

DISTRICT UPDATES

Lutheran Church of the Cross Receives Thrivent Grant

Lutheran Church of the Cross-Port Charlotte, FL, recently received a \$16,625 grant from the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation.

The grant will allow Lutheran Church of the Cross to conduct a Feasibility Study to determine the appropriateness of their site as a senior housing campus.

"Lutheran Church of the Cross is studying how we might best support the needs of our congregation and Charlotte County community in the

Aging Services sector," said Rev. Kenneth Redmann, the congregation's Senior Pastor.

"We are delighted to assist Lutheran Church of the Cross through this grant, said Karen Coonen, executive director of the Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation. "We trust that this support will enable the organization to better carry out its ministry in the area."

The grant is part of the Foundation's Lutheran Grant Program. This program is designed to help Lutheran

institutions and organizations take advantage of unique growth and service opportunities. It also supports the interests and needs of the Lutheran community. In 2007, the program distributed approximately \$5 million through 100 separate grants.

Eligible grant applicants include: Lutheran congregations, regional divisions of the three largest church bodies, small

church bodies, high schools, colleges, universities, seminaries, camps, campus ministries, social ministry organizations and other independent Lutheran organizations or institutions.

The mission of Lutheran Church of the Cross is to gather souls for Christ with a Christ-centered, Bible-based, spiritually motivated congregation that utilizes the time, talents and

treasures of its members to reach out to the community to offer caring fellowship to all individuals.

The Thrivent Financial for Lutherans Foundation is a private foundation funded by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Additional information about the Foundation and its programs, visit: www.thrivent.com/foundations. □

A Time for the Church To Shine

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inherited from our fathers, not with silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, so that "our faith and hope are in God." (I Peter 1:21) We know God is reliable, and so, confident of God's trustworthiness, we will

financial markets. Its fallout is widespread. Most likely all of us will be affected by it in one way or another. In the midst of this situation, however, let us, the people of God, reflect his love, his unchanging character, and

This is a time for you and me in our personal, family, work and congregational lives to demonstrate that we are people of hope. We know how it's all going to turn out ... The future is ours.

keep our word, honor our commitments, and pay our creditors. Above all, we will seek to be faithful to God unto the end.

There's no doubt about it. Our society is troubled by what has been happening in the

his faithfulness. In this way the church can be a place where people can find fresh hope, acceptance, and cause for trusting again. It is a time for us to shine!

-gcm

Students Make Soldier Blankets

This fall, some 67 St. Paul Lutheran School-Boca Raton, FL, students along with faculty and staff members were part of a group that worked to bring Christmas cheer to deployed US military servicemen and women.

Along with St. Paul Church volunteers and community members, the students, faculty and staff made more than 100 blankets to donate to the "Blankets of Belief" program organized by the national nonprofit organization Soldiers' Angels. The program goal is to send 180,000 blankets to deployed service members worldwide for Christmas.

Volunteers — ranging in age from 8 to 88 — joined forces at St. Paul's Family Life Center to do the cutting and tying knots required to create the fluffy no-sew, two-yard by two-yard blankets. Each blanket was packaged with a personalized

card by St. Paul middle school students.

This is the first year St. Paul participated in the "Blankets" program. The school will host a Red, White, & Blue Dress-Down Day fundraiser to collect funds to pay for supplies used to make the blankets. □



Amanda Koenig and Hailey Robles-Holmes

CAPSULES

by Rev. Gerhard Michael Jr.
President, Florida-Georgia District

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

Pastor
Bartow FL Redeemer
Boca Raton FL St. Paul (Senior)
Brunswick GA (Mission Developer)
Clearwater FL First (Associate)
Clewiston FL Faith
Crawfordville FL Trinity
Englewood FL Redeemer
Estero FL Estero Lutheran Mission (Mission Planter)
LaBelle FL Christ the King
Middleburg FL St. Peter's (Associate)
Naples FL Grace
New Port Richey FL Caring Christ
Newnan GA Zion
North Dade County (Miami Shores FL) Redeemer (Mission Developer)
North Miami FL Holy Cross
Perry GA Christ
Punta Gorda FL Faith
St. Cloud FL Grace
Sarasota FL Good Shepherd (Associate)
St. Petersburg FL Our Savior (Assistant)
Tavernier FL Immanuel
West Palm Beach FL Redeemer

DCE/DCO/Music

Largo FL Christ the King
North Palm Beach FL Faith
Orlando FL Trinity
Plant City FL Hope

CALLS EXTENDED

Abiding Savior-Gainesville FL, extended a call to Rev. Enwood Nevis, Gainesville FL, as associate pastor.
St. Paul-Boca Raton FL, extended a call to Rev. Timothy D. Runtsch, Redeemer, Fort Collins CO, as senior pastor.

