

THIS MINISTRY THAT WE SHARE

NOVEMBER, 2008



Dear Pastors and Pastors' Wives, Pastors' Widows, Vicars and Wives, DCEs and Spouses, Principals and Spouses, and DCOs and Spouses and Deaconesses and Spouses,

LAND OF WANT?

In an article entitled, Americans Become Pessimistic, the pollster, Daniel Yankelovich, states concerning the attitudes of the average American: *We've gone almost overnight from a nation of optimists to a nation of pessimists. We are fast coming to a turning point in our history where the land of plenty is becoming the land of want.*

This attitude of pessimism is hard to understand in a time in which we can see God's material blessings are more abundant than ever before. All of us will have at least one square meal today, be able to relax on comfortable furniture and flip on our television sets, or take a drive in our cars to see some friends or go shopping, and be able to take the chill out of our house instantaneously by turning the heat on. All things were bought from money that was made at a job where we bring in more money in one day than 95 percent of the rest of the people in the world make in a week or possibly in a month.

If there was ever a need for a THANKSGIVING DAY holiday, it is now. We all need to be reminded that we are only STEWARDS of everything in our lives, because they are gifts given to us by our Heavenly Father. Luther reminds us of this fact in the explanation of the first article of the Apostles Creed:



I believe that God has made me and all creatures that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; also, clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, wife and children, fields, cattle and all my goods; that He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body; and live; that he defends me against all danger, and guards and protects me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me...

Our God is a wonderful God who daily surrounds us with countless benefits and gifts. They are more than we could ever need. That is why Luther concludes:

*for all which it is my duty
to thank and praise, to serve and obey Him.
This is most certainly true.*

God has given us reason to have grateful hearts and ready lips to sing his praises.

For this reason, we can take our national holiday of Thanksgiving seriously, and worship Him in a spirit of optimism for the future.

Pastor Schultz

This music is the beginning of Martin Luther's hymn of thanksgiving, "Dear Christians, One and All, Rejoice". Courtesy of the Digital Image Archive, Pitts Theology Library, Candler School of Theology, Emory University.

72nd SOUTHERN DISTRICT CONVENTION

JUNE 18-20, 2009

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA

A new design will represent our theme – Spirit Kindle. In light of the Ablaze Campaign and the Fan into Flame initiative, President Schultz chose to continue the Spirit Kindle theme from our 2006 district convention. The Board of Directors, in its October 10th meeting, chose this design from several that were submitted to the district office.



The artist, Jeff Marshall, explains that the rationale behind the design chosen was to maintain a similarity to the previous logo by maintaining key elements of the flame and cross. The flame was revised to consist of three tongues representing the idea of the Trinity. As a whole, the logo represents how our *spirit is kindled* through, by and for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Jeff is from Baton Rouge and a senior at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond, LA, working towards a degree in Visual Arts with a concentration in Digital Design. He has worked with RAI Ministries as well as other LCMS churches and organizations creating everything from logos to banners, posters, and postcards. He is currently working as a photographer in addition to graphic design.

SIGNIFICANT DISTRICT & CHURCH OCCASIONS / EVENTS

ANNIVERSARY SERVICE-----

CHRIST – ALBERTVILLE, AL, celebrated their 25th anniversary on **November 9th** in their 10:30 AM worship service. Their Charter Sunday was November 13th, 1983. Eight years later the congregation dedicated its facility on April 14th with a worship service in which **Rev. Bernie Ansoorge (Ascension – Huntsville, AL)** performed the Rite of Dedication. Former Southern District Mission Executive, **Rev. Dr. Robert S. Kerekes** (now deceased), gave the sermon and our current Mission Executive, **Rev. Gary Faith**, was the liturgist. **Rev. J. Mark Kuehnert** currently serves as pastor.

RETIREMENT – FAREWELL AND GODSPEED-----

ST. PAUL – BIRMINGHAM, AL, recognized the end of service of their long-time pastor, **Tom Noon**, on **November 9th**. Tom has shepherded St. Paul for 32 years from 1976-2008. He even served St. Paul as a Prince of Peace Volunteer from 1965-66. He has seen the progress of the congregation through many physical developments including a new Church facility completed in 2004. He has served the Southern District as a Vicarage Supervisor, Circuit Counselor and now chairs the District's Constitutions Committee. Countless congregations have benefitted from his service as vacancy pastor. If there was a category for this in the *Guinness Book of World Records*, he would be listed. In 1992 an article he authored titled "Rosa Young's Letters to Tuskegee" was published in the Concordia Historical Institute Quarterly in 1992 (Fall). He also has published a number of other essays. In 1994 Tom earned a Masters Degree in History from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. He hopes to continue his passion for history through reading, writing and traveling in his retirement.

