

CIRCUIT COUNSELOR REPORTS

Bloomington North Circuit – Rev. Bryan Hopfensperger, Circuit Counselor

The Bloomington North Circuit is pleased to report no pastoral vacancies in its circuit. We rejoice and give thanks to the Lord of the Harvest.

During the last triennium, the Bloomington North Circuit has bid farewell to Rev. Bobby Niemtschk (Trinity, El Paso) who was called to serve Trinity Lutheran Church in Taylor, TX. After a short vacancy the Divine Call was extended to Rev. Jonathan Boehne who was serving Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church in Huron, SD. He was installed April 18, 2010. He and his family have been a welcomed addition to the circuit and district.

The pastors in our circuit gather each month on the second Tuesday for winkel, spending an hour in the Greek text of the upcoming Sunday's Gospel, an hour in the Confessions, and an hour hearing a presentation or paper from one of the circuit brothers.

In the fall of 2011, Lutheran Catechetical Society hosted its first (and God willing, the first of many) annual conference in the Magdeburg Conference series. These conferences are meant to bring pastors and laymen together to study the Lutheran Confessions. The Rev. Dr. Brian Saunders (President, Iowa District East) presented the first three articles of the Augsburg Confession. The Rev. Dr. Cameron Mackenzie (Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne) is slated for the second conference, August 18, 2012 at Christ Lutheran Church, Normal, IL.

Many of the congregations of our circuit have been blessed with long pastorates. Those pastors who have served their parishes ten years or more include:

Rev. Peter Glock (Zion, Wenona & St. Paul, Varna) 17 years Rev. Jerry Koch (St. Paul, Chenoa) 18 years

Rev. Bruce Scarbeary (Trinity, Roanoke) 12 years

St. Paul, Chenoa recently celebrated their 59th year. Between Rev. Lubkeman and Rev. Koch, the congregation has been served for almost 37 of those years.

To God alone be all glory.

-Rev. Bryan L. Hopfensperger, Circuit Visitor Bloomington North Circuit

Bloomington South Circuit – Rev. Jonathan Manor, Circuit Counselor

“Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good! Blessed is the man who takes refuge in him!”

The following congregations make up the Bloomington South Circuit: Good Shepherd, Bloomington; Our Redeemer, Bloomington; Trinity, Bloomington; Zion, Danvers; St. Paul, Lexington; Good Shepherd, Minier, and Christ, Normal. In addition, we are privileged to count Wittenberg Lutheran Center, Normal, as one of the ministries located in our circuit.

Within our area, we are also blessed to have the churches and community served by Trinity Lutheran School, Bloomington and Lutheran Child and Family Services offices. Luther Oaks, a Lutheran Life Community, is also located in our area. Many of the pastors in our circuit are blessed to lead Sunday afternoon Lutheran vespers services at Luther Oaks.

Since our last CID convention, two of God's shepherds in our area were called home to heaven. The Rev. Phil Kaufmann died on July 2, 2010. At the time of his death, Pastor Kaufmann was serving God's people at Christ Lutheran, Normal, where he had served for 19 years. The Rev. Ernest Gerike died on September 13, 2010. Pastor Gerike served Trinity Lutheran in Bloomington for many years. Over the years, Pastors Kaufmann and Gerike served not only the church families entrusted to their care, but also served the CID in various capacities.

The Lord has continued to provide pastors to serve His churches in our circuit. The only vacancy that has been experienced this past triennium was the vacancy following Pastor Kaufmann's death. That vacancy was filled as Christ Lutheran called their associate pastor to serve in the senior position, and on June 2, 2012, Christ Lutheran will install Rev. Jonathan Huehn to fill the associate position vacancy.

We are thankful for the wisdom that the emeriti pastors in our circuit, Pastor Marvin Matzke and Pastor August Lubkeman, continue to share with those of us who are actively serving in our parishes.

