



The Southern District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8

To: Principals of Lutheran Schools / Directors of Early Childhood Centers

From: Gene Menzel – Executive Assistant for Parish Services

Re: 2008 Southern District Administrators' / Directors' Conference

September 9, 2008

Greetings to you in the name of Jesus, our Savior and Lord!

It is my sincere prayer that the new school year is off to a great start for you, your staff, students, and families. I know those first weeks and month are demanding as students, parents, and teachers work to adjust to the new school year routine. Of course, there are also the various expectations that persons expect you to fulfill.

I know you will be ready for a break and time to "get away" in October for professional growth and a time of sharing and meeting with other administrators. This conference is an opportunity for principals and directors of the Southern District to celebrate our diversity of ministries in early childhood, elementary, and secondary education.

This year's Conference will be held **October 2-4 at St. John Lutheran Church in Hattiesburg, MS.** Lodging will at **LaQuinta Inn** (6563 US Hwy. 49 North) in Hattiesburg. We have chosen Hattiesburg as a location that will be closer for Gulf Coast schools and the same distance for most schools coming from other parts of the district. A shared setting between St. John and the LaQuinta affords us with the opportunity to offer the conference at the best cost. Registration opens at 5 p.m. on Thursday, October 2, with the opening session starting at 7:00 p.m. The Conference concludes on Saturday, October 4 at 11:45 a.m. Lodging is included as part of the registration fee (double occupancy – two persons/room). Should you prefer to have a private room, you can pay the additional fee for that privilege. Also, we are covering the bulk of meal costs while at the conference. The LaQuinta includes a breakfast meal.

This year's conference program concentrates on Staff Development and Schools / Leadership in the 21st Century. The presenters are pleased to know that we include leaders in preschool/early childhood, elementary, and high school as part of this conference. **Spencer Peregoy** (principal at St. John – Ellisville, MO) will be the presenter along with **Paul Brandt** (Pacific Southwest District consultant and New Horizons Ministry Consulting based in Scottsdale, AZ). Our Conference is blessed to have Spencer and Paul as our presenters. Both of these men have a heart and passion for the ministry of Lutheran schools.

The registration fee for the conference is **\$150** per principal/administrator and a special rate of **\$125** for preschool/early childhood directors. The registration fee includes your lunch and dinner meal on Friday. Housing, as previously noted, is on basis of double occupancy -- two people per room (two beds) unless otherwise requested. If you request a private room, you are expected to pay the

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additional cost of \$80 to cover the nightly conference room rate (lodging rate for one night). The LaQuinta has provided us a cut-off date of September 18 so we need your registration response in advance of this date. The Conference will reserve your room once we receive your registration.

I encourage those traveling a distance to share rides with other principals and directors from your geographical area. To help facilitate the coordination of travel, a master list of administrators and directors will be sent to you by September 1. Let's partner with each other and build the network among the principals and directors in your area and throughout the district!

Please return the enclosed conference registration form no later than September 15. This is very important so that we can finalize housing needs. I trust that each of you will find the Hattiesburg arrangement will offer a good setting for us. Follow-up information on the Administrators'/Directors' Conference will be shared by the bi-weekly e-mail.

If you have any questions or concerns about the Conference, please feel free to contact me at the District Office. My e-mail address is **gwmenz@aol.com**. Please share the conference information with others who may serve in a co-administrative role with you. If you are not able to attend due to a schedule conflict, please find an assistant or someone else on your staff to attend. Consider bringing a team of two so you can collaborate on what you hear and to process the information. Continued joy and power to you in your work and ministry!

Directions to the LaQuinta

from the NORTH:

Take Highway 49 south - Once you come Into Hattiesburg, go under Interstate 59 and we are approximately 1/2 mile on your right next to McDonalds.

from the SOUTH:

Take highway 49 North to Hattieaburg approximately 66 miles from Gulfport; then another 1 mile to the hotel. We are on the north side of town on Highway 49. We are on the left side of the highway next to McDonalds.

from the East:

Take 98 west to Highway 49 North. The hotel is approximately 9 miles north On the left side of the highway next to McDonalds.

from the West: Take Interstate 59 North to Exit 67A. This will put you on HWY 49 South. Go approximately 1/2 mile, and we are on your right next to McDonalds.

Phone for the LaQuinta: **(601)268-2850**