

# The Spirit of Southern

Web Edition – May/June, 2008

## Rivers of Living Water

*“He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” John 7:38*



We are living in strange and wonderful times. In some parts of the church we see falling away from the Gospel truth and turning to *“the deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons.”* (1 Timothy 4:1) Yet in the midst of it, we witness a discovery or rediscovery of the reality of God through the power of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of God's people. *“Out of their hearts flow rivers of living water.”*

Before this miracle of living water begins to flow out of the heart, certain things must happen. Jesus mentions the first and foremost important one in this verse from St. John: *“He who believes in me.”* The Holy Spirit is always faithful to the Son of God. He bears witness to him, honors and glorifies him, and draws us to him. Any so called *spirit* that does not meet that qualification is not truly of God. *“Spirituality”* can be counterfeit. The mark of the Holy Spirit is his faithfulness to what God has accomplished in the birth, life, saving death, and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ.

But if we are to receive this marvelous gift Jesus promises, there must be a hunger and thirst within us. *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”* It is not just

*“being right”* Jesus is talking about, but that hunger and thirst for a right relationship with God that he is pointing to. That God-given hunger and thirst brings us to him in our neediness, emptiness, our helplessness, and opens us to divine filling. How many proud, *right* Christians have rejected the *streams of living water* because they did not recognize how much they need the blessing Jesus offers!

Pentecost is a reminder, not just of what happened to those dispirited disciples in the upper room, but a reminder that the promise is still valid, and the offer is still open. The church is under attack from many quarters today and was never in greater need of this inner stream of life. We as members of the church can be bearers of this living water, *“flowing out”* to others who are dirty, thirsty, and in need. When we are listening to the Word that Jesus is speaking to us, we are among those who are called to believe he is indeed Savior, King and Lord and to receive all that he has to give!

*Most loving and gracious Father, we do not understand the mystery of your willingness to abide in us by your Holy Spirit. We praise and thank you that your life giving Spirit dwells within, a source of hope and faith, a well spring of love and obedience. Increase in us more and more the reality of your life in us and bring to fulfillment your gracious purpose. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Rev. Kurtis D. Schultz, President, Southern District, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod



The Southern District  
**Ablaze!**



### Spreading the Word

A few weeks ago in my district travels, I stopped at a Starbucks® for coffee. The cashier was a friendly young lady. She noticed the **Ablaze!** emblem on my shirt and said, "What is **Ablaze!**?" You don't have to ask me that question twice to get an answer. I told her it was a movement in the Lutheran Church. It is our goal to tell 100,000,000 unchurched or dechurched people about Jesus by 2017.

She replied, "Wow! That's something, but I am a Lutheran and I've never heard of **Ablaze!**" I told her this movement was started by the Lutheran Church Missouri-Synod and suggested that she was probably a different "flavor" of Lutheran. She said, "No, my church is a Missouri Synod church."

Although she told me the name of her church it will go unmentioned. Another customer came in, so our conversation ended with me thanking her and encouraging her to ask her pastor about **Ablaze!**

I've thought and prayed about that conversation a lot. I tell folks about **Ablaze!** because I firmly believe that the Holy Spirit is at work in the movement changing lives through the proclamation of the Gospel.

It is the Gospel that changes lives. It is the Gospel through which the Spirit works and people are taken off the path to Hell and placed on the path to Heaven. Yes, **Ablaze!** is about you and me telling people that Jesus, in love, took our sins to Calvary and washed them all away. May that message fill you and all of our congregations to overflowing. And if no one is talking about **Ablaze!** at your congregation, I pray the Gospel will move you to ask the leadership, "Why aren't we involved in **Ablaze!**?" May the Holy Spirit guide your asking and the leadership's answering.

Joy in Him and His **Ablazing** Grace!

Rev. Gary J. Faith,  
Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries

### Kindling a Mission Spirit

It is time to refocus about the intentional efforts exerted to be in mission at all levels – personal, congregation, district, and synod. What a privilege to be involved in mission! Jesus appointed us part of His commission to **make disciples** by going, teaching, and baptizing. We have perhaps glossed over this priority as much focus resides on serving and caring for church members.

