

October 7, 2014

Dear Bishop Weber:

During the periods of September 19 – October 7, 2014 the Southern Illinois District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod was privileged to have hosted Dean T. Johannes Mafereka, in conjunction with previously arranged conferences, in Fort Wayne and Philadelphia. At the request of Dean Mafereka, I have prepared a report to you, recapping his visit to our district.

Upon his arrival at St. Louis, the Dean preached the message at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Troy, Illinois, on September 19, where the Rev. Mitch Schuessler is pastor. During the following week, he attended the Disaster Response Conference in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Deaconess Grace Rao provided him with transportation there. While visiting the Southern Illinois District, Dean Mafereka stayed with my wife, Karen and I at the church parsonage, in West Frankfort, Illinois. He arrived here on the afternoon of September 26, 2014, staying for one night before going to Mascoutah on September 27. There he preached the message at Zion Lutheran Church, the Rev. Kirk Clayton, being pastor. The service was followed by a lunch by the congregation. He stayed with Buzz and Sue Kandler the evening before his preaching engagement. The service was recorded, and a copy made available.

Following the service and lunch, Dean Mafereka returned to West Frankfort. On Monday, September 29, we departed for Trinity Lutheran Church in Nashville, Illinois. There, we attended morning worship, with the students of the school. Upon conclusion of the service, Pastor Timothy Mueller (Vice President Herb Mueller's brother) gave the Dean an opportunity to do a short Bible study on the shepherd, young David's anointing as a king, from 1 Samuel 16, for both of Pastor Mueller's seventh and eighth grade religion classes. After these sessions, Dean Mafereka was asked questions by the students about life and his work as a pastor in Southern Africa. Pastor Mueller then gave a tour of the school.

Following up to the tour of the school, we travelled to New Minden, Illinois. There, Pastor Mueller gave a tour of St. John Lutheran Church and parish hall, where a year ago a tornado had occurred. This time was well spent, to reinforce information that may have been received at the Disaster Response program, attended by Dean Mafereka, the week prior at the Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne Indiana. Lunch was done at the church parsonage, by Pastor and his wife. Following lunch, Eunice and Ray Hausler, whose home sits adjacent to the church, showed their home as newly rebuilt following the total destruction by the tornado. After viewing some pictures of the storm's destruction, we departed New Minden and returned to West Frankfort. That evening we were joined by the board of elders and the council president of St. Paul's Lutheran Church for a hot dog roast around a campfire.

Tuesday morning, September 30, we departed for Unity Lutheran School (grades 1-8), at East St. Louis. Devotion was conducted by Pastor Aaron Dickerson, who upon completion of the devotion provided a tour of the school and each classroom. When entering each classroom, a greeting and introduction was made by a select student

from the class. Each class was given opportunity to ask questions of Dean Mafereka. At the completion of the morning, we returned to West Frankfort.

We received permission for Dean Mafereka to go into one of the facilities of the Illinois Department of Corrections. Tuesday evening, we made a trip down to the Hardin County Work Camp, where Dean Mafereka shared in a devotion with the inmates. The class was well attended, and time gave way for the inmates to ask question of Dean Mafereka. Our time was all too short. He was well accepted, and we pray that he was blessed in his experience, in as much as were the inmates.

Dean Mafereka was initially planned to spend time with Pastor Tim Weiser at Anna, Illinois on Wednesday, October 1, but due to dental problem he was given opportunity to rest, awaiting an appointment tentatively set up for Thursday morning. As he was feeling better, we had dinner that evening with Pastor Tim Weiser and his wife Cathy in Marion, Illinois. On Thursday morning we were able to get the Dean in to see the dentist. From there, we visited with Pastor Mark Surburg of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Marion, Illinois, where we toured his church. That afternoon, allowed for time for Dean Mafereka to prepare for his trip to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on Friday morning, for the Doxology program.

Upon returning to St. Louis on Sunday evening, we returned to West Frankfort. Monday was set aside in the schedule to attend a District wide Pastoral Conference at Rend Lake, on the topic of stewardship. Dean Mafereka was introduced by President Scharr to all the pastors at the conference. We returned to West Frankfort after evening dinner. We left West Frankfort Tuesday morning, for the St. Louis International Airport, allowing ample time for his trip back to Johannesburg, Southern Africa. We have been very much blessed, and have appreciated Dean Mafereka's company throughout his stay. We pray that he may have learned as much from his visit as we have from him, as we move forward in our mutual relationship, to the glory of our Lord.

