

# Encourager

JANUARY 2022

Mid-South District LCMS



## *A Message from Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, President*



Are most Americans optimistic? A recent poll off the Internet said 70% of American expect – count on – 2022 – to be better than 2021. 70%!! Now, does the clock striking 12 midnight or flipping the calendar to the next day, month and year really mean that 2022 is going to be better? Of course not! Will we change our bad habits? Will January 1, 2022 be any different than December 31, 2021? Our wellbeing, this world, our bodies, and the entire Cosmos aren't inseparably tied to our calendar. In fact, 2/3 of our world doesn't celebrate New Year's Eve. They use a different calendar. So where's our optimism coming from?

A son called his parents to wish them a happy New Year and when his Dad answered the phone, he asked his dad, "well Dad, what's your New Year's

resolution? His dad replied, To make "To make your mother as happy as I can all year." When his mom got on the phone he asked her the same question. His mom replied my resolution is "To see that your dad keeps his New Year's resolution."

Because we're a follower of Christ, we know our life should be filled with joy, and hope amidst all things – good or bad. We also know we have joy despite the junk that messed up this last year – but will likely happen again in 2022. St Paul's Epistle says joy in Christ is our strength – in bad or good times, regardless of circumstances. This joy and peace passes our human understanding, that if properly grounded, properly nourished, and properly fed, it will overcome great grief and suffering.

When Jesus prayed to the Father, He said, "I pray that they

*[that's us – His dear children] - may have the full measure of My joy within them.*" He also made a great promise, saying, "You will rejoice. And no one will take away your joy" No person, no thing can take away our peace and joy that passes our understanding! It's His Promise!

Remember the times when Jesus spoke to His disciples about troubles and persecution? They were going to be robbed of everything they owned. Ten of the Eleven would be tortured and put to death. And, despite all of this, Jesus promised them joy. So, why did a majority of Americans say they felt 2022 would be better? Because they realize, in retrospect, that 2021 didn't even come close to what they wanted!

St Paul picks up on this idea saying, "Nothing...no disease... no persecution... no alienation... no

*loneliness.... no torture... not even death.... will take this gift of Divine peace and joy away."* Do we really want that kind of joy? Paul knew how to live in a dying world – a world that's deeply immersed in brokenness, troubles, persecution, and conflict. Just look at our cities' streets last month! How can Christians live like that?!

Paul's answers for us on the entry into another optimistically filled New Year's Eve: He says that because we're followers of Christ, our bad things are real, but God will work them together for good, our good thing won't be lost. This is the reason for Divine joy. The bad things that happen to us (which are bad) will work together for good. Paul says it this way, *"We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose."* Everything! The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly. They happen to Christians, just as they do to the rest of the world. But, for the Christians – those called according to His purpose - these things will never make us lose our hope in our Promise from God.

He makes the sun rise on the evil and on the good. He sends rain on the just and on the unjust. We face the reality of what it means to journey through this life where bad things happen. God wants us to live in an eternal joy and get us out of this rat trap where evil things happen. Being a Christian doesn't put an invisible shield around us or give us trees in our backyards that grow money. That's not the way things happen in this world. It's false teaching!

Too many Christians hear preachers say that if you have enough faith, love God, and serve Him faithfully, then you won't have any bad things happen to you. If that's true, explain the martyr deaths of countless thousands who died for the faith in the first six centuries after Christ? How do we explain the poverty, suffering, and death of Jesus? For that matter, how do we explain the little children from foreign lands who are slaughtered in front of their parents because they won't renounce Jesus Christ as their Savior. Simply stated, teachings that becoming a Christian turns everything into a bed of roses is simply false! Scriptures doesn't teach that.

St Paul makes this clear. He says "All things" good and bad will be used for the good of those who love God. He goes on to say, *"What then will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress or persecution, or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?"* These aren't good things, they're terrible! But, God's Word says that when these things happen to those who love God, they won't separate us from God's love, peace, and joy... ever! Thanks be to God, when good things come. They're always going to be because of God's grace and favor toward us. God makes all things come together for our good.

Notice Paul doesn't say, *"Things work together for good."* He knew that when he relied on his own works or flesh, he constantly failed. He wrote, *"O wretched man that I am! Who can deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God: through Jesus Christ our Lord."* If the great

apostle Paul struggled with sin and failure, what makes us think we won't? St Paul, like us, knew that on our own, we can never work those things together for our good. In other words, if good happens, it's because God works it together for our good.

