

# Encourager

Mid-South District LCMS | June 2017

## June's Focus: Ministry Leaders

*This month, we celebrate the leaders of ministry across the Mid-South District. We give thanks for those celebrating great milestones in their service and welcome those who are just beginning their ministry journey.*

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



### WHEN EVERYBODY PLAYS THEIR POSITION

In 1979, Herb Brooks, the coach for the University of Minnesota hockey team, began assembling a list of 20 men who would represent the United States in the Winter Olympics. By the time he whittled down a number of amateurs from high schools and colleges across the country, he had assembled the youngest composition of players to ever play in the Olympics from any country in any Olympic event, ever. After finishing the pre-Olympic exhibition season, it was clear Russia, Finland, Sweden, and Czechoslovakia were the favorites to win medals in the Olympics. But, by the evening of February 22, 1980, unknown American kids pulled off what commentators said was "The Miracle on Ice!" The US beat

the highly-polished Soviet team, and two days later defeated a pumped-up Finnish team. Very few of the under-sized, and under-experienced US players went on to professional hockey careers. But, Coach Brooks chose youngsters who knew their position and played it well. When the final buzzer sounded the end of a hard fought game, Herb Brooks left the bench, ran to the locker room and wept. He chose the right men for each position. Everyone had played their position well... and won.

But, sports isn't the only place where playing one's position takes place. It happens in business, in the community, and it happens in the church. Positions in the church are varied, but more critical than any "game," anywhere. The church is full of people who are uniquely gifted for the positions that the church needs them to "play." Faithful volunteers step up and say, 'Yup! With God's help, I can do that.' It's not off-the-charts miraculous or super-spiritual. Serving the church covers more than teaching Sunday School, singing in the choir, or sewing quilts. There's always a need that's being filled. Volunteers either see a need, or ask if they can take the

opportunity to be a part for the greater good of God's kingdom.

Why did the early Christian Church grow...because the preachers preached better; or they finally sang songs the people liked; or because the church served the best potluck dinners? No, the early Christian Church flourished because it was blessed by God for the people who heard God's plan of salvation – the goal He offered through His Son, Jesus. The early church's members quit being spectators, and became the "players" – to "play" their position. They took the gifts God gave and used them for the work of the church.

The church is us! Christ is the Head – we are His body in this world. We're fed on His Word and Sacraments. We're led by the Holy Spirit in a sanctified life and our love for people. We're receivers of what God pours out in abundance by His grace for the good of His Church and His people. But, simply "doing church" isn't "being church." St. Peter reminds us, *"You like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... [B]ut you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous Light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people..."* (1 Peter 2:5, 9-10a, ESV)

Yet, volunteers have a life!... real jobs, real families, real bills, and real homes to keep. Their time is their most precious commodity. That's what makes volunteers

a people we need to recognize and celebrate. They come to serve... in our congregations, in the District office, or on a mission trip. They show up to work. Volunteers recognize a need to help one another. They seek their best position and stick with it. St Paul writes, (1 Corinthians 15:58), *"You be steadfast, immovable. Keep abounding in the work of the Lord because your work is not in vain."*

For example, Jesus had three friends: Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. They all "played" different positions, but out of their love for Christ. Martha was a working servant for Jesus – everything had to be done just right. Mary was a total worshiper and friend. Lazarus eventually had a powerful testimony about his "play" in Jesus' story. Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, so at a dinner party to honor Jesus, each one worked together with one purpose. Martha served, Mary worshiped and anointed Jesus' feet. And, Lazarus had a story to tell.

Three people... different gifts. Every church needs their Martha's to cover the details. We need Mary's to sit at Jesus' feet in worship, pouring out a fragrant sacrifice of worship for the Lord. And, we all need the Lazarus' to share the message of grace in Christ Jesus and His love and hope in life everlasting.

We need volunteers at every level of the church's ministry: children's ministry, youth, singles, elderly, women, men, retired, outreach, choir, missions... the list goes on, and even applies to the work of the volunteers in the District's office. So, volunteers,

hear it well: We thank God for you! You're not a spectator in the pews, you go into the field, being fed by God for this good work and give it your all for Christ and His Kingdom. Thank you, and thanks be to God!



## SHARE YOUR REFORMATION EVENT WITH US

We are excited to introduce a website dedicated to the Reformation Events [www.reformation.mid-southlcms.org](http://www.reformation.mid-southlcms.org). This website will feature upcoming celebrations around our district.

