



THE ANCHOR

NOVEMBER 2007

Plan your Funeral!

Happy All Saints Day! As we think about loved ones who have passed away who are now with Christ awaiting His return and the resurrection of their bodies, it's a good time to think about funerals.

In a recent issue of the *Lutheran Witness*, Pastor Jonathan Watt writes "You won't care what is done, said, or sung at your funeral. You will be rejoicing in the presence of the Savior. Your funeral is not for you; it is for your family and friends. Your funeral is not about you; it is about Jesus. Those who have gathered will be comforted when they hear all that He has done to give you, and them, eternal life." Amen. The point of Watt's article is a good one: plan your funeral.

When you die (and you will), your family will grieve. In addition to grieving, they'll be faced with many decisions they probably will not have considered before. You can take care of some of those decisions in advance by planning your funeral.

A funeral is a worship service. People are gathered to worship the One who died and rose victorious over death: Jesus Christ. He claimed you to be His own in Holy Baptism and death won't stop Him from laying claim to you: soul *and* body. The body that was buried with Christ in Holy Baptism will rise from the grave that it gets buried into grave of dirt at your funeral. That's right. Jesus rose from the dead. And He will raise *your very body!* As a worship service to the Crucified and Risen Christ, your funeral should testify to this certain hope.

And it's never too early to start planning. Sit down with me in my office some time and let's make sure your funeral clearly and with certainty proclaims the hope that belongs to all to whom the Lord has given His gift of faith. While funerals are an opportunity for friends and family members to grieve, they should not be filled with empty sentimentality or false wishes. You don't want people missing the crystal clear truth of Jesus crucified and risen for sinners because they planned your funeral hastily or under great stress. And you don't want to leave it to the undertaker to suggest a Christian funeral to your family.

So, take the initiative. Plan your funeral. Let the truth of Jesus who said of Himself, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet will he live" (John 11:25) be heard clearly!

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Hemmer

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

SEPTEMBER ATTENDANCE

Sunday school Adult Bible Study Sunday Worship/Communion

<u>2nd.</u>	22	21	134/91
<u>9TH.</u>	23	19	128
<u>16th.</u>	13	23	129/87
<u>23rd.</u>	21	23	132
<u>30th.</u>	21	18	127/88



SERVING THE LORD IN NOVEMBER

ELDER:

LARRY DECKER

ALTAR GUILD:

DONNA STRAUB & KELLY LITTLE

GREETERS:

4TH: CLIFF & VERA NEAL

11TH: GARY & JEAN PINKARD

18TH: TINA RAPP & MARILYN ROGERS

21ST: BOB & CAROL SKIBBE (THANKSGIVING EVE.)

25TH: DENNIS & BRANDI SMITH

USHERS:

4TH: RICK ANGEL, LEN STRAUB, MARVIN FRAZER & RANDY MARGESON

11TH: JOHN & STEVE FICKER, NATHAN MARTIN & BILL IVERS

18TH: JOHN LYMING, MIKE ROTH & JERRY & SCOTT SUMMERS

25TH: DAVE ROTH, DON CARPENTER, ERIC TRISLER & KRIS MCGUIRE

ACOLYTES:

4TH: GARRETT BLASA

11TH: TAYLOR EBERHARDT

18TH: ALOERA MONTZ

25TH: ERIN SMITH

Carpet Fund

THE CARPET FUND AS OF 9/31/07 IS \$6032.74



A CHRISTIAN GIVES BECAUSE JESUS WAS FIRST GIVEN TO US...SO THAT THROUGH HIM WE HAVE LIFE AND WE HAVE IT TO THE FULL! [GOD] WHO DID NOT SPARE HIS OWN SON BUT GAVE HIM UP FOR US ALL – HOW WILL HE NOT ALSO WITH HIM GIVE US ALL THINGS? (ROMANS 8:32) GOD DOESN'T NEED OUR MONEY!!! WE NEED GOD AND WE NEED THE OPPORTUNITY TO THANK HIM BY WORSHIPPING WITH OUR **GOD-GIVEN** TIME, TALENTS AND FINANCIAL TREASURES.