Paul writes, *"For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined, He also called, and those whom He called, He also justified, and those whom He justified, He also glorified. What shall we say of these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?"*

When we experience love... when someone is there to hug us if we're hurting, or holds our hand if we're in despair... if someone loves us despite all our flaws and sin, it's because God brings all things together for our good! God's holding love, peace, forgiveness and joy in front of our faces. Everything that goes well... **everything good** is another example of God's miraculous grace for us.

Paul didn't promise Christians an easier earthly life than those who don't love God. Nor did he imply that bad things are really good things or that hardship, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril and sword are good. He does say however, that we have the promise that all these things will work for OUR good because of His love for us.

Hear God's promise: *"And those whom He predestined, He also called; and those whom He called,*

He also justified; those whom He justified, He also glorified." Isn't the word "glorified" past tense? Shouldn't Paul have said, "He will glorify?" The Greek is clear. Paul speaks of glorification as an accomplished fact: Glorified! God won't let anything in this life get between us and His eternal Promise. We're predestined, conformed into the image of Christ by God's grace in Holy Baptism. When simple water and His Word was poured over us, we became an inheritor of God's Kingdom, one with eternal intimacy with God. "For those He foreknew, He also

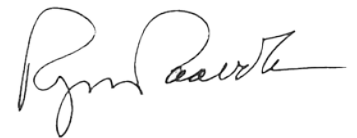
predestined to be conformed into the likeness of His Son."

Paul gives us an absolute certainty, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other thing in all of creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord." It's our covenant relationship given by God. He's our forever Father! We're His forever family!

We don't have to wait for another day. We don't have to wait for another year. God's

promise isn't about the ticking of a clock, a month on the calendar, a year in our journals, a decade, or for a lifetime. Paul isn't promising better life circumstances. He promises a better life - an eternal life filled with joy - a life glorified in Christ - a life being conformed into the image of His Son - and a life that never ends. May God bless you in your New Year and forever.

Your servant in Christ +  
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola




## Lutheran Schools

### PROVIDING EXCELLENT Academic Preparation

- Developing love for and excitement about learning
- Excelling at reading, writing and effective communication
- Training minds for success at the next academic level
- Creating a strong work ethic, critical thinking skills and the ability to relate well with others

1,885 Schools + 21,222 Teachers + 35 Districts

Sharing the life-changing message of Jesus' love with more than **200,000** students, their families and the community

### National Lutheran Schools Week

Jan. 23-29, 2022

National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim great blessings within the communities we serve. Keep our schools, teachers, staff and students in your prayers and we celebrate God's generous blessings and opportunities in our schools.



The Rite of **installation for Rev. Willie Travis Grills** took place at **Zion of Avilla Lutheran Church in Alexander, AR**, on Saturday, November 20, 2021. Pictured for the Rite of Installation are: Front (L-R) Rev. Sawyer Meyer, Beautiful Savior, Olive Branch; President

Roger Paavola; Rev. Willie Grills; Rev. Kevin Conger, Hope Lutheran, Jacksonville; Rev. Kent Schaaf, Grace Lutheran, Little Rock; and Rev. Robert Benke, Faith Lutheran, Hot Springs Village. Back (L-R) Rev. Dr. LeRoy Leach, Conway; Rev. Jim Burns, First, Benton; Rev. Ron Bacic,

First Lutheran, Little Rock; Rev. Emil Woerner, Friends in Christ, Bryant; Rev. Don Hefta, Emeritus; and Rev. David Vandercook, Trinity North Little Rock and Shepherd of Peace, Maumelle.

*Welcome to the Mid-South District*



The Rite of **Installation for Rev. Neil Vanderbush** was held at **Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis**, on Sunday, December 5, 2021. Pictured (Front L-R) Rev. Sawyer Meyer, Beautiful Savior,

Olive Branch; President Roger Paavola; Rev. Neil Vanderbush; Rev. Michael Sneath, Immanuel, Memphis. (Middle L-R) Rev. Clayton Seller, Faith, Collierville; Rev. David Vandercook, Trinity,

North Little Rock; Rev. Clarence Martin, Emeritus; Rev. Michael Croom, Trinity, Memphis. (Top L-R) Rev. Chuck Neugebauer, Christ the King, Memphis; and Rev. Mark Goble, Christ the King, Memphis.

