

# Encourager

NOVEMBER 2023

Mid-South District LCMS



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

Do you have your black, orange, and green Thanksgiving Tree up yet? In November Thanksgiving kind of sneaks up on us because Walmart has squeezed it in between their Halloween items and Christmas. It seems that for years retailers have tried to get people to do Christmas shopping earlier and earlier. This year, Dillard's, by September 23 already had their Christmas decorations up! Three months before Christmas! In recent years, Halloween has become more and more popular, and oftentimes more bizarre. So it seems as if Thanksgiving is getting squeezed out. Why not a Thanksgiving tree to bring the real meaning of Thanks Giving?

Thanksgiving was originally designed for the country to

pause and give thanks to God for His loving kindness, grace, and mercy toward us. God has somehow been replaced by the Thanksgiving "trinity" – feasting, family, and football. That wasn't always the case. For most Christians, Thanksgiving was one of the most important holidays of the year. Thanksgiving celebrations in America were traced back to the pilgrims in Plymouth, Massachusetts; or in many cases, sometime even before then. You know the story.

When the pilgrims arrived in this land, the indigenous natives helped them plant corn. On the following Fall, they had such a bumper crop that the pilgrims decided to have a big feast in thanks to God. (Except that's not exactly what happened.) The

truth is that the Pilgrims almost didn't make it. More than half of the settlers didn't survive the first winter in the new land. They didn't actually have a bumper crop. What is more, the historic records showed that in addition to the drought that summer that affected their crops, Governor Bradford wrote in his History of Plymouth Plantation that many of the people refused to work in the fields. Instead of pitching in to help work toward survival, they would steal the produce as soon as it was edible. He described the colony as riddled with "corruption" and with "confusion and discontent."

Yet, all of the pilgrims stopped to thank God. The idea wasn't new. They brought the concept of offering thanks with them

from England. These were Puritan Calvinists, somewhat like Presbyterians. One of the characteristics of the historic Calvinists (especially at that time) was the rejection of special church holidays. The Puritans, in particular, wanted to focus attention on weekly Lord's Day worship. So they eliminated all church holidays, including Christmas and Easter. A few years later in colonial Massachusetts, it was illegal for a business to be closed on Christmas Day. But instead of a church holiday every year the Puritans held a special day of Thanksgiving and Prayer in response to God's providence.

In 1789, George Washington, at the request of Congress, proclaimed the first nationwide Thanksgiving. He wrote, "It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor." So where did Congress, the Puritans, and George Washington get the idea for a day of thanksgiving? From the Bible.

The Bible mentions thanksgiving and giving thanks to God over 160 times, especially in the Psalms. Like those first Puritans, we see in the Bible that thanksgiving is always a response to something God has done for us, His people. When the Israelites finished rebuilding the wall in Jerusalem, despite the opposition from their enemies,

Nehemiah led the people of God in a thanksgiving celebration.

Sometimes the Bible lets us see people thanking God ahead of time. When Daniel learned that he would end up in the lion's den because of his faith... he thanked God! Jonah prayed while he was still inside the great fish and promised to thank God for his deliverance. The ancient Israelites were to bring sacrifices to God as a way of showing their thankfulness for everything He granted to them by His grace and mercy. Two of the clearest passages on Thanksgiving might be when Paul tells the Colossians, "Be thankful...sing with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

What does it mean for us to be thankful? Giving thanks is made up of two parts: attitude and actions. Receiving a nice thank you from someone isn't expected, but is genuinely appreciated. Wouldn't our heavenly Father be appreciative when we offer thanks to Him? "I thank you, my heavenly Father..." is the beginning of Luther's morning and evening prayers. This is the relationship we have with God by the relationship He offers through His Son, Jesus Christ. Sometimes it may seem as though a note of thanks was sent because it was expected. A prayer of thanks may be expected, but

genuine when we are reminded of all of what God has done for us through Christ Jesus.

In St Paul's letter to the Colossians, he gives helps to us to understand both the actions and attitudes of thanks giving that demonstrate our thankfulness to God. He tells us the actions that demonstrate that we are thankful. *"Therefore, put to death what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry."* We show God that we are thankful for what he has done and is doing in our lives by putting away "anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk." He goes on, *"Do not lie to one another."* In Colossians 3:11, Paul says to treat everyone with dignity and respect. He also tells us to forgive, worship, and study the Scriptures. He says that our whole life – whatever we do – is to be lived as a demonstration of our thankfulness to God. How are you doing with that?

