

Encourager

OCTOBER 2023

Mid-South District LCMS



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

On the last Sunday of October, you may notice the pastors are wearing red vestments. We have red paraments in our sanctuary. It's because we will be celebrating Reformation Sunday - the time of the year when we remember the necessary changes needed in the Christian Church over 500 years ago. But this isn't a day for us to jump up and down, saying, "Hip, hip hooray for Lutherans." Nor do we bring adoration to the great Reformer, Martin Luther. Instead, it is a day to focus on God's Word - especially on the message brought back to light by one of God's servants who willingly offered his life for the sake of our justification before God... the teaching of Holy Scripture that God declares sinners not guilty - innocent because Jesus Christ has already paid for our sins.

God doesn't want anyone to live in fear or doubt about their eternal

salvation. That's why the Law of God allows no boasting - we can never do enough, give enough, scrub ourselves clean enough to earn God's favor. He demands perfection under the Law. We've all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. His Law demands complete and perfect sinlessness and perfect obedience. In other words, God's Law shows that we can't say a single word of what we've done, because not only do we sin... we are sinners from birth.

Luther felt a kind of deep, searing pain of sin against the Law. He knew the Law of God condemned him. Sin that is unforgiven or unsatisfied means eternal death. As a monk, he tried everything imaginable to do good, but was crushed to finally realize how woefully short of God's demands under the Law left him. He agonized for years, knowing there was no price he

could pay that could take away his sin. Have we struggled with the same realization... that no matter how hard we try, we can't reconcile ourselves to God? How can we be saved, then? Because of the Reformation, we're blessed to know the answer to the age-old question.

Do we fully appreciate the answer that God has already saved us through the sacrificial death and resurrection of Jesus Christ? God's forgiveness is in the water and the Word of Holy Baptism. His forgiveness is in the spiritual food He offers us in faith at our fingertips and upon our lips in the Lord's Supper.

What lame excuses do we use to not go to Bible studies... or get our children to Sunday School? Is it easier to veg out in front of the TV than to do our own private devotions? Have we ever skipped church because we're too tired to

get out of bed or miss Bible study because we want to go meet some friends somewhere else? Is God's Word precious anymore?

If Martin Luther were alive today, he'd be pretty disappointed at the way the church looks in America. Today, the average church attendance is below 50% of those who even call themselves members. Bible study isn't attended by even 10% of the members anymore. Sunday School attendance is down below 20% of the eligible children. What have we done? Can we really expect the next generation to grow up as strong Christian adults if we haven't planted the right seeds?

That's the kind of conditions Martin Luther found in his day, however. So, he turned to God's Word for answers. Just as the Holy Spirit slayed the sinner with the Law, the Spirit of God also gave Luther the firm understanding of forgiveness for all sins, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Luther found in Holy Scripture what he and all the world needed to be saved from everlasting condemnation and Hell fire.

St Paul's letter to the Romans reveals the answer. Luther re-discovered the Gospel message that had been buried in abuse and superstition for centuries. He re-discovered that his sins were washed away in the precious blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He came across the passage that proclaimed "the righteousness of God." As he studied the Scriptures, he was intrigued by what he found about this state of

living in a right relationship with God because of Jesus Christ... not a righteousness demanded of us, but a righteousness given to us - a free gift - from God through Christ. Luther read and re-read these words, *"For in the Gospel, a righteousness from God is revealed, a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: 'The righteous shall live by faith.'"*

The righteous shall live by faith! Think of justification this way: Imagine yourself in a court room. All of the little lies, the vulgarity, the evil thoughts, the malicious gossip, and every dirty deed ever done is brought before a Judge. Every time tolerance instead of truth occurs, every failed good deed to accomplish and every defense of truth in our life is listed. Everyone there knows we're guilty. The judge finds us guilty as charged. Our sentence: Eternal suffering and death.

