

# Encourager

JUNE 2023

Mid-South District LCMS



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

When I travel throughout our Mid-South District, I oftentimes see immense, seemingly almost endless fields. I think to myself that when the farmer first pushes the planter into the soil, does he give a sigh of weariness for the toil of the miles and miles of fields he must travel in order to finish planting those gigantic fields? What a long and daunting task it must be. At this time of the year the harvest is months away and the newly tilled soil may produce an abundant crop of rice, corn, or cotton. Except for the tell-tale signs of serpentine windrows in rice fields, we don't necessarily know the content of the expected harvest at planting time, unless we were the planter. However, in the Fall, we can see gigantic colorful rolls of cotton, huge combines swallowing up

endless fields of corn or rice, and wispy tails of white smoke as fields are cleared of stubble.

In the distance along these long country roads, our eyes can become fixed on a grove of trees that frame the setting of a tall white steeple. The steeples were a sentinel of directions before GPS and route finder applications on our cell phones. "Turn left at the church you see over there..." the farmer would tell the lost traveler, "it's about 4 miles from here, and you can find your destination right after that."

The steeples and the churches that supported them were sort of a cornerstone for our forefathers. The steeple marked the location of a place of worship. But the steeple also pointed toward the heavens to place an exclamation point of

farmers and families in earlier days where the proclamation of Christ Jesus as our Lord and God might be heard. The churches became a cornerstone of the community – not the building mind you, but the people who were attached to those small and rural congregations.

St. Peter speaks about the cornerstone in his first Epistle. *"As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. For it stands in Scripture: 'Behold, I am laying in Zion a stone, a cornerstone chosen and precious, and whoever believes in him will not be put to shame.' So, the honor is for you who believe,*

*but for those who do not believe, 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.'* (1 Peter 2:4-7, ESV)

In ancient architecture, the cornerstone was an important part of any building's foundation. It was the "blueprint" of the footprint of what the building would eventually look like. As a result, it had to be cut perfectly. Each subsequent stone had to be laid perfectly in line with it in order to make the building strong and firm. The cornerstone was the first stone set in the construction of the foundation. All other stones were set in reference to this stone.

The cornerstone of the Church is Christ – perfectly given as true God and true Man. Christ is the cornerstone, because all of us as living stones are called, formed, set, created, and aligned in reference to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer by the calling work of the Holy Spirit. Without Christ, we are not Christians. Without Christ, there is no purpose to our gathering in worship and service.

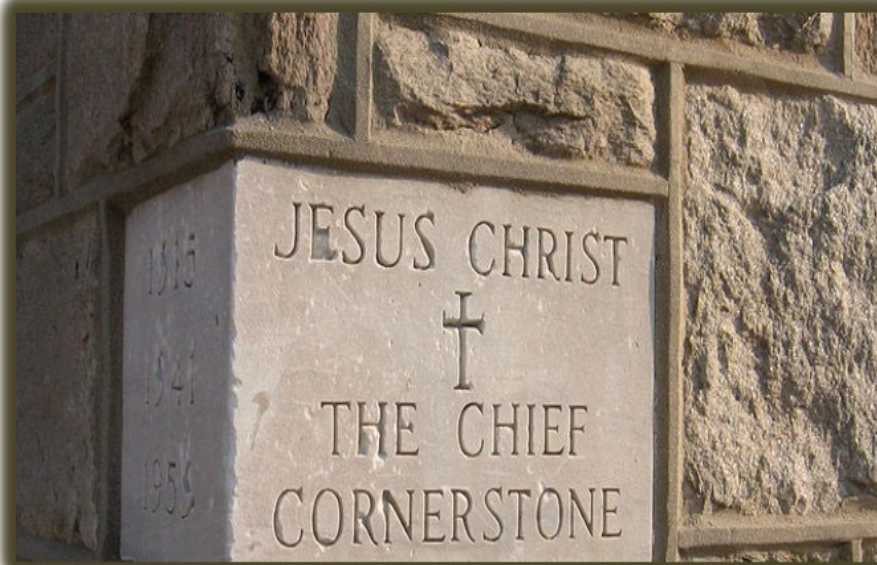
The cornerstone also set the orientation of the building. Traditionally, the direction toward which we will see Christ at His second coming is toward the east – the rising sun. Christian churches for centuries preferably built their buildings so that the altar, set against one of the walls, would face easterly. Then, when we pray and worship, the congregation and pastors would face, with the congregation, all in the same direction, and toward the coming Christ. The Church looks always forward into our future as into the sunrise where Scripture tells us the Christ will return in His glory to receive His elect into His eternal kingdom.

