



This Ministry That We Share

*Southern District - LCMS
April - May 2014*



A PSALM FOR ALL SEASONS

[Jesus said,] "I am the good shepherd." (John 10:11a)

This month's Scripture readings continue to echo the great themes of Jesus' Passion, as God's people continue their pilgrimage from the feast of Easter to the outpouring of God's Spirit at Pentecost. What a joyous time of the year, as the church continues to celebrate Christ's victory over sin and death! This psalm is the focus of our thoughts today.



The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. What a grand introduction to all that follows! Because Jesus is our shepherd, we have at this moment, and will have for the rest of our days, everything we will need. There are times when we should stop and rest with him, but will not want to. At such periods, He will, in effect, make us to lie down in green pastures. When we do recognize our need for quiet and rest, His promise is that He will lead us beside the still waters. At other times we undergo deep emotional hurts, injuries to our very selves. While such wounds may be beyond the reach of psychotherapy and counseling, there is one who can heal us: He restoreth my soul.

In a world of conflicting direction about the right path to take, Jesus has promised His Spirit, who will lead us into all truth (John 16:13). He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Some claim they are unable to hear God. It has been the experience of many that a willingness to do whatever He wants enables them to discern His leading.

Suffering and periods of darkness are a part of every life. We have His promise: Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me. "Jesus is there with me." At the darkest time of my life this verse proved true. I found the Lord in a person-to-person relationship that has

now grown only deeper. I know nothing now can separate me from Him.

Protected from enemies by His rod and guided by His staff, surely our heads are anointed and our cups overflowing. His goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. Or, as another translation promises, His house will be our home forever.

Shepherd of our souls, guide us safely through the joys and trials of this life, until we are gathered to you in the safety of our home on high. Amen.



Pastor Schultz

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - 2014



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
May 10	Concordia College, Alabama Commencement	Selma, AL
May 17	Mobile Bay Circuit Convocation	Trinity - Mobile, AL 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
June 6	So Dist. Board of Directors	The Mission Center Slidell, LA
June 8	Installation Joshua Leigeber	Trinity Lutheran Church Leesville, LA
June 22	Refugee Sunday www.lirs.org/refugeesunday062214	Your congregation
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
	Junior High Youth Gathering	Tall Timbers Camp Louisiana

Nov. 14-16		
Nov. 23-26	So. Dist. Annual Commissioned Ministers Conference	Atonement Metairie, LA



The 2014 Commencement Ceremony of Concordia College, Alabama is scheduled for May 10. The Rev. John A. Nunes, Jochum Professor and Chair at Valparaiso University in Indiana will be featured.

Congratulations graduates!

STAY STRONG. . .by

- **NOURISHING** YOUR FAITH BY GOD'S WORD AND SACRAMENT
- **CONNECTING** WITH OTHER LUTHERANS
- **LEARNING** FROM OTHER CONGREGATIONS

Here is an opportunity for just that. . .Nourishment, Connections and Lessons.

The 2014 Mobile Bay Circuit Convocation is scheduled for Saturday, May 17, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be held at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mobile, AL. The cost is just \$5; lunch will be catered by Honey Baked Ham Co.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER. . .DR. GENE E. VEITH

Gene Edward Veith Jr., is the Culture Editor of WORLD MAGAZINE. He was formerly Professor of English at Concordia University Wisconsin, where he also served as Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences. He is the author of numerous books, including *Postmodern Times: A Christian Guide to Contemporary Thought and Culture*; *The Spirituality of the Cross: The Way of the First Evangelicals*; and, *God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in ALL of Life*.

You are asked to RSVP by Monday, May 12, to Rev. David Tilney at 251-626-7500 or dmtilney@hotmail.com.

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**

REGISTRATION OPENS: May 1, 2014

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

NOTE: The registration fee covers both lodging and food.

REGISTRATION CLOSSES: June 25, 2014

"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

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

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

MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES

celebrating the ministry of pastor and people.

50th ~ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Mobile, AL - May 3, Banquet; May 4 celebratory Divine Service at 3:00 p.m. with a reception to follow. Rev. Adam Lehman, pastor.

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.



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

JUNE

35 years. . .Rev. Kurtis D. Schultz. . .June 3, 1979

5 years. . .Rev. T. Thomas Lackey. . .June 7, 2009

5 years. . .Rev. Dr. Edward K. Rosser. . .June 7, 2009

50 years. . .Rev. Norman L. Schulz. . .June 7, 1964

45 years. . .Rev. Robert G. Rupp. . .June 8, 1969

40 years. . .Rev. William J. Meyer. . .June 9, 1974

45 years. . .Rev. David R. McIntyre. . .June 10, 1979

25 years. . .Rev. Dr. Stephen Updegrave. . .June 11, 1989

CTS Recognizes Rev. Ulmer Marshall with Honorary Doctorate



CTS President Dr. Lawrence Rast, Jr. writes: "He (Rev. Ulmer Marshall) is a living, powerful example of one formed in Christ who teaches the faithful, reaches the lost, and cares for all."

And. . . .so. . . .on May 23rd during commencement exercises Pastor Ulmer Marshall will receive the Doctor of Divinity Honoris Causa.