## FAITH LUTHERAN CELEBRATES

Faith Lutheran Church in Bentonville, AR celebrated the remodeling of their sanctuary with a dedication service in October.

Many in the congregation donated to this project and helped in the remodel, the three most instrumental were Tim Peters (left), Dayton Gehler (middle), and Benny Stovall (right). We also appreciate Bruce Greene who has always been instrumental in previous remodels around the church.

— Rev. David Schmidt



# EXPERIENCING SCHOOL THROUGH THE EYES OF A HAITIAN CHILD



Schools in Haiti share some commonalities with American schools, but there are many differences that impact the future prosperity of this nation. In Haiti, the government funds education for only 20% of the children in the entire nation. Because of this, 98% of the schools in Haiti are private schools, often supported by organizations in Canada and the United States. Only 60% of Haitian children ever get to enter a school building. Of those that attend, most never get past 6th grade. Because Haiti is a nation of extreme poverty, about 4.4 million people suffer from acute hunger, eating only a few meals a week. In many of the schools, an education is provided, but a school lunch is not.

Children in Haiti walk sometimes 2-3 miles to get to their school building. Because parents must pay a tuition, they often cannot send all their children at once, so siblings from one home may alternate years, attending school every other year or every third year.

Trinity HOPE partners with 241 private, Christian schools throughout 13 districts in Haiti. Through our partnership, we show the Grace of God by providing a noon meal for the children and staff in these schools.

In a Haitian school with a Trinity HOPE feeding program, the cooks make large batches of rice, beans, and sauce over an open fire, often outside. This special recipe was created in partnership with nutritionists at Vanderbilt University, and provides a balanced meal of protein, fat, and carbs. This noon meal helps children concentrate and attend to their learning. It is also the conduit through which we share the grace and mercy of God.

Before the meal, children wash their hands with some sort of running water, often out of a large cooler. Dishes and eating utensils are scarce. Often, when mission teams travel to Haiti, we take spoons so that schools might have enough spoons for all children to eat at the same time. The children thank God for the provision of

food and enjoy a meal that fills their tummies and souls.

The pictures in this article are from two Lutheran schools, Concordia and Evangelique le Lutherinne, both in Leogane, Haiti. Between them, we partner to feed about 80 souls. These pictures represent many of the unique attributes of Haitian schools. Throughout the next few months, we will be highlighting schools from all 13 districts on our Social media pages. Please visit us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trinityhopehaiti](http://www.facebook.com/trinityhopehaiti) and Instagram: [www.instagram.com/trinityhopehaiti](http://www.instagram.com/trinityhopehaiti) to learn more about the areas we serve, the people who work with us, and to get a better understanding of the amazing work God is doing through Trinity HOPE. **Anpil benediksyon (many blessings).**



# TORNADOES CARVE DEADLY PATH THROUGH MID-SOUTH COMMUNITIES



## You Can Help Through the District's Disaster Relief Fund

As you know, devastating tornadoes struck numerous communities across Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Illinois in the evening and early morning hours of December 10 and 11. The death toll is staggering and continues to rise, while the devastation to property along the 250-mile storm path is unimaginable.

In the wake of such destruction, the need for aid is great. Already, countless calls asking "How can we help?" have flowed into the Mid-South District office. As the bleak aftermath of this disaster unfolds, our first and most significant response is with

prayer. We pray for those who are still missing, those who are part of the difficult search effort, and those who are mourning victims of these devastating storms. To assist the thousands of individuals impacted by this terrible tragedy, both LCMS Disaster Response and Lutheran Church Charities are currently mobilizing critical resources.

To assist with the relief effort, the Mid-South District has established a Disaster Relief Fund. Donations directed to this fund will be used for relief efforts in the tornado-ravaged communities. If you or any member of your congregation would like to contribute to this fund, you may make a gift online or by check payable to the Mid-South District Office / 1675

Wynne Road / Cordova TN 38016. Please note "Disaster Relief Fund" on any gifts sent by check. When [donating online](#), please designate your gift as "Restricted" for the Disaster Relief Fund.

### For those wanting to participate in the recovery effort

LCMS Disaster Response has a special website where information about teams going to help with debris clean-up is posted. If your congregation has volunteers who would like to serve in this way, please visit [LCMS-LERT Volunteer page](#), where you can get more information and sign up for a team.



