



This Ministry That We Share

*Southern District - LCMS
July-August 2014*



WET FEET FAITH

But immediately He spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear." And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." He said, "Come." So, Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus.

Matthew 14:27, 29



For many years I have read the story of Jesus walking on the water and seen Peter's lack of faith as some kind of sad but understandable weakness. This time when I read the story, I saw something different: I saw Peter take a courageous first step! While all those in the boat would eventually worship Jesus, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God," only Peter's faith had "feet," trusting that Jesus was Lord of heaven, earth, and also the sea.

Which of us, like Peter, would have climbed over the side of the boat, lowered ourselves to the water, and carefully put our feet down on a heaving sea to risk that first step? How can we gain the kind of faith, imperfect though it was, that Peter displayed? Perhaps a closer examination of this story can help us.

{ First, scripture records that Peter was the only one who, upon hearing Jesus' voice, answered Him that night. First of all Peter heard the voice of Jesus' calling to be able to respond. We can only display this kind of faith, if we are hearing Jesus call to us in His word.

{ Second, Peter asked Jesus to strengthen his faith. Peter asked, "Lord if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." His answer was, "Come." Jesus will give us the strength of faith we need to heed His Call.

{ Third, Peter trusted Jesus. Peter's experience of Jesus' faithfulness enabled him to trust the Lord in this new circumstance. In trust he obeyed. It is only God's gracious, loving, eternal, faithfulness to us that enables our trusting obedience.

{ Last, when in his weakness, fear overcame him and he began to sink, he called out to Jesus for help and he was saved. It is not the strength of our faith that saves us. We are saved when we call out in helpless weakness to Jesus, the only one who can save us.

Peter was a simple fisherman with an extraordinary God given faith. Like Peter, we will, in every circumstance, find Jesus to be faithful to His word.

We pray: Lord, grant us the grace to listen for Your voice, the courage to ask in faith believing, the faith to trust in Your goodness, and the knowledge of Your presence in our every need. Amen.

Pastor

Schultz

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOU

~click on either event for more information~

Professional Church Workers Conference

September 15-17, 2014 at Emerald Grand Resort
at Harbor Walk Village in Destin, FL

~ ~ ~

Southern District 74th Convention



June 4-5, 2015 at Concordia College,
Alabama in Selma, Alabama

	ADDITIONAL DATES FOR 2014	
August 17	Installation of Rev. Thomas Lampella	CrossRoad - Hernando, MS
August 18	Mission Committee	St. John - Hattiesburg, MS
August 19	FEMA WEBINAR on Emergency Preparedness for Houses of Worship	2:00 p.m. (CDT) https://icpd.adobeconnect.com/faithtoolsa/event/registration.html

September 1	Labor Day	The Mission Center is closed.
September 14	Rev. Dr. McNair "Tony" Ramsey Retirement Celebration	Immanuel - Vredenburgh, AL 3 p.m.
September 19	Southern District Board of Directors	The Mission Center Slidell, LA
September 28	Rosa J. Young Memorial Celebration	Christ Lutheran Church Rosa, AL
November 7-9	Junior High Youth Gathering	Blue Lake Camp Andalusia, Alabama
November 14-16	Junior High Youth Gathering	Tall Timbers Camp Forest Hill, Louisiana
November 23-26	So. Dist. Annual Commissioned Ministers Conference	Atonement Lutheran Church Metairie, LA
November 27	Thanksgiving	The Mission Center is closed.



Classes began Monday, August 11th.

Homecoming is celebrated on October 11th.

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

Mission Statement:

Concordia College prepares students through Christ-centered education for lives of responsible service to the Church, community, and world.