Many of our churches are active in their support of district and synod ministries, RSOs, and in response to the needs of God's people in our communities, our nation, and around the world. Some of those ministries include: Camp CILCA, LLL, LWML, LBT, disaster response, missionary support, national and international mission trips, and community outreach events. It's a joy to share with one another what God is doing in our midst, as we gather for our monthly circuit pastor's meetings, centered around worship, Bible study, and topical discussions of ministry and life with God's people.

We are thankful for the spreading of the Gospel in the Bloomington-Normal area, and pray that, strengthened by the Holy Spirit, we will continue to have opportunities to connect people to the saving love of Jesus Christ.

In His Service,
Jonathan Manor
Pastor, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Bloomington

Champaign Circuit – Rev. Terry Strom, Circuit Counselor

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

At the last CID Convention in 2009 two circuits, Champaign –Mattoon and Danville split into three circuits Iroquois, Champaign and Mattoon. The churches and the current pastor's serving the new Champaign circuit are

Champaign, Friendship Joy	Rev. Brian Pape
Champaign , St John	Rev. Mark Elliott and Rev Jeff Caithamer (Associate)
Champaign, University	Rev. Rick Milas
Danville, Immanuel	Rev. Dan Fienen (retiring May 2012)
Danville, Trinity	Rev. Kent Tibben and Rev. Michael Ruhlig (Assistant Pastor)
Monticello, Faith	Rev. Kurtis Bueltmann
Osman, Immanuel	Vacant (served by Rev. Jeff McPike)
St. Joseph, Our Savior	Rev. Scott Weiler
Thomasboro, Peace	Rev. Phillip Callahan
Urbana, Trinity	Rev Terry Strom and Rev Don Ehlers (Emeritus)

Since the creation of this new circuit, a new church was planted in Monticello, Faith Lutheran Church, chartered June 5, 2011. Faith Lutheran Church has recently purchased a building and they are planning to have a dedication Reformation weekend 2012. Our Savior Lutheran Church in St Joseph dedicated their new facility on September 12, 2010. Christ's Family Mission Station in Mahomet closed their doors in June of 2011. Friendship of Joy had a groundbreaking ceremony on April 29, 2012 for church expansion.

There are 2 Lutheran elementary schools and four preschools in our Circuit, Danville Lutheran School and Preschool and St John Lutheran School. The other preschools are Little Lambs - St John, The Little Disciples of Peace and WeeDisciples Preschool – Trinity Urbana.

During the past Triennium Trinity, Urbana has been blessed by three interns for Directors of Christian Education, Amber Nahnsen, Concordia–Chicago, Charity Olson, Concordia-Chicago and Bailey Halligan, St. Paul-Minnesota. In 2012 Friendship Joy will join Trinity in having a DCE intern.

Pastors new to the circuit during the past triennium

Rev. Jeff Caithamer - St John, Champaign, October 25, 2009

Pastor Phillip Callahan - Peace, Thomasboro, July 10, 2011

Rev. Kurtis Bueltmann – Faith, Monticello, September 11, 2011

Rev. Michael Ruhlig (Assistant) – Trinity, Danville, December 2011

The Champaign Pastoral Circuit meets faithfully when there is not a meeting of district pastors. We thank the Lord for the cordial, supportive relationship that exists in the Champaign Circuit. We do not always agree on every issue but the circuit is blessed with a mutual respect and trust for each other as we serve in our various parishes. We pray that the tie that binds will continue to bless us as we share Christ's gracious love.

Decatur Circuit – Rev. John Laux, Circuit Counselor

We continue to meet monthly for our circuit conference. The pastors and vicars of our congregations lead us in a study of God's word for our spiritual edification. We enjoy the mutual encouragement and the consolation of the brothers at these meetings.

Since the 2009 CID Convention Risen Savior in Buffalo has joined our circuit. Pastor Keith Bueltmann was installed as pastor. Rev. Melvin Weseloh retired from Mount Zion, Mount Zion and they are being served by Rev. Art Ohlwine as vacancy pastor. Tree of Life Lutheran Church is organizing and meeting at the LSA facility. The Rev. Troy Roenfanz provides this spirited outreach effort. Pastor Roenfanz is gathering people in small groups in his home and reaching many people missed by existing churches. This is the newest mission in our District. St. Paul Lutheran Church in Decatur left their long time facility and location near downtown and moved into a beautiful "new" facility on the northwest side of Decatur in the old Bachrach Corporate headquarters. This has been a time of great joy and blessing for the good people at St. Paul as they proclaim the good news of salvation in Jesus Christ alone.