But just before the gavel pounds down, a Man steps forward. Jesus stands and says, "Your Honor, this person's guilt has already been paid. I took all his sins on Me." The Judge declares us not guilty because of what Jesus did for us. That's justification... a forensic act in God's justice at work in our lives to set us free from the guilt of sin. In His eyes we're not only "not guilty," but those confessed and forgiven sins are tossed as far as the east is from the west... into the depths of the sea and never remembered again. We're innocent because Jesus suffered the punishment of our guilt for us already.

The chief article upon which Christianity must rise or fall - is

justification before God. All too often it has been shelved or maybe even traded in because 21st century preachers want to make people feel good about themselves. It doesn't work! Ultimately, what we do in the here and now must face the hereafter. Prosperity and feeling good about our own deeds must stand in the judgement of God who uses perfection as the only measure of righteousness.

When Luther re-discovered this wonderful truth of God's grace we receive by His gift of faith, (an article that had left with the Holy Christian Church) he cherished it and proclaimed it with every fabric of his life. It's too good to lay on the shelf to gather dust. He was placed on trial and had a price put on his head. But, unless his accusers could show by using the Word of God where he was wrong, Luther refused to recant. He declared, "Here I stand, I can do no more."

We're saved by God's grace alone, by faith alone, declared in Scripture alone, through Christ alone. Nothing else can add to or subtract from the beauty of God's love for us in Christ Jesus. Since we're convinced that His Word is the living Word of God... that it contains no error or conflict and is the only word by which we can be saved, we can do no less than to hold fast to the doctrines of Christ's Holy Church and His saving doctrine in all its truth and purity. If there's any who aren't convinced this is God's living Word and they can pick and choose what's relevant for them, then that person is with the rest of

the 70% of Americans who found God too unimportant and decide to stay home or avoid church for some other lame excuse.

Paul wrote: *"God presented Jesus as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith in His blood. He did this to demonstrate His justice, because in His forbearance He had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished."* What does this mean? Does God have to prove Himself to anyone? Of course not. But this is to show God's grace that He justifies, forgiving the sins of the confessing and repentant sinners who look to the Savior.

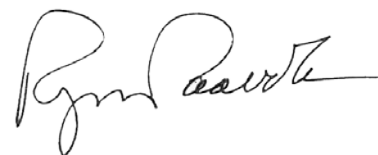
God uses each day to give us an opportunity to turn to His Word and His promise. He uses every moment to strengthen our trust in Him. He wants to show us that He loves us with an unconditional love that yearns for our love of Him in return forever. Through

His Word and Sacraments, God keeps proving that He is a just, merciful and loving God who wants nothing more than for us to be with Him in life everlasting.

Why in the world doesn't God just come down and put an end to all the disturbing sin, chaos, evil, and abuse. We see false teachers cropping up in the name of Christianity, seducing unsuspecting people into oblivion because they haven't taken the time or the opportunity to study God's Word. But just consider how the Gospel of Christ was re-discovered back in 1517 by a Roman Catholic monk who just wouldn't rest until his heart was at peace with God. He found that peace when he read God's Word that declares that God justifies freely by His grace... a righteousness from God through Jesus Christ.

In this doctrine of justification, we're assured that we are forgiven for the sake of what Christ accomplished for us on the cross and by His glorious resurrection. That's why we cling to God's Word for dear life. That's why we share this Good News with those who still live in fear and darkness... that they may also come into the marvelous light of Jesus Christ. Salvation is ours, not because of anything we can do, but because God justifies us freely by His grace... for the sake and in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Your servant in Christ +
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola



UPON THIS ROCK

A Hymn Festival on the Church

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023 | 3:00 PM



Rev. Dr. Todd Peperkorn,
Speaker



Jacquelyn Magnuson,
Organist

Grace Lutheran Church
5124 Hillcrest Ave
Little Rock, AR 72205
www.gracelutheranlr.org

Free admission | Reception to follow

DISTRICT MINISTRY MONTH



Get Ready for SET APART TO SERVE Sunday!

