of Grace have embraced the responsibility of ownership and their offerings continue to increase as they share in the mission of grace and faith.

Pictured right (l-r) LCEF Board Chair Randy Peterson, LCEF Florida-Georgia Vice President Daniel J. Reichard, Florida-Georgia Executive for Outreach Rev. Doug Kallesen, Inada Julmiste, Florida-Georgia District President Rev. Greg Walton, Rev. Bernard Julmiste, LCEF President Rich Robertson



What is Lutheran Church Extension Fund?

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How does LCEF do this? Through **Investments, Loans and Services:**

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- Through your investments, **LCEF's Loan program** assists LCMS organizations – schools, churches, universities, Pastors and other Rostered Church Workers.
- **LCEF's Ministry Services Department** was developed in response to the needs of the congregations we serve. As ministries grow, LCEF Ministry Services strive to provide products to assist schools, congregations and individuals.

How can you be involved?

- Support your LCMS Congregations by investing with LCEF.
- Contact LCEF about ministry plans for your congregation; we may have a service to help you achieve ministry goals.
- Serve as a Congregation Representative – sharing and building awareness of LCEF. The Florida-Georgia District will be hosting a workshop on Saturday, January 21st from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm. Please email Florida-Georgia LCEF Teammate Kathy Keene kkeene@flga-lcms.org; to register or find out further information.

Until then, if you have any questions or would like to hear about a particular product, please contact your Florida-Georgia LCEF Team – Dan Reichard, VP-LCEF dreichard@flga-lcms.org, Kathy Keene kkeene@flga-lcms.org, or Mary Byrd Byrd7980@bellsouth.net.

December Rates:

Fixed Term Notes (Minimum Investment \$500)

	Rate	APY
6 Month	0.375%	0.376%
9 Month	0.500%	0.501%
1 Year	0.625%	0.626%
18 Month	0.875%	0.878%
2 Year	1.000%	1.004%
3 Year	1.250%	1.256%
5 Year	1.875%	1.888%
6-10 Year	2.125%	2.142%
11-15 Year	2.375%	2.396%
16-20 Year	3.000%	3.034%

StewardAccount® Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	0.375%	0.376%
\$1,000	0.500%	0.501%
\$5,000	0.625%	0.627%
\$10,000	1.250%	1.257%

Dedicated Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	0.250%	0.250%
<i>Custodial accounts for minors \$25</i>		
\$1,000	0.375%	0.376%
\$5,000	0.500%	0.501%

Family Emergency StewardAccount Certificate

Minimum Investment	Rate	APY
\$25	1.375%	1.384%

Investor of <\$10,000 requires monthly electronic investments

Floating Term Notes (Minimum Investment \$100)

	Rate	APY
24 Year (20 Month)	0.570%	0.571%
5 Year (40 Month)	1.230%	1.236%

Congregation Representative Provides More Than LCEF Information to Church

by LCEF Writer/Editor Susan Canada

Marvin Timm's service to his church seems to satisfy both his creative side as well as his analytical side.

A member of Our Redeemer-Augusta, GA, since 1981, Timm is the congregation's financial secretary and LCEF congregation representative. He also completes tasks that have an artistic slant: he does woodworking projects such as a communion rail, new mail file system for church members, silverware cabinet for the church pantry and wood items sold during the church's craft fair.

"Not too many people realize this, but retirement is a full-time job," Timm said. He has actually retired twice: once from the U.S. Army after serving for 27 years and then from the Aid Association of Lutherans (AAL) in 1992. While with AAL, he also served as the secretary-treasurer of the Augusta Association of Life Underwriters; after retirement he served as the Association's executive director until 1996. During his Army career, he was assigned to the 7th Infantry Division in maintenance, and served in Korea and Vietnam.

His wife Alice also keeps busy at church with quilting, providing food for various dinners and lunches, and participating in the Young at Heart group. They were married 59 years in September.

