



2014 Professional Church Workers Conference

Check out photos and highlights from this year's PCW Conference!

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From the President's Desk

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11 ESV).

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THE VOICE

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CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL NAMED AN EXEMPLARY SCHOOL

Submitted by Rev. Bill Wrede



Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS) in St. Louis, Mo. was recognized as one of only eight Lutheran schools across the country in 2014 as an exemplary school by the National Lutheran Accreditation Commission. The distinction is a result of demonstrating exceptional compliance with accreditation standards criteria. In addition, the school demonstrated innovative leadership through the implementation of Best Practices related to the academic quality and spiritual development of its students. With this honor comes additional responsibility, as the school was required to share its Best Practices with other Lutheran schools in a print article and an online webinar. The sharing of Best Practices provides opportunities and ideas that have the potential to improve all LCMS schools.

One way that CCLS-St. Louis students are taught to understand the significance of living a life of service and outreach to the world is through

the school's ongoing global partnership in Kawete, Uganda, Africa, which was recognized as a Best Practice. Kawete is a little village located

in a remote part of Uganda, one of the most impoverished countries in the world. There is no running water and little or no electricity. The life expectancy is one of the lowest in the world as AIDS and malaria run rampant, and the majority of the population lives far below the poverty level. Yet, some of the most beautiful children in the world – God's little princes and princesses – have the opportunity to receive a Christian education every day of the week at CCLS-U thanks to the efforts of CCLS-St. Louis.

The partnership began in 2008 through pre-owned clothing donations, grew into the collection of funds to purchase goats and throw



a feast, continued with the sale of bricks to turn the orphanage into a school building, and now boasts more than 250 students taking advantage of a multi-building school campus, including a newly constructed girls dormitory, clinic, and security fence. CCLS-U recently became registered by the Ugandan government as a fully fledged school, with an operating license and examination center. Measures are continually in progress to improve the academic standards and teacher quality in the school. Plans are underway to construct a boys' dormitory, increase teachers' salaries, improve

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THE MISSOURI DISTRICT ONLINE

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President Ray Mirly

THE CHANGELESS CHRIST FOR A CHANGING WORLD

Can you remember the first time you participated in your congregation's children's Christmas service? You were most likely nervous. Your parents were probably even more nervous. They were concerned whether you would remember your memorized words. Also, there were the words of the Christmas carols to remember.

Every year my congregation's children's service had a different theme. Sometimes we were dressed as Mary and Joseph (yes, one year I was Joseph). Others wore angel and shepherd costumes. Often a manger was set up in the center of the chancel. The littlest children always sang "In a Little Stable." The bravest adult leaders chose soloists to sing one or more Christmas hymns.

I encourage you, your family and loved ones to focus on THE CHRIST of Christmas. Ratchet down the secular. Increase the spiritual.

What struck me was even though the cover of the Christmas children's service always had a different theme, the words we memorized never changed. The words of Luke chapter 2 were always the central message of the service. Old Testament and New Testament scriptures

surrounded the words of St. Luke, but chapter 2 was the message.

In 2014, the vast majority of the world's residents know December 25 as a time for family gatherings, food, sports, etc. Ornately decorated trees are everywhere. Interiors and exteriors of homes have all kinds of special decorations. Many use this time of the year to take a vacation.

By the evening of December 24 most everyone is at a party, a gathering of some sort or at a church service. The next day is a repeat of the previous day. The TV networks clear their normal programming and insert the best choirs and orchestras from around the world. Most of the choirs and orchestras present the words of Luke 2. Imagine, secular TV broadcasting the Gospel, even if it is just for this one day.

I encourage you, your family and loved ones to focus on THE CHRIST of Christmas. Ratchet down the secular. Increase the spiritual. The angel's message to the Bethlehem shepherds is what Christmas is all about, "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11 ESV).

"Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn" (Luke 2:4-7 ESV).

PRESIDENT'S PRAYER LIST:

PLEASE JOIN ME IN PRAYER THIS MONTH

- *Pray that the true, Gospel Christmas message reaches the ears of the citizens of Missouri, the United States and the world.*
- *Ask God to protect the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and especially help them stay close to their families.*
- *Pray that God will bless the musicians and choirs of our congregations as they present the Christmas message through music, hymns and songs.*
- *Pray that God will bless all efforts in this district to start new missions and ministries, especially the efforts underway in Branson, Columbia, Jackson, Kansas City, St. Louis, Lake St. Louis, University City and Springfield.*
- *Pray that God guide and direct the work of the District Board of Directors, the four service boards and district committees.*
- *Pray that God will guide and direct the nomination process for the elective positions that will be voted on at the 2015 District Convention.*
- *Pray that God will bless all those newly elected and re-elected to positions of service at all levels of government.*
- *Pray that God will bless the service of President Matthew Harrison, First Vice President Herbert Mueller, the officers of the LCMS and all others who serve our church body so faithfully.*
- *Thank God from whom all blessings flow for His providential care, His unconditional love and goodness.*

WHO ARE WE?

The Missouri District consists of 300 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.



2014 PROFESSIONAL CHURCH WORKERS CONFERENCE

Submitted by Peter Krege



The Theme to the Professional Church Workers Conference (PCWC) was God's Design: A Spiritual House. What is the point of having a conference where all the Pastors in the district as well as all the Commissioned Ministers (Rostered Teachers) are required to attend? Wouldn't it be better if these people stayed at home and did their jobs?

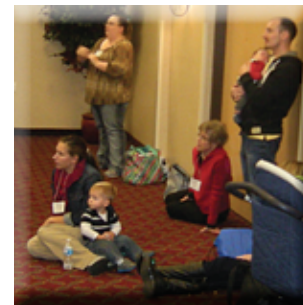
The handbook of Synod requires conferences to be held by the District at least annually for the spiritual and professional growth of its members. While this may seem legalistic, the reality is that many workers find themselves isolated and starved for practical ways to serve their congregations and schools. The PCWC and other conferences help our workers think about situations in new ways and learn what is working and what has not worked for others.

At this most recent conference there were plenary speakers who discussed the culture and our ministries in ways that we might never have thought about before now. One speaker discussed family systems. Families are broken, confused, and difficult to minister to. We all know this to be true, but when we begin to think about these issues in a systematic way, we can begin to process the challenges before us, learn from one another and take home ideas on how to work within these systems and minister to these families.

Aside from the formal presentations, I had the privilege to witness many informal side benefits of this conference.

Both ordained and commissioned ministers brought family members. There were children everywhere! While pastors met in formal sessions, their wives talked to one another in the lobbies, went shopping or out to lunch, and I am sure found ways to support each other as only they could support one another. The pastors also had the opportunity to get together and talk about their ministries or whatever else was on their hearts.

We worshiped and communed together. Listened, laughed and cried together. Discussed our ministries, and in the end we were strengthened. Each worker will return to their respective post, with a slightly new way to look at their ministry. We pray the Lord will bless the efforts of those who took time out away from their regular work to gather in fellowship with their fellow ministers. And we ask the Lord to refresh their minds and hearts as they reach out to the families of our district.



WORD OF LIFE CELEBRATES GRANDPARENTS' DAY, REFORMATION DAY AND 40 YEARS IN THE CITY

Submitted by L. M. Clark



Celebrating Reformation Day



Grandparents' Day morning chapel

Word of Life Lutheran School in St. Louis, Mo., enjoyed a busy week at the end of October as 100 grandparents came to visit their little Cougars at the K-8 campus at Ascension Lutheran Church. Word of Life is an association of three local churches: Ascension, St. Lucas and Timothy.

Two days later a Reformation Day gathering was held. All pastors and DCEs of the association churches were present as the school emphasized its Lutheran heritage of standing firm in the truth of Jesus Christ, our Savior.

These two events are the beginning of a milestone year for Word of Life, which plans to celebrate 40 years as an association school with additional upcoming events. "My Beloved Children, Hear Me" is the commissioned hymn for Word of Life, based on the 2014-15 theme of "Beloved, Be Loving," based on the Bible verse John 13:34.

During chapel on grandparents' day, Pastor Bill Wilson of Timothy encouraged grandparents to pray for their grandchildren and also shared his enthusiasm for the school. He stated, "A story was shared with me by Principal Alicia Klug that I believe says what is so special about Word of Life. One of her students wanted to buy gifts for everyone in his class at the end of the school year. His reason for wanting to give each of them a gift was because he was thankful for their friendship, which is a gift from God."