October has been designated as District Ministry Month. Because a significant emphasis of district ministry is encouraging current church workers and helping new workers answer the Call to serve, LCMS congregations across the Mid-South District will join together in celebration of Called Workers for a special "Set Apart to Serve Sunday" this month. The designated date for this special Sunday is October 22—but you may find it observed on a different October date in your own congregation. Set Apart to Serve Sunday will encourage congregation members in THREE IMPORTANT WAYS:

INFORM —

The Mid-South District has launched a Church Worker recruiting campaign, led by a Set Apart to Serve Task Force. This group of Called Workers and lay leaders seeks to spread the word about the wonderful opportunities to serve God's church as a Pastor, Director of Christian Ed (DCE), Principal, Teacher, Director of Parish Music, Deaconess, or other "Called" Worker role. Visit the Mid-South District's website at mid-southlcms.org to learn about Called positions—and the current critical need for these workers.

INVITE —

Are you contemplating entering the field of ministry? The Set Apart to Serve Task Force wants to connect with potential future Church Workers and invite them to learn more about what it means to "answer the Call to serve," including important resources available for those who do. Visit the Mid-South District's website at mid-southlcms.org to request a call from a Pastor, Principal, Teacher or DCE on the Task Force.

INVEST —

The Mid-South District supports Church Workers in many important ways. 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. You can also **invest in those who are "Set Apart to Serve" by making a gift to the Mid-South District in honor of a special worker** (or future worker). Thanks to the support of two generous supporters of district ministry, **the first \$50,000 in gifts will be matched!** What a tremendous way to honor and give thanks for our Church Workers who are "Set Apart to Serve." You'll learn more about this opportunity on Set Apart to Serve Sunday in your congregation. However, you can also visit the district website at mid-southlcms.org now and share a gift online in honor of a Church Worker.

Visit the District's website through December and watch upcoming issues of the *Encourager* for a list of those honored or memorialized for their impact as a beloved Church Worker!

15 Years of Gospel Partnership for Cristo Para Todos

15 years ago, Iglesia Luterana Cristo Para Todos arrived at Salem, Springdale. For a few years we shared facilities, until we realized that we would be better as a unified church. Praise God for his work to unite our congregations together! Today Salem Lutheran Ministries is a bilingual, multiethnic church.

In Latino culture, a 15th birthday is a huge celebration called a quinceañera. Since this was our church's 15th anniversary, we celebrated in a large way. On August 27, Rev. Tardelli Voss, the church planter and first pastor of the Hispanic congregation, preached at all our divine services. After the services, we enjoyed a large lunch and celebration.

This celebration gave us the opportunity to remember God's goodness, celebrate his grace given to us through Jesus Christ, and praise him for his faithfulness!



Rev. Tardelli Voss and Rev. Martin

Rast to retire from presidential service at Concordia Theological Seminary

FORT WAYNE, IN

Seminary President Dr. Lawrence R. Rast Jr. has announced his decision to retire from the presidency of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), following the completion of the 2023/2024 academic year. President Rast stated, "...Stepping down from the presidency now will enable me to finish writing the books that I have not had the time to complete as president and to spend more time in the classroom teaching students." Read more here> https://ctsfw.edu/PublicFiles/CTSFW_NEWS/2023_09_28_Rast_retiring_from_CTSFW_presidency.html



30th Anniversary at Grace Celebration Lutheran Church



On August 27, 2023 Grace Celebration Lutheran Church in Cordova, Tennessee celebrated its 30th anniversary of ministry. Grace Celebration began its journey as a Mid-South District Mission Development Church. Pastor Roger Theimer was called as the first pastor to plant the mission church. He was joined by a small group of "church planting" young adults, some of whom had recently graduated from Concordia College in Bronxville, New York, and volunteered to relocate to Memphis.