Can a church building face other directions? Of course. But, as we find in many of our older church buildings, it says so much to position the

cornerstone and the rest of the structure so that the whole church, that is the whole congregation, looks toward the east as they, the Church, worship, and pray to our gracious God in Christ Jesus.

St. Peter was inspired to write that we are all living stones in this edifice built on the cornerstone of Christ. There are bishops, pastors, elders, and fellow workers within the church building, but the basic priesthood of believers is one we all share. We are the church – the beloved bride of Christ. We are all called to offer – as Peter tells us – prayers and the sacrifice of worship for ourselves and the rest of the people of God.

St. Luke tells us in his Acts of the Apostles that seven men, full of the Holy Spirit, had a special role in the Church. They were called and ordained to service. But they, as well as us, are also called to show image of Christ in our day and time. St. Stephen wasn't portrayed as someone whose role was limited to waiting on tables. The first thing he did after ordination was become a stumbling block for the Jews of the Synagogue of Freedmen. He challenged them, quite vigorously, quoting Scripture and calling them to repentance. The



message of Christ, our Chief Cornerstone made the Freedmen so angry that they dragged him out and stoned him to death. The image of Stephen dying with forgiveness on his lips and still proclaiming the message of the cross of Christ was the primal event of

martyrdom – witnesses of Christ to the fullest extent of a willingness to die for the sake of the Gospel message. A man named Saul was at the stoning of St. Stephen, but would later pick up his own cross and become one of the most effective evangelizers in the Church – St. Paul.


Yes, as followers of Christ and workers in the army of the great Christian martyrs who came

before, like Stephen and Philip, we may often need to step outside our safety zone to become stumbling blocks for those who are doing evil and reject the message of the Gospel. St Peter explains the reason for our stewardship of the Gospel, *"You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy."*

We praise the small and rural congregations who continue their steadfast work for the Kingdom of Christ. Like fields being prepared for planting, we are all planted in the rich soil of the Gospel. Through His suffering, death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus has ascended to heaven to be seated at the right

hand of God the Father. He is preparing rooms for each of us, and for all of us collectively, mansions in the kingdom of God. But here and in this day, we are placed here to be like those rural church steeples to point the way to Christ and share with others the Gospel of Christ where the Holy Spirit calls them into becoming disciples of our Lord. Let us pray for continued guidance, wisdom, and abundant harvest – all the gifts of God, so that we can hear His voice bringing us peace, joy, and a certain hope of life everlasting.

Your servant in Christ +  
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola



## Student Financial Aid Deadline June 15

To support the education efforts of individuals pursuing a full-time career in church work, the Mid-South District is pleased to once again offer opportunities for student financial aid. To be considered for financial assistance, a student must be a member in good standing in a Mid-South District congregation and be enrolled in a seminary or university to prepare for full-time service to the Church as a rostered worker. Rostered workers are pastors, teachers, deaconesses and Directors of Christian Education.

To be considered for the student financial assistance program, you must first inform the Mid-South District Office that you are or will be a student enrolled at a synodical school.

All related forms, including the financial aid application, are listed below. **The application deadline is June 15, 2023.**

This information may be sent via email to Julie Tyler or by regular mail to: Mid-South District LCMS / 1675 Wynne Road / Cordova, TN 38016. Forms can be found on the [District website here](#).

## Early Childhood Conference Deadline June 26

The Mid-South District is excited to offer this year's **ECC Conference July 17-18, 2023**, at Faith Lutheran Church in Collierville, TN. This educational event is designed for educational hours (up to 8 total credit hours) with your states. Registration for the Early Childhood Teacher conference is available on the [District website](#).