TRAVELING ON – FAREWELL AND GODSPEED-----

Rev. Eric Hollar and his wife, Corrie, will be moving to the Southeastern District. Eric has accepted the call to Bethel – Claremont, NC. His last Sunday as pastor of **Good Shepherd – Biloxi, MS**, is November 16th. Mid-way through his five-year service to Good Shepherd Eric was faced with the catastrophic destruction along the Gulf Coast from Hurricane Katrina. Destruction that affected his parishioners and his family in a very personal way. Eric, working with his congregational member, John Coyle, set up Camp Biloxi to aid in the recovery effort which is ongoing. Corrie, Eric's wife, also participated in the recovery by writing the stories of those affected by the storm. She is also a member of the Southern District Mission Committee. Eric and Corrie with daughters Moriah and Christiana, we wish you God Speed as you travel to your new opportunity for ministry.

MARK YOUR 2008-2009 CALENDARS!

<p><u>2008 TEACHERS' CONFERENCE</u></p>	<p>November 23-25 – Metairie, LA</p>
<p><u>2009 SPRING PLACEMENT</u></p> <p>Call Documents for Candidates and Vicarage Agreements/Applications are due March 1st in the President's Office. Please note that the Vicarage documents are new and you must remove any "old" document from your computer and download the current document.</p>	<p>Call Service – Ft. Wayne, April 21 60 Candidates available 97 Vicars available</p> <p>Call Service – St. Louis, April 22 100 Candidates available 106 Vicars available</p>
<p><u>2009 GULF DISTRICT LLL CONVENTION</u></p>	<p>March 20-21 – Pensacola, FL Rev. Norm Schulz, Chairman</p>
<p><u>2009 SOUTHERN DISTRICT PASTORS' CONFERENCE</u></p>	<p>April 27-30 – Hattiesburg, MS</p>
<p><u>2009 SOUTHERN DISTRICT 72nd CONVENTION</u></p> <p>A new process for nominations for district offices is in place – check our Web Site www.southernlcms.org.</p>	<p>June 18-20, 2009 Baton Rouge, Louisiana Holiday Inn Select</p>

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF HIS RESOURCES


<u>DISTRICT/SYNOD MISSION SUPPORT</u>		
BUDGET	2007 (1,080,000)	2008 (1,090,000)
Budget through Oct 15 th	\$810,000	\$817,500
Income through Oct 15 th	\$790,268	\$723,183

The 2009 Salary Guidelines have been posted on Southern District website. To locate them, go to www.southernlcms.org, click on **Resources**, then on **For Congregational Leaders**.

LET US PRAY...

BEREAVEMENTS

- ✘ TO **Priscilla** and **Ken Babin** (Ken serves **St. John – New Orleans, LA**) on the death of her father, Leo Jerold Wellmeyer, on October 7TH. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Beverly, and their four children and their families. He was 80 years old. A Memorial Service was held at Grace Lutheran Church – New Orleans, LA, on October 10th.
- ✘ TO **Bill** and **Joni Vogt** (Bill serves **Prince of Peace – Pineville, LA**, as a DELTO Vicar) on the death of his mother, Nellie, on November 2nd. She was 85 years old and lived in NorthLittle Rock, AK. Nellie died as a result of a stroke and was in the late mid-stage state of Alzheimer's disease. Bill writes: *Even though Alzheimer's had taken away the memory of a good life, she still was aware that she was surrounded by those who loved her.*
- ✘ TO **Warren** and **LaJewell Davis** (Warren serves **Jehovah – Pensacola, FL**) on the death of Warren's brother, Henry Ford Davis. He was born August 19th, 1939 and he died on October 27th, 2008. His funeral service was held at Bethlehem – Prattville, AL, on November 1st, 2008. His and Warren's mother died in late June of this year. Mr. Henry Ford Davis is survived by his daughter, Ashley Davis, and two sons, Kim Davis and Dee Boyd.

We share in their sorrow yet  rejoice in the joyous promise of Christ – eternal life in a Heavenly home, which Christ has prepared for those who believe and trust in Him as their Savior. May our gracious God give strength and healing to those who mourn.

ILLNESSES AND INJURIES

- **Linette Cooper (Wife of Adam**, retired from **St. Matthew – Gulfport, MS**) continues her chemotherapy treatments.
- **Harlan Heiserman (Shepherd of the Bay – Lillian, AL)** underwent CT scans last week which showed a good response to treatment; although there is some concern with his blood work. Harlan continues his treatment for two more cycles which will take him through Christmas, then he will be reevaluated. He is feeling fairly well aside from fatigue and some numbness/tingling in his feet.