We continue to be blessed by God through the Lutheran School Association which is made up of five of our local congregations. Our K-12 school reaches our members and our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Effingham Circuit – Rev. Gary Fortkamp, Circuit Counselor

During the past triennium, the Effingham Circuit has seen some changes in the circuit and Pastoral Office. In October 2010, I was appointed to fulfill the Effingham Circuit Counselor position of Rev. Rollie Meyer who was going to retire in December and move to Arizona. He was Pastor of St. John's Lutheran, Louisville.

The St. John's Lutheran, Louisville had a short vacancy. Rev. Ryan Eden was installed on May 6, 2011 as their Pastor. Faith Lutheran, Flora became vacant when Rev. Timothy Hahn accepted a Call. Rev. Richard Krenzke became vacancy Pastor of Faith Lutheran, Flora. Faith Lutheran extended a Call to Rev Allan Kramp who accepted it in January 2012 and will be Installed at a date yet to be determined.

Trinity Lutheran, Casey was served by Vacancy Pastor Rev. Richard Krenzke until a Call was accepted by Rev. Michael Kasting who was installed on May 16, 2010 prior to Rev. Rollie Meyer's retirement.

The Effingham and Shelby Circuits are encouraging starting a Mission congregation at Olney. One of the difficulties encountered is a place to worship. We hope to have this resolved soon.

The Effingham Circuit continues to enjoy the blessings of our Lord and Savior as the congregation's work to carry out His will. We meet monthly with the pastors of the Shelby Circuit and enjoy the mutual support and

encouragement that this arrangement offers. I keep in contact with all the pastors and their immediate family by calling them on their birthday and anniversary. To God be the glory! Great things He hath done.

Jacksonville Circuit – Rev. Joseph Eckman, Circuit Counselor

Weekly, on Tuesdays, most pastors of the circuit join together for an exegetical study of the pericopes using the text. We meet monthly on the first Monday for a circuit-wide meeting with a worship service with holy communion, a Greek/Hebrew exegetical study and a doctrinal study. Different congregations host each month. Circuit pastors prepare and lead the studies.

Annually, we have a Bible Institute in the winter, a retreat at CILCA in May with a guest speaker who is usually a professor from one of our seminaries or colleges and a Circuit Reformation Service.

Additionally, circuit pastors jointly support and report on the ministries of the LWML and LLL.

The Rev. Paul Koschmann was called home to his Heavenly Father.

from Joseph Eckman, Pastor.

Lincoln Circuit – Rev. Mark Peters, Circuit Counselor

Greetings in Christ our Risen Lord and Savior! The following reports of joy were given to me to share from congregations within the Lincoln Circuit.

Zion Lutheran, Lincoln

The Congregation of the Redeemed as Zion Lincoln greet the members of the Central Illinois District in the name of Jesus Christ our Risen Lord and Savior. In this triennium Zion has had 10 weddings, 25 infant baptisms, 2 adult baptisms, 41 deaths, 14 transfers in or affirmation of faith, 37 transfers out, 9 adult confirmands, 27 junior confirmands and 34 graduates of our day school. The congregation has hosted three regional youth conferences and attended two Higher Things regional conferences and One National Youth Conference. Sunday –School continues from pre-school through High School along with adult Bible Studies. We continue our activity with the LWML and LLL. Zion looks forward to the challenges and joys of the next triennium proclaiming the peace of Christ to our community as Christ has commissioned us to do.

Zion Lutheran Church & School, Mt. Pulaski, IL

Our congregation has had an exciting three years. We've called a new pastor (Sept. 2010). Our Pastor has enrolled in Pastoral Leadership Institute and is helping our congregation understand the need to multiply missional leaders. His participation in PLI has been a blessing to our church. In January 2011 we began Strategic Planning meetings with the purpose of creating a mission and vision for our future. This process has helped direct our ministry toward the lost.

