

# Encourager

FEBRUARY 2024

Mid-South District LCMS



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

As we prepare for our Lenten journey, we will attend Ash Wednesday services and hear the words pronounced to each of us, "Dust you are, and to dust you will return." It's a sobering moment. We wonder, isn't there something more?" In the 15th century, Queen Isabella's Spanish fleet at first carried a flag that said, *Non Plus Ultra*. It meant, "Nothing More Beyond." But when Christopher Columbus sailed to North America she changed her flag to say, "Plus Ultra." – there is more beyond.

It's been twenty-one years this month when our eyes looked toward the heavens to see if we could find answers to yet another tragedy. We scanned the newspapers and glued our eyes to the TV to find out what happened to the space shuttle Columbia. There is *Plus Ultra* - something more

beyond. Jesus said, *"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die."*

Recently, a dear friend asked me if it was OK to pray to God that he might be taken to heaven. I read the words from St. Paul writes, *"I am pulled in two directions. I want very much to leave this life and be with the Lord, which is a far better thing, but for your sake, it is much more important that I remain alive... to add to your progress and joy in faith."*

We recall the inspiration given to the Apostles - where the great cloud of witnesses, the patriarchs, the prophets, the Apostles and elders - generation after generation of family and friends who truly rest from their labors. But Scripture says we don't mourn like

those who have no hope. These saints are in the New Jerusalem where God wipes away every tear. There is no more death, no more sorrow or pain.

That's why St. Paul says he's torn. Separation from this life into the company of the sainted only means standing in a different place with the people who professed their faith in God's promise in Christ. We're in the same mystical body of Christ with them. This includes all the saints we can see and all the saints who have gone to be in glory.

When we gather around the communion rail, we gather in a semicircle to symbolize that same mystical union around the same living Christ. When we chant "Hosanna," we sing together with the whole company of the saints gathered around the throne of

God. We're bound together with them in one great exalted hymn to praise our God. The circle is completed by Christ who serves us and joins us together with Him as the triumphant Lamb of God.

With Paul we prepare for the glorious place. Our eyes are fixed toward the heavens. We're reminded by the order of God's creation that we live in His grace. Not only that, but in our worship and devotions, we're brought into the fellowship of saints of all ages. Our hope of eternal life with Him is secure. Our faith reminds us that His Son died a most horrible and innocent death to secure our eternal life - beyond the tragedies and pains of this life.

That's what Paul points out since he knew his days were numbered. But he was prepared, because his trust was in the grace of God through Jesus Christ. Dr. Donald Deffner wrote in his book, *Bound to be Free*, about his final wishes. He asked his family to put a special epitaph on his tombstone that reads "I know whom I

have believed." In the same way, we're to watch and pray - to be ready and prepare at all times.

The first century Christians lived in an expectation that Jesus would return in their lifetime. And so should we. He's 2024 years closer to His great and awesome day than He was back then. In the Revelation to St. John, he writes, *"He who testifies to these things says, 'Yes I am coming soon.' Amen. It is so. Come Lord Jesus, Come."* Therefore, as saints by the power of God, we live each day, knowing that each earthly day is a gift from God that will never come again.

Dr. Deffner tells of a bedside visit with an old pastor on his deathbed. After many hours, Dr. Deffner asked the old pastor, "What do you think about your own death?" The old pastor looked carefully at the ceiling of his hospital room and began to slowly answer, "I do not fear death, because I trust in the Lord." Then a smile came across his face and he added, "But, I wouldn't court death, either."

I once worked with a man who was dying of an incurable disease. He told me, "Each night I thank God for another day and ask that I may remain in His will. In the morning I thank God that He has kept me safe through another night and allows me to remain in His will throughout the day." Christians faced with reality of life's progress. We face it with zeal and vitality because we know the promises of God. "He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him for that day," Paul wrote to his young friend, Timothy.