Synod in convention approved a major mission initiative known as **Ablaze!** There are a number of major components in the **Ablaze!** movement. Witnessing, revitalization/transformation of existing congregations, and the planting of new congregations are all part of this initiative. It does not take any funds to witness to the Gospel hope that is ours through faith in Jesus. However, there is a need for funding support to make the other components happen.

The Southern District is pleased to be involved in the **Fan into Flame** campaign this year. Six congregations are currently in a pilot process. It is our hope that each Southern District congregation will participate in the **Fan into Flame** campaign, slated to take place in congregations between September and Advent 2008. Has the word about **Ablaze!** and **Fan into Flame** been part of conversation at your congregation? We encourage mission advocacy at the congregation level. **Fan into Flame** speaks about mission and makes available funds to expand mission in the local community through your congregation.

How do I learn about **Ablaze!** and **Fan into Flame**? You are encouraged to go to [www.southernlcms.org](http://www.southernlcms.org) and read about it. You can also go to the Synod's website ([www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org)) and find much information. A **Fan into Flame** circuit coordinator has been appointed for each circuit in the district. The circuit coordinator can help your congregation. Also, we have a special liaison resource person appointed through LCMS World Mission to help us. Her name is Ashley Houghton. Ashley's e-mail is [Ashley.Houghton@lcms.org](mailto:Ashley.Houghton@lcms.org). Rev. Ted Richter of Trinity – Dothan, AL serves as chairperson of the **Fan into Flame** effort. He along with Southern District staff are fully committed to possibilities of how **Ablaze!** and **Fan into Flame** can change a congregation's culture to be intentionally outreach focused.

The goal suggested for congregations is to raise 10% of their annual giving budget (tithes & offerings) over the next 3-5 years for support of **Fan into Flame**. We are finding that many congregations in other districts are exceeding this goal. The proceeds will be distributed in the spirit of Acts 1:8: local (Jerusalem), district (Judea), LCMS World Mission – North America (Samaria), and LCMS World Mission - International (ends of the earth). In the next issue of **Spirit of Southern**, we will share more about the various projects being funded at the district level. It is our prayer that the mission will be kindled throughout the district as the Spirit of God moves the hearts of people to joyfully respond to this mission initiative.

Gene Menzel, Executive Assistant for Parish Services

# Southern District News

## New Professional Church Workers Welcomed

In recent services at schools in the Concordia University System, professional church workers received calls/assignments to congregations and agencies in the Southern District. We look forward to welcoming the following men and women and their families:



### Pastoral Candidates Called

- Benjamin Bahr** (St. Louis) to *Trinity, Baton Rouge, LA* - Associate Pastor
- Kenneth Buth** (St. Louis) to *Trinity, Sulphur, LA* – Sole Pastor
- John Cantele** (Ft. Wayne) to *Peace, Oxford, MS*– Sole Pastor
- Stephen DeMik** (St. Louis) to *Holy Trinity, Covington, LA*– Assistant Pastor



### Vicars Assigned

- Russell Bonine** (Ft. Wayne) to *St. Mark's, Elberta, AL*
- Matthew Kobs** (St. Louis) to *Holy Cross, Mobile, LA*
- Kyle Mietzner** (St. Louis) to *LINCNewOrleans (RAI)*
- Collis Parham** (St. Louis) to *Epiphany, New Orleans, LA*
- Christopher Richardson** (Ft. Wayne) to *Grace, Many, AL*
- Aaron Roggow** (St. Louis) to *Trinity, Baton Rouge, LA*
- Sean Smith** (St. Louis) to *Immanuel, Bossier City, LA*
- Kevin Spaeth** (Ft. Wayne) to *Immanuel, Pensacola, FL*

