

Encourager

SEPTEMBER 2022

Mid-South District LCMS



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

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship gets a bum rap! When the subject of stewardship comes up in a sermon or Bible study, it sends a signal to the pew sitters that the pastor is going to talk about money. To a certain extent it is a correct response because most people associated with the modern church – pastors and laity alike – have heard sermons and discussions in Bible study that limit the boundaries of stewardship exclusively to the subject of money.

Stewardship does include the subject of money, but money is only one of the several elements of stewardship. Christian stewardship even goes beyond the mantra of “Time, Talents, and Treasures.” In order to get a full

understanding of the subject, we’re led to ask, “What are the elements of stewardship from Scripture and our Confessions?”

Stewardship is defined as, “... the position and duties of a steward, a person who acts as the surrogate of another or others, especially by managing property, financial affairs, an estate, etc.; to be the steward of something to manage.” Stewards and stewardship define a position occupied to carry out a specific portion of the administration of someone else’s worth.

Any discussion on the Christian aspect of stewardship is to understand a steward as having been granted dominion over or administration of the things

of creation that are absolutely dependent upon a continual acknowledgment and awareness that God owns everything and expects accountability of the steward. If this truism is not embraced, human reason could quickly invalidate all concepts of the biblical foundation of stewardship. The fundamental principle of God’s ownership does not lie at this foundation if God’s rightful ownership of all things is diminished. A steward’s accountability is connected with these principles of biblical stewardship.

Psalm 50:7-11 states, “*Hear, O my people, and I will speak; O Israel, I will testify against you. I am God, your God. Not for your*

sacrifices do I rebuke you; your burnt offerings are continually before me. I will not accept a bull from your house or goats from your folds. For every beast of the forest is mine, the cattle on a thousand hills. I know all the birds of the hills, and all that moves in the field is mine." Is this to suggest that the cattle on all the other hills in the world do not belong to God? Of course not! Christian stewardship is an acknowledgement that everything seen or unseen already belongs to God. We are simply stewards of everything He places in our stewardship of everything that belongs to God.

Martin Luther recognized this in his meaning to the First Article of the Apostles Creed. "I believe that God made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still preserves them; also clothing and shoes, meat and drink, house and home, wife and children, fields, cattle and all my goods; that He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life; that He defends me from all danger, and guards and protects me from all evil; and all this purely out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all which it is my duty to thank and praise, and serve and obey Him. This is most certainly true."

By the same token, in his meaning to the Second Article of

the Creed develops a correlative connection of God's faithful willingness to give His gracious provision: "I believe that Jesus Christ... has redeemed me, a lost and condemned creature, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own, and live under Him in His kingdom, and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, even as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true."

Since we are totally passive in the economy of God's grace, He has gathered us into His kingdom by His means of grace as attested in the meaning of the Third Article: "I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him, but the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith, even as He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth..."

The foundation of our proper understanding of Christian stewardship comes from the abundant fountain of God's grace to us in the Gospel of our life in Christ Jesus. Nothing can be presented to or received by us that has not risen from the Gospel of Christ. Stewards are

the "keepers" of the household of God οἰκονόμου (oikonomous). *"This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful."* (I Corinthians 4:1-2)

We get our English word "economy" from the Greek "oikonomous." The lavish love of God foreknew the deadly estate of a fallen mankind and sent His Son to offer a sacrifice acceptable to God to win us back and make us heirs of His eternal kingdom. The richness of God's love for us was paid for with the holy, innocent suffering and death of our Lord, Jesus Christ. The consequences of our sins were paid for at the cross; and by His glorious Resurrection from the dead, we are guaranteed that, even as Christ rose from the dead in human flesh, all bodies joined together with Christ Jesus by His means of grace will also rise on the last day.

It remains an amazing mystery of this configuration, that without the Gospel as the fountain of stewardship, there is no ability on our part to function in our given stewardship; but the greatest gift given by God to us is also the Gospel that He wants us to manage and share. Matthew's Gospel records, *"Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. And when they saw Him they worshiped Him, but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven*

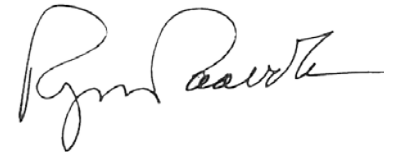
and on earth has been given to Me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:16-20)