You have heard about the Iditarod dog sled race. It's a 1000 miles of wilderness is covered for the sake of bragging rights of who is the best musher in the world. In 1987 and in 1988, a woman won the competition. She pressed through blizzards, dark nights, bitter 50 and 60 below zero temperatures to win over her competitors. She had prepared for the bitter race conditions, making booties for each of her dogs. Instead of having the snow act like sandpaper to the dog's feet, her dogs feet were strong and in condition to pull, bark, and press forward to the goal of the Iditarod.

This isn't a moralistic poke in the belly to say, "You can do it, you just have to try harder." Rather, it's an illustration to look at the saints who have gone before us to glory. They didn't rely on their own strength, but, rather, as Paul says, "Our strength comes from God."

We may at times to think that God realize what happens to us. We pray, "Lord You know we have problems in this country. You





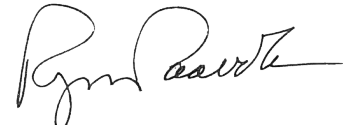
know we have problems with our health. You know there's troubles in the world... etcetera." What's the matter? Don't we remember that all things are known by God?! Silence from God doesn't mean He isn't watching. His Word remains active. In His sacraments He visits us and sustains us. "I will never leave you nor forsake you," Jesus reminds all His followers. Those who knew His promise by faith and trusted His guidance

on the shuttle Columbia were never shaken from that truth. We are comforted to know they now rest in that ever-growing circle of the saints around His throne in glory.

As we begin our Lenten journey beneath the cross of Christ, we'll be reminded that, "Dust you are; and to dust you will return. May we, like all the saints around the throne of the Lamb, be always faithful, knowing that

the Lord is at our side. May our lives carry the flag of that marks the fleet of the Christian army, "*Plus Ultimata*," There is more - much more - beyond.

Your servant in Christ +  
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola



## *Senior Pastor Installed*



**Rev. Danny Anderson was installed as Senior Pastor** at Grace Lutheran in Knoxville on Sunday January 7, 2024. Pictured left to right, back row - Rev. Chase Lefort, Rev. Seth Korte, Rev. Derek Roberts, Rev. Bill Ondracka, Rev. Ed Maanum, Rev. Adam Woldt, Rev. George Smith, Rev. Paul Muench; 2nd row from left to right: Rev. Paul Kritsch, Rev. Jake Childers, Rev. Michael Miller; front row from left to right: Rev. David Graves, Rev. Rich Elseroad, Rev. Danny Anderson, Rev. Phil Bohlken, Rev. Steve Skov, Rev. Roger Reckling, Rev. Ben Gonzales.

*Mid-South District Wall of*

# HONORED WORKERS



## Donors Share Gifts to District Ministry In Honor of Professional Church Workers

In October of 2023, the Mid-South District observed “District Ministry Month,” with an emphasis on Professional Church Workers and the numerous ways they are supported and encouraged through the ministry of the district. From recruiting efforts to tuition assistance, and from professional development to valuable grants for outreach, the ministry of the Mid-South District is strongly invested in its workers—both current and future. As such, Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod members across the district were invited to also invest in our workers by sharing a gift to the IMPACT Fund of the Mid-South District. Where so moved, donors were invited to give those gifts in honor or memory of a cherished Professional Church Worker—or even a future worker. The Mid-South District thanks all those who shared gifts in support of district ministry. As gifts were received in honor of specific workers, those names were displayed on a virtual “Honored Worker Wall” on the Mid-South District website. The following Professional Church Workers were honored or memorialized through donor gifts:

### **In HONOR of —**

Rev. Andrew Abraham  
Rev. James G. Bauman  
Rev. John Beabout  
Rev. Robert Benke  
Rev. David Callies  
Mr. John Carpenter (*Seminary Student*)  
Rev. Kevin Conger  
Rev. Paul Donner  
Rev. Dan Elkins  
Rev. James Evers  
Mrs. Alane Evers, *Music Program Director*  
Mrs. Michelle Fischer, *Principal*  
Rev. Mark Goble  
Rev. Tim Henning  
Rev. Kenneth Lampe  
Rev. Ed Maanum  
Rev. Charles Neugebauer  
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola  
Rev. Larry Peters  
Rev. George Smith  
Rev. Andy Toopes  
Rev. Philip Young  
Rev. JD Zischke