By being, doing, serving, and giving in the work of God's Kingdom is thanks giving in actions. St Paul reminds us of what an attitude of thankfulness looks like. In verse 12, he writes, *"Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts."*

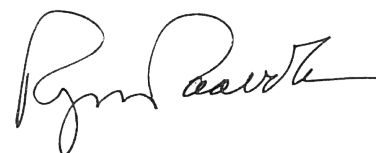
The vices Paul lists are simply describing a person's life without Jesus. It's really the point that suggests actions show we are truly thankful. Actions flow from an attitude of gratitude toward God. A thankful attitude is only possible when we realize for what we are thankful. Paul started this passage saying, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

God demonstrated His love for us through His Son, Christ Jesus. We are valuable to God. He loves us so much that He willing became Man, to suffer and die so that we could have a relationship with Him now and forever. Our old self has died. As followers of Christ Jesus we don't live in anger, malice, or covetousness. We are free to forgive because God has forgiven us. We are no longer subject to God's just wrath. We live in the love of God for the sake of Christ.

This Thanksgiving, think about what God has done for you. Thank Him for the way He blesses and has redeemed you. Let us spend time focusing on what Jesus has

done for you now and what He has promise in life everlasting. May the word of Christ dwell in us richly as our actions and our attitudes are our Thank You notes to our gracious God.

Your servant in Christ +  
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola



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## Welcome Rev. Adam Gless



The **Rite of Installation** was held for the **Rev. Adam Gless at Salem Lutheran Ministries**, in Springdale, AR, on Sunday October 22, 2023. Pictured (Front R-L) are Rev. Richard Mayer, Messiah, Pea Ridge; President Roger Paavola; Rev. Adam Gless; Rev. JD Zischke, Restoration, Fayetteville. (Back R-L) Rev. Marlin Rempfer, Quincy, IL; Rev. Eric Longman, Holy Trinity, Rogers; Rev. Brandon Martin, Salem Lutheran Ministries, Springdale, AR; Rev. Thomas Bartsch; River Valley, Lamar; Rev. Hubert Bernthal, Emeritus, Rogers, AR



## Grow Grant Awarded to Trinity Lutheran Church, Mena, AR

Thanks to the LCMS Mid-South District GROW Grant, October 3, 2023, was an exciting day for Trinity Lutheran in Mena, AR, Christian Community members, and students at the local elementary school. The Mid-South District had awarded a GROW grant titled, BACK to Back, to Trinity Lutheran, Mena, to go forward and spread the Gospel to children, and the community. BACK to Back was titled as such for an acronym, “**B**ible **A**nd **C**hristian **K**ids.” It is also Back to Back learning for students after the regular school day.

With the advocacy of Child Evangelism Fellowship, CEF, and fellow Christian community members, Trinity was able to begin an after school Christian club for elementary students. It is called “The Good News Club.” With the funding from Mid-South District Trinity was able to purchase equipment, supplies, curriculum, after school snacks, incentives, and Bibles for every student.



With the fast-paced curriculum, the children and adults are having fun, while learning what the Bible is, Who God is, that we are born sinners, and that God sent his only son, Jesus, for our salvation. The program begins with prayer; includes memory verses, songs, lessons, skits, games, and many readings from the Bible. This “Good News Club” takes a lot of coordination with school admin, CEF, Christian community members, and members of Trinity to achieve, but it is well received!

The initial enrollment was 22 students, although only fourteen students and two parents remembered to stay after school. One parent said that her family is unchurched, and she wanted to “see what this is all about.” She also said that she enjoyed it and wants to come back. Who knows, perhaps Trinity Lutheran, Mena may gain a family of members. The program is right after school on Tuesdays. Students and parents are welcome to attend.

Trinity is confident that the program will gain momentum once the students begin spreading the WORD!



Trinity Lutheran Church, Mena, would like to thank LCMS Mid-South District for the opportunity to share the Gospel with the community, and GROW the community as followers of Christ.

