



This Ministry That We Share

*Southern District - LCMS
June-July 2014*



THE STEADFASTNESS OF THE LORD

*"For I am sure that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come...nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."
Romans 8:38-39*



We live our lives at a frenetic pace. Technology moves at breakneck speed and everything is in flux. We feel rootless and blown to and fro by every wind of change. Time has become our most precious commodity, because it is so limited.

We wonder at Jacob's working seven years for Rachel's hand in marriage, and then seven more years because Laban tricked him. In most cases that solution would be unacceptable today. Fourteen years is just too much time. Think of how much life one would miss as that time passed by (Gen. 29:15-28). Yet Jacob did it! He had an anchor to steady him, a stability to rely on, and a rock on which to stand as the winds of circumstance and injustice buffeted him. He had a covenant with God. "He is mindful of his covenant for ever, of the word that he commanded for a thousand generations" (Ps 105:8). He could find stability in his God and the eternal covenant that was between them.

As Christians, we too have the promise of stability, a covenant, an everlasting kingdom that is secure and timeless. The Parable of the Mustard Seed that grows into a great tree and provides shelter and security for the birds of the air is a picture of that kingdom. Paul in the eighth chapter of Romans describes God's love for us, a love so secure that it will stand fast in all things throughout eternity. It is the sure foundation for us in this here-today-and-gone-tomorrow world.

Don't take the new covenant for granted. Don't minimize the kingdom's importance. Know that its acquisitions have come at a price.

We pray: Bless, Lord, all who seek the steadfastness of your kingdom in this chaotic and stressful world. And give us the faith, that we have it as our own. Amen.

Pastor Schultz

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOU

~click on either event for more information~

[Professional Church Workers Conference](#)

[Southern District 74th Convention](#)



CONCORDIA COLLEGE
ALABAMA

Classes begin Monday, August 11th.

Homecoming is celebrated on October 11th.

Concordia's web site: www.ccal.edu.



**New Season of Partnership
Through Transforming Churches Network (TCN)**

Seasons of Discovery is a step-wise church transformation process delivered in four seasons over two or more years that helps congregations to begin engaging their community with the Gospel of Jesus.

What will your congregation (pastor & leaders) discover?

- People in your community who are looking for hope ([1 Tim. 6:17](#))
- Good works that God has prepared in advance for us to do in the community ([Eph. 2:10](#))
- People within the congregation who have a passion for reaching the lost ([Rom. 1:16](#))

More discoveries:

- God's unique vision for your church ([1 Tim. 2:4](#))
- Joy and excitement from living out that vision in your community ([Phil. 4:4](#))
- The [8 Hinge Factors](#) that open doors to your community ([John 10:9](#))

Each season includes:

- Personal coaching, skill builders & learning guides for the pastor
- Tools for equipping people for ministry
- Sermons & Bible Studies to rally the people of the church around the theme of the season
- Outreach activities

Is your congregation ready to explore a new season? If so, please click on the following link: [Seasons of Discovery](#) to view a video with the details as presented by TCN executive director, Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman. There is also a PowerPoint presentation along with a brochure and discovery map. Southern District congregations can enroll to begin the process in January 2015. Southern District's partnership with TCN makes the **Season of Discovery** process available at a reduced price. The usual cost is \$1,800/season but for the Southern District it is \$1,200/season, with a special price of \$900/season for the first six congregations enrolling in the process. **Seasons of Discovery** calls for a congregation's investment in the process to make sure the follow-through is achieved. Too often, planning is done at the congregational level but little if ever done to implement the plans.

For additional information about TCN, contact **Gene Menzel** at 504-495-7436 or by e-mail at gwmenz@aol.com

SENIOR YOUTH GATHERING IN SIGHT



SOUTHERN DISTRICT
SENIOR YOUTH GATHERING
JULY 10-13 @
CAMP RESTORE
NEWORLEANS

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all." Eph. 4:4-6

We pray: Lord, be with our youth and their leaders as they gather July 10-13 in New Orleans at Camp Restore. May they be lifted up by the camaraderie that they will enjoy during this time. May the service projects in which they will be involved be to the greater good and to your glory.