Jesus entrusted the mission and ministry of His Church to disciples. He does not forget His beloved Bride – the Church – but sustains Her with His gracious gifts, faithful workers, and His sacred Word. The amazing configuration of Christian stewardship is that proclaiming His Gospel to a

dark and dying world becomes our privilege and responsibility according to His command and promise. According to St Peter, all of us who have been called, baptized, and sanctified by the gifts from God’s Holy Spirit are given this privilege, *“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.” (1 Peter 2:9-10)*

That is Christian Stewardship: It’s founded in the Gospel and is also the pinnacle of our Christian life. Thanks and praise be to God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Your servant in Christ +
Rev Roger Paavola



St. Paul Celebrates 175th Anniversary

St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg, Tennessee celebrates its 175th Anniversary this year and invites all pastors, teachers, and laity to the weekend **homecoming celebration on October 1st and 2nd.**

The Keynote speaker for the Saturday (October 1st) event will be the Rev. Will Weedon host of the *Word of the Lord Endures Forever* Bible study podcast and former director of worship for the LCMS.

More information such as times will be provided closer to the event. The congregation of St. Paul in Wartburg is the oldest congregation in the Mid-South District and is one of the historic

planting congregations for many of our congregations in East Tennessee. This special and rare history will be celebrated with all in the Mid-South as it is part of the District’s early history and mission in the East Tennessee area. The 175th Anniversary logo was designed by Dr. Kristina Phillips, wife of Rev. Dr. Eric Phillips of Concordia Lutheran Church, Nashville.



50th Anniversary Celebration at Faith Lutheran

Faith Lutheran Church, 310 Snead Dr, Fairfield Bay, AR will celebrate its 50th Anniversary **Oct 9th.** Former Pastor Arthur Baisch will be preaching the 11 AM service and a pot luck dinner will follow. Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola will be the speaker at the 2 PM anniversary service. Everyone is welcome to join us on this special day.

Grace Lutheran Choir Presents Elijah

On Sunday, **October 2**, the choir of Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN, will be joined by choristers, soloists, and an orchestra for a once in a lifetime event – the presentation of Mendelssohn’s signature oratorio, *Elijah*. The performance is trimmed from its original length to 2 hours (with intermission). Music begins promptly at 4 pm under the direction of Grace’s Cantor, Dr. Jonathan Rudy. The choir and Music at Grace concert series were developed under the direction of their first cantor, Rocky T. Craft, and has been continued and expanded.

Over the years the choir has performed Handel’s *Messiah*, Stainer’s *The Crucifixion*, Faure’s *Requiem*, Vivaldi’s *Gloria*, and a host of other larger choral works. This all volunteer choir of 30 is a liturgical choir singing and leading the chanting of Introit and Psalm as well as anthems appropriate to the liturgy every Sunday, at both services. Dr. Rudy is in his third year at Grace and is assisted by Katie Rudy, Assistant Cantor, in a large musical program of choir,



solo work, instrumentalists, and organ works. They have combined their talents on the organ in a 5 year concert series to play through all of JS Bach’s organ works – one of those installments is April 23. For more on the Music at Grace concert series, email Dr. Rudy at Cantor@glctn.org.

Join Zion Lutheran for Annual “Augsburg Fall Fest”

Zion Lutheran Church’s 15th Annual Augsburg Fall Fest is coming up on Saturday, **October 8** at the church’s campus in London, AR (93 *Augsburg Road, London 72847*). The festival is a fund-raiser for the River Valley Christian Clinic in Dardanelle, Arkansas, and for the Augsburg Food Pantry, sponsored by the Lutheran Women’s Missionary League at Zion Lutheran Church. Last year, the event raised \$33,000 to benefit these great organizations.

The great Fall Fest tradition began in 2008 as an outreach to the community and to celebrate Zion’s 125th anniversary. Since then, the Augsburg Fall Fest has grown every year, bringing in people from all over Arkansas and even other states as far away as California and Hawaii! This year’s festival will take place from 10:00 AM-3:00 PM. There will be delicious German food, music, arts and crafts, pony rides, a variety of games for all ages, prizes,

a silent auction and more. If you are in the London area, come join the fun and support two great community organizations! To learn more, please visit the [Augsburg Fall Fest Facebook page](#) and the [church’s website](#).