# Honor a Church Worker

Through a Gift to Mid-South District Ministry

## MATCHING GIFT

Opportunity Through  
the End of the Year!

## Make a Gift and Add a Special Name to the “Honored Worker Wall”

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 heavily invested in its workers—both present and future. You can also invest in those who are “set apart to serve” in ministry 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 donors, the first \$50,000 in honored worker gifts will be matched!**

When a gift is received in honor or memory of a special Pastor, Teacher, Principal, DCE or other Church Worker, the honoree’s name will be added to the “Honored Worker Wall” on the Mid-South District website. This list will also appear in the January *Encourager* and February district supplement of the *Lutheran Witness*. Honorees will also be notified by mail that a gift to the Mid-South District has been shared in their honor. What a tremendous way to give thanks for our cherished Professional Church Workers!

### READY TO HONOR OR MEMORIALIZE A SPECIAL WORKER?

CLICK to Give Online

CLICK to Give By Check

## Human Trafficking Awareness Event in Mena, AR

### LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

*Uncovering the Shadow World  
of Human Trafficking*

**SAT. NOV. 4 / 9 AM - 1 PM  
@ MENA MOUNTAIN RESORT**

2817 Highway 71 N. in Mena, AR

**REGISTER ONLINE** at <https://midsouthdistrictcms.regfox.com/hta-event-nov2023>.

The Mid-South District’s final human trafficking awareness event of 2023 will take place **Saturday, November 4, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.** at the Mena Mountain Resort in Mena, Arkansas (2817 Hwy. 71 N.). This free event includes lunch and is open to the community. This final awareness event is special in that it is being hosted in partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church in Mena—the congregation that submitted the “human trafficking awareness” overture adopted as a resolution at the District’s 2021 Convention. That resolution was then adopted by the delegation of this year’s Synod Convention, encouraging even more congregations across the Lutheran Church body to become educated and involved in the fight against the dark enterprise of human trafficking. *Thank you, Trinity-Mena!*

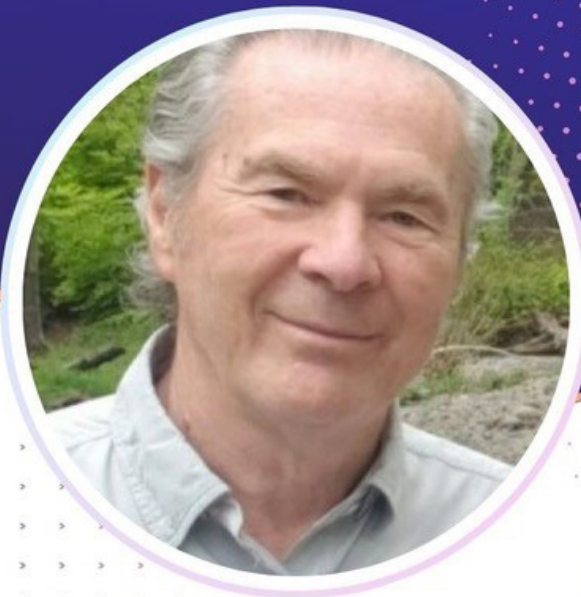


## Church Outreach Seminar

# 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.

# 2023 CARE-VAN

## Dates & Locations

### November 3-4, 2023

*Time for drop-off donations varies according to church.  
Find the location and drop off time on the next page.*

This time has been set for trucks to pick up your Lutheran World Relief contributions for CARE-VAN at the various locations (list attached to this letter). We are so thankful to the congregations that are opening their parking lots for the CARE-VAN Drive. If you are not familiar with the Mid-South District CARE-VAN, please give Julie a call. **Please note the day and time for your drop site, as they have specific times allotted for donations to be dropped off at each site.**

It is important to stress the importance of dollar donations. In 2022, Lutheran World Relief delivered Quilts & Kits to 462,262 beneficiaries in 19 countries. The cost to send one quilt overseas is \$2.25. Please make out your checks for the shipping costs to **Lutheran World Relief**. It would be great to have a yard sale or baked goods sale to help with the shipping expenses needed for LWR.

Quilts and Kits are tangible reminders to people around the world that you care!