### **In MEMORY of —**

Judith Bailey, *Director of Parish Music*  
Mr. Al Behnke, *Mid-South District & LCEF Staff*  
Rev. Al Boysen  
Rev. Dr. Wilbert E. Griesse  
Rev. Norman Groteluschen  
Rev. Clarence Helmich  
Rev. Paul Martens  
Rev. John Reimold  
Mrs. Margie Reimold, *Teacher*  
Rev. Paul Henry Schmidt  
Rev. Henry Stoll  
Rev. Bruce Zagel

*Thank You for your generous  
and prayerful support of  
District Ministry!*





## STUDENTS ENJOY PLAYING, LEARNING & EXPLORING

**Belvoir Christian  
Academy**



Belvoir Christian Academy (Chattanooga, Tenn.) students have enjoyed the newly-built Ga-ga Ball Pit (pictured above). BCA alumnus, Micah Bean, (pictured right) donated his time and skills to build the new ball pit as his final service project to earn his Eagle Scout rank.



Last fall, Belvoir Christian Academy's science room received a "face lift", thanks to generous and talented volunteers! The volunteer team refurbished the classroom by adding updated countertops, cabinets, tables, chairs and work areas designed to allow students to experiment and create more efficiently. The room is also utilized as a "Makerspace Lab", which are dedicated spaces increasingly implemented in schools to offer students more creative, hands-on opportunities to design, experiment, build and invent simply by working on everyday items that they can disassemble, rebuild and recreate. Thanks to some incredibly skilled volunteers from one of the school's supporting churches, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Chattanooga, TN), our students

now have an updated space in which they can learn and explore.



*Volunteers from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN (L-R) Ron Morris, Bob Wingard, Bob Twomey*



# **“Text to Give” Now Available for District’s IMPACT Fund**

**Supporting District ministry  
is now as simple as sending  
a text!**

**Donations to the Mid-South  
District’s IMPACT Fund  
(general fund) can now  
be made by texting a gift  
amount to 844-214-0075.**



**NOTE: “Text to give” does not provide the option to make restricted gifts to District Ministry (such as to Disaster Relief, International Missions, etc.). Therefore, if a gift is shared via text and a specific fund is intended, the donor may contact the District’s Finance Department to provide further instruction ([afowler@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:afowler@mid-southlcms.com) or 901.373.1343, ext. 3105).**

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## **STAFF UPDATES FROM THE DISTRICT OFFICE**

The new year has brought a new face to the staff of the Mid-South District! We are pleased to welcome Lisa Pennington to the role of Finance Assistant. Lisa works with the District’s Finance Executive, Angela Fowler. Should you need to get in touch with Lisa at the District Office, her contact information is:

- [lpennington@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:lpennington@mid-southlcms.com)
- 901-373-1343, ext. 3104

The District also bids farewell to Julie Tyler, who retired at the close of 2023. Julie served as a valued member of the Mid-South District staff for 10 years, working closely with our education ministries, and assisting in both the Finance Department and President’s Office. She also worked with congregations participating in the annual CareVAN project for Lutheran World Relief, contributing to the success of that effort each year. The Mid-South District thanks Julie for her years of faithful service and wishes her a long and happy retirement!



*Lisa Pennington,  
Mid-South District Finance Assistant*



# CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING AND OUTREACH WORKSHOP

Saturday, February 24

10:30 – 12:30 (followed by lunch)

please RSVP to: [office@ascensionmadison.com](mailto:office@ascensionmadison.com)



**POBLO+**  
International

Cynthia Khan will share her unique experiences of living in four countries and her understanding of world religions and cultures. She has engaged with people around the world, helping her form new ideas to facilitate evangelistic outreach to diverse ethnicities. She currently serves the Lord through human care services with POBLO International, which aims to meet the needs of refugees and immigrants in America. The mission field is right here, and the time is now!

