



LUTHERAN LIFE

Ablaze
Igniting the World with Christ's Love

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Outstanding Educators Honored at Conference

Florida-Georgia District teachers, administrators, Directors of Christian Education, pastors and caregivers were among some 680 participants at the 2006 Educators Conference, September 27-29 at the Wyndham Resort in Orlando.

The theme for the three-day gathering — "Child of the Light . . . Be One! Teach One! Reach One!" — was based on Ephesians 4:17-5:20, which includes the key phrase, "For you were once darkness, but now you are

light in the Lord. Live as children of light . . ."

Keynote addresses from featured speaker Dina Carol Vendetti explored aspects of this theme. She shared various stories from the field that illustrated how the Gospel is spread from child to child. Rev. Stephen A. Wiggins, Sr., pastor of Christ-East Point, GA, led Conference Bible studies and preached at the opening worship service.

Four separate sessions offered Conference participants the opportunity to attend a variety of workshops covering various aspects of ministry and outreach. The workshops were designed to target different focus groups.

A highlight of the Conference was the announcement of this year's recipients of the Ben Eggers Outstanding Lutheran Educator Awards, given to exemplary educators in the categories of preschool/ kindergarten; elementary grades 1-5 middle/high school grades 6-12; or administration.

At this year's conference, three educators were honored:

- Joyce Brosch in the area of elementary education;
- Carl Schiefer in the area of middle/high school; and

- Jesse Crossmer in the area of administration.

Joyce Brosch

First-grade teacher Joyce Brosch has been an educator for 38 years, the last 19 of them at Holy Cross Lutheran School-North Miami, FL.

love," who "helps in all subjects all the time." She "smiles a lot" and "shows me Jesus really does love me."

Carl Schiefer

For the past 21 years, Carl Schiefer has been on the faculty of St. Paul Lutheran School-Boca Raton, FL. He has served in various capacities at St. Paul and now teaches middle school math and religion.

During his 44-year career, Schiefer has also served schools in Hong Kong, India and Michigan. Colleagues note that Schiefer is "an amazing encourager, a great listener and outstanding teacher"

who "never shies away from an opportunity to talk about his Savior." He "walks the walk," they report, and "his love for the Lord is evident in his spiritual life, personal life and professional life."

Jesse Crossmer

A former president of the Educators Conference, Jesse Crossmer has served most of his 25 years in the teaching ministry in the Florida-Georgia District. He is the principal of Our Savior Lutheran School-St. Petersburg, FL.

Crossmer, according to colleagues, "demonstrates exceptional Christian leadership through his patience, dedication, infectious enthusiasm and strong faith." He "leads by example" and "has vision and strengths that motivate others."

During his time at Our Savior, Crossmer has served in various roles and has set up a radio broadcast station for the local area. □

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Known as the "elder statesman" among the Holy Cross staff, Brosch is described by colleagues as "the voice of wisdom, energy, maturity and humor" who "exemplifies every day what a true Christian is really supposed to be."

Her students enhance that description, calling Brosch "a good disciplinarian because she does it with motherly



Rev. Stephen A. Wiggins Sr. led Conference Bible studies and preached at the opening worship service.



Joyce Brosch of Holy Cross-North Miami, FL



AMONG THOSE STUDENTS beginning their studies at Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne this year are Christopher J. Hull of Timothy Lutheran Church-Woodstock, GA, shown here with his wife, Allison; and Tod A. Shouse of Messiah Lutheran-Tampa, FL. Hull is studying for his Master of Divinity degree, and Shouse is in the Seminary's alternate route program. □



Shown with honoree Carl Schiefer of St. Paul-Boca Raton, FL, are (l-r) his daughter Katrina Kemos of Boca Raton; mother Gretchen Schiefer of Frankenmuth, MI; wife Virginia; and sister Charlotte Heinlein of Frankenmuth.



HURRICANE FUN KITS FOR KIDS — St. Paul Lutheran School-Lakeland, FL, seventh-grade student Lexi Rhoden (left) and her friend Angelica Brigman (right) worked many volunteer hours on a community service project called Hurricane Fun Kits for Kids. These kits will be picked up by the Red Cross and distributed to kids who are evacuated to shelters during a hurricane. Their original goal was to make 100 kits, but they decided to make 275 kits. They hope these Hurricane Fun Kits will bring some comfort to children who are displaced during the upcoming hurricane season. □

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