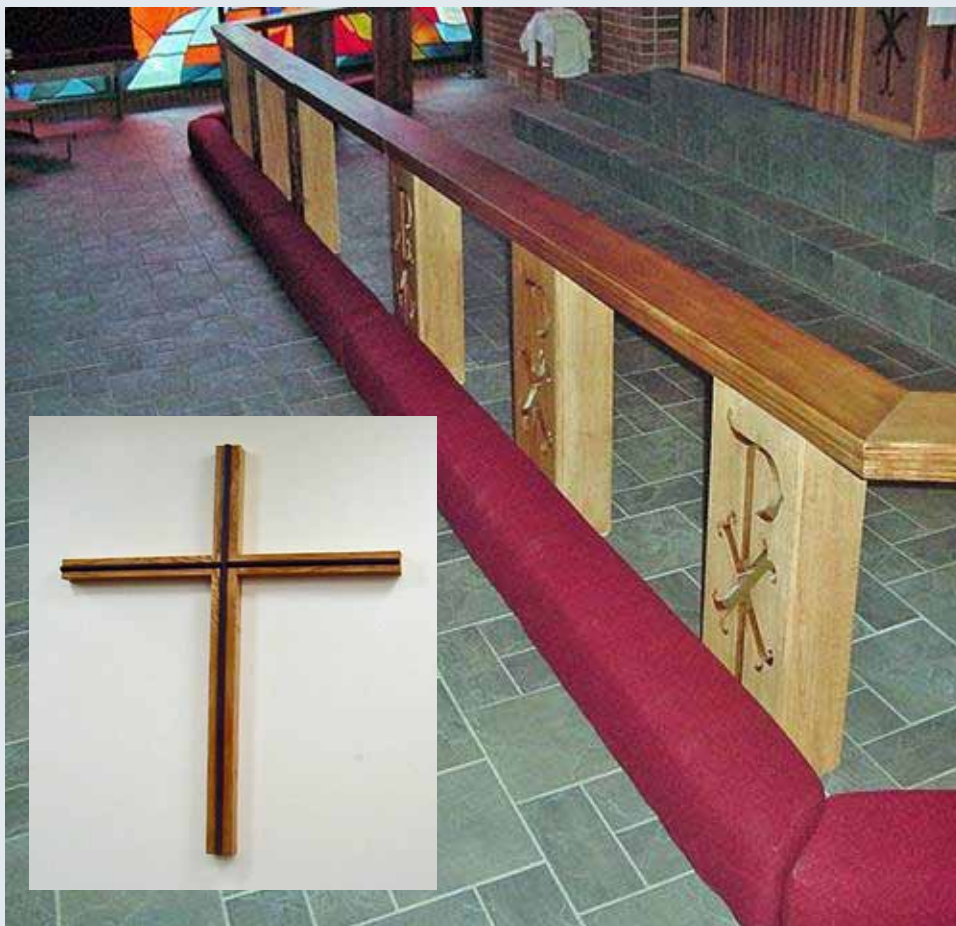
"I don't know how long I've been with LCEF," Timm said. "With the building projects going, and that's where the money's got to come from, we just starting talking about it."

But his connection to the concept of church extension reaches back to his childhood.

"I can remember as a kid we had 'God's Bank,' which was the same thing" as LCEF, Timm said. "We put dimes or quarters in little booklets and when the book was full you had \$10 and could make a deposit."

He does know he has been the financial secretary of Our Redeemer for about 26 years, and that the three ladies he works with to count the offerings "are a good crew, they know what they're doing," he said. "I enjoy the job, it's great."

As congregation representative, he keeps a display that includes an article of general interest, maybe from



The communion rail and a wooden wall cross (inset) at Our Redeemer-Augusta are among several woodworking projects crafted by Marvin Timm.

the newspaper, and then the latest LCEF rates, brochure and investment envelopes. When Timm sees someone interested in the materials, he offers to answer their questions.