- **Hal Kieschnick (former Executive Assistant for Parish Services)** continues treatment for his cancer with an experimental drug.
- **Mark Kuehnert (Christ – Albertville, AL)** has experienced a return of the Hairy Cell Leukemia he experienced in 1988.
- Vicar **Collis Parham (Epiphany – New Orleans)** recently underwent emergency surgery in which his gallbladder was removed. He is doing well.
- **Sidney Ponseti (Retired – Baton Rouge, LA)** continues to undergo surgical procedures for a recurring plaque that forms on his vocal chords which could develop into cancer.
- **Mindy Schrader (Wife of Stephen who serves Prince of Peace – Ft. Payne, AL)** continues her treatments for cancer.

May these friends be led by the Spirit to know they are held in nail pierced hands and are being lifted up in prayer by their fellow saints throughout the District.

Will you or someone in your congregation be receiving care at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota? Trinity Lutheran Church of Rochester offers their TLCare ministry to out of town medical guests. We strive to serve people in many ways such as prayer support, a homemade meal, a visit from one of our caring members, free parking in our lot, a comfortable place to go between appointments, and more. Please let us know when you are coming to town by emailing Jennifer at tlcjennifer@charterinternet.com or Pastor Otte at pastorotte@charterinternet.com.

EXPECTING

- **Floyd and Sherrill Smithey (Our Savior – Columbus, MS)** are going to be grandparents! Jesse and Laura are expecting a baby around the end of October.
- **Sidney Ponseti (Retired – Baton Rouge, LA)** is going to be a grandfather as his daughter, Ann, expects her fourth child in late April.
- **Eric and Corrie Hollar (Good Shepherd – Biloxi, MS)** praise God as they await the arrival of their third child due in January.

NEW GRANDCHILD

Warren Ruland (St. Paul's – Cullman, AL) and his wife, **Linda**, welcomed their third granddaughter, Mayson Susan Davis, born September 22nd. She joins sisters Micah Lyn and Mackenzie May. Warren had the privilege of baptizing Mayson on October 12th. Warren's daughter, Tiffany, and her husband, Jeff, live in Jefferson City, MO.

SOLDIER SONS

- ❖ **Kevin Mueller**, son of **Orv and Clara Mueller**, flew into Abilene, TX, on October 16th on his way from Iraq to his home in Austin, TX. Orv, Clara, their family and Jenny, Kevin's wife, were so relieved that he returned safely. Orv and Clara are looking forward to seeing Kevin and Jenny over Thanksgiving. *Orv writes: "We are thankful for all who remembered Kevin in their prayers these past six months."* Orv is former Southern District President. He and Clara are in New Orleans as volunteers at Camp Restore.

- ❖ **Major Robert H Belknap, II**, son of **Bob** and **Agnes Belknap** (Bob serves **Zion – Bogalusa, LA**) was recently deployed to Iraq for a second time. “Robbie” and his team of ten men have been assigned to an Iraqi unit to work with them as advisors. His wife, Paula, continues to struggle with these deployments. Robbie and Paula have three young children : Joshua, Sarah and Robert H. Belknap, III.

THIS HOPE THAT WE SHARE – DISASTER RECOVERY



To see RAI's (Recovery Assistance Incorporated) web site for their most recent news, go to - www.lcmsrelief.org - and choose Newsletter from the menu options.

DO YOU HAVE? YES WE DO!-----

Pastor Rich Rudnik of **Grace – Houma, LA**, reports that his congregation has had their request fulfilled. You may remember that Hurricane Gustav’s fierce winds knocked out the huge stained glass window of the Jesus the Good Shepherd which stood behind their altar. A large banner of Jesus as the Good Shepherd was donated to their congregation from Good Shepherd – Shalimar, FL. Pastor Rich writes: *It is a 12’ x 4’ banner of the Good Shepherd which will hang where our beloved Good Shepherd stained glass window used to be located. We hope to have our window replaced by next hurricane season...this time with some storm shutters to close over it.*



The new church year begins on Sunday, November 30. The Southern District's primary window for **Fan into Flame** participation was by this date. We know we have congregations that are still working on a response. The following are available options to responding to **Fan into Flame**:

- We are still working on **Fan into Flame** but have not filed a Congregation Goal Agreement.
- We have not sufficiently introduced **Fan into Flame** to conduct a campaign before Advent 2008 but would like to consider doing a campaign in early 2009. Are you open to filing a Congregation Goal Agreement by Advent 2008?
- We are not prepared and ready to support **Fan into Flame** at this time. However, please contact us after this date: _____.
- We are choosing to decline participation in **Fan into Flame**.
- Other: (list) _____

Your circuit coordinator or district contact persons would like to receive a response for each congregation.

