

## Missouri Mission Highlights

Our Missouri District is very blessed to have some highly motivated congregations, pastors and lay people and mission groups busily at work creating mission opportunities among us. *Read more on page 3*



## From the President's Desk

We live in a world where the effects of sin are all around us. Poverty, crime, and homelessness plague our cities and even our small towns. Children are passed around between parents and family members with no stability and care.

*Read more on page 2*

# THE VOICE

PUBLISHED BY THE MISSOURI DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD

APRIL 2017

## CALL DAY 2017



*Above: President Hagan with the district's new pastors, vicars and deaconesses, along with their spouses after Call Day 2017 ceremonies.*

Congregations of the Missouri District were assigned four new pastors, nine vicars, and two deaconess interns at the Call Day services at our two seminaries.

Twelve students were placed from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in the Missouri District during Call Day 2017.

Pastors and deaconesses placed were Craig Reiter, Carla Schmidt, Kimberly Sherwin and Timothy Staffeld.

Vicars placed were Richard "Adam" Bridgma, David Jander, Zachary Klatt, Bryan Meadows, Bryan Roberts, Alexander Schrader, David Small and Austin Wellhousen.



*Pictured to the right: (l-r) Jacob and Emily Hercamp, President Hagan, David Wurdeman, Scott & Andrea Salo*

Three students from Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana were placed in the Missouri District during Call Day 2017.

They are Jacob Hercamp, David Wurdeman, and Scott Salo.

[mo.lcms.org](http://mo.lcms.org)



## THE WORD THAT CHANGED THE WORLD



President R. Lee Hagan

The angels announced it to the women, "He has risen." Mary Magdalene tells the disciples, "I have seen the Lord." The Emmaus disciples rushed back to Jerusalem in the darkness to tell the eleven, "The Lord has risen indeed!" That one simple expression spoken with wonder and amazement has changed the world.

We live in a world where the effects of sin are all around us. Poverty, crime, and homelessness plague our cities and even our small towns. Children are passed around between parents and family members with no stability and care. Marriage is rejected as a gift from God and people distort sexuality for their own purposes and pleasure. Dementia and Parkinson's Disease rob the mind and the body of functions taken so easily for granted. The church is often adorned with bitterness and strife rather than hope and joy. No different than the time of the disciples, the

marks of sin are seen all around. The shared grip of sin and death grab hold off everything and seek to pull things apart.

But just as the words spoken to the women and the disciples changed their world so the continued proclamation of Christ's resurrection changes the world for ever. The child who lives amongst indifference and neglect learns from our schools and churches that God does love us and that because Christ has risen there is hope. The father who sees how he has failed his ex-wife and his children hears from a "churched" friend that because Christ has died and risen again there is indeed forgiveness. The pastor shouts at the nursing home chapel that Christ is risen and after the expected response he proceeds to tell them what

**But just as the words spoken to the women and the disciples changed their world so the continued proclamation of Christ's resurrection changes the world for ever.**

Christ's resurrection means for the weakened and wearied bodies.

The word of Christ's resurrection has changed our world. If Christ has not been raised from the dead then we have believed in vain and are still in our trespasses. But Christ has indeed risen from the dead and triumphed over sin, death and the devil. This is word that gives hope and joy to the grade school student and

the nursing home resident. The news that Christ has risen means that we do not need to feel guilt for our sins or fear death. Christ's resurrection means that all who believe in Him will rise again on the last day.

My hope and prayer is that this message continues to bring you hope and joy. But additionally, I pray that our congregations would bring this message to family and friends, to the hurting and the broken, to the worried and the wearied in our communities so that they too can know the hope of the resurrection and the joy of sins forgiven through Christ Jesus. My hope and prayer is that the congregations of our district will mobilize and participate in Plus One as an army of evangelists, like the women and Emmaus disciples, announcing that the Lord has risen indeed!

Fraternally in Christ,

President Hagan

## PRESIDENT'S PRAYER LIST:

PLEASE JOIN ME IN PRAYER THIS MONTH



- Please pray that the congregations of the Missouri District would participate in the Plus One Initiative and share the news of Christ's resurrection in their community.
- Please pray that the District Mission Summit on June 3 would encourage pastors and lay leaders from our congregations to be faithful witnesses in our community.
- Please pray for the seminary and university graduates who have received calls to serve as pastors and other servants in our congregations.
- Finally, please pray for the sixty congregations who requested pastoral candidates from the seminaries whose requests were not able to be filled.

## WHO ARE WE?

The Missouri District consists of 297 congregations.

The Vision: Congregations of the Missouri District—LCMS partnering as one church, united in doctrine, ready, equipped and acting to fulfill the Great Commission in their unique setting with their unique people.

The Mission: The Missouri District—LCMS is to serve and encourage congregations to fulfill the Great Commission and promote unity of the true faith.