FILMING AT THE ROSA J. YOUNG MEMORIAL CELEBRATION



Synod's Department of Communications with Mrs. Susan Hill and Mrs. Kaye Wolff will be filming scripts for the Rosa J. Young film **"THE FIRST ROSA"** in the area. Rosa J. Young (1890-1971) is known as the mother of Black Lutheranism in central Alabama and was a strong advocate for education for rural children. The film project is based on the book: Light in The Dark Belt written by Dr. Young. The annual Memorial Celebration is held at Christ Lutheran Church in Rosebud. [Click on this link](#) and read the history of Dr. Young written by our own **Rev. Thomas R. Noon** of Birmingham, AL.



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

Ecclesiastes 3 points out that for everything there is a season! Congregations today are in a new season to carry out mission and ministry in a postmodern culture. We know congregations are working diligently but often still coping with plateau or even decline. Developing efficient and effective strategies along with a clear mission and vision calls for guided and disciplined study. Seasons of Discovery includes specific training focused around four seasons: Preparation, Vision, Empowerment, and Outreach.

Ecclesiastes 3 in verses 9-13 goes on to say, "What gain has the worker from his toil? I have seen the business that God has given to the children of man to be busy with. He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, He has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live; also that everyone should eat and drink and take pleasure in all his toil-this is God's gift to man."

*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 structured process that is clearly outlined for pastor and leaders to implement. Also, a TCN coach walks with the congregation for accountability and follow-through. For additional information about Seasons of Discovery, contact Gene Menzel at 504-495-7436 or by e-mail at gwmenz@aol.com*

SENIOR YOUTH GATHERING REPORTING IN



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

The Southern District Youth Committee thanks Camp Restore for hosting ONE-United in Christ, the 2014 Senior Youth Gathering. Pastor Travis Hartjen and the music group Tangled Blue, led the participants in Bible study, prayer and worship. The staff of CampRestore and

volunteers from our district led breakout sessions each day, for youth and adult leaders. Some comments from participants were: "I loved being here and learning more about God." "The experience was amazing." "Can't wait for the next gathering."

Thank you Southern District for supporting our youth. We are ONE in Christ with believers, there is no age requirement. Together worship, serve and be a witness for our God.

Next summer we will have our second Southern District Mission Trip which provides opportunities for small churches to join a group to serve. Location and dates will be determined soon! Watch the Southern district website for updates.

DCE Cindy Namanny
Our Redeemer - Clinton, MS
Youth Committee Chair

RETIREMENT: REV. DR. WARREN H. DAVIS RETIRES

The members of **Jehovah Lutheran Church** in **Pensacola, FL**, continued their retirement celebrations for **Pastor Warren H. Davis** . . .

What a time was had by all remembering his ministry.

Pastor Davis exemplified the qualities of a good shepherd... because he showed compassion to all people regardless of their stations in life; he visited the sick and bereaved both day and night; he made wise decisions for the general welfare of the church; he gave helpful counseling sessions when requested; he delivered informative and inspirational messages on Sundays as well as for special events during week; and, he attended Circuit, District, and Synodical conferences which benefitted the church. While doing all these things, he had time for his family.

Sylvia Abney Lewis and Ida Henderson



Well, really what more can be said about the weaving of pastor and people into a God pleasing ministry.

On June 8, 2014, **Reverend Dr. Arlyn L. Sturtz**, retired from his active ministry with his last sermon, "His Love Does It All." According to Bill Kringel, Council President, this sermon really summarizes Pastor's ministry, which was the message of our Lord's love for us.

Although his ministry spans some 40 years, Pastor Sturtz has served **Grace Lutheran Church** in **Mobile, Alabama** faithfully for 16 years.

After **Reverend Marvin Mueller** conducted the *Rite of Farewell and Godspeed*, Pastor Sturtz addressed his congregation and expressed his gratitude for their support of his ministry.

Pastor Sturtz then asked the congregation to join him in singing "Oh, When the Saints Go Marching In." Although the tune was initially played solemnly, a trumpet could be heard in the background and the melody changed to a Mardi Gras tune. It was a fitting ending to a marvelous service to our Lord. Grace Lutheran Church is so grateful for the 16 years of

service of Pastor Sturtz to our congregation.

