



LUTHERAN LIFE

Ablaze
Igniting the World with Christ's Love

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Wiggins installed as Urban Missionary

New Ministry Under Way in Metro Atlanta

Rev. Stephen A. Wiggins Sr. was installed as Urban Missionary for Metropolitan Atlanta on Sunday, January 21, launching a new outreach partnership of the LCMS' Board for Mission Services and the Florida-Georgia District.

Wiggins' installation service was hosted by Holy Cross-Riverdale, where offices for the new ministry will be based. Participants in the service included

Rev. Yohannes Mengsteab, Director of Urban & Specialized Ministries for the LCMS Board for Mission Services; Florida-Georgia District President Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael Jr.; Florida-Georgia District Executive for Outreach Rev. Doug Kallesen; Rev. Don Schroeder and Rev. Khampheuy Munnicha, both of Holy Cross.

"It is our and the Board for Mission Services' intention that this would be the beginning of establishing a number of urban ministry programs in the metropolitan Atlanta area," said Michael.

Wiggins most recently was pastor of Christ Lutheran-East Point, GA, where he will continue to serve in an advisory

role. He described his new call as "the next move of God through Christ Lutheran ... opening our second location in Riverdale."

He elaborated, "Christ Lutheran is partnering with me to establish this first of many new ministries which the Lord will build through this new call."

Last December 10, Wiggins met with Kallesen, Schroeder,

Munnicha and leadership from both Christ Lutheran and Holy Cross to begin planning the first new ministry. Potential members of the new ministry will be invited to the next meeting — tentatively set for February.

"The vision and the process for development will be shared at this meeting," said Wiggins. □

Inside this Issue

President Michael encourages stewardship in the new year — **Page 2**

Redeemer students share spirit of Ablaze with the community — **Page 3**

Lessons from CHS alumni for current, future students — **Page 5**

Ed Wright reports on plans for this month's Lutheran Hour Sunday — **Page 7**

Christmas outreach events highlight school calendars — **Page 9**



Rev. Stephen and Annetta Wiggins



Participating in the installation service for Rev. Stephen Wiggins Sr., Urban Missionary for Metropolitan Atlanta (kneeling) were (l-r) Rev. Doug Kallesen, Florida-Georgia District Executive for Outreach; Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael Jr., Florida-Georgia District President; Rev. Yohannes Mengsteab, Director of Urban & Specialized Ministries for the LCMS Board for Mission Services.; Rev. Don Schroeder and Rev. Khampheuy Munnicha, both Holy Cross-Riverdale.

February 25 service

Trinity-Fort Lauderdale Celebrates Milestone

During the early 1920s, among the thousands of people moving to South Florida were Bertha Radke, Emma Reblin and Herman Thiele.

With a view toward founding a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the three new Floridians approached Rev. H. W. Niewald of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church-Miami. On Friday evening, February 12, 1926, Niewald gathered with 24 people at the Fort Lauderdale Women's Club to conduct the first worship service for what would become Trinity Lutheran Church.

The congregation grew and soon needed a full-time pastor. Rev. Dallas Gibson came in answer to Trinity's call and was installed on September 5, 1926. Less than two weeks later, a hurricane devastated South Florida, challenging the members under Gibson's leadership to help their neighbors rebuild their lives. Not until January 9, 1927, could the congregation formalize their organization.

Celebrating the 80th anniversary of this organization, Trinity members will gather for a festive worship service under the theme *Forward in Faith* on

Sunday, February 25th, beginning at 10 a.m.

Invited to this special service are former members, Trinity school and learning center alumni, friends of the congregation, members of neighboring congregations, community and business leaders. Trinity Lutheran School students will assist with leading the celebration service and will help host the luncheon that will follow.



Members of Trinity have enjoyed a rich history of activity in the Fort Lauderdale area and beyond. Pastor Gibson led Trinity to found a Sunday School in 1927 — the same year he married Susan Hooks of Alabama. In 1933, Mrs. Gibson led the way in founding Trinity Lutheran School, which continues to serve students and their families today in worship, education and child care facilities located along South Andrews Avenue.

Pastor Gibson and Trinity members worked to help other congregations get started including St. Mark's-Hollywood; and Grace and Faith in Fort Lauderdale.

After 29 years of service to Trinity, Pastor and Mrs. Gibson left to help the members of Faith with their ministry.

In August of 1955, Rev. Dean Kasischke was installed as Trinity's second full-time pastor. Soon other congregations formed at Trinity's initiative: Hope-Pompano Beach; Prince of Peace-West Hollywood; Good Shepherd-Fort Lauderdale; Miramar Lutheran-Miramar; Our Savior-Plantation; and Gloria Dei-Davie.

After 29 years of service to Trinity, Kasischke transitioned to part-time service at Our Savior-Lake Worth. Rev. Ralph G. Schmidt served Trinity from 1984-1986, followed by Rev. Louis H. Abel from 1987-2005.

Rev. Thomas S. Hackett was installed as Trinity's pastor last year.



Over the past eight decades, Trinity Lutheran has been a leader in outreach and ministry in many areas, including:

- Helping to form Lutheran High School of South Florida, which served students for two decades;

- Serving as the site where the Lutheran Women's Missionary League was organized in 1945;
- Joining with other congregations for a time to offer Lutheran Central School;
- Having a part in the development of the Cooperative Feeding Program of Broward County.

"As the members of Trinity look to the future, they see a renewed effort to serve children and families in the area through Sunday School, Trinity Learning Center and Trinity Lutheran School," Hackett said. "They envision partnering with others to benefit people, as they carry on their tradition of worship enhanced by fine music."

"They believe God still has work for them to do in Fort Lauderdale and beyond from their facilities in the downtown area."

For additional information on Trinity's February 25 worship service or to make luncheon reservations, please call the church office at 954-463-2450. □

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