FINANCIAL REPORT: **OCTOBER**

NEEDED PER WEEK: \$2548.09



7th:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: \$32.25
PLATE: \$174.25
ENVELOPE: \$1863
DEBT FUND: \$105
MISSIONS: \$0
GENERAL FUND: \$2174.50
HYMNALS: \$1470
FLOWERS: \$0
IMPROV. FUND: \$0
MEMORIALS: \$0
WITNESS: \$0
PARKING: \$0
OTHER: \$7



14TH:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: \$35.90
PLATE: \$176.50
ENVELOPE: \$1796
DEBT FUND: \$0
MISSIONS: \$0
GENERAL FUND: \$2008.40
HYMNALS: \$700
FLOWERS: \$0
IMPROV. FUND: \$0
MEMORIALS: \$0
WITNESS: \$0
PARKING: \$0
OTHER: \$0

21ST:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: \$35.40
PLATE: \$120.67
ENVELOPE: \$1668
DEBT FUND: \$125
MISSIONS: \$0
GENERAL FUND: \$1949.07
HYMNALS: \$520
FLOWERS: \$0
IMPROV. FUND: \$0
MEMORIALS: \$0
WITNESS: \$0
MOVING: \$0
PARKING: \$0
OTHER: \$0

28TH:

SUNDAY SCHOOL: \$25.28
PLATE: \$199.78
ENVELOPE: \$1006
DEBT FUND: \$30
MISSIONS: \$0
GENERAL FUND: \$1261.06
HYMNALS: \$520
FLOWERS: \$0
IMPROV. FUND: \$0

MEMORIALS: \$0
WITNESS: \$0
MOVING: \$0
PARKING: \$0
OTHER: \$30



PRAYER PARTNERS

4TH: CARA & ART TINKLE
11TH: MALINDA & BILL TOWELL (ALEXANDRA)
18TH: ERIC & TINA TRISLER (RANDY, TRAVIS & CHANCE)
25TH: RAMONA VANHOOSER; TIM & LINDA VANHOVELN



NOVEMBER



BIRTHDAYS

3RD: ETHEL SUMMERS	17TH: EHTEL MARGESON
4TH: KOTY RETHORN	18TH: MARGARET LINSLEY
5TH: CAROL SKIBBE	19TH: LESLIE MITKOS III
SARAH SUMMERS	21ST: TINA LYMING
7TH: DARLENE GOWIN	FLORENCE MOELLER
BENJAMIN MCKENNON	22ND: THEODORE DROSTE
8TH: BRYAN MCKENNON	BARB YOUNG
DONNA MORRIS	24TH: ROSEMARY IVERS
SHELLEY PYRTLE	KIMBERLY MARGESON
9TH: VINCE SIBLEY	25TH: DANNY GREEN
ERINN ELLEDGE	BRANDY PURCELL

12TH: JOE BLATTNER

13TH: KATHRYNN MITKOS

AMY STRAUB

ERIN SMITH

15TH: LILLIAN BLASA

JANET KALLAL

LEROY STILES

CINDY ZUMWALT

28TH: KAYE CARPENTER

29TH: HAROLD MARTIN

JOYCE RENO

ANNIVERSARIES

17TH: BRYAN & LISA MCKENNON

21ST: JOE & RUTH BLATTNER

30TH: CHARLES & JUDY WHITE



NO BUSINESS TO REPORT



November 1, 2007 Youth Group Meeting 6:00p.m. to 7:00p.m. November 2, 2007 Yard Sale Work Day/Night 10:00a.m. to completion, Any youth needing a ride to church after school please call Kim. November 3, 2007 Yard Sale 8:00a.m. to 1:00p.m. (Youth need to be at church at 7:30 a.m.) November 17, 2007 Chocolate Covered Popcorn Work Day. Youth need to be at church at 9:00a.m to work. Price will be 5.00 per

bag. November 18, 2007 Orders will be ready for pick up after church. All youth need to attend to help get orders out. November? 2007 Shopping for The Battered Women's Shelter. (End of month) Date to be determined. November? 2007 Continuation of Leaf Raking for shut in's. Days to be determined as requested.

