

Encourager

NOVEMBER 2022

Mid-South District LCMS



A Message from Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, President

What was the first sound that happened after God created this universe? The Book of Job's creation account says, "The morning stars sang together and all the angels shouted for joy." That was the beginning. The Book of Revelation says we'll hear the elders around the throne of God, praising Him day and night. Almost everywhere you look in the Bible, it speaks of praise of God from the beginning of time to the time we're all in heaven.

"Give thanks in all things, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus," writes St. Paul to the Thessalonians. First of all - Thank Him that He is our God. Thank Him that He is the God who gives us life. Through His Son, He brings us back to life out of death, joy

out of sorrow, and victory out of what seems a defeat. Thank God for His presence in the times of our illnesses and accidents, our loneliness and our grief. Thank God that even though things He allows burden us, He uses them for the ultimate and good purpose for your life. Therefore, on our Thanks-Giving Day, we pause to think, we have cause to give thanks.

Scripture speaks about how God tested Israel during their Exodus. He needed to prove to their minds that He was and will remain their strength. As they stood on the banks of the Jordan River, waiting to go into the Promised Land, Moses encouraged the people to humble themselves before God, to give thanks and remembers His

faithfulness through the 40 years of their journey... pause to think - you have a cause to thank. Moses recorded God's words, *"Think: your feet did not swell during these forty years. Your shoes did not wear out."* (Deuteronomy 8)

We might gloss over those words. "...your feet didn't swell." That happens to people who consume the same thing every day their diet. If a person doesn't get a variety of vitamins and nutrients in a balanced diet, they'd become ill. Beriberi is caused from an improperly balanced diet - diseases common to only eating the same thing each day. When it hits, the victim's feet swell so large that they can't wear shoes.

But that didn't happen. The Israelites received all their required

vitamins and nourishment in a strange food that laid on the desert floor, called Manna... which in Hebrew means, "What is it!" It was miracle food that God provided... every day... for 40 years...15,000 meals... enough food to fill a freight train 5 miles long and enough to feed at least 3 million people every day... in the desert... where there was no other food. Imagine the logistics of that journey?! Stop and think. You will have cause to give thanks.

The Lord God said to them, *"When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord, your God for the good land He has given you."* Thanking God - it's a privilege reserved for His people. When we think of the thousands of tons of food and the complexities just to move all the people; when we read the Exodus account, we have to come to one conclusion... it can only be by the gracious hand of a living and almighty God that they were able to flourish - let alone survive for 40 years, walking by faith alone.

Moses urged the people, *"Remember your God!"* Remember and believe. St. Paul put it another way, *"Being confident of this, that He who began this good work in you will bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ."* As the modern-day Israelites, we are also reminded to remember our God. By the power of the Holy Spirit, He's led us from a wilderness of our separation from God, into His promised inheritance of

everlasting paradise. He's fed us, too...through His Holy Word and with His blessed sacraments. Think about His grace and goodness...and today, you have cause to offer Him thanks.

When our lives are filled with all goodness that can come from God's abundance, we start to feel pretty good about things. We start to feel better about ourselves. There's a bounce back in our step. But the sad reality is that when that happens - self-confidence and feeling uplifted, we do something strange: We don't stop to think... we forget how we got that walk; how we got that spring to our step, and we sometimes forget to give thanks to God.

On the other hand, it's pretty easy to turn our eyes toward heaven when we're in some kind of despair. One time after the other, He gets our attention and causes us to turn to Him in prayer because something's gone wrong... again. But then there sometimes when just too many bad things happen, so we find it hard to thank God for them and for His strength. Maybe, secretly we're angry.

But do we remember to offer thanks even in all bad things? Here's what I mean:

Martin Rinkhardt, the author of the Thanksgiving hymn, "Now Thank We All our God," lived in Germany at the time America was just being settled by the pilgrim. Rinkhardt and his fellow Germans were caught in the

middle of the Thirty-Year War. In that war, thousands of people were crammed inside the city where Rickhardt lived. Adequate sanitation was seriously lacking. Food and water supplies became contaminated. As a result, a cholera plague broke out in his city, taking hundreds of lives in its wake.

Martin Rinkhardt was the only Christian clergyman left alive in the village. According to his daily diary, Rinkhardt buried over 4000 bodies - as many as 50 people in a single day. This is the background to Martin Rinkhardt's great hymn:

*"Now Thank We All Our God;
With Heart and hand and
voices;
Who wondrous things has
done; in Whom His world
rejoices;
Who from our mother's arms,
has blest us on our way;
With countless gifts of love;
and still is ours today."*

Stopping to think gave Rickhardt cause to thank God for the good days, as well as the deliverance from the bad. It was his privilege and it's ours also.