"I've had people say, 'Well, ABC Bank is paying 1% more,' and I say, 'I guess that's possible, though I've checked several banks and we're ahead of them,'" Timm said. "But I tell them, 'The thing you need to do is ask your banker what percentage of their loans are going to build churches.'"

"That's the big difference ... I know that what I have invested with LCEF is going to a good cause. We're not going to build any saloons and casinos. That's what the banks are going to do with their money."

And those funds invested in LCEF have gone to work for the Our Redeemer congregation. Members used a \$1.3 million LCEF loan in 2000 to build an

education wing, fellowship hall, kitchen with commercial-grade appliances and music room. The congregation makes the facilities available to the community, including the Rotary Club in for its weekly meetings. On the hall's retractable stage, congregation and community members enjoy performances by the Augusta Players.

"We have a pretty good turnout for events held there," Timm said.

Recently, the congregation received bids to renovate the church's entryway. "When visitors come in, they don't know where to go," Timm said. He said the \$300,000 LCEF loan also will be used to create a cry room for members with children.

"We don't look anywhere else," Timm said about the congregation's loan needs. LCEF is "the only place to look to for a loan." ■

Hannah King Honored for Tennis Skill, Sportsmanship



Hannah King at the 2011 US Open

Among those competing in the main draw of the recent US Open Junior Championships in Flushing Meadows, NY, was Hannah King of Dunwoody. And even though she lost a very close match to a very talented player from Belarus, playing in the US Open was "a dream come true."

A member of Rivercliff Lutheran-Roswell, Hannah, 15, began playing tennis when she was eight years old. She has been ranked #1 in Georgia and #1 in the South annually in her own age group as well as in the top 10 in the United States. Hannah won her

first Women's Tennis Association match this summer.

She currently plays in the 18s division and has started playing in pro events.

Hannah has won numerous sportsmanship awards – including the USTA Georgia 2011 Janet Louer Sportsmanship Award, the highest such honor in the state.

Hannah is the daughter of Melissa and Mike King. Hannah's proud grandfather is Bill Arndt, a member of Rivercliff Lutheran and former member of the District Board of Directors.

All Saints' Members Reach out to Tornado Victims

Seven members of All Saints Lutheran-Blairsville spent July 30-August 7 in Joplin, MO, which was devastated by a category F5 tornado on May 22 that destroyed nearly 7,000 homes, affected 500 businesses and killed 160 people. It was the first mission trip in the church's 21-year history.

The All Saints' team received work assignments at Immanuel Lutheran-Joplin. The men handled cleanup, working daily in 100+-degree temperatures. The woman prepared meals and maintained a caring environment at Good Shepherd Lutheran-Carthage for volunteer groups --- serving 24 for dinner each evening.

The members of Good Shepherd have opened their doors to mission teams since the storm, providing a place to stay free of charge.

"On our last evening in Joplin, the teams met at what is now known as the Cross," said Elisabeth Dowd, All Saints' secretary and a member of the mission team. "St. Mary's Catholic Church was completely destroyed except for the large cross that stood in the front of the building. Beneath The Cross we had a communion service at sunset served by Pastor Dave Wesche."



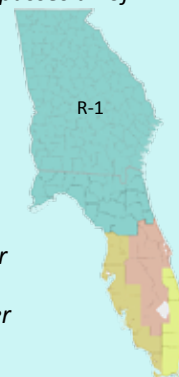
The mission team produced a booklet for All Saints members to see what was accomplished in Joplin and to encourage others to participate in another mission project. Wesche prepared a power point slide presentation shown during a subsequent service.

Team member Bob Spisak summarized his experience this way: "You could not pay me enough to do it, but I would volunteer to serve Christ."

