



2016 Fall Junior High Retreat A Huge Success

Check out photos and highlights from this year's Fall Retreat!

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Behold, I am making all things new

From the President's Desk

Lutherans love change. Lutherans love things that are new. Just ask them. Watch the faces on the congregation members when a child of nature becomes a new creation in the waters of Holy Baptism!

Read more on page 2

THE VOICE

PUBLISHED BY THE MISSOURI DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD DEC. 2015/FINAL EDITION

FAITHFUL WITNESSES

THE VISION FOR THE 2015-2018 TRIENNIUM

As Jesus prepares to ascend to the Father's right hand, He tells His disciples that they are to be His witnesses to the end of the earth. However, Jesus' words are not a single command or commission. Repeatedly throughout Luke's record of the Acts of the Apostles, we read how those who knew of Christ's resurrection were to be His witnesses. In chapter 22, when Paul recounts his conversion, he tells of Jesus' charge to him, "You will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard." The Church is still called to bear witness to Christ today as God's people speak the Gospel to others in their daily calling. Our Lord bids us to be His witnesses. However, we are also called to be faithful. Being faithful means remaining true to the Scriptures and the Church's Confessions. There is a content of our witness and it is the truth of God's Word. Being faithful also means faithfully speaking that Word. Being faithful witnesses means proclaiming Christ to all.

For the next three years, we will continue to emphasize in the Missouri District the call to be "Faithful Witnesses" in our churches, schools and communities. There are four key components that the Missouri District staff and leaders will focus on in supporting our congregations, educational ministries and called workers.



GROWING TOGETHER IN THE WORD

The starting point in our "Life Together" is in

the Word of God. It will be a primary focus for our district to call our members (congregations, ordained and commissioned ministers) to be faithful in hearing and studying the Word of God. Our professional conferences for our workers and even our preparations for the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation in 2017 afford us the opportunities to grow together as one body through the study of the Word of God. This must be the starting point for us as Lutheran Christians!



HEALTHY SERVANTS

The Missouri District staff and leaders will look for ways to support the professional church workers throughout our district. There are significant pressures facing our called servants today. Some of the potential pitfalls include marital conflict, financial pressure, depression, burnout, and a host of self-destructive behaviors. We want to offer better, intentional care for our called workers as we support the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual health of our workers.



PEACEFUL MINISTRIES

Conflict has been one of the most significant manifestations of sin within the life of the Church. Congregations and schools have historically turned to the district when conflict arises that threatens unity. However, it is our intention that the Missouri District staff and leaders also will provide support to

be proactive in helping our ministries to be at peace with one another.



MISSION FOCUSED CONGREGATIONS

The Mission Statement of the Missouri District focuses our work on supporting congregations to fulfill the Great Commission. The three previous areas of focus are vital for congregations to be able to focus on reaching out to their respective communities. Our goal in this area is that before the end of the triennium the congregations of the district would seek to engage their community in one new way. The district staff and leaders will channel our resources to help all 300 congregations and 114 educational ministries to that end.

St. Paul describes his relationship with the Philippian church as a partnership in the Gospel. We invite your prayers for the Missouri District staff as we seek to support the congregations, schools, professional church workers and lay leaders of the district. But the real work goes on where God's people are living and serving as "Faithful Witnesses" on a daily basis. From the fields that surround small towns to the growing urban sprawl of our cities, from the diverse college campuses to vacation destinations, the opportunities for mission right here in Missouri are seemingly limitless. In these dark and latter days, may we not lose heart and may God strengthen us to be His "Faithful Witnesses!"

THE MISSOURI DISTRICT ONLINE

Regular Online Items: Installations and Ordinations, Celebrations, District News, Announcements and Resources

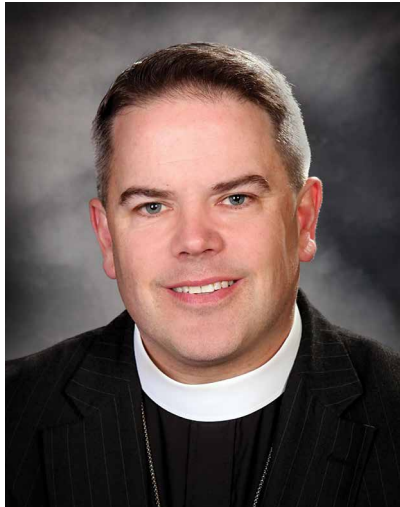
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President R. Lee Hagan

LUTHERANS LOVE ALL THINGS NEW

“And he who was seated on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’” Revelation 21:5

Lutherans love change. Lutherans love things that are new. Just ask them. Watch the faces of congregation members when a child of nature becomes a new creation in the waters of Holy Baptism! Just ask a few Lutherans if they like the change from Good Friday to Easter Sunday (or what happens in the Easter Vigil). Lutherans love to gather for worship and hear about the new thing that God does as sinners receive forgiveness in the word of Absolution. Lutherans who have received new life love to lift their voices with the psalmist and sing to the Lord a new song for the marvelous things He has done. Lutherans aren't against change. We love things that are new when it comes to the changes that the Holy Spirit works in us through the Means of Grace.

Lutherans are not change averse. But we don't like change simply for the sake of change. There are some changes taking place in the Missouri District.

The Church is in the business of change. As sinners are brought to faith and repentance, a change of heart takes place by the working of the Holy Spirit. The Church demonstrates the blessed (ex)change as God's people confess their sin and receive Christ's righteousness, innocence and blessedness. The Church exists as an agent of change as the healing balm of the Gospel brings new life to the hurting and broken. In names like Rahab, Zacchaeus and Saul, we see how the mercy of God brings about the most extraordinary change.

Lutherans are not change averse. But we don't like change simply for the sake of change. There are some changes taking place in the Missouri District. This will be the last printed version of the Missouri District Voice. This is a change that has been planned for more than a year. Since I have taken office, we have discussed new ways to try to communicate with the members of our congregations throughout the district. Please avail yourselves of the methods by which we will continue to communicate (website, Facebook, my weekly Encourage e-news and Twitter).

There also have been changes in the district office in recent months. We are preparing for the retirement of our Director of Schools, Dennis Gehrke, at the end of the year. This means that there will be another new face in the district office. Please know that while faces may change, our focus will remain on supporting congregations and educational ministries for the work that the Lord has given to us.

Oh, Lutherans may not love change at first glance. But you think about the new life and change that the Holy Spirit bestows to those called to faith, it doesn't sound so bad. And when we look forward to God making all things new in the resurrection on the last day, that sounds even better. So rejoice in the new life that God has given to you in Christ Jesus and bear with us as we make changes to support our life together.

Peace in Christ,

President Hagan

PRESIDENT'S PRAYER LIST:

PLEASE JOIN ME IN PRAYER THIS MONTH



- *Please pray for the call process for the Assistant to the President for Schools.*
- *We invite your prayers for our district emphasis on being “Faithful Witnesses” not as a slogan, but as God's people live in their calling each day.*
- *Also pray for our Directors of Christian Education, Outreach, Family Life, Parish Music, deaconesses and teachers as they serve across the district in a variety of settings.*
- *Join me in thanking God for the new life that is ours in Christ!*

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.



CHRISTIAN FREEDOM AND THE ARTS



Craig Parton challenged and strengthened a full assembly at Village Lutheran Church in Ladue on Oct. 3. A trial lawyer, Christian apologist, and author (*The Defense Never Rests: A Lawyer Among the Theologians; CPH*), Parton presented how the message of the Gospel resonates with the academic (those who delight in evidence and argumentation) as well as the artist (those who delight in how the world ought to be in its beauty). The lecture was followed by a reception that included a book-signing with Parton, an art exhibit by liturgical artist Kelly Schumacher, and the music of violinist Thomas Winter. Parton also presented the Sunday morning Bible study under the title "Christian Freedom and the Arts." Both presentations are available to watch at villagelectures.com. Village welcomes all to attend the next lecture in the series when former advisor to President George W. Bush, Timothy Goeglein, presents "Faith in the Halls of Power: How Christians Are Navigating the Public Square" from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 16.

2016 REGIONAL GATHERINGS

Submitted by Peter Krege

The 2016 Regional Gatherings focused on "Shepherding the Flock in Crisis" and in a sense were about risk management. What can a congregation do to protect those who are in its facilities? The simple answer is that we can't anticipate every disaster or crisis. What we can do is look at some of the basic ways to manage our church and facilities in a way that raises awareness and tries to address at least the most likely issues to occur. Every year there is a cycle of tornadoes and snow storms and such, there are also issues related to fire and illnesses, so we can talk about and develop plans for what to do in those instances.