Friendships formed at Word of Life are unique to many Lutheran schools. Pastor Matt Clark of Ascension shares, "As not only a pastor, but also as a parent of two Word of Life students, I appreciate the unique opportunity our children have to attend a culturally diverse Lutheran school with a student body where eleven different nationalities are represented."

This diversity extends to learning ability as well, where Word of Life is committed to students with a myriad of learning gifts and challenges.

There is much to be thankful for in a setting where Word of Life is the only Lutheran School in South St. Louis City, and has experienced growth by adding seven students throughout the first semester thus far.

Principal Alicia Klug states, "I love our school so much; I have spent twenty years of my life here because it is that special to me!"

"Word of Life pastors, teachers, children, parents and staff value the relationship God has given to us in Christ," said Pastor Wilson. "And that relationship flows through to all other relationships we have. Every day at Word of Life we can share why we are thankful for each other."



HOME CENTERED – CHURCH SUPPORTED MINISTRY INFORMATIONAL GATHERINGS

The Missouri District believes that effective ministry to children needs to be supported by the church but is most effectively carried out in the home. It is, after all, parents/guardians who are given the mandate to raise children “in the training and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4 NIV). Therefore, we want to help congregations tailor their ministry to equip parents and guardians to teach and model the faith at home. The recent Professional Church Workers Conference (PCWC) focused on “home centered—church supported”, ministry. Pastor Mart Thompson, a speaker at the PCWC and advocate for “home-centered, church-supported” ministry to children, said, “It’s not a matter of eliminating church programs but rather changing the emphasis. You can still have Sunday school, catechism and VBS, but the emphasis is on these programs to supporting and equipping parents as the primary teachers of the faith to their children. We call it the ‘family friendly tweak’ of church programs.”

The next step for Missouri is to provide regional gatherings to share a way to equip congregations for this ministry through an organization called the “Family Friendly Partners Network.” Its mission is to train and equip churches to partner with homes to strengthen and pass on faith in Jesus Christ to this generation and those that follow.

Five regional gatherings are scheduled with Ben Freudenburg, from Concordia University, Ann Arbor, Mich., to share with congregations in the district the possibility of being part of a Family Friendly Partners Network (FFPN). FFPN is an intentional three-year process to train and equip congregations that want to become intentional Christian marriage and family-forming centers, where Christian marriages and homes deliberately pass on faith in Jesus Christ to the next generation. There is a fee for this process but it is significantly reduced by sharing costs with the other network congregations.

DATES, TIMES AND LOCATIONS:

- Saturday, Feb. 7, 8:30 – 11:30 a.m., at St. Matthew, Lee’s Summit
- Saturday, Feb. 7, 3:30 – 6:30 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran, Springfield
- Saturday, April 18, 9 a.m. – noon, at St. Paul, Des Peres
- Saturday, April 18, 3 – 6 p.m., at St. Paul, Jackson
- Sunday, April 19, 2:30 – 5:30 p.m., at Trinity, Columbia

For congregations interested in learning more about FFPN, it is essential that the senior/sole pastor along with two key lay leaders attend. If there is a parochial school or early childhood center associated with the congregation, it is also very important that the principal and director attend.

This program is designed for congregations of all sizes. Smaller congregations are blessed by sharing expenses with others while being part of events that normally only large congregations could host.

More information about Ben Freudenburg:

Ben Freudenburg has been an LCMS Professional Church Worker for more than 40 years, most of that in “hands on” parish experience. Because of his expertise in this field, he is currently serving as Director of the Concordia Center for the Family in Ann Arbor, Mich. He also serves as professor in family life studies at Concordia University in Ann Arbor. He is the author of “The Family Friendly Church”.

Please reserve the dates! We would love to see you there!

The Missouri District Family Life & Youth Ministry Board. For more information contact Gene Wyssmann at gene.wyssmann@mo.lcms.org, or call 417-766-2183.

PASTOR JAMES COX IS ORDAINED AT ST. JOHN’S LUTHERAN CHURCH, ARNOLD, MO.



Front from left: Rev. Andrew Becker, Rev. Jeremy Schultz, Rev. James Cox, Rev. Dr. Ray G. Mirly, Rev. Dr. Jack Miller

Back from left: Rev. Peter Kelm, Rev. Duane Meissner, Rev. Dr. Wally Becker, Rev. Nathan Wollenberg, Rev. Warren Woerth, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Oswald, Rev. Dr. Daniel Kriefall, Rev. Tristan Engle

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH IN VALLEY PARK, Mo. INSTALLS PASTOR JAMES COX



Front from left: Rev. Gerald Kurka, Rev. Dr. Daniel Kriefall, Rev. James Cox, Rev. Dr. Ray Mirly, Rev. Jeremy Schultz, Rev. Andrew Becker

Back from left: Rev. Dr. Gary Schaper, Rev. Warren Woerth, Rev. Steve Riordan, Rev. Greg Prauner, Rev. Douglas Chinberg



22 YEARS AND STILL GOING STRONG

This year marks the 22nd year that Lord of Life Lutheran Church and Preschool in Chesterfield, Mo. has presented a very special gift to the surrounding communities: A living drama surrounding Jesus' birth called Return to Bethlehem. The first few productions were both inside and outside. However, due to the unpredictable Missouri weather and having to chase down sheep that had gotten out of their corral at 2 o'clock in the morning, the whole production is now inside.

Although this event is held in December, planning is year round and recruiting begins in September. It takes more than 100 people from characters, props, scenery, food, costumes, entertainment, etc., to produce this drama. One of the most difficult tasks is recruiting expectant and new parents to volunteer themselves and their newborn to play the roles of Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus. We have been very fortunate to have had a Baby Jesus in all our performances. There are many church members who have participated in every production since the beginning. Cecil, the donkey, has appeared in every performance. Several members have had their children portray Baby Jesus and are now in adult roles. Some even have their grandchildren performing. Many of the men stop shaving after Halloween

and allow their beards to grow, lending more authenticity to their roles. Many of the various musical groups that perform in the sanctuary, before the beginning of the tour have returned year after year. For many, Return to Bethlehem is a labor of love, an expression of faith and a chance to present the true meaning of the Christmas season.

For Return to Bethlehem, the fellowship hall is transformed into the narrow streets of the Bethlehem marketplace. Visitors to the city are presented with a souvenir shekel and given an ancient family name so they may register for the census and enter the city. As they walk through the narrow streets, they will experience ancient sights, sounds and smells. They will interact with the shopkeepers, soldiers and townfolk, all in period costumes, as they talk about daily life and the rumors about a baby born in a stable. This amazing tour of Bethlehem culminates with a visit to the lowly stable where the Christ child and his parents can be seen.



Come, Return to Bethlehem and enrich your Christmas experience with the emotions and splendor that settled over the city with the birth of a tiny baby named Jesus. It is an experience not soon forgotten.

This year's presentations will be Friday, Dec. 5, 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 6 and 7, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The free walking tour takes approximately 15 minutes and begins every four minutes. The tour is for all ages, inside and is wheelchair and walker accessible. Free-will offerings will be given to several charities. Again this year, we are asking visitors to bring a can of food, which will be given to the Circle of Concern Food Pantry. Last year we donated almost 500 cans.

New this year, after exiting the tour, visitors can enjoy hot chocolate and cookies and can join in fellowship and reflect on what they just witnessed.

For more information, call 636-532-0400 or go to www.lordoflifelems.org. Lord of Life Lutheran Church and Preschool is located at 15750 Baxter Road, at the corner of Baxter Road and Clarkson Road, Chesterfield, MO 63017.

CHRIST COMMUNITY LUTHERAN SCHOOL NAMED AN EXEMPLARY SCHOOL

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the quality of education and school governance and prepare more students to pass the national high school entrance test.

While it is obvious that CCLS-St. Louis has been dynamically involved in raising funds and gathering supplies, the depth of the partnership far exceeds this cursory glance of involvement. CCLS-U is definitely God's school. From the very beginning, all who have been involved have seen God's fingerprints on this project. It cannot be missed that this entire venture has been infused with the miraculous hand of God. In a sense, this mission has taken on a life of its own—ministering to the staff, parents and children of CCLS-St. Louis as much, if not more, than it has ministered to those in Kawete. God has used this mission to grow CCLS-St. Louis while it is called to serve to grow CCLS-U. Much more information can be found at www.ccls-stlouis.org/uganda.