#### Cost of Shipping

Donations are Important: LWR's  
Approximate Cost to Deliver Quilts and  
Kits Overseas

One Quilt	\$2.25
One School Kit	\$1.40
One Personal Care Kit	\$2.65
One Baby Care Kit	\$1.30
One Fabric Kit	\$1.00

*\*Includes the cost of toothpaste to go with the  
Personal Care Kit*



### If your church or organization would like to be involved

You may download the information that is in the brochure: <https://lwr.org/get-involved/build-kits-of-care/> or call 1-800-597-5972.

### Labels

You may copy the label sheet (enclosed) on to copy paper or use shipping labels (Avery #5164 – may be purchased at your local office supply) and attach the label to the box.

You may call the District Office at 1-901-373-1343 or e-mail: [jtyler@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:jtyler@mid-southlcms.com) if you have any questions.

**IMPORTANT!!! Please be sure your boxes are properly labeled, packaged (packed tight in the box) and weighed before they are delivered to the CARE-VAN location in your area.**

The CARE-VAN items are taken to the Lutheran World Relief Warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland where they are sorted and shipped to their final destination. Please keep them in your prayers.



# Mid-South District 2023 CARE-VAN

November 3-4, 2023

## Locations and Coordinators



Loading Friday and Saturday, November 3-4, 2023

Time for drop-off donations varies 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	Truck
Alexander, AR	Zion Lutheran Church of Avilla** 300 Avilla East Alexander, AR 72002  ----- <b>ONLY Saturday - Nov. 4 (8am - 11am)</b>	Ms Jeanette Irby 1-501-776-5092 <a href="mailto:hughirby@yahoo.com">hughirby@yahoo.com</a>	Rev. Willie Grills 1-501-663-3631 (church) <a href="mailto:pastorgrills@gmail.com">pastorgrills@gmail.com</a>	<b>DROP Sat. 11/4 @ 7:00am</b>
	<b>PICK-UP Sat. 11/4 @ 11:00am</b>			
	<i>drive to Fort Smith</i>			
Fort Smith, AR	First Lutheran School 2407 Massard Road Fort Smith, AR 72901  ----- Fri. <b>Nov.3 (10am-2pm) / Sat. Nov.4 (9am-11am)</b>	Mr. Lonnie Cline 1-479-561-7171 <a href="mailto:lonniecline@yahoo.com">lonniecline@yahoo.com</a>	Rev. John Merrill 1-479-785-2886 (church) <a href="mailto:jfmerrill@gmail.com">jfmerrill@gmail.com</a>	<b>ARRIVE Sat.11/4 @ ~ 2:00pm</b>
	from Zion Lutheran Church			
	in Alexander			

#### Tennessee

CITY	Location for YRC Freight	Contact Person	Pastor of Church	Truck
Chattanooga, TN	Cross of Christ Lutheran Church 3204 Hixon Pike Chattanooga, TN 37415	Ms. Eunice Timm 1-423-227-1127 <a href="mailto:4betimm@epbfi.com">4betimm@epbfi.com</a>  Lorilynn Baier	Rev. Barry Hildebrandt 1-423-877-7447 (church) 1-423-255-4746 (cell) <a href="mailto:church@cocluth.com">church@cocluth.com</a>	DROP Fri.11/3 @ 8:00am
	PICK-UP Sat.11/4 @ 7:30am			
	drive to Knoxville			
Knoxville, TN	Grace Lutheran Church 9076 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37923  ----- ONLY Saturday - Nov. 4 (10am-12pm)	Mr. Dale Henderson 1-865-235-4304 (cell) <a href="mailto:daleh@visitgrace.org">daleh@visitgrace.org</a>	Rev. Richard Elseroad 1-865-691-2823 (church) <a href="mailto:relseroad@gmail.com">relseroad@gmail.com</a>	ARRIVE Sat.11/4 @ 10:00am
	from Cross of Christ Luth.			
	in Chattanooga [UT football game-Sat.]			
Madison, TN	Ascension Lutheran Church 610 W. Old Hickory Blvd. Madison, TN 37115  ----- Fri. Nov. 3 (9am-2pm) / Sat. Nov. 4 (9am-12pm)	Rev. Greg Bauch 1-904-553-7066 <a href="mailto:pastorgregbauch@gmail.com">pastorgregbauch@gmail.com</a>	Rev. Greg Bauch 1-615-868-2346 (church) <a href="mailto:pastorgregbauch@gmail.com">pastorgregbauch@gmail.com</a>	DROP Fri. 11/3 @ 8:00am
	PICK-UP Sat. 11/4 @ 12:00pm			
	drive to Memphis [ call Diane when 30mins. away ]			
Memphis, TN	Immanuel Lutheran Church 6325 Raleigh LaGrange Road Memphis, TN 38134-6907  ----- Fri. Nov. 3 (10am-2pm) / Sat. Nov. 4 (9am -11am)	Ms. Diane Reimold 1-901-679-0626 <a href="mailto:dianereimold@hotmail.com">dianereimold@hotmail.com</a>	1-901-373-4486 (church) <a href="mailto:churchoffice@immanuelmemphis.org">churchoffice@immanuelmemphis.org</a>	ARRIVE Sat. 11/4 @ ~ 4:00pm
	from Our Savior Lutheran			
	in Nashville			

