



THIS MINISTRY THAT WE SHARE

April 15TH, 2007

Dear Pastors and Pastors' Wives, Pastors' Widows, Vicars and Wives, DCEs and Spouses, Principals and Spouses, and DCOs and Spouses and Deaconesses and Spouses,

DEATH IS NO LONGER OUR ENEMY

"I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me, though he dies yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

(John 11:25,26)

I recall a high-school friend who became a physician. Like many other doctors he was sincerely devoted to his work and would go to great lengths to save his patients from death. Death, his great enemy, had to be defeated, and he fought it with all the skill and resources he could muster. To have a patient die was to be defeated by death, to become a failure as a doctor. Much present day medical research seems to be motivated by this same intention. I haven't seen my friend in many years. I wonder as he gets older if he is still in a struggle to defeat death. More to the present point, do you and I feel that we must battle death on our own or put our hope in medical research to overcome death?

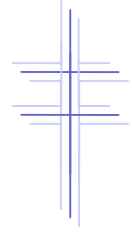
In our passage from the Gospel of St. John both Mary and Martha still saw death as an undefeated enemy, an enemy that Jesus, if he had been there, *could* have defeated. The shortest of all Bible verses, "Jesus wept." (John 11:35) says to me that Jesus' sadness was for Mary and Martha and all those gathered at Lazarus' tomb, because they did not yet believe what He had been telling them. They still had not grasped who He was.

But who among us does not have some fear of death? Few indeed, I suspect, though for some it may be the unknown that is feared more than death. It seems to take a lot of living, a lot of Easters, for most of us to celebrate Jesus' resurrection with all our hearts, to have it worked into our spirits the truth that our Savior Jesus Christ has "abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the Gospel." (2 Tim. 1:10)

If our hearts do not receive Jesus' proclamation then we are doomed to defeat, for the truth is that we all die. If death is not a toothless enemy we cannot know the peace of Psalm 23:4, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff they comfort me." We must live in its threatening shadows, without the full light of life. Our lives are consumed in dealing with the many faces of doubt and fear that will inevitably plague us. Our lives will be harried and stunned, and the joy for which God created us will go unrealized, unfulfilled. That's why St. Paul warned the Corinthians, "If for this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitted." (1 Cor. 15:19)

Speaking of Jesus' proclamation that he is the resurrection and the life a friend once said to me, "There are those who *think* so, those who *hope* so and those who *know* so; for me this is a *know* so." For this man death had lost its sting; he was living a new and ever greater life with Jesus. He had been set free from the anxiety of fearing death, free to live this earthly life in the purpose and peace God had for him, free to take up his cross and follow Jesus into that immortality which reveals the fullness of God's love for us. This is what Jesus wants for us. He is still asking, "Do you believe this?"

Lord, we believe, help our unbelief. Strengthen in us your assurance that with you death is no longer to be feared, that by your passing through death to resurrection life has opened our way to everlasting life. Amen.



IN MEMORIAM

+ Ordained Minister Thomas A. Tews + February 24, 1945 – April 13, 2007

Tom leaves to cherish his memory his wife of forty-one years, Martha, and three sons, Thomas, Jr., Kenneth James, Nathan and daughter Jennifer.

Birthplace: Cleveland, OH

Graduated: Concordia Seminary – St. Louis, MO / 1980

Ordained: June 29, 1980

Ministries:

- 1978-79 Hope – St. Louis, MO (Vicarage)
- 1980-82 St. Paul – New Kensington, PA
- 1982-83 Concordia – Jackson, TN
- 1990-2007 Ascension – Daphne, AL

Tom served on the Southern District's Constitutions Committee.

Funeral Service: Redeemer - Fairhope, AL; April 16TH, 2007

Officiant: Rev. William A. Parsons, III of Redeemer

BEREAVEMENTS

TO **Judie Mader** (Judie is wife of Bob who serves St. Paul – Hammond, LA) on the death of her sister, Zerlina Pearce, on February 27TH. Zerlina died after a short illness in Yanceyville, NC. Judie is thankful that God moved her to go visit her sister three weeks prior to her death while they could still have meaningful conversation together.

