

DISTRICT UPDATES

Trinity Honors Pastor Abram

Trinity Lutheran Church-Summerfield, FL, hosted a dinner in recognition of Pastor Mark Abram's 25th year of ordination into the ministry on Sunday, June 24.

A third-generation LCMS pastor, Abram is following in the footsteps of his grandfather and father. Born in Fort Wayne, IN, his family moved to Orlando, FL where his father was the founding pastor of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. He attended

Trinity Prep and graduated with a BS in finance from the University of Central Florida. In 1982, he graduated with a Master of Divinity from Concordia Seminary-St. Louis.

Abram served two Florida congregations from 1982 to 1989 before moving to New Jersey to serve a special two-year term call as a Mission Developer. He has also served congregations in Danville, VA and Land O' Lakes, WI.

Abram came to Trinity from Faith-Appleton, WI, where he had served as Associate Pastor for eight years.

Abram met his wife, Dawn, during his vicarage. They have

two children: Jillian, who is working on her master's degree; and Marcus, who is attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

The celebration dinner was attended by 240 people. Several Trinity officers and members of Abram's family offered their thanks and appreciation for the work he has done over the years.

Among the speakers was Florida-Georgia District President Gerhard Michael, Jr., who spoke about the good job Abram did in laying groundwork for the growth at congregations in Okeechobee and Titusville at the beginning of his ministerial career. Michael also commented on the "symbiotic relationship" Abram has established with the Trinity congregation.

Abram said, "I know I'm supposed to be here. That's a wonderful feeling, to know you're where you're supposed to be in God's kingdom." □



Florida-Georgia District President Gerhard Michael and wife, Joan (hidden to his left), are shown with Pastor Mark Abram, his wife Dawn and their family members.

Largo Parish Welcomes New Pastor

Nathan Perego was ordained and installed as Assistant Pastor at Christ The King Lutheran Church-Largo, FL, during a special afternoon service on July 15.

Officiating was Christ The King Pastor Mike Thurau. Ten local LCMS pastors participated in the service, which was attended by some 160 worshipers. A dinner followed the service.

A native of Lancaster, CA, Perego graduated from Concordia University Nebraska with a BA in psychology before entering Concordia Seminary-St. Louis. He served his vicarage at Messiah-Lakeville, MN. □



Christ The King-Largo Assistant Pastor Nate Perego (kneeling) with Pastor Mike Thurau (center) and Pastor Emeritus Daniel Brockhoff (right)

Vega Ordained and Installed in Hialeah

Rev. Roland Vega was ordained and installed as pastor of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church-Hialeah, FL, on Sunday, July 15.

Florida-Georgia District First Vice President, Rev. Dennis Glick officiated at the ordination and installation. Glick, who is senior pastor at St. Paul-Boca Raton, preached on the theme "Sent By God."

The service was coordinated by North Miami Circuit Counselor Rev. Erwin Perez-Arche, pastor of Bayshore Lutheran-Miami. Also participating in the service were Pastors Mark Wessling of

Faith-Hialeah, Dennis Bartels of Holy Cross-North Miami, Mario Perez-Arche of San Pablo Apostol-Miami and James Tino of New Life-Miramar.

A second-career pastor, Vega studied business management at Triton College. After 20 "prosperous years in the

restaurant industry," he decided to enter the pastoral ministry. He attended Concordia Seminary-St. Louis, serving his vicarage at Trinity Lutheran-Garden City, KS. He graduated from Concordia in May of this year.

Vega and his wife, Ruth, are natives of the Chicago area. □



Rev. Roland and Ruth Vega with (l-r) Rev. Dennis Glick, Rev. Dennis Bartels, Rev. Mark Wessling, Rev. Mario Perez-Arche, Rev. Erwin Perez-Arche and Rev. James Tino.