Bouncing around from one building facility to another for 7 years, Grace Celebration found its current home in 2000 with a dedication service in June. At that service the children sang, "The Church is not a building. . . the Church is the people," and for thirty years since God has demonstrated His love and commitment to Grace Celebration.

Along with the Grace Celebration congregation, a number of members from the church's beginning were able to attend. It was a wonderful mix of generations as Pastor Theimer returned for the anniversary celebration to share a message entitled, "The Good Ole Days. . . Are Yet to Come!" that

inspired the congregation to give thanks for the blessings and abundant love that God has provided through the years, and also to anticipate and trust God's love and blessings yet to come.

After a joyful worship service, offering thanksgiving and praise, our celebration continued with a luncheon. At the luncheon, many shared fun stories of the past and heartfelt sentiments of love and appreciation. *Grace Celebration Senior Pastor Terry Tieman said of the festivities, "It was an enthusiastic reflection of God's faithful hand through the last 30 years and a hopeful look for the future."*



The future is bright for Grace Celebration with God's blessings in ministries that serve a wide range of people and partnerships including our Early Learning Childhood Center Summer Camp, recovery groups, food ministries, and Lifewise Academy, where we will teach public school children about Jesus during school hours. Through it all the gospel of Jesus Christ has nourished us through Word and Sacrament with the love of our gracious God and Savior Jesus Christ.

— Pastor Jim Belles

Happening at All Saints Lutheran in Jonesboro, AR...

Visit oktoberfest.city for more information

Join us for
Oktoberfest
Oct. 14, 2023
4-8pm
hosted by
All Saints Lutheran Church
1812 Rains St, Jonesboro, AR



For more information,
visit allsaintsjonesboro.org
or scan the QR code.



Have students attending
Arkansas State University
in Jonesboro, Arkansas?

Make sure they know about
Lutheran Student Fellowship
& **All Saints Lutheran Church**.

 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**
where investments build ministry

5%

APPLY ONLINE AT
lcef.org

**18-MONTH FIXED-RATE
TERM NOTE**

NEW NOTE FROM LCEF

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) recently introduced another exciting investment product: an 18-month term note with a 5% interest rate. This attractive offer is for "new money" with a minimum investment of \$500 and is available to any Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) individual, congregation or organization. If you are not already investing funds with LCEF, now may be a great time to join thousands of investors across the Lutheran Church body. Click the image below for complete details on this offer and an online investment application (for individual accounts). Visit lcef.org to learn more and apply online today!

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Rates as of October 2023. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details.

REFORMATION DAY LEADERSHIP MISSION FEST

LUTHER
CLASSICAL COLLEGE



Come and learn about the work of Luther Classical College, a national mission devoted to excellent Lutheran education for our sons and daughters across the country.

LOCATION: *Trinity Lutheran Church, 3802 N Olive St., North Little Rock*

DATE: *Saturday, October 28, 2023*

TIME: *11am-2pm*

ATTENDANCE: *Pastors and lay leaders from LCMS circuits:*

~North Little Rock

~ South Little Rock

~ Stuttgart

~ Jonesboro

~ Fort Smith

SPEAKER: *Samuel Preus, Director of Development at LCC*

TOPIC: *Luther Classical College and the Bright Future of Lutheran Education*

REGISTER: *Call or email Pr. David Vandercook at (501) 851-4546 or david.vandercook@protonmail.com.*

Lunch generously provided by the congregations of Trinity in North Little Rock and Shepherd of Peace in Maumelle.



LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

*Uncovering the Shadow World
of Human Trafficking*

**SAT. NOV. 4, 2023
9 AM - 1 PM**

MENA MOUNTAIN RESORT

2817 HIGHWAY 71 NORTH / MENA AR 71953

Representatives from
LOCAL, STATE & NATIONAL Agencies
will share knowledge on how to

- **IDENTIFY SIGNS**
- **REPORT ACTIVITY**
- **HELP VICTIMS**
of Human Trafficking

FREE EVENT • LUNCH PROVIDED



VISIT [MID-SOUTHLCMS.ORG](https://mid-southlcms.org)
To Learn More & Register

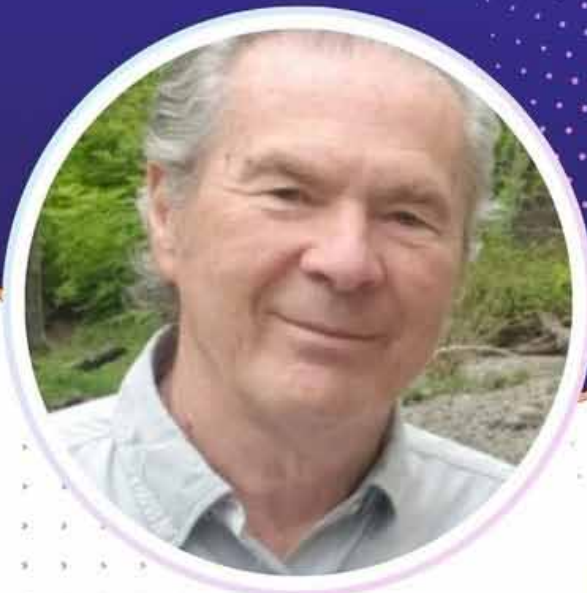
This free community event is hosted by the Mid-South District, LCMS.

Church Outreach Seminar

COMMUNICATING

GOD • Finding Value in Everyone

● Saturday, December 2nd
10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.



Rev. Dr. Leroy Leach- Presenter

Retired Associate Professor
and Instructor
Concordia College,
Bronxville, NY.

**FREE EVENT FOR
ALL CHURCHES**

**LUNCH PROVIDED
BY LCEF**



Grace Lutheran Church
5124 Hillcrest Ave.
Little Rock, AR.
501-663-3631



Please call the church or use
the QR code to register for
this event.

VESTMENTS NEEDED

Forty one new Pastors will be ordained in the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese of Tanzania on June 1, 2024. Most of these men have received their Theological training at the Negezi Training center. Their education has been supported by the Mid-South District and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne. God has truly blessed this program.

Bishop Yohana Nzelu has asked if we could help him get Alb's and Stoles for these men. He has found someone who can make them locally. The cost for a stole is around \$10, (they would probably give them a red and a green Stole) and they will be able to make an Alb or around \$40. So total cost for one Pastor is \$60 USD.

He asked if we could help him raise money to purchase the material so they can start making



them. If you would like to donate money to help purchase them. Please contact me or send money to the Mid-South District LCMS, 1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN 38016 (earmark the check Tanzania Vestments)

—Bob Allen

2024 Institute on Liturgy Preaching and Church Music

July 9–12, 2024 • Seward, Neb.

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://www.lcms.org/2024-worship-institute).

Pilot Project Starting in 2024 with limited space

April 2024

This coming April, the Synod will offer a retreat for parents of children who have experienced difficulties related to sexual orientation and gender identity. Details are still being confirmed, but the retreat will serve as a pilot project for developing materials for the Synod's Created Male and Female project, an outgrowth of 2019 Resolution 11-03A.

Interested parents should fill out the questionnaire at <https://www.lcms.org/parents-retreat>

For questions & information contact

Deaconess Dr. Tiffany Manor

Tiffany.manor@lcms.org

314-996-1085

THANK YOU--LIME UPDATE



"The very brotherly financial gift from the Mid-South District and from the LCMS as whole has allowed LIME to paint the wall facing the road and to buy computers. Thank you and thank you very much.

May Jesus Christ from Nazareth, The Head of the Church, bless you all!

Your brother across the ocean, Joseph"

Pastor Joseph Randrianasolo

Lutheran Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship (LIME)



Pictures of the LIME in Madagascar. This is the support from the Mid-South District to the Malagasy Lutheran Church and its LIME (Lutheran Institute of Managerial Entrepreneurship). Our continuing support offers a post-high school education for young men and women to prepare them for work and support of their families.