We've also begun a building project. It is scheduled for completion in the summer of 2012. It will add about 14,000 square feet of space. Another 6,000 square feet will be renovated. The additions to our campus include a narthex, gymnasium, six classrooms, office space, cafeteria, and kitchen. Our congregation was also gifted an old doctor's office that sits across the street from our campus. We have begun preliminary studies on how to use this space.

Attendance at worship is up nearly 25% over the three years. Attendance in Adult Bible Studies is up nearly 50% over the last year. Enrollment in our school has remained strong despite the economy. We've increased overall enrollment over the last three years.

Christ, Delavan/St. Luke, San Jose

The Lord has continued to bless the partnership of our two congregations. On All Saints' Sunday 2011, we held our 3rd annual Joint Service, intended specifically as a celebration of our continued partnership in ministry. Our 4th is being planned for All Saints' Sunday 2012. During the last triennium, the Lord has also seen fit to bless our congregations with a handful of new members.

St. Luke, in particular, experienced a couple of noteworthy highlights during the last triennium. In December 2009, we were blessed with the opportunity to acquire the large stained glass window from the back of the sanctuary at St. John's, Topeka, which had closed the previous year. We had it refinished and placed it at the front of our sanctuary, in the chancel, directly behind the altar, and it has proven to be a significant upgrade from our prior chancel window.

In June 2011, St. Luke also hosted our second LCMS Servant Event (we hosted our first in June 2008), attended by roughly 30 high school youth from five different churches in Illinois and neighboring states. The “Community Builders” event provided home repairs for several families in the San Jose community and was a significant undertaking for a small congregation.

Christ, Mason City

Sunday School has grown and we have financial stability. 2012 is 125th Anniversary and 60th Anniversary in the building. A special service will be held on April 15. The Lord has blessed us with lay leadership.

Faith, Lincoln

We continue to thank the Lord for continued blessings and growth. Our worship attendance during the past three years has stabilized and we look for continued growth for the future. We remembered God’s blessings in ministry as we gave thanks to the Lord for 30 years of ministry that our Pastor Mark Peters celebrated in 2010. We have also voted to become part of the Friendly Family Ministry network and look forward to additional ministry to our families for the next three years.

St. Paul Lutheran Havana

has ended the past three years with changes in the pastoral office. Pastor Wes Reimnitz has returned and has blessed our congregation with the challenge of looking forward to the future in Christ.

May the Lord continue to bless the congregations of the Lincoln Circuit and the CID to be his faithful witness during the coming years.

In Christ,

Pastor Mark D. Peters

Lincoln Circuit Counselor

Mattoon Circuit – Rev. Ryan Fehrmann, Circuit Counselor

This last triennium was the 1st triennium that, by the Grace of God, the Mattoon Circuit existed. The Mattoon Circuit represents families of Lutheran Christians gathered by the Lord Jesus Christ through His Holy Spirit in Broadlands (Immanuel), Paris (Grace), Charleston (Immanuel), Mattoon (St John and St. Paul in Dorans), Tuscola, (Immanuel), and Sadorus (St. Paul). Communities who delighted to sing praises to our heavenly Father and receive all the good gifts that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have to give to them, and through them, as they share in the Trinity’s unending life.