Registration for the ECC Conference will be \$45 per attendee. We have a block of rooms reserved at the Fairfield Inn & Suites – Collierville, near Faith Lutheran, shopping and restaurants. The cost per room will be \$120. The deadline for registration is June 26, 2023.

Registration and the Agenda area available on the District website.

**REGISTER NOW**



**ECC Conference  
July 17-18, 2023**



## 2023 Call Day — Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne

On April 25, 31 students received their first call into the pastoral ministry at the annual Candidate Call Service of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana (CTSFW). The candidates, including 30 MDiv students and one Alternate Route student, will serve in 20 of the 35 districts of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS). *The Mid-South District is pleased to receive the following candidates:*

**Jeremy McDonald**—Our Savior Lutheran Church in Brinkley, AR and Zion Lutheran Church in Ulm, AR (Pastor Elect)

**Charles Shemwell**—Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Johnson City, TN (Pastor Elect)



Dana McDonald, Jeremy McDonald, Pat Paavola, President Paavola, Amanda Shemwell holding Lucia, and Vincent Shemwell holding Freyja

Welcome to the Mid-South District

## 2023 Call Day — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

On April 26, 95 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis students took part in Call Day Wednesday, receiving first calls to pastoral and diaconal ministry, or assignments as vicars and deaconess interns. *The Mid-South District is pleased to receive the following candidates:*

**Jacob Childers**—Grace Lutheran Church in Knoxville, TN (Associate Pastor Elect)

**Christina Shaffer**—Grace Lutheran Church in Knoxville, TN (Deaconess-Intern)



Jacob Childers



Christina Shaffer

# PAWS ON THE GROUND

## Covenant Presbyterian Church and School in Nashville

On Monday, March 27, 2023, tragedy struck the community of Covenant Presbyterian Church and School in Nashville as six people -- three children and three adults -- were killed by a lone shooter. The city was in shock, as were we all. On Monday afternoon, Job Comfort Dog's ministry coordinator Genie Swan at Christ the King, Memphis, was contacted by Lutheran Church Charities (LCC) to ask if Job could join five other LCC Comfort Dogs from around the country in Nashville by the next day, in response to an invitation from Rev. Lane Reuter of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville. We had "paws on the ground" by 2PM on Tuesday, March 28. There ensued a week of visiting with those experiencing the pain of grief, gathering at the memorial site, in private homes, and in surrounding schools. The community welcomed the dogs with open arms, and were able to mourn, to share precious memories, and

to feel a glimmer of hope as these peaceful dogs and their caring handlers ministered to each adult and child. While this kind of deployment -- in the wake of random shootings -- previously have occurred perhaps once a year, they now are occurring with heartrending frequency. The LCC Comfort Dogs never charge for their presence but are always ready to serve at a moment's notice. If you are interested in learning more about Job's deployment to Nashville or would like a brief presentation about the trip, contact Genie Swan at [gswan@ctkmemphis.com](mailto:gswan@ctkmemphis.com).



## LUTHERAN EARLY RESPONSE TEAMS (LERT)



Introducing one of the latest LERT teams in the Mid-South District. Pastor Ed Braiser with the new LERT chainsaw team. Both Basic and Advanced training was held at Grace Lutheran Knoxville, TN in April. If your congregation is intersted in LERT training, contact Jan Simko at 931-200-1777. (L-R) Richard and Andrew Cole, David Hart, Michael Mccay, Steven Peterson, Jason Caudill, Brian Strobel, Jim O'Hatnick, Phil Bohlken, David Wade, and trainer Pastor Ed Braiser.



## SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

When Christ came to live among us, he fed and healed people's bodies, he cast out demons, he taught, and he had SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS.

First Lutheran Church in Little Rock is delighted to announce that a series of three workshops will be held on **Spiritual Conversations on June 7, 14, and 21, from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.**

Developed by Lutheran Hour Ministries, the workshops draw on research from the Barna Group that shows that people talk less about spiritual matters than they used to, but we all can become more intentional in our outreach and actually enjoy sharing Jesus with others when we do.

