

DISTRICT UPDATE

# Rossetter Leavitt Honored

Beautiful Savior-Sarasota, FL, Pastor Rossetter "Rusty" Leavitt was the guest of honor at a summer celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination.

A single morning worship on June 25 started the celebration. Preaching was Rev. Jon Trinklein of Omaha, NE. He and his wife, Sue, are friends of Pastor and Lynn Leavitt from their years together at the seminary. All five of the Leavitts' sons participated in the service by doing a reading — while Pastor Leavitt's sister, Diana Richards, shared the children's sermon.

Beautiful Savior's choir, with violin accompaniment, and bell

choir performed songs that are special to Leavitt.

The celebration continued after the worship with a "This is Your Life" roast — with a western flair. Joining in the fun were Leavitt's parents, two brothers and sister, coming from as nearby as Clearwater and as far away as Texas; along with his sons, who shared some memories about their father before expressing their appreciation for his loving care.

Beautiful Savior's Pastor Emeritus Wayman Still regaled the audience with some funny reminiscences of Leavitt since he joined the congregation almost five years ago.

The congregation presented the guest of honor with an engraved "western" belt buckle and a picture of the Bible with the glasses, a pointed reference to his trouble locating his glasses.

Capping the day was a western barbecue dinner in the fellowship hall.

A native of St. Petersburg, FL, Leavitt is a Concordia University graduate who first served as a director of Christian education before going to the seminary. He was ordained in 1981 and served congregations in Texas before coming back to Florida.

Before he had made the decision to accept the call to Beautiful Savior, his youngest son, Peter, was seriously injured when a garage door fell on him. He was airlifted to the hospital — and walked out five days later.

Leavitt said his decision to come to Florida wavered on

his son's health. With Peter's rapid recovery, the decision was made. Leavitt moved to Florida in January of 2002 — coming alone as wife Lynn and their three youngest sons stayed in Texas to complete the school year.

Leavitt credits Beautiful Savior members with helping him survive that period.

"I never went without a meal," he remembered. "People either invited me out to eat or had me over for dinner." □



Pastor Rusty and Lynn Leavitt with friends Sue and Rev. Jon Trinklein.



**DEACONESS CANDIDATES PLACED** — Three deaconess candidates from Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne, were recently placed with LCMS entities. Those receiving their placement were Kimberly L. Schave who will serve at Christ Lutheran Church-Perry, GA; Sara M. Bielby who will serve at Immanuel-East Ida, MI, and University Lutheran Chapel-Ann Arbor; and Karoline L. Nee, A Place of Refuge Ministries-Milwaukee. Deaconess Studies is a graduate level program for women begun at CTS in 2003. The Seminary describes this as "a rigorous program of theological study that provides the foundation for the charitable life ... These acts of charity are as varied as the women themselves. They involve human and spiritual care, including aspects of nursing/medical care, administrative responsibilities, instruction in the faith, mission work, care for the weak and impoverished, care for women and children in need, or any number of vocations needed for the church's life." Shown here (l-r) are Seminary President Dr. Dean Wenthe, CTS President, with Deaconess Candidates Karoline Nee, Kimberly Schave, and Sara Bielby; Dr. Arthur Just Jr., Director of Deaconess Studies; and Dr. Carl Fickenscher, Dean of Pastoral Education and Placement. □



**REV. HUBERT TEMME** is one of two new regional directors of development for Concordia Seminary-St. Louis. He is serving as a deployed professional in the Florida-Georgia District with responsibilities that include assisting individuals and organizations who wish to support Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod theological education through their personal financial stewardship with gifts to the Seminary. Temme previously served as a parish pastor in Illinois, Maryland, Hong Kong, Bahamas and Grand Cayman. He was vice president for development at Wheat Ridge Ministries and resident missionary at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis. A trained international interim minister, Temme served churches in North and South Carolina, Maryland and Florida. He also served in the English Ministry in Wittenberg, Germany. "I have known Hubert since the early 1970s and have always treasured his energetic churchmanship," said Seminary President Dr. Dale Meyer. □

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

### Calling Congregations Pastor

Athens GA.....Trinity  
 Augusta GA ..... Our Redeemer  
 Brooksville FL..... Christ  
 Cape Coral FL .....Trinity  
 Cartersville GA ..... Savior of All  
 Clewiston FL .....Faith  
 Gainesville FL .....Abiding Savior  
 Hialeah FL .....St. Andrew's  
 LaBelle FL ..... Christ the King  
 North Miami FL.....Holy Cross  
 North Palm Beach FL .....Faith  
 Riverdale GA .....Holy Cross  
 Savannah GA .....Trinity  
 Stockbridge GA .....Lord of Life  
 Tallahassee FL..... Epiphany