The focus of the regional gatherings was on five areas:

1. **Prevention.** What proactive things can a congregation do to keep a crisis from developing in the first place? Assessing your facilities and readiness is a big step toward prevention. After you make an assessment you can prioritize the steps you can take to reduce risks at your location.
2. **Protection.** What policies and procedures can be developed to advance safety and security in your congregation? Such policies cover things like creating plans for evacuations and sheltering people during times of crisis, but also include developing policies to protect children from danger-

- ous situations and dangerous people.
3. **Mitigation.** If a crisis does occur, who is proactively prepared to help deal with that crisis? Developing a team of professionals from various fields of expertise is a good way to jump start the mitigation process.
4. **Response.** Once a crisis has developed, knowing what to do is important. The main focus initially should always be on the physical safety of those around you. Only after physical safety has been established should you concern yourself with all the other aftereffects of an incident.
5. **Recovery.** As the church in our community, we often have the opportunity to help others in their recovery from a crisis. What a perfect time to bring the love of Christ to hurting people.

The Regional Gatherings were about administration and planning and preparing. However, we did talk about a ministry response in caring for our community in times of crisis. We are presented with opportunities to bring a message of hope to the people in our small church community. Sometimes we are even given the task of being a light in the darkness of a much larger community. Let us always be prepared to share the hope that is within us!

NEW INTERNATIONAL OFFICES DEDICATED



Processional to the new LBT offices.



Rev. Kenety Gee delivers a message on the powerful impact of Bible translations.



President Hagan dedicates the LBT offices.

October 25 was a day of celebration for the staff and missionaries of Lutheran Bible Translators (LBT), highlighted by the dedication of its new international offices on the campus of Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Mo.

God provided a beautiful fall day as people gathered for Reformation services at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, led by Rev. Dr. Jeffery Moore and Rev. Rich Rudowski, director of international program ministries for LBT. Rev. Kenety Gee, senior pastor at Chatham Fields Lutheran Church in Chicago, delivered a message that clearly demonstrated the powerful impact Bible translation has on peoples' lives. Growing up in Liberia, he first learned about

Jesus Christ from missionaries serving with LBT. "Who could say," he commented, "that one of those who read a Bible translated by LBT would be here today preaching to you?"

The service was followed by a procession to the new LBT offices, where Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan officially dedicated the building to the glory of God. A reception and office tours offered people the opportunity to meet LBT missionaries and learn more about the organization.

The day ended with the annual Celebrate the Ministry dinner, with LBT Executive Director Dr. Mike Rodewald as the featured speaker.

LBT staff worked diligently to plan for this day, but it was support from St. Paul's, Saint Paul Lutheran High School, and the community that made it possible. We deeply appreciate the warm welcome we received during these past months of transition and look forward to building even stronger relationships as we partner to bring God's Word to those in need of His saving grace.

For more information about LBT visit www.LBT.org or call 660-225-0810.



PARTNERS IN MISSION

Submitted by Marjorie Schmeerbauch and Rev. Dr. Allan Buckman

Christian Friends of New Americans (CFNA) and **People of the Book Lutheran Outreach International (POBLO)** have signed an agreement to better serve refugees and immigrants in the St. Louis area. In a unique partnership, the two organizations will share information and meeting space, partner in specific ministry efforts and proclaim the Gospel among new Americans arriving in St. Louis and beyond.

“The stream of refugees, especially into St. Louis, will grow; it’s already very substantial,” said CFNA Chairman Rev. Dr. Allan Buckman. “We anticipate a large area of growth will be of Muslim people. A significantly increased flow would very likely overstretch our capacity at this time. POBLO will definitely help fill this gap, and their participation in this effort will therefore be most welcome and much appreciated.”

The aim of both mission societies is to provide skill giving and capacity building opportunities for new Americans and, as links with these newcomers intensify, to extend them to nearby churches, primarily LCMS congregations. Both organizations have demonstrated a capacity to dynamically link with growing numbers of these new American arrivals.

The newly forged agreement will enable both organizations to fulfill the mission mandate recorded in Matt. 28:19-20—*“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”*

CFNA, based in St. Louis, reaches more than 200 new Americans each year. It offers 10 separate service options for new Americans and the participation rate now runs at between 1,200 and 1,500 per month. Nearly 30 percent of those served find a nearby church home, primarily with LCMS congregations.



Rev. Duane Maas,
POBLO Missouri Representative



Rev. Khurram Khan,
POBLO Chief Executive



Rev. Dr. Allan Buckman,
CFNA Chairman

Services provided include English classes, skill and job training, after-school tutoring, scholarship assistance for enrollment in Lutheran schools, the delivery of home furnishings, monthly health and wellness screenings and more. Additionally, one extended home Bible study and three Bible fellowships gather at the organization’s meeting space, the Peace Center, each week.

“CFNA is powerfully impacting the immigrant community through the tremendous services it provides, and the way in which it has brought the Gospel one-on-one to Africans, Nepalese, and many others,” said POBLO Chief Executive Rev. Khurram Khan. “Now, POBLO International is beginning a new ministry in St. Louis, to specifically meet, serve, and witness to Muslims.”

Based in Michigan, POBLO ministers primarily to those of Muslim, Hindu and Sikh origins. The agency has several missionary locations in the United States, including Dearborn, Mich.; Rochester, Minn.; Omaha, Neb.; and in Wisconsin. It has baptized more than 2,000 people since inception in 1993.

“POBLO, through its Arabic-speaking missionaries and extensive ministry experience among Muslims, is going to complement what CFNA is doing so well [by] bringing the Gospel to new groups, including Muslims and other Middle Easterners,” said Khan. “POBLO looks forward to our partnership with CFNA, sharing ideas, resources, and volunteers so

that Muslims in the greater St. Louis area will have a powerful witness to Christ’s love in their language.”

The partnership represents a true milestone insofar as this is probably one of the few times two LCMS mission agencies have agreed to work cooperatively in a specific area within a specific population segment for the purpose of bringing new Americans into LCMS congregations.

“This partnership sends the message that when it comes to carrying out the mission mandate in densely packed urban cross cultural environments, no one entity can do this on its own,” said Buckman. “Partnerships, like the one described here, are essential.”

The partnership also demonstrates the vital role mission societies play in dynamically engaging these cross cultural mission challenges.

“What God is doing to open doors for outreach to Muslims and other immigrants is amazing and His work in lives is miraculous!” said Rev. Duane Maas, POBLO’s representative in Missouri. “The harvest fields are ripening and we praise God for the partnership of CFNA and POBLO in the St. Louis area. Join us in prayer for more and more volunteers in this mission field.”

To learn more about this agreement, to donate, or to volunteer, contact CFNA at mail@cfna-stl.org or POBLO at office@poblo.org.

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS COUNTRY CHURCH TOUR

The 11th Annual Christmas Country Church Tour will take place Dec. 17-18 from 3 to 9 p.m.

This free event began in 2005 with seven churches participating. This year 25 churches will participate, as well as the First Lutheran Seminary Log Cabin in Altenburg and St. Mary’s of the Barrens Shrine of the Miraculous Medal in Perryville.

All churches will be decorated for the Christmas season; some will provide Christmas music and serve refreshments. Maps and brochures will be available at each location.

For more information go to www.concordiafrohna.org or on Facebook at “Christmas Country Church Tour.”





Seminary's Generations Campaign begins public phase of fundraising effort



Concordia Seminary President Dr. Dale A. Meyer toasts the beginning of the Generations Campaign's public phase Sept. 25.

Concordia Seminary President Dr. Dale A. Meyer announced a \$180 million fundraising campaign before 150 alumni, donors and other supporters at a formal gathering held Sept. 25 at the Seminary.

Generations: The Campaign for Concordia Seminary — the largest in the Seminary's 176-year history — will build endowment, increase annual support, and expand library and learning technology initiatives.

"The campaign aims to ensure future generations have healthy, loving, Gospel-proclaiming congregations to nurture and sustain them in their heavenward way," Meyer said. "Our singular mission is to prepare pastors who are ready for ministry, who can proclaim the Gospel in a relevant

and compelling way, and who love the people God calls them to serve."

So far, the Seminary has raised more than \$113 million in gifts and pledges toward the Generations Campaign's \$180 million goal.

"Thanks to generous friends and alumni, Generations is on track to be transformational," said Vicki Biggs, senior vice president for Seminary Advancement. "Gifts to this campaign will ensure the financial viability of Concordia Seminary for generations to come, allowing us to focus on the intellectual and spiritual development of pastors, deaconesses and missionaries who will make an eternal difference in the world."

To learn more about the Generations Campaign, visit www.csl.edu/generations.

Previewing the Seminary experience

Bridgette Sharp, and her husband, Jonathan, of Warrensburg, Mo., were two of 11 men and women who attended Contemplate at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis for three days in October. The visitation event — for college students and second-career men and women — immerses participants in the Seminary, offering them a preview as they contemplate the idea of enrolling.

"It reminded me of why I've wanted to come to seminary," said Bridgette Sharp, a case worker at a mental health agency. "When clients ask me about faith or prayer, legally I can't really answer that. I can't talk with them in-depth about my faith. I'm starving to be educated. Going to several classes, I can tell I would be completely educated here."