TO **Lois Rost** (Lutheran High School – Metairie, LA) on the sudden death of her father, Martin. He was 90 years old. Lois writes, "*He always loved to travel and now he is at his final destination in heaven.*" Lois's mother passed away 11 eleven years ago to the very day (March 23RD). Lois said he was not feeling well for the past couple of weeks but doctors could not find anything wrong. She was glad for him that he did not suffer.

TO **Linette Cooper** on the death of her mother, Charlotte B. Sander, who died the morning of March 23RD. She was 87 and had been in a nursing home since late last year. Her funeral was held at Our Redeemer Lutheran in Overland, MO. Linette is wife of Adam who is recently retired from St. Matthew – Gulfport, MS.

We share in their sorrow yet rejoice in the joyous promise of Christ – eternal life in a Heavenly home, which Christ has prepared for those who believe and trust in Him as their Savior. May our gracious God give strength and healing to those who mourn.

TORNADO STRIKES SOUTHERN DISTRICT



Pictured here on the left is Pastor Jim Endrihs of Christ the King – Enterprise, AL. As you may recall on Thursday, March 1ST, a large weather system moved through the Southern District. Christ the King Lutheran suffered only minor damage especially when compared to the high school located just two blocks away in which eight students were killed.

Please continue to pray for Jim and members of Christ The King and for those who are answering the call to share the love we have received from Jesus Christ to those in need.

ILLNESSES AND INJURIES

- **Adrian Bacarisse** in Shreveport is undergoing special chemo treatments for prostate cancer, which leave him weak and nauseated. Surgery was not an option because he also suffers from an auto immune system disease. He shared that at first he was discouraged but his spirits are brighter now.
- **Kristin Breaux** (Second Grade teacher – Baton Rouge Lutheran School) continues chemotherapy treatments for cancer.
- **Lorraine Brown** (Mother of Connie Arbogast – Southern District Treasurer) has been diagnosed with head and neck cancer and is not expected to live more than six months. She also suffers from congestive heart failure. Lorraine lives in Michigan.
- **Bob Dittmann** (Retired – Mobile, AL) and his wife, **Janice**, both had a serious bout of pneumonia mid-March.
- **Del Gremmels** (Retired – Gulfport, MS) continues to deal with a number of health issues.
- **Dick Kuehnert** (Board of Directors member; Interim Pastor, St. John – New Orleans, LA) continues to struggle with heart and fluid retention issues. He has been hospitalized on several different occasions since our last newsletter.
- **Bob Martinek** (Redeemer – Alexandria, LA) has an appointment at a diagnostic center in Houston in April for further evaluation of the digestive problems he has been experiencing since his surgery to correct a hiatal hernia.
- **Lorenzo McBride** (Mt. Calvary – Mobile, AL) continues chemotherapy treatments for pancreatic cancer.
- **Walt McCrillis** (Retired – Milton, FL) underwent surgery for colon cancer March 6. He is recovering at home and is now driving after a short hiatus; walking 1-2 miles a day and using weights to regain strength.
- **Perry McCullam** (Prince of Peace and Pilgrim – Birmingham, AL) continues to recover from April, 2006 surgery.
- **Niel Paetow**, 12-year-old son of Derek and Linda Paetow, underwent chest surgery on April 10TH. (Derek pastors Christ the King – Muscle Shoals, AL.) The purpose of the surgery is to correct a birth condition as his ribs were not formed correctly during pregnancy. The procedure involves the implanting of a bar that will remain for two years, which will provide more room for his heart and lungs. Linda reports that he has bouts of severe muscle spasms from the muscles being stretched which causes

him great pain. But as Niel wakes up his chest will be normal which should brighten his eight weeks of recovery.