Mr. Bill Kringel, Grace Lutheran Church



ANOTHER PASTOR RETIRES ...

On September 14th at 3:00 p.m. **Rev. Dr. McNair "Tony" Ramsey** will retire from his ministry at **Immanuel Lutheran Church** in **Vredenburgh, AL**. But, knowing Tony, he will not retire from ministry! **Rev. Aubrey Watson** of **Holy Cross Lutheran** in **New Orleans** will preach and **Rev. Dr. James P. Brown** (**Emeritus - Pensacola, FL**) will serve as the Liturgist. Other pastors will assist as readers and prayer leaders. A dinner will follow the celebratory service.

Pastor Ramsey will have served Immanuel for 32 years; nineteen of those years as a Certified Lay Deacon, thirteen years as an ordained Pastor. All Pastors are asked to bring their robes and red stoles.

We welcome into our Southern District family. . .

Rev. Phillip Pfifer was installed at **Grace Lutheran** in **Pensacola, FL**, on August 3rd. He previously served in the Indiana and Texas Districts, most recently at Zion in Decatur, IN. He is currently working on DMin at Concordia Seminary - St. Louis. Jennifer, his wife, is a rostered LCMS Commissioned Minister-Teacher. They have four children: Rebekah, Mary, Austin and Tristan. He and his family enjoy camping and back country hiking.

Rev. Timothy Sowers was installed at **Christ Our Savior** in **Panama City Beach, FL**, on August 3rd. He has been a member of the Southern District since 1987. He served Eternal Trinity in Milton, FL (1988-91). He is returning to parish ministry after serving as an U. S. Army Military Chaplain in the U. S., Europe and Asia. Kim is a Lutheran Elementary Teacher. They have one daughter, Christy. During his military career he organized weekly orphanage programs in Korea and supported schools in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Rev. Thomas Lampella will be installed at **CrossRoad** in **Hernando, MS**, on August 17th. He previously served congregations in the Missouri, Ohio and California-Hawaii-Nevada Districts. He has one daughter, Elise. A graduate of Concordia - Ann Arbor and Concordia - St. Louis, he will be traveling from Ohio to the sunny south. He enjoys photography and railroad modeling as

well as walking, hiking, and climbing.

Ms. Muriel Budzeyko recently accepted a position at the Southern District office. She is part of what now is a three-person-team in the President's Office. Muriel is a retired teacher and a member of **Lamb of God Lutheran Church** in **Slidell, LA**. She will be working with the forms for those who change their roster status, applications for Alternate Routes to Ordination and will be the "point person" for Commissioned Ministers. In addition to Muriel, the three-person-team in the President's office includes Sabine Laird, Marion Kennedy.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

In response to a trend toward the direction of a state-by-state incremental assault on the church's values in the area of life issues, LCMS Districts were asked to appoint a District Life Coordinator. **Rev. Louis Boldt** of **St. Paul Lutheran Church** in **Hammond, LA**, has graciously agreed to serve the Southern District in that capacity. Pastor Boldt will be our "point person" for life issues. Primarily, he will serve as an avenue for networking on life issues between districts, synod and district called workers.

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

celebrating the ministry of pastor and people.

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

175th ~ St. Paul Lutheran Church in New Orleans, LA - **2015**

Rev. Kevin Kieschnick, Pastor

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

celebrating the Divine Call

to the ministry of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod.

~listed by anniversary date~



JULY

40 years. . .Rev. Arlyn Sturtz. . .July 7, 1974
(This was previously omitted in error.)

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 Mendedo. . .August 29, 2004

APPRECIATION IS A GIFT. . .