**IMPORTANT NEWS for NASHVILLE-AREA DROP-OFF:** Due to a funeral at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Nashville, the CareVAN drop-off location for this area is now Ascension Lutheran Church in Madison, TN (610 W. Old Hickory Blvd). The dates and times remain the same. The new location information is also available on the district website.



## 2023 District Teachers' Conference

**November 19-21, 2023**

The conference theme is "Because He Cares." This year's event will be hosted by the Southern District, LCMS, with the Mid-South District participating.

DATE – November 19-21, 2023

LOCATION – Huntsville, AL (Grace Lutheran)

FEES – \$160/teacher

REGISTER NOW – <https://www.southernlcms.org/teachers-conference/>



Visit the "[Because He Cares](#)" conference page for complete details, including an agenda and information on meals for the conference.

## >> Looking Into 2024 <<

### 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](mailto:Tiffany.manor@lcms.org)

314-996-1085

### Grace Little Rock Hosting Seminary Extension Class

**June 26-28, 2024**

Grace, Little Rock is pleased to host another seminary extension class next summer. The class will be held from June 26 to June 28th. Grace will be hosting Rev. Dr. Jim Bushur from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne.

Mark your calendars if you would like to attend; more information will come out next year.



### 2024 Institute on Liturgy Preaching and Church Music

**July 9-12, 2024**

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 \[lcms.org/2024-worship-institute\]\(https://www.lcms.org/2024-worship-institute\).](#)



# Treasurers' Workshops

Mid-South District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Congregational Treasurers please mark your calendar to attend one of the Mid-South District Free Workshops. The Presenter for the Treasurer's manual (Volume 1) session will be Mr. Charlie Rhodes, Executive Director of Synod

Accounting (Retired). Angela Fowler will be the presenter for the afternoon Church Treasurer Best Practices session. *Please respond by December 31, 2023, if possible.*

**REGISTER ONLINE NOW**

## Conferences will be held on the following dates and places.

### **January 6, 2024**

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. Church Treasurer Best Practices  
Grace Lutheran Church  
9076 Middlebrook Pike  
Knoxville, TN

### **January 13, 2024**

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. Church Treasurer Best Practices  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
5110 Franklin Road  
Nashville, TN

### **January 20, 2024**

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. Church Treasurer Best Practices  
Hope Lutheran Church  
1904 McArthur Blvd.  
Jacksonville, AR

### **January 27, 2024**

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. Church Treasurer Best Practices  
Mid-South District Office  
1675 Wynne Road  
Cordova, TN

### **February 3, 2024**

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. Church Treasurer Best Practices  
St. John Lutheran Church  
500 N. Cumberland Avenue  
Russellville, AR

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION**

- Additional information found on the [District website](#).
- Contact Angela Fowler by [email](#) or telephone (866-373-1343, ext. 3105)
- **[REGISTER ONLINE](#)**



# God Hasn't Told Us to Stop

In Haiti, most school doors opened on September 11th. As we enter the 2023-24 school year, Trinity HOPE is celebrating another big milestone. Since 1999 we have been feeding hungry souls in Haiti, and this marks our **25th year of ministry**. During these 25 years, Trinity HOPE has provided over 68 million meals to children throughout Haiti, and currently we serve about 1.2 million meals each month.