ALIGN: Metro Urban – All Nations Lutheran Mission – ARK After School Ministry (Messiah) – Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Center for Stewardship – Child of God Lutheran Church and School – Christ in the City/CRAVE – Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA) – Concordia Center for the Arts “Intersect” – Concordia Lutheran Outreach Center (Lutheran Blind Mission) – Congregation Chai V’ Shalom – Eagle Charter School and Compass Wrap-Around Ministry – Exchange Lutheran Mission (Fruitland) – Extreme Faith/St. Trinity Lutheran Church – Family of Christ Lutheran Church – FiveTwo Mission Network – Golden City Satellite – Heart-Song Mission Outreach – Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Deaf Ministry) – Iglesia Luterana Amigos de Cristo – Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor – LifeBridge Lutheran Mission – Light of Christ Chinese Mission – LOFT - Urban Social Ministry Outreach – Lutheran Urban Mission Association (LUMA) – MissionShift, School of Urban Ministry, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis – Mt. Olive Social Ministry Outreach – New Beginnings Lutheran Church – Northland Lutheran Outreach – Open Arms Lutheran Mission – Our Redeemer Liberian Mission – POBLO Muslim Mission – Pointe of Hope Lutheran Church – Praise and Worship Lutheran Church – Redeemer, Nixa Mission (satellite) – Reliant - Urban and Campus Ministry – Renew Lutheran Mission – Sarcoxie Mission Partnership – Social Ministry Outreach (Mt. Olive) – St. Andrew Lutheran Church – St. Louis Mission and Social Ministry Outreach – St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Mission Initiative – Steelville Mission Initiative – The Bridge Lutheran Church – Timothy Lutheran Church – Vintage 10 Mission (Satellite of Trinity, Soulard) – Vintage 10 Urban & Campus Ministry

Our Redeemer is a church that is made up of some very diverse people. They are one congregation that worships in three different languages! The church has a traditional service in English, a Hispanic service in Spanish, and a Liberian service in the native tongue of Liberia which is Konobo.



Taylor Stichler is the current Director of Christian Education Intern and works primarily with the children and youth of each of the services. He states, “Working with these kids this past year has been awesome! We are striving to teach them word and sacrament through confirmation as well as having fun while doing it! We have done lock-ins, scavenger hunts, ice skating, and various service projects. Creating relationships with these kids has been a great joy! I recently received a call to stay here at Our Redeemer, so I am very excited to continue to get to know these kids and watch them grow in their faith!”





## MISSION HIGHLIGHTS Compass Educational Programs

ALIGN: Metro Urban – All Nations Lutheran Mission – ARK After School Ministry (Messiah) – Bethlehem Lutheran Church – Center for Stewardship – Child of God Lutheran Church and School – Christ in the City/CRAVE – Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA) – Concordia Center for the Arts “Intersect” – Concordia Lutheran Outreach Center (Lutheran Blind Mission) – Congregation Chai V’ Shalom – Eagle Charter School and Compass Wrap-Around Ministry – Exchange Lutheran Mission (Fruitland) – Extreme Faith/St. Trinity Lutheran Church – Family of Christ Lutheran Church – FiveTwo Mission Network – Golden City Satellite – Heart-Song Mission Outreach – Holy Cross Lutheran Church (Deaf Ministry) – Iglesia Luterana Amigos de Cristo – Iglesia Luterana El Buen Pastor – LifeBridge Lutheran Mission – Light of Christ Chinese Mission – LOFT - Urban Social Ministry Outreach – Lutheran Urban Mission Association (LUMA) – MissionShift, School of Urban Ministry, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis – Mt. Olive Social Ministry Outreach – New Beginnings Lutheran Church – Northland Lutheran Outreach – Open Arms Lutheran Mission – Our Redeemer Liberian Mission – POBLO Muslim Mission – Pointe of Hope Lutheran Church – Praise and Worship Lutheran Church – Redeemer, Nixa Mission (satellite) – Reliant - Urban and Campus Ministry – Renew Lutheran Mission – Sarcoxie Mission Partnership – Social Ministry Outreach (Mt. Olive) – St. Andrew Lutheran Church – St. Louis Mission and Social Ministry Outreach – St. Peter’s Lutheran Church Mission Initiative – Steelville Mission Initiative – The Bridge Lutheran Church – Timothy Lutheran Church – Vintage 10 Mission (Satellite of Trinity, Soulard) – Vintage 10 Urban & Campus Ministry

### PIZZA, PAUSE, AND PRAISE

Compass Educational Programs joins forces with Messiah Lutheran Church for this exciting and tasty weekly praise event.

Every Wednesday evening at 6:00 p.m. you can find Pastor A.J. Espinosa enjoying praise and fellowship along with a few tasty bites of pizza as kids from Compass Educational Programs and their families join Messiah Lutheran Church members for Bible study. The optional, after-hours event is led by Compass Site Director A.J. Espinosa and is open to any Compass family who want to stay for an extra Bible study during the week.

“Our family really enjoys it. It’s been a time for us to come together and do something fun during the week as a family” says Dana, mom to second grade EAGLE scholar Nora, who attends Compass after school each day.

### COMPASS EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS WRAPS UP SUCCESSFUL BASKETBALL SEASON



Compass Educational Programs in the Tower Grove South neighborhood recently completed their basketball season. Two teams represented Compass in the greater St. Louis region as a part of the YMCA Youth Sports program.

The 3rd and 4th grade team was coached by Micah Williams, a Compass mentor, and the pastor of St. John’s Lutheran Church – Pastor Michael Tanney. This coaching duo produced a lot of success on the court. The 3rd and 4th graders were able to work on their basic skills and practice team building and self-control. They even competed against nearby Oak Hill Elementary School as a special Compass event.

