



This Ministry That We Share

*Southern District - LCMS
March-April 2014*



THIS IS LIVING

*Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life;
he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live,
and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."
(John 11:25-26)*



We get confused about the word life. "That's life" often means, "Too bad, that's the way it is." Or, we might say, "What a life," meaning, "This is wonderful." We all value life. We hold onto it as long as we can, and we mourn its loss. Sometimes we are under the mistaken idea that life consists of who we are, what we have, what we do, and whom we know. If those are our thoughts, then these words of Jesus make no sense. Earlier in this Gospel He told His disciples, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly" (John 10:10). He was speaking to people who were full of physical life. So, obviously, He meant something else when He used the word.

Jesus, in claiming to be the source of life, is talking about another kind of life. It is not limited to tangible or physical things, but rather to those defined by the spirit. There is an eternal or spiritual life that we can live while we are continuing to live in this present world. That kind of life comes from a close relationship with the source of life - Jesus. It can be described by its qualities - inner peace, honesty, hope and expectancy, a sense of the constant presence of God, direction and purpose, fulfillment, contentment, joy.

While telling Mary and Martha that their brother would physically rise from the dead, even more important, Jesus was offering spiritual life to them.

Lent is a time for Christians to see how sin has made our earthly life empty and shallow. Holy Week reveals the depth of God's love as He ransoms us from our lives to give us His life. Easter is our celebration of God's gift of new life.

This month as we continue Lent may it lead us through the awe of Holy Week to the shout of Easter "THIS IS LIVING!"

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I receive your offer of life. Fill me with your life today. Amen.

Pastor Schultz

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - 2014

April 11	Neighborhood Mission Summit 6:00pm - 9:00pm	St. Paul's Decatur, AL
April 12	Neighborhood Mission Summit 9:00am - 12noon	St. Paul's Cullman, AL
April 25-27	LWML Gulf States Dist. Convention	Marriott Conference Center Prattville, AL
April 25-27	LWML LA-MS Convention	Clarion Inns & Suites Monroe, LA
April 29	Vicarage Assignments Placement Service	Concordia Seminary St. Louis
April 30	Vicarage Assignments Placement Service	Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne
June 6	So Dist. Board of Directors	The Mission Center Slidell, LA
June 8	Installation Joshua Leigeber	Trinity Lutheran Church Leesville, LA
July 9-13	Black Ministry Family Convocation	Kansas City, MO
July 10-13	Senior High Youth Gathering	Camp Restore New Orleans, LA
Sept. 15-17	Annual Pastors' Conference	Grace Lutheran Church Destin, FL
Sept. 19	So. Dist. Board of Directors	The Mission Center Slidell, LA
Nov. 7-9	Junior High Youth Gathering	Blue Lake Camp Alabama
Nov. 14-16	Junior High Youth Gathering	Tall Timbers Camp Louisiana
Nov. 23-26	So. Dist. Annual Commissioned Ministers Conference	Atonement Metairie, LA

First Summit of 2014 Draws 53 Neighborhood Missionaries April 11th & 12th Neighborhood Mission Summits Nearing

What happens when a handful of folks get together and challenge each other to figure out what God is up to in their lives? Well, good stuff happens!

That's what those attending the Neighborhood Missionaries Summit discovered the morning of March 15 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi. Fifty-three people were in attendance from Saint John - Hattiesburg, MS and Christ - Pascagoula, MS. They learned about two practices: missional communities and neighborng.



The idea behind missional communities is simple: A group of friends get together on a regular basis to talk about how God's been messing with them lately. We ask how God's been speaking to us in his word. We look for people of peace (Luke 10:6), who might be open to friendship. We do good things together where we see a need, and we pray for others. Along the way we offer each other encouragement and accountability for our joining Jesus on his mission.

Greg and Susan Finke are the innovative leaders of Dwelling114.org. It's a ministry based on John 1:14, "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighborhood" (MSG).

The Finkes help Christians understand how easy it is to be neighborhood missionaries. The first steps are easy, like getting to know our neighbors by hosting a driveway block party. We can be missionaries right in our own neighborhoods, with a little intentionality, a good bar-b-que sauce, some lawn chairs, and maybe a six-pack. The only knocking on doors we do is to invite others to the party. Along the way friendships are started and deepened. As life happens, the Spirit opens relational doors for God-questions. And then God uses us as his missionaries right in our own neighborhoods.

This is the third year that Greg and Susan are traveling around the Southern District, helping people join Jesus on his mission right in their own neighborhoods. If you'd like them to come to your congregation or one in your area, please contact Mission and Ministry Facilitator Eric Johnson at phone number 985-445-9339 or email him at e.johnson@southernlcms.org.

