

# Encourager

Mid-South District LCMS | October 2020



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



Prior to becoming a monk (and oftentimes while being a monk) Martin Luther was a troubled young man because he was taught that God was a harsh and demanding God. When he became an Augustinian monk, it made matters worse. He laboriously followed all the rules of the Church. He prayed constantly, went on pilgrimages, flogged himself, attended mass, and did everything he could to make himself feel acceptable to God. Nothing brought peace to his fevered person. In his mind, God was a cruel tyrant ready to crush the sinner. Luther, the monk, never found the gracious heavenly Father he was seeking.

His relentless search drove him to a careful study of St. Paul's letter to the Roman Christians. In a moment of sheer desperation, he suddenly discovered what he was looking for: Paul's dogma

proclaims that our righteousness is a gift that comes from God. God's forensic righteousness, beyond the merits of human nature, gives those who believe in Christ Jesus the peace Luther had struggled to find. He realized nothing a sinner does can ameliorate natural man's shattered relationship with God. No penances, fasting, prayers, or attempts at good works can provide the bridge to a relationship between God and man. Acceptance by God is built from the opposite direction - where the arms of Christ, nailed to the timbers of the cross, paid for our righteousness in the joyous exchanged of our wretchedness for Christ's perfection. St. Paul's enunciation that, "The just shall live by faith," finally gave Luther the peace of mind he sought and the seismic wave of the Reformation began to roll.

Martin Luther served on the faculty at the University of Wittenberg in Germany as a professor of theology when, in 1516, the Catholic Church commissioned Johann Tetzel to raise money for rebuilding St. Peter's Basilica by selling indulgences. Indulgences were a contrivance of Rome that promised the purchaser a reduction in the amount of time and punishment a person was to undergo in purgatory. Luther was horrified to think money offered for brick and mortar could

either trump or add to the salvific work of Christ on the cross. But, when Luther blew off the dust of many years of obscured Bible theology, the centrality of Christ's sacrifice for our salvation, Luther was convinced the Bible declares it all comes by God's grace through the forgiveness of sins in Christ alone. Luther was appalled that Tetzel was commissioned to sell freedom from the punishment of sin as if the lifeblood of Jesus was insufficient or incomplete!

As a result, on October 31, 1517, Luther posted a request for a debate over the practice of selling indulgences. He entitled his theses, *Disputation on the Power and Efficacy of Indulgences*, which was also known as "The Ninety-Five Theses." He followed protocol and posted his work on the door of the church in Wittenberg. He did not intend to start a revolution. He wanted a discussion in the theology faculty at the University of Wittenberg about the significant difference between what Holy Scripture's teaches and the scandalous misconception being propagandized by Tetzel and the Roman Church. But, by January 1518, Luther's friends made it possible for the Ninety-Five Theses to spread throughout Germany, and within two months it spread across Europe.

The irony of Luther's actions is that Church had tremendous political authority that obscured the demarcation of the church and secular government. The Church of Rome claimed to be the higher authority that resulted in the emergence of the title, "The Holy Roman Empire." Its courts could condemn a person as a heretic and turn that person over to the state to execute punishment. For over a century, hundreds of people were executed as heretics for challenging the church's teaching. Luther challenged the church's money-making scheme on indulgences, thus eventually making him a marked man.

Pope Leo X sent Cardinal Thomas Cajetan to meet with Luther in Augsburg in order to have Luther retract his statements. Frederick the Wise, Luther's prince and the benefactor of the Wittenberg University, arranged for Luther's safe travel to Augsburg. The hearing was held in the home of the famous Fugger bankers who gave the loan to Pope Leo X for the building of St. Peter's Basilica. Cajetan was directed to demand Luther to recant by saying, "Revoco - I recant," but nothing more. Luther refused. Cajetan warned him that if he insisted on maintaining his views he would be imprisoned and deported to Rome. But Luther maintained his position.