The 5th and 6th grade team was coached by Stevie Winston and assisted by Micah and Pastor Tanney. This team was hugely successful and completed their season with an undefeated record. They consistently outscored their opponents by 40+ points. The 5th and 6th grade team even played against a nearby AAU (travel) basketball program to see some better competition. During this match, the boys wowed the head of the AAU program, resulting in some recruitment to join their team.

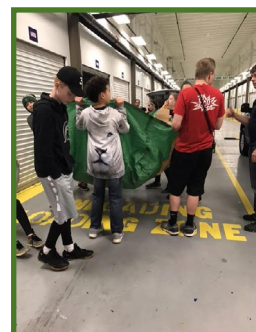
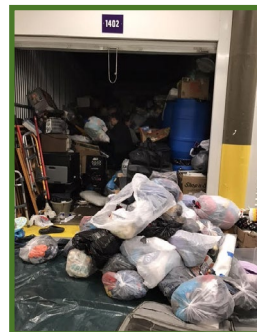
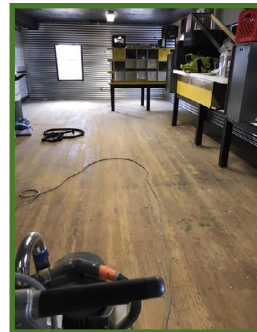
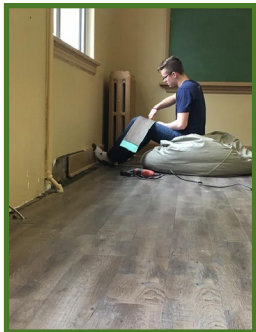
Compass is happy to partner with EAGLE College Preparatory Schools and the YMCA to provide a Christ-focused basketball program where scholars grow in their athletic abilities and also their relationships with Christ and others. [\(Read more on the next page\)](#)



## YOUTH GROUP DOES OUTREACH WORK AT ST. TRINITY

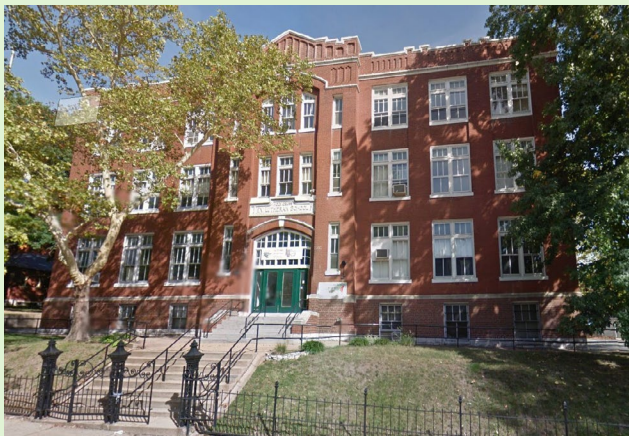
A youth group from Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Cadillac, Mich. were blessed to partner with Extreme Faith, an outreach ministry of St. Trinity Lutheran Church in St. Louis. The group split into two groups; one staying at the mission office, and another going off site to help with a thrift store.

The thrift store was set up by a refugee from the Congo who had created the store to benefit mission work to the Congo. They were in the process of finding a location for the store, but in the mean time had several storage units full of donations, and a majority of the group spent time helping to sort, organize, and inventory donations.



The group that stayed behind at the offices helped with the flooring, laying new tile in one room, that will ultimately become a community resource/classroom, and applying new finish to the wood floors in the offices of the staff.

### OPEN SKY EDUCATION WILL OPEN A FOURTH EAGLE PREP SCHOOL IN ST. LOUIS *(continued from page 4)*



Open Sky Education announces plans to open a new EAGLE College Preparatory School, EAGLE Gravois Park, at 3630 Ohio Avenue on the city's south side.

This is the fourth campus in St. Louis for EAGLE College

Preparatory Schools, a network of free, open enrollment public charter schools.

EAGLE Gravois Park is now enrolling students in grades kindergarten through fourth grade for the 2017-18 school year, with plans to add one grade level each year through eighth grade. Renovations are beginning on the school building, which was formerly occupied by Holy Cross Lutheran School.

EAGLE opened in 2013 in St. Louis with approximately 80 students and now serves more than 500 students in three St. Louis schools. EAGLE schools are supported and managed by Open Sky Education, a Wisconsin-based non-profit organization that also manages seven schools in Wisconsin and four in Arizona.

Open Sky Education also operates Compass Educational Programs, a separate entity that offers Christian wraparound care in the form of 3- and 4-year old preschool, as well as before- and after-school care. Open Sky will also open Compass before- and after-school care to serve the Gravois Park neighborhood in a separate facility adjacent to the EAGLE school.

"We are meeting the needs of families in St. Louis by providing access to world-class education and character formation at our public charter schools," says Matt Hoehner, executive director for Open Sky Education's St. Louis Region. "We're also meeting the vital needs of families by providing the option of faith formation that happens at Compass before- and after-school care. EAGLE and Compass together provide the safe, loving and supportive environment scholars need to close achievement gaps and grow up as serving leaders in their community."

EAGLE College Preparatory Schools are free open enrollment public charter schools for scholars in kindergarten through 8th grade. EAGLE scholars consistently outperform that national average in reading and mathematics on the NWEA Assessment, a nationally normed assessment taken by more than 8 million children across the nation. The EAGLE acronym describes its unique approach: Expecting Academic Greatness with a Loving Emphasis.® Find more information at [www.eagleprep.org/stlouis](http://www.eagleprep.org/stlouis).