COLLEGE PEER MINISTRY TRAINING

Submitted by Brittany Golden

College Peer Ministry Training (PMT) is a great opportunity for college students to grow in their faith and to meet peers who are passionate about God's word. There are four modules that students can learn from; one session is offered each semester, allowing for graduation from the program once students have completed all four. One of the greatest parts of PMT is the relationships grown between students from different universities. These relationships can help remind students that they are not alone in their faith. The things their campus ministries are doing also are being done across the state and country. Friendships across the state are formed, as students spend a weekend learning more about how to be leaders in their ministry on their campuses.

The first weekend of October, around 20 students attended this semester's session about active listening and being prepared for crisis. These were students representing Lutheran campus ministries from many different college campuses around Missouri and even a campus in Nebraska. Student representatives came from Missouri University in Columbia, Missouri State University in Springfield, and Northwest in Maryville, just to name a few.

In this session, students learned how to be active listeners. This is a really important tool for students to learn and use. It is especially helpful for students who are leading in their ministries. They will meet many new students who will have many important things to say. Students need to know how to listen. Hearing is natural, but truly listening needs to be

learned. Students learned the steps of active listening and then put them into practice. This then helped move into the second part of the module where students learned the importance of preparation and then response to crisis. On a college campus students will sometimes interact with students going through a crisis so the PMT students were taught how to react to these students. Students were encouraged to take the things they learned back to their campus in order to be prepared to deal with crisis and to get together a list of numbers that students should know to call in case of a crisis situation.

Peer Ministry Training is a wonderful opportunity for students. Many look forward to the next module which will be held Feb. 6-8, 2015.



HIGH SCHOOL PEER MINISTRY TRAINING

February 13-15, 2015

Looking for a great youth ministry leadership opportunity? Peer Ministry Training (PMT) is an opportunity to come together with high school youth and youth counselors who want to learn additional/intentional skills in counseling/discipleship to serve in their youth ministry, in their congregation, their school, their community and their family. The Missouri District Family Life and Youth Board invite you and/or your youth to Peer Ministry Training Feb. 13-15 at the Sojourn Retreat Center in Dittmer, Mo.

This year's Peer Ministry Training consists of Peer Ministry Training 1 and 2. Peer Ministry Training 1 is the entry level course and is designed to teach participants:

- Quality training in caring skills
- Commitment to growth in faith and values
- Christian service to other people
- Welcoming others
- Listening with care
- Help bring the hope of Christ into the lives of their peers

Peer Ministry Training 2 is the follow-up course to Peer Ministry Training. Participants must have been through PMT 1. The focus of PMT 2 is:

- Learning how to validate others
- How to deal with sensitive issues
- Discovering our spiritual gifts
- Learning to share our faith and personal faith stories

Our training teams will be led by Rev. Mark Martin and Christina Stackle, members of the Missouri District Board for Family Life and Youth. The members of the teaching teams are certified instructors in Peer Ministry.

Your cost for the entire weekend is \$80 per person. The actual cost for the training is more than \$200 per person, which includes staff, materials, housing and meals. However, the Missouri District Board for Family Life and Youth Ministry is providing funds to pay the balance per person for youth and counselors.

Registration will be online only, and the link will be on the district website at mo.lcms.org under events. Medical forms will be available from a link on the website as well, and should be brought to the training and NOT sent to the district office with your registration payment. The deadline to register online is Feb. 2, 2015. Registration payments are to be made by check and sent to the district office by Feb. 2, 2015.

Questions? Call Sue Thompson at 314-590-6217 or email Sue.Thompson@mo.lcms.org.

Registration suggestion: A team of two or three youth and an adult leader is ideal. Individuals who come alone may find themselves missing the support needed to grow together and support one another at home. Bring your Bible and supplies to take notes, plus recreational and personal needs.

You can bring items for evening activities, like table games, cards, etc.

At the Sojourn Retreat Center, rooms are motel style. Linens are provided, but you'll need to bring your own towels.

Peer Ministry Training is an outstanding experience with great training/leadership teams and great youth and counselors coming together to learn, grow and serve. Share this opportunity with everyone in your youth ministry.



MISSOURI DISTRICT SENIOR HIGH SERVANT EVENT IS SCHEDULED!

SOMETHING NEW. . . a Missouri District Senior High Youth Servant Event is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23, through Sunday, June 28, 2015.

Help equip your youth to use their gifts as they serve and love in the name of Jesus. Lodging will be in Arnold, Mo. with Servant Events happening in the St. Louis Metro area. Mass gatherings will be held at St. John's Lutheran Church in Arnold.

The approximate cost for lodging, program and meals will be under \$300.

Please reserve the dates and watch for more information soon.

The co-chairs for this gathering are Christina Stackle and Mary Beth Popp. More information will be available soon on our district website at mo.lcms.org. For more information contact Marilyn Haldiman at 417-830-6144.

JUNIOR HIGH GATHERING 2014

On a beautiful fall weekend in October at Camp Windermere on Lake of the Ozarks, 221 youth and leaders gathered as Dr. Micah Parker from Riverside, Calif. shared the theme "You Are My God." He shared the wonderful truth that people of God are able to glorify God at all times and in all situations whether the times are good, or if the times are challenging.

The theme verse for the Junior High Gatherings this year was "I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God' " (Ps. 31:14). Dr. Parker led the group through a journey that called on us to intentionally think about praising God when all goes well and to praise Him even in times of suffering because we can "cast[ing] all your anxieties on him" (1 Pet. 5:7). It was a beautiful weekend with God's handiwork of fall colors fully on display. The 200 plus were able to spend time out in God's creation participating in a servant event at the camp on Saturday afternoon.



THE EXCITING NEWS IS THAT THE JUNIOR HIGH GATHERING WILL BE REPEATED THIS COMING SPRING, MARCH 20-22, 2015.

DR. MICAH PARKER WILL JOIN US AGAIN. REGISTRATION WILL BE ON-LINE AT THE MISSOURI DISTRICT WEBSITE. PLAN TO JOIN US!





Christie Steffens

PRESIDENT'S PENNING

THE TRAINING CONTINUES

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6 (RSV)).

Before I retired in 2011, I was privileged and blessed to be a Lutheran teacher for 41 years. However, I shouldn't say I retired but rather that I . . . refocused. I find myself back at school many times, either tutoring students or being a substitute teacher. The training continues.

Where does Lutheran "training" begin? My Lutheran "training" began at home with my parents. When I was two weeks old, they began my "schooling" at the baptismal font. I was baptized at Trinity Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, Mo. My teacher was Rev. F. H. Melzer, also known as "Pop." The "schooling" continued through lessons during mealtimes and at bedtime prayers. I was often found at church, sitting on my mother's lap or on surrounding

alto laps, at choir practice or in Trinity's balcony during church. The training began early.

My father, Paul, was a teacher, principal and education executive for the LCMS. Our family moved whenever he accepted a call to a new school/church or LCMS district. Wherever we went, it was important to my parents that there was a Lutheran school for their children to attend. That dedication to Lutheran education was not lost on their children. My two older brothers also became Lutheran teachers. The training was passed down.

Proactive parents partner with a Lutheran school where witnessing about Christ is shared through lessons and by example. At Lutheran schools, teachers naturally talk about Christ throughout the day. Lutheran education continues through confirmation and beyond.

What is it about Lutheran education that makes it become an integral part of family life? When Christ is the head of the house, parents want to serve Him by bringing their children to be baptized. They want their children to learn Bible verses and Bible stories. Proactive parents partner with a Lutheran school where witnessing about Christ is shared through lessons and by example. At Lutheran schools, teachers naturally talk about Christ throughout the day. Lutheran education continues through confirmation and beyond. Christ is that link throughout the stages of family life. The Master Teacher is and will always be Christ.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY



DO WE NEED LUTHERAN SCHOOLS?



