



## FLORIDA-GEORGIA DISTRICT

*The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod*

7207 Monetary Drive Orlando, FL 32809-5753

(407) 857-5556 ✘ FAX: (407) 857-5665 ✘ Toll Free: (877) 457-5556

www.flga-lcms.org

August 6, 2009

Dear Friends,



Greetings in the name of our gracious Savior, Jesus! I hope to begin a regular email communication with each of you that will keep you informed about things coming up in the District, and how we can better partner together for the sake of the Gospel.

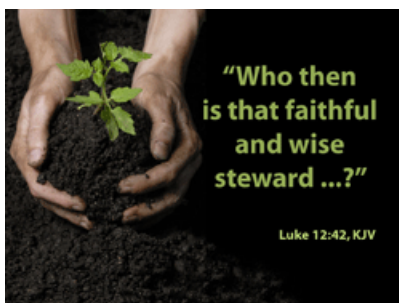
I would ask you to pass this along to other staff members and congregational members that might benefit from it, and if they are interested, have them go to the district website and fill out the form to be added to our list. Thanks in advance!

It's hard to believe that a little over a month ago I was elected to serve as President of the Florida-Georgia District. I haven't even had much time to learn all that this will entail, however, I send this to you to share a concern. I know that many of you received President Michael's letter about the District's finances. If you have not seen it, please let us know. We want to make it available to the whole district.

Having recently come out of parish ministry, I recognize the struggles to make ends meet on a monthly, if not weekly basis. However, I have also learned, and can testify, to God's faithfulness to His faithful people. We want to keep the focus on Jesus, but the finances often keep us from carrying out the tasks He's given us.

These next weeks will be filled for me with an introduction to a whole new world of ministry. One of the greatest challenges I face is the fiscal viability of the District I was elected to serve. I turn now to each of you, as I begin this endeavor, and ask for only three things.

- **First**, I ask you to pray that we might better learn to proclaim Jesus to our communities so that they might know the eternal life He offers. In fact, let's not only pray, but let's try to reach out with His love to those around us.
- **Second**, keep me, and my family in prayer as we transition into this new role, a new community, and a new ministry.
- **Finally**, consider your stewardship partnership with the District at this critical time. We are currently \$200,000 behind. Anything you can do to help will be greatly appreciated.



I come to you, not begging for your financial support, but to encourage you to open yourselves to God's blessings on your congregation. God's promise to us in Malachi 3 is that if we faithfully offer the tithe, He will pour out the storehouse of heaven in ways that will bless us beyond belief. I am trusting that together we will weather the current financial crisis in our nation, in our District, and in your parish, as we

support one another and remain faithful to our commitment to our God and His Church.

I am excited to serve and look forward to getting to know many of you over the next three years as we work together as servants to share the love and salvation of Jesus with as many people as we can. Thanks for taking a few moments to read this.

Your brother in Christ Jesus,

*Rev. Gregory S. Walton*, President  
The Florida-Georgia District, LCMS  
7207 Monetary Drive  
Orlando, FL 32809