Mission team members in photo above are (l-r) Rev. Dave Wesche, David Klovestad, Rey Jants, Anita Jants, Bob Spisak, Sue Spisak, and Elisabeth Dowd

REGION 1 NEWS

The largest geographic sector of the District, Region 1 encompasses all of the State of Georgia and approximately the upper third of the State of Florida. Representing Region 1 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Frank Marshall of Jacksonville, FL, who recently retired as pastor of St. Paul-Jacksonville; Jean Weinrich, a member of All Saints-Blairsville, GA; and Bill Gaik, a member of Trinity Lutheran-Toccoa, GA.





DCE JOY SCHUBERT was installed recently as the Minister of Children's and Family Ministry at Living Hope Lutheran-Kennesaw. Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton was the installer and the preacher. Participating in the service were David Weidner, Executive Assistant to the President and head of the District's Director of Christian Education program, as well as Living Hope Pastor John Schubert. The

Schuberts have one son, Austin. Shown at the installation service are (front, l-r) John and Joy Schubert, President Walton, David Weidner, (back, l-r) Teresa Dehnke, Living Hope Secretary; Ann Ogburn, Church Administrator; Teresa Singletary, Director of Operations, Open Arms CCDC; Beth Mitchell, Program Director, Open Arms CCDC; Tim Hanesworth, Living Hope Youth and Family Minister.



QUILTERS SHOW CONCERN --- When Haiti was devastated by the catastrophic earthquake of January 2010, a group of women quilters from Messiah-Valdosta wanted to help out in some way. "We had made quilts for the needy in Valdosta," said Nan Atkins, "so we thought we would send some to Haiti though our Lutheran Haiti Mission." After Japan was rocked by a major earthquake in March of 2011, the women sent quilts there. Subsequent shipments have been made to Alabama and Joplin, MO. The women meet weekly to make

quilts and items for Messiah's annual bazaar, with most of the proceeds benefitting charities. A Mother's Day bake sale generated funds to purchase quilt materials. "We have made and given away 78 quilts since Haiti," Atkins added. Shown here are (front, l-r) Cindy Sweeney, Joanne Hostetler, Pernell Jones, Helen Whitton, Mildred Evans, Alvinia Jennie, (back, l-r) Nan Atkins, Alina Sweeney, Janie Janson, Sandy Adams Kathy Andrew, Pat Richardson, Valerie Behnke. Not pictured are Nancy Stewart, Isabelle Vincent, Pernell Jones, Dona Clouse.

Faith Merritt Island Offers Street Eats For The Hungry

Faith-Merritt Island youth are helping feed the hungry with Street Eats bags – gallon-size Ziplocs filled with a bottle of water, a small can of Vienna sausages, a container of fruit, a granola bar, a bag of chips, plastic utensils and a napkin.

The concept was given to Faith Youth Minister Joe Guagliardo by Ed Hayes, one of the church's elders. When the two met earlier this year, Hayes presented Guagliardo with a Street Eats bag.

"Ed said his sister's church was having success reaching out to folks you see along the road with the bags, and asked me if the youth would be interested in doing the same thing at our church," Guagliardo said.

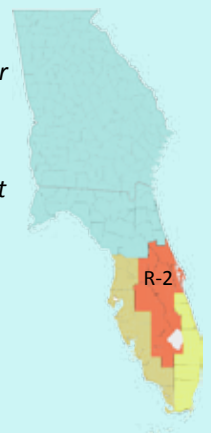
Initial funding enabled Faith youth to purchase enough items to make about 150 bags, which were assembled in about 45 minutes and placed on a table in the church narthex. Each bag is labeled "Street Eats" with the church name and a Bible verse. Bulletin notices and announcements provided information on the outreach program.

"In just four months, 400 bags have been distributed by members, who return with stories of thanks and blessings from those who receive the Street Eats bags, Guagliardo said."

"What a blessings such a simple thing as handing out a necessity to someone in need can be to the giver and receiver."

REGION 2 NEWS

Region 2 is the only one to share borders with the District's other three regions as well as with the Atlantic Ocean. Representing Region 2 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Brian Kneser, pastor of Woodlands Lutheran-Montverde, FL; Karen Smith, a member of Peace-Okeechobee, FL; and Jon Brazee, a member of Christ Lutheran-Cape Canaveral, FL.





