

Connections is the electronic newsletter of Lutheran schools and educators of the Pacific Southwest District. It is designed as a tool to help keep schools and educators connected to one another as they serve in ministry connecting students and families to the Gospel.

Connections

*Pacific Southwest School Ministry Newsletter
Fall/Winter 2010*



Schools and educators are invited and encouraged to share items of interest, items for which to give thanks and/or uplift in prayer, or any other information which connects us to one another. Please submit your information via email to connections@christcm.com. *Connections* is distributed electronically to administrators in the Pacific Southwest District who are then asked to forward copies to their staff. *Connections* is also available on the District web site at <http://www.pswcic.org> and on the Portal.

FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE...

You are Fearfully and Wonderfully M.A.D.E.! LEC was a time of laughter, friendships, renewal, growth, and refreshment. Continue to celebrate that blessing with renewed energy and vigor as we move into the Advent season. In the hustle and bustle of life, as you prepare classroom, home, and students for the celebration of the birth of Jesus, slow down. Take time to prepare your heart for the coming of our Savior. Find that quiet time to connect with the best gift of all, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

BLESSED...AND A BLESSING!

LEC was blessed to be led in worship by students from **Lutheran High School, San Diego**. Their love and passion was evident as these young people shared their gifts and talents to enhance opening worship. Look what happened last spring:

The Fine Arts programs bloomed at Lutheran High, San Diego this past spring. The Concert Choir, under the guidance of **Jonathan Vevia**, began the spring explosion by participating in a join choir concert with Lake Country Lutheran High, Harland, WI. The Concert Choir, as well as the Handbell Ensemble, directed by **Jamie Bitterman**, then undertook it's first West Coast tour. Performing during spring break in Bend and Portland, Oregon, which included an appearance with Concordia University, Portland. Both groups ended the tour with a successful and well-received concert at home. Both groups were also able to put out a CD, which was recorded, mixed and mastered by students and faculty in the brand new audio-video studio at the school.

The spring season ended with a very special musical production. LHSSD, with special permission from the author, produced the San Diego high school premiere of *Scenes in a Teen's Life: a Luann Musical*. The musical by Greg Evans, nationally syndicated cartoonist, was performed to packed audiences that included the author and his family. "Greg seemed very pleased with the production and the performance of the kids," said the play's director **Todd Glaeser**. "He was especially surprised by the quality of the performances and the technical where-with-all compared to the size of the school." Evans also surprised the director and the play's lead, Carmen Garcia, with sketches of Luann in appreciation of their performances.

Well over half of the school participated in these spring events and LHSSD is making quite a name for itself not only in the Lutheran community, but in the fine arts community around San Diego.

CELEBRATING WITH OUR SCHOOLS...

Lutheran High, Orange, launched the STEM Program (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) recently. The first STEM course focuses on the design, creation and programming of Robots and Rockets for competition. Through the course, concepts of physics and aeronautical engineering are taught while teams work on group projects. A new computer lab was designed to meet the programming and research needs of the STEM courses and projects. The lab includes a dedicated server and robust new software, along with seven new I-Macs so that STEM students can have immediate access to computers. OLu has relationships with UCI, Chapman, Cal Poly Pomona, Boeing, Allergan, LPA (architecture firm), and others to provide internship or research opportunities for students. The school also received a \$50,000 donation in support of the program to create a new molecular genetics course and expand the series of outside speakers and field trips.

First Good Shepherd Preschool, Las Vegas, has now entered their third school year. Three classes are full! The school looks forward to expanding their playground and opening a fourth classroom. New grandmother "**Miss**" **Pam** and the entire school celebrated as her daughter-in-law "**Miss**" **Destiny** and baby Hailey were both baptized in June. Praise God!

Exciting things continue to happen at **Faith Jr/Sr High, Las Vegas**. Special congratulations to the Girls Golf Team who was the 4A state runner up. The high school "Crusader Chronicle" was recognized for the 2010 High School Journalism—best newspaper for a reduced format as well as several other distinctions. Way to go!

Congratulations are also in order to **Dr. Jay Meyer, Faith Jr/Sr High School, Las Vegas**, who recently defended his dissertation for his advanced degree earned from UNLV. Yeah for you, Jay!

Faith Jr/Sr High School, Las Vegas, counselor **Bonnie Nelson** was recently awarded the "Peacemaker of the Year" award by the Mediators of Southern Nevada. Bonnie was recognized for the creation and direction of the "Peer Mediators" program at FLHS. The program is designed to help students mediate for students in conflict.

Twenty-five families from **First Lutheran Circle of Love Preschool, Manhattan Beach**, have been welcomed into church membership during the past four years. Many children have also been baptized. Since school began this fall, two families have joined the church and five children and one mom have been baptized! The school recognizes the classroom as the local mission field with over 70 unchurched families. The school solicits prayers as they live out their theme verse, Philippians 2:15: "Shine like stars in the universe as we hold out the word of life."

REACHING OUT IN SERVICE...