- **Sidney Ponseti** (Retired – Baton Rouge, LA) continues to recover from the recent surgery on his vocal chords.
 - **Janet Schmieder** (Development Director at Baton Rouge Lutheran School) has completed radiation treatments and returned to work on a limited basis.
 - **Mindy Schrader** (Wife of Steve who serves Prince of Peace – Ft. Payne and Trinity – Scottsboro, AL) continues radiation treatments as she lives with cancer.
 - **Ken Wegener** (Teacher, St. Paul – New Orleans, LA) is undergoing radiation treatments for prostate cancer.
 - **Elinor White** (Principal, Grace – Huntsville, AL) continues to recuperate at home from her spinal vertebrae fusion surgery of January, 2007. Dr. White has announced her resignation effective June 30, 2007, with anticipated long-term disability.
 - **Tom Willadsen** was in a Florida hospital for heart problems in early March.
- May these friends be led by the Spirit to know they are held in nail pierced hands and are being lifted up in prayer by their fellow saints throughout the District.*

CONGRATULATIONS!

Monique and **Philip Miller** welcomed Nathaniel Robert on April 4TH. Big boy Nathaniel weighed in at 9 lbs. 7 ozs. and was 22 inches long. He joins Grace, age 4, Isaiah, age 3, and Silas, age 18 months. Philip serves Christ – Chalmette, LA. *Now if you think your Holy Week was busy. . .*

Jesus Gonzales and wife **Becky** are celebrating and thanking God for the gift of a healthy new granddaughter. Isabella Aidee Rodriguez was born to Sergio Jr. and Bernice on April 3RD. Mother and child are doing great and Pastor Gonzales can't stop smiling. Jesse serves Monte de los Olivos in Metairie, LA.

EXPECTING

- **Mark** and **Lisa Borchert** are expecting their first child – a boy – in May. Mark is serving as an Assistant to Pastor Scott Schmieding at Trinity – Baton Rouge, LA.
- **Cherie** and **Jim Endrihs** are also expecting their first child mid-June. Jim serves Christ the King – Enterprise, AL, as their pastor.
- **Amy** and **Jonathan Schultz** are expecting their first child in August. Jonathan serves Trinity – Baton Rouge as Vicar. Amy is a teacher at Baton Rouge Luth. Sch.
- **David** and **Becky Moerbe** are expecting their second child mid-November.

HISPANIC MINISTRY

Rev. Jesus “Jesse” Gonzales continues to minister to the Hispanic community that is growing in the Greater New Orleans area. Monte de los Olivos Lutheran Church located in Metairie, LA, serves as a “home away from home” for Latinos. Funds from Lutheran World Relief were used to complete showers in the church. Members are breaking ground for a garden on their property. A fair to be held in May is being organized to raise funds. Thrivent will match contributions. Pastor Gonzales reports that attendance continues to remain strong.

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Southern District **Military Chaplain Timothy E. Sowers** was deployed again to Iraq the week of February 25TH. His unit was supposed to be at Fort Benning, GA, until May, but with the surge his deployment schedule was moved up. His wife, Kim, will remain in Milton where they are members of Eternal Trinity.



The son of **Craig** and **Jennifer Boehlke** while training for the Green Beret suffered what was thought to be a heat stroke. As he suffered diminishing organ functions, he was taken to intensive care, packed in ice with fans blowing on him. He recovered but will be under strict supervision for from six to twelve months; and, then may be allowed to reenter his studies right where he left off. This is quite a set back for him in his pursuit of the Green Beret, but he is determined to do whatever it takes to finish the program - if he is allowed to finish. (Craig previously served Our Savior – Shreveport, LA.)

Please keep in your prayers all those who serve our country.