ZION NEW LIFE CHILD DEVELOPMENT Center of Winter Garden was presented a certificate of achievement from the Early Learning Coalition of Orange County. The award reflects Zion's ranking in the top 15% of VPK Readiness for the 2010-11 school year. The voluntary pre-kindergarten staff members are (left to right) Meagan Galamback, Tracey Rice, Heather Olsen and Joan Schkolenko.



GRACE LUTHERAN-WINTER HAVEN honored the current and retired pastors in their congregation with a potluck luncheon on Sunday, October 23. Pictured here are Vivian Meyer and retired Pastor David Meyer; Pastor Charles Reich, Karri Reich and their children, Anna and Timothy, (back row) Carolyn Douches and retired Pastor Tony Douches and (front row) Fern Frusti and Pastor Jonathan Frusti.

Cape Canaveral Engineer Exec Jon Brazee Joins District Board of Directors

Jon Brazee has joined the Florida-Georgia District Board of Directors as a lay representative for Region 2. He replaces David Blackwood, whose work commitments led to his resignation.



Braze, who attended the Universities of Miami, of Florida and of South Florida before earning his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering from the University of Central Florida, has been in the Florida-Georgia District for the past 27 years.

He is a member of Christ Lutheran-Cape Canaveral, where he has served as congregation president for the past four years.

Previously Brazee was a member of Good Shepherd-Titusville, where his involvement included membership on various committees as well as chairing the Boards of Christian Education and Elders, teaching Sunday School and serving as Superintendent.

The former Deputy Executive Director and Chief Engineer for Canaveral Port Authority, Brazee is now Vice President, Structural Engineer for TLP Engineering Consultants. ■



"We Walk By FAITH, Not by Sight" was the theme of the 25th Anniversary celebration for Beautiful Savior-Sarasota in October.

The anniversary service began with a procession of Beautiful Savior youth carrying historic banners from special events of the past 25 years. The service was led by Senior Pastor Rosseter Leavitt (above right with District President Greg Walton). Walton's sermon encouraged the congregation to look to the future and to share its gifts of time and talents with surrounding communities.

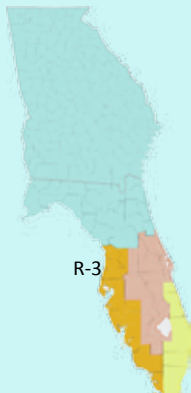
One of the highlights of the service was Beautiful Savior's "dearly beloved" Pastor Emeritus Wayman Still's remembrances of his 21 years as the congregation's shepherd. Also attending and representing the District was Rev. Doug Kallesen, Executive Director of Mission-Outreach.

Beautiful Savior's choir sang We Walk By FAITH and Not By Sight, a song that was especially written for Still's retirement, and the Jubilation Hand Bell Ringers played an intricate arrangement of Beautiful Savior.

An informal reception followed the service. ■

REGION 3 NEWS

Region 3 covers the lower southwestern sector of Florida, with much of its area bordering the Gulf of Mexico. Representing Region 3 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Jim Guelzow, pastor of Messiah-Tampa, FL; Jeff Richards, a member of Hope Lutheran-Bradenton, FL; and Maggie Bowles, a member of Peace-Naples. FL.



Peace-Naples Opens Early Learning Center

Responding to the need for licensed childcare facilities throughout its community, Peace-Naples has opened a childcare facility serving infants through pre-K students.

Peace's new 17,000-square-foot facility was dedicated on November 13, 2011, during a service with Rev. Ron Biel as guest speaker. Cynthia Tillman was installed as the Center's Director on December 11 during a worship service featuring songs from the three- and four-year-old students.

Peace Early Learning Center offers childcare for infants through Pre-K and is also a state licensed Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten provider (VPK). The Center opened on September 6 and by mid-October had an enrollment of 48 students, a number that continues to grow. The facility's 11 classrooms will accommodate more than 150 children.