CALLS RECEIVED

Rev. David Hammer, Caring Christ-New Port Richey FL, received a call from Eternal Shepherd-Seneca SC, as pastor.
Rev. Benjamin Haupt, St. Paul-Boca Raton FL, received a call from Good Shepherd-Gainesville GA, as pastor.
Rev. Andrew Ross, Grace-St. Petersburg, received a call from Faith-Oakville MO, as pastor.
Rev. Jeffrey L. Thormodson received a call from Concordia Seminary-St. Louis MO, as Assistant to the Director of Vicarage.
Rev. John Koczman, Winter Haven FL, received a call from Bethlehem-Santa Clarita CA, as senior pastor.

CALLS ACCEPTED

Rev. David Hammer, Caring Christ-New Port Richey FL, accepted the call from Eternal Shepherd-Seneca SC.

Rev. Thomas Pfothner, St. Paul-Boca Raton FL, accepted the call from Woodbury-Woodbury MN.

Rev. Jeffrey L. Thormodson accepted the call from Concordia Seminary-St. Louis MO.

Rev. Enwood Nevis, Gainesville FL, accepted the call to Abiding Savior-Gainesville FL.

Rev. Andrew Ross, Grace-St. Petersburg, accepted the call from Faith-Oakville MO.

Rev. Benjamin Haupt, St. Paul-Boca Raton FL, accepted the call from Good Shepherd-Gainesville GA.

Mrs. Jessica Carretto, Boca Raton, FL accepted the call to St. Paul-Boca Raton, FL

Mr. Mike Hardies, St. Paul-Boca Raton FL, accepted the call from Detroit Urban Lutheran School, Detroit MI, as teacher

CALLS DECLINED

Mr. Jeremy Becker, Kirkwood MO, declined the call as Director of Christian Education from St. Paul-Boca Raton FL

Mr. Benjamin Vineyard, Mt. Calvary-Holdrege NE, declined the call as DCE from Trinity-Orlando FL

Mr. Nick Moss, St. Paul-Lakeland FL, declined the call from St. Mark-Houston TX, as Director of Christian Education

TRANSFERRED FROM OTHER DISTRICTS

Rev. Bruce Alberts from the Oklahoma District.
Rev. Alan R. Koch from English District.
Rev. George M. Coffman from the Southeastern District.
Dcs. Sara Oxley from the Indiana District.
Ms. Rebecca from the Ohio District.
Mr. James Richards from the Michigan District
Ms. Rachel Vrudny from the Southern District
Ms. Rebecca Matson from the Michigan District
Mr. Timothy Leinberger from the Missouri District
Mr. John Leimer from the Missouri District
Ms. Linda Sasse from the Michigan District
Mrs. Jessica Carretto from the Missouri District

TRANSFERRED TO OTHER DISTRICTS

Rev. Thomas J. Pfothner to the Minnesota South District.

Rev. David M. Hammer to the Southeastern District.
Rev. Jeffrey L. Thormodson to the Missouri District.
Rev. Andrew B. Ross to the Missouri District.
Mrs. Cheryl Reinke to the Northwest District
Mr. Daniel Palisch to the Texas District
Mr. Michael Hardies to the Michigan District

COMMISSIONED MINISTER ASSIGNMENTS

Ms. Kathleen Jane Hruby - Concordia Nebraska - Guardian-Jacksonville, FL

RESIGNATIONS/REMOVALS

Ms. Sheryl Essenburg teacher, Stuart, FL, was removed from the Commissioned Minister Roster of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, August 4, 2008.

EMERITUS

Rev. Dr. Richard E. Bradley, Clearwater FL, May 31, 2008.
Rev. Angel L. Perez, Port Richey FL, January 31, 2008.
Ms. Diane Kay Mayer, Valrico, FL, July 28, 2008.
Mr. Daniel Palisch, Peachtree City, GA, June 30, 2008