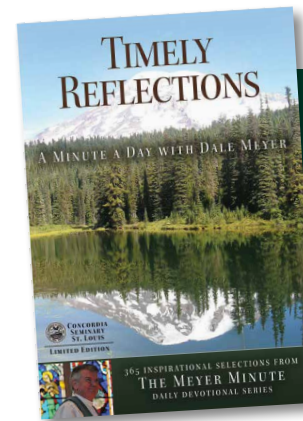
Bridgette plans to enroll in the Seminary's Deaconess Studies program. Jonathan said Contemplate gave him a sense of peace about moving to St. Louis with his wife so she could study to be a deaconess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. "It's settled my mind," he said.



Jonathan and Bridgette Sharp of Warrensburg, Mo.

Are you or someone you know considering pastoral or diaconal ministry? The Seminary has scheduled visitation events throughout the 2015-16 year for prospective students who are in high school, college or are considering ministry as a second career, as well as events for prospective Seminary families.

To learn more about Seminary's visitation events, call 800-822-9545, email admissions@csl.edu or visit www.csl.edu/admissions.



TIMELY REFLECTIONS

Our gift to you ...

Get a copy of *Timely Reflections*, Seminary President Dr. Dale A. Meyer's newest book, which includes 365 personally selected "Meyer Minutes," free with your gift of \$100 or more to Concordia Seminary.

Help prepare future pastors who will proclaim the "Living and Active" Word of God with your support of Concordia Seminary.

Give online at www.csl.edu/give or call 800-822-5287 to make a gift by phone.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 📅 **THRIVING IN MINISTRY SEMINAR**
Dec. 5
- ✔ **SHEPHERDS OF GOD'S FLOCK**
Jan. 7
- ✔ **GREEN & GOLD DAYS**
Jan. 8
- 📅 **PRE-LENTEN WORKSHOP**
Jan. 15
- ✔ **TASTE OF THE SEM**
Jan. 16-18
- 📅 **MULTIETHNIC SYMPOSIUM**
Jan. 26-27
- ✔ **MAKING ABORTION UNTHINKABLE**
Jan. 30
- 📅 **WINTER LAY BIBLE INSTITUTE**
Feb. 6

- ✔ Admissions
- 📅 Campus Event
- 📅 Continuing Ed
- 🎵 Music Event



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

DEC. 13, 2015
FEB. 7, 2016
MAY 15, 2016

AT THE CHAPEL OF ST. TIMOTHY AND ST. TITUS
3:00 P.M. AT CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS



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PRESIDENT'S PENNING CARING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST: CARING MINISTRY

I recently had a very scary experience. I woke up at 3:30 a.m. with a severe headache and my bedroom spinning out of control. I laid back down and the feeling got worse. After 10 to 15 minutes, I told my husband I needed to get out of bed, because I was also sick to my stomach. The next day, I was diagnosed with labyrinthitis, an inner ear viral infection. The doctor gave me medication for the dizziness, but said the viral infection would have to clear up on its own.

Christie Steffens When our bodies are sick, it is a frightening and humbling experience.

Romans 12:5 (NIV) reminds us, "We, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." What happens when a member of the "Body of Christ" is hurt or sick? How should we respond? Ephesians 4:29 tells us to "speak only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs."

If your physical body is hurt or sick, you go to the doctor. If the "Body of Christ" is hurt or sick, we go to the Great Physician, Jesus Christ. We follow Christ's example and care for each other. We

If your physical body is hurt or sick, we go to the doctor. If the "Body of Christ" is hurt or sick, you go to the Great Physician, Jesus Christ. We follow Christ's example and care for each other. We pray, give donations of money, food or clothes, support others through service projects and sometimes, just sit beside a member to hold her hand.

pray, give donations of money, food or clothes, support others through service projects and sometimes, just sit beside a member to hold her hand.

Lutheran Women in Mission are part of the "Body of Christ." Our passion is to encourage women to be rooted in God's Word and to live out our response to God's grace through mission, service and fellowship. In the LWML pledge, we are reminded that those things happen "wherever and whenever He hath need of us."

My grandchildren love the **Seek and Find** books.

They can spend hours looking for items hidden in a big picture. Where is your "big picture"? A member of the Body of Christ who needs your help may be closer than you think. Seek and find . . . it just might be someone a "little dizzy" who needs your help.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

LWML MISSOURI DISTRICT CONVENTION

JUNE 3-5, 2016
Cape Girardeau, Missouri



Registration Information and Instructions
www.missourilwml.org
Click on "2016 District Convention"

HOUSING AND RESTAURANTS:

Following are recommendations on motels not far from the Osage Center in Cape Girardeau. You are responsible for calling for reservations for housing on your own. A block of rooms have been reserved at only the following five motels. Prices do not include taxes. Block prices are good at any of these motels until May 2, 2016.

- Auburn Place, complimentary breakfast
3265 William St., 573-651-4486 (2.5 miles away).....\$99
- Drury Suites, complimentary breakfast and supper
3303 Campster Drive, 573-339-9500 (3 miles away).....\$145
- Pear Tree West, complimentary breakfast
103 Cape West Parkway, 573-651-3000 (3 miles away)..\$95
- Pear Tree Medical Center, complimentary breakfast
3248 William St., 573-334-3000 (2.5 miles away).....\$110
- Drury Inn & Suites, complimentary breakfast and supper
225 Weiss Roadside Park, Jackson, Mo., 573-243-9200
(8.5 miles away).....From \$110-130

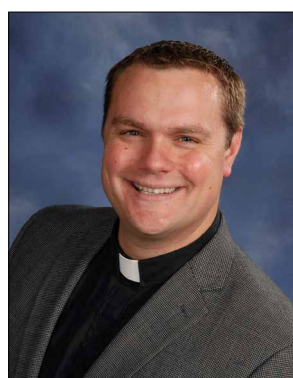
Other Motels Close-2.5 to 3 miles away, complimentary breakfast:

- Holiday Inn Express (573-334-4491) Call for pricing.
- Comfort Suites (in Jackson, 573-204-0014) Call for pricing.
- Other Motel Close-about .8 miles away, complimentary breakfast:
Super 8 Motel (573-339-0808). Call for pricing.
- Other Motel Close-about 3.25 miles away, no breakfast but full kitchenettes in each room:—Candlewood Suites (573-334-6868) Call for pricing.

Ample time (approximately two hours) will be provided in the convention schedule for you to eat at area restaurants if you so please. A list of restaurants near the Osage Center will be included with your registration confirmation. If you choose to eat at the Osage Center, refer to the Registration Form and select options available. Only Saturday lunch and dinner are offered as options at the Osage Center.

MISSION WALK:

Be one of the convention attendees to exercise and support mission grants by participating in the Mission Pledge Walk. The walk will be held on Saturday morning, June 4, between 6:30 and 7:30 on either the indoor track in the air-conditioned Osage Center Fitness Room or on an outdoor fitness trail near the Osage Center. Only registered walkers will be allowed on the indoor track. You may also register as a virtual walker. All registered walkers will receive a "God's Love: The Bridge Connecting the Generations" back pack featuring historic Old Appleton Bridge.



WHAT DOES CARING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST LOOK LIKE?

This month we are looking at the theme of "Caring for the Body of Christ: Caring Ministries." What does it look like when we engage in acts of mercy and serve others through human care ministries? Our Lord said that it looks a lot like this.

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. ³⁷ Then the

Rev. Kristopher Morris righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' Matt. 25:35-40

Our Lord says this right after talking about the final judgment and sheep and goats. Let's get this straight – you are not a sheep (declared righteous by God) because you cared for other people. That's not how this works. No one is saved by works, even the good work of caring for others. But notice what the sheep have already been up to in this text. They have already been caring for others, not to become righteous but because they *already are* righteous! Did you catch their surprise? "Lord when did we do these things for you?" They were not loving and caring for others so that God would notice. They weren't doing it for a reward. They weren't even doing it to serve the Lord. They were loving others simply for the sake of loving others! That's what God's people do. We love because we have been loved. We serve because we have been served. We care because we are cared for by our Father. The theme – Caring for the Body of Christ: Caring Ministries – it's who we are, it's what we do, all to the glory of Jesus. Amen.



LWML MISSOURI DISTRICT CONVENTION

JUNE 3-5, 2016

Cape Girardeau, Missouri

A pledge form and complete information will be sent to you upon receipt of your registration. Pledge forms will also be available on the www.missourilwml.org website. You may also register for the Mission Walk at the convention.

First Ever Opportunity: Missouri District LWML societies may participate in the Mission Pledge Walk in their local communities. What a great opportunity for each society to give all generations, babies to great grandparents, a fun day of recreation and fellowship, and more importantly to make our LWML mission visible in the community as we raise funds for our 2016-18 Mission Goal. More information also will be available on the www.missourilwml.org website.