This is a terrific opportunity to learn vital insights to help us carry out the Great Commission, so you won't want to miss it.

The public is invited, there is no cost, and you can register by contacting the church office: [firstlutheranlr@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutheranlr@gmail.com), 501-372-1023.

## LEAVING A LEGACY JUNE 24

One of the greatest challenges facing individuals and families today is not only how to make ends meet in a time of rising costs and high inflation, but how to plan for and leave a legacy that will live on into the future. First Lutheran Church in Little Rock is delighted to announce that this issue will be addressed at a seminar on Saturday, June 24, 2023.

"There are several financial instruments that benefit individuals and families as well as churches and other charities," states Michael Videll, Financial Advisor with Thrivent Financial and a featured speaker at the seminar. "But we are unlikely to take advantage of them if we don't know about them." The seminar will address various tax-advantaged ways to donate to charities to include donor-advised funds, donor-advised life insurance, charitable gift



Source of image: Ramsey Solutions

*"A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children." Proverbs 13:22*

annuities, and charitable remainder trusts.

Furthermore, Bethany A. Pike, an attorney with The Elrod Firm, will speak about wills, trusts, Power of Attorneys, and related legal topics that are pertinent to leaving a legacy. Additionally, First Lutheran Pastor Ron Bacic will speak on how leaving a legacy starts with becoming a good steward.

The seminar is open to the public and all interested individuals are welcome to

attend at no charge. The seminar will go from 10 a.m. until 12 noon and will include lunch, so registration is necessary for a meal count. You may register at the First Lutheran Church website - [www.firstlutheranlr.com](http://www.firstlutheranlr.com) or RSVP by email at [firstlutheranlr@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutheranlr@gmail.com) or call the church office at 501-372-1023.

**Saturday, June 24, 2023**

**10:00 am — 12:00**

**No charge & Open to Public**

*Registration necessary for meal count*

## July 2023 Family Camp

A family camp designed especially for families of LCMS pastors and church workers has been added to the 2023 summer camp schedule at Camp Trinity, the Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean Mountain in Arkansas. The summer schedule also has two weekend family camp sessions, which is more convenient for most families.

Camp Trinity is cutting camp fees in half for families of LCMS church workers as a means of serving the servants. Additional financial aid is available on request.

Those interested in family camp or any other sessions of summer camp can learn more and register at the camp website: [website: https://www.lutherancamp.org](https://www.lutherancamp.org).



## Henkel Conference — Second Annual

August 7-8, 2023

11am-3pm

Ascension Lutheran Church

— Links —

[More Information](#)

[Questions Contact](#)

[Register Online](#)

The second annual Henkel Conference, devoted to Christian theology and cultural engagement will be held August 7-8, 2023 at Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison, TN.

The forum provides the best theological and cultural speakers within the Christian faith in order to educate and encourage in the midst of the present assaults on God's eternal truth. This conference welcomes everyone, clergy and laity.

**Our lineup this year, the following distinguished presenters:**

Carl Trueman, Aaron Kheriaty, Jack Kilcrease, Matthew Eppinette, Peter Scaer, Jordan Cooper, Adam Koontz and David Fowler.



# LIME UPDATE

The Lord be with you!

Last Friday, April 28, LIME administration had a meeting with LIME Professors who came in large majority (20 out of 27). Those who could not come were teaching at the state university at the time LIME meeting was held. (Photos right)

We made an evaluation of the academic life of LIME. We decided to remedy weaknesses and to improve positive points for better ones. We talked about strategies for next 2023/24 school year to admit more students despite economic non-stop inflation. We are happy to send you some photos of that meeting.

We deeply and strongly thank our Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, for the partnership between the LCMS Mid-South District and LIME. Let us pray that this mission through education bear good fruit like branch abiding in the true vine for the benefit of the Kingdom of God and for Jesus glory!