The Mid-South District, LCMS Invites You To

Oktoberfest

SAT. OCT. 8, 2022 • 11AM-3PM

Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

6325 Raleigh LaGrange Road • Memphis TN 38134

A Traditional German Festival Featuring:

GERMAN FOOD FAVORITES & BEER from GHOST RIVER BREWERY

OOMPAH MUSIC • LIVE AUCTION of THEMED BASKETS*

BALLOON ARTIST • BOUNCE HOUSE • FACE PAINTING

** Live Auction Proceeds Benefit Restore Corps-Memphis in the Fight Against Human Trafficking*

\$10 ADULTS (13 & UP)
Includes German meal
& 2 craft beers/beverages

\$5 KIDS 4-12
Includes meal & beverage
FREE admission under age 4

[CLICK HERE](#) to Buy Tickets Online

Celebrate LCMS's 175th Anniversary with LCEF's Art Contest!

As you likely know, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) is marking its 175th year. What a tremendous milestone! An online resource for celebrating this special anniversary is available at <https://resources.lcms.org/175-years/>. The site features numerous resources to learn more about our church's history.

As featured on the resource page, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is excited to help celebrate the LCMS 175th anniversary by hosting an art contest for students from kindergarten through college. Details are available in a special [contest flier](#). If you know a creative child, teen or college student, be sure to

share this contest information. Entries will be accepted starting **September 6, 2022**. LCEF hopes to receive many entries for the anniversary art contest—and can't wait to see the unique ways in which the young artists express their faith!



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

Welcome to the Mid-South District, Rev. Chase Lefort



The Rite of Installation for the Rev. Chase Lefort was held on Sunday, August 7, 2022 at Faith Lutheran Church in Oak Ridge, TN. Joining in the Rite were (Front:L-R) Rev. David Grave, St Paul Lutheran, Wartburg; Rev. John Frietag, Emeritus; President Roger Paavola; Rev. Chase Lefort; Rev. Philip Bohlken, Emeritus; Rev. George Smith, Associate Pastor, Faith Lutheran, Oak Ridge. (Back: L-R) Rev. Michael Miller, Regional Vice-President; Rev. Adam Woldt, The Point Lutheran, Knoxville; Rev. Paul Kritsch, Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran, Sharps Chapel; Rev. Derek Roberts, Praise Lutheran, Maryville; Rev. Paul Muench, Emeritus; Rev. Paul Becker, Concordia Lutheran, Kingsport.

Mid-South District Delegates attend the 7th LCMS Hispanic National Convention

Rev. Ricardo Granados, Priscilla Granados (Trinity, Memphis, TN), Rev. Brandon Martin (Salem Lutheran Ministries, Springdale, AR) and Rev. William F. Zwick (Executive Director of Missions and Ministry) attended the 7th LCMS Hispanic National Convention in Orlando, FL, Aug 2-4, 2022.

The convention, supported by the Hispanic Missionary League, was created more than 20 years ago by Hispanic leaders of the LCMS. Every three years, it gathers together churches and leaders from across the LCMS involved in or interested in Hispanic ministry.

This year's convention focused on passing resolutions to give direction and voice for the Hispanic ministries in the LCMS. They elected their new board of directors and provided seminars for the attendees. Rev. Martin presented on Reconciliation for a breakout session. For more information about the Hispanic Missionary League visit their [website](#).



(L-R) Rev. Ricardo Grenado (delegate), Priscilla, Rev. Brandon Martin (delegate) and Rev. William F. Zwick

Faith Women in Mission

At the beginning of June, Faith Women in Mission of Faith Lutheran Bentonville, AR, launched a campaign to raise funds for temporary worship facilities in South Sudan, with a goal of \$4,300. We were blessed to have Paul Kon join us for worship on June 26. Paul is a native of South Sudan, and has made several mission trips back to that area. Paul is also a member of All Saints Lutheran Church in Jonesboro, AR. During the month of June, with overwhelming support of the congregation, and with Vacation Bible School offering, we were able to collect a total of \$5,800! It was an honor to present a check to Mr. Kon during his visit, and we have been informed by Bishop Nathaniel Bol in South Sudan, that the funds have been received and work is underway. We look forward to updates on the progress of the construction of worship shelters.



(L-R) Pastor Russell Shewmaker, retired pastor All Saints Lutheran, Jonesboro, AR; Paul Kon, All Saints Lutheran Jonesboro, AR; Leanne Rawlings Office & Communications Coordinator and LWML Representative at Faith

Register for the Fall 2022 Making Disciples for Life Conference

The 2022 Making Disciples for Life "Let Us Keep Awake" Conference will take place **October 10-12, 2022**. There is still time to register to participate either in-person at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis or on-line. Please keep in mind that the in-person registrations are limited. Also, remember that on-line registrations cover one person or a group of people. You can plan a watch party for your congregation or organization using a single on-line registration. For those who can't participate virtually or in-person, all conference sessions will be recorded and available for 60 days after the conference. Learn more and register online at <https://calendar.lcms.org/event/making-disciples-for-life-conference-fall-2022/>.