In July 1519, he met with Johann Eck in Leipzig to discuss purgatory and indulgences. On these, Luther found no biblical foundation. But, Eck demanded that Luther to recant. But again Luther refused. Luther put his life on the line in defense of Bible theology. The possibility of "Wanted - Dead or Alive" throughout most of Europe was on Luther's head. Eck warned Luther, delivering Pope Leo X's papal bull that said he would be excommunicated unless he recanted. In an act of defiant dedication to the purity of Scripture, Luther burned the bull in public on December 10, 1520. Leo X subsequently excommunicated him on January 3, 1521. As a result, Luther was officially declared to be a heretic, meaning he was turned over for execution by the Holy Roman Empire.

Later, the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, convened a Diet in the city of Worms which was a legislative body gathered to make decisions concerning the empire, including, in this case, Luther's fate. In the presence of Emperor Charles V, Luther defended his beliefs, concluding with his famous statement, "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of Scriptures or by clear reason, I am bound by the Scriptures, and my conscience is captive to the Word of God. I cannot and will not recant anything, since it is neither safe nor right to go against conscience. Here I stand, I can do no other." On May 25, 1521, Charles V presented the court's decision: Luther was declared a heretic and an outlaw of the Empire. His literature was banned. The edict made it a crime for anyone to give Luther food or shelter and authorized anyone to kill him without prosecution.

How did Luther survive such an edict, with both church and state demanding his death? Simply, Elector Frederick III of Saxony, whose political jurisdiction included Wittenberg, was one of Luther's most powerful allies. He refused to turn Luther over to the authorities. Instead he arranged for Luther to be given "safe passage" and arranged for Luther to be "kidnapped" on his way home back from Worms to be brought back to the Wartburg Castle near Eisenach.

The more complex answer about his survival is that Luther's Ninety-Five Theses had been translated into numerous languages. Luther became a popular figure all across Europe. The people loved to read his pamphlets. For the first time ever, Luther translated the Bible into the common language of the people. Even though the Roman church also produced pamphlets and books denouncing Luther, very few people purchased the church's material.

Luther's publications became powerful cultural and political tools that transformed an entire society.

Luther started from the idea that God wants none to be lost eternally. He re-discovered that Christ suffered and died for the sins of all the world. God's salvation plan brought Christ to die for our sins and to bring us back into a loving relationship with God. No "coins in the coffers" or good works could gain favor with God.

"But, we are God's workmanship in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them for God, His Church, and our neighbors" (Eph 2:10). Christ's perfect righteousness is offered for our imperfect lives in the mystery of God's infinite grace and mercy. We acknowledge and confess our justification by faith alone, revealed in Scripture alone, by God's grace alone. "For it is by

grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not of yourself, but a gift from God—not by works, lest anyone one can boast" (Ephesians 2:8, 9). This truth of God's promise brought Luther peace of mind and spirit – a peace that passes our human understanding. Have a joyous 503rd Reformation Anniversary!

Your servant in Christ +  
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola



The **installation of the Reverend Kevin McReynolds** as Senior Pastor for Redeemer Lutheran Church in Mountain Home, AR, took place on Sunday, September 20, 2020. Pictured are : (L-R) Rev. Brian Pummil, Rev. Ken Taglauer, Rev. John Easterling, Rev. Joel Krogen, Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, Rev. Kevin McReynolds, Rev. Bill Schutte, Rev. David Gadbow, Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Gibbs.

## Baptism at Beautiful Savior

Olive Branch, MS

God still gives grace and growth during the pandemic. The holy baptism and first communion of Kenneth Rosamond was held recently. Due to health concerns, this was a private family service, but God's grace and mercy were abundant nonetheless!



## Would you pray specifically for...

As you remember Trinity HOPE in your prayers, please pray specifically for the Haitian economy. We have seen the value of the currency, the Goude, "yoyo" much of the last 6 months. This creates problems for Trinity HOPE as our Feeding Program Directors go out to buy food for the schools we feed. For example, the exchange rate for Haitian Goude to U.S. dollars has bounced from the normal amount of 65:1 to as high as 120:1, and everywhere in between over the last 180 days. We need the normal exchange rate to keep food costs from rising. [trinityhope.org](http://trinityhope.org)





# Treasurers' Workshops

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

## [Register Online Now](#)

Please mark your calendar to attend one of the Mid-South District Workshops. The Presenter for the Treasurer's workbook sessions will be Mr. Charlie Rhodes, Executive Director of Synod Accounting (Retired). Angela Fowler will be the presenter for a brief afternoon session covering an overview of the new CPS Compensation Decision Tool as well as any QuickBooks issues or questions.