CAPSULES

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

Calling Congregations Pastor

Athens GA..... Trinity
Augusta GA..... Our Redeemer
Bartow FL..... Redeemer
Clewiston FL..... Faith
Gainesville FL..... Abiding Savior
Hampton GA..... Christ Our Savior
LaBelle FL..... Christ the King
Marco Island FL..... Marco
Miami FL..... Concordia
North Miami FL..... Holy Cross
Orlando FL..... Our Savior
Tavernier FL..... Immanuel
Titusville FL..... Good Shepherd

Senior Pastor

Boca Raton FL..... St. Paul
Eustis FL..... Faith

Associate/Assistant Pastor

Jacksonville FL..... Grace

Mission Planter

Estero FL Estero Lutheran Mission

Mission Developer

North Dade County (Miami Shores FL)..... Redeemer

Youth Pastor

Winter Haven FL..... Grace

Principal/Administrator

Dunwoody GA..... Rivercliff
Holly Hill FL..... Trinity
Orlando FL..... Trinity

DCE/DCO/Music

Okeechobee FL..... Peace
Sarasota FL..... Beautiful Savior

Calls Extended

Orlando Lutheran Academy-Orlando FL, extended a call to Mr. Timothy M. Leech, Our Redeemer-North Platte NE, as teacher/coach.

St. Paul-Peachtree City GA, extended a call to Ms. Jessica A. Anderson, St. Peter-Arlington Heights IL, as teacher.
Abiding Savior-Gainesville FL, extended a call to Rev. Alan Struckmeyer, Immanuel-Temple TX, as pastor.
First-Clearwater FL, extended a call to Mrs. Melynda E. Stackhouse, Atonement-Metairie LA, as teacher.

Calls Received

Rev. William S. C. Johnson, Zion Ev.-Newnan GA, received a call from Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne IN.

Calls Accepted

Rev. William S. C. Johnson, Zion Ev.-Newnan GA, accepted the call from Concordia Theological Seminary-Fort Wayne IN.
Ms. Jessica A. Anderson, St. Peter-Arlington Heights IL, accepted the call from St. Paul-Peachtree City GA.
Mrs. Melynda E. Stackhouse, Atonement-Metairie LA, accepted the call from First-Clearwater FL.
Mr. Timothy M. Leech, Our Redeemer-North Platte NE, accepted the call from Orlando Lutheran Academy-Orlando FL.
Mr. Mark Miessler, St. Petersburg FL, accepted the call from Concordia-Tampa FL.

Calls Declined

Rev. Andrew Koschmann, Our Savior Lutheran Church-Carol Stream IL, declined the call from Abiding Savior Lutheran-Gainesville FL.

Transferred from Other Districts

Rev. Bruce A. Brinkman from Minnesota North
Rev. Paul R. Meseke from Eastern
Ms. Jennifer J. Welch from Northern Illinois
Ms. Deborah Schrank from Rocky Mountain
Mrs. Melynda E. Stackhouse from Southern

Transferred to Other Districts

Rev. Kenneth L. Babin to Southern
Rev. Christopher Decker to Central Illinois
Mr. Gary B. Cadwising to Pacific Southwest
Ms. Rebecca Kostrzewa to South Wisconsin
Ms. Elizabeth A. Leinberger to Missouri

Resignation

Mr. Christian M. Berens, Charter Oak IA.

Ordained Minister Assignments

Candidate Ross M. Engel - Concordia-St. Louis MO - Holy Trinity-Lutz FL

Emeritus

Mrs. Susan F. Frank, Ormond Beach FL.
Mr. Ted Frank, Ormond Beach FL

Church Triumphant

Rev. Dr. Walter J. Bartling, Decatur GA, July 30, 2007
Rev. H. William Lieske, Kissimmee FL, August 13, 2007



AVALANCHE RANCH VBS at Beautiful Savior-Sarasota/Bradenton, FL, offered a wonderful outreach to the community. From covered wagon rides to wild Bible adventures, the 98 buckaroos had a great time. Participating were Beautiful Savior members as well as a large number of non-members from the surrounding communities. Several of the children brought their families to church on the following Sunday and during follow-up contact, the parents voiced an interest in Sunday School and attending worship services as a family. □