We're reminded of all the reasons we should give thanks: Everything with which God has so richly blessed us. But more than all the things for which we give thanksgiving to God, we are eternally grateful to Him for life and salvation. Through the sacrifice of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, our slavery to sin was

exchanged for an inheritance as the sons and daughters of God. Our just punishment before God was paid for when His Son shed His blood and died on the cross in our place. Just like the Israelites He freed from their captivity, and sustained each day, we're also set free and sustained by Christ's almighty power.

Jesus was chased out of towns, had His life threatened, was betrayed by His closest friends, and abandoned. Yet, His compassion for His people took Him through the bloody sweat in the Garden and carried Him to Calvary. He was executed by His own people. Despite all these things, Jesus never ceased praising and thanking God. He

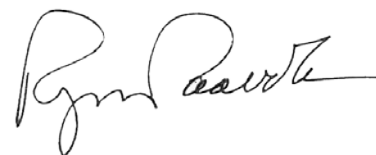
knew that after the darkness, there is light; after the defeat, there is the victory; after the sorrow there is joy; and after the death, there is the resurrection.

He willingly suffered the agonizing pain for all our sins. He is the sacrifice that is the foundation of our thanks - giving to God. Christ Jesus is God's Thanksgiving offering for you and me. Forgiveness of sins is ours. The resurrection is ours! Eternal life with God is ours! Food sent from heaven today, is ours because of the love and grace that comes from our almighty and gracious Father.

Isn't it ironic that - for as much as our country has been blessed - for as much as each and everyone

of us have been blessed by our gracious and loving God - that our nation has had to set aside a day to remind us to pause to give thanks? Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving. Pause to think about the blessings from God. Thank you for stopping to take time to pause and think today, we have cause to give thanks. Thank You, God... we remember. Thank you Jesus.

Your servant in Christ +
Rev. Roger Paavola



November 18-20

Evanguard Retreat for Fathers and Sons 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>

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/>

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

*Uncovering the Shadow World
of Human Trafficking*

**SAT. NOV. 19, 2022
9 AM - 1 PM**

OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
5110 FRANKLIN PIKE / NASHVILLE, TN

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

▶ **REGISTER ONLINE**

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



Visit this event on Facebook to share and invite others.

DCE's Meet Up



(L-R) Ashley Myers, DCE @ Grace Lutheran, Knoxville, TN; Megan Kaufmann (wife of Jonah, not a DCE); Celia Walkowize, DCE @ Our Savior, Nashville, TN; Jonah Kaufmann, DCE @ Holy Trinity, Bowling Green, KY; Emily Leising, DCE @ Heavenly Host, Cookeville, TN; Katie Baumann, DCE @ Good Shepherd, Chattanooga, TN

Recently a few DCE's in East Tennessee and the Southern Kentucky area got together for lunch. It was a great time to connect and fellowship.

Future plans include - virtual meet ups once a month and in person every other month. If any commissioned workers would to join please connect with Emily.

Contact

Emily Leising — leising.emily@gmail.com

500th Anniversary Celebrated With Special Outreach

500 New Testament Bibles with Psalms and Proverbs were purchased by **Concordia Lutheran Church** (Kingsport, TN) with funds from the Rev. Robert G. Heckmann memorial.

The majority of the Bibles went to the Sullivan County Sheriff's department. The Sheriff's department was very happy to receive the books and intends to offer them to the staff and inmates at the county jail. We pray that God's Word will accomplish the purpose for which He sent it! (Isaiah 55:10-11). What a joyous experience!

The September Testament

October 2022 marked the 500th anniversary of Luther's translation of the New Testament from Greek into German. The translation, published in 1522, marked a pivotal point of the Reformation by making the gospels more accessible for people in the pews and in their own homes.



From back to front: Tim Luehrs (officer) Pastor Paul Becker, Chief Deputy Tracey Kittrell, Eric Lichty.

Grow Grant Recipient and Community Welcome Baskets

Trinity Lutheran Church in Mena, AR assembled "Community Welcome Baskets", on Sunday, September 11th as part of their Rally Day celebration. These Welcome Baskets will be given to new home buyers moving into the Mena community through two local realtors. This outreach project is funded with a GROW (Gospel Reaching Our World) Grant through the Mid-South District, in conjunction with the 175th Anniversary of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Included in the Welcome Baskets are paper towels, dish soap, bath tissue, hand soap, sanitizer, disinfectant spray, and other items to make the move into a new home a little easier. Also included are a Welcome Letter written by Pastor Timothy Henning, a newly developed church brochure welcoming newcomers to visit our church, a sheet of important questions and answers for newcomers to the community, as well as a \$20 gift card to McDonald's.