INGATHERING:

Recommendations for the Ingathering are as follows:

- Immanuel Lutheran Food Pantry, Perryville**—canned meats, fruits and vegetables, peanut butter, jelly, crackers and dried beans.
- LFCS, Pregnancy/Parenting Program, Cape Girardeau**—diapers (NB to Size 5), baby wipes, new bottles and nipples, onesies and/or sleepers (size NB to 18 months), **LFCS Older Adult Services**—adult men/women disposable underwear for incontinence, disposable bed pads, nutritional meal replacement shakes (like Ensure, Boost).

MISSION FAIR:

A Mission Fair will be held as in the past. Attendees are invited to donate handmade craft items to be sold at the fair. Any type of craft is acceptable except for items that can be immediately consumed on the convention property such as baked goods. This Mission Fair also will offer a Silent Auction. All proceeds will go toward our 2016-18 Mission Goal. Please have the items priced and brought to the designated area on Friday—the earlier the better, preferably by 6 p.m. Pick them up by 6 p.m. on Saturday unless you wish them to be donated to another worthy cause. For more information go to the Missouri District website at www.missourilwml.org.

CONVENTION POLO SHIRTS:

The convention polo shirts offered on the Registration Form are purple 100 percent polyester collared V-neck polos with the convention logo placed on the front, upper left.

CONVENTION GUEST PERSONALITIES:

Keynote Speaker: Past LWML President Linda Reiser

Mission Speaker: Gary Thies, Mission Counselor for Mission Central

SATURDAY NIGHT ENTERTAINMENT:

Lutheran Talent “What Does This Mean?” Tyson Wunderlich will be the MC and director for a variety show.

TOURS:

No official tours will be conducted. Information about our area sites will be included with your registration confirmation.

MANY OTHER NEW AND DIFFERENT THINGS AT THIS CONVENTION:

Past Zone Convention Banners, Pink Basket Challenge, coffee cake and much more.

www.MissouriLWML.org
www.lwml.org

Instructions for Completing Registration Form:

- You will experience a number of changes when registering for this convention; therefore, we advise you to carefully read ALL instructions. If you have any questions, contact Convention Registrar Pat Petzoldt at patspub70@gmail.com or call her home at 573-824-5912 or her cell at 573-517-1567 or seek the help of your society or zone president.
- The Registration Form can be filled out manually or downloaded from the www.missourilwml.org website and be filled out electronically using the TAB key to move from response to response. Be sure to check and/or circle responses when asked.
- Registration opens on Feb. 1, 2016.
- After completing the Registration Form, make a copy for your records before mailing your completed Registration Form, your payment and self-addressed stamped envelope to registrar Pat Petzoldt. It is important that you include all information requested. Incomplete forms will be returned, thus delaying your registration process. After May 27 please register in person at the convention.
- Online voting for mission grants is new for this convention. A flier is provided on the website and through your zone president on the procedures. More information will be provided with your registration confirmation. Further questions regarding this can be directed to Ashley Kassel by emailing lwmllection@gmail.com.
- Pay special attention to the deadlines, especially those pertaining to the online voting. Notice that all voting members’ Registration Forms must be postmarked by April 18.
- The district tries its best to keep convention costs to a minimum and continually struggles to stay afloat. Space is available by No. 9 on the Registration Form to voluntarily contribute to the convention fund. Thanks for helping.

24th Biennial Convention – June 3-5, 2016

Registration Form

Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age. Matt. 28:20b

1625 N. Kingshighway
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701

REGISTRATION BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 1, 2016
Before completing this, carefully read “Registration Information and Instructions”
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY OR TYPE ELECTRONICALLY USING TAB KEY TO ADVANCE

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ M.I.: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____ Email: _____

LWML Zone: _____ Congregation Name: _____ Congregation City: _____

ON THE FOLLOWING, PLEASE CHECK ONLY ONE CATEGORY; CIRCLE ONE WHEN REQUESTED:

<input type="checkbox"/> Voting Member (Registration Deadline April 18)	<input type="checkbox"/> YWR (Young Women’s Representative)
Circle One: (Delegate, District BOD Elected Officer, District BOD Appointed Officer, Zone President, Past District Pres.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Circle One: District Counselor, Zone Counselor or Clergy
<input type="checkbox"/> Alternate Delegate (Registration Deadline April 18)	<input type="checkbox"/> Invited Dignitaries (Speakers, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/> Non-voting Circle One: (LWML Member or Guest)	

REGISTRATION DETAILS:
Online voting is new at this convention. See “Registration Information and Instructions” for further details.

Check if you plan to vote **Online** at home. If you do this, it must be done from **May 21-27 ONLY!**

Check if you plan to vote **Online** (with help if necessary) at the Convention.

1. Voting members and alternates Registration postmarked on or before April 18	\$70	1. \$ _____
2. Registration for all others on or before May 2	\$70	2. \$ _____
3. LATE Registration postmarked AFTER May 2	\$85	3. \$ _____
4. All Clergy or Vendor	No Charge	4. No Charge
5. Meal Charges (Must Pay In Advance)		
a. Saturday Boxed Lunch (Circle One) Ham & Swiss or Chicken Salad	\$13	5a. \$ _____
b. Saturday Banquet. Buffet style with two choices of meat	\$28	5b. \$ _____
6. Convention Polo Shirts (Circle Size) S, M, L, XL (\$16), 2 XL (\$18), 3XL (\$20)	\$16, \$18 or \$20 ..	6. \$ _____
7. Mission Walk 6:30-7:30 a.m. Saturday _____ Walk _____ Virtual Participant	\$10	7. \$ _____
8. Convention Jewelry: Circle One or Both (Pin, Charm)	\$4 each	8. \$ _____
9. Voluntary Contribution (See Registration Information and Instructions, No. 7)		9. \$ _____
TOTAL REMITTANCE		\$ _____

Checks payable to: LWML 2016 District Convention Fund

Enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

Mail payment, registration form and self-addressed, stamped envelope to:
Pat Petzoldt, Registrar
293 Lakewood Drive
Frohna, MO 63748 Email: patspub70@gmail.com
Phone: 573-824-5912 or Cell: 573-517-1567

Convention Choir

Check if you will be singing in the convention choir. Music and information will be sent to you after registering. Please wear a pastel top and black skirt or pants when performing. **Choose One Voice** Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto (**Circle One**)

Absolutely no refunds after May 13

All registrations will be acknowledged via USPS mail.
Registrations will not be processed until payment is made.
Overpayments of \$2 or less will be donated to the convention fund.

Special Needs

Hearing Impaired
 Handicap Seating
 Food Allergies, List:



GREEN PARK ELEMENTARY STUDENTS PACK COMPASSION BAGS

Submitted by Katy Schmitt

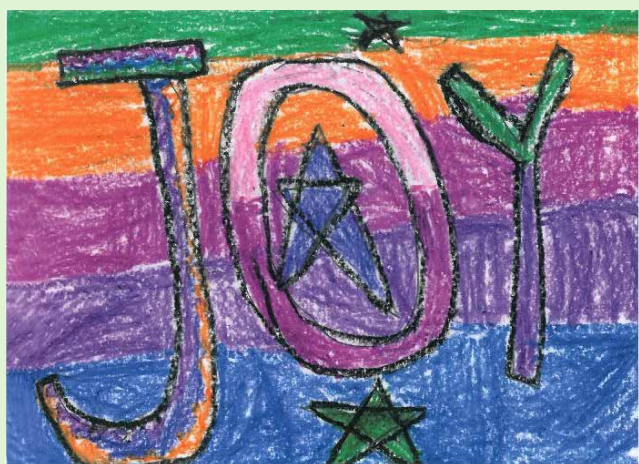


Students at Green Park Lutheran School, St. Louis, focused on the character trait COMPASSION for the month of October. While in devotions with the school's Faith Families (small groups made up of students from K-8), the families packed "Compassion Bags" for the 102 home bound members of the four association congregations. The bags included words of encouragement, simple treats, drawings and love. The project was supported by Thrivent.

Green Park Lutheran School is a ministry of Christ Memorial, Gethsemane, Peace and Resurrection churches. For 55 years the school has offered academic rigor centered in Christ. Green Park is located near I-55 and Reavis Barracks on the corner of Union and Green Park Road in south St. Louis county.



LESA CHRISTMAS CARDS TO BENEFIT LUTHERAN SCHOOLS



Share the true meaning of Christmas—and support Lutheran schools—by sending LESA Christmas cards to your friends and family. The collection features four unique, full-color images designed by students attending Lutheran schools in the St. Louis area. Cards are \$10 for a pack of 10. To view the cards and

place an order, visit www.LESAstl.org, or call LESA at 314-268-1525. Cards can be picked up at the LESA office or shipped at no charge. Proceeds will help fund programs and services for students at 35 LESA-member schools, including tuition assistance, curriculum support and professional development.



LUTHERAN ALL SCHOOLS OPEN HOUSE EVENT

JAN. 24, 2016

More than 30 Lutheran schools in the St. Louis metro area will welcome visitors Sunday, Jan. 24, from 1 to 3 p.m. during a special Lutheran "All Schools" Open House event sponsored by the St. Louis-based Lutheran Elementary School Association (LESA).