Your brother across the ocean,  
Pastor Joseph Randrianasolo  
Lutheran Institute of Management and  
Entrepreneurship (LIME)



LIME organized oral defenses of Licentiate Thesis for seven students. The programs went very well. We are sending you some photos of them. (right)

We always have our partnership of mission through education between the LCMS Mid-South District and LIME in our LIME daily prayers of our staff at 9AM Madagascar time. May Jesus Christ the Head of the Church hear our prayers for the benefit of His Kingdom and for His glory.

Your brother across the ocean,  
Joseph





# ENCOURAGING YOUNG MISSIONARIES

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." — Matthew 28:19-20*

Thank you for helping make a difference in the lives of the children in Haiti. As Trinity HOPE continues to grow and add more schools, it is exciting when we get to expand into a new area. With the dangers involving the political climate throughout the country, keeping our districts small is a key safety strategy.

In March of 2023, Trinity HOPE added 13 new schools and an entire new district! The district of **Belle Anse** is in the southeast corner of Haiti, very near the Dominican Republic. It lies east of Jacmel, and 4 of our 13 new schools are in that area.

With this expansion, we also hired a new feeding program director, Jean Dony Zidor. Dony is very excited to be a part of the Trinity HOPE ministry, and within his first month of work, he sent an impactful message in his reports:

*"During my visit to Maranatha Lifrit School in Bel-Air today, these schoolgirls became aware of what Jesus Christ means for their life, after spending a few minutes of prayer with them. I bless the name of the Lord for these saved souls!"*

In the 24 years Trinity HOPE has served in Haiti, we have learned that going to a Christian school with a Trinity HOPE feeding program not only teaches the children about the Love of Christ, but also deepens their understanding and faith because of the real and tangible provision. Like all of our Feeding Program Directors, when Dony is praying with the children, he helps them understand who Jesus is and what He has done for them.

Dony understands that his work in Belle Anse is helping to not only deepen the faith of the children, but also creates little missionaries who tell others about the Good News of the Gospel.

Without your donation, this would not be possible. We are so grateful that we get to serve Christ alongside you!



**New Feeding Program Director**

*Jean Dony Zidor*



*Dony and his "Little Missionaries"*



615-394-4950

Trinity HOPE  
P.O. Box 2910  
Lebanon, TN 37088

admin@trinityhope.org

www.TrinityHOPE.org

Platinum  
Transparency  
2023

**Candid.**



## OPEN CALENDAR SPOTS

Trinity HOPE staff has a few openings on our presentation calendar in June, July, and August! We would love to visit your congregation and share more about the mission work God has called us to do. If you are interested in having a speaker during your Sunday School, during your Missions Meeting, during Sunday Service, or even for a small group, please let us know. You can contact us today at [admin@trinityhope.org](mailto:admin@trinityhope.org) or by calling 615-394-4950



TRINITY HOPE  
HAITIAN FEEDING PROGRAM

## VOLUNTEER Opportunity

If you have been interested in serving the Trinity HOPE ministry through a volunteer opportunity, here it is! We are seeking someone to volunteer 2-3 hours per week to print and send thank you letters to donors!

This flexible and remote opportunity will work with any schedule! Please contact us to learn more!



C O N T A C T   U S :

[ADMIN@TRINITYHOPE.ORG](mailto:ADMIN@TRINITYHOPE.ORG)

910-797-8357

## LEADERSHIP

Where there is no guidance, a people falls,  
but in an abundance of counselors there is safety  
Proverbs 11:14



# Prayer Summary, May 2023

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 May 2023.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**REV. JEFFREY KING** (Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Searcy, AR)

**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. DAN OTTO** (Emeritus, Murfreesboro, TN)

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

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

**ZAC ENKO** (son of Rev. Keith Enko, Emeritus, Lebanon, TN)

**COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL** (Nashville, TN)

All those affected by the tornados in Rolling Fork, Mississippi, and surrounding counties.

All those affected by the tornados in Little Rock and Wynne, Arkansas and Covington, Tennessee.