**Please respond by December 31, 2020, if possible**

The morning session will be devoted to updates in the Treasurers' Manual (volume 1) with time reserved for specific questions and answers. It would be helpful for you to have a copy of the manual with you, either the CD, hard copy or online version. The afternoon session will focus on the CPS Compensation Decision Tool, how to use as well as interpreting the results along with QuickBooks issues and questions. Please email Angela with specific items that you would like for her to address regarding QuickBooks.

The Treasurers' Manual can be found on the LCMS website.

**For additional information and to register**

[Register Online Now](#)

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

## Dates and Locations

### **January 2, 2021**

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. CPS Compensation Decision Tool/QuickBooks

Grace Lutheran Church, 9076 Middlebrook Pike

Knoxville, TN

### **January 9, 2021**

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. CPS Compensation Decision Tool/QuickBooks

Grace Lutheran Church, 5124 Hillcrest Avenue

Little Rock, AR

### **January 16, 2021**

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. CPS Compensation Decision Tool/QuickBooks

St. John Lutheran Church, 500 N. Cumberland Avenue

Russellville, AR

### **January 23, 2021**

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. CPS Compensation Decision Tool/QuickBook

Mid-South District Office, 1675 Wynne Road

Cordova, TN

### **January 30, 2021**

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. CPS Compensation Decision Tool/QuickBook

Our Savior Lutheran Church, 5110 Franklin Road

Nashville, TN

## Traditions Continue

At Christ the King Lutheran Church and School in Memphis, in spite of the craziness of the year 2020, we have been fortunate enough to witness baptisms, weddings, new member introductions, school children and teachers returning in person, and even progress on new building construction, as the work of the church and the blessings of the Holy Spirit bear fruit. Along with Pastor Chuck Neugebauer and Pastor Mark Goble, we pray that God will continue to bless us as we look to the future and increased opportunities to share the Good News of the Gospel.

— *Genie Swan*



Progress continues on the construction of a state-of-the-art fellowship hall, Bible study classrooms, and administrative offices.



We have celebrated several baptisms in 2020, including this adult baptism of new member Danielle Haggerty.



The wedding of Grace Zagel and Peter Ruleman served as a reminder of God's blessings in the midst of an unusual time.



The Dugan family, transfers from St. Louis, were among the nine new member families CTK welcomed this year.



We rejoiced to see our school children back on campus for classroom teaching. Our faculty served our students both in-person and virtually.

# 2020 CARE-VAN

## Dates & Locations

### November 6-7, 2020

Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
Find the location and drop off time

*Location and drop off times are on the next page*

Please call the church to verify the time so there will be someone there to help you. The times may change according to the church.

### A Meaningful Way to Make a Difference

Lutheran World Relief Kits of Care are a perfect way for you to gather a group of people you know and turn ordinary items into extraordinary gifts. You can help people dealing with some of life's most difficult situations—the aftermath of earthquakes and floods, fleeing home to escape violence, and living in extreme poverty. Partner with us and energize your congregation for global good.

### What You Can Do

We can't control when disasters strike and we can't end poverty overnight. But there are things we can do now to help people around the world reach their full potential. Learn how simple items can transform lives and how you can too.

1. Choose – a type of kit
  - Personal Care Kits
  - School Kits
  - Baby Care Kits
  - Fabric Kits
  - Quilt Kits
2. Collect – items for the kits and money to help ship kits overseas
3. Pack – the items and send to the warehouse; or find a local collection site
4. Track – your kits as they travel the world to people in need
5. Share – photos and videos of your work on your social pages with #KitsofCare. Your posts can encourage others to get involved, too!

**LWR Quilts & Kits** convey a priceless message of love and commitment to people in desperate need. First and foremost,



recipients use their LWR Quilts to shield against the cold and rain, and for warm bedding. But their versatility also makes Quilts useful as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother's back. In 2019, Lutheran World Relief delivered more than \$13.2 million worth of Quilts and Kits to 581,456 beneficiaries in 24 countries.