The Youth are THANKFUL for your continued Support.



SUNDAY SCHOOL DAYS

ADVENT IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. PLEASE WATCH BULLETINS FOR THE EVENTS TO COME. WE WILL BE HAVING THE CHILDRENS ADVENT PROGRAM AND THE PRACTICES FOR THE CHRISTMAS PROGRAM. THE CHILDREN WILL BE LEARNING THE FOLLOWING SCRIPTURES IN SUNDAY SCHOOL. PLEASE FEEL FREE TO GO OVER THESE WITH YOUR CHILDREN AT HOME AS WELL. THE MORE FAMILIAR THEY ARE WITH THE SCRIPTURES THE EASIER IT WILL BE FOR THE TEACHERS TO GO MORE IN DEPTH.

NOV. 4TH: THE PASSOVER EXODUS 11-12

11TH: CROSSING THE RED SEA EXODUS 13:17-15:21

18TH: GOD PROVIDES MANNA, WATER AND QUAIL EXODUS 16-17

25TH: THE TEN COMANDMENTS EXODUS 19-20



Miscellaneous News

THE ALTAR GUILD NEEDS VOLUNTEERS.

ANY CONFIRMAND THAT NEEDS COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS PLEASE TALK TO CAROL SKIBBE, MARY ANN HUSMANN OR BRANDY PURCELL.

PAPER EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER WILL BE IN YOUR MAIL BOXES. IF YOU WISH TO RECEIVE THE EMAIL VERSION INSTEAD, PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR NAME IN THE OFFICE.

CONGRATULATION'S TO THE NEW MR. & MRS. CARPENTER AND ALSO TO THE NEW MR. & MRS. DEWITT.

HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY TO LILLIAN BLASA PARTY ON SUN. THE 18TH IN THE BASEMENT.



LET'S MEET THE SUMMERS'

The Summers Family lives west of Jerseyville on Jenny Lane. Scott is a plumber with Local 101 and works at Hirth Plumbing in Belleville. Michell is an IT Analyst with Smurfit-Stone Container in St. Louis.

Jordan participates in catechesis and both he and Makenzi are active members of the youth group at Hope. Jordan's hobbies include playing sports and the saxophone. Makenzi is a third year piano student with Erinn Hileman and also plays the flute. She also enjoys her poms class.



As a family we like to swim in our pool and have cookouts. We also enjoy good movies and watching the St. Louis Cardinals play baseball. Most recently we purchased a camper. We have been a few places in the area, and we love it! We are currently planning new places to visit next spring and summer.



Saints and Memorials

Lutherans sometimes have a hard time with saints. What do we do with them? Who are they? On All Saints Day, we like to remember those who have died in the faith who have “fallen asleep in Christ” (1 Corinthians 15:18). But the day is about far more than feeling sad or nostalgic about dead loved ones. Certainly grief has a place on this day (and other days), but we do not “grieve as those who have no hope” (1 Thessalonians 4:13). So as we think about those whose deaths in the faith precede ours, we recall the example they have been to us in our daily Christian life.

St. Paul describes all those who are “in Christ” as saints (Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:2). So on All Saints Day, we who are still alive are not excluded from the company of saints whom we remember. The *Augsburg Confession* says of saints, “Our churches teach that the history of saints may be set before us so that we may follow the example of their faith and good works, according to our calling” (AC, XXI). While saints are not to be worshiped or called upon to intercede for us, they do provide us examples of holy living.