Lutheran schools offer affordable tuition, small class sizes, exceptional teaching and a Christ-centered curriculum that empowers children to become competent, caring Christian citizens. Financial assistance is available to families who qualify.

LESA serves more than 8,300 students at 35 Lutheran schools in the St. Louis area, including three National Blue Ribbon Schools and three National Lutheran Exemplary Schools. To find a school in your area, visit www.LESAstl.org or call 314-268-1525.

The Lutheran High St. Charles volleyball team captured the Class 2 State title on Oct. 31 at the Show-Me Center in Cape Girardeau.



Team members include (front) Alli Gueck, Katie Umbach, Mary Kuntz, Jordyn Klein, Iulliana Demien, Lauren Bower; (back) Tori Vogt, Ashley Ernstmeyer, Sarah Malterer, Brianna Birk, Savannah Kluesner, Amanda Ernstmeyer, Emily Skerston, Meredith Stratmann.



Lutheran High St. Charles senior Arlington Foster was selected to serve on the Federal Reserve's Student Board of Directors. During his year on the Student Board, Arlington joins 13 other high school seniors from the St. Louis metropolitan area to meet bimonthly at the St. Louis Fed, discuss issues related to economics and personal finance, and learn from Fed employees about topics such as leadership development and career planning. At the end of the year, Arlington will compete for a summer internship at the Fed.

From the beginning, freshmen at Lutheran High St. Charles learn that the mission of their school is all about "...equipping students for lives of Christian service." The week before school starts, all ninth graders attend the Freshman Retreat, which includes work-



shops about high school life but also includes a morning service project. This year's 86 freshmen worked at Broemmelsiek Park in Wentzville to help spread mulch and clean up the park's planting areas. The freshmen were accompanied by a group of upperclassmen student ambassadors and faculty.



NEW PARTNERSHIP LEADS TO BLESSINGS FOR RIVER ROADS AND IMMANUEL, ST. CHARLES

Students at River Roads Lutheran in north St. Louis received a surprise the first week of school: a brand new library.

The project was organized by the newly formed Friends of River Roads, a service group that hopes to inspire and coordinate efforts of area Lutheran churches, civic groups, corporations and individuals seeking to make a difference in north St. Louis.

The effort began this spring when Immanuel Lutheran Church in St. Charles raised \$25,000 in financial assistance for the school, which later turned into \$50,000, thanks to a matching grant.

“After the events in Ferguson, it prompted us to examine how we can be proactive in reaching out with hope and love to our neighbors,” said Rev. Scott Schmieding, pastor of Immanuel Lutheran in St. Charles.

The group unveiled its second “partnership project”— the new library — in August. The remodeled space features cozy reading spots, a giant giraffe and original paintings by St. Louis artist Cbabi Bayoc, who created pieces specifically for the space. River Cliff Lutheran Church in Atlanta, Ga. donated 50 boxes of books



Hank and Susan Raedeke, members of the newly formed Friends of River Roads, with seventh-grader Sanai Davis, one of the students who initiated the library project.



River Roads Principal Yvonne Boyd shows students and supporters the school's new library.

to the school. The St. Charles City County Library Foundation also contributed books to the effort. The project was initiated by a group of students at River Roads.

“We feel so blessed to be able to share this example of stewardship and support with our students,” said Yvonne Boyd, River Roads’ principal. “When they see us all working together as a community to care for one another, that’s a powerful thing.”

Other projects have included the donation of robotics equipment to boost the River Roads’ STEAM program, mulch to spruce up the school’s playground and labor to fix plumbing issues in the school’s aging building. The 146-year-old school serves children in pre-kindergarten through eighth grade in the heart of the city’s historic Baden Neighborhood. The group also held an open house reception at River Roads in September. Members say the partnership has been rewarding for all involved.

“We are blessed to be a blessing,” said Pastor Schmieding.

River Roads and Immanuel are members of the St. Louis-based Lutheran Elementary School Association (LESA), a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod that represents more than 30 elementary schools and high schools — including three National Blue Ribbon Schools and three National Lutheran Exemplary Schools — and five related agencies. For more information, visit www.LESAstl.org.

THIRD ANNUAL BREW IN THE LOU BREAKS ATTENDANCE RECORDS, RAISES \$150,000 FOR LUTHERAN SCHOOLS



The Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison’s “Have Nots” bluegrass band entertained Lutheran school supporters at LESA’s third annual “Brew in the Lou” Festival at Concordia Seminary.



Dancers from the German Cultural Society of St. Louis entertained Lutheran school supporters at LESA’s third annual “Brew in the Lou” Festival at Concordia Seminary.

More than 1,500 guests helped raise a record-breaking \$150,000 for Lutheran schools at LESA’s third annual Brew in the Lou & Fine Wine Too Festival, held Oct. 17 on the grounds of Concordia Seminary. The event raised \$75,000 in revenue, which increased to \$150,000 thanks to matching funds from the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis.

This year’s festival featured more than 70 food, beverage and craft vendors. Guests also voted for their favorite home brew and chili. “Cinnamon Pecan Ale,” brewed by Anna Rozanski, won first place in the People’s Choice Home Brew Competition. The Salem Men’s Club’s “Manly Man’s Chili” won the chili cook-off. Entertainment included the Deutschmeister German Brass Band and Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison’s “Have Nots” bluegrass band.

Supporters who missed the event can still contribute to Lutheran education. Generous donors will match event day revenue and post-event gifts through Dec. 31, 2015. These gifts will then be matched a second time by the Lutheran Foundation of St. Louis for a 4:1 match. Employer matching gifts can make an even greater impact, creating an 8:1 match. Proceeds will benefit the 8,300 children enrolled in 35 Lutheran schools in the bi-state area.

“It’s a great time to make an impact gift for Lutheran education,” said Sue Nahmenssen, LESA’s CEO. To contribute, visit www.lesastl.org, or call 314-268-1525.

Next year’s “Brew in the Lou” is tentatively scheduled for Oct. 16, 2016.



FALL JUNIOR HIGH RETREAT 2015



On Oct. 16-18, 300 middle school youth and their adult leaders gathered at Camp Windermere on the Lake of the Ozarks for a weekend of faith building and fun! The Missouri District Fall Junior High Retreat was held there, with Pastor Jeffrey Meinz from Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Colorado Springs, Colo. as the presenter for the weekend. The theme of the weekend was “Delivered,” taken from Psalm 50:15 “*Call on Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honor Me.*” Pastor Meinz shared how God delivered the Israelites from Egypt, how God delivered Gideon from the Midianites, how Jesus delivered a young man from demons, how God delivered Philip to the Ethiopian, and how God delivers us from sin through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Youth engaged in a variety of service projects – raking leaves at camp, writing letters to service men and women, making cards for our veterans, and going through prayer stations. They also participated in Minute to Win It style games, a talent show, and had a great time during the Saturday Night Fun Fest with a bonfire, karaoke, games and a hayride. The retreat is hosted by the Lutheran Youth Fellowship Team of the Missouri District. If you and your youth were not able to join us this fall, the retreat is being offered again this spring, April 1-3, 2016. Watch the district website mo.lcms.org for registration information.



THE EXCITING NEWS IS THAT THE JUNIOR HIGH GATHERING WILL BE REPEATED THIS COMING SPRING, APRIL 1-3, 2016.

REGISTRATION WILL BE ONLINE AT THE MISSOURI DISTRICT WEBSITE. PLAN TO JOIN US!

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CONFIRMS NINE YOUTH

St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cuba, a small rural congregation in mid-Missouri, celebrated in the blessing of having nine youth confirmed on May 17. Pastor Joe Ed Pederson performed the rite of confirmation.



Back row from left: Pastor Joe Ed Pederson, Bethany Pederson, Isabel Campbell, Gabrielle Campbell and Daniel Graham.

Front row from left: Elizabeth Ashley, Haley Hamilton, Amy Green, Abigail Tavener and Catherine Graham.

HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH SEEKS YOUTH DIRECTOR

Hope Lutheran in High Ridge is prayerfully seeking a youth director to oversee ministry activities for youth from grades seven through college age.

This part-time position is flexible with a general expectation of 10-15 hours per week. The youth director should be enthusiastic in his or her love for young people and, in particular, his/her desire to see young people grow in faith in Christ. It is essential to be able to work Sundays to lead the youth class and help pastor with the family confirmation program that meets every other week during the school year. Beyond weekly teaching, the youth director would be asked to roughly provide one youth activity/meeting per month and one out-of-town servant event per year. This would include events especially focused on service in the life of the congregation, community and preschool as well as providing opportunities for youth to grow in faith and friendship.

For inquiries, a full job description or to share a resume, please call or email Pastor Jason Wagner through the information provided below.

Hope Lutheran Church
2308 Gravois Road
High Ridge, MO 63049
636-677-8788, www.hopehighridge.org



WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

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.

Recently, I was listening to an NPR program on the car radio about a man who served in World War II. The stories he shared with his family were riveting. I could just imagine myself sitting at their dining room table with a piece of pie and something to drink as the images and details unraveled and scenes were painted upon my imagination.