CONSTITUTIONS AND THE START OF THE HURRICANE SEASON

The Southern District office – The Lutheran Center – was spared considerable damage because flooding waters did not infiltrate its building. The Southern District Board of Directors along with the executives and support staff are taking steps to eliminate as much as possible any future storm related risk to the files housed at the district office. One of the first steps is to have every constitution on file digitized and stored in two separate locations. **PLEASE TAKE NOTE: THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE IS ASKING YOU TO SUBMIT YOUR CONSTITUTION ELECTRONICALLY to Marion Kennedy at MLCKenne@aol.com.** Marion will be contacting each congregation separately and each circuit collectively. Also, Rev. Tom Noon, chair of the Constitutions Committee, reminds you that **new Constitutions or revisions cannot go into effect until approval by the Constitutions Committee and by the Board of Directors.**

SOUTHERN DISTRICT'S NEWEST CONGREGATION CELEBRATES EASTER FOR THE FIRST TIME



CrossRoad Church in Hernando, Mississippi, held its inaugural service Easter Sunday. About 125 -130 people attended this first official service and explored the theme: Life on the CrossRoad. The really exciting news is of those 130 people, about 90 are people who are either committed to CrossRoad or are seeking a church home. Four or five families attended because of the Easter Egg Hunt. District Executives Jack Kellison and Gary Faith and their spouses joined in the celebration.

David Lewis serves CrossRoad and asks that you please pray that God would continue to bless and provide for this new church.

Check out www.OnTheCrossRoad.com to learn more.



SIGNIFICANT APRIL ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES

5 years-Ray Angerman – April 28, 2002

ONCE AGAIN IT'S PAROCHIAL REPORT TIME – MANY HAVE STILL NOT RESPONDED TO THIS ANNUAL SYNOD REQUIREMENTS!

Send original to The LCMS – Office of Rosters and Statistics

1333 So. Kirkwood Rd. / St. Louis, MO 63122-7295

BY FEBRUARY 28. WE ARE NOW IN THE MONTH OF APRIL!

Send a copy of the district office at the same time! Thank you.

MASTER OF ARTS DEGREE IN CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

The Oswald Hoffmann School of Christian Outreach is offering the Master of Arts degree in Christian Outreach (MACO) through Concordia University – St. Paul. Enrolled students are in a cohort program completed over three years, attending a yearly two-week residency on campus with additional application-oriented practicums and online coursework during the academic year.

There are still openings for this year's starting date of June 2. Director Eugene Bunkowske asks that you share the names and contact information of people who you feel might be interested in the program. Contact Jenya Li, the Academic Advisor, at li@csp.edu or 651-641-8224 for more information or to share the names with us.

THRIVENT FINANCIAL'S GIVINGPLUS PROGRAM

As of January 1, 2007, only Thrivent Financial benefit members and individuals who own Thrivent Mutual Fund accounts or Thrivent Life Insurance Company products will be eligible to participate in GivingPlus and other giving programs. Associate members who pay a \$10 annual fee to belong to our organizations or have that fee waived will no longer be eligible for these programs. For more information on the many ways that Thrivent Financial benefits the Lutheran community, visit their website at www.thrivent.com.

HIGHLIGHTED NOTES

2007 SYNOD CONVENTION

- For information regarding our Synod's Convention scheduled for July 14 - 19, 2007 in Houston, TX, check their Web Site www.lcms.org/convention.
- To view the listing of delegates elected to represent the Southern District, access the archived December, 2006, issue of *This Ministry That We Share*.
- **Rev. David Doroh** (Our Redeemer – Florence, AL) has been appointed to serve on Floor Committee 9 – REGISTRATION.
- **Mrs. Karen Little** (Atonement – Metairie, LA) has been appointed to serve on Floor Committee 3 – THEOLOGY AND CHURCH RELATIONS
- **Southern District President Kurtis D. Schultz** will chair Floor Committee 2 – DISTRICT AND CONGREGATIONAL SERVICES.
- The Floor Committee Meeting Weekend is scheduled for May 18-21.

MONEY MATTERS

<u>DISTRICT INCOME/BUDGET</u>		
BUDGET	2006 (1,075,000)	2007 (1,080,000)
Budget through March 15 th	\$179,167	\$180,000
Income through March 15 th	\$141,736	\$191,844

BUILDING NOTES**St. Mark's – Elberta, AL**

The dedication of their new facility took place April 15TH.