1. Immanuel, Broadlands. Under the shepherding care Rev. John Sharp the congregation at Broadlands began looking around the scattered communities of their parish for opportunities to grow. This included an assessment of the area’s demographics through the District Office, the eventual calling of a DCO/DCE intern, and various smaller ‘revitalization’ programs facilitated by the intern. The intern program was a success and will continue into the next triennium.
2. Grace, Paris, shepherded by myself, also enrolled in the District’s demographics study and launched into a goals setting program. The Childcare Center/Preschool remained full and welcomed a new director, Mrs. Erin Mooney. Grace Lutheran Village continues to look for residents as a down economy has reduced applications, but remains a vibrant retiree community and a blessed source of faithful members for the congregation. Finally, the congregation moved to a weekly offering of the Lord’s Supper.
3. Immanuel, Charleston. Rev. Ken Hoover, with the assistance of Mr. Greg Witto, continued to conduct a vibrant campus ministry and full childcare/preschool program, alongside a growing congregation. It was reported by Pastor Hoover that over a dozen new people were enrolled into the latest membership class. This year marked the fourth year of Immanuel’s Easter Vigil, much loved by the congregation.
4. St. Paul, Dorans. (Rural Mattoon) Remains a faithful farming community under the care of its shepherd Rev. David Bessinger. The congregation itself has had the opportunity to minister to the care of its shepherd as Pastor Bessinger continues his struggle against cancer.

5. St. John, Mattoon. Under the twin care of Rev. Marty Haeger and Rev. Troy Countryman saw a busy three years. (Pastor Haeger joining St. John's as head pastor in the middle/end of the Triennium) The biggest addition was a capital campaign that resulted a new (wonderful!) school building across from the church and thus relieving pressure from a too small building. This year St. John's added to its celebration of the Resurrection, the Easter Vigil which was received with much blessing by the congregation.

6. Immanuel, Tuscola. Rev. Jason Braaten joined us mid-triennium to become shepherd under the Great and Good Shepherd at Immanuel. Under Pastor Braaten the choir and children's ministry of the congregation have experienced a revitalization. Immanuel also experienced the blessing of our Lord's Sacrament of the Altar becoming available every week and the addition of the Easter Vigil.

7. St. Paul, Sadorus. Under the watchful eyes of Rev. Bill Gauger and Rev. Joe Hughes the congregation at Sadorus continues to be blessed by a strong program of Word and Sacrament, Bible Study, and growing fellowship among members. The preschool program is full as they have successfully transitioned to a new director/teacher.

Among the pastors we experienced great rejoicing as last year both the Braaten and the Countryman families added daughters... born on the same day, in the same hospital, only about an hour apart. We also shared together our other joys, griefs, and challenges in regular meetings of the Circuit.

Of course the full stories of each congregation cannot be told here, but both heartbreak and joy, living under the cross and in the resurrection, characterized the congregations of the Mattoon Circuit. In it all the Shepherd of our Souls has continued to be faithful and remains with us all to the very end of the age. Please keep the pastors, their families, and the congregations of the Mattoon Circuit in your prayers as we continue to pray for you all through Christ.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Ryan Fehrmann, Circuit Counselor of the Mattoon Circuit and Pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Paris.

Peoria Circuit – Rev. Barry Long, Circuit Counselor

By God's grace in Christ, we have continued to be nourished by His abiding mercy, and have continued to lift up the Gospel in this area.

In the 2009-12 triennium, the following significant events took place for the Peoria Circuit:

- *Summer 2009: Vicar Ken Serr called, ordained, and installed as Pastor at Grace, Canton.
- *Fall 2009: held a Circuit Forum to elect delegates to the 2010 Synodical Convention, sending Rev. Barry Long from Mt. Calvary, Peoria and Mr. Del Hume from Christ, Peoria.
- *Continued joint meetings with Tazewell Circuit throughout the triennium, during which we finished reading Preus' *The Fire and the Staff*, read Eckardt's *The New Testament in His Blood* (a study of the Holy Liturgy), and have had regular exegetical study on selected texts from the pericope.
- *January 2010: Rev. Dr. Joseph Meyer called as Senior Pastor to Redeemer, Peoria he had previously been the Associate). Rev. Ron Miller formally retired as Senior Pastor.
- *August 2010: Deaconess Buchinger resigned her call to Mt. Calvary, Peoria to be joined in marriage to her fiancé and take up residence in Minnesota.
- *October 2010: We were pleased to have the District Pastors' Conference in our circuit.
- *January 2011: Deaconess Gillian Bond commissioned and installed at Mt. Calvary, Peoria.
- *May 2011: Rev. James Bettermann, Senior Pastor at Trinity, Peoria, took a call to Kentucky.
- *Summer 2011: Rev. Mark Nelson called as Senior Pastor to Trinity, Peoria (he has been the Associate previously).
- *Summer 2011: Rev. Thayer "Ted" Benson installed as Associate at Redeemer, Peoria.
- *October 2011: Redeemer, Peoria hosted the District Family Life Convocation.
- *2012: St. Paul, Kewanee celebrates 150 years as a congregation serving in that community.