"Ulmer" is the pastor of the Dual Parish of Trinity Lutheran Church in Mobile, AL and Bethel Lutheran Church in Point Clear, AL. In addition to his faithful ministry at these two congregations, he has served the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in many varied positions. These include Recruitment Committee, Commission on Worship, Board of Directors and Board for Black Ministry Services.

The Southern District has also benefitted from his service. Ulmer served on the District's Board of Directors as Second Vice-President, Evangelism Board, president of the District's Pastoral Conference and president of the Black Mission Task Force. AND, he was also a member of the Board of Regents at Concordia College Alabama and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, MO. WHEW!

CONGRATULATIONS REV. (soon-to-be Dr.) ULMER MARSHALL!

TO GOD BE THE GLORY! GREAT THINGS HE HAS DONE!

MISSION SUMMITS IN NORTHERN ALABAMA

On April 11 & 12 the Southern District along with host congregations St. Paul, Decatur and St. Paul, Cullman hosted two Mission Summits in Northern Alabama.

MISSION SUMMIT II was held at St. Paul, Decatur on Friday evening, April 11. Mission Summit II is for those people and congregations who have completed Mission Summit 1 and are practicing joining Jesus on His mission through missional communities. We had 35 people attend the Mission Summit II, representing 4 LCMS congregations: St. Paul, Decatur; Ascension, Huntsville; Christ Our Redeemer, Hartselle; and Faith, Madison.

MISSION SUMMIT 1 was held at St. Paul's, Cullman on Saturday morning, April 12. Mission Summit 1 is an introduction on how to easily and simply begin to join Jesus on His mission in the neighborhoods where we live, work, and worship. We had 34 people attend the Mission Summit I, representing 4 LCMS congregations: St. Paul's, Cullman;

Trinity, Hanceville; Unity, Birmingham; First, Birmingham; and St. Peter, Gadsden.

MISSION SUMMITS are an excellent resource for pastors, leaders and lay people who want to learn how to join Jesus on His mission to reach people in our communities.

- If you want to energize your congregation for outreach,
- if you want to reach your community,

but don't know quite how to do it in our changing world, then a Mission Summit is for you.

You can host a Mission Summit at your congregation, free of charge.

If you would like to host a Mission Summit at your congregation, email or call Eric Johnson, Dist. Mission & Ministry Facilitator for more information. You can reach Eric at e.johnson@southernlcms.org or call him at 985-796-7175.

TRANSFORMATION - THE EASTER WAY

What a joyous and grand day was Easter Sunday! We celebrated the new life of our Savior and Lord, Jesus! Jesus was alive and He was moving ahead of the disciples and others who sought Him. The Resurrection brought new life to His followers through His saving work!

How are things for your congregation? Is there a transformation going on where there is regular celebration of new life and where the congregation is touching others with the Gospel message? It is my prayer that your congregation throughout the year celebrates new life and is filled with energy and enthusiasm to touch lives with the Word. As Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us, we through Baptism are called to live lives that touch others with acts of love and kindness.

Does your congregation need help or assistance with transformation? Tools and processes are available that can help to make a significant difference but the congregation/leadership must be willing to invest intentional efforts to sharpen perspectives in being a "resurrected" congregation. The Southern District is a willing partner to walk alongside your congregation. Celebrate the new life of Jesus - no matter the age or size of your congregation! We have the greatest message to proclaim and I am confident that God wants to see the congregation's proactive engagement in sharing the Word and His love with others.

Let me know how we can help or assist! My e-mail is gwmenz@aol.com and my phone is 504-495-7436. It is an honor and privilege to serve among you! My services, for the most part, are available to congregations on a gratis basis.

Gene Menzel

Contractor for Southern District Congregation Revitalization/Transformation

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! Forty, that's 40, 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 23% or 1% higher.

- **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 4/15	\$ 275,000	\$ 275,000	\$ 275,000
Actual Income through 4/15	\$ 275,677	\$ 262,255	\$ 235,078



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)

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

- Rev. Paul Counts (Emeritus - Huntsville, AL) diagnosed with Parkinsons and Addisons Disease
- Rev. Jesus Gonzales - Monte de los Olivos - Metairie, LA
- Commissioned Minister Ray Hauer - Emeritus - Huntsville, AL
- Rev. Rory Hermann - Good Shepherd - Gulf Breeze, FL
- Rev. Dr. James Holowach (Christ - Jackson, MS) - surgery scheduled for herniated lumbar disk
- 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
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.

CALLS - ORDAINED - PENDING

Rev. Matthias Dinger, Rockwall - Texas to Trinity - Sulphur, LA

VICARAGES DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FROM

- **St. Mark's Lutheran Church - Elberta, AL**
- **Ascension Lutheran Church - Huntsville, AL**
- **Luth. Ch. of Vestavia Hills - Vestavia Hills, AL**
- **Immanuel Lutheran Church - Pensacola, FL**
- **Our Redeemer Lutheran Church - Clinton, MS**

- Christ Lutheran Church - Jackson, MS

CALL DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED FROM

- Redeemer - Fairhope, AL for an Assistant Pastor
- Prince of Peace - Ozark, AL
- Messiah - Prattville, AL for SMP Vicar Jeffrey A. Hesterman
- Christ the King - Natchitoches, LA
- Southern District Board of Directors for Missionary-at-Large

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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