This is how we deal with *memorial gifts*, too. Memorials are a way to remember the faith of those whom we miss, those whose lives were examples of good works. Memorials do not add to salvation. They remind us of the Lord and are an exhortation to us living saints to remain steadfast in this faith and in doing good works. Memorials are not meant to point to ourselves but to the Lord as the giver of all good gifts.

So it is good to remember the Lord’s Church when we make our wills, when we make charitable donations, when we make memorials, etc. This is being faithful in “unrighteous wealth” (Luke 16:11), using money to bring the Lord’s work of giving us the gift of faith and keeping us steadfastly His to our remembrance. Use of money so that we might simply be remembered is prideful and vain, but using money to remind others of the Lord’s work of salvation is righteous.

For your benefit, here is the beginning of a list of memorials that some have suggested. This list is by no means complete. To discuss any of these or any others, talk to the pastor.

Memorial Gifts

Hymnals: \$20 apiece

In the Lord’s Service, the words of the liturgy and hymns testify to the faith that our Lord gives and has given to us and the faithful departed.

Funeral Pall: \$375-400

As in Holy Baptism we were clothed in Christ’s righteousness, so at one’s Christian funeral, the casket is covered with a Pall with a gold cross to remind us that “All of who have been baptized have put on Christ” (Galatians 3:27).

Earth Vial: \$150

Used in the graveside committal of the Rite of Christian Burial, the dirt reminds us of sin that means we are dust and to dust we will return (Gen 3:17) until the Lord returns to raise our bodies in the Resurrection.

Censer & boat: \$500+

Used in certain services (Evening Prayer, Epiphany, major festivals)
incense reminds us of our prayers which ascend to the Lord (Psalm
141:2; Revelation 5:3; 8:4).

Stained Glass windows

“A picture is worth a thousand words.” So Christian art tells the story
of Salvation in ways beyond words.

Parking Lot: \$300,000

Pipe Organ: used: \$30,000+

Sound system

8-Sided Baptismal Font

Vessels for the Lord's Supper



JOKES:

Waiting Room:

There were three fathers to be in a hospital waiting room, waiting for their babies to be born. The first nurse comes out and tells the first father, "Congratulations you're the father of twins!" He says, "Great! I am the manager for the Minnesota Twins." The second nurse comes out and tells the second father, "Congratulations you're the father of triplets!" He says, "That's cool! I work for 3M." The third father opens the window and jumps out. The third nurse comes out, and asks, "Where's the third father?" One of the other fathers said, "Oh he jumped out the window." The nurse asks, "Why?" He replied, "He works for Seven Up!"

Funny One Liners:

"A day without sunshine is like, night."

"Honk if you love Peace and Quiet"

"Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine."

"As long as there are tests, there will be prayer in public schools"

"Sometimes I wake up grumpy; Other times I let her sleep"

"The gene pool could use a little chlorine." "When there's a will, I want to be in it!"

"Warning: Dates in Calendar are closer than they appear."

"Lottery: A tax on people who are bad at math."

Why is 'abbreviation' such a long word?"

"Ever stop to think, and forget to start again?"



Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church

505 Cowan Road • Gulfport, Mississippi 39507
Pastor Gary W. Weier • Telephone: 228/896-5878

How Your Gifts of Love Helped

Background On August 29, 2005 Hurricane Katrina made landfall, leaving a path of destruction covering in excess of 90,000 square miles (more than 1 ½ times the state of Illinois). Over a million households were displaced and over 850,000 homes were damaged or destroyed.

Among Holy Trinity members more than two dozen homes were damaged; half were damaged to the extent that our members had to seek alternate housing. Some were blessed by friends who took them in – the rental housing market was “nonexistent”, some repaired their homes while living in FEMA trailers, and still others were able to purchase an alternate home, and a few actually relocated elsewhere.

Holy Trinity Holy Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Gulfport, Mississippi, cancelled worship services on August 28, 2005, the day before the Hurricane Katrina hit because an evacuation order had been issued. Still one family took shelter in our building as they have during any major storm heading toward Gulfport.