Lutheran Days STL

Lutheran Days STL, a celebration of the history and work of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, will be **April 27-29, 2023** in St. Louis.

Open to student groups, youth and adults. We invite you to participate in a wide variety of activities. This event is held in conjunction with the annual March to the Arch life march in St. Louis, on Saturday, April 29. Join fellow Lutherans in marching for life on Saturday.

More information will be posted on the event page.

<https://calendar.lcms.org/event/lutheran-days-stl-2023/>

Last Call for Nominations for the 68th Regular Convention of the LCMS

The 2023 Committee for Convention Nominations has now been fully constituted by district conventions, but the committee continues to need nominations for the 69 influential officer, board, and commission positions to be elected by the 2023 Synod convention (detailed at [lcms.org/convention/nominations-and-elections/secretary-board-and-commission-positions](https://www.lcms.org/convention/nominations-and-elections/secretary-board-and-commission-positions)). Nominations may yet be submitted by:

- Agencies and officers of the Synod
- Congregational and individual members of the Synod
- Laypersons of the congregations of the Synod

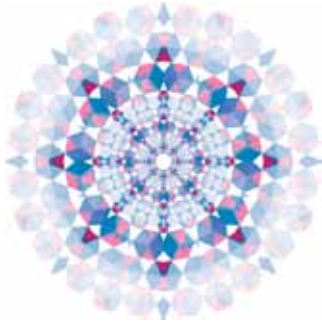
With 69 offices to be filled by the convention and less than three months of the nominating period to go, the Secretary's office is in receipt of nominations (including incumbents) for only 72 ordained and 22 commissioned ministers and 49 laypersons — not all of whom will let their names stand. (Last convention, for comparison, the committee had 163 ordained, 45 commissioned, and 139 lay names to consider.)

Please, therefore, consider where the needs of the offices to be filled match the giftedness of those LCMS congregation members and ordained and commissioned ministers that you know, and submit their names

for consideration. **Nominations must be received by Oct. 29, 2022, but are desired as soon as possible**, given that each nomination then must be augmented with the responses of nominees and evaluators.

The nomination form is available for download at [lcms.org/convention/2023-nomination-form](https://www.lcms.org/convention/2023-nomination-form). It can be downloaded, filled out electronically, and then emailed to the Office of the Secretary at ccn@lcms.org.





LCEF Awards Grants to 28 LCMS Elementary Schools

The Kaleidoscope Fund, a granting program established by Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), has awarded a total of \$592,606 to 28 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) elementary schools throughout the United States.

"We rejoice in our Lutheran educators and schools because they not only bring top-level academic excellence to the classroom, but a thorough and compelling presentation of our faith in Christ," said Rev. Bart Day, LCEF president and CEO. "This is important because the face of Christianity is changing, and our schools have become outposts for the proclamation of Christ. We share a fervent passion to support and empower their work in any way we can—like the Kaleidoscope Fund."

Eligible grant proposals included faculty wellness, curriculum development, technology improvement and student engagement/outreach.

Grants for **faculty development** are intended to support activities and services that improve the wellbeing of faculty and improve their engagement with students. Seven schools received grants for this purpose:

- St. Paul's – Oconomowoc, Wis.
- Christ – Phoenix, Ariz.
- St. John's – Portage, Wis.
- First Evangelical – Glencoe, Minn.
- **Christ the King – Memphis, Tenn. (MID-SOUTH DISTRICT MINISTRY)**
- Emmanuel – Kahului, Hawaii
- Immanuel – Gaylord, Minn.

Grants for **curriculum development** are intended to enhance academic offerings of schools through improvement to curriculum or development of new programs. Seven curriculum development grants were given:

- Elm Grove – Elm Grove, Wis.
- Trinity – Freistadt, Wis.
- Immanuel – Crystal Lake, Ill.

- Holy Trinity – Edmond, Okla.
- Trinity – Edwardsville, Ill.
- St. John – Berlin, Wis.
- Immanuel – Albuquerque, N.M.

Technology grants are intended to improve, upgrade or purchase new technology equipment to improve the learning environment. Seven schools received technology grants:

- Our Redeemer – Wauwatosa, Wis.
- St. John – Ocala, Fla.
- Emmanuel – Asheville, N.C.
- Bethany – Overland Park, Kan.
- Trinity First – Minneapolis, Minn.
- CCLS Academy at Bethlehem – St Louis, Mo.
- Open Arms Institute – Fort Pierce, Fla.