We pray that that the **Fan into Flame** initiative will continue to make a difference in outreach at all levels for years to come. Your **Fan into Flame** circuit coordinator is an advocate and cheerleader for you and your congregation. The coordinators serve as partners and assistants in the **Fan into Flame** initiative.

FanintoFlame CIRCUIT COORDINATORS				Circuit
MR. CAL	BEHRENS	LA, NEW ORLEANS - LUTHERAN HIGH	504-455-4062	1-2-3
REVISED		SOUTHERN DISTRICT STAFF	504-282-2632	4
REV. JOHN	KARLE	LA, NATCHITOCHE, LA	318-352-6708	5
REV. CHARLES	MILLER	LA, LAKE CHARLES - ST. JOHN	337-478-5666	6
REV. STEPHEN	KOENIG	MS, CLINTON - OUR REDEEMER	601-924-9999	7 C
REV. VIC	MASLOWSKI	MS, OLIVE BRANCH-BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR	662-890-7272	7 N
REV. EDDIE	SCHALER	AL, DECATUR - ST. PAUL'S	256-353-8759	8
REV. DAVID	MOERBE	AL, GARDENDALE - GOOD SHEPHERD	205-631-6590	9
REV. JAMES	BROWN	FL, PENSACOLA - ST. MATTHEW	850-477-0567	10
REV. KEITH	RINGERS	AL, ELBERTA-ST - MARK'S	251-986-8133	11
REV. FERRY	NYE	AL, MONTGOMERY - UNITED	334-262-4326	12/13
REV. PAUL	ELAM	AL, MONTGOMERY - ST. PAUL	334-272-6214	12/13
REV. ROD	PASCH	LA, SLIDELL - BETHANY	985-643-3043	14
REV. DANNY	KOYN	FL, PANAMA CITY - TRINITY	850-763-2412	15

What is *Fan into Flame*? *Fan into Flame* undergirds the innovative projects and mission goals that will advance the *Ablaze!* movement goal to share the Gospel with 100 million people worldwide. Gifts given through *Fan into Flame* will assist in revitalizing congregations to become mission outposts in their communities, developing programs to equip the laity with Bible-based evangelism instruction, calling additional missionaries for work in national and international mission fields, and planting new ministries at home and abroad.

PROGRESS REPORT:	National Gifts and Pledges:	\$37 million
	District Gifts and Pledges:	\$333,768

We continue to pray “Spirit Kindle.” It only takes a spark and sometimes it’s one person who catches the purpose of *Ablaze!* and *Fan into Flame* to see a renewed mission spirit and heart in the congregation. We believe there are people who are willing to “take the journey” as your congregation develops plans, and as you gather to celebrate the Spirit’s blessing through this initiative. To God be the glory as together we grow in mission and a heart for those not connected by faith to Jesus!

Outreach is not natural for many in the LCMS. For many years, we grew through reaching immigrants and our church body grew in numbers through biological growth. There has been significant decline in the number of adults confirmed and the children baptized in recent years. In the 21st century, the LCMS must look to new ways of sharing the Gospel with an urgency to see the Kingdom grow as less than one-third of the world’s population is Christian. We are being stretched! Can our LCMS wineskins expand to respond to the culture of today? It’s not about changing our doctrines or beliefs.

Fan into Flame is all about sending out workers in our neighborhoods, communities, region, country, and throughout the world. We have Good News to share about a loving Lord who has won forgiveness for us!

504-282-2632

FintoF@southernlcms.org

www.southernlcms.org

PARISH SERVICES

Commissioned Minister to the Southern District Board of Directors –

The newly adopted District realignment includes several changes. The first of these deals with the nomination and election of the commissioned minister to the Board of Directors for 2009-2012. Four commission rostered ministers were nominated by the October 23 date. Those nominated are:

Susann Gehring (Ascension – Huntsville, AL)

Kathy Kiehl (Ascension – Huntsville, AL)

John Price (Redeemer – Pensacola, FL)

Chuck Schiller (St. Paul – New Orleans, LA)

Teacher Conference Chairman, Tom Naatz, has called the election to be held on Monday, November 24 at the Southern District Teachers’ Conference. **Additional nominations will be accepted through Friday, November 14 provided the consent of the nominee and the informational form have been completed.**

You can download the information from the Southern District website by clicking on this link: [Commissioned Minister Election](#) Sue Schiller was elected as the commissioned minister on the Board at the 2006 Convention. Agnes Pegues of Selma, AL is currently filling out that term as Sue went to be with the Lord in December 2006. Commissioned minister nominations may be submitted by any pastor, commissioned minister, or congregation.