During the course of the storm the church facility took some heavy hits. The fact that the couple was in our education wing is the reason it didn't have anymore water damage than it did; they covered a broken window and mopped up the incoming water. On the other hand the church sanctuary lost the south side of the roofing which led to water damage to the ceilings, walls and pews. In the narthex two eight feet by fourteen feet windows were blown in and out as the wind and rain blew through the entry hall. Metal from the south roof was ripped loose, and as the pieces crashed down on the church and education wing roof holes were punched into the intact metal roofing. The church sign was twisted and lay almost flat; it looked as though it had been sandblasted on its south side.

However, the following Sunday the congregation gathered in the parking lot to give God thanks and praise for His safety and care; thirty some persons came to worship even though there was no way to get out except through word of mouth.

Ministry in Ruins What could the congregation do? Several members made a “head count.” They located most of our members and assessed how they had fared. Two days after the storm Pastor Weier was brought into the information loop; communications mostly were down.

Pastor Weier and his wife had gone on vacation -- even before the storm had even been named -- with their son's family in Beaverton, Oregon. Unable to get back because the coast airports were closed except to relief aircraft, the Weier's kept in touch as possible. Still they felt the stress of not knowing just how bad things were back home.

The Weier's location, however, was a blessing. He was able to contact worried relatives and friends of his members informing them of their wellbeing. Contacts were also made -- out of desperation and a personal need -- with former congregations, coworkers and friends; these contacts began some of the earliest relief work directly with Holy Trinity.

Volunteers Less than two weeks after Katrina congregations from north Mississippi and Louisiana brought supplies to Holy Trinity so that we could begin helping others. Two loads of goods were delivered about ten days after the storm.

The first volunteer work crews were from St. Louis Seminary and Concordia, Selma, Alabama; they along with other individuals helped muck out Pastor Weier's house. These volunteers were brought by two "angels" from LCMS World Relief and Human Care, Rev. William Engfehr from Illinois and Rev. Mark Maas from Wyoming.

Then in October a very spirited, light-hearted group from Kansas asked to camp in our church while doing clean up work around the area. These were followed by a couple groups from Illinois and in the spring a group from Wisconsin. The biggest problem encountered for those staying at the church was the lack of showers.

The Lutheran Disaster Response Camp Biloxi was bursting at the seams; we were asked if they could use our facility for overflow. With help from our sponsoring districts and volunteers we constructed a shower building behind the church. These have been used even by a group of teenagers traveling to the 2007 Youth Gathering in Orlando.

In 2006, we faced a second winter without snowbirds who before Katrina had stayed in nearby R.V. campsites; these sites were gone or filled with FEMA workers. With permits from the city -- a cost also paid by our sponsors -- we put in the infrastructure for an R.V. campsite for up to eight trailers. We requested that the site users cover their costs and do volunteer work on the church property or in the community; they contributed financially and physically but even more spiritually and emotionally.

Sponsoring Districts In the September 2005, we heard the exciting news that the LCMS districts had each adopted congregations, individuals, etc. in the Hurricane region. Our benefactors were to be the Central Illinois District and the Southern Illinois District.

Prayers, letters, care packages, phone calls, volunteers and financial assistance followed. Each contact brought with it the love and caring of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

With the financial aids sent by our two sponsoring districts Holy Trinity congregation helped nearly three dozen families (members and non-members) with rebuilding their homes and constructed showers and an R.V. campsite; this accounts for nearly \$60,000 donated by the districts.

For the church building funds were used to replace the roof, the narthex windows, and the parament cabinets. The church sign was replaced by volunteers The church pews were refinished, the walls were repainted, the ceilings repaired, and new food pantry storage cabinets were purchased. Much of this cost was covered by insurance, but your funds helped us do some things beyond simple replacement or "fixing the damage", such as, running new electrical lines to our outside church sign and redoing all our pews.

**Blessed to be
A Blessing**

In the midst of all the destruction and suffering there is rebuilding renewed joys. Our congregation still understands that our calling In Christ not to be a simple recipient but a conduit for God's love.