Grants for **student engagement and outreach** are intended to aid the school in deepening relationships with students and reaching into the community. Seven schools will benefit from these grants:

- **Christ–Little Rock, Ark. (MID-SOUTH DISTRICT MINISTRY)**
- Grace – Winter Haven, Fla.
- Memorial – Houston, Texas
- St. James – Shawano, Wis.
- Trinity – Kalispell, Mont.
- Trinity – Indianapolis, Ind.
- Trinity – Lombard, Ill.

Congratulations to the 2022 Kaleidoscope Fund recipients! Lutheran Church Extension Fund is blessed to prayerfully support their endeavors to proclaim the Good News of salvation in Christ, our Lord.



TANZANIA ALBINISM PROJECT

The Mid-South District LCMS have been actively involved in outreach ministry in the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD) for close to 20 years. We have been involved in church planting and evangelism efforts, as well as raising money for church roofs. We have also assisted with several social ministries, one of which is children affected by albinism. The people living in the SELVD experience a very high rate of albinism, maybe 10 or 20 times greater than in the US. Those people affected by the genetic condition have tremendous health problems, but also experience serious social problems, including shame, exclusion, persecution and even threats on their lives.

As a result, many have not been able to attend school and outside events for fear of their safety. Many are

brought to an orphanage by their parents for safekeeping. As they are aging out of the orphanage, one of the programs the SELVD developed with help from a Finnish church group is called the Deaconess House. at the house young women with albinism learn independent living skills and such as sewing to start their own businesses. The diocese sees the need to provide young men who are ready to leave the safety of the orphanage to have life skills to support

themselves. To find out more about the need for this project, check out the video made back in 2019 by missionaries Linda and Eric Funke featured on the [website for Southeast of Lake Victoria here](#).

If you would like to help, the Mid-South District is currently accepting checks for this project. Please mail a check to Mid-South District LCMS, 1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN 38016 and write "Tanzania Albinism Project" in the memo line.



Evanguard Retreat for Fathers and Sons Coming in November

Fathers and sons (age 8+) are invited to take part in the Mid-South Evanguard retreat, November 18-20, 2022 at Camp Trinity on Petit Jean Mountain in Arkansas. The retreat will include opportunities for study, conversation, fellowship, prayer, indoor relaxation, and outdoor adventure, with special presentations by Rev. Dr. Adam Koontz on a Biblical understanding of the patriarchy. More information on Evanguard and the upcoming retreat are available at <https://evanguard.org/f/an-evanguard-retreat-for-2022>



JARDEN EDEN, HAITI

Large School Nearly Fully Sponsored

Trinity HOPE brings HOPE to the children of Haiti one bowl of rice and beans at a time. Through relationships with Christian schools, we ensure that the Gospel message is being shared to as many Haitian children as we possibly can. During the summer of 2021, the Mid-South District pledged a \$10,000 annual donation to provide essential nutrition to Haitian children. This money has been applied to Jarden Eden, a Lutheran School in the Les Cayes District. With this annual donation, the Mid-South LCMS has become a partial sponsor of Jarden Eden. This large school feeds about 350 hungry souls each school day. The total cost to feed the children, cooks, and staff in this school is over \$17,778.

Redeemer Lutheran Church in Nashville, TN has long been a supporter for the Trinity HOPE ministry.

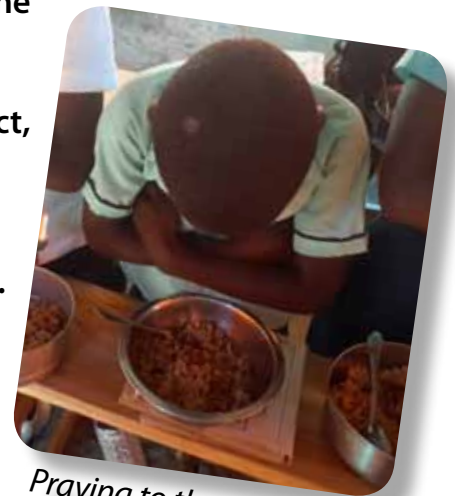


Children at Jarden Eden



On July 24th, Sandra Arnold, 3rd VP of LWML Mid-South District, visited Redeemer Lutheran Church in Nashville to present the entire 2022-2024 Biennium Mission Grant to Geal Goldbeck, LWML President at Redeemer Lutheran Church, and to Trinity HOPE staff.