- On August 3rd the members of **Unity Lutheran Church** in **Birmingham, Alabama**, celebrated their ministry with their Pastor, **Rev. Perry McCullam**.
- On September 21st the members of **Bethel Lutheran Church** in **Point Clear, Alabama**, will rejoice in celebration of their Pastor, **Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall, Jr.** and his thirty years in the ministry. "It is indeed a milestone, for him to have journeyed with a determined spirit to be a pillar within our church and the Point Clear community."

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 7/15	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000	\$ 550,000
Actual Income through 7/15	\$ 536,350	\$ 490,702	\$ 480,576

news around town

St. Paul Lutheran Church in **Birmingham, Alabama**, now offers food assistance in the Titusville and UAB communities of Birmingham. As of July 21st St. Paul Lutheran opened a fully stocked Food Pantry. The congregation partnered with the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama, with area Lutheran churches and with other local businesses. "We know that there are many just in our own back yard who suffer from malnutrition. We can now do something about it." - **Rev. R. Daniel Carlson**, Senior Pastor of St. Paul. "Not only is this a great service for those who struggle with hunger, but it is also a service to UAB students who need personal care products, detergents, extra food, and other necessities while in college."

University Lutheran Church in **Tuscaloosa, Alabama**, is jumpstarting the new school year at UAB by advertising themselves as "Your Lutheran Connection on Campus." Posters and postcards were prepared to invite any student for fellowship. August 17th is designated as their *Welcome Sunday* followed by a *Student Kickoff Supper* on August 20th. The congregation will host a *Student Supper* every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. (You can never go wrong offering food to college students!) **Marie Parsons**, a member of University Lutheran, is the driving force in recognizing the mission field of a campus and "thinking outside the box" in developing relationships. **Rev. Charles Pieplow** is serving University as their Interim Pastor.

REALLY, WHAT'S ONE MORE FORM???

OR TWO OR THREE. . .

Forms soon to be mailed from Synod's Office of Rosters and Statics to you to be completed are the following:

School Lutheran Annual Form (8/12) ... School Statistical Form (9/1)
Congregation Youth Form (8/13) ...

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.

.....the family of **† Debra A. Bleeke†**, 52, of Pensacola, who was taken peacefully to her heavenly home on July 20th to be with her Lord and her beloved parents, Ralph and Margaret Bleeke. Debra was a member of the Redeemer Lutheran School staff for eighteen years. She had a very special gift with children and was passionate about teaching them in a Christian setting. The Bleeke family name is well known in the Southern District. Both of Debra's parents were Commissioned Ministers who served in the Southern District for a considerable number of years.

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. Doris Taglauer, wife of Rev. Jim Taglauer (Emeritus - Folsom, LA) diagnosed
- 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) recently 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.
- Rev. Vic Moritz (Emeritus - Metairie, LA)
- Mrs. Cheryl Pitts (Editor, *Spirit of Southern*) underwent hip replacement surgery August 6th.

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

Jehovah - Pensacola

LOUISIANA

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

MISSISSIPPI

Beautiful Savior - Olive Branch

CALLS - ORDAINED - ACCEPTED

- Rev. Shane McCoy of Christ - Albertville, AL, to Trinity - Sulphur, LA
- Rev. Eric Moeller, Concordia College Alabama - Selma, AL to Grace - Storm Lake, IA
- Rev. Timothy Sowers, Military Chaplain at Redstone Arsenal - Huntsville, AL to Christ Our Savior - Panama City Beach, FL

CALLS - ORDAINED - DECLINED

- Rev. Shane McCoy of Christ - Albertville, AL, to First - Birmingham, AL; Our Redeemer - Florence, AL; and, to Grace - Mobile, AL;

CALLS - COMMISSIONED - DECLINED

- Olivia Jablinski, Concordia University Texas to The Village Church-Lutheran, Lacombe, LA

LOOKING FOR BARGAINS? LOOK NO MORE! CPH SALE!

CPH's Annual Warehouse Sale CPH is now online! It will take place November 3-10, 2014. Customers will be able to access the sale by visiting cph.org.

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

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