We assembled a dozen baskets to start with and will provide more baskets as the need arises. Upon completion of packaging the baskets, members gathered around laying our hands on them and praying for God's Holy Spirit to accompany them and that they would be received with joy and thankfulness. We asked God to move the hearts of those who receive them to come and visit us at Trinity congregation.



GROW Grants
Gospel Reaching Our World



A **GROW Grant** is a financial contribution from the Mid-South District to support an innovative ministry program or initiative to reach new hearts with the Gospel. For more information and how to apply, visit the District website <https://mid-southlcms.org/grow-grants>.

LWML Presents Grant Funds to District



In October, Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) Mid-South District 2nd Vice President Diane Reimold presented to District President Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola the first installment of the grant for Financial Aid for Professional Church Workers which was chosen at the LWML convention in Clarksville, TN in June. The total grant amount of \$25,000 will be paid in 4 payments over the next 2 years.

2022 Ralph Weiser Excellence in Ministry Award



2022 Ralph Weiser Excellence in Ministry Award recipient Larry Vickers (far left) with (L to R) his wife, Brenda, Mid-South District President Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, and his wife, Pat, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Nashville on October 23, 2022.

Nashville Layperson Recognized Through District Award

On Sunday, October 23, representatives from the Mid-South District visited Our Savior Lutheran Church in Nashville, TN to recognize Mr. Larry Vickers by presenting him with the 2022 Ralph Weiser Excellence in Ministry Award. Like the award's namesake, Ralph Weiser, Larry Vickers has exemplified service to God's Kingdom in numerous ways. Locally, he has been an instrumental leader in Our Savior Lutheran's efforts to reach more people in the Nashville community with the Gospel, including through a church plant. At the District level, he shared his business acumen as Treasurer on the Board of Directors for nine years and has served as an example of generous support and encouragement for the IMPACT development initiative, further partnering in the ministry-building work of the Mid-South District. Through his leadership and faithful support of ministry, Mr. Larry Vickers—with wife, Brenda, by his side—is a layperson who continues to make a lasting impact for the Kingdom in his local community, across the Mid-South District, and with the Gospel around the world. Congratulations and many thanks to Mr. Larry Vickers!



About the Ralph Weiser Excellence in Ministry Award:

Introduced in 2016, the Ralph Weiser Excellence in Ministry Award recognizes the dedication and ministry-building work of a Mid-South District layperson. The award honors the life and work of the late Ralph Weiser, a long-time friend of the Mid-South District whose example of leadership, service and faith impacted his local Lutheran congregation and community, as well as ministries across the entire District.

CELEBRATING THE LCMS 175th...

Oktoberfest

Thank you to Immanuel Lutheran Church & School in Memphis and everyone who was a part of the recent Mid-South District Oktoberfest celebration! Hosted at Immanuel on Saturday, October 8, the event welcomed around 200 for a full day of German food, music, local craft beer, fellowship and fun. The gathering was held in recognition of the 175th anniversary of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. A special thank you is extended to Diane Reimold, Immanuel member, who served as Chairperson for this very successful fellowship event.



The weather was perfect for the multi-congregational celebration of Oktoberfest!



You can't have Oktoberfest without an Oompah band!



A live auction of themed baskets raised \$1,200 for Restore Corps Memphis, a local non-profit that helps victims of human trafficking. Many thanks to the congregations and other organizations that donated baskets for the auction!



Some guests really got into the Oktoberfest spirit!



"Love Being Lutheran" was the theme of the day for t-shirts and beer cups, as modeled by two event volunteers and alum from Immanuel's school.



Get Your LOVE BEING LUTHERAN Shirt!

"Love Being Lutheran" t-shirts were a hit at the Mid-South District's recent Oktoberfest celebration. In addition to the Luther Rose design on the chest, the back imprint notes the 175th anniversary of the LCMS. **The super-soft blue shirts are now available for \$20.00 in several sizes.** Order yours online while they last at:

<https://midsouthdistrictlcms.regfox.com/love-being-lutheran-shirts-2022>

NEWS FROM LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND:

Time for the LCEF Annual Update

As in the past two years, LCEF will host a virtual Annual Update, rather than an in-person event. LCEF will hold this year's Annual Update ZOOM Meeting on **November 12, 2022**, at 10 a.m. CST. During that time, attendees will receive updates on the financial and ministry status of LCEF, as well as strategies for growth in the future. To register for the ZOOM event, please visit the Annual Update page on [LCEF's website](#).