**Shipping costs** LWR about \$2.25 per quilt. Please give to the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund, which pays for the shipping of donated Quilts and Kits. You can also encourage your congregation to support your quilt or kit ministry by donating to LWR's Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund <https://lwr.org/donate/shippingfund> to ensure that LWR can continue working with partners around the world to deliver your gifts. Those funds, combined with the generosity of donors, ensure LWR has the resources needed to move these items around the world. You can help!

If you are interested in the **assembly instructions for quilts and kits** you may request a copy of these pamphlets by calling 800-597-5972 or logging on to the <https://lwr.org> website.

If you have a **questions or need labels**, don't hesitate to e-mail Julie Tyler at: [jtyler@mid-southlcrms.com](mailto:jtyler@mid-southlcrms.com) or give her a call (1-866-373-1343 toll free).

The work of our hearts and hands is an immeasurable blessing to families in need around the world!



# Mid-South District 2020 CARE-VAN

November 6-7, 2020

## Locations and Coordinators



Loading Friday and Saturday, November 6-7, 2020  
 Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
*(time for drop-off donations may change according to church)*

**Call church to verify the time**

**you will be bringing your LWR items so someone will be there to help you.**

**Please package boxes properly. Thank you.**

### Arkansas

CITY	Location for YRC Freight	Contact Person	Pastor of Church
Fort Smith, AR	First Lutheran School 2407 Massard Road Fort Smith, AR 72901	Mr. Lou Fellwock 1-479-650-5886	Rev. John Merrill 1-479-785-2886 (church) <a href="mailto:jfmerrill@gmail.com">jfmerrill@gmail.com</a>
Little Rock, AR	Grace Lutheran Church 5124 Hillcrest Little Rock, AR 72205	Rev. Kent Schaaf 1-501-663-3631 (church)	Rev. Kent Schaaf 1-501-663-3631 (church)
Springdale, AR	Salem Lutheran Ministries 1800 West Emma Avenue Springdale, AR 72762-3905 <b>Only Saturday - Nov. 7 (9a.m.-12p.m.)</b>	Ms. Darlene Diercouff 1-479-751-9500 (church) <a href="mailto:ddiercouff@aol.com">ddiercouff@aol.com</a>	Rev. Mark Krause 1-479-751-9500 (church) 1-479-841-4898 (cell) <a href="mailto:mekrause56@gmail.com">mekrause56@gmail.com</a>

### Tennessee

CITY	Location for YRC Freight	Contact Person	Pastor of Church
Chattanooga, TN	Cross of Christ Lutheran Church 3204 Hixon Pike Chattanooga, TN 37415 <b>Only Friday, Nov. 6 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.)</b>	Ms. Eunice Timm 1-423-624-2588 <a href="mailto:4betimm@epbfi.com">4betimm@epbfi.com</a>	Rev. Barry Hildebrandt 1-423-877-7447 (church) 1-423-255-4746 (cell) <a href="mailto:church@cocluth.com">church@cocluth.com</a>
Nashville, TN	Our Savior Lutheran Church 5110 Franklin Pike Nashville, TN 37220-1814	Mr. Kenneth Priest 1-615-969-6225 <a href="mailto:kapslp10@comcast.net">kapslp10@comcast.net</a>	Rev. Lane Reuter 1-615-833-1500 (church) <a href="mailto:oslcoffice1@gmail.com">oslcoffice1@gmail.com</a>
Knoxville, TN	Christus Victor Lutheran Church 4110 Central Avenue Pike Knoxville, TN 37912-0312	Ms. Carol Rauch 1-865-687-6622 (church) <a href="mailto:carolrauch44@gmail.com">carolrauch44@gmail.com</a>	Rev. William Ondracka 1-865-687-6622 (church) 1-734-368-1703 <a href="mailto:pastorbill@christusvictorknoxville.org">pastorbill@christusvictorknoxville.org</a>
Memphis, TN	Immanuel Lutheran Church 6325 Raleigh LaGrange Road Memphis, TN 38134-6907	Ms. Diane Reimold 1-901-679-0626 <a href="mailto:dianereimold@hotmail.com">dianereimold@hotmail.com</a>	Rev. Greg Prauner 1-901-373-4486 (church) <a href="mailto:gprauner@immanuelmemphis.org">gprauner@immanuelmemphis.org</a>



## Update on the District Bylaws –

The district board of directors is pleased to announce the district's bylaws were amended at their August 24, 2020 meeting to be brought into compliance and harmony with the changes made to the Synod's Constitution and Bylaws by the 2019 Synod Convention and the subsequent ratification of the constitutional amendments by the congregations on March 20, 2020. The amendments were submitted

to the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) for their examination and approval, which was given by the CCM on June 16, 2020.