The session, “The Danger Within / Unequally Yoked” will discuss the challenge of secularization on college campuses as well as the luring of American women into marriages with non-Christians.

**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
610 W Old Hickory Blvd, Madison TN 37115



# GROW GRANT BEARING FRUIT

Sharps Chapel, TN

Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sharps Chapel, TN was blessed to receive a GROW grant from the Mid-South District GROW Grant Committee. As a result, we will be offering free English instruction classes for Spanish speakers beginning Thursday evening, February 8, 2024 (6:30pm to 7:30pm). These classes will be held every Thursday evening from Feb. 8th onward, and are being offered to Spanish speakers who would like to communicate more

comfortably in the communities in which they live and work. We will be using various learning tools, including Spanish/English Bibles, Bible-based English learning workbooks, etc. The instructor, Vicar Larry, speaks

Spanish, and has experience as a professional educator. We pray that this program will bless the students and our community, all the while proclaiming God's Word, and honoring His good will.



***This is the last educational workshop!***

**REGISTER ONLINE NOW**

**February 3, 2024**

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. – 1:00 p.m. Church Treasurer Best Practices

St. John Lutheran Church

500 N. Cumberland Avenue, Russellville, AR

## **Additional information and Registration**

- Additional information found on the [District website](#).
- Contact Angela Fowler by [email](#) or telephone (866-373-1343, ext. 3105)



**Grace Lutheran ECDC is hiring  
teacher assistants who want to make a  
difference in children's lives!**

**Great Pay and Benefits!**

**Email your resume to: [ecdc@gracelutheranlr.org](mailto:ecdc@gracelutheranlr.org)**

**Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Development Center**

**A ministry of Grace Lutheran Church**

**5124 Hillcrest Avenue**

**Little Rock, Arkansas 72205**

**Or call Robyn  
at (501) 663-0755**





# NEW FREE RESOURCES



## NEW Daily Lutheran devotions for Spanish-speakers!

La Palabra del Señor Permanece Para Siempre ("The Word of the Lord Endures Forever") is now available from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation at <https://pubsearch.lhfmissions.org/>.

From the link, search by language or title to download the most recent edition. These quarterly collections of devotions are written by LCMS Latin American missionaries and by pastors of LCMS Latin American partner churches.

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## Holy Week and Easter Resources

For Holy Week/Easter the **Lutheran Hour Ministries** offers free resources, including the Kid's Book, The Easter Story.

To access the booklet and more go to: <https://www.lhm.org/easter/>

### Kid's Booklet, The Easter Story

*This Easter children story book is about Jesus' life on earth. Watch Him as He enters Jerusalem, speaks with His disciples, is betrayed, arrested and, eventually, crucified.*

### Easter: An Empty Tomb

*Death – no person has been wise, powerful, wealthy or influential enough to escape it. Why should we think Jesus of Nazareth would be any different?*



# UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES IN 2024

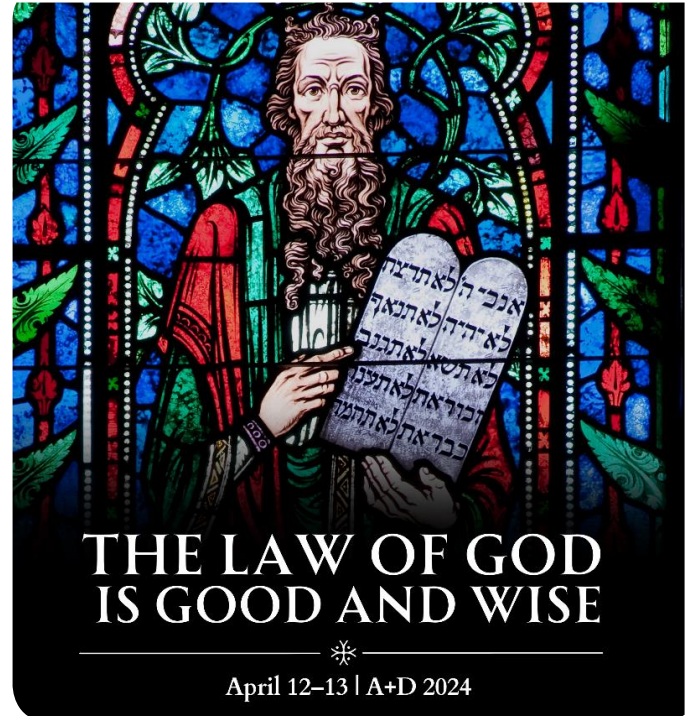
## 2024 FAITH OF OUR FATHERS CONFERENCE

**April 12-13, 2024**

The theme of the 2024 Faith of Our Fathers Conference is "The Law of God Is Good and Wise." Over two days, April 12th and 13th, at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Collinsville, IL we will learn about and discuss the Law of God. This conference is for both laity and pastors. It'll be an opportunity for good theology, fellowship, and some fun with fellow Lutherans!

Speakers and preachers include: Pr. Benjamin Ball; Rev. John Hill; Rev. Dr. Scott Murray; Rev. Dr. David Petersen; Rev. David Ramirez; Rev. Dr. Peter Scaer; Rev. Joshua Scheer; Rev. Mark Surburg; Pr. Michael Walther; Pr. William Weedon; and, Rev. Todd Wilken.

Learn more and register for the conference at:  
<https://yourgrandfatherschurch.org/>



**THE FAITH  
OF OUR FATHERS**



## TWO LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

**Concordia University Irvine's Servant Leadership Institute**

**For all Education Professionals  
Educator Leadership Academy  
May 16-18, 2024**

- 14 Interactive seminars led by prominent leaders in education & business
- Personal leadership coach for the entire academic year
- Teams of three or more encouraged

**More info at [CUI.edu/ELA](https://CUI.edu/ELA)**

**For 10th-12th graders  
High School Leadership Academy  
June 10-14, 2024**

- Week-long leadership development experience
- Motivational keynote and breakout speakers
- Team building activities
- Experienced Leadership Coaches
- And More!

**More Info at [CUI.edu/HSLA](https://CUI.edu/HSLA)**





REV. DR. JOHN R. STEPHENSON

### How Knowledge of the Last Times Can Shape Us for the Present Times June 3 - 5, 2024

Eschatology is the study of the “last things.” In light of the global political and social turmoil of the past 5–10 years, many have cried, “Surely we are living in the last times!” How should we faithfully think of the last times? What are “the signs of the times?” How are Christians to live in the present hour? Specifically, how is a pastor or church leader to faithfully carry out his calling within the present context? In this course, Dr. Stephenson will move the class from the study of eschatology into discussion of many current issues facing the church.

Information & Registration

### CTSFW Christ Academy

June 16-19, 2024

**Applications are open** for Christ Academy High School, which will be held on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary. High-school-aged men and women interested in Lutheran theology, worship, and service to the Church, please contact Christ Academy Staff.

Learn more by visiting page links below or [click here to apply today](#).

Christ Academy Timothy School

Christ Academy Phoebe School

### Seminary Extension Class

June 26-28, 2024

Grace, Little Rock is pleased to host another seminary extension class next summer. The class will be held from June 26 to June 28th. Grace will be hosting Rev. Dr. Jim Bushur from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

Mark your calendars if you would like to attend; more information will come out next year.

### 2024 Institute on Liturgy Preaching & Church Music

July 9–12, 2024

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod will host the 2024 Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music, set for July 9–12, 2024, at Concordia University, Nebraska, Seward, Neb.