"We are called by Christ to serve this community," said Peace Pastor Dennis Liebich. "Peace Early Learning Center is that service and that ministry we are committing to." ■



Amigos Center Honored as Ministry of the Year

The Hispanic Affairs Advisory Board of Lee County selected Amigos Center as the Ministry of the Year for 2011.

Rev. Bob Selle, Amigos Center Executive Director/Pastor, was called by the Southwest Florida Circuit to do outreach to the growing Spanish speaking community in 1997.

The goal was to plant new Spanish speaking churches and help established congregations to do effective outreach to Hispanic immigrants.

In 1999, the Amigos Center was founded in order to "be God's hands and feet" by attending to the physical, mental and emotional needs that many immigrant families face. The first center was a store front in Bonita Springs, doing case management.

Soon the outreach branched out to offer legal immigration services.



Rev. Bob Selle accepts the Ministry of the Year award for Amigos Center.

The staff has expanded from three part-time employees at one location to include nine staff members whose efforts span two counties, with offices in Naples, Bonita Springs, Fort Myers and Immokalee. ■

Holy Cross Celebrates Six Decades of Ministry

Holy Cross Lutheran Church-North Miami celebrated its 60th anniversary with a festive worship and luncheon on November 12, 2011.

Musical presentations ranged from a rap performance by congregation youth and contemporary praise songs to traditional hymns and choir anthems. The Church's One Foundation was the anniversary hymn, with special words written by Loida Spiro.

Joining Holy Cross Pastor Dennis Bartels in leading the service was Florida-Georgia District President Greg Walton, whose sermon – "Empowered by the Word" – emphasized God's promise "that His purpose will be accomplished for each of us."

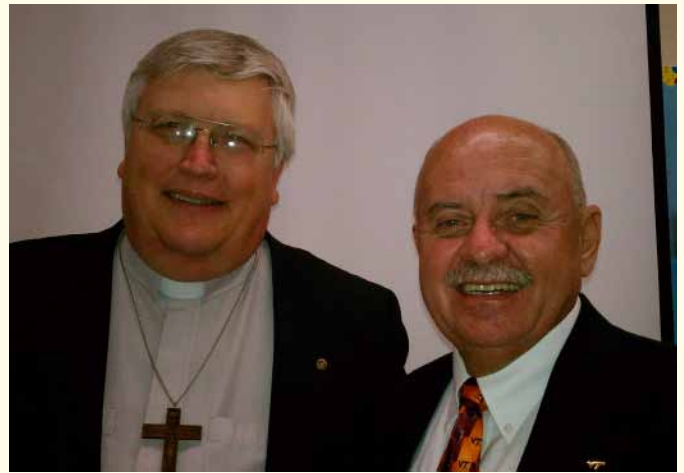
We are "empowered by the Word" and thus "strengthened to be people of God," Walton continued. "What you do with God's Word impacts how you act in the world." Noting that North Miami is a "difficult ministry field" with "a constantly changing cultural canvas," he added, "God will empower you to carry out this ministry."

Among those attending the worship were charter member Mrs. Jerry Stubbs and former principal Jon Peterson and his family. Bartels, who has been serving at Holy Cross since 1986, recognized various members for their decades of dedication and service to the congregation.

Bartels also shared some milestones of Holy Cross' 60-year history: 1,538 baptisms; 1,414 confirmations; 414 marriages; more than 12,250 students served; and more than \$1,000,000 donated to the Florida-Georgia District.

Holy Cross Lutheran School began with a kindergarten program in 1951. Over the years the campus and the program expanded to now serve students from age 2 through 8th grade. ■

Please visit the Florida-Georgia District on facebook.com for more photos from Holy Cross' 60th anniversary celebration.



Ed Nicklas Honored for Ministry Milestone

Our Savior-Plantation Pastor Edwin Nicklas (at right) was honored for his 35 years in the pastoral ministry on November 6. Guest preacher that day was Rev. Darrell Stuehrenberg (left), pastor of Bethlehem-Fort Myers and a seminary classmate of Nicklas.