Myra Weber

Do we need Lutheran schools? You bet. If you listen to the news on radio and TV and read the newspapers, you realize that this world is becoming more mixed up and crazy every day. Satan is definitely on the prowl. The norm seems to be "wrong is right and right is wrong." Who is being molded by all of this and will have to tolerate this in the future? That's right, our children.

A child's earliest thoughts should be about Jesus and His love. We as parents have that responsibility at home and what a blessing if it can be reinforced in a Christian school. It makes for a good solid Christian foundation. Proverbs 22:6 tells us to "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it."

Lutheran teachers are Christians dedicated to God and their profession. They can give the help that's needed to individual students. The teachers actually get to share their faith in Jesus Christ freely with the students. They are allowed to pray over their students whenever they want, giving the students encouragement and letting them know that Jesus is always there with us no matter what. Studying the Bible daily in the classroom has a very positive influence on their lives. Small things like praying at the beginning and the end of day and having chapel once a week have great impact on the students. Children learn not only law but also the true love and salvation of Jesus Christ and what He has done for them. It's about the students learning the Gospel.

Christian school children are generally very well disciplined and caring. Jesus shines through them. They are being molded for their adult life and their preparation for heaven. I hope and pray that God will continue to protect our Christians and our Christian schools.

Many Lutheran schools from preschool through high school have benefited financially from LWML through its mighty mites. It's such a good feeling when you drop change into your mite box knowing that you are helping to teach "the Gospel of Christ" and salvation to many children.

LUTHERAN EDUCATION MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Rev. Kristopher Morris

During my years of service as a pastor I have been blessed to serve two congregations. They both have schools. I have seen with my own eyes the blessings that families receive by having their children enrolled at a Lutheran school. I want to share with you a couple of true stories that have changed children and their families because of the witness of a Lutheran school. I have changed their names to protect confidences.

Ryan's parents were told that he had a learning disability. They were informed by the local public school that he would be enrolled in classes with other children with special needs and that their family should never expect that he would do well in an academic setting, ever. His parents asked if the Lutheran school would accept a child with special needs. After meeting with the teacher and administrator, the family decided to enroll Ryan in our school. Three months into the school year his mother stopped by my office with tears in her eyes. Because of the smaller class size and the special care and attention paid to her son by an amazing Lutheran educator, Ryan had made incredible progress. He began to be able to make sense of the letters and numbers which had only

been meaningless shapes for him before. As the year progressed so did he, by leaps and bounds. By the end of the year, he exceeded every single learning expectation for a child his age. Rather than being behind, he was ahead, and he has stayed ahead. Now, three years later, he is still a successful, bright, happy student at the Lutheran school where his parents found a place of hope and saw the love of Jesus put into action by Lutheran educators.

Malik was preschool age. His parents didn't want daycare, they wanted an accredited preschool program that would equip him academically and developmentally for the next steps in his life. His family was Muslim. When he first enrolled his father requested that Malik not participate in any "Christian" teaching or activities. The administrator told Malik's father that there was no way she could prevent Malik from being exposed to Christianity, because the teaching of the faith was interwoven into everything the school did on a daily basis. There was no other school in town that could match the reputation for excellence which was held by the Lutheran school. So this Muslim family sent their child to us. And Malik saw Jesus. He prayed to Jesus. He sang to Jesus. He heard stories about Jesus. He played a part in the Christmas program. He did the same at Easter. He came back the next year also and did all of the same. At the end of his second and final year at our preschool, 5-year-old Malik approached me after chapel one day. He rushed up and hugged my leg tight. He looked up into my eyes and said, "Pastor, I love you. You tell me about Jesus. I know Jesus loves me and died for me. I will never forget, I promise!"

Even to this day, tears fill my eyes when I remember Malik. He saw the love of Jesus, all because of a Lutheran preschool. Ryan's family saw the love of Jesus, all because of a Lutheran elementary school. I saw the love of Jesus, and get to serve as a pastor in His church, all because of a Lutheran college and seminary. Do you think Lutheran education is a vital part of the mission of the Church? I hope so. If not, then Ryan, Malik, myself, and countless others would love to talk to you about it!

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matt. 28:18-20 ESV).

www.MissouriLWML.org
www.lwml.org

THE MISSOURI DISTRICT LUTHERAN LAYMEN'S LEAGUE

THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST

Christians are blessed because they have heard the Good News of Jesus Christ. However, there are millions of people who have not been so fortunate.

Whose job is it to witness? Many Christians believe that witnessing is the sole job of the pastor and church staff and are typically uncomfortable volunteering to be a member on the church's Board of Evangelism.

The Christian definition of evangelism is the announcement, proclamation, and/or preaching of the Good News of and about Jesus Christ. It can be communicated in verbal and/or written form. Evangelism includes warning people about sin and the consequences of sin. Many people feel that to be effective in evangelism we have to create complex illustrations and memorize a seminary-worthy number of verses. But the Gospel is really most powerful when shared with love, clarity, and sometimes most importantly from you in your own words.

The goal of proclaiming the Good News is that people believe. Believing will bring repentance.

Telling the Good News of Jesus Christ is more important today than ever before. Jesus calls His people to share the Gospel. Our job is to go out among those we're trying to reach by being willing to go where they are.

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? (Rom. 10:13-15).

How will they hear the message of salvation through Jesus Christ if no one reaches them? As a follower of Jesus, you have been commissioned to make disciples of all nations.

Being a disciple of Christ is not always easy. But it is always good, and it is always worth the effort.

Every believer has to get involved in some manner. Lutheran Hour Ministries has the expertise and training materials to help teach us how to witness in our everyday lives. Lutheran Hour Ministries goes to places that we would never consider going ourselves.

And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" I know! I know! Lutheran Hour Ministries, with our financial support and prayers.

By the power of God's Holy Spirit the Gospel message can be spread into our communities and beyond.

TRINITY, JEFFERSON CITY, HOSTS MISSION U

Submitted by Rev. Ken Funke



Recognizing a need in their congregation and in their personal lives to become better equipped to reach people with the real news of Jesus Christ, 28 members of Trinity Lutheran Church, Jefferson City, participated in The Lutheran Hour's new witnessing training program, Mission U, on Sept. 27.

Participants learned about overcoming obstacles to witnessing, explored the mission we have been given, looked at everyday opportunities to share Christ, and learned ways to personalize our witnessing to witness within long-term relationships to family and friends, especially in times of crisis.

The workshop was led by David Schlessman and was sponsored by Trinity's Evangelism Board.

Participants want to continue meeting to support and encourage one another. They will share personal experiences as well as gather to participate in the live-streaming webinars offered by The Lutheran Hour ministries. The Evangelism Board hopes to offer additional sessions of Mission U in the near future.

Visit us at: www.lutheranonline.com/missouridistrictlll
Questions or comments? Contact: jack1422@mchsi.com

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COUNTRY CHURCH TOUR

The 10th Annual Christmas Country Church Tour will take place Dec. 18- 19 from 3 to 9 p.m.

This event began in 2005 with seven churches participating, followed in 2006 with 14 churches decorated and included on tour. Then in 2007, the tour "exploded" as 24 churches in the counties of Perry, Cape Girardeau and Bollinger joined together for the very popular "Christmas Country Church Tour." Only "country churches" have been accepted to join the organized tour, making this a unique event in Southeast Missouri.

This season two new participants, "Historical Locations," will be featured. The First Lutheran Seminary Log Cabin in Altenburg and St. Mary's of the Barrens Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville will be on tour.

All churches will be decorated for the Christmas season; some will provide Christmas music and serve refreshments.

The 175th anniversary of the 1839 Saxon immigration has been celebrated throughout this year at Concordia Lutheran Church in Frohna, making this Christmas tour season very special.

Concordia Lutheran Choir will be in rehearsal for Christmas services, Thursday evening beginning at 7:30.

The Perry County Lutheran Chorale will be in concert at Concordia during the tour on Friday beginning about 5 p.m.

You may begin the Church Tour, north, U.S. Highway 61 at Peace Lutheran Church in Friedenberg or South U.S. Highway 61 on State Highway C at Zion Lutheran Church in Pocahontas. Signs, maps and directions to the participating churches will be available at each location.

We will greet you and celebrate with you as you tour our church.

Please, come join in the festivities as we prepare to worship our Lord Jesus Christ!

For more information go to www.concordiafrohna.org.





