

DISTRICT NEWS

# Congregation Celebrates Pastor's Anniversary

On Sunday, June 18, the members of Hope-Plant City, FL, gathered to celebrate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rev. Dean Pfeffer's service as their pastor.

The celebration theme chosen by congregational leaders was, "10 Years of Running with Hope." That theme reflected Pfeffer's running passion (he runs 45 miles week) as well as the congregation's desire "to run with the message of Hope that is only found in the Gospel to our community."

The celebration was a surprise to Pfeffer. During the reception following morning worship service, he was presented with a book entitled "10 Years of Blessings" — a scrapbook of memories of pastor and people over the past decade. Members of Hope submitted personal notes and pictures to express their thanks to Pfeffer and his family. Slides illustrating Pfeffer's years as Hope's pastor were shown during the reception. □



**PENTECOST SUNDAY** — June 4 — was confirmation day for four young students at Savior of All Lutheran Church-Cartersville, GA. Sarah McFarland, Michael Liddle, Taylor Struck and John Terry, pictured with Pastor Charles Reichel, stood before God and the congregation to affirm their belief in the triune God and their trust in Him and His promises. "As confirmed members of the church they will now serve the Lord by helping to bring His word to others," said Reichel. "As confirmed members of the church they will continue to feed on God's Word." □



Pictured presenting the anniversary scrapbook is Hope Congregational President Jim Drapp (left) with Rev. Dean Pfeffer and his wife, Liz.



**CELEBRATING A MILESTONE** — Good Shepherd Lutheran Preschool-Gainesville, GA, held its 11<sup>th</sup> graduation ceremony on May 10. The evening began with the story of Noah's Ark, enacted by the students, and ended with the procession of graduates in caps and gowns to "Pomp and Circumstance." Each graduate received a preschool diploma. Shown are graduates (left to right) Joshua Anderson, Haylee Stephens, Erin Rassel, Jules Mouzakis, Danielle Boerger and Chloe Miller. □

HOPE LUTHERAN-BRADENTON, FL, welcomed Rev. Andrew Toopes as Associate Pastor on April 30. He was installed during a festive afternoon worship service. Among those attending were (left to right) Rev. Rob Hinz; Rev. David Hinman; Rev. Rossiter Leavitt; Rev. Toopes; Rev. Doug Kallesen, Executive Director of Outreach for the Florida-Georgia District; Rev. Stephen Gaulke; Rev. Vic Mennicke; and Rev. Theodore Hanus. □



## Dedication Honors Congregation Youth

On May 7, members of Hope Lutheran-Pompano Beach, FL, gathered to honor Jonathon "Jonny" Kris by dedicating its youth room and butterfly garden in his memory.

Jonny was born on September 18, 1987, and baptized on August 11, 1991. He passed away on March 18, 2005.

He was active at Hope throughout his short life — including spending all of his school years at Hope Lutheran through eighth grade.

"He often shared his ideas about worship and was heavily

involved in evangelical outreach and youth programs," said Bert Matlock, pastoral assistant at Hope. "Jonny felt a call into the pastoral ministry and had a dream of becoming pastor of Hope one day."

As Jonny was a avid sports fan, Hope's youth room features one wall decorated with Miami Dolphins, University of Miami and Miami Heat items. Another wall displays a plaque in his memory along with pictures of the LCMS seminaries in St. Louis and Fort Wayne. □

A VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL FIESTA at St. Paul-Boca Raton, FL, June 12-16, attracted more than 240 children. Each day began with a skit starring Pastor Ben Haupt as a strolling mariachi singer. Minister of Music Stephanie Pfothenauer led "Sing and Play Ole" music. The children visited stations featuring Maraca Munchies, Grande Games, Cactus Crafts or Hot Bible Adventures. Pastor Tom Pfothenauer and Vicar Jeremy Lucke (right to left) brought the Bible stories to life with an interactive drama. "Crawling through a tunnel to arrive in the Holy Land was a high point each day," reported Leslie Schnake, St. Paul's Director of Family Life Ministries. "In what has become a St. Paul tradition, the students were encouraged to bring in their pennies, nickels, dimes and even dollars each day. The money raised went to support the mission work of Hospital del Alma, a District church located in Dade County." The VBS students exceeded their \$1000 goal by raising \$1157.38. □



Hope's youth room