### Senior Pastor

Atlanta GA ..... Rivercliff

### Mission Developer/Planter

North Dade County  
 (Miami Shores FL) .....Redeemer  
 Oxford FL .....(Mission Planter)

### Principal/Administrator

Fort Myers FL ..... Zion  
 Holly Hill FL .....Trinity  
 Merritt Island FL.....Faith  
 Naples FL .....Christ Community  
 Orlando FL ..... Prince of Peace  
 Orlando FL .....Trinity

### DCE/DCO

Hollywood FL..... St. Mark's  
 St. Petersburg FL..... Grace  
 Winter Haven FL ..... Grace

### Calls Extended

Holy Cross-North Miami FL,  
 extended a call to Rev. Brad  
 Heintz, Holy Cross-Houston TX,  
 as pastor.

St. Mark's-Hollywood FL,  
 extended a call to Roy W.  
 Heflin, Candidate, Texas  
 District, as DCE.

Trinity-Fort Lauderdale FL,  
 extended a call to Rev. Thomas  
 S. Hackett, Port St. Lucie FL, as  
 pastor.

Lord of Life-Stockbridge GA,  
 extended a call to Rev. John  
 Burger, St. Paul-Utica, NE, as  
 pastor.

Grace-Winter Haven FL, extended  
 a call to Rev. Nathan Kuhlman,  
 Prince of Peace-Carrollton TX,  
 as Youth Pastor.

St. Andrews-Hialeah FL, extended  
 a call to Rev. Donaldson Sonntag,  
 Living Savior-Lowell AR, as  
 pastor.

Living Hope-Kennesaw GA,  
 extended a call to Rev. Dr.  
 Rodger Meyer, Woodstock GA,  
 as assistant pastor.

### Calls Received

Mr. Joe Guagliardo, Zion-Fort  
 Myers FL, received a call from  
 Faith-Merritt Island FL, as Lay  
 Minister.

### Calls Accepted

Rev. Timothy Droegemueller,  
 Grace-Jacksonville FL,  
 accepted the call from Living  
 Faith-Cumming GA.  
 Rev. Thomas S. Hackett, Port St.  
 Lucie FL, accepted the call from  
 Trinity-Fort Lauderdale FL.  
 Mr. Roy W. Heflin, Candidate,  
 Texas District, accepted the call  
 from St. Mark's-Hollywood FL.  
 Mr. Joe Guagliardo, Zion-Fort  
 Myers FL, accepted the call  
 from Faith-Merritt Island FL.

### Transferred from Other Districts

Rev. Kevin R. Loughran from  
 South Wisconsin

### Transferred to Other Districts

Lori L. (Leonard) Stengel to  
 Missouri

### Commissioned Minister Assignments

Mr. Timothy Richter - Seward NE  
 - Christ-Brooksville FL  
 Ms. Noel Johnson - Portland OR  
 - Trinity-Lake Placid FL  
 Mr. Morgan I. Grillot - Seward NE  
 - Faith-Marietta GA  
 Ms. Emilie A. Meyer - Seward NE  
 - Faith-Marietta GA  
 Ms. Sarah E. Peters - Seward NE  
 - Faith-Marietta GA  
 Ms. Sarah Streger - Austin TX  
 - Immanuel-Brandon FL  
 Mr. Philip Frahm - Seward NE  
 - Holy Cross-S Daytona FL

### Resignation

Rev. Edward M. Ralph (Emeritus),  
 Athens GA.  
 Rev. Christopher R. Bodley, Our  
 Savior-Orlando FL.  
 Rev. James Timmons, LC of the  
 Redeemer-Sanford FL.

### Emeritus

Rev. Dr. David W. Raetz,  
 Monticello GA.

### Church Triumphant

Rev. Alvin E. Heumann, Oviedo FL,  
 September 6, 2006



**VOLLEYBALL CHAMPS** — The Lakeland Area Volleyball Association 15 Red Team won the Gold Division in Tampa. Team members include (front, l-r) Patricia Traux, Cecelia Roesch, Kaley Rhoden, Stacey Heckerman, (back, l-r) Coach Molly Sapp, Krista Andersen, Lauren Andersen, Brandi Kines, Lauren Lassiter. Krista and Laurean Andersen and Kaley Rhoden are members of St. Paul-Lakeland. □