RETIREMENT: REV. DR. WARREN H. DAVIS RETIRES

The members of Jehovah Lutheran Church in Pensacola, FL, kick started retirement celebrations for Pastor Davis by giving a luncheon for Pastor Davis' wife, LaJewel, and their daughter, Valencia, on May 17th.



The children performed a skit of Valencia growing up in the church,

"I thank my God every time I remember you." Philippians 1:3.

This gratitude was expressed in many different ways at the luncheon for Mrs. LaJewel Davis and Valencia Davis - the First Lady and First Daughter of Jehovah Lutheran Church. A poem was specially selected and read to LaJewel by Mrs. Gwen Marshall (husband, Rev. Ulmer Marshall). Jehovah member, Ms. Lakeisha Brown, wrote and read a poem to Valencia. Skits were performed. "Honey You Won't Have to ..." refers to LaJewel's concern about what the congregation would expect of her when Warren accepted Jehovah's call.

"Our Little Girl." They are pictured here with LaJewel and Valencia.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY ...

In the next issue of ***This Ministry That We Share***, highlights of the retirement celebration that took place after this luncheon on June 8th will be included. What a ministry of pastor and people took place in Pensacola, Florida, at Jehovah Lutheran Church!



Pictured here are Vida and Sherman McCants as they performed in a skit as LaJewel and Warren when they were called to Jehovah in 1978.

GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE!



This is a photo of Soul Searchers, Jehovah's choir in which both LaJewel and Warren sang.

PRESIDENT SCHULTZ CELEBRATES 35 YEARS IN THE MINISTRY



On June 22nd, in their morning worship service, **The Lutheran Church of Vestavia Hills (Birmingham)** celebrated the ministry of **Southern District President Kurtis D. Schultz**. **Rev. Michael Ahlemeyer** of LCV presided over the service in which former **Synodical President Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick** preached. Mrs. Becky Schultz and Mrs. Terry Kieschnick were present.

Rev. David A. Doroh, Second Vice-President of the Southern District, on behalf of the Board of Directors indicated to Pres. Schultz that a gift in his honor was given to his high school, Walther Christian Academy in Melrose Park, IL.

Mr. Scott Mooney, President of the congregation, on behalf of the congregation indicated to Mrs.

Becky Schultz that a gift in her honor was given Lutheran Music Program - home of the Lutheran Summer Music Academy and Festival. Mrs. Schultz is a member of their Board of Directors. She is an accomplished musician of piano, organ and is learning the cello.

In his sermon Rev. Kieschnick pointed out the commitment shown by President Schultz to the LCMS Council of Presidents. Couple that responsibility with the responsibilities of his geographically diverse district, his plate is more than full. Pastor Kieschnick noted the event of Hurricane Katrina which occurred two years into Pres. Schultz's presidency. "He was a hero."

Pastor Kieschnick also pointed out what it takes to support a man in his position. He complimented Mrs. Schultz on her past support and her ongoing support of her husband's ministry.

Pastor Schultz was ordained on June 3rd in 1979. He served **Prince of Peace** in **Ozark, AL**; **Christ the King** in **Enterprise, AL**; and, **First** in **Birmingham, AL**, before being elected Southern District President in 2003.

A fabulous southern reception was served after the worship service. Mr. Tom Noon, Financial Representative for Thrivent, was present on behalf of Thrivent who graciously hosted the reception. You know it's a southern reception when there are biscuits and gravy!



MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

celebrating the ministry of pastor and people.

50th ~ Bethel Lutheran Church in New Orleans, LA

Rev. Jerome Terry, Pastor

- Celebratory Banquet **July 19th** at 6 p.m. at Party Cafe' in New Orleans East
- Celebratory Worship Service **July 20th** at 9 a.m. at Bethel on Franklin Avenue in New Orleans

90th ~ Augustana Lutheran Church in Alexandria, LA

Rev. William H. Vogt, Pastor

- Celebratory Worship Service **September 7th** at 3 p.m.