## 2022 TANZANIA MISSION TRIP

**We** are making plans for a team from the Mid-South District to return to Tanzania, Africa in May of 2022. To communicate to the people of Tanzania the life-changing power of Jesus Christ in a practical and understanding way; to develop

city of Shinyanga, home of the Southeast Lake Victoria Lutheran District. The main emphasis of the trip will be to share the Good News of Jesus with the Sukuma people, located in Northwest Tanzania. We will also visit other areas of past ministry; such as

them into responsible, productive, successful Christians, and equip them for their ministry in the church and world.

We plan to visit the

food ministry to albino children, Mwadui Lutheran secondary school, widows ministry. Team members will go door-to-door in villages to spread the Word of God and the wonderful news of Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. The team will be accompanied by local ministers and lay persons who will act as translators. We will be using simple techniques such as: an Evangecube or Bible story telling. So, if you can share a 4th-grade level Sunday school lesson in your own words, you are qualified! **Please contact**, Bob Allen for more information 270-535-7370 or [rjallen@prodigy.net](mailto:rjallen@prodigy.net)



## 11-DAY PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

**Nov 28 – Dec 8, 2022 — Limited space!**

Visit the Biblical villages, explore the center of Jesus' ministry, Capernaum, and relax on the Sea of Galilee. That is just the beginning of the tour with your host Rev. Andrew Abraham, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. [Download proposed Itinerary here.](#)



## 10 DAY REFORMATION & OBERAMMERGAU PASSION PLAY TOUR

**June 13 - 22, 2022 — Limited space!**

Visit the places Luther walked, and explore Wittenberg, Eisleben, and more. We will stop by Neuschwanstein, the storybook castle in Bavaria and see the world famous Oberammergau Passion Play. Rev. Stewart Marshall, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, is your host. [Download proposed Itinerary available here.](#)

For more information, please contact Rev. Marshall @ 870-592-9404 or email to [revsmarshall@gmail.com](mailto:revsmarshall@gmail.com) To register for the tour click Registernow. ITTWORLD.COM use code.



# LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF CARE-VAN DRIVE 2021

**A**t this year's Lutheran World Relief CARE-VAN ingathering the Mid-South District once again had seven drop sites where we collected handmade quilts, school kits, personal care kits, baby care kits, and fabric kits. Our drop sites included Grace, Knoxville, TN.; Cross of Christ, Chattanooga, TN.; Our Savior, Nashville, TN.; Immanuel, Memphis, TN.; First, Fort Smith, AR.; Grace, Little Rock, AR.; and Salem, Springdale, AR.

At the time of this report (12/15/2021), the top three quilt-producing congregations that dropped off their work at an LWR CARE-VAN ingathering site were Zion Lutheran Church, Alexander, AR (173 quilts), First Lutheran Church, Cleveland, TN (133 quilts) and St. Paul Lutheran Church, Gillett, AR (110 quilts). A total of 1,437 quilts were donated.

To date we had 43 congregations participate (4 ELCA), collecting over \$5,736 for shipping costs. We also collected 1,661 personal care kits (one congregation donated 325 personal care kits!), 110 fabric kits, 862 school kits, 128 baby care kits, and 75 face

masks were also donated. The CARE-VAN trailers were loaded up with 546 boxes (weighing approximately 10,791 pounds!) of offerings from District congregations for Lutheran World Relief. Way to go Mid-South District!

Many of the congregations' efforts are coordinated by LWML groups and longstanding quilting groups in the congregations. They participate in this effort to share the love of Christ in a personal way. The tireless efforts of those who share their talents and the generous contributions of many make this a successful ingathering.

**Thank you to all who participated in this year's annual LWR CARE-VAN drive! You touched someone in need!**

Julie Tyler  
Mid-South District CARE-VAN Coordinator



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF





# Treasurers' Workshops

*Mid-South District*  
THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

## Register Online Now

Join us for one of the upcoming workshops. The presenter for the Treasurer's manual (Volume 1) session will be Mr. Charlie Rhodes, Executive Director of Synod Accounting (retired). The afternoon session will be presented by Angela Fowler with a focus on Best Practices/Roundtable discussion as well as Q&A. It would be helpful for you to have a copy of the manual with you, either the CD, hard copy or online version. The Treasurer's Manual is available on the LCMS website.