Compass Educational Programs offers preschool as well as warm and welcoming before- and after-school care on or near school campuses. Its mission is to provide each child with high-quality learning in a safe and loving Christian environment. Visit [www.compassedprograms.org](http://www.compassedprograms.org) for more information.

Open Sky Education is a not-for-profit organization that supports a variety of learning environments including HOPE Christian Schools, EAGLE College Preparatory Schools, Compass Educational Programs and the Character Formation Project. Open Sky Education works to ensure that world-class academics, character formation and faith-based educational choices are accessible and affordable for all. For more information, visit [www.openskyeducation.org](http://www.openskyeducation.org).



# GROWING BY GOD'S GRACE THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

## ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Concordia, Mo. will be concluding a three-year capital campaign this year. They are currently planning a "Growing by God's Grace Thanksgiving Celebration" to be held on Sunday, June 4, 2017.

Back on June 1, 2014, was First Fruits Sunday at St. Paul's. It represented the beginning of a journey to improve and add to the congregation's facilities over the next three years. The improvements and changes were intended to help St. Paul's carry out their mission of preaching, teaching and reaching.

Commitments to the "Growing by Gods Grace"

campaign totaled over \$1.7 million, and to help visualize their progress, a "Giving Tree" was created. The trunk of the tree represented St. Paul's and their current ministry and facilities. Each limb represented one of the projects the congregation hoped to accomplish, and each leaf represented an amount of money received for that particular project. As commitment dollars were received, the tree was brought to life.

In the first year of the capital campaign, the sound and video system was upgraded, the church steeple was repaired, the second floor of the new school building and His Little Lambs Education Center were completed, the handicap

access ramp was built and the gym floor was re-done. That was quite a lot for one year — all of which has been paid for.

During the second year, all but one project has been approved and completed. Projects completed were the music room enhancements, new church roof, church tuckpointing, renovation and updating of church interior, and a connecting corridor between two school buildings.

The last proposed project that is left for approval is the construction of St. Paul's Lutheran Church Welcome Center.



Above: Before and after pictures of the church steeple



Above: Before and after pictures of the gym



Above: Before and after pictures of handicap accessible ramp



Before and after pictures of the classrooms



Above and below: Tuckpointing in progress

Above and below: Roof repairs in progress



## ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

St. Paul Lutheran Church, 101 East Dent St., Ironton, MO will celebrate their 100th anniversary on May 21, 2017.

Missouri District President Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan will be the guest speaker at a 10:00 a.m. service followed by lunch. Email Pastor Jim Rogers at [rogersjim1947@gmail.com](mailto:rogersjim1947@gmail.com)



## FASZHOLZ PLAYED FOR THE BEST TEAM

By Gerald Perschbacher, LL.D.

### John E. “Jack” Faszholz

1927 - 2017



John E. “Jack” Faszholz was an amateur free agent pitcher for the Boston Red Sox, played on the St. Louis Cardinals’ farm club team, and was known by the Rochester Red Wings. He went on to wear jersey Number 41 as a St. Louis Cardinal in 1953. Despite all this, his greatest “pitching” was for the Gospel of Christ Jesus.

His 12-season career, mostly in the Minor Leagues, included starting pitcher in National League play against the New York Giants in the 1950s. He also won more games than any other pitcher in the franchise history of the Rochester Red Wings, gaining him a place in its Hall of Fame. But as good as baseball is, and as good as Jack was, there was something greater for him. Jack completed his seminary education at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. It was a dream fulfilled, stretching from his initial entry to the sem in 1947 to his completion in the spring of 1958. It was the string of opportunities in baseball that put seasonal pauses on his educational endeavors. But it did not put an end to them.

After graduation and ordination, to coin a phrase from one of his favorite verses, Hebrews 12:1, Jack ran “with perseverance the race marked out for” him with a 20-year career as a teacher and coach at two Lutheran high schools (Lutheran Central and Lutheran South in St. Louis). He continued making that “pitch” at Trinity, a mission congregation in Troy, Mo., where he was asked to return to preach at its wind-up 50th anniversary in 2014. From 1978 to his retirement as an educator in 1990, he taught and coached at Concordia College – Austin, Texas, specializing in health and physical education classes as well as theology courses. Retirement from teaching and coaching did not put an end to his sharing of the Gospel. He volunteered as pitching coach for the team at Belle High School, providing services as a substitute preacher, and also was active at Mt. Cavalry Lutheran Church, Belle, Mo.

His innings in congregations stretched from Hope Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Mo.; Salem Lutheran Church, Affton, Mo.; and Hope Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas; plus St. Trinity, St. Louis, Mo.

Even Jack could not begin to estimate the number of lives he touched

through his professional activities on the mound, in the classroom, at the pulpit, as a coach, as a faith leader, as a family man, and as a Christian running the bases with Christ.

Students acclaimed him as a man of faith who saw positives in everyone. He taught youth how to go the long haul and encouraged others to befit mentally, physically, and spiritually – ready to run their own race. By his example he showed how to be ready for the seasons of life, bad innings included. He saw believers as winners with Christ in their hearts and lives.