- Reception immediately following at Mt. Triumph Baptist Center/Robert Perry Family Life Center

90th ~ Trinity Lutheran Church in Selma, AL - Fall of 2014.

Rev. Steven Washington, Pastor

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

celebrating the Divine Call

to the ministry of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

~listed by anniversary date~

JULY



30 years. . .Rev. Keith J. Ringers. . .July 22, 1984

5 years. . .Rev. Mark H. Steiner. . .July 26, 2009

AUGUST

10 years. . .Rev. Philip T. Miller. . .August 1, 2004

10 years. . .Rev. Perry McCullam. . .August 1, 2004

10 years. . .Rev. Perry A. Culver. . .August 1, 2004

5 years. . .Rev. William Vogt. . .August 2, 2009

10 years. . .Rev. Christopher L. Cole. . .August 8, 2004

5 years. . .Rev. Christopher Brynstand. . .August 9, 2009

50 years. . .Rev. Dr. Richard B. Thompson. . .August 9, 1964

40 years. . .Rev. David A. Doroh. . .August 11, 1974

10 years. . .Rev. Joesph L. Arthur, IV. . .August 22, 2004

10 years. . .Rev. Dr. Tilahun Menedo. . .August 29, 2004

OUR STEWARDSHIP OF HIS RESOURCES

District and Synod Mission Support Trends	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Total Budget	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,100,000
Budgeted Income through 5/15	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000
Actual Income through 5/15	\$ 453,027	\$ 399,845	\$ 386,254

REALLY, WHAT'S ONE MORE FORM???

LUTHERAN ANNUAL FORMS were mailed to congregations and churchworkers the first week of June. If you haven't received one, email Janice Spink in Synod's Rosters and Statistics Department at janice.spink@lcms.org. If you are a church worker and forgot your password to complete this form online, Janice can provide a password to you.



WE LIFT UP IN PRAYER. . . .

These brothers and sisters in Christ coping with cancer:

- Rev. Jack Betz (Emeritus - Miramar Beach, FL)
- Rev. Jerry Conley (Emeritus - Marianna, FL)
- Mrs. Gloria Moritz, wife of Rev. Victor Moritz (Emeritus - Metairie, LA)
- Rev. Sidney Ponseti (Emeritus - Baton Rouge, LA)
- Rev. Ed Rogers (Emeritus - Ozark, AL)
- Mrs. Evy Weier, wife of Rev. Gary Weier (Emeritus - Gulfport, MS)
- Rev. Bill Wise (Emeritus - Destin, FL) recently diagnosed

These brothers and sisters in Christ coping with various health issues:

- Rev. Paul Counts (Emeritus - Huntsville, AL) diagnosed with Parkinsons and Addisons Disease
- Mrs. Elva Ellermann, wife of Rev. John Ellermann (Emeritus - Slidell, LA) hospitalized for heart issues
- Rev. Jesus Gonzales - Monte de los Olivos - Metairie, LA
- Commissioned Minister Ray Hauer - Emeritus - Huntsville, AL
- Rev. Rory Hermann - Good Shepherd - Gulf Breeze, FL
- Mrs. Barbara Proctor (daughter of Rev. Stewart Marshall serving Redeemer - Leesville, LA) has been ordered to strict bed rest. She is pregnant with twins. Her husband is overseas and they have a 3-year-old at home. Her mother, Donna (Mrs. Stewart) is staying with her.
- Rev. Vic Moritz (Emeritus - Metairie, LA)

May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed.