Our founder, John Hall, set out to feed 42 children at one school. He often said, ***"God told us to feed kids in Haiti in 1999, and he hasn't told us to stop."*** For those of us who carry on this work, those words ring in our ears. We know and believe that the meals received are not just life-saving sustenance, but those meals also allow children to retain what they are learning in school.

Our core belief is that bringing the Good News of the Gospel to children surrounded by so much strife is showing the love and mercy Jesus has for them. When they are fed, the children can learn and retain scripture that will bring them comfort and direction. They are also retaining more of the lessons they learn in school which makes them employable, critical thinkers as adults. This is ultimately what will begin to break the generations of poverty and political unrest.

In these past 25 years, Trinity HOPE has seen many crises in Haiti. By the Grace of God, we have weathered earthquakes, hurricanes, and political unrest. Yet, in that time we have also watched children come to know Jesus, have seen their physical transformation as they are provided a consistent, nutritious source of food, and we have even heard stories of children so impacted by the experience they have in school that they grow up to become teachers, or to pastor fellow believers.

Though we see the fruit of our work, it is not yet complete. With nearly 190 schools now on our waiting list, we see there is still so much more to do.

Trinity HOPE's work in Haiti is being administered mightily by 35 Haitian Feeding Program Directors. These men and women are now serving their community as they live through one of the most challenging times Haiti has ever seen. The political unrest and gang violence continues to make life in Haiti unpredictable, dangerous, and is driving inflation throughout the nation.

Families are more in need now than they have ever been before, and this situation is creating drastic changes in communities. Last year, we saw 9 schools close their doors. 7 of those schools closed because the danger of traveling to school was too



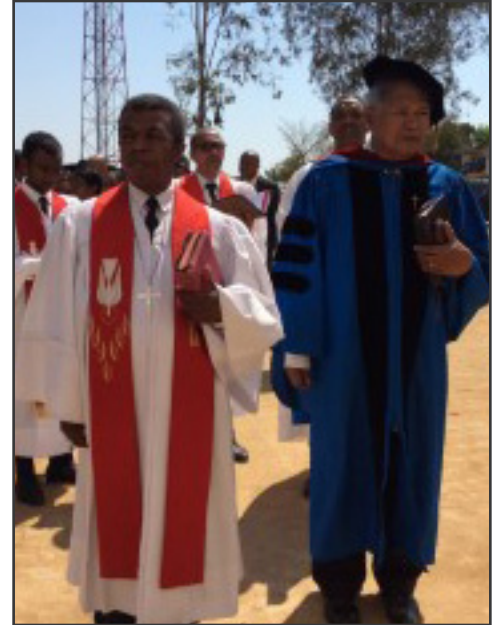
great, and families were migrating to other areas of the country. In our August board meeting, our Board of Directors voted to replace the schools that closed with other schools on our waiting list, allowing us to start 8 new schools this year. Today, Trinity HOPE is providing over 60,000 meals to children in 270 Christian schools each day.

We continually see God's provision and protection over this ministry. The closing of the schools was timely because, as families migrate out of the Port-au-Prince area, we are seeing school attendance in other areas increase significantly. Some schools currently in the feeding program have doubled in size as families seek safer homes.

Coming into year 25, we are more resolute than ever that we must persevere. Romans 5 tells us that perseverance produces character and character produces HOPE. We see this every day through our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Their resilience, perseverance, and tenacity show us their character. They continue this work in hard times, and bring HOPE to the children at the schools we serve. I'm reminded of one feeding program director who told me the children call him "the man with the food," and I know this gift, made possible through your generosity, matters more than any of us can fathom. It matters to the children, it matters to the communities, and it matters to the Kingdom. Thank you for your continued trust and support. All glory be to God!