CONCORDIA SEMINARY CELEBRATES 175 YEARS

Some 700 guests came to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Friday, Oct. 10, to celebrate its milestone 175th anniversary.

“It was a great time,” said Dr. Dale A. Meyer, president of Concordia Seminary. “Thanks to all who came to join the celebration, and to all who continue to remember this mission in their prayers. This Seminary belongs to the Savior and we are eager for the future.”



Special anniversary lectures by faculty members were among the highlights of the day. Following the lectures, attendees browsed expo booths, and families enjoyed activities such as pumpkin carving and caramel apple making. Joe Pollach and the St. Louis Express band played through the evening as faculty, students, families, and guests enjoyed a meal and fellowship.

Students were thrilled to be a part of the milestone event as well. “It is humbling to be a student here during the 175th anniversary celebration because you are reminded of the great history of the institution,” said Tom Schlund, a fourth-year Master of Divinity student at the Seminary. “The graduates of this institution have been used by God to bring His life-giving Word to people all over the globe so that they too can be saved. It is neat to think that we are now part of that history and are being formed here to be sent out to do the same thing.”

To see highlights from the 175th Anniversary Celebration, or to learn more about the history of Concordia Seminary, visit www.csl.edu/175.



Seminary student Paul Flo, left, helps a child decorate a pumpkin at Concordia Seminary's 175th Anniversary Celebration.



(Left): Joe Pollach and the St. Louis Express Band entertain the crowd with polka music during the Oktoberfest celebration at the 175th Anniversary event.



(Right): Seminary student James Miller added a historical touch to the 175th Anniversary Celebration by dressing as Dr. C.F.W. Walther, the first president of Concordia Seminary.

Bach AT THE SEM
 2014-2015 CONCERT SERIES
 DECEMBER 14, 2014
 MARCH 15, 2015
 MAY 17, 2015
 THE CHAPEL OF ST. TIMOTHY AND ST. TITUS
 3 P.M. AT CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS



INTRODUCING DR. MAURICE BOYER
 MUSIC DIRECTOR FOR THE
 AMERICAN KANTOREI AND *BACH AT THE SEM*

UPCOMING EVENTS

- ♫ **NATIVITY JOY***
December 7
- ♫ **BACH AT THE SEM**
December 14
- ✓ **SHEPHERDS OF GOD'S FLOCK**
January 8
- ✓ **GREEN & GOLD DAYS**
January 9
- 📅 **PRE-LENTEN WORKSHOP**
January 16
- ✓ **TASTE OF THE SEM**
January 17, 18 & 19
- 📅 **LAY BIBLE INSTITUTE**
January 17
- 📅 **SCHOLA CANTORUM & EPIPHANY JOY**
February 7

- ✓ Admissions
- 📅 Continuing Ed
- ♫ Music Event

*call for location

For more information, visit www.csl.edu, call 800-822-5287, or email advancement@csl.edu.





ST. LOUIS SCHOOLS CELEBRATE FALL, PREPARE FOR 'ALL SCHOOLS' OPEN HOUSE JAN. 25

Students at LESA member Lutheran schools in the St. Louis Metro Area are enjoying the bounty of God's blessings this fall and winter.

About 200 runners from Immanuel Lutheran in Wentzville painted the town red, blue and yellow for their school's first annual color run in September. The event raised money for the school's athletic department.

In October, Our Savior in Fenton celebrated its school's 50th birthday with a giant cake and a week of festivities that included dressing up as a favorite Bible character.

Students at St. Mark's, Eureka, explored the great outdoors during a field trip to Camp MoVal and hosted a Trunk or Treat for children in their congregation and community.



Immanuel, Wentzville's Athletic Director Shelley Brown soaks up some color at the school's first annual Color Run.



Our Savior, Fenton, celebrates 50 years with a giant cake and a week of festivities.



St. Mark's, Eureka, students at Camp MoVal and children enjoying Trunk or Treat.



On Jan. 25, 2015, more than 30 LESA schools will welcome visitors during a special Lutheran "All Schools" Open House event. Most schools will host visitors from 1 to 3 pm, but times may vary. The event coincides with the start of National Lutheran Schools Week 2015 (Jan. 25-31, 2015). For a complete list of schools, visit www.metrolutheranschools.org.

CRUSADERS PUT THEIR FAITH INTO ACTION

Lutheran North's first of two Faith in Action days for the 2014-15 school year was held Oct. 17. God provided a perfect-weather day and Crusaders went to work. LHSN, St. Louis, students and faculty participated in a variety of service activities including cleaning up litter, gardening, painting, helping young students, conversing with senior citizens, sorting food, and more. Thirteen organizations, agencies, churches and schools hosted more than 300 faith-filled students and faculty. The day was equally beneficial for those who were served and those who did the serving. "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (1 Peter 4:10, NIV).



ST. LOUIS SYMPHONY YOUTH ORCHESTRA INCLUDES THREE LUTHERAN SOUTH WIND SYMPHONY MEMBERS

Three members of Lutheran South's Wind Symphony were selected as members of this year's St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra: junior Rachel Martin (French horn), senior James Robinson (trumpet) and junior Noelle McCord (trombone). All three students are first-chair players in their respective sections of the Wind Symphony, take private lessons, and participate in activities like the District Honor Band and state music festivals. The three are among the top high school brass players in the St. Louis area and began playing their instruments in fifth grade as members of the Lutheran South Grade School Band Program. The St. Louis Symphony Youth Orchestra has had student musicians for more than 40 years. The Youth Orchestra consists of 95-100 young musicians ranging in age from 12 to 22. Youth Orchestra musicians represent more than three dozen schools throughout the bi-state region.



From left Rachel Martin, James Robinson and Noelle McCord

NATIONAL MERIT HONOREES

Lutheran High School South, St. Louis, students were honored by the National Merit program for their outstanding performance on the fall 2013 PSAT standardized test. Senior Ian Crane was named a National Merit Semi-Finalist, having scored in the top 1 percent of all students nationwide who took the test. Seniors Nick Taylor, Shelby Hobbs and Ian Ericson were named National Merit Commended Students, scoring in the top 5 percent.



Ian Crane



From left Nick Taylor, Shelby Hobbs and Ian Ericson



TWO-TIMERS

by Mark Einspahr, reprinted with permission from the Lutheran Witness

Except for Christmas and Easter, I love to greet at church. On those two occasions, you get so many visitors at the door that it's almost overwhelming. While it is good, you also get the two-timers. You know, those people who are "on your books" but come only at Easter and Christmas.

As a fellow greeter, I can recite the conversation you might have had at Easter:

Greeter: "Hello! We're so glad you're here. Thanks for visiting us. Would you please sign our guest book?"

Two-timer: "Sign? I'm a member here, and have been for five years."

Greeter (thinking quickly): "Ah. Oh. I'm sorry, I didn't recognize you. I'm sort of new." If you have two services, you can add, "Well, you must go to the other service."

Translation of this last response: "I've been going here for three years, and I've been here almost every Sunday, but I cannot remember ever seeing you. However, I'm too nice to say that out loud."

I suspect this has happened to some of you.

As I began to think about "two-timers," I realized the reference has a negative connotation. Two-timers. We have all met them. They walk in, talk to a few people they know, leave after the service and are not seen again until another holiday.

While this is seldom a hot topic in the churches with which I'm familiar, it is something that is rarely talked about in a good light. Hardly a good word is said about the subject, even by pastors. Many people, and I include myself, have even disliked two-timers. I mean, the audacity — to show up twice a year and expect to reap the same rewards as the rest of us. They haven't done anything to help the congregation. They haven't given any money — or, perhaps worse, they cut a big check twice a year, as if that will ensure their standing. They don't teach Sunday school, serve on the property committee or behave as though they know something about church manners — "Hey, do you know you're sitting in my seat? I sit here all the time."

Yet, over the years, as I have gotten older and rounder and softer (both in attitude and because of my rounder-ness), my thinking on two-timers has changed. It has changed in two ways.

First, I have remembered that the number of times I attend church will not get me into heaven. The simple act of coming to church is not going to get me or anyone else saved. Going to church is like any other act; it is a response to God for the love and faith the Holy Spirit has created in us. We come to church to worship the Lord and learn of His love for us.

We come to have our faith strengthened through hearing the Word. We come for the fellowship we get by gathering with fellow believers. We come to receive the forgiveness for our sins through both Baptism and Holy Communion.