SUPPORT NEEDED FOR DAVIS FAMILY AND CAMP TRINITY

Aaron and Maggie Davis serve in ministry at Camp Trinity: The Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean Mountain in Arkansas. For four years, they have lived with their five children in camp housing on site. Recently, the camp's home was found to have toxic mold behind the shower wall. Due to the age of the home, and a long list of other needed repairs, the camp board has decided to create a campaign to replace the mobile home.

The Davis family has had to move out of their home at Camp Trinity into temporary housing offsite for their health and safety. While living in camp housing, the family was exposed to the toxic mold growing behind the shower wall. Due to this exposure, one of their five children has become very sick. Her symptoms were a medical mystery until the mold was discovered. Since then, the family has tested the home to better understand the severity of the situation. Given the results they received from testing and the sensitivity of their daughter, they've made the tough decision to part with the material contents within their home.

Renters insurance will not cover this type of catastrophic loss. Generally, toxic mold from one acute event will be covered by insurance, but toxic mold acquired over months or years is denied because the insurance company cannot be sure the damage occurred within the time of the active policy.

Christian friends, this family is in need of help. They need financial support to replace the contents of their home. They need financial support as they seek care and treatment for their daughter. They need our prayers. Though they remain steadfast in their faith, this is a dark and frightening path to walk. The family is currently trusting in God's power and provision as they hold on to verses like Ephesians 3:20-21, which reads, *"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever! Amen."* To read more of the Davis' story, see www.realfoodrealhealing.com/toxic-mold-stories-the-davis-family

To financially support the Davis family, you can write a check to Aaron and Maggie Davis (with DAVIS FAMILY in the memo) and send it to Camp Trinity at:

Camp Trinity, c/o Davis Family

110 Montgomery Trace, Morrilton, AR 72110-9364

You can also use this GiveSendGo link (www.givesendgo.com/davis_family) to make a donation. At GiveSendGo, 2.7% is deducted from each donation to cover the credit card processing fees.

To financially support the camp's effort to provide a new home for the camp manager (currently the Davis family), you can write a check to Camp Trinity (with MANAGER'S HOME in the memo) and send it to Camp Trinity at:

Camp Trinity, c/o Manager's Home

110 Montgomery Trace, Morrilton, AR 72110-9364

— Written by, Jennifer Schmidt



The Davis children, from left: Gwyneth, 12; Arthur, 1; Joseph, 6; Lottie, 9; Jane, 4.

AUGUST WORKSHOP IN HAITI

Since 2020, our mission trips to Haiti have been paused. This started during the pandemic and continues because of the danger Haiti now experiences, with up to 80% of the capital city, Port au Prince, being totally controlled by gangs. However, by the grace of God, three members of the Trinity HOPE United States team were able to safely travel to Haiti in late August to administer a training workshop to all the Haitian Feeding Program Directors. To avoid any security concerns, the team avoided Port au Prince and split the workshop into two sessions: one in the city of Cap Haitien for everyone on the north side of the country, and one in the city of Jacmel for everyone on the south side of the country.

The training workshop is an incredibly valuable time for the 35 Haitian employees to come together



to understand the changes we made for the upcoming school year, receive additional training on how to do their jobs more efficiently, and have an opportunity to interact with their peers. It's a time of intense learning, team building, and laughter. It's also a time to worship God together in prayer and song.

It is a time when we are reminded that we are one team, serving one Kingdom. In addition to the procedural training and fellowship, our team always returns home humbled by the blessings we receive in worship with our Haitian brothers and sisters. Listening to them praise God each day, singing familiar hymns in their native tongue, and experiencing the deep and reverent prayer during the daily worship is a gift we will never take for granted. We are so grateful God made the way for us to be together. Please add these amazing saints to your daily prayers.