While we struggle with our own needs, we have responded to the needs of others – our simple food pantry for the needy in our community continues even after we no longer had massive supplies arriving from other sources.

During the past two years Holy Trinity has also raised funds for Enterprise, Alabama, and Greensburg, Kansas, tornado help. We have also helped financially and physically through Camp Biloxi.

At this time we are taking an active part in the formation of Open Arms Ministries for our communities along the Gulf Coast. Through this partnership we pray that God's Holy Spirit would continue to bless us and that His Kingdom might be increased.

Still in Need

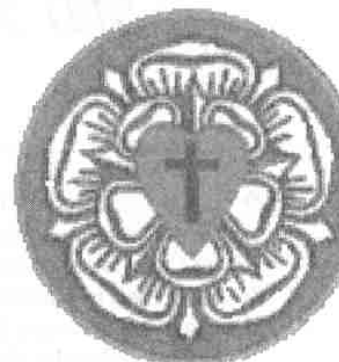
The continuing needs from Hurricane Katrina are still evident in our communities. Many home owners have received very little or nothing from insurance companies; tens of thousands of insurance cases are still open. Persons are struggling to find resources to rebuild their lives. We are still finding many who need just a few thousand dollars to meet city requirements before reoccupying their homes. More than 10,000 FEMA trailers are still home to many here on the coast.

We ask that you continue to pray for all who are affected by disaster wherever they might be. Your prayers and your love through Christ as very uplifting. Thanks, again!





*Mission Prayer's
Newsletter
Southern Illinois
District
Fall 2007*



Welcome! To the second official issue of the Southern Illinois District Mission Prayer's Newsletter! What is a "mission pray-er"? Someone just like you who is committed to pray regularly for the mission work of our District and Synod. You are receiving this quarterly because you have requested it, or because you subscribe to our InSIDE Word, or because you have recently supported the mission work of the Southern Illinois District in some way. Please, just put this newsletter into your Bible and then, as a normal part of your devotion, keep these prayer needs in your individual prayers. We don't report to anyone. We just pray, for God has promised to hear, for Jesus' sake. The Scripture says, *"I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness... I want men everywhere to lift up holy hands in prayer, without anger or disputing" (1 Timothy 2:1-2, 8).* Here we go, then, let us pray!

Prayer List – Even though he was in prison, St. Paul prayed for the people of the church in Ephesus, *"For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation so that you may know him better" (Ephesians 1:15-17).* For what should we pray? Here we go:

- ❖ For **Lee and Pat Hoffmeier**, members of Good Shepherd in Collinsville, who left on a six month tour as volunteer missionaries to Southern Africa on October 7. Lee is a member of our district's Southern Africa Mission Task Force overseeing our mission partnership with the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. He and his wife, Pat, will be in South Africa, God willing, until March 31, 2008 as our liaison with the LCSA and working for the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tschwane (Pretoria). The rector of the seminary, Dr. Wilhelm Weber, has quite a few maintenance projects saved up for Lee, a retired engineer. They will also be cooking for the seminary students and looking after other physical needs of the students and faculty. Of course, they also intend to travel so that they will visit various other churches and pastors around the country. And, if you know Lee and Pat, you know they will be testifying of Jesus wherever they go. Please pray for safe travel. Pray for God's protection and strength for their tasks. Pray that God's Spirit gives them wisdom and discernment as they work with people in a different culture, so that in all things Christ will be glorified and His cross proclaimed. Lee and Pat will be sending us regular reports, so we will keep you posted.
- ❖ Pray for **Jacob Mueller**, son of Pastor Timothy and Dawn Mueller of New Minden, IL. Jacob will finish his BA degree at Concordia University, Ann Arbor, MI, in December 2007. Before he enters Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, God willing, in September 2008, Jacob plans to study for a semester (January – May 2008) with the students of our partner seminary, Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane (Pretoria), South Africa, as an LCMS World Mission volunteer. Pray that all goes well with his final preparations, visa application, etc. Pray for protection, for wisdom and the Spirit's power to glorify Jesus in all things. He will be leaving in January 2008 for about six months.
- ❖ For **Hispanic Ministry** – pray for direction in this area of ministry in SID as we plan for the future. Our Hispanic vicar, Erik Loza, has been placed as associate pastor of a congregation in California seeking to reach a large Hispanic population. Pray for him, but pray also for the right workers to help us in SID.