If your congregation has an event, please email Rhonda the information with a link to the event on your church website.

We look forward to seeing and sharing the variety of Reformation events planned across the Mid-South!

# STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM AT ILC MEMPHIS



Immanuel Lutheran's DCE A.J. Vega (front left) and the Senior High Youth Group led three worship services on "Youth Takeover Sunday" earlier this year. The event was one of several coordinated by Immanuel's all-new Student Leadership Team.

I have had the privilege to work with four students in Immanuel's High School Youth Group in a Leadership Team to lead and execute various youth activities. The students that were on Immanuel's first-ever Student Leadership Team were Ali Bartlett (Freshman), Claire McElwain (Sophomore), Taylor Peterman (Senior), and Patrick McElwain (Senior). This group of students met for two hours every other Monday to pray, discuss and plan different events for our Youth Group. Each meeting, the students would rotate with leading devotions and using their God-given gifts and talents to excel the Youth Ministry at Immanuel. One of the greatest accomplishments of our Student Leadership Team was coordinating a "Youth Takeover Sunday." Youth Takeover Sunday was an event in which the High School Youth Group led worship in all areas of ministry on a

given Sunday, for all three of our services. This included singing and playing instruments in the worship band, leading prayers, ushering, sound, and so much more.

The Student Leadership Team is not just composed of a random collection of students. Each of the students interviewed in the beginning of the year and expressed to me their passion for Youth Ministry at Immanuel. Each of the kids has shown true leadership not only to their fellow peers, but in their community. Although two of our leaders have graduated, we are excited to welcome a new season of leaders on the Student Leadership Team! Our kids are awesome!

A.J. Vega  
*DCE-Immanuel Lutheran Church & School  
(Memphis, TN)*



*Front row, from left: Mikaela Zischke, Amy Ferguson, Pat Paavola, Heather Girardin and Laura Woldt Second row, from left: JohnDavid Zischke, Travis Ferguson, Dr. Roger Paavola, Philip Girardin and Adam Woldt*

## Calls announced from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

The LCMS Mid-South District received the following new pastors from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis:

Pastors:

**Travis Ferguson**, Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

**Philip Girardin**, Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Searcy, AR

**Adam Woldt**, The Point Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

**JohnDavid Zischke**, Mid-South District, Cordova, TN

## WELCOME CANDIDATES

We are happy to receive the following candidates into the Mid-south District.

### CTSFW Sends Workers Into the Harvest Field

The LCMS Mid-South District received the following students from Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana. Students who have been placed in the Mid-South District.

Vicar:

**Loucan Saling**, Faith Lutheran Church, Tullahoma, Tennessee

Candidates:

**Thomas Presley**, Missionary-at-Large/Church Planter, The Mid-South District-LCMS, Jonesboro, Arkansas

**Eric Rudsenske**, Pastor, Concordia Lutheran Church, Jackson, Tennessee



*President Paavola, Mrs. Pat Paavola, Katie Alford fiancee of Eric Rudsenske, Thomas Presley, Locan Saling*

## CHURCH AND SCHOOL LEADERSHIP

St. Paul in Romans 12 gives us a good understanding of spiritual gifts and church leadership. In verse 3 we are exhorted to, "not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you." Just as the body has many parts, so the church has many functions or areas of service to the Lord which require different spiritual gifts. Some have been given the gift to prophesy, others to serve, others to teach, others to encourage, others to give generously, and others to lead. But the most important thing is to do all in love.

We are reminded in 1 Corinthians 12 that "4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone." So no matter our position or station in the life of the church we are reminded about who is in charge. The Lord our God has given some the responsibility to lead the flock, which is a demanding responsibility. But He has also given those individuals the gifts needed to fulfill the responsibilities of their leadership roles. How one uses those gifts in service to others is a key to the success of church. But once again the key to success is shown to us in chapter 13 of 1 Corinthians. "1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. 2 And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. 3 If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing."

Dr. Bruce Hartung in his book entitled *Building Up the Body of Christ* reminds us that "... all offices in the church and all spiritual gifts are just that – gifts of the spirit of God." We all have natural abilities and gifts from God that we use to build up the body of Christ, but

we also are given spiritual gifts that come to us not as a result of our own efforts but rather as gifts from the Spirit. This should also remind us that no one particular gift is more important than another. We are one body in Christ and we must work together to praise the one who saved us.

