

# Outreach Summits Ignite *Ablaze* Effort in District



## HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK

by Rev. Dr. Wayne Wilke  
Director Concordia House Studies

**D**uring the month of February, I was privileged to attend and present to each of the three Florida-Georgia District Outreach Summits. This was truly an exciting series of events — it was the official lighting of the *Ablaze* effort in the Florida-Georgia District.

The workshop I led was entitled "Recruiting Workers for the Kingdom." One individual

members of the churches how to make their congregation a "sending" congregation. A "sending" congregation is one that is seriously intentional about identifying, supporting, and encouraging its sons and daughters to consider full-time service in the church. In other words, they are about the task of "sending" workers into the harvest.

That is an important task, because the states of Florida and Georgia are a mission field. What ultimately moves us in this endeavor is that God has surrounded us with a bountiful harvest, and we need workers to go into that harvest. Almost half

The Concordia House of Studies exists to provide local educational opportunities to educate workers for that mission field. By offering church work classes for college credit in both Orlando and Gainesville, CHS makes it possible to complete some or all of that preparation right here in Florida. It enables those intent on going on to the seminary the opportunity to be fully prepared for their seminary curriculum without having to make up religion classes.

We would like to enable each congregation in our District, and every member of our congregations, to be alert for the potential of full-time work in the church. Has the Lord given you gifts that can be used in professional church work? Do I see those gifts in my spouse or in my children? Is there someone in my congregation that I recognize as one who may be gifted for such service? What can I do to encourage or support that person in their decision, or in their preparation? What can our congregation do to encourage and support those who are pursuing professional service in the church?

Here are some suggestions that you might implement immediately in your congregation:

Establish a Career Center in your narthex or fellowship hall including books, pamphlets, and

videos that promote Christian vocations and service.

Regularly include students, church workers and schools in congregational prayers.

people, to equip them for the critical work of building up the Body of Christ.

These workers will be found in the congregations of the

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Include reports of church workers students and former members who have gone into church work in newsletters and bulletins.

Encourage a church organization (Ladies' Aid, Youth Group, etc.) to send care packages to college and seminary students and to hold occasional fundraisers for their benefit.

Offer opportunities for both youth and potential second-career church work students to actively participate in the activities of the church.

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Florida-Georgia District as all of the members diligently seek to discover those leaders and assist them in their preparation.

If you would like information about programs offered by the Concordia House of Studies, or more information about how you can assist in the recruitment and education of future church workers, contact Dr. Wilke in Orlando locally at 407-457-5556, ext 113, toll free at 877-457-5556, ext. 113, or via e-mail at [wwilke@flga-lcms.org](mailto:wwilke@flga-lcms.org). □

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came because she thought the workshop would help her congregation motivate more workers for the congregation's various activities. Another stated that he hoped to find someone to replace himself as elder, since he had already served for over 20 years.

The real purpose of the workshop was to educate the

of the population of Florida and Georgia has no church home. In order to meet the needs of this mission, more professional church workers are needed to train and equip all of God's saints for the work of building up His Kingdom.

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## Scholarships Aid Future Church Workers



### LWML NEWS

By Margie Smith  
Communications Coordinator  
Florida Georgia District LWML

LCMS scholarships, although criteria to receive the scholarships are not the same.

The deadline date is also the same for both scholarships: June 1. LWML Scholarship applications should be

**T**he Florida-Georgia District LWML offers scholarships to students planning to become pastors or other full-time church workers. Scholarship applications and guidelines were sent to all congregations in our district on April 1. Note that there is one application for both LWML scholarships and district

returned to Joanne Hahn, FLGA District LWML Scholarship Chairman (address below).

LWML also offers "Love Gifts," in amounts from \$250-\$1,000 (depending on available funds) for those who may not have the required GPA for the scholarship so students should complete an application even if they think they may not qualify.

Scholarships are for one year only and are not automatically renewed, so the student should apply each year. Family and friends of students need to remind them of that fact and send the application and guidelines to them.

LWML scholarship applications are also available on the District LWML website ([www.flgalwml.com](http://www.flgalwml.com)) and the District LCMS website ([www.flga-lcms.org](http://www.flga-lcms.org)). For more information, contact Joanne Hahn, 1512 Reade Circle, St. Cloud, FL 34772; phone: 407-891-1647; email: [bandjh@erthlink.net](mailto:bandjh@erthlink.net).

### Convention

The 30<sup>th</sup> biennial convention of the Florida-Georgia District LWML will be held September 22-24 at the PGA National Resort & Spa, Palm Beach Gardens, FL. The theme is "God's Grace, the Heart of It All" based on Ephesians 2:8, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from



yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, so that no one can boast."

At this convention, we will celebrate 50 years of scholarships! Look for more information in future issues of *Lutheran LIFE*. Registration forms and details have been mailed to each congregation, and are also available in the summer issue of the *Evangel* and on our website. □

## Sem Alumni Reunion Set

Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, alumni, spouses and widows are invited to attend the annual alumni reunion, which will be held May 30 through June 2 on the Seminary campus. The event is open to graduating classes from years ending in a "1" or a "6."

The theme for this year's reunion is "Pastoral Formation — Then and Now." The presenters are Brian Mosemann (Class of 1991), assistant professor of theology at Concordia University-Austin; Dean O. Wenthe (Class of 1971), president and professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne; and David W. Wollenburg (Class of 1971), associate professor of practical theology and director of distance education at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis.

Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary, will deliver an address regarding current events and future plans at the Seminary.

Invitations to the 2006 alumni reunions were sent in February. Registration forms are also available for download from the Seminary's web site, [www.csl.edu/alumni.htm](http://www.csl.edu/alumni.htm).

For more information about the reunions or to reserve a room for a class gathering, contact Alumni Relations at 314-505-7370 or [alumni@csl.edu](mailto:alumni@csl.edu). □

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