A native of Baltimore, MD, Nicklas is a graduate of Concordia-Bronxville and Concordia Senior College-Fort Wayne and Concordia Seminary-St. Louis. He served at First Lutheran-Bowie, MD, and then at Prince of Peace-Virginia Beach, VA, before accepting the call to Our Savior in 2001.

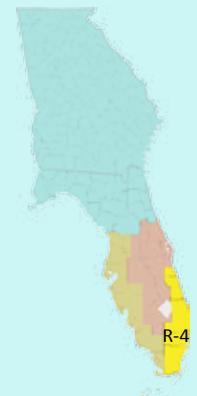
Nicklas' wife, Jane, is principal of Our Savior Lutheran School.



Shown at the anniversary luncheon are Holy Cross Pastor Dennis Bartels with Rev. Herman Gleinke (who will celebrate his 60th anniversary in ministry in February 2012) and Florida-Georgia President Greg Walton.

REGION 4 NEWS

Region 4 covers the lower southeastern sector of Florida, with much of its area stretching along the Atlantic Ocean and down into the Keys. Representing Region 4 on the District Board of Directors are Rev. Stephen Wipperman, pastor of Our Savior-Lake Worth, FL; Diana Geiger, a member of Trinity Lutheran-Delray Beach, FL; and Nancy Volz, a member of Our Savior-Plantation, FL.





Holiday, Holy Days and Helping Days

by Rev. David A. Mueller

Presented by the District Human Care Advisory Council in the interest of encouraging intentional Human Care ministry by congregations, schools and individuals

Some reflections on the blending of church and culture and ministry for our neighbor...

We see the Holy Days that are in front of us and that have just concluded ... some secular... Thanksgiving, is, after all, a National holiday. Others quite churchly, but quite cultural as wellNothing seems more churchly than a Midnight Christmas Eucharist and "going to church" is important to many people who might not regularly be in the pew.

Others are more decidedly and singularly churchly...like Wednesday Advent or Lenten services...

Other events are decidedly secular... like Black Friday sales and Christmas parties...

It's a confusing time, in a sense, as we take it all in. But, no matter. For those in need...the confusion is eliminated by necessity. Reaching out to them with the love of Jesus with random acts of kindness is the church's mantra of ministry.

Find a way to love your neighbor during these holiday times... each one a unique opportunity for ministry to those in need!

Fill a basket with groceries and deliver it. Get your kids together to sing carols or visit at a nursing home. Begin to plan a mission trip to wherever to build a house or teach a VBS. Invite some homeless for

lunch and make plans to join a local homeless coalition. Plan to investigate a community issue in which injustice seems to prevail. Investigate a District Youth Servant event and see how you can be involved.

It's not about gold, incense and myrrh ... it's about neighborly care, outreach and activity.

What brings us together in ministry during

these days is simple: How, as these holiday events occur around us, can we help a person in need connect with Jesus?

Now is the time ... just do it! He comes to make his blessings flow ... far as the curse is found! That's Human Care ministry... a real Seasonal PRESENCE to those neighbors in need.



BURNINGBUSH

by Rev. Bruce Lieske

Presented by the Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism/Orlando, dedicated to sharing the Gospel with Jewish People

Radio journalist Paul Harvey often concluded his syndicated broadcasts with a twist, called "The Rest of the Story." That twist usually meant that the final remarks were the most powerful, and even shocking.

Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism is dedicated to the truth of Romans 1:16: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes; first for the Jew, then for the Gentile."



Brad Aldrich and Wife Kelly

The Rest of the Story . . .

"First for the Jew" is not just history, it is a Divine strategy! The Gospel did go first to the Jews, but remember Paul's mission methods. While he had the Divine commission to bring the Gospel to the Gentiles, we read in Acts that he first proclaimed the Gospel to the Jews. LIJE focuses on Jewish people – by celebrating those festivals, developing contacts and encouraging Lutheran Christians to speak of Messiah Jesus to their Jewish friends. That is our story.