During this time, we also mourned with the families of Rev. Grese (retired) and Rev. Freudenberg (Emeritus, Trinity) when they fell asleep in Christ.

We also bid Godspeed to Rev. Art Schudde (Emeritus, Christ) as he and his wife moved to Colorado.

Quincy Circuit – Rev. Marlin Rempfer, Circuit Counselor

The Quincy circuit meets on the first Tuesday of the month September through May. We have great participation and discussion. We meet from 9 – 2 p.m. Since 2010 we have shared the May meeting with the Jacksonville circuit and meet at Camp CILCA.

Changes since the last convention: In August 2010 Pastor Larry Troxel retired from Our Redeemer, Quincy; on May 29, 2010 Pastor Bob Alexander of Good Shepherd, Clayton accepted a call to Trinity Lutheran Colby, Kansas his last Sunday was May 23, 2010; Pastor Paul Beisel, Concordia, Warsaw accepted a call to Immanuel, Iowa Falls, Iowa. His last Sunday was November 1, 2010. Pastor Bender of the Lutheran Church of St. John, Quincy accepted a call to St. Paul, Lutheran Church, West Allis, Wisconsin. His last Sunday was April 29, 2012

On July 5th, the beginning date of the last convention, Jeremy Latzke was installed as associate pastor at the Lutheran Church of St. John; August 21, 2010 Pastor Kirk Cunningham was installed at Good Shepherd in Clayton; September 26, 2010 Pastor Les Dumer was installed as pastor of Concordia, Warsaw and Messiah, Keokuk; February 2011 Pastor Troxel began serving St. Paul Bowen and Pastor Grieve accepted a call to serve Holy Cross, Golden.

Anniversaries: The Lutheran Church of St. John celebrated their 175th anniversary. They brought back former vicars and sons of the congregation to preach and Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer preached for the final celebration Sunday on April 15, 2012. St. James Lutheran marked their 160th anniversary.

In addition on June 20, 2010 St. James Lutheran recognized Pastor and Susan Saeger as he marked the 40th anniversary of his ordination. On December 16, 2011 Concordia Warsaw and Messiah Keokuk helped Pastor Les and Marion Dumer celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary.

Concordia Warsaw and Messiah, Keokuk started a Blind Outreach Center. Concordia, Warsaw also changed the date of their founding. It was changed from 1865 to 1853. They joined the synod in 1865.

Rock Island Circuit – Rev. Gary Wright, Circuit Counselor

The Rock Island Circuit is served by some very skilled, and faithful undershepherds. We are pleased to welcome Rev. David Gerke to Faith, Kewanee and to our circuit. He replaced the retiring Rev. Robert Fischer.

Two of our congregations continue their participation in the seminary vicarage program and we have been a privileged to work some outstanding vicars in this past triennium.

Three congregations in our circuit celebrated anniversaries: St. Matthew, Milan celebrated 50 years, Holy Cross celebrated 60 years, and Zion, East Moline (Hampton Bluff) celebrated 150 years of God's grace and blessing.

Several congregations underwent extensive remodeling, and two congregations constructed new buildings. Immanuel, Rock Island vacated the building that had served them since 1896 and constructed a new church near their school salvaging the stained glass and other items from the old church, and St. John, Geneseo constructed a new building to replace their former church which was destroyed by fire over three years ago. St. John utilized the Laborers for Christ organization and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Throughout the rebuilding, they were blessed to utilize the facilities of Beautiful Savior, Colona, who provided them a place to worship until the new facilities were ready for occupancy.

