



This Ministry That We Share

*Southern District - LCMS
May-June 2014*



GOD IS ABLE

*"He (Abraham) grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, fully convinced that God was able to do what He had promised."
(Romans 4:20-b21)*



Two thousand years after his death, Abraham was remembered as a man of faith, "fully convinced God was able to do what He had promised." It was not that he was perfect that he was remembered. In fact Genesis records that he was very human. For instance, when God told him to leave his family and travel to a far land, he disobeyed and took his nephew Lot. Later he paid the price for that decision. Yet his mistakes were not counted against him, and God was faithful to His promises in spite of Abraham's weaknesses.

The emphasis of the Scripture is on God's faithfulness. Their testimonies constitute the evidence and encouragement we need to build our faith. In spite of incredible odds, impossible situations, and physical impossibilities, God honored His promises to Abraham. He gave him the land, and made him a great nation, and he has become a blessing unto generations. God is God, and He is faithful.

God is not limited by natural law, nor by traditionally accepted religious law. The Pharisees are appalled that Jesus would deign to eat with tax collectors and sinners. No self-respecting rabbi would tarnish his reputation by socializing with the outcasts of society. Yet Jesus is being faithful to His promise made in Nazareth when He read from Isaiah in the synagogue that He would preach to the poor, proclaim release to the captives, and set at liberty those who are oppressed.

He went with the ruler to attend to his daughter even though the distraught father reported to Him that she was already dead. That father believed in a physical impossibility, and Jesus was faithful to that belief. It says in Matthew that the people laughed at Jesus. They must have thought the father was absolutely crazy. Think of the consequences if the

father had succumbed to public opinion and Jesus had been sensitive to ridicule from people.

Along the way a woman who had been ill for twelve years physically weak, emotionally drained, and spiritually discouraged reached out in faith, "fully convinced that He would do what he had promised," and touched His garment. Jesus sensed her presence, turned, spoke to her, and she was healed, body, soul, and spirit.

When discouragement strangles enthusiasm, and hopes are dashed by lack of faith, we need not tumble into the depths of despair. We have testimony, that God is faithful to His promises. He is faithful to His people, and we can exercise our faith in Him (though it might be the size of a mustard seed), and He will be there.

Prayer: Great is Thy Faithfulness O God my Father, There is no shadow of turning with Thee; Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not; As Thou has been Thou forever wilt be.

(Thomas O. Chisholm)

Pastor Schultz

MARK YOUR CALENDARS - 2014



June 6	So Dist. Board of Directors	The Mission Center Slidell, LA
June 8	Ordination & Installation SMP Candidate Jeffery Hesterman	Messiah Church Prattville, AL
June 8	Installation Pastor Joshua Leigeber	Trinity Lutheran Church Leesville, LA
June 8	Retirement Celebration Rev. Dr. Warren H. Davis	Jehovah Lutheran Church Pensacola, FL
June 14	Hinge Event REGISTER BY JUNE 9	St. Paul's Lutheran Church Cullman, AL
June 22	Ordination & Installation Candidate Andrew Lehman	Redeemer Lutheran Church Fairhope, AL
June 22	Refugee Sunday www.lirs.org/refugeesunday062214	Your congregation
June 29	Ordination & Installation Candidate Drew Rosse	Christ the King Lutheran Ch. Natchitoches, LA
June 29	Retirement Celebration Rev. Stephen Koenig	Our Redeemer Lutheran Church Clinton, MS
July 6	Ordination & Installation Candidate Daniel Nguyen	Prince of Peace Lutheran Ch. New Orleans, 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	Southern District 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



The 2014 New Student Orientations are scheduled as follows:

- **June 27 - 28 / Registration Deadline - June 6**
- **July 11 - 12 / Registration Deadline - June 27**

Do you know of someone *dreaming* of a college education, perhaps even *pursuing* a professional church worker career; or, perhaps you know someone *needing* encouragement to pursue a college education.

If so, direct them to Concordia's web site: www.ccal.edu.

2008 Concordia College, Alabama Graduate --- Graduates from Seminary!



Mr. Blaise Marin, a graduate of CCA, graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, on May 23rd. He was ordained on May 25th at the seminary. Rev. Marin will start his pastoral ministry at St. John's Lutheran Church in Moore, OK.

Here he is standing with **Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall** who gave the commencement address and received an honorary doctorate from the seminary.



Empowering God's People & Inspiring Worship

Southern District Hinge Training Event (Transforming Churches Network)

Saturday --- June 14, 2014

9:00 a.m. --- 3:00 p.m.

at

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Cullman, AL**

What is a Hinge Event? A Hinge Event is where people who are passionate about seeing the Kingdom of God grow in their community come together to experience how to:

- Release their creative genius as God's people
- Discover and grow in the 8 Hinge Factors for Church Transformation
- Connect with others in your circuit/region on the same journey
- Open new doors to their community

The **presenter for the June 14 Hinge Event** is **Rev. Dr. Terry Tieman**, executive director of Transforming Churches Network (TCN).

Registration Cost has been structured to encourage a congregation to bring a team of persons.

5 or more Participants: \$20/participant

Less than 5 participants: \$40/first person and \$20 for each additional participant

Checks are to be made payable to: **Southern District - LCMS**

Registration for the June 14 Hinge Event is open through June 9.

Registration cost includes materials, snacks, and lunch.

To register for the June 14 Hinge Event, contact Gene Menzel ([504-495-7436](tel:504-495-7436) or gwmenz@aol.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.

LCMS Youth Ministry has free resources and summer service opportunities for you and your youth.

For more information, visit www.lcms.org/youthcorps.

YOUTH ALERT. . .