[More information, including how to register, will be available soon at \[lcms.org/2024-worship-institute\]\(https://lcms.org/2024-worship-institute\).](#)

### 2024 Lutheran Youth Workers Conference

July 21-24, 2024

The 2024 National Lutheran Youth Workers Conference (**NATIONAL24**) will take place in New Orleans, LA. NATIONAL24 is a standalone Youth Ministry practitioner conference, but also provides an opportunity to prepare for the 2025 LCMS Youth Gathering. For more information visit: <https://www.lcmsgathering.com/national24>



## CONTACT



P.O. Box 2910  
Lebanon, TN 37088



910-797-8357



[www.trinityhope.org](http://www.trinityhope.org)



Bringing HOPE to the children of Haiti,  
one bowl of rice and beans at a time.

# YOUR SCHOOL CORRESPONDENCE FROM IROIS

## DEAR MEMBERS OF MID-SOUTH LCMS DISTRICT,

Do you find yourself reading a passage in the Bible and wondering what it means for your life? Recently, I heard Psalms 111:2 on the radio. *How amazing are the deeds of the LORD! All who delight in Him should ponder them.*

I often find myself pondering God's everyday miracles: those I witness, the people who influence my life, and those I may touch. Yesterday, a man's bumper sticker led me to pray for him. He was still on my mind today, thus another prayer. I don't know if I'll ever meet him, but that's not important. I asked for God to put a believer in his path to share the Gospel. I believe that's the influence he needs.

These ponderings usually bring me to think of our friends in Haiti and the influences that affect their lives daily. You may not have the privilege of meeting the children and adults in your school, but your prayers and donations have life-changing influence on every one of them. As one of the principals said in a letter, *Merci (thank you) is a very small 5-letter word, but when it comes from a sincere heart, it is worth a thousand words.*

Sincerely,

Jennifer Perkins, School Correspondence Coordinator  
Candi Cook, Operations Manager



**TRINITY HOPE**  
HAITIAN FEEDING PROGRAM



# Prayer Summary, January 2024

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 January 2024.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**REV. RONALD HALAMKA** (Waxahachie, TX)  
**MRS. ALISON HAWKINS** (Mid-South District Office)  
**MRS. MARY ANN HERD** (wife of Rev. Clifford Herd, Hixson, TN)  
**REV. ED MAANUM** (First, Knoxville, TN)  
**REV. TOM SAYRE** (Emeritus, St. John's, FL)  
**REV. TOM MOORE** (Emeritus, Cordova, TN)  
**REV. HENRY THOMPSON** (St. Luke, Malvern, AR)  
**REV. NEIL VANDERBUSH** (Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN)  
**REV. TIMOTHY HENNING** (Pastor, Trinity Lutheran Church, Mena, AR)  
**MRS. NORMA MOORE** (wife of Rev. Tom Moore, Emeritus, Cordova, TN)  
**MR. ZAC ENKO** (son of Rev. Keith Enko, Emeritus, Lebanon, TN)  
**MR. MARC HIGGINS** (MDS Board of Directors, Maumelle, AR)  
**MRS. AMY YOUNG** (wife of Rev. Philip Young, Redeemer, Nashville)  
**MRS. LILIAN MAKALA** (wife of Rev. Emmanuel Makala, Bishop Emeritus, Tanzania)

All those affected by the recent tornados from the December 2023 storms in Tennessee and Kentucky.

The Mid-South District Disaster Relief teams deployed to assist those affected by the tornados.

**Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the Rev. Marvin Otto**, who passed away January 7, 2024. Visitation and funeral services took place Friday, January 12, 2024.

**Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mrs. Barbara Behnke**, who passed away January 7, 2024. Funeral services took place Friday, January 13, 2024.

**Our deepest sympathies to Christi McMinn** (spouse to Rev. David McMinn) and family on the recent passing of her mother, Deloris.

## CALL UPDATE

**ACCEPTED:** **Rev. Danny Anderson**, Associate Pastor to Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN accepted the Call to serve as *Senior Pastor to Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN*. Installation took place January 7, 2024.