Now don't get the wrong idea, I know that "faith comes by hearing." I don't want to dilute that in any way. What I want to do is change how that gets applied to two-timers, and that is how I have changed in the second way.

More and more, I want to be happy — and I want us to be happy — that they come and hear the Word. Instead of passing judgment, I want to accept the fact they have come and encourage them while they are here. I want to take the time to understand why they only come twice a year, not punish them for coming twice a year. When we show true, honest, loving and God-pleasing concern for these people, we may give them the boost they need to come more often.

We need to take an extra step: Point them out to our pastor; introduce them to our friends. Pray for them and follow up with a call to them the next week. A friendly call, from someone besides the pastor, saying thank you for coming, may go a long way to helping them be more faithful.

What I am saying is this: It's a two-way street. Yes, two-timers may not have been in church for a half-year, but have we as a church contacted them in those six months? Did we take the time to see them when they hadn't been to church for two months? Did we call on them and say, "Hey, we missed you. Are you OK?" As a congregation, are we two-timers ourselves, in that we contact them only when we are (1) conducting our stewardship drive or (2) doing our yearly review of our members? Is this the message they are getting from us as the church: You only matter when we need money or are taking a census?

All of this may not work. We may not change some two-timers. (Changing hearts is, of course, the work of the Holy Spirit.) What I do know is this: A proverbial slap on the wrist or cold shoulder for poor attendance seldom produces positive results. We need to ensure that those we perceive as two-timers are not being given the two-timing treatment by ourselves as a church. Engagement and a hand extended in genuine friendship offers a better course.

As Lutherans, we have so much to offer — a rich liturgy and a rich history. Most important, we offer the true and unerring Word of God. In a word, what we have is CHRIST, and that needs to get out to everyone. Especially to those who only come to church twice a year.

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.gerds@lcms.org.

Learn more about us at www.lcms.org/rstm or by calling our office at 888-463-5127, by email at rstm@lcms.org or "like" us on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/lcmsrstm.

EXCELLENCE REIGNS AT LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL NORTH



Mike Grupe, biology teacher at Lutheran High School North (LHSN), St. Louis, received the James Juergensen Master Educator Award from the faculty of Concordia University-Wisconsin. Both he and the school will receive \$1,000 cash gifts. This is one of many awards Grupe has received for his excellent teaching. In 2002 he received the Outstanding Biology Teacher Award from the National Association of Biology Teachers and in 2003 the Carol B. and Jerome T. Loeb Prize for Excellence in Teaching Science and Mathematics Award from the St. Louis Science Center. Grupe has been involved in 10 summer lab internships at Washington University, Washington Medical School, St. Louis University, and Pfizer over the past 20 years. As a result of some of his summer work, he has been part of development teams for four biology-based laboratory lessons or units and is co-author of a research article in a peer-reviewed journal. In the classroom at LHSN, Grupe continues to instill in his students a love for learning and an appreciation for biology.



LHSN senior Christian Gauss was named an Outstanding Participant in the National Achievement Scholarship Program. Christian scored in the top 3 percent of more than 160,000 African Americans who took the PSAT last year. He is the son of Ms. Bernetta Gauss and Mr. Herbert Gauss and is a member of Shalom Church (City of Peace). The National Achievement Scholarship Program was initiated in 1964 specifically to honor academically promising African American high school students.



LHSN senior Joshua Fackler was named a 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalist. Approximately 1.4 million juniors entered the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the PSAT last year. Semifinalists are among the top 1 percent of students testing within each state. Josh is the son of LHSN alumni Andy and Lisa (nee Streng) Fackler. The Facklers are members of Grace Lutheran Chapel in Bellefontaine Neighbors.



GOD'S WONDERFUL SURPRISES

Submitted by Jennifer Freudenburg
Project Manager for the Concordia Center for the Family
And the Family Life Program on the campus of Concordia University - Ann Arbor, Mich.

I have a love affair with trees! I so often wish I would stop on the spot while traveling to take a photo of the vivid trees that especially catch my eyes. My father could look at a leaf and tell you from what tree it came. He was amazing. My grandson did a project on trees and leaves for school, and I wish I had lived close enough to explore with him.

The ironic part of my love affair is that I am highly allergic to trees! Yes, I have gone through the allergy testing and lit up like a light bulb. I can't hug them and I can't jump in a pile of leaves. I've ended up in the hospital from my throat closing because I innocently swiped a low hanging branch of leaves while out strolling. Walking in the jungles of Borneo, or tromping in the woods, or raking leaves are all activities that I am very cautious and hesitant about engaging in.

I think that trees just remind me over and over again, every season, how God loves to surprise us. The seasons help remind us of dying to our sins and the new life God offers us. But for me, in addition to that, it's the surprise! We must make sure we don't take God's awesomeness for granted.



In Michigan, there are a plethora of trees, almost smothering – at least compared to places in Arizona. When we first moved here, I had to remember again what it was like to live in an area where you were so surrounded. In Arizona we had so many palm trees that didn't change

colors in season that we really had to work at seeing the changes and surprises as the seasons changed. But the fruit trees were a different story! Glorious and fragrant—the smell in the city at blossom time was unbelievable. Now, that was an awesome surprise!

Recently, I passed two trees that were breathtakingly beautiful! They were deep vivid shades of red proudly standing side by side. They just took my breath away. My thought was, I have probably passed those same trees a hundred times and not really noticed them in other seasons.

God can surprise us every single day. We just have to be open to looking for what He has in store for us. I seem to miss so much. I have to work really hard at being observant to what is all around me and not just look straight ahead. The road ahead often compels my attention over and against the ever changing sky or landscape. But, when I am observant, it is glorious! God is so awesome. Ah, the blessings—seen and unobserved!

When we had our friend from Malaysia, Matthew Ling, living and studying with us here in Michigan, he experienced God's special surprise for him. He was here for nine months with his wife, over the autumn, winter and just starting into the spring season. When the leaves began changing colors and falling off the trees in autumn, he became concerned. You see, in Malaysia, close to the equator, trees don't change colors and go dormant like ours do. He actually thought our trees were dying. He didn't know what to think of that. It wasn't that he didn't know about chlorophyll, I think because he wasn't from this environment, it just caught him off guard. Surprise!

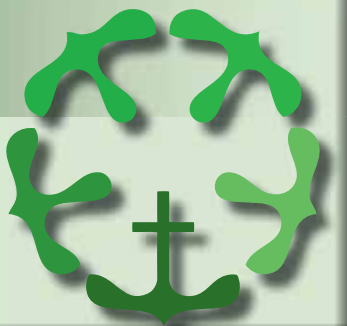
Wouldn't it be wonderful to teach our children the tool of seeing God's daily surprises for us? Why not make it a ritual in your home, whether you live alone or with children? What are some ways to create a ritual for reminding ourselves and helping each other see God's surprises? Could it be something that you do right before bed—list one surprise God has given you today? Could it be something you ask at the dinner table, or maybe you want to create a day of the week that you talk about God's surprises. Why not create a Surprise Sundae Sunday where every Sunday you make ice cream sundaes and talk about how God surprised you in various ways over the past week? And . . . if you don't have any children in your home, have fun doing it anyway, most of us LOVE ice cream and surprises. And as Christians, we must remember that the greatest surprise of all for us was.... the EMPTY TOMB.

In the Family Life Education Program at Concordia University Ann Arbor, and in the Concordia Center for the Family, we see a great value in helping families not only see our surprising God, but also to help them not become complacent and miss the wonderful things He has to offer to our families.



2015 Kitchen Sink Regional Conferences

- Jan. 31 - Alive in Christ Lutheran Church, Columbia
- March 7 - St. Paul Lutheran, Jackson
- March 14 - St. John Lutheran, Arnold
- March 28 - Timothy Lutheran, Blue Springs
- April 11 - Faith Lutheran, Springfield



Kitchen Sink Conferences are designed to assist and equip all members of your congregation, as you live out your calling in the world today. Congregations of all sizes will be helped as veteran leaders provide guidance and support for those working in specific areas of congregational life. All members of your congregation, including high school youth, are invited to attend.

Here's what previous attendees have said about the Kitchen Sink Conference:

"Content was very valuable and current."