### DCE Intern Assigned

- Dawn Lero** (Concordia, Austin) to *Trinity, Monroe, LA*

### Deaconess Interns Assigned

- Meseret Alemu** (St. Louis) to *LINCNewOrleans (RAI)*
- Ellee Ernst** (St. Louis) to *LINCNewOrleans (RAI)*
- Kristen Wysard** (Concordia, Chicago) to *Congregational Recovery (RAI)*

**In Memoriam - Martin Conway**, DTEP/SMP Student serving Faith, Greenville, MS, died at home on May 2nd. He had just been assigned as Vicar to Faith during Spring Placement. He was preceded in death by his wife, Anna Lou Lucic Conway. Survivors include two daughters and two sons. Funeral services were held at Faith on May 6th. Martin Raymond Conway Sr. was 60 years old.

## District Circuit Realignment Proposed

Due to Hurricane Katrina's impact on population along the Gulf Coast, the number of communicant Lutherans has declined in the New Orleans and southern Mississippi circuits. District Secretary Jim Ertl announced to the Southern District Board of Directors the proposal of the three circuit counselors of the New Orleans area to reform as two circuits. The proposal has been presented to the area pastors and will be voted upon at a meeting of New Orleans pastor and lay delegates in June.

Southern Mississippi Circuit 14 has also suffered a loss of communicant members and a congregation from Circuit 4 (Baton Rouge area and North Shore of Lake Pontchartrain) may be requested to transfer to Circuit 14 to keep the total of communicants in Circuit 14 to the 1,500 communicants necessary for Synodical Convention representation. In Circuit 9 (the Birmingham, Alabama area), a congregation (or congregations) from Circuit 8 (northern Alabama) will probably need to transfer to Circuit 9, as there are less than 1,500 communicants in Circuit 9 at the present time.

*Pastor James Ertl, Secretary, Southern District LCMS*

## Southern District 72<sup>nd</sup> Convention Announced

Save the date! June 18-20, 2009 are the dates for the 72nd Convention of the Southern District. Delegates and guests will convene in the same location as the 2006 convention, the Holiday Inn Select – Baton Rouge, LA. Dr. Paul L. Maier will be our Synodical Representative.

## New District Website Active

The Southern District website is back home at its old pre-Katrina address at [www.southernlcms.org](http://www.southernlcms.org). The site continues to undergo further development and expansion. Please let us hear what you want to see at the site. To do this, go to the site and click on the "About Us" button and you will see a button to "Contact Us." You can send ideas to the person most closely connected with your interest or desire. We want to be the site where District congregations and schools can find information and also share great ideas. We want a kindling partnership to grow throughout the Southern District!

## Share Your News – New Mailing Address Announced

The deadline for the July/August edition of the *Spirit of Southern* is July 15, 2008. Materials received after that date will be considered for a future issue.

The preferred means for receiving material, text and pictures, is e-mail to "sosstuff@yahoo.com." Material can also be mailed to the District Office: **The Spirit of Southern – Southern District LCMS – 68446 Tammany Trace DR STE 5 - Mandeville, LA 70471-7793**

## Pastors' Wives Retreat Announced

Pastor & vicar wives, widows of pastors, and wives of retired pastors are encouraged to check the mailbox for a letter inviting you to our Southern District Wives of Pastors Retreat in 2008!

Put those dates on your calendar now - October 31, Nov. 1 & 2, 2008. You won't want to miss our time together and to be inspired with the words of our Synod's First Lady, Terry Kieschnick. Our theme is "In His Keeping".

If you don't get this letter at your home address, please send an email to Marion Kennedy at [marion.kennedy@southernlcms.org](mailto:marion.kennedy@southernlcms.org), giving her your email address and mailing address.

See you this fall!

*Karen Little*

## District Service Recognized

Cindy Pecarrere, Administrative Assistant to the Executive Assistant for Parish Ministries, was recognized on May 9th by the Southern District Board of Directors for her 15 plus years of service to the District. Through the years, she has worked with a number of executives: Rev. Dr. Jan C. Case, Mr. Harold C. Kieschnick, and Rev. Gary J. Faith.

