

Our Savior-Lake Worth Welcomes New Pastor

Rev. Stephen Wipperman is the new shepherd of Our Savior Lutheran Church and School-Lake Worth, FL. He was installed during a celebratory afternoon service on August 14.

The nearly 80-year-old downtown congregation had been without a pastor for three and one-half years.

Participating in the installation service were four of the five pastors who had helped Our Savior's members through the long pastoral vacancy. Rev.

Walter Volz, Our Savior's interim pastor, was the homilist; Revs. James Stilwell, Dwayne Hoyer and Russel Johnson — who all had served the congregation during the vacancy — were liturgists. The fifth vacancy pastor, Rev. James Vehling, had recently moved to Minnesota.

Rev. Dr. Gerhard Michael Jr., Florida-Georgia District president, performed the Rite of Installation, and Rev. Scott Gress, Palm Beach Circuit Counselor, was a liturgist.

Also participating in the service were Rev. Jerry Lawson, a former Our Savior vicar now serving in Fort Myers; Rev. Richard Arndt, a former Our Savior member and congregational president now serving in Fort Myers; and Rev. Dan McPherson, another former Our Savior member and congregational president who is now serving in North Palm Beach.

Special music highlighted the installation service, including choral selections from Our Savior's 30-voice choir under the direction of Marlene Cooper. The service concluded with a special choral benediction — Peter Lutkin's "The Lord Bless You and Keep You."

A congregational dinner in the Christian Activity Center followed the service.

Wipperman, a 1978 graduate of Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, most recently was on the staff of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's Minnesota South District where he helped to develop new missions and ministries. Prior to that he served

as a pastor for congregations in Milwaukee and Wausau, WI.

Wipperman and his wife, Kristen, a kindergarten/first-grade teacher at Our Savior's day school, have three children: Matthew, Jennifer and Benjamin. □



EXPLORING CHURCH VOCATIONS — Among the 48 young men attending the 2005 Exploring the Pastoral Ministry held August 2-5 at Concordia Seminary-St. Louis were Raymond Carl Feran and John David Illsley of Trinity Lutheran Church-Delray Beach, FL, shown here with Dr. Wally Becker, director of ministerial recruitment. Those attending EPM studied theology with Seminary professors, worshiped with the Seminary community, listened to pastors discuss the joys and challenges of the pastoral ministry, took part in a Servant Event and attended a St. Louis Cardinals baseball game. □



Rev. Stephen Wipperman and Florida-Georgia District President Gerhard Michael Jr., (front center) with area pastors at the August 14 installation service.



TRINITY LUTHERAN-HOLLY HILL, FL, welcomed 17 students into communicant membership earlier this year. The youth had been instructed by Pastor Frederick W. Schultz and DCE Mark Wetherell in two different classes. Shown here are (front, left to right) Jessica Wetherington, Katie Breunlin, Alyson Herrmann, Sara Trudeau, Aaron Schulz, (middle, left to right) Dakota Marks, Cathy Hornung, Rob Kendall, Ashley Bemis, E.G. Schaefer, Katie Schulz, (back, left to right) DCE Mark Wetherell, Taylor Wittenberg, Katelyn Bonnevier, Seth Cosat, Kayla Walker, Pastor Frederick W. Schultz. Not pictured are confirmands Kaitlyn McCabe and Caroline Phillips. □

CAPSULES

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

Calling Congregations Pastor

Cape Coral FL Trinity
Hialeah FL St. Andrew's
Inverness FL First
LaBelle FL Christ the King
North Palm Beach FL Faith
Pompano Beach FL Hope

Senior Pastor

Orlando FL Prince of Peace
St. Petersburg FL Grace
St. Petersburg FL Our Savior

Associate Pastor

Brandon FL Immanuel
Bradenton FL Hope
Winter Haven FL Grace

Associate/Assistant Pastor

Delray Beach FL Trinity

Assistant Pastor

Eustis FL Faith
Lutz FL Holy Trinity

Mission Developer

North Dade County
(Miami Shores FL) Redeemer

Principal/Administrator

Orlando FL Prince of Peace

DCE/DCO

Kennesaw GA Living Hope
Marietta GA Faith
Orlando FL Trinity
Peachtree City GA St. Paul
Savannah GA Trinity

Calls Received

Rev. Dennis L. Bartels, Holy Cross-N. Miami FL, received a call from Immanuel- Memphis TN, as pastor.

Calls Accepted

Rev. Dennis L. Bartels, Holy Cross-N. Miami FL, accepted the call from Immanuel- Memphis TN.

Calls Declined

Rev. Dean R. Pfeffer, Hope-Plant City FL, declined the call from Emanuel-Patchogue NY.

Transferred to Other Districts

Mr. Andrew J. Berg to South Dakota
Ms. Sue Anne R. Adams to Southeastern
Ms. Melissa Amendt to Rocky Mountain
Mr. Gary Dresser to New England
Mr. Mark Kehr to New England

Transferred from Other Districts

Rev. Les Kimball from Northern Illinois
Rev. Paul S. Zimmermann from California-Nevada-Hawaii
Rev. Carl Rau from Indiana
Rev. Robert L. Hinz from Southeastern
Ms. Melissa Wittcop from SELC
Mr. Michael Popp from Iowa East

Commissioned Minister Assignments - Teachers/ DCEs

Mr. Benjamin P. Cooper - Concordia-Seward NE - Orlando Lutheran Academy-Orlando FL
Miss Rebecca G. Geisler - Concordia-Seward NE - Lakeside-Venice FL
Ms. Julianna C. Shults - Concordia-Seward NE - Hope-Plant City FL
Mr. John Dresser - Concordia-Bronxville NY - St. Mark's-Hollywood FL
Ms. Stacy A. Lessman - Concordia-St. Paul MN - St. Mark's-Hollywood FL
Ms. Peggy Jo Griffin - Concordia-Portland OR - Grace-Winter Haven FL
Mr. Bruce Wall - Concordia-Seward NE - Trinity-Orlando FL

Emeritus

Rev. Richard C. Markworth, Lady Lake FL

Church Triumphant

Rev. Henry C. Abram, September 22, 2005.

Paul Zimmerman Installed at First-Clearwater

Rev. Paul S. Zimmerman was installed as pastor at First Evangelical Lutheran-Clearwater, FL, on August 7 during a special afternoon service.



Rev. Paul and Laura Zimmerman

Rev. Michael Tharau, circuit counselor, was the installing pastor, and Rev. James Guelzow, first vice president of the Florida-Georgia District, was the guest preacher.

An honors graduate of Concordia College-Milwaukee, Zimmerman received his M.Div. from Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne. He has begun coursework on a second master's degree — this one in communications — at Eastern Illinois University.

Zimmerman has served in pastoral positions for congregations in New Mexico, Colorado,

Illinois and California. He was a member of the evangelism committee for the Rocky Mountain District; a Lutheran Church Extension Fund trustee in the Central Illinois District; and regional director/coordinator for California/Nevada/Hawaii District Ministry Center. He has also been active in civic organizations.

His wife of 28 years, Laura, is a nurse who plans to work in a Clearwater surgical center. The Zimmermans have two sons: Tim, who lives and works in Olympia, WA; and Andy, a student at Pepperdine University. □