*“I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.” 2 Tim 4:7*

On March 25, 2017, John “Jack” Faszholz reached the big League upon his entry to heavenly glory 17 days shy of his 90th birthday. He is survived by wife Annette S. (nee Gaebler), brothers Eugene (Marian) and Thomas (Jean), sister Katherine (Rich) Rasmussen and sister-in-law Jean Faszholz and their families; and adult children John E. “Jef,” Jr. (Mary); Kurt G. (Lorre); Julie (John) Bertarelli; Peter R.; Paula “Polly” (Paul) Gregali; and Sarah B. “Sally” Faszholz (Rick Stephens), 15 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, 14 nieces and nephews, and 22 great nieces and nephews.

A memorial service was held April 27, at Salem Lutheran Church in Affton, Mo. Another memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Saturday, April 29, at Mt. Cavalry Lutheran Church, 508 Taylor, Belle, Mo. 65013 (contact Rev. Roth at 573-576-1615). Finally, a memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. on Tuesday, May 2, at the Chapel on the Concordia University – Texas campus, 11400 Concordia University Drive, Austin, Texas 78726 (contact Christell Logan at 512-313-3000).

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of John E. Faszholz to the Lutheran High School Association of St. Louis, 5401 Lucas and Hunt Road, St. Louis, Mo. 63121-1503, and Concordia University – Texas, 11400 Concordia University Drive, Austin, Texas 78726.

Clergy are invited to vest with red stoles. They should arrive by :15 minutes early to process.

## THOMAS RECK



Thomas Reck, of Webster Groves, passed away April 15, 2017. He retired from Lutheran South High School at the end of the 2014-2015 school year. He taught all levels of English and was instrumental in preparing Lutheran South students to write effectively in college.

Over the years he served as head football and baseball coach, athletic director, faculty chairman, and English department chairman. He monitored the clock for Lancer home football and basketball games for many years and recently coordinated the Faith In Action program.

He was honored as the Metro Area Football Coach of the Year in 1984, named to the Missouri High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame in 2008, and received the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award in 2013.

Mr. Reck touched the lives of hundreds of students and families. join us in thanking God for His gift of this Christian teacher, coach, mentor and friend. He has donated his body to the National Body Donor Program to further medical education.

A memorial service was held on, April 22 at Concordia Lutheran Church in Kirkwood, MO.



## RIVER ROADS STUDENT IS LESA'S 2017 "LUTHERAN CHRISTIAN STUDENT LEADER"



River Roads student Sanai Davis, 13, will be honored April 22, along with the Lutheran Legacy Foundation, at LESA's 13th annual "A Night for Kids" Dinner-Auction

The St. Louis-based Lutheran Elementary School Association has selected Sanai Kay Davis, an eighth-grader at River Roads Lutheran School in north St. Louis, to receive its 2017 Lutheran Student Christian Leadership Award.

The award, which includes a \$500 scholarship underwritten by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), recognizes Lutheran elementary school students who demonstrate courage, compassion, leadership, academic achievement and a commitment to their community.

Sanai will receive her award Saturday, April 22, 2017, at LESA's 13th Annual "A Night for Kids" Dinner-Auction at Orlando Gardens South. Fox 2's Andy Banker will emcee. Proceeds from

the night will benefit the more than 9,000 children who attend Lutheran schools in the St. Louis metro area.

Sanai, 13, was nominated by her principal for her ongoing commitment to her faith and her community. She recently organized a supply drive for the Perryville Tornado victims. Other projects include initiating a recycling program at River Roads, working to create a new library for the school, helping teachers and other students develop River Roads's STEAM program, and holding a bake sale to raise money for her school. Sanai, who lives in Ferguson, began attending River Roads as a preschooler.

"One of the things I've learned is to always put your faith in God," said the teenager, whose younger brothers also attend River Roads. "It's a great school and I love everything about it. I want new students to experience everything that I have experienced here."

"Sanai has blossomed into an advocate for her fellow students," said Yvonne Boyd, Sanai's principal. "She is a student whom God has destined to be one of His leaders in the future, as it is told in Jeremiah 29:11."

The evening also will include a tribute to the Lutheran Legacy Foundation, recipient of LESA's

2017 Heritage Award for their generous financial support of Lutheran education. To help LESA provide services and programs for the future, Lutheran Legacy Foundation recently awarded a grant which will provide a 25% match to gifts from donors desiring to establish a named endowment. Thanks to this grant, named endowments may now be created with a \$20,000 gift, funded at one time or over a period of four years.

Tickets for "A Night for Kids" are \$65 per person and tables of 10 are available. Tickets include dinner and open bar, with beverages proudly donated by Anheuser-Busch. Tickets can be bought online at [www.LESAstl.org](http://www.LESAstl.org), or by calling the LESA office at 314-200-0790. Sponsorships and Tributes also are available. Contact Katherine (Kit) Auble at 314-200-0797, or [kauble@lesastl.org](mailto:kauble@lesastl.org).

"A Night for Kids" is LESA's largest and most important annual fundraiser. Last year's dinner-auction raised \$424,000 for Lutheran elementary schools in the St. Louis area. Since 2004, LESA has awarded more than \$4.1 million in need-based scholarships to children of all faiths in the St. Louis area.

River Roads Lutheran School is located at 8623 Church Road in St. Louis's historic Baden neighborhood. For more information, visit <http://www.riverroadslutheranschool.org>, or call Principal Yvonne Boyd at 314-388-0300.