Faith Jr/Sr High School, Las Vegas, participated in the district service day on Nov. 17th, by collecting 7000 pounds of food for Lutheran Social Services of Nevada along with \$500 in monetary donations. How did your school participate? Please share what your school did so others can celebrate the sharing of God's abundant blessings and make plans for next year. Also check the School Ministries website at www.pswcic.org to see pictures from schools throughout the district who participated!

A team of students and adults from **Orange Lutheran High School** traveled to the Appalachia area to work in one of the poorest areas of the United States. While there the team did light construction and ministered to families.

Is your school participating in **Hearts for Jesus: Mission India**? Be sure to order your rice bags and other information for your students and help support this important mission work!

LOOKING AHEAD...

Kevin Dunning, Faith, Las Vegas, has accepted a call to become Head of Schools at **Hong Kong International School** beginning next school year. We pray abundant blessings on Kevin and his ministry.

Sandals to Sneakers is the theme of the **LCMS National Children's Ministry Conference** to be held next summer, July 7-10, 2011. This special event will be

held right in our own backyard—**St. John's, Orange**. Watch for information and registration materials and plan to attend!

CHANGES IN PERSONNEL

Entered:

Acton, Kimberly (Candidate, Missouri District) to Candidate
Amey, Edward (Irvine 2010, Colloquy) to Lutheran High, Sylmar, CA
Axtman, Chelsea (Concordia, Wisconsin) to Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale
Deen, Daniel (Irvine 2010, Colloquy) to Concordia University, Irvine, CA
Feldmann, Jahnai (St. Peter, Schaumburg, IL) to Pilgrim, Chula Vista, CA
Francisco, Adam (Irvine 2010, Colloquy) to Concordia University, Irvine, CA
Grepke, Neil (St. John, Kendallville, IN) to Faith Jr/Sr High, Las Vegas, NV
Kober, Daniel (Concordia, Nebraska) to Faith Jr/Sr High, Las Vegas, NV
Krueger, Kurt (International Center, St. Louis) to Concordia, Irvine, CA
Mayer, Patricia (Irvine 2010, Colloquy) to Christ, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
McDaniel, Jonathan (Concordia, Nebraska) to Faith Jr/Sr High, Las Vegas, NV
McKinney, Faith (Candidate, Northwest District) to Candidate
Nuckolls, June (Fort Wayne 2009, Deaconess) to Grace, Lancaster, CA
O'Brien, Lisa (Christ, Murray, UT) to Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale, AZ
Orr, Diana (Irvine 2009, Colloquy) to Bethany, Long Beach, CA
Schulteis, Michele (Non-candidate, Southeastern District) to Non-candidate
Souliny, Jennifer (Concordia, Irvine) to St. Paul's, San Diego, CA
Stoltzner, Jennifer (Irvine 2010, Colloquy) to St. Paul's, Orange, CA
Toms, Emily (Concordia, Irvine) to St. Paul's, Orange, CA

Change Within:

Anderson, Mary Jane (Candidate) to Non-candidate
Beiter, Ruth (Hephatha, Anaheim, CA) to Emeritus
Block, Chad (Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale, AZ) to Yuma, Yuma, AZ
Bordeaux, Betty (Light of Christ, Irvine, CA) to Emeritus
Bordeaux, Joseph (Concordia, Irvine, CA) to Emeritus
Burgdorf, David (Candidate) to Concordia, Irvine, CA
Castens, Maria (Non-candidate) to Faith Jr/Sr High, Las Vegas, NV
Devlin, Anne (Zion, Anaheim, CA) to Candidate
Harer, April (Candidate) to Non-candidate
Henkell, Joe (Faith, Vista, CA) to Emeritus
Kusserow, Mary Lou (Gethsemane, Tempe, AZ) to Emeritus
Kusserow, Thomas (Gethsemane, Tempe, AZ) to Emeritus
Lang, Philip (Bethany, Long Beach, CA) to Emeritus
McKinney, Faith (Candidate) to Concordia, Irvine, CA
Morton, Barbara (Concordia, Irvine) to Emeritus
Richardt, Karen (Bethany, Long Beach, CA) to Emeritus
Rohren, Sara (Cross of Christ, Anthem, AZ) to Candidate
Schimke, Pamela (Candidate) to Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale, AZ
Spelbring, Faith (Non-candidate) to Lutheran Hour Ministry, PSD

Transferred:

Burk, Daniel (Grace, Lancaster, CA) to St. Matthew, Holt, MI

Devlin, Anne (Candidate) to Candidate CNH District

Elliott, Benjamin (Christ's Greenfield, Gilbert, AZ) to St. Paul, Merced, CA

Geyer, Thomas (Cross of Christ, Anthem, AZ) to Christ the King, Memphis, TN

Goers, Bethany (Non-candidate) to Non-candidate, Michigan District

Mau, Aaron (Candidate) to Christ, Phoenix, AZ—English District

Skov, Fredrica (Emeritus) to Emeritus, Mid-south District

Tonjes, Rebekah (Cross of Christ, Anthem, AZ) to Immanuel, St. Charles, MO

CONNECTED IN PRAYER...