Youth Ministry Leadership Training

The Southern District is hosting youth ministry leadership training for DCE's and other church professionals (pastors, DCO's, deaconess, etc.) and for volunteers who serve as youth ministry leaders on the congregational level. This special leadership training is being offered at Camp Dixie (near Elberta, AL) on February 5-7, 2009. Craig Oldenburg, former camp director at Camp Dixie, will serve as the facilitator for this training experience. The DCE and other church professional leadership training will begin on Thursday afternoon and conclude Friday night, with the option to stay over on Saturday. Youth ministry leader sessions, for those who serve on a volunteer basis, begin on Friday evening and conclude on Saturday, with an option to stay over for Sunday morning. This will be a special opportunity for leaders in youth ministry to connect with each other and build a stronger network among youth leaders in the district. The registration fee will be nominal and includes meals and lodging. We look forward to a good response!

Upcoming District Educators' Conferences

Southern District Teachers' Conference (November 23-25, 2008) hosted in Metairie, LA, with the theme of ***“Back to the Future: Toddlers to Technology.”*** The opening worship service will be held at First English Lutheran on Sunday evening at 7 p.m. The sessions for Monday and Tuesday will be hosted at Atonement Lutheran – Metairie.

Be an angel all year long and give more than you're able with Thrivent Financial's GivingPlus Program!



GivingPlus®—A one-of-a-kind gifting program

Thrivent Financial helps our members contribute even more to their favorite Lutheran organizations, unlike any other financial services provider. Through GivingPlus, Thrivent Financial for Lutherans and two of its subsidiaries will add \$1 to every \$2 contributed to enrolled Lutheran organizations by benefits members and those who own Thrivent Mutual Funds and Thrivent Life Insurance Company products. Individuals age 16 or older who are benefit members* of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, or who own Thrivent Mutual Funds accounts and/or Thrivent Life Insurance Company products are eligible to participate in the GivingPlus program.

* "Benefit members" generally are those who have been admitted into membership and own Thrivent Financial for Lutherans insurance or annuity products.

- Individuals can donate to any eligible and enrolled organization they choose.
- Individuals can donate to as many eligible and enrolled organizations as they choose, but Thrivent Financial and the subsidiaries will only provide supplemental dollars to **two organizations per year**.
 - Thrivent Financial or one of the subsidiaries will contribute \$1 for every \$2 donated up to a \$300 maximum supplement to each organization.
 - Donations can be for *any* amount up to \$600 (or more).
 - Individuals can make multiple donations (i.e. monthly, quarterly, etc.) to the same organization in a given year and have the supplemental dollars provided when the paperwork is received and processed, however the donations will only be supplemented up to the \$300 maximum supplement.

Who can I donate to?

Donate to an enrolled Lutheran organization that has special meaning to you. Large or small, local or regional, the choice is yours.

- Early childhood centers.
- Elementary schools.
- High schools.
- Post-secondary schools (colleges, universities and seminaries).
- Outdoor ministry centers (camps).
- Campus ministries.
- Social ministry organizations.
- Lutheran independent organizations and institutions.

VACANCIES/CALLS AS OF NOVEMBER 12, 2008

CONGREGATIONS IN THE CALLING PROCESS FOR PASTOR

Auburn, AL – Trinity	Hartselle, AL – Christ Our Redeemer
Birmingham, AL – St. Paul's	Mobile, AL – Mt. Calvary
Birmingham, AL – Vestavia Hills	Tuscaloosa, AL - University
Dothan, AL – Trinity	New Orleans, LA – Trinity (Algiers)
Foley, AL – St. Paul's	Corinth, MS – Prince of Peace

KATRINA CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION

New Orleans, LA – Bethel / Our Savior / Gloria Dei / Prince of Peace

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev Eric Hollar of Good Shepherd – Biloxi, MS, to Bethel – Claremont, NC

CALLS DECLINED

Rev. Bruce Frederickson of Blaine, MN, to Trinity – Auburn, AL

CALLS PENDING

Rev. David Goodine of St. Paul – New Orleans, LA, to the Tri-Parish Association in the Queens area of New York City, NY

Rev. Keith Ringers of St. Mark's – Elberta, AL, to Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills – Birmingham, AL

DCE Curtis Wiese of Christ –Topeka, KS to Good Shepherd – Shalimar, FL

PAX (sleeping peaceful in Christ), Kurt