Here's what's next on the schedule:

- Fri., April 11, 6:00 to 9:00pm St. Paul - Decatur, AL Going Deeper - Intermediate Training
- Sat., April 12, 9:00am to 12noon St. Paul - Cullman, AL Diving In - Initial Training

Call or email to pre-register ASAP to aid our planning. Thanks!

FORUMS ON REVITALIZATION & TRANSFORMATION OFFERED

Monthly forums on revitalization and transformation are being hosted at two sites:

- **New Orleans Area** (4th Tuesday of each month; 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.)
- **Northshore/MS Gulf Coast** (4th Thursday of each month; 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.)

These forums are designed for pastor and leaders. Congregations are invited to bring a team as each Forum is an introduction to dimensions of revitalization/transformation. There is no fee for participation in the Forum.

For more information on revitalization/transformation on any of the above, contact Gene Menzel at **504-495-7436** or by e-mail at gwmenz@aol.com I am privileged to serve as the contractor to the Southern District for services in the area of revitalization/transformation.

YOUTH ALERT. . .



**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

HOW UNITED ARE WE AS CHRISTIANS?

THE APOSTLE PAUL tells us that our unity expands far beyond the walls of our churches. We may be a group of individuals gathered together, but our one triune God unites us with those from all parts of the globe and makes us His one body.

IN THIS UNITY we share *one hope* through *one faith* that comes to us in our *one baptism*. God doesn't expect any of us to fly solo, He gathers us to believe, work, and live in a unity that is manifested in His Son, Christ Jesus.

one hope one faith one baptism

MUSIC PROVIDED BY
Tangled Blue <http://tangledblue.com/>
SPEAKER
Travis Hartjen

REGISTRATION OPENS: May 1, 2014

Early Bird Registration = \$170 / Regular Registration = \$180

REGISTRATION CLOSES: June 25, 2014

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The Council for Lutheran Youth Fellowship Representatives recently met in St. Louis. The Southern District was well represented at this event. Attendees were trained to present to your youth "Building Bridges," encouraging youth to be leaders for intergenerational events and service projects. The Southern District Youth Committee is planning to set up at least two such events.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO INTRODUCE THESE REPS TO YOUR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS; OR, INCLUDE THEM ON A RETREAT/LOCK-IN? IF SO, CONTACT DCE AMANDA BRADLEY OF GRACE LUTHERAN - PENSACOLA at gracedce@bellsouth.net

Those attending the St. Louis meeting were: **Katie Krause** from Grace Lutheran in Pensacola. Katie also serves on the Executive LYF Board. **Brooke Hodges** and **Claire Dixon** from Our Redeemer Lutheran in Clinton, MS; **Damien Boldt** from St. Paul Lutheran in Hammond, LA; **Kalli Paruka** from Good Shepherd - Panama City, FL; and, **Michael Thalheim** from Grace - Houma, LA.

The Southern District Youth Committee **NEEDS THE CONTACT INFORMATION** for your congregation's youth leaders. **THEY WANT TO CONNECT** to be able to share information as it becomes available for events and resources.

Please send names and email addresses to DCE Cindy Namanny. dce@orlcms.org

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETS WITH PRESIDENT HARRISON



Pictured at left standing behind Synod President Matthew Harrison is (left-right) **Rev. Warren Lattimore** (St. Paul's - New Orleans), **Rev. Aubrey Watson** (Holy Cross - New Orleans) and **Rev. Jerome Terry** (Bethel - New Orleans).

They were elected to the Executive Board for the Black Clergy Caucus of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod at its annual January meeting. This election took place in St. Louis January 27-30.

The Black Clergy Caucus of the Lutheran Church, INC. is an organization of ordained black clergy striving to empower the African American Lutheran Church members to minister in the following areas: Evangelism, Ministerial Support, Education, Economic Development, Political Involvement and Awareness, Youth Development, Fellowship and Recruitment.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL and MAY GOD GUIDE YOUR WORK!

+ IN MEMORIAM +

Commissioned Minister - Educator

✠ Robert Maynard Carpenter ✠
August 17, 1936 - March 19, 2014

Robert leaves to cherish his memory his wife of 54 years, Beth; his daughter, Rachel (Ray); his son, Keith (Jocelyn); and, their families which includes six grandchildren: Chloe, Raymond, and Chester Harney; Grace, Faith and John Carpenter.

Graduated: Concordia - River Forest, Illinois, 1959

Congregations Served:

Our Savior - Lake Worth, Florida (1959-1961)

St. John's - Plymouth, Wisconsin (1961-1980)

Lutheran High School North - Mt. Clemens, Michigan (1980-1993)

Salem - Gretna, Louisiana (1993-1996)

Funeral: Zion Lutheran Church - New Orleans, LA

Officiant: Rev. Warren Ruland, Pastor of Zion

Mr. Robert Carpenter faithfully served the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod throughout his life; and, in various ministries: as an educator, organist, choir director, and principal. He was strongly committed to Lutheran education at all levels, and tenured on the Board of Control at Concordia University, Chicago.