Resurrection – Pensacola, FL

On January 21ST Resurrection approved a phased set of drawings that will now be completed, approved and sent out for bids. They started a (1) year capital campaign in March - with additional money for building, mission work, and additional staffing.

VACANCIES/CALLS AS OF April 16, 2007**CONGREGATIONS IN THE CALLING PROCESS FOR PASTOR**

Hartselle, AL – Christ Our Redeemer	Sulphur, LA – Trinity
Lillian, AL – Shepherd of the Bay	Columbus, MS – Our Savior
Houma, LA – Grace	Corinth, MS – Prince of Peace
New Orleans, LA – St. John	Gulfport, MS – St. Matthew
Shreveport, LA – Our Savior	Meridian, MS – Trinity

KATRINA CONGREGATIONS IN TRANSITION

New Orleans, LA – Bethel / Our Savior / Gloria Dei / Prince of Peace

CALLS ACCEPTED

Kevin Kieschnick, Christ our Redeemer – Hartselle, AL to LINC – New Orleans, LA

CANDIDATE OR VICARAGE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED FOR SPRING PLACEMENT:

Zion – Clinton, LA	Candidate Application (excl. for Vicar Stan Clark)
Grace – Houma, LA	Candidate Application
Village – Lacombe, LA	Candidate Application
Trinity – Sulphur, LA	Candidate Application or Deferred Vicar
St. Matthew – Gulfport, MS	Candidate Application
Trinity – Meridian, MS	Candidate Application
St. Mark's – Elberta, AL	Vicarage Application
Holy Cross – Mobile, AL	Vicarage Application
Immanuel – Pensacola, FL	Vicarage Application
Immanuel – Bossier City, LA	Vicarage Application / Deferred Vicar
Grace – Many, LA	Vicarage Application
Our Savior – Columbus, MS	Vicarage Application
Recovery Assistance, Inc.	Vicarage Application

**WATCH FOR OUR NEWS FLASH ----- TO BE POSTED ON OUR WEB SITE -----
AFTER THE CALL SERVICES ----- AT OUR SEMINARIES ----- APRIL 24 AND 25.**

SOUTHERN DISTRICT LABORERS FOR CHRIST PROJECTS

Christ – Chalmette, LA	Construction Start Date	October, 2006
Rev. Phillip Miller	Rebuilding	
Holy Cross – New Orleans	Construction Start Date	November, 2006
Rev. Aubrey Watson	Rebuilding	
Holy Trinity – Covington, LA	Construction Start Date	February, 2007
Rev. Philip Wottrich	Classrooms	
Good Shepherd – Slidell, LA	Construction Start Date	September, 2007
Rev. Bob Aumann	Sanctuary	



2007 NATIONAL LCMS YOUTH GATHERING – The dates for the Gathering are July 28 – August 1 in Orlando, FL. Cherie Endrihs and Cindy Namanny serve as district coordinators to help you with questions and training. Their e-mails are cendrihs@aol.com and dce@orlcms.org.

FAMILY GROUP ADULT LEADER (FGAL) TRAINING SESSIONS

The district coordinators will be offering six different training sessions in an effort to reach all of the family group adult leaders who will be attending the National Gathering. We have attempted to strategically offer these training sessions in different parts of the district:

Date	Place	Time	Leader
Saturday, April 14	St. Paul – Montgomery, AL	9:00 – 11:30 a.m.	Cherie Endrihs
Sunday, April 29	Grace – Pensacola, FL	3:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Cherie Endrihs
Saturday, May 5	Lamb of God – Slidell, LA	8:30 – 11:30 am	Cindy Namanny
Saturday, May 5	Trinity – Baton Rouge, LA	1:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Cindy Namanny
Saturday, May 5	St. Paul's – Decatur, AL	9 a.m. – 12 Noon	Cherie Endrihs
Sunday, May 6	Our Savior – Shreveport, LA	1:30 – 4:30 p.m.	Cindy Namanny

These training events are designed to assist in community building, train your adult leaders (FGALs), share experiences with veteran Gathering leaders, compare ideas on fundraising, offer ideas for group community building during travel, and hear about the latest information concerning the Orlando area. Please send a note to Cherie or Cindy to let them know about your planned attendance.