SID Mission Prayer's Newsletter

Fall 2007

- ❖ For our **seminaries in St. Louis and Fort Wayne**, that they might form faithful, Christ-centered, cross-focused pastors. Pray for the new "Specific Ministry Pastor" program approved by the Synod in July (as the seminaries now begin to flesh out the details) that it may be a blessing for the church.
- ❖ For **Freed in Christ** – pray for this possible new venture on the part of our district's prison ministry. What is it? We are investigating the possibility of a program (modeled after a successful program in Indiana) whereby churches might receive non-violent offenders after their release from prison to help them re-enter society through regular Bible study and prayer groups. Our deaconess for prison ministry, Sandy Bowers, is helping with the development. Keep this effort in prayer, that God would show us the way to bring it from dream to reality. Remember, "*faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the Word of Christ*" (Romans 10:17). Watch for details!
- ❖ For **Prison Ministry** in general – pray for our district's prison ministry program as we go through a time of transition. Our Prison Ministry Coordinator, Pastor Maurice Alms of Holy Cross, Livingston, has announced his retirement, effective April 6, 2008. Right now we have a committee planning for the transition. There is more work than you might expect coordinating a prison ministry program for more than 25 locations. That's right! We have chaplains and volunteers bringing the saving message of Christ to those behind bars in more than 25 prisons and jails in the 32 Illinois counties that make up the SID. Pray that we find the right people who will carry forward this work of sharing Jesus. Pray for Maurice and Linda Alms as they move forward into a new chapter in their lives. Pray that God lead us so that many more hear the Gospel and are saved.
- ❖ Pray for **A Time to Build**, the building campaign for our District **Mission School in East St. Louis**. Our present facility at Unity Lutheran Church is full. God be praised! Pray that this effort might be blessed by God. Pray for guidance as we decide where the new school should be located. Pray for unity at Unity as both church and school seek God's direction. Pray that in all this Christ may be glorified and His Gospel proclaimed clearly.
- ❖ Pray that the **designs of the devil may be thwarted**, for where Christ is building His Church, Satan always tries to erect a temple for something else. Pray that our people may be constantly **telling others of Jesus** and drawing people into the worship of the Holy Trinity, in whom alone is life!
- ❖ Continue to pray for our **pastors and lay leaders** in our congregations, that they may work together as a team to serve God's people and to reach out with the love of Christ to others.
- ❖ **Prayer "Shorts"** – for wisdom and perseverance for the teachers at Unity and all our schools; for the Spirit's discernment for the fall Mission Board visits; pray for our campus ministries at Carbondale and Edwardsville; ask God's wisdom for those involved in investigating whether a mission church in Western Clinton County is feasible. Watch for more of these in future issues of this newsletter.
- ❖ Pray for _____ (a need you see).

Mission Prayer Newsletter – If you are receiving this for the first time, this publication is our quarterly newsletter we send to all who are interested in the mission efforts of the Southern Illinois District. Please do keep them in your prayers. If you wish to receive this by email instead of USPS (save us \$.41), please call the District Office (618.234.4767) or send an email to President Mueller's Administrative Assistant, Donna Wiesen, at SecretarySID@cbnstl.com. If you do not wish to receive this, please let us know in the same way.

Thank You for Praying, since God promises to hear – and answer! – with more than we can expect. "*Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be glory in the Church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*" (Ephesians 3:20-21).

Blessings to all in Jesus!
Pr. Herbert Mueller
Southern Illinois District