For additional information contact  
Angela Fowler by e-mail  
[afowler@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:afowler@mid-southlcms.com)  
or telephone (866-373-1343)

## Dates and Locations

### **January 8, 2022**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Treasurer's Manual – Volume 1  
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Best Practices/Roundtable  
Grace Lutheran Church  
9076 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN

### **January 15, 2022**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Treasurer's Manual – Volume 1  
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Best Practices/Roundtable  
Christ Lutheran Church  
315 S. Hughes St., Little Rock, AR

### **January 22, 2022**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Treasurer's Manual – Volume 1  
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Best Practices/Roundtable  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
5110 Franklin Road, Nashville, TN

### **January 29, 2022**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Treasurer's Manual – Volume 1  
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Best Practices/Roundtable  
Mid-South District Office  
1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN

### **February 5, 2022**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Treasurer's Manual – Volume 1  
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Best Practices/Roundtable  
St. John Lutheran Church  
500 N. Cumberland Avenue, Russellville, AR

# Anna Young, Forge Mentorship Academy Student

Story courtesy of website: [forgeleadership.org](http://forgeleadership.org)

## On the Steps of Justice: Forge Student Fights for the Right to Life

Posted by ADAM JOSEFCZYK • DECEMBER 7, 2021

This week was a historic landmark for American women and the unborn as the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments in the Dobbs v. Jackson abortion case. I want to share a special article written by one of our current Forge Mentorship Academy students, Anna Young, on her experience in D.C. this week and her insight into how these hearings could change the course of history.

Anna Young is a Nashville, Tennessee native and is currently a freshman at Concordia University in Wisconsin. Her passion lies within the pro-life movement and politics, advocating for and giving a voice to pre-born babies in policy and culture. Unlike most Americans, she loves to speak in public, and her most recent accomplishment was receiving first place at the National Right to Life Oratory Contest.



Read Anna's story online here

<https://forgeleadership.org/on-the-steps-of-justice-forge-student-fights-for-the-right-to-life-4-minute-read/>

## LIFE MINISTRY IN THE NEW YEAR

Life Sunday 2022 – “God Chose You” is Lutherans For Life’s theme for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which is set for January 23, 2022. Find out more information at [www.lutheransforlife.org](http://www.lutheransforlife.org).

### Marches for Life around the United States in 2022

**Jan. 8: Chicago**

March for Life Chicago

**Jan. 21: Washington, D.C.**

National March for Life

**Jan. 22: St. Paul, Minn.**

March for Life

**Jan. 22: San Francisco**

Walk for Life West Coast

**Jan. 22: Salt Lake City**

Utah March for Life

**Jan. 25: Topeka, Kan.**

March for Life

**Jan. 29: Lincoln, Neb.**

Nebraska Walk for Life

**March 19: St. Louis**

March on the Arch

# Prayer Summary, December 2021

Following is a list of all the people that have appeared on the Mid-South District website prayer list [www.mid-southlcms.com](http://www.mid-southlcms.com) during the month of December 2021.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**MRS. SUSANNE ELSEROAD** (wife of Rev. Richard Elseroad, Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN)

**REV. RONALD HALAMKA** (Waxahachie, TX)

**MRS. ALISON HAWKINS** (Mid-South District Office)

**REV. DONLEY HESSE** (Emeritus, Mena, AR)

**REV. CHAD PHILIPP** (Pastor, St. Luke Lutheran & St. Paul Lutheran, DeWitt/Gillett, AR)

**REV. GIL PINGEL** (Emeritus, Chattanooga, TN)

**MS. CHERYL TYLER** (Mother-In-Law to Renae McElwain, Mid-South District Office)

**REV. WES TONCRE** (Emeritus) Conway, AR

**REV. JOSEPH RANDRIANASOLO; the city of Fianarantsoa (Madagascar) and LIME** as they continue to deal with a devastating drought.

**REV. DR. MATTHEW HARRISON** and his family (Sister; Brother-in-Law; Niece and Nephew) who reside in Oxford, MI and have been deeply shaken by the Oxford High School shooting, where his niece and nephew attend. We also lift up the community; the LCMS Pastors and congregations of Oxford, MI in the wake of this horrible event.

We lift up all those affected by the devastating tornadoes in Arkansas, Tennessee, and Kentucky and send prayers for those assisting in the recovery and clean-up efforts.