Sadly, our circuit has experienced two Lutheran school closings. Christ Lutheran High School closed its doors due to decreased enrollment and financial struggles. Immanuel Lutheran School in Rock Island also closed its doors.

The Rock Island Circuit takes seriously the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ. Many congregations are engaging their community with the Gospel. Trinity, Coal Valley has been conducting services in a local nursing home each week and has been doing so for many years. Zion, Taylor Ridge continues with outreach in the Aledo, Illinois area with a satellite worship site. Rev. Dr. Wilfred Karsten, with the help of Holy Cross, Moline has made frequent mission trips to Sri Lanka.

Three of our pastors serve in chaplain positions. Rev. Paul Weber serves the East Moline Correctional Center and a unit of the Iowa Army National Guard. Rev. Kent Umbarger serves as a chaplain to the East Moline Police Department, and Rev. Pablo Dominguez serves as chaplain at Illini Hospital in Silvis. Rev. Dr. John Wohlrabe serves as 2nd Vice President of our synod, and Rev. Mark Eddy serves on the district board of directors.

Christ the King, our Hispanic mission, works to reach out to our Quad Cities Hispanic community. Every Saturday morning from 7:00-8:00 AM, Rev. Pablo Dominguez broadcasts, in Spanish, the “Cristo Para La Familia De Hoy” (*Christ for the Family of Today*) program on radio station KALA-FM (88.5 and 105.5) which reaches many Hispanics in the Quad Cities area. God’s Word, as well as information about the church, is shared faithfully over the airwaves. Cristo Rey reaches out to the Hispanic community with Word and Sacrament Ministry, a Food Pantry, ESL Classes, and in a variety of other ways.

The LWML is very active in the Rock Island Circuit and her congregations. The men of several congregations have a local Brothers of John the Steadfast chapter that meets monthly for study and breakfast. The Youth of the circuit attend Higher Things conferences, and participate in Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ weekends and the annual Bible Bowl.

The pastors of the circuit meet monthly for study, brotherly discussion, and casuistry. We traditionally work on one of the upcoming pericopes from the original Hebrew or Greek. In the past few years, we have also studied and discussed Dr. Scott Murray’s *Law, Life, and the Living God* and are currently working through Bo Giertz’ *Christ’s Church: Her Biblical Roots, Her Dramatic History, Her Saving Presence, Her Glorious Future*.

We host an annual Pre-Lent Preaching Workshop for pastors throughout the Midwest, and participate in a Circuit Good Friday Tre Ore service each year that rotates from congregation to congregation.

The circuit is very unified theologically, and this God given unity is both our strength and a great blessing.

Shelby Circuit – Rev. Richard Bremer, Circuit Counselor

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all." (2 Corinthians 13:14)

The Shelby Circuit is composed of St. Paul, Pana; Holy Cross, Shelbyville; Faith, Shumway; St. Paul, Sigel; Trinity, Stewardson; Grace, Strasburg; St. Paul, Strasburg; and Faith, Sullivan .

By the grace of God, as of this writing, there have been no vacancies during the past triennium in the Shelby Circuit. For this we are thankful to the Lord of the Church, Jesus Christ.

The pastors of the Shelby Circuit meet almost every month with the pastors from the Effingham Circuit for worship, study, and fellowship. In addition some of the pastors meet each week for an exegetical study of the pericopes using the Greek text.

During these past three years we have had the joy of having visits from several of the pastors and lay people from Latvia

One of our main projects that we are undertaking with the help of Christ to establish a mission in Olney.

We thank and praise our gracious God who has given us the rich blessings of His saving Word.

Springfield East Circuit- Rev. Gavlord Spilker

Greetings and God's blessings from Springfield East Circuit.

The pastors of Springfield East are blest to have the opportunity to meet each Tuesday forenoon with the pastors of Springfield West in weekly exegetical studies of the upcoming periscopes. On the Second Tuesday from Sept-May we conduct our monthly Winkels.