In the middle of our sadness, we hold on to the promise of Jesus, "I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die." John 11:25-26

BEREAVEMENTS

Rev. Bradley and **Mrs. Lynn Drew** (**Mt. Olive - Metairie, LA**) on the passing of Pastor Drew's mother.

Rev. Collis and **Mrs. Marie Parham** (**Epiphany - New Orleans, LA**) on the passing of Pastor Collis's mother, Mrs. Willie B. Parham.

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES



5 years. . .Rev. Dr. Carl Beckwith. . .April 26, 2009

5 years. . .Rev. M. Raymond "Ray" Angerman. . .April 26, 2009

25 years. . .Rev. David L. Goodine. . .May 21, 1989

Rev. Gary and **Mrs. Pattie Faith** are heading down south. . . .way down south. . . .to Key West, Florida! Gary accepted the call to Grace Lutheran Church there. He is a former educator with a degree from (then) Concordia Teachers College in River Forest, IL (now Concordia University, Chicago). He was ordained in August of 1986 at **Trinity Lutheran** in **Gadsden, AL**. While at Trinity, the congregation planted a church -**Prince of Peace** in **Fort Payne, AL**. After 17 years at Trinity in 2003, Gary accepted the call to the Southern District as Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries. Three years later he accepted the call to **The Lutheran Church of the Pines** in **Waveland, MS**. He served this congregation as a deployed staff person of the Southern District. Pastor Faith oversaw the Southern District Mission Committee and was the pivotal force in developing their missional direction.

I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. Philippians 1:3-6

MINISTRY CHANGES BUT GOD REMAINS THE SAME

On March 3rd, **Rev. John Karle** washed the feet of Southern District President, **Rev. Kurtis D. Schultz**, **Rev. Dr. McNair "Tony" Ramsey** and several members of **St. John Lutheran Church** in **Hattiesburg, MS**. Pastor Karle did this after he asked their permission, removed their shoes and socks and kissed their feet. Mr. Dewey Case, the president of St. John Lutheran, later said that it was a very tender and, at the same time, powerful scene.



When the foot washing was finished, the worship service began in which Pastor Karle was installed by Southern District President, Rev. Kurtis D. Schultz, as pastor of St. John. The Rev. Dr. McNair "Tony" Ramsey preached. Attendees were asked to bring socks which were donated to the local homeless shelter. Pastor Karle's previous congregation was Christ the King Lutheran in Natchitoches where he served for eighteen years. Pastor Karle is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Southern District and an advisory member of the District's Mission Committee.



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On
March
9th,
**Rev.
David**

McIntyre returned to his first call in which he was placed in 1979, **Zion Lutheran Church** in **Clinton, Louisiana**. The congregation celebrated his return and look forward to reestablishing previous relationships and generating new ones. Pastor McIntyre is a former member of the Mid-South District. His former parishes sent him across the country. He served in Arkansas, Oregon, Indiana and Kentucky. He retired in 2008 and reenters active ministry as the called pastor of Zion. He and Marilyn, his wife, have two grown daughters.

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Rev. Mark Steiner was installed on March 23rd at **Our Savior - Columbus, MS**. "It was indeed a happy occasion for us!" reports one of the congregation's members. It was well attended and fellowship was enjoyed over dinner, which followed the service. Former members from Trinity - Meridian, MS (the Florreichs) and St. Luke - Starkville, MS (the Essigs) joined in celebrating this new chapter in the history of Our Savior. Rev. Steiner previously served Holy Trinity - Gulfport, MS.

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James Garnett, Deferred Vicar from Concordia Seminary, began his service at **Good Shepherd Lutheran** in **Biloxi, MS**, on March 2nd. Vicar Garnett's birthplace is Jacksonville, Arkansas. His wife, Ellen, is a Certified Public Accountant. Prior to enrolling in the seminary, Vicar Garnett was a Postmaster with the U.S. Postal Service with fourteen years of employment. During his employment with the postal service, Vicar

James served in various church-related areas i.e. Certified Deacon, Stephen Leader and Minister, Elder, Church Council and Sunday School Teacher. His wife, Ellen, is a Certified Public Accountant. Both Ellen and James like to hike and camp. They have two grown daughters.

TALK OF THE TOWN

Ascension - Huntsville, AL congregation purchased a new organ replacing their 30-35 year old one. "It isn't a pipe organ but one of the best in electronic contemporary technology," shared their long-time pastor, Pastor Bernie Ansorge. Rev. Ansorge, a musician himself, is so grateful to have this instrument upgrade.

LivingWater - Mexico Beach, FL recently had 33-39 in attendance under the guidance of **SMP Vicar David Giesecking**.