**Rev. Roger Sterle, Emeritus**, accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to Living Savior Lutheran Church, Springdale, AR*. Installation is scheduled for February 11, 2024, 1:30PM.

**Rev. Daniel Hawkins**, Missionary-at-Large, Mid-South District, serving GracePoint Lutheran Church, Atoka, TN accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to GracePoint Lutheran Church, Atoka, TN*. Installation is scheduled for February 18, 2024, 3:00PM.

**PENDING:** **Rev. Jake Bellinghausen**, Pastor to Grace Lutheran Church, Vestal, NY has received a Call to serve as *Pastor to St. John's Lutheran Church, Russellville, AR*.

**DECLINED:** **Rev. Joseph Arthur, IV**, Pastor to Zion Lutheran Church, Bogalusa, LA has returned the Call to serve as *Pastor to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Horseshoe Bend, AR*.

**Rev. Adam DeGroot**, Pastor to Calvary Lutheran Church, Rio Rancho, NM has returned the Call to serve as *Pastor to Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, TN*.

**Rev. Jared Hartman**, Pastor to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wisner, NE, has returned the Call to serve as *Pastor to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN*.

## VACANT CONGREGATIONS & MINISTRIES

**Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, TN - Pastor**  
**Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN - Pastor**  
**Shepherd of the Hills, Horseshoe Bend, AR - Pastor**  
**Christ Lutheran Church, Paris, TN - Pastor**  
**Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cabot, AR - Pastor**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church, Russellville, TN - Pastor**

## IN THE CALLING PROCESS- COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

**Christ Lutheran School, Little Rock, AR - 7th/8th Grade Math Teacher**  
**First Lutheran School, Fort Smith, AR - 3rd Grade Teacher**  
**Our Savior Lutheran Academy, Nashville, TN - Part time teachers ECC and After Care Program**  
**Holy Trinity Lutheran Preschool, Bowling Green, KY - Teacher**  
**Shepherd's Little Flock Daycare & Early Childhood Learning Center, Crossville, TN - Director**  
**Grace Lutheran Church Early Childhood Center, Little Rock, AR - Assistant Director**



## Congregational Mission Commitments

### Mission Commitment Receipts as of 12/31/2023 (12 Months)

Anticipated Amount (100% of  
budget)..... \$1,564,770  
Actual Receipts ..... 1,605,837  
Over (under)  
anticipated amount ..... \$41,067

### Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (12 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World  
Missions ..... \$456,751  
Allocated to Tanzania ..... 25,000  
Retained for District Mission/  
Ministry Support (70% of  
receipts)..... 1,124,086  
Total Receipts ..... \$1,605,837

### Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison 12 Months)

Actual Receipts as  
of 12/31/2023..... \$1,605,837  
Actual Receipts as  
of 12/31/2022..... \$1,403,669  
Over (under) prior  
year receipts ..... \$202,168

## SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

### Encourager Topics in 2024

We invite you to share your stories with us please email stories by **20th** to Rhonda, [webmaster@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:webmaster@mid-southlcms.com). Here's a look at the upcoming topics for 2024

- March - Youth
- April- Volunteers
- May - Small Town & Rural Ministry

### 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

**Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola,**  
*President*

**Angela Fowler,**  
*Executive Director for Business & Finance*

**Paul Reaves,**  
*Executive Director for Development & LCEF Vice President*

**Missy Washburn,**  
*Administrative Assistant to the District President*

**Renae McElwain,**  
*Communications & Marketing Specialist*

**Lisa Pennington**  
*Finance Assistant*

### Contact

1675 Wynne Road  
Cordova, TN 38016  
PHONE: 866.373.1343 /  
901.373.1343  
FAX: 901.373.4826

### Stay Connected With Us

ON THE WEB -  
"mid-southlcms.org"

ON FACEBOOK -  
"Mid-South-LCMS"

ON TWITTER -  
"@midsouthLCMS"