For the 2022-24 biennium, the LWML Group at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Nashville submitted a mission grant to the LWML Mid-South District. Following the mission grant proposal process the women of the LWML Mid-South District have graciously awarded Trinity HOPE a grant of \$6,500. We thought it appropriate to apply all of those funds to Jarden Eden for the next 2 years. WOW! What a blessing! **Because of the mercy of the members of the Mid-South LCMS and the LWML Mid-South District, the Lutheran School, Jarden Eden, is nearly fully sponsored. To God be the Glory!**



Praying to thank God for the provision of food

PRAYER SUMMARY, AUGUST 2022

Following is a list of all the people that have appeared on the Mid-South District website prayer list www.mid-southlcms.com during the month of August 2022.

PRAYER CONCERNS

REV. DAVID CALLIES (Emeritus, Brentwood, TN)

REV. ROBERT BENKE and wife Mary (Faith, Hot Springs Village, AR)

REV. PAUL DONNER (Emeritus, Paducah, KY)

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)

MRS. MARY ANN HERD (wife of Rev. Clifford Herd, Hixson, TN)

MR. MARC HIGGINS (Mid-South District Treasurer, Maumelle, AR)

REV. GIL PINGEL (Emeritus, Chattanooga, TN)

We lift up in prayer all those assisting in the rebuilding efforts from the devastating December tornadoes in Arkansas, Tennessee and Kentucky; especially lifting up *Ms. Jan Simko, District Disaster Relief Coordinator* and *Rev. David Appold of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Paducah, KY.*

CALL UPDATE

ORDAINED MINISTERS

ACCEPTED: Rev. Chase Lefort (Candidate CTSFW 2022)

accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to Faith Lutheran Church, Oak Ridge, TN.* Ordination took place at his home congregation in Raleigh, North Carolina on July 17, 2022. *Installation took place on August 7, 2022, at Faith Lutheran Church, Oak Ridge, TN.*

Rev. Myles Schultz (Emeritus, Holiday Island, AR) has accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to Grace Lutheran Church, Holiday Island, AR.* *Installation date is pending.*

Rev. Russell Shewmaker (Emeritus, Gravette, AR) has accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to Christ Lutheran Church, Siloam Springs, AR.* *Installation is scheduled for September 11, 2022.*

Rev. Joshua Willadsen, Pastor to Bethel Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, AR accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to the dual parish of Bethel Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, AR and Trinity Lutheran Church, Sallisaw, OK.* *Installation was August 14, 2022.*

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

ACCEPTED: Mrs. Andrea D. Kilpatrick (Candidate, Little Rock, AR) has accepted a Call to teach *Third Grade at Christ Lutheran Church & School, Little Rock, AR.*

Ms. Linaya Kolke, (Graduate, Concordia University, Irvine, CA) has accepted a First Call to serve as *DCE at Christ Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR.*

VACANT CONGREGATIONS & MINISTRIES

First Lutheran Church, Harrison, AR – Pastor

Messiah Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN – Pastor

Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR – Pastor

Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia, TN – Pastor

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN - Pastor

IN THE CALLING PROCESS- COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Christ the King Lutheran School, Memphis, TN –
Teachers (1st Grade; 5th Grade & Middle School)

First Lutheran School, Fort Smith, AR – Part-time Early
Childhood Assistants

First Lutheran School, Knoxville, TN – Teachers (1st
grade teacher; Middle School Math/Science; 4th/5th grade
teacher)

Belvoir Christian Academy, Chattanooga, TN - Teacher



Congregational Mission Commitments

Mission Commitment Receipts as of 7/31/2022 (7 Months)

Anticipated Amount (58.33% of budget)..... \$885,435
 Actual Receipts 852,870
 Over (under) anticipated amount **(\$32,565)**

Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (7 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World Missions..... \$241,278
 Allocated to Tanzania 14,583
 Retained for District Mission/Ministry Support (70% of receipts)..... 597,009
 Total Receipts \$852,870

Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (7 Months)

Actual Receipts as of 7/31/2022 \$852,870
 Actual Receipts as of 7/31/2021 \$871,616
 Over (under) prior year receipts **(\$18,746)**

SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

Encourager Topics in 2022

We invite you to share your stories with us please email stories by 20th to Rhonda, webmaster@mid-southlcms.com. Here's a look at the

- 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

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

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