Love is the key to good relationships and to good leadership. Love helps us to use our God-given gifts to work together toward the unification of our work here on earth. We need to use our gifts to create beautiful music rather than a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. Yes, we could use our gifts in a negative or not so God-pleasing manner, which would not be fulfilling our roles as a God-pleasing leader. Our goal needs to be that of building up the community of believers for the good of others. Leaders are servants. Leaders are learners and study God's word daily. Leaders do not know everything about the scriptures and seek to help and support others to be faithful followers of God's Word. Leaders all fall short of what God wants and needs in this world, but with constant meditation and servanthood toward others, leaders can do what is needed in order to build up the body of Christ.

Allen Piepenbrink

*Mid-South District Education Exec.*



Kurt Bucholz, CEO Lutheran Hour Ministries, speaking to the Mid-South District Lutheran Laymen's League for its annual meeting. Our Savior Lutheran, Nashville.

# Zion Lutheran Seeks Help from Fellow Mid-South Congregations to Continue Critical Food Pantry Ministry in Wake of Fire



*Zion Lutheran Church of Avilla in Alexander, AR suffered an early morning fire on May 22, which destroyed the original chapel building and Food Pantry Ministry facilities, as well as the church office and pastor's office*

Following a devastating fire in late May at Zion Lutheran Church in Alexander, AR, senior pastor Rev. Michael Schleider reports that the **congregation's top priority is to continue operation of its community Food Pantry Ministry with as little disruption as possible.** Zion's food storage facilities and critical equipment for the Food Pantry Ministry (refrigerators, freezers, etc.) were destroyed in the fire, along with the original chapel and the church/pastor's offices. Zion's school, Avilla Christian Academy, recently wrapped up its academic year and the church's plan is to temporarily

run the Food Pantry Ministry out of the school facility. However, this will require the immediate replacement of large capacity refrigerators, freezers and other equipment. On behalf of Zion Lutheran Church, the Mid-South District asks Lutheran brothers and sisters to help meet this need by sharing their generous support.

**Donations to help sustain Zion Lutheran's Food Pantry Ministry may be sent to:** Mid-South District, LCMS / 1675 Wynne Road / Cordova, TN 38016. Payable to "Mid-South District," designated for "Disaster Relief"

We give thanks to God that no one was injured in this event and that the church's main sanctuary, school and fellowship hall were not damaged. Working together and with God's grace, we can also ensure that the tragedy does not impact Zion's Food Pantry Ministry as it seeks to feed both the *bodies and souls* of people in the Alexander community.

Please keep the Zion Lutheran Church family in your prayers as they work to recover from this disaster.

# Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN

## 50th Anniversary Celebration Kick-off April 30th

*Celebrating Our Savior*



Our Savior Lutheran Church

While every day is a great day for **“Celebrating Our Savior,”** this Mid-South District church in Nashville, TN, is doing it in a special way in 2017. Our Savior Lutheran Church, a church plant of Concordia Lutheran in Nashville, is celebrating its 50th anniversary and continues its mission of **“Living, Serving, Giving.”** Year-long celebration events started April 30th with special guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Gerald B. Kieschnick, President Emeritus LCMS, at both worship services and a celebration brunch. Former Mid-South District President, Rev. Norman L. Groteluschen also attended the event.

April Celebration Events, using the hands of the congregation to share the love of Jesus with the community, included delivering police appreciation box lunches; hosting a community Easter Egg hunt and invitation to follow the “Road to Resurrection” interactive event; and participating in a Habitat for Humanity Build.

Celebration and community service events continue all year cumulating with the 50th / 500th Reformation anniversary celebration on October 29th with guest preacher, Rev. Dr. Roger C. Paavola, President Mid-South District participating in worship services and a dinner banquet.



Senior Pastor Lane Reuter with Our Savior Lutheran charter member Waneta Strickert and her daughter, Sarah Baker.



(L to R) Our Savior Lutheran Associate Pastor Erik Christensen and Senior Pastor Lane Reuter greet former Mid-South District President Rev. Norman Groteluschen following worship.



Congregation members at Our Savior celebrated the anniversary kick-off with brunch.