Board members and staff enjoyed an international lunch. As Cindy enjoys traveling, dishes of Italy, Mexico and China were enjoyed by all. A special cake decorated with the words "No More Tension-Where's My Pension?" was shared. There were but a few crumbs left.

The Board presented her with gifts, a wall decoration of the New Orleans Fleur de Lis and a plant for her new home. Cindy will be moving to Daphne, Alabama, to live near her daughter, Lisa, son-in-law, Chad, and her granddaughter, Elisabeth. She is planning to retire from full-time employment on August 1<sup>st</sup>, but will continue working part-time with the Missions Committee as recently approved by the Board.



*Marion Kennedy*

## Announcing...

### 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering Returns To New Orleans

"We Believe", the 11<sup>th</sup> triennial National LCMS Youth Gathering will be held July 17—21, 2010 in New Orleans, LA. 2010 marks the event's third visit to New Orleans. The Gathering had planned to hold its 2007 event in New Orleans, but moved to Orlando in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. "New Orleans is once more a vibrant city for meeting the mission of the National LCMS Youth Gathering," shares Gretchen Jameson, Associate Director for LCMS Youth Ministry – Communications.

The theme for the 2007 National LCMS Youth Gathering is "We Believe", based on John 20:31, "But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name." (ESV)

About this theme, Rev. Terry Dittmer, Director for Youth Ministry notes, "Gathering participants always share how much it means to encounter other students who "believe like I do" as part of the National Gathering. "We Believe" is a wonderful, corporate expression of our faith in Jesus Christ, especially as we focus on the creed and our confession as we take that faith to the New Orleans community in Word, celebration, service, witness and fellowship."

Changes have been made to Gathering participant guidelines. For the first time in its history, 14-year old participants will be encouraged to attend. The 2010 Gathering will also allow congregations to bring more adult leaders with their groups.

Registration for "We Believe" will open in the fall of 2009. For more information, contact the DCS Youth Ministry Office at 800.248.1930 Ext. 1155, and check out the Gathering website: [www.lcmsgathering.com](http://www.lcmsgathering.com).

### LSS Receives \$40,000 Disaster Preparedness Grant

Lutheran Social Services received a \$40,000 disaster preparedness grant from Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) to develop and maintain a permanent preparedness program and allow LSS to expand services to the nine Lutheran Synods and Districts in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

The grant will help fund the implementation of the 2008 preparedness program developed by LSS. The core effort of the program will be to create a structured network with the Lutheran Synods and Districts in the LSS service area. This network and the infrastructure to support it will facilitate a faster and more effective response to a disaster and allow LSS to more quickly reach those in need.

LSS is the local affiliate for Lutheran Disaster Response and has a long history of providing disaster services. Over the past two years, LSS has built upon that history through its extensive response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, including the coordination of more than 38,000 volunteers who performed more than 1.7 million hours of service.

# District Congregational News

## Congregation Celebrates First Seder

Bethel/Prince of Peace in New Orleans held its first annual Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday 2008. We shared the traditional foods for the meal. There was roasted lamb, bitter herb, Matzoth, karpas, haroses, boiled eggs, juice and wine. The celebration was attended by 100 people. There was enjoyment in learning of the Passover meal which occurred on the night before the Exodus from Egypt by the Israelites. There was joy in the fellowship of song and breaking bread together with fellow believing community Christians who came and visited with us on this special evening gathering. We look forward to having this celebration again next year.

*Rev. Jerome N. Terry*



## Bible Class Members Renew Marriage Vows

A Sunday morning Bible class at St. Paul's, Cullman, AL, has been studying "Eleven Reasons Families Succeed." Discussion in this class included marriage. When couples marry they are facing the unknown and as their marriage continues they realize how God has been and is with them throughout their union during both difficult and easy times.