Immanuel - Attalla, AL embraced nine new members. Lay member **Myron Allenstein** shared, ". . . seven of them were baptized including a wonderful Black family of five. The three children began coming to Wednesday night meal and classes and they brought the parents about six months later. The father told the congregation that his joining the church and being baptized was an answer to his mother's dying prayer of eighteen years ago. A mother's prayer can be very powerful."

REVITALIZATION / TRANSFORMATION THROUGH THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Each congregation is at an unique point in the church's life cycle. An encouraging word that no matter what that point is in the life cycle, your congregation can live out mission and ministry in a confident spirit of hope for the future. An exercise sheet completed by leadership and members can help to identify the perception of the point in the life cycle.

It is important that the congregation thrive on its vision for the future and positive relationships that exist in the congregation. Having a clear mission of making disciples, congregations are encouraged to develop two perspectives. The first --- a description of the current reality of the congregation focusing on the mission and what is valued. The second --- is a picture of the future - 2014 and beyond. The future needs to focus on where God is leading the congregation - sometimes God is even pulling the congregation in a certain direction. The future vision can highlight what is valued and the leadership can build a simple plan for accountability. It is important to communicate that we are a congregation on God's mission in our community and throughout the world.

It has been said, "*Planning without action is futile, action without planning is fatal.*" It's time for the Church to be engaged in action! So what are your congregation's current plans for the future? It's not about the manuals and the plans that stayed on shelves. It is working a plan with a coach/mentor to walk alongside to keep the action going. Is your congregation in need of a custom plan for the future through revitalization/transformation? If so, I would be happy to assist and offer possibilities as the contractor for revitalization and transformation in the Southern District.

Gene Menzel

2014 PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENTS

THIRTEEN MORE RECEIVED IN THE LAST MONTH KEEP 'EM COMIN'

- **Has your congregation submitted their 2014 Partnership Commitment to the Southern District Mission Center? Please check because THIS JUST CAN'T BE RIGHT! Thirty-nine, that's 39, of the 170 congregations who hold membership in the Southern District is the number of Partnership Commitments received in the district's business office. That's 22%.**
- **So, please check with your treasurer and/or other leadership to see if they attended to this task.**
- **These forms assure the accuracy of the district's records and brings attention to any discrepancies in gifts.**

**This important form can be found on our web site ---
www.southernlcms.org. **CLICK here.****

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 3/15	\$ 183,333	\$ 183,333	\$ 183,333
Actual Income through 3/15	\$ 184,277	\$ 174,998	\$ 159,113

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), waits for a treatment plan

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

- Mrs. Dorie Doroh, wife of Rev. David Doroh (Emeritus - Florence, AL), underwent knee replacement surgery and is now recovering through physical therapy.
- Rev. Jesus Gonzales - Monte de los Olivos - Metairie, LA
- Commissioned Minister Ray Hauer - Huntsville, AL
- Rev. Rory Hermann (Good Shepherd - Gulf Breeze, FL)
- Rev. David Moerbe (Good Shepherd - Gardendale, AL)
- Rev. Vic Moritz (Emeritus - Metairie, LA)

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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
Prince of Peace - Ozark
University - Tuscaloosa

FLORIDA

Christ Our Savior - Panama City Beach
Grace - Pensacola

LOUISIANA

Holy Trinity - Covington
Atonement - Metairie
Christ the King - Natchitoches
Lamb of God - Slidell
Trinity - Sulphur

MISSISSIPPI

Our Redeemer - Clinton
CrossRoad - Hernando
Beautiful Savior - Olive Branch

The President's Office expects the following congregation to request a Call List:
Jehovah - Pensacola, FL.

Deferred Vicar James Garnett received interim approval from the COP and was

placed at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Biloxi, MS.

CALLS - ORDAINED - ACCEPTED

- **Gary Faith**, Luth. Ch. of the Pines - Waveland, MS and Southern District Executive to Grace - Key West, FL

VICARAGES DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FROM

- **St. Mark's Lutheran Church - Elberta, AL**
- **Luth. Ch. of Vestavia Hills - Vestavia Hills, AL**
- **Immanuel Lutheran Church - Pensacola, FL**
- **Christ Lutheran Church - Jackson, MS**

CALL DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FROM

- **Redeemer - Fairhope, AL for an Assistant Pastor**
- **Messiah - Prattville, AL for SMP Vicar Jeffrey A. Hesterman**
- **Christ the King - Natchitoches, LA**

THE GIFT OF GENEROSITY

As we prayerfully anticipate our walk with Jesus to the Cross of Calvary, we look forward to each and every person who will walk side-by-side with us.



In 2013 many supported the Southern District with their time, talent and financial contributions. The shadow of the cross brightens because of you.

We look forward to your continued support. 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 Janice Howard at the Southern District office for more information j.howard@southernlcms.org.

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