For those unable to make one of the above FGAL training sessions, a special teleconference training session will be set up for **Thursday, May 10 at 7:30 p.m.** Please let Cherie or Cindy know that you cannot attend any of the above FGAL training sessions but would like to participate in the special teleconference session.

Keep posted on the Gathering updates by going to www.lcmsgathering.com

2007 LCMS Adult Gathering

2007 marks 30 years of LCMS National Youth Gatherings. This year's Gathering will include a track for an Adult Gathering. The Adult Gathering is for any LCMS adult (ages 25 or older). Whether you are a Gathering alumnus or an adult who has always wanted to experience a National Gathering, make plans to join in CHOSEN: The 2007 LCMS Adult Gathering. Registration opens simultaneous to the Youth Gathering registration and will accommodate up to 2,000 adults. Go to www.lcmsgathering.com to learn the particulars of the Adult Gathering.



THIS HOPE THAT WE SHARE – DISASTER RELIEF

Check Camp Restore's web site – www.camprestore.org.

Their phone number is 1-888-248-2636.

SUPPORT STAFF WORKERS MEET

On March 7TH Support Staff workers from the greater New Orleans and Northshore area congregations were invited for a day of caring and support in the work that they do to help those recovering from the 2005 storms. Meeting first at Camp Restore in New Orleans East, the group of 35 had the opportunity to meet the staff and learn of the services available to congregations and individuals. Rev. Dave Buss and Mrs. Kathy Wendling of the Southern District LCMS Recovery Assistance staff encouraged workers to be in touch with their office as needs arise. Following devotions and introductions, the group was given a tour of Camp Restore which houses up to 200 volunteers at a time as they assist the New Orleans area in its recovery.



The day continued at the Lutheran Center where Rev. Dr. Rick Armstrong, Associate Director of Lutheran Counseling Services of Orlando, FL, helped workers to understand the phases of disaster, and normal responses as individuals and congregations respond to those in

need. Small group discussion allowed attendees to assess their own needs as caregivers and explore means for having those needs met. Rev. Armstrong shared words of encouragement as congregations deal with the changes that have taken place beyond their control and offered insight into the processes that can help make the post-crisis changes a positive experience.

A luncheon followed with good food and fellowship, and participants received gifts provided by Lutheran agencies eager to say thanks to those who faithfully serve their congregations.

Cheryl Pitts
St. Stephen – New Orleans, LA
Editor, *Spirit of Southern*

WALTHER LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL – Melrose Park, IL, (DP Kurt Schultz's alma mater) presented their Wind Ensemble, String Ensemble and Jazz Band in concert at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church (Site of Camp Restore) on March 10TH.

FORMER SOUTHERN DISTRICT PRESIDENT VOLUNTEERS – Orv Mueller and his wife, **Clara**, volunteered at Camp Restore the week of March 21-28. Members of their home congregation, Chapel of the Cross – St. Louis County, MO, also were in town volunteering. Orv did carpentry work on a house in New Orleans East. Clara worked as dining room staff for the camp volunteers. They both were severely saddened by the devastation they witnessed. During his tenure as district president, he and Clara lived in New Orleans East and were members of Prince of Peace, which is now housing Camp Restore. They shared that they felt their efforts were like grains of sand considering the vastness of the devastation. They plan on returning the week of May 14-18 for another volunteer stint.

KATRINA CONGREGATIONS UPDATE

TRINITY (ALGIERS) – NEW ORLEANS

The congregation is still trying to pin down the date for their Rededication as they wait for word from their contractor. The congregation has been very satisfied with their contractor, a statement you don't often hear in the New Orleans area.

GLORIA DEI – NEW ORLEANS

Rededication set for May, date yet to be announced.

*PAX (sleeping peaceful in Christ),
Kurt*