As a child, I remember sitting at one of those tables time after time and hearing my families' stories – sometimes the same stories over and over and over. But I listened, and they made an impact upon me. I think they even helped me become the person I have blossomed into today. There were the typical “poor man” stories – wearing socks for gloves, running home at noon from school for a cold fried egg sandwich, the story of how my grandfather co-signed a loan for a friend and ended up losing his land because that “friend” renegeed on the loan. I heard how my one “short” grandfather was called *Schlick Schlegel* as he was a stupendous dancer at the country dances and could “cut a rug.”

I also heard the stories about the extravagant hats my great-grandmother created as a haberdashery business owner, Dad pushing over outhouse in cahoots with his cousin, the standing-room-only at my parents' wedding and the way they had to sneak out on the backseat floor of a car to get to their honeymoon site undetected by rabble rousers, being a family that had one of the first televisions in town. I heard of the teacher swatting my father's hand every morning with a ruler whether he had done anything wrong or not – as a precaution for the day ahead.

There were also FAITH STORIES told at those dinner tables that have impacted me over the years. These were faith stories handed down about faithful Christian parents and grandparents. **These stories are vital. If they don't get told, they get lost.** A generation or so down the line, no one will really remember us unless we are a famous person who is immortalized in artwork, museums, or written work. Most of us, though, are just normal people carrying out our everyday lives coping with life in general and the choices we make. But the stories, especially the faith stories, must be passed on!

One time our children and their spouses met at grandma's house armed with questions. We all sat at her feet asking these important (pre-planned) questions so that we could all hear them. As she ages, she forgets the answers so often to my questions and there is no one around anymore to help answer them.

Recently, we had a family staying in our home as guests. They are a wonderful family—parents who are awesome and children who are fun and respectful. It was a joy having them as guests. I did notice though that after dinner, they all pulled out their devices and sat at the table and were engaged in electronics. When I was growing up . . . we talked and listened to stories. The “passing on” type of stories—some funny, some exaggerated and some sad, but all important pieces of information that was part of our history. That's when I learned about my ancestors' love of God.

One holiday, I brought down photos of my ancestors and made sure my family knew their names and where they fit into the family tree. Then one year I sent my children a picture frame with photos of generations of weddings in my family, including their own wedding photo. On the back I placed a plastic sleeve and inserted a piece expounding on the faith stories from these couples. I wanted them to know that they were from a long line of faithful Christian couples who passed that faith along.

Elaine Reese writes in her article *What Kids Learn From Hearing Family Stories* is that “Family stories can be told nearly anywhere. They cost us only our time, our memories, our creativity. They can inspire us, protect us, and bind us to others. So be generous with your stories, and be generous in your stories. Remember that your children may have them for a lifetime.”

May I be so bold as to **strongly suggest** that as the holidays are celebrated — birthdays, anniversaries, Christmas, Thanksgiving, Easter—that you make time at your dinner table to tell the stories. You may have to be **so bold** as to ask that all electronics be put on hold for a bit of time. Maybe you have to plan it out ahead of time for yourself — what you want to share. Please don't misinterpret that I think the use of electronics is bad. Sometimes though, the face-to-face verbal sharing is more important – the inflection of the voice, the tear running down the cheek, the hug, the silence in the grief.

May we, as families, be the ones who are willing to pass on the faith with our stories!

CHRIST'S HANDS OF MERCY

Humanitri, a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, reaches out with help and hope. As families and individuals face crisis and uncertainty, Humanitri extends Christ's hands of mercy that they might receive stability and self-sufficiency. Humanitri works in two primary areas.

First, Humanitri has the only full-time chaplain in the St. Louis county jail: Rev. Vince Stanley. Chaplain Stanley is the primary means for Humanitri to bring the Gospel to the incarcerated and eventually transitioning them back to civilian life. Second, Humanitri provides case management and temporary housing to those who are without a home. Humanitri's phenomenal track record in helping clients to break free from the cycle of homelessness is nothing short of miraculous.

Humanitri is able to accomplish all of this thanks to Christ's provision of a dedicated staff and dedicated supporters. Consider how you might support Humanitri as a means to live out Christ's call in the fifth commandment that we “help and befriend our neighbor in every bodily need.” Learn more at humanitri.org.



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and so are your investment opportunities

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STANDING IN THE HARVEST FIELD!

More than 160 pastors and lay leaders gathered Nov. 5-7 at the Kansas City Airport Marriott just outside Platte City, Mo., for the 2015 National Rural & Small Town Mission (RSTM) Conference.

Excitement, faithfulness, hope and commitment were the words of the day at the fourth Synod-wide conference. According to RSTM Director Todd Kollbaum, "I was so very enthused and encouraged by this group of pastors and lay leaders. They know and understand the great value that rural and small town mission and ministry is to the Church. We gathered to celebrate the joy that is rural and small town ministry and to consider the challenges and great opportunities in that setting. They are eager to do whatever they can to impact their communities and the world with the wonderful Good News of Jesus."

In attendance were congregation leaders from coast to coast and all points in between. Over the course of three days, the attendees were impacted by inspirational plenary speakers, practical sectionals, time together in worship and study of the Scriptures, and time for attendees to encourage and support each other.

In keeping with the theme of "Standing in the Harvest Fields," those in attendance considered such matters as Christ's presence in rural and small town areas, the roles of pastor and congregation together and within the community, and carrying out ministry with patient perseverance in an impatient world.

- Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus led the Bible study that grounded the entire conference in Scripture, and focused on the need for Christians to take a stand in the world today.

- Chaplain Craig Muehler explored how congregations can reach out in service to God where He has called us in rural America.
- Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford discussed living for such a time as this and the mission of the Church today.
- A huge variety of breakout sessions were well received, as participants explored such topics as outreach, later-life ministry, youth, family life and much more.

On the heels of this wonderful conference, plans are being made for the 2016 National Rural & Small Town Mission Conference. After a very positive response to our conference setting, the conference will again be held at the Airport Marriott, with the theme "Mission at Home: Standing Where You Are Planted."

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.

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.

KING'S ACADEMY OF CHRIST THE KING RECEIVES ACCREDITATIONS



Staff members of King's Academy who worked to achieve accreditation are, from left, Rayleen Wilson, administrator; Elaine Lehenbauer, preschool director; Amy Jordan, first grade teacher; Pam Lobosky, kindergarten teacher; Angela Rudolph, preschool teacher; and Mary Gasser, second grade teacher.

The King's Academy of Christ the King Lutheran Church in St. Louis recently received accreditation from the National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) as well as the Missouri Non-Public School Accreditation.

The extensive two-year accreditation process required the completion of self studies in a number of areas including curriculum, instruction, leadership, resources and personnel. Committees were appointed for the studies consisting of instructors, board members and lay members of the congregation. Manuals were completed for many areas including the Academy's strategic plan, board policy, curriculum for each grade, health and safety and wellness. Major decisions in the last three years were identified as well as future goals.

The current school year brings the excitement of moving into new classrooms in the soon-to-be completed sanctuary of Christ the King, as well as the addition of a new grade, fourth, and new teacher Marissa Engelhart, who will teach a third and fourth grade class.

Present enrollment for the 2015-16 school year is 81 students, preschool through fourth grade, serving more than 60 families. Nine families have two or more children enrolled. A scholarship fund exists to help families with tuition requirements.

The King's Academy exists to provide academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment cultivating Christ-like character while developing mind, body and spirit. The curriculum is well-rounded, integrating Bible stories and prayer with academics taught by certified teachers. Elementary students participated in standardized "Sat 10" testing this past spring and results will be used to improve learning skills for students. Technology has been identified and employed as one of the most important teaching assists. Music, art, Spanish and physical education classes enhance learning opportunities. An after-care program exists as a service to parents.

The King's Academy has experienced rapid growth since it opened its doors in September 2003 with two teachers and 16 students in preschool. The first kindergarten classroom opened in 2012; first and second grades in 2013; and third grade was added in 2014. This fall Christ the King dedicated its new sanctuary with grades one through four already moved in and functioning in its lower level.

Current Administrator Rayleen Wilson has a master's degree in curriculum and instruction from the University of Missouri and 36 years teaching experience, including 26 years in the Osage School District. Elaine Lehenbauer has served as preschool director since 2005.



RSTM: ENGAGING YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Please join us from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 13, at Saxony Lutheran High School in Jackson, Mo., for an Engaging Your Community Event presented with the Missouri District. Be sure to register by contacting our office at 888-463-5127 or visit our website at www.lcms.org/rstm for more information.

This Engaging Your Community Event is geared for single and multi-point parishes in rural and small town settings. Ideally, a pastor and three to four lay leaders will attend together. Congregation leaders will examine their communities and consider ways they can serve the unique needs of their particular communities. Participants will identify personal and congregation assets they have in place and make plans to use their resources to engage their respective communities. One important theme of the event will be on building and strengthening partnerships as multi-point parishes and individual congregations explore ways to work together for the needs of their communities.