Now, more than ever, your donation is needed. Haiti is facing unimaginable hardships, and a noon meal for a child can make all the difference. A very generous donor has agreed to match all new recurring donations of any amount, not just once, but throughout the life of the donation. AND Another donor has agreed to match the first year of these recurring donations.

Consider becoming a recurring donor today!

Platinum Level - \$10,000 or more
Gold Level - \$5,000
Silver Level - \$2,500
Bronze Level - \$1000
Diamond Level - \$500 - Just \$42 per month!

Scan
Here



To make a donation visit us at www.trintynhope.org/match or scan the QR code here!
You can also mail donations to P.O. Box 2910, Lebanon, TN 37088

PRAYER SUMMARY, SEPTEMBER 2023

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 September 2023.

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. DAN OTTO (Emeritus, Murfreesboro, TN)
REV. TOM SAYRE (Emeritus, St. John's, FL)
REV. TOM MOORE (Emeritus, Cordova, TN)
MRS. NORMA MOORE (wife of Rev. Tom Moore, Emeritus, Cordova, TN)
MS. LOIS SCHULTZ (mother of Rhonda Schultz, MDS Webmaster)
MS. LINDA SIMKO (stepdaughter of Jan Simko, MDS Disaster Relief Coordinator)
MR. ZAC ENKO (son of Rev. Keith Enko, Emeritus, Lebanon, TN)
MR. MARC HIGGINS (MDS Board of Directors, Maumelle, AR)
MR. WAYNE LAURY (spouse of Ann Laury, Principal, Christ the King Lutheran School, Memphis, TN)

All those affected by the devastating fires in Maui, Hawaii
All those affected by the earthquake in Morocco

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mr. David Ogden, who recently passed away. (Olive Branch, MS)

CALL UPDATE

ORDAINED MINISTERS

ACCEPTED: **Rev. Donald Hefta**, Emeritus (Hot Springs Village, AR) accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to Faith Lutheran Church, Fairfield Bay, AR*. Installation took place September 24, 2023.

Rev. Adam Gless, Senior Pastor, Zion Lutheran Church, Mayer, MN accepted the Call to serve as *Senior Pastor to Salem Lutheran Ministries, Springdale, AR*. Installation is planned for October 22, 2023.

Rev. Seth Korte (Candidate) Fort Wayne, IN, accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN*. Installation date is pending.

Rev. William Ringer, Pastor, St. John's Russellville, AR accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to St. Paul Lutheran Church, North East, PA*.

PENDING: **Rev. Ryan Kleimola**, Associate Pastor to Trinity Lutheran Church, Toledo, OH has received a Call to serve as *Pastor to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY*.

DECLINED: **Rev. Dr. Brian Kachelmeier** Pastor to Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, San Antonio, TX returned the Call to serve as *Pastor to Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, 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 the King Lutheran School, Memphis, TN - Pre-K 3 Teacher

Christ Lutheran School, Little Rock, AR - 7th/8th Grade Math Teacher

Our Savior Lutheran Academy, Nashville, TN - Part time teachers ECC and After Care Program

CONGREGATIONAL MISSION COMMITMENTS

Mission Commitment Receipts as of 8/30/2023 (8 Months)

Anticipated Amount (50% of budget).....\$1,042,847
Actual Receipts 984,868
Over (under) anticipated amount..... (\$57,979)

Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (8 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World Missions\$278,794
Allocated to Tanzania 16,667
Retained for District Mission/Ministry Support (70% of receipts).....689,408
Total Receipts \$984,868

Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (8 Months)

Actual Receipts as of 8/30/2023..... \$984,868
Actual Receipts as of 8/30/2022.....\$984,614
Over (under) prior year receipts\$254

What's New With You?

Encourager Topics in 2023

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 upcoming topics.

- 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 phone: 662-252-1004. Judy will always acknowledge receipt of your submission if it is sent directly to her.

Mid-South District, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Staff

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Paul Reaves,
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Administrative Assistant to the District President
Rena McElwain,
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