As a result of this study, on Sunday, April 20, 2008, thirteen couples renewed their wedding vows which proved to be a moving testimony of their love and life-long commitment to the Rite of Holy Matrimony. In a ceremony after the regular worship service, with children, grandchildren, close relatives and congregational members serving as witnesses, each couple walked down the center aisle to the altar. Pastor Warren Ruland conducted the service with the couples reaffirming their vows. Following the ceremony, most of the couples enjoyed a dinner at a local country club. Participating in the ceremony were Danny & Mandy Preiss, married 12 years; Brian & Pam Kress, 21 years; Larry, Jr. & Susie Preiss, 18 years; Wayne & Loretta Buettner, 17 years;

Patrick & Stephnie Harris, 16 years; Sid & Joan Lee, 21 years; David & Perrie Elrod, 21 years; Kevin & Carlotta Roberts, 23 years; Lawrence & Melanie Herge, 14 years; Randy & Sherry Frost, 27 years; Darryl & Terry Howard, 36 years; Anthony & Stella Couch, celebrating their 33<sup>rd</sup> anniversary on the day of the renewal; and Larry Sr., and Nancy Preiss, 51 years.

*Stella Couch & Sue Westerfield*

## Shreveport Congregations Consolidate

Change is taking place in Shreveport, LA! The congregations of Our Savior and Redeemer voted on Feb. 10th, to consolidate the two churches. In a merger, one or more church(s) merge into an existing church. In a consolidation, two or more congregations come together and form a "new" congregation. This means a new name, new charter, new constitution, new call, etc. A consolidation was chosen because it takes away the "yours" and "ours", thus eliminating any "step-child" syndrome. In the beginning of the talks around a year ago, both churches were interested in merging, as long as they didn't have to go to the other church. Both churches had their strengths and weaknesses, but no one wanted to have to give up their church. The solution was to sell both



and come up with a new location and name.

On April 27, the two congregations voted on the new name of "Christ Lutheran Church." Both congregations have put their facilities on the market. Temporary locations are being sought. It is an exciting time as we begin the process of searching for a new location and designing a new facility that will carry out our different ministries. We are looking into the Open Arms Institute for developing a child care facility along with the possibility of having a gym for the youth.

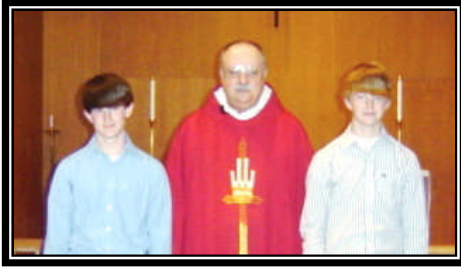
The two churches formed a "Joint Consolidation Board", which is made up of the executive officers of both churches and is responsible for bringing the two together, taking a hard look at where our focus has been and where it needs to be. We know that we have to do things differently than we have in the past. We want to be focused on the great commission and get the people excited about the Lord.

Christ Lutheran Church (Shreveport)—Coming Soon!

*Rev. Perry Culver*

## Confirmation Day - St. Paul, Shreveport, LA

On Palm Sunday, Hunter and Garrett Brobst were confirmed at St. Paul, Shreveport, LA. After the confirmation rite, each read a statement of faith he had composed. Hunter (left) and Garrett (right) are pictured with St. Paul's pastor, Rev. George Schaetzle.



The young men come from a long line of Lutheran leaders. Their father, Tim Brobst, is an elder, and their grandfather,

Dwain Brobst, is president of the congregation. Their grandmother, Kitty Brobst, ran our Day Care/Preschool for over 25 years. Their great-grandfather was Lothar Kleinhans, one of the pastors of St. Paul. Their great-great-grandfather, Johannes Kleinhans, was also a pastor and at one time president of the Illinois District.

We pray that these boys will carry on the great Lutheran tradition of the family from which they come.

*Pastor George Schaetzle*

## Epiphany, New Orleans Installs Vicar Collis Parham

An April 6, 2008, Mr. Collis Parham was installed as vicar of Epiphany, located at 9004 Hickory St., New Orleans, LA. The installation service was held at 3:30 in the afternoon. Rev. Aubrey Watson, Vicar Parham's mentor, and Rev. Dr. James Ertl, Southern District Secretary, were worship leaders. Rev. Limakatso Nare, Counselor-Circuit 3, and Rev. Mark Hayman, Counselor-Circuit 2, also participated in the service.