"I learned many things today, but most importantly I was reminded that I am part of God's plan for my church and family."

"Eye opening information was presented and guidance given that is beneficial to daily life."

"The presentation I attended was helpful in identifying issues and encompassed concrete suggestions (things we need to be doing and not doing) as we engage the cultures."

Kitchen Sink Conferences will be held in five areas throughout the state. The \$25 registration fee covers all those who attend from your congregation. Kitchen Sink Conferences will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at noon.

Some of the topics available to help congregation members consider ways to strengthen and expand vital forms of service:

- Ethical, moral and social issues and the current culture – Rev. Dr. Ray Mirly
- Islam – Rev. Gary Schulte
- Demographic tools to enhance congregational ministries – Mr. Dennis Klussman
- Teen Bridge Building Training to assist intergenerational ministry (double session) – Sue Stiegemeyer and members of the High School LYF Team.
- Give the Nod to God or be a Caesar Pleaser – Rev. Gary Schulte
- Asset Mapping – Maximize what you do – Rev. Todd Kollbaum
- Partnership Development with your community – Rev. Todd Kollbaum
- Defense of the Faith – Natural Law Arguments in an Unnatural World
- Treasurer's Manual Workshop (double session) – Mr. Peter Krege

RSVP to Janice Rose at jrose4546@yahoo.com or 417-883-5598 with the number of people coming from your congregation. Contact Marilyn Haldiman at mhaldiman316@sbcglobal.net for more information.



PERSONNEL CHANGES — COMMISSIONED MINISTERS OF RELIGION

Graduates Installed

Aitken, Mary (S '14) to Lutheran High School
 South – St. Louis 8/22/14 by R. Mirly
 Beach, Emily (S '14) to Zion – St. Charles 8/17/14 by M. Rouland
 Belsha, Diane (Colloquy S '14) to Christ Community
 – Kirkwood 9/21/14 by W. Newell
 Bevirt, Sherry (S '14) to Zion – St. Charles 8/17/14 by M. Rouland
 Bolling, Lorenda (RF '14) to Messiah – Weldon Spring 8/24/14 by C. Schlie
 Brewster, Charles (Colloquy RF '13) to Messiah
 – Weldon Spring 8/24/14 by C. Schlie
 Buerges, Carrie (Colloquy S '14) to Zion – St. Charles 8/17/14 by M. Rouland
 Crowe, Carolyn (Colloquy M '13) to Christ Community
 – Kirkwood 8/13/14 by J. Christiansen
 Duerr, Mikaela (IR '14) to Our Savior – Fenton 8/10/14 by M. Sell
 Ensrude, Corey (Colloquy RF '13) to Messiah
 – Weldon Spring 8/24/14 by C. Schlie
 Hart, Jamie (Colloquy S '14) to Immanuel – Olivette 8/10/14 by R. Karg
 Jostes, Steven (S '14) to Saint Paul Lutheran High
 School – Concordia 8/17/14 by P. Mehl
 Kirby, Alyssa (S '14) to Zion – St. Charles 8/17/14 by M. Rouland
 McCoy, J'nae (S '13) to Lutheran High School of Kansas
 City – Kansas City 8/12/14 by J. Schultz
 Patton, Allison (S '10) to Lutheran High School of
 St. Charles County – St. Peters 8/10/14 by M. Hoehner
 Pomeranke, Micah (S '13) to Lutheran High School
 North – St. Louis 9/5/14 by R. Mirly
 Raddatz, Lauren (RF '14) to Our Savior – Fenton 8/10/14 by M. Sell
 Schmidt, Shannon (Colloquy S '14) to Springfield
 – Springfield 8/24/14 by J. Sippy
 Schwartz, Debra (S '12) to Immanuel – Washington 9/14/14 by M. Bangert
 Tosie, Pamela (RF '13) to Word of Life – St. Louis 8/24/14 by W. Wilson
 Utecht, Justina (S '14) to Trinity – Cape Girardeau 8/10/14 by D. Breite

Transferred from Other Districts

Bergholt, Matthew (SELC) to LCMS Office of National
 Mission – St. Louis 9/3/14 by M. Harrison
 Egger, Caleb (MNS) to Immanuel – St. Charles 8/10/14 by A. Schade
 Eggold, Stephen (TX) to Green Park – St. Louis 10/15/14 by M. Bronner
 Fabry, Timothy (KS) to Emeritus 7/1/14
 Fisk, Harold III (NI) to Lutheran High School
 South – St. Louis 8/22/14 by R. Mirly
 Florine, David (SE) to St. John's – Arnold 8/10/14 by J. Schultz
 Gerth, Caledonia (FG) to Trinity – Jefferson City 9/7/14 by R. Bowder
 Hardt, Kelly (SI) to Immanuel – Washington 8/10/14 by M. Bangert
 Hartmann, Royce (OH) to Christ Community –
 Kirkwood 8/13/14 by J. Christiansen
 Heinicke, Rebecca (WY) to Christ Pre-Kindergarten
 – Platte Woods 8/24/14 by T. Arnold
 Hess, Janna (TX) to St. Paul – Concordia 8/31/14 by R. Hagan
 Hohenstein, Lori (SI) to Messiah – Weldon Spring 8/24/14 by C. Schlie
 Koenig, Dawn (EN) to Immanuel – Rolla 8/10/14 by S. Kamprath
 Moore, Gary (TX) to Candidate 2/10/14
 Schkade, Kristi (SI) to Immanuel – Jefferson City 8/3/14 by J. Schanbacher
 Schultz, Jenna (SI) to Zion – St. Charles 8/17/14 by M. Rouland
 Spangler, John (AT) to Christ Community –
 Kirkwood 8/13/14 by J. Christiansen
 Wollberg, Margaret (CNH) to St. Paul – St. Joseph 8/24/14 by D. Moore

Reinstated

Miller, James (Reinstated by COP 9/14) to Candidate
 Steinke, Katherine (Reinstated by COP 9/14) to Candidate

Changes Within District

Auer, Donna (Non-Candidate) to Green Park –
 St. Louis 10/15/14 by M. Bronner

Becker, Nicola (LCMS District & Congregational Services –
 St. Louis) to St. John's – Arnold 8/10/14 by J. Schultz
 Bolstad, Solveig (Our Savior – Fenton) to
 St. John's – Arnold 8/10/14 by J. Schultz
 Johnson, Mireya (Non-Candidate) to Lutheran Church–
 Missouri Synod – St. Louis 9/3/14 by M. Harrison
 Kusel, Jill (Candidate) to St. Paul – Concordia 8/31/14 by R. Hagan
 Larsen, Sara (Non-Candidate) to St. Paul – Concordia 8/31/14 by R. Hagan
 Lieb, Trina (Candidate) to Calvary High School –
 Jefferson City 8/10/14 by J. Schanbacher
 Meers, Diana (Teacher, Immanuel – St. Charles) to Principal,
 Immanuel – St. Charles 8/10/14 by A. Schade
 Montgomery, Laura (Interim Director, Lutheran Elementary
 School Association – St. Louis) to Director, Lutheran Elementary
 School Association – St. Louis 10/29/14 by S. Schmieding
 Olson, Peter (Non-Candidate) to Lutheran High School of
 Kansas City – Kansas City 8/12/14 by J. Schultz
 Salzberg, Elizabeth (Immanuel – Jefferson City) to
 Immanuel – St. Charles 8/10/14 by A. Schade
 Snider, Charles (Interim Principal, St. Paul – Concordia) to
 Principal, St. Paul – Concordia 8/31/14 by R. Hagan
 Stengel, Lori (Non-Candidate) to Grace Chapel –
 Bellefontaine Neighbors 8/24/14 by N. Ruback

Candidate Status

Charlton, Kaitlyn (River Roads – St. Louis) 3/1/14
 Evans, Lewis (Lutheran High School of Kansas City – Kansas City) 8/1/14
 Fangmann, Dennis (LCMS Board for Human Care – St. Louis) 4/1/14
 Kleckner, Kimberly (St. Paul's Early Childhood Center – Des Peres) 7/1/14
 Rathje, Kristin (Lutheran High School North – St. Louis) 7/1/14
 Schultz, Susan (Christ Community – Kirkwood) 6/1/14
 Wade, Christine (Lutheran High School of
 St. Charles County – St. Peters) 7/1/14
 Wilson, Brianna (River Roads – St. Louis) 6/1/14