Thessalonians 2:16-17 (NIV)

CALLS AND VACANCIES

CONGREGATIONS IN THE CALLING PROCESS FOR PASTOR

ALABAMA

First - Birmingham
Our Redeemer - Florence
Grace - Mobile
University - Tuscaloosa

FLORIDA

Christ Our Savior - Panama City Beach
Jehovah - Pensacola

LOUISIANA

Holy Trinity - Covington
Atonement - Metairie
Lamb of God - Slidell
Trinity - Sulphur

MISSISSIPPI

CrossRoad - Hernando
Beautiful Savior - Olive Branch

CALLS - ORDAINED - DECLINED

- Rev. Matthias J. Dinger, Rockwall - Texas to Trinity - Sulphur, LA
- Rev. Jeffrey Stone of Calvary - Parma, OH to Grace - Mobile, AL

CALLS - ORDAINED - ACCEPTED

- Rev. Thomas Lampella of Fairport HBR, OH to CrossRoad - Hernando, MS
- Rev. Phillip Lee Phifer of Zion - Decatur, IN to Grace - Pensacola, FL

CALLS - ORDAINED - PENDING

- Rev. Shane McCoy of Christ - albertville, AL, to Our Redeemer - Florence, AL

CALLS - COMMISSIONED - ACCEPTED

- Levana Lee James of Pompano Beach, FL to Grace - Huntsville, AL as Directors of Worship Music and Teacher

VICARS ASSIGNED

- JOSIAS FITCH to St. Mark's Lutheran Church - Elberta, AL
- MICAH GLENN to Ascension Lutheran Church - Huntsville, AL
- DAVID WITT to Prince of Peace - Ozark, AL, as Alternate Route Vicar
- PAUL ALBERS to Luth. Ch. of Vestavia Hills - Vestavia Hills, AL
- DANIEL SHEAFER to Immanuel Lutheran Church - Pensacola, FL
- SCOTT HENZE to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church - Clinton, MS, as Deferred Vicar
- MARK BLAKEMAN to Christ Lutheran Church - Jackson, MS

CANDIDATES PLACED

- ANDREW LEHMAN to Redeemer - Fairhope, AL as Assistant Pastor
- JEFFREY HESTERMAN to Messiah - Prattville, AL as SMP Pastor
- ANDREW ROSSE to Christ the King - Natchitoches, LA
- DANIEL NGUYEN to Southern District Board of Directors as Missionary-at-Large

Hurricane Preparedness 2014

June 1st is the official date for the start of "Hurricane Season." The Southern District takes this subject very seriously and wants to help as much as possible.

1. First and foremost, if you receive a mandatory evacuation order, please heed it.
2. Then, please take a few moments to register with the district so that information can be on file. This can be done by phone, or on the District website, www.SouthernLCMS.org.

3. If you can provide shelter, or are looking for shelter, you can also use the website ([click here](#)) to provide or receive information.

**IN THE EVENT OF HURRICANE EVACUATION,
PLEASE CONTACT THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT.**

Report your NAME, CONGREGATION, CITY, STATE and, if you evacuated (City, State), to:
www.SouthernLCMS.org or call:

Church Workers (mandatory reporting) - 985-635-4232
Congregation Members - 985-635-4239

If you can provide shelter, or are looking for shelter, you can use the website to provide or receive information.

Please update any changes.

THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY



The "Gift" of generosity is **THE** Easter message. A definition of generous includes this phrase: *freely sharing valuable things. Freely sharing . . . no strings attached. . . no tit for tat. . . nothing expected in return. Valuable things: your child.* What is more valuable than a life of someone you love beyond measure? As we reflect on **THE** Easter message, remember *Those Who Don't Yet Know Jesus*. Your continued support for the mission and ministry of the Southern District is requested.

If you need a convenient way to make regular offerings, we encourage you to look into our electronic online giving options.

Visit [here](#) or contact Ronnie Giaise at the Southern District office for more information --- r.giaise@southernlcms.org.

Illustration by Patti Miller, Member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Fairhope, Alabama.

Southernlcms.org

Southern District -LCMS

504-282-2632

100 Mission Dr.
Slidell LA 70460

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