

## YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAM

**Cooperative Effort Feeds Thousands of Hungry People**

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coordinator of the Gathering servant event. "It was a true delight to watch the community come out together to connect with resources and to watch the energy and joy of the teens and LSS staff as they served."

"It was so much fun, the best District retreat I have been to by far," Dallas Boesdorfer of Grace Lutheran said. "The servant event was definitely my favorite

encouraged the youth to use the opportunity to understand their call and to grow as servants of Christ.

Pantry project is a dynamic 21<sup>st</sup> century means of meeting the basic needs of our neighbors who need a helping hand. This

neighborhood, acknowledging that through this program all participating would be blessed.

District 8 City Councilwoman Gwen Yates added her thanks to participants. "I was reminded that I used to serve on the Board of Directors for Lutheran Social Services and today I couldn't be prouder of LSS and for all they're doing for citizens in our community," she said.

Contents of the Family Boxes are designed to supplement what may already be in families' kitchens as well as provide complete meals for a family of four. Nearly 1,100 Family Boxes were distributed to help more than 3,800 people in need during the March 4 Neighborhood Mobile Pantry.

During the event, Shands Jacksonville, Sickle Cell Association, Duval County Health Department, Prostate Cancer Awareness, Mobile HIV Van, Optimum Health and Well Being Inc. were available onsite to provide various health screenings to local residents.

Other partners in the event who donated services were the City of Jacksonville, Jacksonville Sheriff's Office, Jacksonville Fire & Rescue, Flowers Bakery,

First Student bus company, Heritage Paper, Packaging Corporation of America, Reddy Ice and Winn-Dixie Stores.

LSS was founded in 1979 by area Lutherans and



Senior high youth assembled 1,000 Family Boxes the day of the event to add to the 500 boxes already assembled by Lutheran congregations.



David Weidner, Executive for Florida-Georgia Congregational Services, rallies the troops at the Mobile Food Pantry.

part. It not only made a difference in the lives of the 600 or so people who attended, but the more than a thousand people who received the food boxes, and that is just awesome."

In his invocation, David Weidner, Florida-Georgia District Executive Director for Congregational Services, noted that youth from many places were being offered the opportunity "to touch others with God's love." Weidner

"This was a tremendous experience for our Florida-Georgia District youth who had gathered for the weekend for Bible study, keynote presentations, worship, Christian rock concerts, and fellowship," Weidner said. "The Mobile

lesson in Christ-centered care and compassion is one that our enthusiastic youth will not soon forget."

Rev. Frank Marshall of St. Paul-Jacksonville welcomed the community to his neigh-



Lori Schwan, Director of Christian Education at St. Michael Lutheran-Fort Myers, FL, with Lonnie Tice, a junior at Fort Myers High School.

business leaders and continues to be led by LCMS and ELCA congregations today. It serves the hungry through the Second Harvest Food Bank; refugees through the Refugees & Immigrant Services Program; those who are HIV-positive or living with AIDS through the AIDS Care & Education Program; and people who cannot manage their own finances through the Representative Payee Program. □

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## New Book Explores C.S. Lewis' Educational Theory

Now available from Concordia Academic Press is a book that explores C.S. Lewis' views on the purpose of education, model schools and the "Inner Ring."

*Irrigating Deserts* also delves into Lewis' belief in the power and importance of books in the educated life.

According to author Dr. Joel D. Heck, Lewis forged a strong understanding of the value of education in life. Lewis proposed and illustrated in his writings what he modeled in the tutoring session and lecture hall: a passion for education in the classical tradition and a commitment to truth in the context of the Christian faith.

Heck uses some chapters of *Irrigating Deserts* to demonstrate how Lewis' education philosophy and practice apply to today's classrooms, covering objective truth, pedagogy, curriculum, interdisciplinary thinking, the purpose of education and more.

The book is described by Concordia as an "excellent resource for educators and education students," adding that "C.S. Lewis fans will enjoy this glimpse of the intellectual training that made him a great thinker of the 20<sup>th</sup> century."

Heck is vice president of academic services for Concordia

University-Austin. He has written extensively for the church, including several books for Concordia Publishing House.

*Irrigating Deserts* is available from CPH for \$22.99. To order, call 800-325-3040 or visit www.cph.org. □

## Pastors' Wives to Meet

The Florida-Georgia District Pastors' Wives Retreat is set for April 28-30 at the Florida United Methodist Life Enrichment Center in Leesburg, FL, under the theme "The Joy of Being a Child of God."

Retreat leader Elaine Bickel, a Lutheran school principal from Millington, MI, will lead the group in exploring the truths of God's word and the impact on the lives of pastors' wives.

The \$85 registration fee includes lodging for two nights, five meals, a special project and hospitality hours. Some scholarship funding is available through the Florida-Georgia District and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

For additional information, contact Dottie Rudolf at 772-664-7324 or barefootdottie@sunnfla.us. □