The service was well attended with representatives from many Lutheran and other community churches. Mr. Eugene Menzel, Executive Assistant for Parish Services, and Rev. Kevin Kieschnck, LINCNewOrleans Director, represented the Southern District. Mrs. Hester Cottles represented the New Orleans Zone of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League; Mrs. Kathy Wendling represented Recovery Assistance, Inc. - Camp Restore; and Mrs. Lorain Rathman represented Lutheran Social Services. Vicar Parham's mother and aunt from Memphis, TN were in attendance at this joyous celebration.

Vicar Parham is currently completing his pastoral studies through the DELTO program of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

*Isaac Anderson*

## Grace, Pensacola, Men Announce Retreat

*"Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit."* Galatians 5:25

The men of Grace, Pensacola, FL, would like to invite all men to our 2008 Men's Retreat to be held October 2nd - 5th at Camp Victory near Samson, AL. Among the many camp activities are swimming, volleyball, horseback riding, basketball, and fishing. See: <http://www.campvictoryal.org> for more information about the facility.

Our retreat, "In Step with the Spirit," allows time away from our busy schedules to think about and personally answer some questions as we walk through the Bible together:

*Is The Holy Spirit relevant in 2008, as compared to biblical times?*

*What does Luther's Small Catechism say about The Holy Spirit?*

*Do we know our spiritual gifts & cultivate them to strengthen the church?*

*Do we expect prayers answered, sins forgiven, and burdens lifted?*

*Do we truly seek the face of God as we worship?*

Sandy McCutcheon of [www.showustheway.net](http://www.showustheway.net) will be our Retreat Speaker, Instructor, and Musician. Sandy is the Minister of Christian Education at Grace, Huntsville, AL. She presents Bible studies, retreats and weekend conferences with her expertise and love of the Spirit. Add a dose of music and you have Sandy in overdrive! Her love of worship is evident as she follows the Spirit's guidance to bring others to the throne room of God and His grace. Pray with her for renewal in Spirit!



The \$120 per person retreat cost includes lodging, Thursday dinner, three meals on Friday & Saturday, and Sunday breakfast and lunch. Call Grace Lutheran Church, 850-476-5667, 6601 N. 9th Avenue, Pensacola, Florida 32504 for more information and reservations.

*Nathan Krause*

## New! Southern District – LCMS Contact Information

Mailing Address: 68446 Tammany Trace DR STE 5, Mandeville, LA 70471-7793

Main Office Phone: 504-282-2623 Fax: 504-283-4885

CEF Phone: 504-282-2633 or 888-493-5962

## Redeemer, Pensacola Pastor Retires

On Sunday, March 30th, Redeemer, Pensacola honored its shepherd, Rev. Robert G. Rupp upon his retirement after 38 years at Redeemer. Pastor Rupp's special day began with a celebration service where over 350 people attended. Many family and friends came from near and far to join Pastor Rupp and his wife, Melodie, on this special day. Retired Principal Ralph Bleeke read the scriptures, Rev. Howard Jones was the liturgist, former District President Orval Mueller gave the sermon, and District President Kurtis Schultz administered the rite of retirement.

A luncheon followed at Mustin Beach Officers' Club aboard NAS Pensacola. Everyone enjoyed skits, songs, and tributes honoring our friend, Pastor Rupp. He and Melodie were presented with gifts from the congregation including a trip to almost anywhere they wish (we hear it may be to the Grand Canyon)! Although we will miss Pastor Rupp guiding us at Redeemer, we are blessed to have had his leadership and faithful service all of these years, and we wish him and Melodie much happiness in their retirement. God Bless you both!

*Cynthia Henderson*



## Redeemer, Fairhope Youth On The Run!

The Senior and Junior Youth Groups at Redeemer, Fairhope, Alabama, have had a busy spring! Pastor Ross Johnson and his wife, Mireya, have entertained each high school class with a dinner outing. While the kids have healthy appetites, no one can surpass Pastor Johnson's love of food!