### About LESA

More than 9,000 students of all faiths attend Lutheran schools in the St. Louis Metro Area, making it the second largest private school system in the Bi-State Region. A Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, LESA represents 31 elementary and four high schools, including three National Blue Ribbon Schools and three National Lutheran Exemplary Schools. For more information, visit [www.LESAstl.org](http://www.LESAstl.org).



## Mission Summit

2017



Now is the time to register for the upcoming Missouri District Mission Summit. Our first district wide witness and outreach equipping event will be held June 3 at Concordia Seminary. Lutheran Hour speaker, Rev. Greg Seltz, will be the keynote speaker. The schedule includes twenty-six different sectionals for church leaders from all congregational settings. There is no cost to the attendees for the event, but we are asking that you register online for the event. For more information or the registration link, go to <http://mo.lcms.org/mission-summit-2017/>. If you have any questions about the event, please contact Sue Thompson in the district office ( [sue.thompson@mo.lcms.org](mailto:sue.thompson@mo.lcms.org)). We hope to see you on June 3.





**REV. WESLEY GEHRKE  
INSTALLED AT ZION LUTHERAN  
CHURCH, PALMYRA**



The Rev. Wesley Gehrke was installed as sole pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Palmyra, Mo. on March 12.

The Missouri District invites you to pray for Pastor Gehrke and the congregation as he begins his ministry at Zion.

**REV. RICHARD CODY  
INSTALLED AT IMMANUEL  
LUTHERAN CHURCH, CONWAY**



Richard Cody was installed as sole pastor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Conway, MO on March 19.

The Missouri District invites you to pray for Pastor Cody and the congregation as he begins his ministry at Immanuel.

**REV. GREGORY TRUWE  
INSTALLED AT TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH, COLE CAMP**



The Rev. Gregory Truwe was installed as senior pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cole Camp, MO on April 2.

The Missouri District invites you to pray for Pastor Truwe and the congregation as he begins his ministry at Trinity.



## TIM GOEGLIN SPEAKS ON THE INTERSECTION OF RELIGION AND POLITICS

SUBMITTED BY ETHAN SCHUELER, WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY CLASS OF 2018 AND DEACONESS INTERN RACHEL FICKENSCHER



*Mr. Goeglein with Lutheran Student Fellowship students*

Lutheran Student Fellowship at Washington University recently hosted Mr. Tim Goeglein to speak on the Intersection of Religion and Politics, and he asked that we submit an article to "The Reporter" commenting on the event. Please let me know if you have any questions concerning the following submitted article or if you would like us to supply a photo from the said event. Thank you so much!

"Under the Brookings Hall entrance at Washington University, embedded in the ground right outside of Brookings Quadrangle, is a plaque bearing words of Washington University's founder and Unitarian minister, Wil-

liam Greenleaf Eliot. It states, 'Those who come nearest to truth come nearest to God.' These words of Eliot, spoken in the 19th Century, engraved in the 20th Century, are quite literally a statement of faith in the public square. But many Americans forget that most of our nation's finest universities were founded with the purpose of perpetuating freedom and religious liberty. Lately, it seems voicing your faith in the public square is simply anathema, leading one to ask: 'What is the role of faith in the public square in the 21st Century?' That is why the Lutheran Student Fellowship at Washington University hosted Mr. Tim Goeglein, the Vice President of External and Government Relations for Focus on the Family on April 4th, to speak on the importance of faith and public life.

We as Lutherans hold to a confession that simply cannot be ignored, neither in our churches nor in the public square: Christ crucified for the forgiveness of the sins of the whole world. Whether it is defending human lives in the womb or the resurrection of Christ, we are called to 'honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you.' (1 Peter 3:15a).

President Harrison reminded us at the 'Liberty' conference that the Reformation started at the University—as college students, let us proudly inherit this tradition, demonstrate proofs for our claims, and challenge our peers to evaluate our arguments. 'If God is for us, who can be against us?' (Romans 8:31b).

## CHRISTIAN FRIENDS OF NEW AMERICANS AND THE PEACE CENTER OFFERS TUTORING CLASSES TO NEW AMERICAN YOUTH



The Peace Center is a part of the afterschool program with Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA) and hosts a bi-weekly tutoring program for new American youth. The program occurs twice a week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Gary (pictured on the left) of Timothy Lutheran in South City is one of the tutors.

The young men pictured are originally from Syria and were working on English—long and short vowel sounds. It was confusing to them (understandably so), but they just kept smiling. Some of the young men have stated that in order to get to the US they had to spend four years in a camp in Turkey.

Christian Friends of New Americans links you with opportunities to connect with immigrants and refugees living in the St. Louis region. CFNA partners with local Lutheran congregations, schools, and individuals, NGOs and various grant-giving foundations to offer a range of programs and services for New Americans. CFNA is a 501(c)(3) entity, operating as a Recognized Service Organization of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.



## THOUGHTS FROM A SEMINARY STUDENT ON A RURAL IMMERSION

TAKEN FROM THE APRIL 2017 RSTM NEWSLETTER AND CONTRIBUTED BY CRAIG RINKUS, SEMINARY STUDENT, CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, FORT WAYNE, IND.



The group on a field trip to the Hemme Bros. Dairy & Creamery



During an unseasonably warm week in November, I and a group of four other students from the LCMS' Fort Wayne seminary, along with beloved professor, Dr. Timothy Quill, had the opportunity to visit Western Missouri for several days to get a taste of rural life. Having been raised in various cities around the country, we students had much to learn about parish ministry in small towns and rural areas.