The bylaws are available for viewing via this link on the district website, <https://mid-southlcms.org/about-us-2/constitution-and-bylaws/>

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## Camp Trinity on Petit Jean Mountain Offering Unique Outdoor Classroom Experience

Parents teaching their children at home—especially those homeschooling for the first time during the 2020-2021 academic year—may find the experience more challenging than expected. Camp Trinity can help. While most families have the core subjects (reading, writing, math) covered, other subjects can be difficult. Camp Trinity is offering instruction in disciplines outside the core: history, science, geography, art and outdoor education. Parents can participate along with their children, or they can use the time to write lesson plans, share ideas with other homeschooling parents or just enjoy a little quiet time reading and relaxing. Children of all ages are welcome, but the instruction is geared for students age 8 and above. To learn more, please visit Camp Trinity's Outdoor Classroom [information and registration page](#).

## Lutherans For Life Conferences Coming Up

Lutherans For Life (LFL) will host several regional conferences in the coming months. These events allow the LFL team to come directly to those engaged in life-affirming work and share valuable information and encouragement. The upcoming regional events are scheduled as follows:

October 24 in Phoenix, AZ

November 14 in Orlando, FL

Please visit the [LFL Conference site](#) to find out more and register for the 2020 conference near you. The events will also be available via live-stream.

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## Center for Biblical Studies from Concordia University

Concordia University, St. Paul Introduces the Center for Biblical Studies. CSP's Professor of Theology and Ministry Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing will lead the Center. His focus will be on providing Christ-centered biblical resources that align with the Lutheran confession of the Christian faith. More information can be found online at [csp.edu/center-for-biblical-studies](http://csp.edu/center-for-biblical-studies)

## A Special Appeal on Behalf of Lutheran Institute in Madagascar

Over the last several years, ministries of the Mid-South District have been blessed to get to know and support the Lutheran Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship (LIME) in Madagascar. Led by the Rev. Dr. Joseph Randrianasolo, who addressed the delegation of our District's 2018 Convention, LIME offers Malagasy adults (both lay and clergy) the opportunity for advanced studies as part of a three-year curriculum which includes Biblical courses. But like many organizations, businesses and individuals, LIME has been hit especially hard by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Graduating its last class in January of this year, the Institute's doors have now been closed for six months. With no tuition coming into the school, Rev. Dr. Joseph Randrianasolo has shared that the **six staff members of LIME and their families now face a dire situation: the very real possibility of starvation.**

In a recent message to Mid-South District President Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, Rev. Joseph noted that the staff have stretched their resources as far as they can, but that the coming month will be marked by extreme hunger—or worse—without the help of outside aid. In response to this critical need of our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Madagascar, the Mid-South District is sending support and inviting ministries and individuals across the district to do the same. Donations to benefit the staff of LIME and their families can be made on the [Mid-South District website](http://mid-southlcms.org) (mid-southlcms.org, "Give Now" link) or by check. When making an online gift, choose the "Restricted Gift" field and designate the funds for **"LIME Staff COVID-19."** Gifts by check should be made payable to the Mid-South District with "LIME Staff COVID-19" in the memo to the **Mid-South District will be wired promptly to LIME in Madagascar.**

The six families impacted by the economic crisis of COVID-19 include a total of 13 children. In the past, ministries and individuals across the Mid-South District have shown tremendous support for LIME, its staff and students by funding significant technology and facility upgrades at the Institute. We pray for another overwhelming show of support to help our Lutheran friends in Madagascar face this new difficulty.