Gift-Giving Is Easy with the LCEF Visa Gift Card

For Christmas—or any special occasion—a Visa gift card makes a thoughtful gift, affording the recipient flexibility to use it however they wish. **For Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) investors, the LCEF Visa gift card can be a great gift-giving option.** The gift cards are available in \$25, \$50 and \$100 values. An additional \$1.99 fee per gift card will be added to the order.



LCEF investors can learn more or place an order by visiting lcef.org/product/lcef-gift-card/ or calling Lutheran Church Extension Fund at 800-843-5233.



LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, 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.



BREAD OF LIFE Campaign

New Recurring Donations
Qualify for On Going Match

Feeding empty stomachs and nourishing souls with the
truth that Jesus is the true Bread of Life.



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 generous donor has agreed to match all new recurring donations throughout the life of the donation. This means every dollar you give will provide approximately 8 meals. Consider becoming a recurring donor today!

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

www.trinityhope.org/match

Scan
Here to
Donate



2022 CARE-VAN

Dates & Locations

November 4-5, 2022

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

Often, when natural disasters strike or when war drives families from their homes, our hearts ache with compassion, but we don't know how to help. Making Lutheran World Relief Kits is a simple, fun and tangible way to offer comfort to those suffering and express love to our neighbors in need.

LWR Kits are specifically designed to help people coping with poverty, disaster, conflict and more. Whether a kit helps someone to maintain good hygiene, care well for a newborn baby, keep education going during a crisis or learn a new vocation, LWR Kits provide dignity and hope in the direst situations.

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 [LWR Quilters & Kit Makers Community | Facebook](#). 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 2021, Lutheran World Relief delivered Quilts and Kits to 361,225 beneficiaries in 19 countries.** Here is the breakdown of the quilts and kits that were delivered in 2021 (122,400 quilts, 103,880 school kits, 3,230 blankets, 60,030 personal care kits, 915 fabric kits, 38,850 baby care kits, and 31,920 face masks).

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-southlcrs.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 2022 CARE-VAN

November 4-5, 2022

Locations and Coordinators



Loading Friday and Saturday, November 4-5, 2022
 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. Lonnie Cline 1-479-561-7171 lonniecline@yahoo.com	Rev. John Merrill 1-479-785-2886 (church) jfmerrill@gmail.com
Alexander, AR	Zion Lutheran Church of Avilla** 300 Avilla East Alexander, AR 72002	Ms Jeanette Irby 1-501-776-5092 hughirby@yahoo.com	Rev. Willie Grills 1-501-663-3631 (church) pastorgrills@gmail.com
Springdale, AR	Salem Lutheran Ministries 1800 West Emma Avenue Springdale, AR 72762-3905 Only Saturday - Nov. 5 (9a.m.-12p.m.)	Ms. Darlene Diercouff 1-479-751-9500 (church) ddiercouff@aol.com	Rev. Mark Krause 1-479-751-9500 (church) 1-479-841-4898 (cell) mekrause56@gmail.com

Tennessee

CITY	Location for YRC Freight	Contact Person	Pastor of Church
Chattanooga, TN	Cross of Christ Lutheran Church 3204 Hixon Pike Chattanooga, TN 37415 Only Friday, Nov. 4 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.)	Ms. Eunice Timm 1-423-227-1127 4betimm@epbfi.com	Rev. Barry Hildebrandt 1-423-877-7447 (church) 1-423-255-4746 (cell) church@cocluth.com
Nashville, TN	Our Savior Lutheran Church 5110 Franklin Pike Nashville, TN 37220-1814	Mr. Kenneth Priest 1-615-969-6225 kapslp10@comcast.net	Rev. Lane Reuter 1-615-833-1500 (church) oslcoffice1@gmail.com
Knoxville, TN	Grace Lutheran Church 9076 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923	Mr. Dale Henderson 1-865-235-4304 (cell) daleh@visitgrace.org	Rev. Richard Elseroad 1-865-691-2823 (church) relseroad@gmail.com
Memphis, TN	Immanuel Lutheran Church 6325 Raleigh LaGrange Road Memphis, TN 38134-6907	Ms. Diane Reimold 1-901-679-0626 dianereimold@hotmail.com	1-901-373-4486 (church) churchoffice@immanuelmemphis.org

** Zion Lutheran Church of Avilla, Alexander, AR is the new drop site for the Little Rock area.

LIME UPDATE — OCTOBER 11, 2022



Editor's note: this letter is Rev. Randrianasolo's own words, sent to President Paavola.

"The Lord be with you!