The week before Thanksgiving, the Synod's Office of Rural & Small Town Mission kindly hosted our small group of city slickers on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Mo. There, we were treated to several days of presentations, field trips and new experiences. The field trips were some of the most enlightening and engaging parts of our stay. We were able to visit the typical stomping grounds of an average small town parish pastor. Schools, farms, funeral parlors and even homes of local LCMS members welcomed us. They eagerly taught us about their way of life, what they expect from their pastors and what

future pastors can expect in the unique environment of rural America.

We were also able to hear from a motley group of speakers, ranging from Synodical officials, to farmers, to young students from Saint Paul High School. Each group of presenters had its own unique bit of advice for us student pastors. For people accustomed to city living, it was eye-opening to hear presenters mention how they are able to keep their doors unlocked at night. And, that ambulance helicopter insurance is actually quite common in rural areas. And, that a hot topic of conversation in many small towns often concerns the current price of corn and beans.

While each group of presenters had their own distinct bits of advice to share, we noticed several common warnings running through them all. One of which was, "Be careful what you say, because everybody knows everybody in a small town."

On behalf of Dr. Quill and my fellow students, I would like to extend thanks to Amy Gerdts and Pastor Todd Kollbaum for their warm hospitality, and for working overtime that particular week to ensure that our stay in Concordia was informative and intriguing.

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission supports and encourages rural and small town congregations in engaging their communities and growing together in Christ through Word and Sacrament. If you have a good idea for outreach or a story you'd like to share so that we can share it with others, please email Amy Gerdts at [amy.gerdts@lcms.org](mailto:amy.gerdts@lcms.org). Learn more about us at [www.lcms.org/rstm](http://www.lcms.org/rstm), by calling our office at 888-463-5127, by email at [rstm@lcms.org](mailto:rstm@lcms.org) or "like" us on our facebook page at [www.facebook.com/lcmsrstm](http://www.facebook.com/lcmsrstm).

### PLUS ONE PARTICIPATION FORMS



Now that congregations are past the busy Lenten seasons, many congregations are now turning their attention to our community outreach effort, the Plus One Initiative. Congregations are encouraged to complete a Plus One participation form and either mail it to the district office or email it to [plusone@mo.lcms.org](mailto:plusone@mo.lcms.org). If you want additional information about Plus One or a copy of the Plus One participation form, go to <http://mo.lcms.org/plus-one/>.



### Missouri District

Invites You to Attend the  
Installation of New Staff Members

Dan Kreienkamp  
Leah Sieveking  
Casey Carlson

May 4, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.

The Chapel at Lutheran Hour Ministries  
660 Mason Ridge Center Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63141



## CALLING CONGREGATIONS

### **For Sole Pastor:**

Cole Camp, Holy Cross/St. John's  
 Gordonville, Christ – Called Rev. Jacob May of Hampton, VA  
 La Grange, St. Peter – Calling Seminary Candidate  
 Monett, St. John – Called Rev. Andrew Kennell of Staplehurst, NE  
 Pevely, Zion – Calling Seminary Candidate  
 St. Charles (Orchard Farm), Trinity  
 St. Clair, Holy Trinity  
 St. Louis, Emmaus – Called Rev. Matthew Jeffords of Florence, SC  
 (Declined)  
 Ste. Genevieve, Holy Cross – Calling Seminary Candidate  
 West Ely, Immanuel/Monroe City, Our Savior –  
 Calling Seminary Candidate

### **For Senior Pastor:**

Concordia, St. Paul  
 Glendale, Glendale

### **For Associate or Assistant Pastor:**

Ellisville, St. John – Called Rev. Douglas Mauss  
 Kansas City, Calvary – Calling Seminary Candidate  
 Lee's Summit – St. Matthew – Calling Seminary Candidate

### **Served by Intentional Interim Pastor or Interim Pastor:**

Cape Girardeau (Egypt Mills), Trinity (Rev. Barry Pfanstiel)  
 Farmington, St. Paul (Rev. Dr. Richard Foss)  
 Gordonville, Christ (Rev. Mike Gallagher)  
 Slater, Peace & St. Paul (Rev. Douglas Dubisar)  
 Ste. Genevieve, Holy Cross (Rev. James Kirk)  
 Sunset Hills, Resurrection (Rev. Thomas Schoech)  
 West Ely, Immanuel (Rev. Dr. Martin Haeger)  
 Monroe City, Our Savior (Rev. Dr. Martin Haeger)

### **Vacant (on hold, but being served):**

Ashland, Family of Christ  
 Aurora, Grace  
 Barnhart, Immanuel  
 Bethany, Hope  
 Buffalo, Our Savior  
 Center, Trinity  
 Doniphan, Trinity  
 Elk Prairie (Rolla), Peace  
 Hermitage, Hope  
 Imperial, Jefferson Hills  
 Ironton, St. Paul  
 Isabella, Faith  
 Kansas City, Immanuel  
 Kennett, Redeemer  
 Malden, Grace  
 Memphis, St. Paul  
 Milan, Peace  
 Oak Grove, Shepherd of the Valley  
 Princeton, Immanuel  
 St. James, St. John  
 Sarcoxie, Trinity  
 Sedalia, Amigos de Cristo  
 Sweet Springs, Christ  
 Vandalia, St. John  
 Washington, Faith