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

REGISTRATION OPENED: May 1, 2014

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

NOTE: The registration fee covers both lodging and food.

REGISTRATION CLOSING: 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

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RESOURCES FOR YOUR CONGREGATION'S YOUTH PROGRAM

Southern District Lutheran Youth Fellowship Representatives are available to train and encourage youth to be leaders for intergenerational events and service projects. Would you like to introduce these Reps to your confirmation students and the youth of your congregation; or, include them on a retreat/lock-in? If so, contact DCE Amanda Bradley at gracedce@bellsouth.net.

HELP FOR THE HUNGRY --- FOOD FOR THOSE IN NEED

Messiah Church in **Prattville, Alabama**, applied and received a Neighbors in Need Grant from **Thrivent Financial**. The grant was for \$5,000 immediate funds with a matching grant opportunity for an additional \$5,000. These funds were designated for the congregation's work with the Autauga Interfaith Care Center and One Harvest Food ministries. "We were excited to hear we received the grant! This money will help with the purchase of food for those in need and to assist in promoting One Harvest to the community." This grant fits well with Messiah Church's overall mission to "Connect the Church with the Community."

Pastor Doug Davis
Messiah Church
Prattville, AL

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 ~ 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~

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

30 years. . .Rev. Dr. Jan C. Case. . .June 17, 1984

50 years. . .Rev. Orval D. Mueller. . .June 21, 1964

50 years. . .Rev. Larry E. Stier. . .June 21, 1964

25 years. . .Rev. Stephen S. Linck. . .June 25, 1989

25 years. . .Rev. Paul W. Kummer. . .June 25, 1989

20 years. . .Rev. Allan E. Hudspith. . .June 26, 1994

10 years. . .Rev. David M. Buss. . .June 27, 2004

10 years. . .Rev. Dr. James R. Holowach. . .June 27, 2004

CTS Recognizes Rev. Ulmer Marshall with Honorary Doctorate

On May 23rd during commencement exercises Pastor Ulmer Marshall received the Doctor of Divinity Honoris Causa.

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, reached the lost, and cares for all."

"Ulmer" is the pastor of the Dual Parish of Trinity Lutheran Church in Mobile, AL and Bethel Lutheran Church in Point Clear, AL.



Congratulations
Rev. Dr. Ulmer Marshall!



Rev. Marshall giving the
commencement address.



Rev. Marshall congratulated
upon receipt of his honorary
doctorate.

2014 PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENTS

**THERE MUST BE SOMETHING OUT OF SYNC WITH THIS
COMMUNICATION. LET ME KNOW WHAT YOU THINK. . . .**

- **Five more 2014 Partnership Commitments were received since the last newsletter. Our office has now received forty-five or 26%. **THAT'S ONLY ONE-QUARTER OF OUR DISTRICT'S CONGREGATIONS!****
- **IT IS TO THE BENEFIT OF YOUR CONGREGATION TO COMPLETE AND FILE THIS FORM WITH THE DISTRICT.**

**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 5/15	\$ 366,667	\$ 366,667	\$ 366,667
Actual Income through 5/15	\$ 368,279	\$ 329,898	\$ 315,145

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

GABRIEL LUKE BUSSMAN joined the family of **St. Paul's Lutheran Church** in **Cullman, AL** on May 1. His special transport was his mother Emily, aided by his father, Rev. John. Gabriel weighed in at 7.8 lbs, was 21 1/4" long and had a head full of black hair!

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BEREAVEMENTS

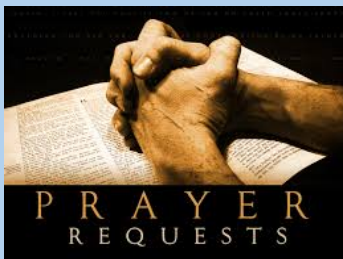
+Mrs. Melba Leigeber+,

mother of **Rev. Paul Leigeber** (**Shepherd of the Bay - Lillian, AL**) and grandmother of **Rev. Joshua Leigeber** (**Trinity - Leesville, LA**) received her Crown of Glory on May 22nd. She celebrated her 90th birthday three weeks before her death. "For 90 years she fought the good fight. Now she has finished the race. She kept the faith. Now she is at peace." (Pastor P. Leigeber)

+Mr. LeRoy Delafosse+,

long-time Southern District staff member who served many years ago received his Crown of Glory on May 29th. He lived for many years in California working with Lutheran Braille Workers; but, he recently returned to the Baton Rouge, LA, area. He was affectionately known as "Mr. CEF." A Memorial Service will be held at **Trinity Lutheran** in **Baton Rouge** on June 7th at 2:00 p.m. **Rev. David R. McIntyre** of **Zion Lutheran** in **Clinton** will officiate.

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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 Addison's 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) - was fortunate in that back surgery became an unnecessary option; and, he is doing much better.
- Mrs. Kathy Schamber (Baton Rouge Lutheran School first grade teacher) underwent total knee replacement May 21st. She is receiving in-home physical therapy.
- 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 - PENDING

- 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. Phillip Lee Phifer of Zion - Decatur, IN to Grace - Pensacola, FL

CALLS - COMMISSIONED - PENDING

- Levana Lee James of Pompano Beach, FL to Grace - Huntsville, IN 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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY: Administrative Assistant/Part-time Office Position
The Southern District, located in Slidell, is looking for a detailed oriented individual who can work in a professional setting as part of a team. The individual must have excellent interpersonal skills and excellent writing skills. The ability to communicate through social media is required. An undergraduate degree is preferred. Please send a brief resume with a cover letter to HR@southernlcms.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 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](http://SouthernLcms.org) 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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