## CALL UPDATE

### IN THE CALLING PROCESS – CONGREGATIONS ORDAINED MINISTERS

**ACCEPTED: Rev. Jerome Leckband**, Pastor to Golgotha Lutheran Church, Wausa, NE, has accepted the Call to serve as *Associate Pastor and Teacher to All Saints Lutheran Church and School, Jonesboro, AR. Installation planned for July 2, 2023.*

**Rev. Michael Meyer**, Associate Pastor to The Rock Lutheran Church, Seward, NE, has accepted the Call to serve as *Associate Pastor to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rogers, AR. Installation is scheduled for June 11, 2023, at 3:00PM.*

**Rev. Joshua Reifsteck**, Associate Pastor to Calvary Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN has accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Murray, KY.*

**Pastor-Elect Jacob Childers**, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis accepted the Call to serve as *Associate Pastor to Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN.*

**Pastor-Elect Charles Vincent Shemwell**, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Johnson City, TN.*

## continued

**Rev. Jeremy McDonald**, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to Our Savior Lutheran Church/Zion Lutheran Church, Brinkley/Ulm, AR.*

**PENDING: Rev. Jerrell Simmerman**, (Candidate – Indiana) has received a Call to serve as *Pastor to Christ Lutheran Church, Paris, TN.*

**Rev. Dr. David Schultz**, Pastor to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wood River, IL, has received a Call to serve as *Pastor to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN.*

**DECLINED: Rev. Adam Woldt**, Pastor to The Point Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN has returned the Call to serve as *Pastor to Grace Lutheran Church, Lakewood, OH.*

**Rev. Daniel Grams**, Pastor to Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church, Beverly Hills, MI has returned the Call to serve as *Pastor to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN.*

**Rev. Dr. Edward Naumann**, Candidate, has returned the Call to serve as *Pastor to Faith Lutheran Church, Fairfield Bay, AR.*

**Rev. Mark Taylor**, Associate Pastor to Faith Lutheran Church, Plano, Texas, has returned the Call to serve as *Pastor Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, TN.*

## VACANT CONGREGATIONS & MINISTRIES

**Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, TN- Pastor**

**First Lutheran Church, Blytheville, AR - Pastor**

**First Lutheran Church, Harrison, AR – Pastor**

**Messiah Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN – Pastor**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN – Pastor**

**Shepherd of the Hills, Horseshoe Bend, AR – Pastor**

**Christ Lutheran Church, Paris, TN – Pastor**

## IN THE CALLING PROCESS- COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

**Grace Lutheran Church Early Childhood Center, Little Rock, AR – Early Childhood Director**

**Christ the King Lutheran School, Memphis, TN – Preschool Teachers**

**First Lutheran School, Knoxville, TN – Teacher for 4th/5th grade**





## CONGREGATIONAL MISSION COMMITMENTS

### Mission Commitment Receipts as of 4/30/2023 (4 Months)

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Anticipated Amount<br>(33.33% of budget) ..... | \$521,423      |
| Actual Receipts.....                           | <u>483,956</u> |
| Over (under) anticipated<br>amount .....       | (\$37,467)     |

### Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (4 Months)

|  |                |
|--|----------------|
| Allocated to Synod for<br>World Missions .....                           | \$136,853      |
| Allocated to Tanzania .....  | 8,333          |
| Retained for District Mission/Ministry<br>Support (70% of receipts)..... | <u>338,769</u> |
| Total Receipts .....   | \$483,956      |

### Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (4 Months)

|                                    |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| Actual Receipts as of 4/30/2023    | \$483,956        |
| Actual Receipts as of 4/30/2022    | <u>\$472,409</u> |
| Over (under) prior year receipts . | \$11,547         |

## What's your latest news?

### Encourager Topics in 2023

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.](#)

- July – Veterans
- August – Stewardship
- September – Church Planting
- October – Celebrating Lutheran Heritage
- November – Thankfulness
- December – Highlights 2023

### 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*  
**Rev. William Zwick,**  
*Executive Director of Mission & Ministry & Executive Director for Schools and Early Childhood*  
**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*  
**Julie Tyler,**  
*Administrative Assistant for Missions and Education*

### 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 -  
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"@midsouthLCMS"