Many rural congregations today are concerned about shrinking membership and fewer children and families in worship. There is no "one size fits all" solution. However, congregation leaders will be encouraged as they see new opportunities to engage their communities and are filled with hope for the future. Online registration is available at www.lcms.org/rstm/engaging-rural-communities.





2016 NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING

Next summer we will be enjoying the 2016 LCMS National Youth Gathering "In Christ Alone" in New Orleans. What will the Missouri District be doing?

Leadership Training

We will offer Leadership Training for all who will serve as Adult Leaders:

- Sunday, Jan. 31 2 – 4 p.m. Child of God — St. Peters
- Saturday, Feb. 20 10 a.m.— Noon Trinity — Columbia
- Sunday, Feb. 21 1:30 – 3:30 p.m. Redeemer — Springfield
- Saturday, Feb. 27 10 a.m. — Noon St. Paul — Jackson
- Saturday, Feb. 27 10 a.m. — Noon Timothy — Blue Springs

These meetings will give you the opportunity to ask questions, learn more about the city of New Orleans, get an overview of the Gathering schedule, and find out how you can best be prepared to experience the Gathering with your group. You will also have the opportunity to network with other Adult Leaders in your area and learn from those who have attended previous Gatherings.

Please RSVP to attend these meeting by email to Sue.Thompson@mo.lcms.org.

District Event



This is going to be great! The Missouri District Event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Mardi Gras World on Saturday, July 16.

We will tour the vast 400,000 square foot complex where the Mardi Gras floats are stored and made. We will participate in making our own Mardi Gras masks and enjoy a buffet lunch of

jambalaya, mac and cheese, chicken tenders, cookies and drinks.

The cost is \$45 per person.

Free bus parking is available on the side of the facility, and cars can park in Lot J at \$10 per car (not included). Mardi Gras World is located near both Gathering sites: next to the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center and just two miles from the Mercedes-Benz Superdome.



District T-shirts



2016 Shirts will be available for \$14-\$16, plus optional personalizing for \$2.50 per shirt.

All orders will include FREE SHIPPING to your church. Sample shirts will be available at the Adult Leader Training meetings.

Thank you to Christopher Schmidt for his unique design for the Missouri District National Youth Gathering t-shirt.

How do we order event tickets and T-shirts?

Shirts and district event tickets will be available to order online in January. A "Click here to Order" link to the online registration site will be on this web site.

Transportation

We would like to network groups together who may be interested in sharing transportation. Email your info to Sue Thompson at Sue.Thompson@mo.lcms.org.

Bus Seats to Offer

Ascension, St. Louis, has eight seats available for \$70-\$190 per person. Departure is July 14 at 8 p.m. from Ascension; return is July 21 at 9 a.m. Call Chris Thies at 314-910-3148.

Bus seats are still needed.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN CHOIR CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL – THE SPOTLESS ROSE



Join the National Lutheran Choir (Minneapolis, Minn.) for its annual Christmas Festival. Known for the "experience," this sacred program removes the listener from any sense of time and space and draws them into a place of awe and beauty. This year's program is titled "The Spotless Rose" will features music of Herbert Howells, Dale Warland, David Conte and others as well as carols for congregation and choir.

Saturday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church, 100 E. Adams Ave., Kirkwood, MO 63122.

Tickets: \$25 Adult | \$10 Students | 17 and under – FREE

Call Brown Paper Tickets 1-800-838-3006 or order online at www.NLCA.com. Tickets will also be available at the door on the day of the concert. The box office opens one hour prior before the concert. Groups of 10 or more are eligible for a discount. For information about a group sale, contact the NLC office directly at 612-722-2301.

The National Lutheran Choir, under the direction of Dr. David Cherwien, seeks to strengthen, renew and preserve the heritage of sacred choral music through the highest standards of performance and literature.

To learn more about the choir, visit www.nlca.com and search Facebook and Twitter @NLChoir.

LIFE SUNDAY

The "official" Life Sunday is Jan. 17, 2016. This year's theme is "Created. Redeemed. Called" based on Isaiah 43:1. However, LFL materials may be used anytime during the year. Go to www.lutheransforlife.org or call 800-325-3040 for new resources for 2016 including bulletin inserts, Bible study, children's message, worship service and sermons. LFL resources are handled through Concordia Publishing House.

MARCH FOR LIFE D.C.

Registration has begun for the Missouri Life Caravan through Missouri Right to Life. The National March for Life is Jan. 21-23, 2016. All reservations for the caravan must be received by Jan. 4, 2016. To register go to <http://www.missourilife.org/>

MIDWEST MARCH FOR LIFE

Lutherans for Life of Missouri encourages all Missourians to participate in the Midwest March for Life in Jefferson City, Mo., on Saturday, Jan. 30, 2016. It begins at 10 a.m. at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, 216 Broadway St., Jefferson City, Mo., and proceeds to the Capitol, approximately ¾ mile. The rally will begin at 10:45 a.m. inside the first floor Rotunda. Speakers will include Abby Johnson, a former Planned Parenthood Director, and Melissa Ohden, an abortion survivor. A light lunch may be purchased beginning at noon at St. Peter's. For more information go to: <http://www.midwestmarchforlife.com/>

If you have any questions about these events please contact Rev. Jacob A. Mueller at 573-782-3191 or email stjohnstringtown@gmail.com. Mueller is the District Life Coordinator for the Missouri District and pastor at St. John's Lutheran (Stringtown) near Lohman, Mo. He will be glad to assist you in any way he can.



CALLING CONGREGATIONS

For Sole Pastors

Altenburg, Immanuel
 Barnhart, Immanuel
 Cape Girardeau (Egypt Mills), Trinity
 Corder/Waverly, Zion/Immanuel
 Farmington, St. Paul
 Hillsboro, Zion
 Pleasant Hill/Creighton, Amazing Grace/Trinity
 Richmond, Faith
 Salisbury (Forest Green), Salem
 St. Joseph, St. Peter
 St. Louis, Immanuel Chapel
 St. Robert, Faith

For Senior Pastor

St. Louis, Trinity
 Concordia, St. Paul
 Kansas City, King of Kings
 Sunset Hills, Resurrection

For Associate or Assistant Pastor

Blue Springs, Timothy – called John Otte of So. St. Paul, MN
 Cape Girardeau, Trinity
 Des Peres, St. Paul
 Ellisville, St. John's
 Kansas City, Calvary
 Oakville, Faith
 Olivette, Immanuel
 Sunset Hills, Resurrection
 Springfield, Redeemer
 Weldon Springs, Messiah

Served by Intentional Interim Pastor or Interim Pastor

Altenburg, Immanuel (Rev. Frank Gallagher)
 Cape Girardeau (Egypt Mills), Trinity (Rev. Barry Pfanstiel)
 Carthage, Good Shepherd (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)

Vacant (on Hold – But Being Served)

Ashland, Family of Christ
 Aurora, Grace
 Bethany, Hope
 Boonville, Immanuel
 Center, Trinity
 Doniphan/Malden/Kennett, Trinity/Grace/Redeemer
 Elk Prairie (Rolla), Peace
 Freistatt, Trinity
 Imperial, Jefferson Hills
 Ironton, St. Paul
 Isabella, Faith
 Memphis, St. Paul
 Milan, Peace
 Oak Grove, Shepherd of the Valley
 Princeton, Immanuel
 Rogersville, River of Life
 Rosebud, Immanuel
 St. James, St. John
 St. Louis, Emmaus
 St. Louis, St. Paul
 Sarcoxie, Trinity
 Sedalia, Amigos de Cristo
 Sweet Springs, Christ
 Valley Park, Zion
 Vandalia, St. John
 Washington, Faith

Pastors Considering Calls

Bronner, Michael (Resurrection, Sunset Hills) to Peace, Covington, WA
 (Accepted)
 Hass, Mark (Candidate) to Holy Cross Deaf, St. Louis, MO (Accepted)
 Johnson, David (Zion, Palmyra) to First, Missoula, MT
 King, James (St. Paul, Farmington) to Immanuel, Gaylord, MN
 (Accepted)
 Koehlinger, Vernon (Non-Candidate) to Living Water, Buckeye, AZ
 (Accepted)
 Parvey, Adam (Redeemer, Springfield) to Our Redeemer, Cohasset, MN
 (Declined)

INSTALLATION OF REV. LAWRENCE BRADT



Rev. Lawrence Bradt was installed as pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, New Wells, Aug. 16 during a special service at 3 p.m. Sixteen pastors from local congregations, St. Louis and Poplar Bluff joined Immanuel Lutheran Church to celebrate this event and to give Pastor Bradt their blessings. Pastor Benkendorf from Concordia, Frohna, preached on the text from Isaiah 52:7. His sermon, titled "How Beautiful the Feet," shared with Pastor Bradt that his feet should be used to share God's message with the people of Immanuel in all types of needs. After the service, the celebration concluded with a meal served in the church basement.