Get connected...stay connected! School Ministries encourages you to join in praying for our schools. Prayer is powerful and simple! You may email your requests or visit the website at www.pswcic.org click on Connect with Us/About Us/ Devotions.

The following are schools which have been uplifted specifically this fall.

August 15

TLC Preschool, Casa Grande, AZ

Risen Savior Preschool & Elementary, Chandler, AZ

Apostles Preschool, Peoria, AZ

August 22

Hilltop Preschool, Cottonwood, AZ

Peace Preschool, Flagstaff, AZ

Christ's Greenfield Preschool & Elementary, Gilbert, AZ

Christ Preschool & Elementary, Phoenix, AZ

August 29

Atonement Preschool, Glendale, AZ

Trinity Preschool & Elementary, Litchfield Park, AZ

Ascension Preschool & Elementary, Tucson, AZ

Faith Preschool & Elementary, Tucson, AZ

September 5

Little Palms, Mesa, AZ

Faith Jr/Sr High, Las Vegas, NV

Faith Community Academy & Preschool, Las Vegas, NV

Eternal Life Preschool, Mesa, AZ

September 12

St. John's, Oxnard, CA

St. Paul's Preschool & Elementary, Orange, CA

St. John's Child Development Center, El Segundo, CA

Grace Preschool, Corona, CA

September 19

Salem Preschool & Elementary, Orange, CA

Grace Preschool & Elementary, Escondido, CA

Beautiful Savior, Tempe, AZ

Community Preschool, Escondido, CA

September 26

Zion Preschool & Elementary, Fallbrook, CA
Lutheran High, Orange, CA
St. John's Preschool & Elementary, Orange, CA
(True Love Preschool, Fullerton)

October 3

St. Paul's Preschool & Elementary, Garden Grove, CA
Ray of Light Christian Preschool, Chandler, AZ
St. Stephen's Preschool, Fullerton, CA
Immanuel Preschool & Elementary, Orange, CA

October 10

Redeemer Preschool & Elementary, Ontario, CA
Immanuel CLC, Oceanside, CA
Hope Preschool & Elementary, Glendora, CA
Good Shepherd Preschool, Goleta, CA

October 17

Our Savior First Preschool & Elementary, Granada Hills, CA
St. Mark's Lutheran Preschool, Encinitas, CA
Holy Trinity Preschool, Hacienda Heights, CA
St. John's Preschool & Elementary, Hemet, CA

October 24

Pacific Southwest Christian School, Hollywood, CA
Christ the King Preschool, Newbury Park, CA
Child of Faith Learning Center, Huntington Beach, CA
Redeemer Preschool, Huntington Beach, CA

October 31

St. James Preschool, Imperial Beach, CA
Shepherd of the Valley Preschool, Moreno Valley, CA
St. John's Preschool & Elementary, Montebello, CA
Trinity Child Development Center, Indio, CA

November 7

South Bay High, Inglewood, CA
First Preschool & Elementary, Monrovia, CA
Chapel of the Cross Preschool, Mission Hills, CA
Word of Life Early Learning Center, Surprise, AZ

November 14

Christ Preschool & Elementary, La Mesa, CA
Faith High, La Verne, CA
Crean Lutheran South High School, Irvine, CA
Cross of Christ Christian, Anthem, AZ

November 21

Thanksgiving week

November 28

Abiding Savior Preschool & Elementary, Lake Forest, CA
Grace Preschool & Elementary, Lancaster, CA
First Circle of Love Preschool & Elementary, Manhattan Beach, CA

Good Shepherd Preschool & Elementary, Menifee, CA

December 5

Bethany Preschool & Elementary, Long Beach, CA

First Preschool, Long Beach, CA

Grace Preschool, Long Beach, CA

December 12

Light of Christ Preschool, Irvine, CA

St. Paul's Preschool, Long Beach, CA

Our Redeemer Preschool, Winnetka

December 19

Christmas week

December 26

New Year's week

HE CAME...HE COMES...HE IS COMING...

Once He came in blessing, All our sins redressing;
Came in likeness lowly, Son of God most holy;
Bore the cross to save us; Hope and freedom gave us.

Now He gently leads us; With Himself He feeds us
Precious food from heaven, Pledge of peace here given,
Manna that will nourish Souls that they may flourish.

Soon will come that hour When with mighty power
Christ will come in splendor And will judgment render,
With the faithful sharing Joy beyond comparing.

Come then, O Lord Jesus, From our sins release us
Keep our hearts believing, That we, grace receiving,
Ever may confess You Till in heav'n we bless You.

ADVENT JOY...CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS!

Editor's Note: Thanks to all schools who send information to be included in **Connections**. Our goal is to help you stay connected to partners in ministry throughout the district. Please send us your news. Be sure to include the name and location of your school and first and last names of personnel. We especially look for information about how faith is shared and lives changed through your ministry. We also solicit your comments and suggestions to help make this publication more interesting and useful to you. Please direct your information to Connections@christcm.com. Thank You.