Recently, the youth participated in a Habitat for Humanity building project. They strapped on tool belts, and grabbed the paint brushes as they put in a full day on the project.

During spring break Emily Miller and Gina Davis were accompanied by Patti Miller, Pastor Johnson and Mireya on campus visits at three Concordia Colleges, and several of the youth were spotted doing servant events, including yard work at church members' homes

On April 26th the youth rolled out of bed before the break of day for their annual yard sale. Eager shoppers plucked hidden treasures from tables and tables of books,

dishes, knick-knacks, gadgets, thing-a-majigs and more! Thanks to the generosity of the congregation with their donated treasures, the group raised over \$1400 this year.

During the month of May the Senior Youth class is studying the Ten Commandments on Wednesday nights, and Christian Denominations during Sunday School. The Junior Youth, led by Pastor Parsons, is reading and discussing "The Journey" in their Wednesday Class, and their Sunday class focuses on a review of Luther's Small Catechism.

For summer fun and fellowship, both the Senior and Junior Youth Groups will stay busy with pool parties, a camping trip, and a summer retreat at Bagby State Park in Georgia.

*George W. Miller*

## Good Shepherd, Elberta Holds Trike-a-Thon

Good Shepherd Lutheran School, Elberta, AL, had their annual Trike-a-Thon for St. Jude Children's Cancer Research Hospital in Memphis, TN on Friday April 11.

The town of Elberta closed Oak Ave. in front of the school so the children would have a safe place to ride. St. Jude provided lessons on bike safety that were taught through the week.

The school collected from family and friends around \$1,100 to benefit the children of St. Jude Children's Hospital.



*Charlotte Bailey*



## Immanuel, Bossier City Sr. Youth Fight Hunger

Eleven young people from Immanuel, Bossier City, LA, participated in a "30 Hour Famine," raising funds and awareness of world hunger. Activities included devotions, a challenge course, and working at the Northwest Louisiana Food Bank. The youth raised \$400.00.

*Sheila Robison*

## St. Matthew, Gulfport, MS, Rededicates Education Building

The members of St. Matthew, Gulfport, MS, celebrated the rededication of their Earl P. Knobloch Education Building on April 27, 2008. The building suffered much damage from Hurricane Katrina, but due to the hard work of some people and the many prayers of all of us, the renovation has been completed.



All of our members are excited to have our fellowship hall back. Sunday School has resumed and a luncheon is being planned for our graduates and confirmands.

We would like to thank the many LCMS Districts and fellow churches for helping us to see our hopes become a reality. We invite all of you to visit and worship with us, and to give thanks to Our Lord for all of our many blessings.

Carol Peterman

## Honorable Mention...

- ...Members of Redeemer, Mandeville, LA, celebrated with **Pastor Louis Nelson** who celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 20<sup>th</sup>!
- ...**Terry King**, a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans financial consultant in Slidell, LA, and member of Lamb of God, has been awarded the Thrivent Financial Volunteer Excellence Award – one of four individuals selected for the honor from Thrivent's 2600 financial representatives nationwide.
- ...In the March, 2008 edition of *The Lutheran Witness*, a special LCMS World Relief and Human Care article featured several Southern District residents in reference to the agency's assistance in hurricane recovery. Highlighted were: **Bethany Gonski**, principal of St. John Lutheran School, New Orleans; **Rev. Jerome Terry**, pastor of Bethel, New Orleans; **Lee Grey**, recipient of a re-built home in Biloxi; **Rev. Jesus Gonzales**, pastor of Monte De Oliveros in Metairie; and **Jason McCoy**, volunteer at Camp Restore.
- ...**Ashley Angerman**, daughter of Rev. Ray Angerman of Good Shepherd – Shalimar, FL, is entering into missionary service through LCMS World Mission. She will be serving in the Czech Republic as an English-as-a-Foreign-Language Teacher from August 15, 2008 until July 1, 2009.

**Ablaze**  
*Igniting the World with Christ's Love*  
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