### *9-24-20 update: **Generous Response to Assist the Lutheran Institute in Madagascar***

Thank you to all who responded to the recent appeal on behalf of the Lutheran Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship (LIME) in Madagascar. As noted in the appeal, LIME has been hit especially hard by the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Institute's doors have now been closed for six months, creating a tremendous hardship for the staff members and their families. Rev. Joseph Randrianasolo, Rector of LIME, shared that the staff have stretched their resources as far as they can, but that the coming month will be marked by extreme hunger—or worse—without the help of outside aid. **In response to this critical need, LCMS members and ministries across our District have shared just over \$6,000 to assist our Lutheran brothers and sisters in Madagascar.** These funds will go far to help sustain the LIME staff through the coming months of the continuing pandemic.

*Above Photos of the Lutheran Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship in Madagascar*

# Prayer Summary, September 2020

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 September 2020.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**REV. RONALD HALAMKA** (Waxahachie, TX)  
**MRS. ALISON HAWKINS** (Mid-South District Office)  
**REV. DONLEY HESSE** (Emeritus, Mena, AR)  
**MRS. SUSAN JONES** (Volunteer, Mid-South District Office)  
**MRS. NANCY LEE** (Retiree, Mid-South District Office)  
**REV. NEIL VANDERBUSH** (Chaplain\*U.S. Army through the Board of International Missions\*Our Savior, Searcy, AR).  
**REV. DR. ROGER WINGER** (Former LCC District President)  
**ERIC** (Grandson of Rev. Peter Ave-Lallemant and wife, Elizabeth)

**We pray for all affected worldwide by the Coronavirus as we continue to navigate within this ever changing pandemic.**

**Our deepest sympathies to:**  
**THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF MRS. CLAIRE HALAMKA** (Wife of Rev. Ronald Halamka, Emeritus) who recently passed away.

**THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF REV. MERLIN SEPMEYER** (Crossville, TN) who passed away on September 14th.

## CALL UPDATE

### IN THE CALLING PROCESS – CONGREGATIONS ORDAINED MINISTERS

**ACCEPTED:** **Rev. Kevin McReynolds**, Pastor, St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Central City, NE, has accepted the Call to serve as **Pastor to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mountain Home, AR.**  
*\*Installation was September 20, 2020*

**Rev. Donald Welmer**, Associate Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church, Plano, TX has accepted the Call to serve as **Pastor to First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN.** *\*Installation planned for October 4, 2020.*

**Rev. Dan Hauser**, Pastor, Christ Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR, accepted a Call to serve as **Pastor to Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Indianapolis, IN.**

**PENDING:** **Rev. Jonathan Beyer**, Pastor, First Lutheran Church, Hot Springs, AR, has received a Call to serve as **Pastor to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Shawnee, OK.**

### COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

**ACCEPTED:** **Ms. Celia Walkowicz**, Candidate, has accepted the Call to serve as **Director of Children and Youth Ministries to Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN.**

### CONGREGATIONS-IN THE CALLING PROCESS

**Mid-South District** – Executive Director for Missions and Ministry  
**Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Smith, AR** – Pastor

### COMMISSIONED MINISTERS-IN THE CALLING PROCESS

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

## Congregational Mission Commitments

### Mission Commitment Receipts as of 8/31/2020 (8 Months)

Anticipated Amount  
(66.67% of budget) ..... \$1,025,980  
Actual Receipts..... 987,543  
Over (under) anticipated  
amount .....(\$38,437)

### Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (8 Months)

Allocated to Synod for  
World Missions ..... \$279,596  
Allocated to Tanzania ..... 16,667  
Retained for District Mission/Ministry  
Support (70% of receipts).....691,280  
Total Receipts ..... \$987,543

### Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (8 Months)

Actual Receipts as  
of 8/31/2020..... \$987,543  
Actual Receipts  
as of 8/31/2019..... \$1,028,278  
Over (under) prior  
year receipts ..... (\$40,735)

## Encourager Topics in 2020

We invite you to share your stories with us please email it by **October 20, 2020** to Rhonda, [webmaster@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:webmaster@mid-southlcms.com)

- November – Thankfulness
- December – Highlights of 2020

## 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*

**Allen Piepenbrink,** *Executive*

*Director for Schools and Early*

*Childhood*

**Missy Washburn,**

*Administrative Assistant to the*

*District President*

**Renae McElwain,**

*Communications & Marketing*

*Specialist*

**Julie Tyler,** *Administrative*

*Assistant for Missions and*

*Education*

### Contact the Mid-South District

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"