The Rev. Robert Allen Jensen (Emeritus), who has been serving Holy Trinity, of Springfield was called to his eternal home on Wednesday, December 7, 2011. The funeral service was held on Dec 12, at Immanuel, Riverton, with the Rev. Michael Koschmann officiating. Burial was in Camp Butler National Cemetery. Rev. Koschmann is presently serving Holy Trinity as well as Immanuel, Riverton and assisting some at Concordia, Springfield.

At the time of this writing, Trinity, Springfield is in the process of issuing a call for senior pastor. Rev. Dr. Tom Radtke retires on May 20th 2012.

Also, Good Shepherd, Sherman is in the process changing from having a vicar to calling another pastor to assist Rev. James Stuenkel.

Springfield East Congregations together with Springfield West Congregations continue to provide funds so that the Lutheran Hour can be broadcast locally. The Lutheran Hour can be heard on radio station WLJ 89.7 Springfield at 3 P.M. What a wonderful opportunity to have God's Word broadcast in the Springfield area...

Tazewell Circuit – Rev. Kurt Mews, Circuit Counselor

1. The Tazewell Circuit Forum met on February 12, 2012, and unanimously elected Rev. Tom Heren of Our Savior, Washington as the new Tazewell Circuit Counselor.

2. In July of 2011, Ascension Lutheran Church of Washington, IL disbanded and is no longer a congregation in The CID/LCMS.

3. District Reports from Congregations;

A. St. Peter's Lutheran Church, East Peoria, IL

*St. Peter's completed a multimillion dollar expansion highlighted with a multipurpose room, broke ground for that on Palm Sunday, 2010 and Dedication worship service held in May 1, 2011.

*St. Peter's also celebrated its 100th anniversary with a celebration weekend in Oct. 2010.

*Rev. Zach Hoffman (youth and family ministry) was ordained and installed as Associate Pastor in June of 2010.

*St. Peter's began a mission ministry group focused on local, national, and international missions, including sending a mission team to Alaska this summer to conduct a VBS for Native peoples.

*St. Peter's began a tutoring ministry for the community in the fall of 2011, and a Kyrie, mercy ministry in 2009.

B. St. John Lutheran Church, Green Valley

*Recently acquired a 2nd full-time pastor, the Rev. Kevin Bueltmann, installed in the summer of 2011.

*Began a nontraditional service and a Monday evening service.

*Congregation moving forward and highlights include;

-In family ministry,

-In offering mission trips, one nationally, locally and one international.

-In offering a Financial University in building Christian Stewardship.

-Moved toward technological upgrades including live streaming.

-Made notable improvements in school ministry

-Had a joint Vacation Bible School with other 2 Pekin churches

C. Our Savior Lutheran Church, Washington:

*Involved in a number of projects initiated by long term planning committee; Noteable are;

-\$140K renovation of sanctuary and narthex.

-Become a lead congregation in inner city Chicago mission trip.

-Strategic ministry planning with LCEF, used for future ministry aims in coming years.

D. Trinity Lutheran Church, Pekin,

*In the last triennium, goals have been to become more active in The Tazewell Lutheran School association, specifically in a new building campaign for Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Pekin.

*Additionally, have become more computer oriented with a revised web site, and sending out information weekly via E-Mail.

*The congregation is also preparing to celebrate its 75th anniversary and Rev. Abatie's 35th year in the ministry.

E. St. John Lutheran Church, Pekin

*In 2012 the church celebrated its 160th anniversary of its founding.

*Since 2010 Rev. Niemann has been doctoring for cancer.

*Long range planning committee has been looking for future projects and works for the strengthening and growth of the congregation.

*They have participated with Good Shepherd Lutheran School in Pekin, highlighted by the moving into a new building with the support of The Capital Campaign helped make the new school home a reality!

F. Bethel Lutheran Church, Morton

No report submitted.

G. Ascension Lutheran Church, East Peoria-Washington.

Disbanded as of July 2011.

In Christ's Service, Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Kurt Mews, St. Peter's Lutheran Church, East Peoria, Tazewell Circuit Counselor, 2006-2012.