Non-Candidate Status

Blackford, Allison (Zion – St. Charles) 6/15/14
 Ogden, Kathryn (St. John's – Arnold) 7/1/14
 Stengel, Lori (Candidate) 8/1/14
 Weissmueller, Amy (St. Paul – Jackson) 8/1/14

Retired

Becker, Alvina (Christ Community – Kirkwood) 8/1/14
 Kammeyer, Laurel (St. Paul's – Concordia) 7/1/14
 Kipp, Anita (LCMS Board for World Missions – St. Louis) 8/1/14
 Loontjer, Jacqueline (Calvary – Kansas City) 6/1/14
 Marschel, M. Ruth (Immanuel – Washington) 8/1/14
 Maurer, Diane (Trinity – Cape Girardeau) 8/1/14
 Oetting, Donna (St. Paul's – Concordia) 7/1/14
 Schultz, Jolene (Immanuel – Washington) 8/1/14

Deceased

Eggerding, Roland (Emeritus) 8/18/14
 Reitz, Edward (Emeritus) 10/30/14

Transferred to Other Districts

Baumann, Katherine (Non-Candidate) to MNS 8/7/14
 Bayless, Ashley (Candidate) to MNS 10/3/14
 Kleckner, Kimberly (Candidate) to NE 11/4/14
 Miller, James (Candidate) to NI 9/23/14
 Moore, Cassandra (Candidate) to FG 10/21/14
 Myers, Matthew (LCMS Board for International
 Mission – St. Louis) to NEB 8/7/14
 Steinke, Katherine (Candidate) to SW 9/23/14
 Wilson, Brianna (Candidate) to NW 11/4/14



PERSONNEL CHANGES — ORDAINED

Ordained/Installed

Cox, James (SL2014) ordained St. John's – Arnold 9/7/2014 by R. Mirly
installed Sole Pastor Zion – Valley Park 9/14/2014 by R. Mirly

Transferred to our District

Conkling, Martin (AT) installed German teacher at Lutheran High School South – St. Louis 8/22/2014 by R. Mirly
Eggold, Daniel (CI) installed Admissions Officer at Concordia Seminary – St. Louis 9/5/2014 by D. Meyer
Hageman, James (MT) installed Sole Pastor at Our Redeemer – Overland, MO 9/28/2014 by R. Mirly
McMiller, Daniel (SW) installed Director Missionary Recruitment, International Center – St. Louis 8/14/2014 by M. Harrison
Millard, Ronald (NI) installed Associate Pastor Immanuel – St. Charles 9/7/2014 by A. Schade
Muehler, Craig (SD) installed Ex. Dir. Ministry to the Armed Forces, International Center – St. Louis 9/24/2014 by R. Mirly
Peckman, Richard (KS) Emeritus 10/7/2014
Rockenbach, Mark (NEB) installed Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary – St. Louis 9/5/2014 by D. Meyer
Wood, Mark (FG) installed Director, LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry, International Center – St. Louis 9/3/2014 by M. Harrison
Zill, Marcus (WY) installed Director of Campus Ministry & LCMS U, International Center – St. Louis 9/3/2014 by M. Harrison

Transferred to other Districts

Beck, Gordon (Emeritus Status) to SE District 10/2/2014
Cholak, Steven (Office of National Mission LCMS – St. Louis) to TX District 8/1/2014
Landskroener, Timothy (Candidate Status) to SI District 9/30/2014
Pavelski, Gregory (Non-Candidate Status) to SI District 9/29/2014
Schreiber, Mark (Emeritus Status) to FG District 9/24/2014

Changes within District

Borcherding, Alan (Dir. University Education, LCMS International Center) installed Director of Research, Assessment and Academic Programming at Concordia Seminary – St. Louis 9/5/2014 by D. Meyer
Haeger, Martin (Int. Interim Epiphany – St. Louis) installed Intentional Interim Pastor, St. Mark's – Eureka 9/28/2014 by S. Brassie
Schultz, Matthew (Candidate Status) installed Christ in the City – St. Louis 9/11/2014 by R. Mirly
Thomas, Glen (Ex. Dir. Pastoral Education, LCMS International Center) installed Associate Pastor, St. Paul – Des Peres 8/17/2014 by R. Mirly

Candidate Status

Bradt, Lawrence (Holy Cross – Ste. Genevieve) 12/29/2013
Williamson, Gregory (Chief Mission Officer LCMS – St. Louis) 5/1/2014

Retired

Ensor, Lewis (Candidate Status) 8/1/2014
Jansen, Ronald (Immanuel Chapel, St. Louis) 8/18/2014
Kriefall, Daniel (Non-Candidate Status) 4/1/2014
Muck, Alan (SMP Pastor, Lord of Life – Chesterfield) 9/30/2014
Patzwitz, Walter (Immanuel – New Wells) 7/31/2014

Deceased

Benke, Steven (Jefferson Hills – Imperial) 9/11/2014
Bottjen, Dean (Emeritus Status) 10/5/2014

Removed from Roster

Bernet, Ernest (Candidate Status) 8/1/2014
Marten, James (Emeritus Status) 8/1/2014

Removal of Congregation

Holy Sacraments, St. Louis, Mo. disbanded effective 4/2/2013

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CALLING CONGREGATIONS

For Sole Pastors

Belle/Owensville, Mount Calvary/Zion
 Bourbon, Concordia – called Rev. John Roach of
 Boonville, MO (Accepted)
 Cape Girardeau (Egypt Mills), Trinity
 – called Rev. Rick Cody of Monett, MO
 New Wells, Immanuel
 Republic, Hope – called Rev. Iromar Schreiber of
 Springfield, MO (Accepted)

Served by Intentional Interim Pastor or Interim Pastor

Altenburg, Immanuel (Rev. Mike Gallagher)
 Clinton, Trinity (Rev. Roger Mackie)
 Eureka, St. Mark's (Rev. Dr. Martin Haeger)
 St. Louis County, Immanuel Chapel (Rev. Nathan Ruback)
 Slater, Peace & St. Paul (Rev. Douglas Dubisar)
 Ste. Genevieve, Holy Cross (Rev. James Kirk)
 St. Joseph, St. Peter (Rev. Thomas Schoech)
 St. Louis, Trinity (Rev. Dr. Richard Foss)

For Senior Pastor

Kansas City, Peace
 St. Louis, Trinity

For Associate or Assistant Pastor

Cape Girardeau, St. Andrew – (calling associate)
 Des Peres, St. Paul – (calling associate)
 Jackson, St. Paul – (calling associate)
 Kansas City, Calvary – (calling associate)
 Oakville, Faith – (calling mission pastor and youth pastor)

Vacant (on Hold – But Being Served)

Ashland, Family of Christ
 Aurora, Grace
 Bethany, Hope
 Center, Trinity
 Diggins, Zion
 Elk Prairie (Rolla), Peace
 Imperial, Jefferson Hills
 Ironton, St. Paul
 Isabella, Faith
 Knob Noster, Faith
 Memphis, St. Paul
 Milan, Peace
 Oak Grove, Shepherd of the Valley
 Princeton, Immanuel
 Rogersville, River of Life
 St. James, St. John
 St. Louis, St. Paul
 Sarcoxie, Trinity
 Shelbyville, Mount Hope
 Sweet Springs, Christ
 Vandalia, St. John
 Washington, Faith

Pastors Considering Calls

Niles, J. Patrick (St. Paul's, Concordia) to Trinity,
 Rantoul, WI
 Rust, Jason (Trinity, St. Louis) to Shepherd of the Hills,
 Ruidoso, NM (Accepted)
 Rust, Jason (Trinity, St. Louis) to Trinity, Lansing, IL
 (Declined)

THE VOICE OF MISSOURI

A quarterly publication produced under the guidelines of the Board of Directors of The Missouri District—LCMS, 660 Mason Ridge Center Drive, Suite 100, St. Louis, MO 63141-8557.

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Please furnish sharply focused original photographs. JPEGs, EPSs or TIFFs may be emailed at 300 dpi at 5x3.5" size.

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Feb. 2 2015 Pre Convention Information—March 1
 June 1 2015 Post Convention News—July 1

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