Please visit us at [www.trinityHOPE.org](http://www.trinityHOPE.org) to learn more about this ministry. You can also email us at [admin@trinityhope.org](mailto:admin@trinityhope.org)





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

*"The Lord be with you!"*

*Sunday October 1st was a great day for LIME and for the Lutheran Central Synod (District in the LCMS terminology). A great worship service was celebrated at the Malagasy Lutheran Church of North Ivory, Fianarantsoa at the occasion of the graduation and the new school year 2023/24 of LIME.*

*The General Secretary of the Synod led the service.*

*LIME did not have official ceremonies of graduation and of new school year since the Covid-19. Therefore, both ceremonies were combined into one this time.*

*We send you some photos of the service and of the ceremonies. The new pedagogical responsible (Dr Lira) and her pedagogical assistant*

*(Mr David) were put in their respective function during the ceremony of the new school year. The graduation took place afterwards. The students on the photos represented the minority who did not get their diplomas on due time. In total, there were more than 70 students who succeeded in their Licentiate degree since the Covid-19. They could not come because they were already working in their respective jobs.*

*All of these ceremonies were the very positive results of our together mission through education. May Jesus Christ from Nazareth, the Head of the Church and the Good Teacher always bless and make our together mission through education bear good fruits!*

*Your brother across the ocean,  
Joseph"*

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





# PRAYER SUMMARY, OCTOBER 2023

Following is a list of all the people that have appeared on the Mid-South District website prayer list [www.mid-southlcms.com](http://www.mid-southlcms.com) during the month of October 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. TOM SAYRE** (Emeritus, St. John's, FL)  
**REV. TOM MOORE** (Emeritus, Cordova, TN)  
**REV. NEIL VANDERBUSH** (Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN)  
**MRS. NORMA MOORE** (wife of Rev. Tom Moore, Emeritus, Cordova, TN)  
**MR. ZAC ENKO** (son of Rev. Keith Enko, Emeritus, Lebanon, TN)  
**MR. MARC HIGGINS** (MDS Board of Directors, Maumelle, AR)  
**MS. IRENE LOPEZ** (mother of Ann Laury, Principal, Christ the King Lutheran School, Memphis, TN)  
**MS. LOIS SCHULTZ** (mother of Rhonda Schultz, MDS Webmaster)  
**MS. LINDA SIMKO** (stepdaughter of Jan Simko, MDS Disaster Relief Coordinator)  
**MRS. AMY YOUNG** (wife of Rev. Philip Young, Redeemer, Nashville)

**Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Rev. Dan Otto (Emeritus, Murfreesboro, TN)** who passed away Sunday, October 15. Services are scheduled for November 4, 2023, at 11:00AM, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN.

**Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mrs. Esther Toncre (Conway, AR)** who passed away Friday, October 13. Funeral details are pending currently.

## CALL UPDATE

### ORDAINED MINISTERS

**ACCEPTED:** **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 took place 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 is scheduled for November 5, 2023.*

**DECLINED:** **Rev. Andrew Gray**, Pastor to St. John's Lutheran Church, Marengo, IA has returned the *Call to serve as Pastor to Heavenly Host Lutheran Church, Cookeville, TN.*

**Rev. Ryan Kleimola**, Associate Pastor to Trinity Lutheran Church, Toledo, OH has returned the *Call to serve as Pastor to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY.*

### COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

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## 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 9/30/2023 (9 Months)

Anticipated Amount  
(75% of budget) \$1,173,203  
Actual Receipts 1,160,954  
Over (under)  
anticipated amount (\$12,249)

### Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (9 Months)

Allocated to Synod  
for World Missions \$329,536  
Allocated to Tanzania 18,750  
Retained for District Mission/Ministry  
Support (70% of receipts) 812,668  
Total Receipts \$1,160,954

### Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (9 Months)

Actual Receipts as  
of 9/30/2023 \$1,160,954  
Actual Receipts as  
of 9/30/2022 \$1,152,669  
Over (under) prior  
year receipts \$8,285

Share your news with us!

### Encourager Topics in 2023

We invite you to share your stories with us please email stories by 20th to Rhonda, [webmaster@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:webmaster@mid-southlcms.com). Here's a look at the upcoming topics for 2023

- December – Highlights 2023

### Lutheran Witness Supplement

The monthly deadline is the 15th. Please email your original high resolution digital photo (.pdf or .jpg files only) and a short paragraph, to The Lutheran Witness Supplement editor, Judy Otto.  
Email: [LW@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:LW@mid-southlcms.com)  
phone: 662-252-1004. Judy will always acknowledge receipt of your submission if it is sent directly to her.

## Mid-South District, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

### Staff

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**Angela Fowler,**  
*Executive Director for Business & Finance*  
**Paul Reaves,**  
*Executive Director for Development & LCEF Vice President*  
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