### **Pastors Considering Calls:**

Kennell, Andrew (Sole Pastor Our Redeemer – Staplehurst, NE)  
 to St. John – Monett, MO  
 May, Jacob (Sole Pastor Emmanuel – Hampton, VA) to Christ –  
 Gordonville, MO

## PERSONNEL CHANGES — COMMISSIONED MINISTERS OF RELIGION

### **Candidate Status**

Elliott, Sammie (Immanuel – Rolla) 7/13/16  
 Lorentz, Deborah (Grace Chapel – Bellefontaine Neighbors) 7/13/16  
 Meier, Michelle (Martin Luther Academy – Kansas City) 7/13/16  
 Overbeck, Kelsey (St. John – Warrenton) 12/2/16  
 Sincox, Robin (Immanuel – Washington) 7/13/16  
 Wilshek, Gail (Abiding Savior – St. Louis) 7/13/16  
 Wright, Lisa (Salem – Florissant) 7/13/16

### **Retired**

Kremmel, Mary Beth (St. Paul's – Des Peres) 6/1/16  
 Schulz, Kathleen (Our Savior – Fenton) 11/5/14  
 Seitz, Connie (Candidate) 4/12/17

### **Deceased**

Reck, Thomas (Emeritus) 4/15/17

### **Resigned/Removed from Roster**

Brookhart, Ashley (Candidate) 3/30/17  
 Jorgensen, Steven (Pointe of Hope – Blue Springs) 4/17/17  
 Reinke, Paul (Candidate) 3/30/17  
 Telle, LaDonna (Candidate) 3/27/17  
 Tonjes, Rebekah (Immanuel – St. Charles) 4/1/17  
 Wachter, Jerome (Candidate) 4/12/17

### **Transferred to Other Districts**

Helge, Benjamin (LCMS Office of International Mission – St. Louis) to RM 3/30/17  
 Stark, Elizabeth (Martin Luther – Joplin) to OK 7/1/15

## PERSONNEL CHANGES — ORDAINED

### **Transferred to Our District**

Truwe, Gregory installed Trinity – Cole Camp, MO 4/2/17 by L. Hagan

### **Transferred to Other Districts**

Mackie, Roger to Michigan District 4/5/17

### **Candidate Status**

Tomesch, Jordan (LCMS Missionary) 2/2/17

### **Deceased**

Faszholz, John "Jack" (Emeritus – St. Louis, MO) 3/25/17



## SAVE THE DATES

### St. Louis Area Winkel

Monday, August 14  
Concordia Seminary – St. Louis

### Professional Church Workers' Conference

November 14-17  
Pastors: Nov. 14-16  
Educators: Nov. 15-17  
Tan-Tar-A Resort – Osage Beach

Check back for more information on the above upcoming events!

## NEW, FREE RESOURCE FOR ARABIC OUTREACH



Open doors to conversation with Arabic-speaking immigrants or exchange students in your community with a new, free resource from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation: A Child's Garden of Bible Stories, translated into the Arabic language. Available in hardcover and paperback, this colorfully illustrated collection of 60 Old and New Testament Bible lessons is available free of charge to the ministries that need them. Call LHF at (800)554-0723 or email [info@LHFmissions.org](mailto:info@LHFmissions.org) to order your copies.

## Concordia Seminary Hosts Christian Friends of New Americans

Third Annual CFNA Benefit

## 5K Run / Fun Walk

Saturday, May 6, Registration 9:00–Start 10:00 am

801 Seminary Place, St. Louis, MO 63105 **RAIN OR SHINE!**



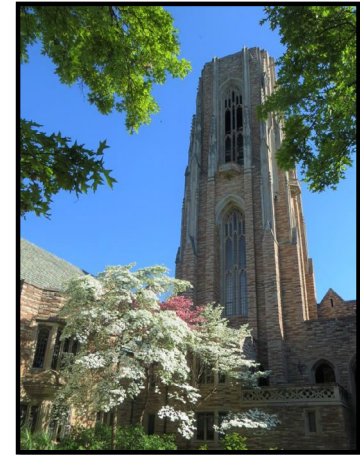
Walk or Run for Fun  
Walk or Run to Help



Registration: \$10 /person, \$25 /family  
Seminary student / family FREE  
Wheelchair Accessible Event.

Register Online: [cfna-stl.org/walk](http://cfna-stl.org/walk)  
You may pay by credit card via PayPal  
or send a check or pay at the gate.

**NEW!** Buy a CFNA tee shirt for \$10  
by ordering **before April 12.**  
Order form is online [cfna-stl.org/walk](http://cfna-stl.org/walk)  
or call to order: 314-517-8513.



**BE A SUPPORTER  
with a check of any amount!**

Checks to: CFNA  
Send check or cash to: Kerry Pozaric  
1125 Vinetta Dr.  
St. Louis, MO 63131  
(Or pay at the gate)

Call or text 314-517-8513 for Info & Sponsorship Opportunities

**WALK TO SUPPORT CFNA'S MINISTRY WITH REFUGEES & IMMIGRANTS**  
CFNA is a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS

Parking at Library Parking Lot  
(then follow signs to register / check in) **Support from Thrivent Action Teams**  **THRIVENT FINANCIAL**

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