Row 1: Rev. Lawrence N. Bradt

Row 2 from left: Dr. Paul R. Wittingham, Rev. Roger G. Abernathy, Rev. Rodney A. Benkendorf, Rev. Alan J. Wollenburg, Rev. Marty E. Reed and Rev. Loren A. Boettcher

Row 3 from left: Rev. Wayne W. Schwiesow, Rev. F. Michael Gallagher, Rev. Matthew T. Marks, Rev. Virgil M. Kelm, Rev. Bruce Ritter, Rev. Keith R. Weise, Rev. Mark A. Boettcher, Rev. David Dissen, Rev. Gary R. Hoffstetter and Rev. Roger C. Steinbrueck.



PERSONNEL CHANGES — ORDAINED

Ordained/Installed

Knippa, Michael (SL '15) ordained Bethany – Austin, TX 11/1/15 by J. W. Knippa;
installed teacher, Lutheran High School South – St. Louis 11/18/15 by R. Roma

Transferred to our District

Albers, John (IN) to LCMS National Housing Support Corporation – St. Louis
11/13/15 by H. Mueller
Burge, David (NI) to Emeritus 9/1/15
Hamer, Brian (AT) to LCMS Board for International Mission – St. Louis 7/1/15
Hoehner, Mark (EN) to Chapel of the Cross, St. Peters 8/11/15
Hoehner, Robert (EN) to Chapel of the Cross, St. Peters 8/11/15
Kohlmeier, Keith (KS) to Lutheran Church Extension Fund – St. Louis 10/6/15
by B. Biesenthal
Moss, Mark (MNS) to LCMS Board for International Mission – St. Louis 7/20/15
Naumann, Edward (EN) to LCMS Board for International Mission – St. Louis 6/15/15
Prince, James (EN) to Chapel of the Cross, St. Peters 8/11/15
Schmidt, Alvin (CI) to Emeritus 10/15/15
Seying, Laokouxang (Kou) (CNH) to Concordia Seminary – St. Louis 9/4/15
by D. Meyer
Smith, Sean (IN) to Candidate 9/25/15
Uglum, James (EN) to Chapel of the Cross, St. Peters 8/11/15

Transferred to other Districts

King, James (St. Paul – Farmington) to MNS 10/5/15
Kohlmeier, Keith (Lutheran Church Extension Fund – St. Louis) to KS 10/14/15
Moss, Mark (LCMS Office of International Mission – St. Louis) to MNS 10/20/15
Naumann, Edward (LCMS Office of International Mission – St. Louis) to
EN 10/20/15
Paul, Michael (LCMS Office of International Mission – St. Louis) to IN 11/5/15

Changes within District

Hass, Mark (Candidate) installed assistant pastor Holy Cross for the Deaf – St. Louis
10/25/15 by R. Moody
Meissner, Duane (Immanuel – Barnhart) installed missionary LCMS Office of
International Mission – St. Louis 10/4/15 by L. Hagan
Schulte, Gary (Zion – Hillsboro) installed missionary LCMS Office of International
Mission – St. Louis 10/4/15 by L. Hagan

Retired

Schroeder, William (Amazing Grace/Trinity – Pleasant Hill/Creighton) 4/30/15

Deceased

Biesenthal, W. Leroy (Emeritus) 9/3/15
Brighton, Louis (Emeritus) 11/13/15
Carlson, Laurence Jr. (Salem – Forest Green) 8/20/15
Krueger, R. Robert (Emeritus) 9/21/15
Patzwitz, Walter (Emeritus) 10/19/15
Swan, Melvin (Emeritus) 8/21/15

Resigned/Removed from Roster

Cox, James (Zion – Valley Park) 9/8/15
Keener, Darin (Lutheran High School North – St. Louis) 10/29/15

Congregations added to District/Synod

The Exchange Communities – Jackson 9/13/15
Chapel of the Cross – St. Peters (transferred from English District) 8/11/15

PERSONNEL CHANGES — COMMISSIONED MINISTERS OF RELIGION

Graduates Installed

Maxfield, Melissa (Colloquy RF '15) to Word of Life
– St. Louis 11/22/15 by M. Clark
Neuendorf, Christel (FW '15) to LCMS Office of
International Mission – St. Louis 10/18/15 by B. Yops

Transferred from Other Districts

Andrews, Sarah (RM) to Non-Candidate 8/31/15
Bates, Andrew (SI) to KFUE – St. Louis 10/8/15 by H. Mueller
Cantrell-Hantel, Nicole (NI) to Calvary –
Kansas City 8/18/15 by B. Bereuter
Marriott, James (NI) to Concordia Seminary
– St. Louis 9/4/15 by D. Meyer
Moore, Lisa (FG) to Emeritus 9/29/15
Nelson, Andrew (EN) to Chapel of the Cross – St. Peters 8/11/15
Nelson, George (EN) to Chapel of the Cross – St. Peters 8/11/15
Rodriguez, Kyla (NW) to LCMS Office of National
Mission – St. Louis 9/30/15 by B. Day
Shults, Julianna (NI) to LCMS Office of National
Mission – St. Louis 9/30/15 by B. Day

Reinstated

Caldwell, Marsha (Reinstated by COP 9/15) to Candidate
Dittmer, Cheryl (Reinstated by COP 9/15) to Emeritus
Dynneson, Lane (Reinstated by COP 9/15) to Candidate
Justus, Paula (Reinstated by COP 9/15) to Candidate
Oldre, Alicia (Reinstated by COP 9/15) to Candidate

Changes Within District

Fangmann, Dennis (Candidate) to LCMS Office of
International Mission – St. Louis 10/29/15 by J. Fale
Hayter, Maryann (New Beginnings – Pacific) to LCMS Office
of National Mission – St. Louis 10/23/15 by K. Robson
Kemerling, Karla (Candidate) to Christ Pre-Kindergarten
– Platte Woods 10/25/15 by T. Arnold
Peter, Tonya (Non-Candidate) to Mount Calvary
– Brentwood 10/11/15 by K. Hanke
Prophete, Jennifer (Non-Candidate) to Lutheran Hour
Ministries – St. Louis 11/12/15 by P. Kirby

Removed from Roster

Blanner, Chelsea (Non-Candidate) 8/20/15

Transferred to Other Districts

Flenner, Lorraine (Emeritus) to SE 9/15/15
Oldre, Alicia (Candidate) to NEB 10/20/15

IF YOU HAVEN'T HAD A CHANCE TO VIEW OUR NEW
WEBSITE AND FACEBOOK PAGE, PLEASE CHECK THEM
OUT AT [HTTP://MO.LCMS.ORG](http://mo.lcms.org) AND
[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MISSOURIDISTRICTLCMS](http://www.facebook.com/MissouriDistrictLCMS)



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THE VOICE OF MISSOURI

In the 2015 Convention edition of the Voice of Missouri there was an article announcing the transition of the Voice to a digital only format beginning in January 2016. At that time, the Voice will be distributed in an e-newsletter format and emailed to designated church and Recognized Service Organization (RSO) representatives. Those individuals will be responsible for forwarding the e-newsletter to their church members and constituents.

A digital Voice format allows subscribers to:

- Access the Voice of Missouri via e-mail blasts forwarded from their congregations and on the district's website, Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter social media platforms.
- Receive information about events, ordinations, installations and other district activities in a more efficient and timely manner.
- Allow easier interaction with the district via making comments/suggestions on published Voice stories and information on our social media platforms.

A digital Voice format will allow congregations, schools and RSOs to:

- Disseminate information about their recent past and upcoming events/activities in a timelier manner to LCMS constituents within Missouri.
- Eliminate their current Voice mailing lists (thus ending the tedious process of updating and reporting those updates to the Missouri District offices on a quarterly basis).
- Use their current email lists to distribute the Voice.

With the Voice of Missouri going digital, it will also save the district the cost of having a 16-page edition printed and mailed quarterly. Those saved funds can be used to better serve the district's ministries and congregations throughout the state.

At this time, we would like congregations and RSOs to provide us with a name and email address of the person who will be responsible for forwarding the Voice e-newsletter to church members and constituents by the end of December. That person's name and email address should be sent to moveoice@mo.lcms.org. Please include the name of the congregation and/or RSO's name in the subject line of your email.

Information and instructions on how to submit stories, photos and announcements will be available in December.

Any questions should be directed to Indira Murray, Communications Specialist/Voice Editor, the Missouri District at 314-590-6210 or indira.murray@mo.lcms.org.

In the meantime, please familiarize yourselves with our current social media sites listed below.

District Website = mo.lcms.org
Facebook = www.facebook.com/MissouriDistrictLCMS
LinkedIn = www.linkedin.com/pubmissouri-district-lcms/b6/256/4b9
Twitter = @LCMS_MODist

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

62ND ANNUAL

PORK SAUSAGE DINNER

Sunday, Feb. 14, 2016

11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

\$10 adults

\$4.50 children 5-12

765 Lemay Ferry Road

St. Louis, MO

Church office 314-631-7331

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