In recent years LIJE took under its administrative wings a ministry called *Cross Pollination Ministry* led by Rev. Brad Aldrich, a very talented and dedicated evangelist. I had the privilege of working with him twice this past summer. We spent time at the University of Central Florida, the USA's second largest university with the second highest Jewish university student population — about 4,500.

Through Brad's chutzpah a Jewish friend of mine and I got involved in UCF's Center for Multilingual Multicultural Studies. As volunteers we sit in a classroom with international students for an hour and help them with their English.

Usually the students are Muslims from Saudi Arabia, Libya and Iraq. I have been able to share the Gospel with them on occasion.

The vision for LIJE/Orlando is that this effort would grow, that volunteers from area LCMS churches would "come on board" – and their efforts would be coordinated by LIJE/Orlando.

Will it happen? I don't know. I hope so. I pray so.

Rev. Aldrich in the name of Jewish missions started a work which resulted in the sharing of Messiah Jesus with Gentiles. Indeed with Muslims! I have appreciative memories of Rev. Aldrich, who died on September 22. My prayer is that the work that he catalyzed so beautifully would continue. LIJE is dedicated to the sharing of the Gospel with Jewish people, but as we evangelize among Jewish people we want all people to hear the saving, life-changing message of God's love for the world in Messiah Jesus. That is the "rest of the story."

Need a speaker on evangelism? We can help. Contact our branch leader, Rev. Kermit Rickenberg at pastorrickenberg@yahoo.com or me at blieske7@bellsouth.net.



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A ministry of the SELC District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, Lutheran Haven has been a provider of retirement services for more than 60 years.

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This 4'x8' stained glass image of Jesus is in the lobby of Lutheran Haven's nursing home.

Sommerfield Honored for Ministry Milestone

On November 13, 2011, the members of Peace Valley Lutheran Church-Wachula, FL, honored Rev. Bruce Sommerfield with a special service to commemorate his 75th birthday and 50th year in ministry.

Family, friends, members and pastors from area congregations gathered to honor and celebrate with Sommerfield and his family.

Rev. Richard Norris, pastor of Trinity-Lake Placid and Heartland Circuit Counselor, preached. Kathleen Roehm of Peace Valley coordinated the event.

Sommerfield received letters of congratulations from clergy including District President Gregory Walton. Jan Ruff, whose late husband Rev. Paul Ruff served in the Florida-Georgia District, spoke about the long-time friendship and ministry the Ruffs shared with Sommerfield and his late wife Gloria.

A Wisconsin native, Sommerfield graduated from Concordia Seminary-St. Louis in 1959. He served congregations in Iowa and Wisconsin before Faith-Merritt Island, FL. He then served Messiah-Golden Gate, Faith-Sebring and Peace Valley. He and his wife had three children and five grandchildren. ■

Pastors sharing in the celebration were (front, l-r) Gary Kindle, Bruce Sommerfield, John Hirst, Bill VanDuzer (AALC), (middle, l-r) Scott McLean, David Nabinger, Richard Norris, Benjamin



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District Unveils New Logo, Debuts President's Circle

There's a new look for the District — one that "distinguishes and better defines" Florida-Georgia, notes President Greg Walton. Natural



elements from the two states are incorporated into the logo, as is the dimensional cross that has become a trademark of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The new logo was unveiled at the 2011 President's Convocation.

Also debuting at the Convocation was the President's Circle, a "special group of people" whose purpose "is to extend the mission of the church through acts of grace in a very special way," Walton said. "Basically the President's Circle is a discretionary fund that will be used to come alongside ministries and workers to help them move forward in ministry.

"It's not a loan or a grant, it's a gift."

More information on the President's Circle will be featured in the next issue of Lutheran LIFE. ■