God's grace to our brothers and sisters of the Lutheran Church of Southern Africa! We pray for you and the Church there, as you prepare for the convention next month. May the Holy Spirit be upon you in the furtherance of His kingdom!

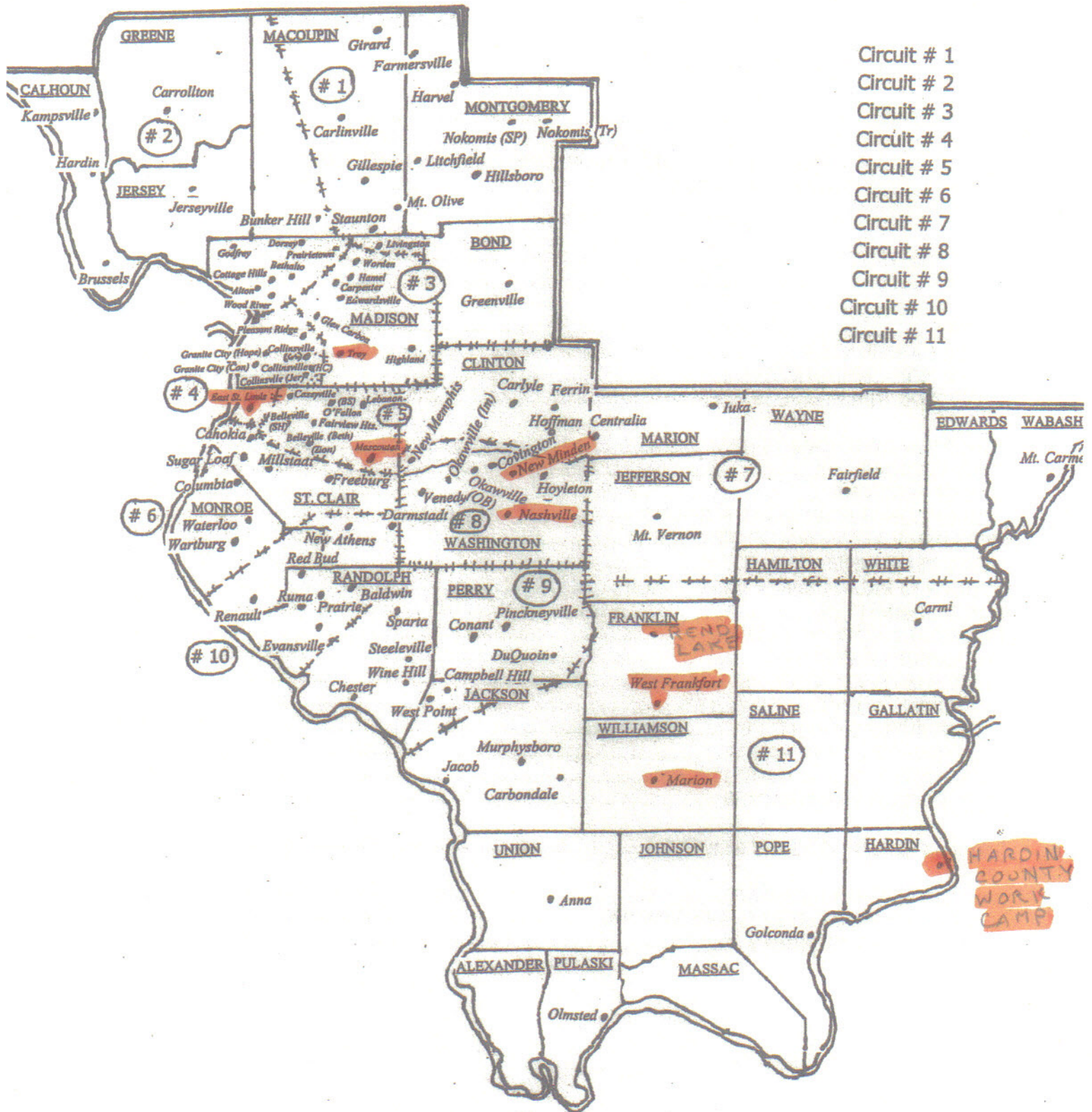
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. W. Kern', with a stylized, flowing script.

Rev. David W. Kern
Chairman, Southern Africa Mission Task Force

Copy to President Scharr

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS DISTRICT

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