It has been a while that we did not keep you informed about LIME - life. We are in the last semester of the 2021/22 school year. School year will end in December. As we informed you some months ago, the number of students were very few. We did not stay inactive in front of that.

We reinforced our existing language skill trainings (German, Spanish, Chinese). That had produced good result. Before our students only were around 23, now we have 71 students.

We created courses to prepare not yet working young people and already working adults (more than 30 years old) to face exam competitions in order to be recruited in the government jobs. The first wave started their session class two weeks ago. A second wave class will be held in the middle of October. These two session classes are about how to succeed in exams to be recruited to become lawyers in the government system. Other

courses will come later preceding government exams time table about jobs in its system.

Competition is getting fierce and hard. Therefore, we intend to make stronger our partnership with the government university located in Fianarantsoa. We approached a group of the university professors to work tightly with us. The goal is to increase the number of our students by offering new courses at LIME according to their needs and by improving existing courses. The group of professors accepted to do so. The total of new courses is about 15. Our dream is to put LIME as the university pilot or the number one university in the region of High Matsiatra. Let us hope that all required documents will be presented on due time on the desk of the Ministry of the Malagasy University. Indeed, we pray that the Mid-South District will be with us in prayers and in deeds.

We are financially struggling to cover this last semester but that is

part of the fight we are facing. We stand to win the war but not only the battle.

LIME situation and progress have attained this stage because of the Mid-South District faithful partnership. We deeply praise our Lord Jesus Christ for the good fruits of such partnership. We also thank the Mid-South District under your leadership, yourself and your staff.

*Your brother across the ocean,
Joseph"*

*Rev. Dr Randrianasolo Joseph
President of LIME (Lutheran Institute of
Managerial Enterprise)*

PRAYER SUMMARY, OCTOBER 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 October 2022.

PRAYER CONCERNS

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

REV. PAUL DONNER (Emeritus, Paducah, KY)

MRS. SUSANNE ELSEROD (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)

MRS. SHIRLEY EIMMERMAN (ECE Director, First Lutheran Preschool, Knoxville, TN)

REV. GIL PINGEL (Emeritus, Chattanooga, TN)

We lift up the Florida-Georgia District and all those affected by the devastating effects of Hurricane Ian.

Our deepest sympathies to the **family and friends of Rev. Jan Munch** (Emeritus, Athens, TN) who recently passed away.

CALL UPDATE

ORDAINED MINISTERS

ACCEPTED: **Rev. William (Bill) Wagner**, Emeritus, has accepted the Call to serve as *Pastor to Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia, TN. Installation is planned for Sunday, November 20, 2022, at 3:00PM.*

DECLINED: **Rev. Andrew Kennell**, Pastor to St. John's Lutheran Church, Monett, MO, has returned the Call to serve as *Pastor to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Murray, KY.*

PENDING: **Rev. Mark Schulze**, Pastor to Trinity Lutheran Church, Eden, ID, has been issued a Call to serve as *Pastor to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Hermitage, TN.*

Rev. Thomas Boeck, Pastor to Marco Island Church, Marco Island, FL, has been issued a Call to serve as *Pastor to Peace Lutheran Church, Conway, AR.*

Rev. Christopher Schneider, Associate Pastor to St. Paul Lutheran Church, Flemington, NJ, has been issued a Call to serve as *Associate Pastor to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rogers, AR.*

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

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Sevierville, TN - Pastor

IN THE CALLING PROCESS- COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

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

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

Belvoir Christian Academy, Chattanooga, TN - Teacher



Congregational Mission Commitments

Mission Commitment Receipts as of 9/30/2022 (9 Months)

Anticipated Amount (75% of budget).....\$1,138,417
 Actual Receipts 1,152,669
 Over (under) anticipated amount \$14,252

Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (9 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World Missions\$327,051
 Allocated to Tanzania 18,750
 Retained for District Mission/Ministry Support (70% of receipts).....806,868
 Total Receipts \$1,152,669

Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (9 Months)

Actual Receipts as of 9/30/2022..... \$1,152,669
 Actual Receipts as of 9/30/2021 \$1,104,324
 Over (under) prior year receipts\$48,345

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 upcoming topics for 2022](#)

- 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

Staff

Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola,
President

Rev. William Zwick,
Executive Director of Mission & Ministry & Executive Director for Schools and Early Childhood

Angela Fowler,
Executive Director for Business & Finance

Paul Reaves,
Executive Director for Development & LCEF Vice President

Missy Washburn,
Administrative Assistant to the District President

Rena McElwain,
Communications & Marketing Specialist

Julie Tyler,
Administrative Assistant for Missions and Education

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