## CALL UPDATE

### IN THE CALLING PROCESS – CONGREGATIONS ORDAINED MINISTERS

**ACCEPTED: Rev. Neil Vanderbush**, Chaplain, U.S. Military-LCMS Ministry, accepted the Call to serve as Pastor to Immanuel Lutheran Church & School, Memphis, TN. Installation was December 5, 2021.

**Rev. Trae Fistler**, accepted the Call to serve as Pastor to Faith Lutheran Church, Hopkinsville, KY. Ordination was December 4, 2021 at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Rockwell City, IA. Installation was December 12, 2021 at Faith Lutheran Church, Hopkinsville, KY.

**Rev. Michael Edwards**, Pastor to Faith Lutheran Church, Springfield, MO, has accepted the Call to serve as Pastor to Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cabot, AR. Installation is planned for January 30, 2022.

## Call updates continued

**Rev. Mark Bushuiakovish**, Associate Pastor to Christ the King Lutheran Church, Southgate, MI has accepted the Call to serve as Associate Pastor to Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN. Installation is planned for February 6, 2022.

**DECLINED: Rev. Dr. Jayson Galler**, Pastor to Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Kilgore, TX has returned the Call to serve as Pastor to St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Conway, AR.

**PENDING: Rev. William Zwick**, Pastor to First Lutheran Church, Harrison, AR, has been issued a Call to serve as Executive Director of Missions & Ministry to the Mid-South District Office, Cordova, TN.

## VACANT CONGREGATIONS & MINISTRIES

**Mid-South District – Executive Director for Mission and Ministry** \*\*A Call has been issued  
**Hope Lutheran Church, Batesville, AR & Zion Lutheran Church, Waldenburg, AR** – Pastor  
**First Lutheran Church, Blytheville, AR** – Pastor  
**St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Conway, AR** – Pastor  
**Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia, TN** – Pastor

## IN THE CALLING PROCESS- COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

**Avilla Christian Academy, Alexander, AR** – Teachers (Middle School Grades 5th & 6th)

**Christ Lutheran School, Little Rock, AR** – DCE

**Christ the King, Memphis, TN** – Teachers (Pre-K; 1st grade and PE/Athletics)

**First Lutheran School, Fort Smith, AR** – Teachers for 3rd and 4th grades

**First Lutheran School, Knoxville, TN** – Part-Time Teacher (Early Childhood)

**Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Bowling Green, KY** – Teachers (Preschool) and Classroom Aids

**Immanuel Lutheran School, Memphis, TN** – Teachers

**St. John's Lutheran School, Stuttgart, AR** – Teachers (Early Childhood and Extended Care)

**Zion Lutheran Church of Avilla, Alexander, AR** – Director of Parish Music

## Congregational Mission Commitments

### Mission Commitment Receipts as of 11/30/2021 (11 Months)

Anticipated Amount  
(91.67% of budget) .. \$1,350,814  
Actual Receipts ..... 1,394,939  
Over (under)  
anticipated amount .....\$44,125

### Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (11 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World  
Missions ..... \$395,565  
Allocated to Tanzania ..... 22,917  
Retained for District Mission/  
Ministry Support  
(70% of receipts).....976,457  
Total Receipts ..... \$1,394,939

### Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (11 Months)

Actual Receipts as  
of 11/30/2021 ..... \$1,394,939  
Actual Receipts as  
of 11/30/2020 .....\$1,410,633  
Over (under) prior  
year receipts .....**(\$15,694)**



## Encourager Topics in 2022

We invite you to share your stories with us please email it by January 20, 2022 to Rhonda, [webmaster@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:webmaster@mid-southlcms.com). [Here's a look at the upcoming topics for 2021](#)

- February – Outreach
- March – Youth
- April – Volunteers
- May – Small Town & Rural Ministry
- June – Leadership
- July – Veterans
- August – Stewardship
- September – Church Planting
- October – Celebrating Lutheran Heritage
- November – Thankfulness
- December – Highlights 2022

## Lutheran Witness supplement

The monthly deadline is the 15th. Please email your original high resolution digital photo (.pdf or .jpg files only) and a short paragraph, to The Lutheran Witness Supplement editor, Judy Otto.

Email: [LW@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:LW@mid-southlcms.com)  
phone: 662-252-1004. Judy will always acknowledge receipt of your submission if it is sent directly to her.

## Mid-South District, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

### Staff

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### Stay Connected With Us

ON THE WEB -

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