**REFORMATION**  
**2017** It's *Still* All About  
**Jesus**

**500**  
**Reformation**  
Five Hundred Years 1517-2017

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Saturday June 24, 2017

500<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE LUTHERAN REFORMATION  
*(Why the reformation still Matters)*

**Guest Speaker**

Rev. A. Trevor Sutton

Sutton's work has appeared in

- ▶ Faith & Leadership (Duke Divinity School),
- ▶ The Cresset (Valparaiso University), and
- ▶ Concordia Journal (Concordia Seminary).



He has published multiple sermons, Bible studies, and devotional books with various Christian publishers.

He previously served as managing editor of Relief Journal: A Christian Literary Expression. He speaks at academic conferences, retreats, and congregations.

9:00 - 9:30	Registration (beverage and refreshments)
9:30 - 10:45	SESSION 1 Being Lutheran: Today
10:45 - 11:00	Coffee Break
11:00 - Noon	SESSION 2 Being Lutheran: 500 Years Ago (Part 1)
12:00 - 1:00	<b>Lunch*</b>
1:00 - 2:00	SESSION 3 Being Lutheran: 500 Years Ago (Part 2)
2:00 - 2:15	Break
2:15 - 3:00	SESSION 4 Why The Reformation Still Matters/Q&A/Book Signing
3:00 - 3:05	Closing

\* Cost is \$5 for Lunch. Teens free. Please call Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church office by June 19th to confirm your attendance so committee can insure all attendees are provided lunch.



Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church  
260 Wade Road, West  
Loudon, TN 37774

865-458-9407  
[www.coslctn.org](http://www.coslctn.org)





## SHARPS CHAPEL RECEIVES NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, May 7, Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sharps Chapel, TN officially received twelve new members. Over the two years of its existence, the congregation has dramatically grown both in numbers and in spirit. The new members reported that they joined because the church is Christ-centered and Bible-based, a group of people who enjoy fellowshiping with one another while actively inviting others and performing service projects for their community.



***Pictured are (L-R): Back row – Rev. Paul Kritsch, Jim Wonsey, Jeff Garretson, Jeff Landis, Mike Foley, Kevin Kitts. Front row – Lea Wonsey, Cindy Garretson, Theresa Landis, John Freese, Sheryl Freese, Doreen Foley, Karen Kitts***

## EASTER VIGIL – THE RITE OF HOLY BAPTISM

The Easter Vigil has traditionally been a time to receive candidates for baptism into the Church. That was true in spades for Grace Lutheran Church (Clarksville, TN) this year when seven were baptized at the Easter Vigil, April 15, 2017. Gathered in darkness, the new light of Easter was kindled in a brazier and transferred to the Paschal Candle. As the congregation made their way from outside into the darkened nave, they brought the light with their hand candles. A series of readings from the Old Testament described how God had delivered His people in the past (many through water). Then the attention turned to the font and to the Rite of Holy Baptism. A baby, several small children, two youth, and an adult came forward to be sealed into the Kingdom of God in the waters of baptism. These were added to the dozen baptisms in the previous few months and to several more that follow the Vigil to total of 20 baptisms of various ages so far in 2017.



***In the photo are parents William and Meribeth with daughter Hadley Hall, Caitlin and Kristin DeSantis, Thomas, Samuel, and Mary Freiling, and in the background, Pastor Daniel Ulrich and Pastor Larry Peters.***

## Clinical Pastoral Education

A new, all LCMS Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program is being offered online to ordained and commissioned ministers.

The program includes 14 hours per week of required ministry, seven of which must be in one-on-one pastoral care. The ministry context may include one's current place of ministry. A ministry covenant with one's place of ministry will be among the requirements.



Tuition: \$1,500.00. Scholarship assistance is available up to \$1,000.00 from the Office of SPM, LCMS. Apply by completing and submitting a SPM Scholarship Form linked at [www.lcms.org/spm](http://www.lcms.org/spm).

To apply for the E-CPE program, go to <http://lssliving.org/pastoral-care/clinical-pastoral-education/>. An online interview using the Zoom platform will be part of the application process.

For more information, please contact Rev. Jeffery Scheer at [Jeffery.Scheer@LSSLiving.org](mailto:Jeffery.Scheer@LSSLiving.org), 314-446-2425, or Rev. Joel Hempel at [Joel.Hempel@lcms.org](mailto:Joel.Hempel@lcms.org), 314-996-1388.

## APPLY NOW FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Students who plan to attend an LCMS seminary or university during the 2017-18 academic year in order to prepare for full-time church work may apply for financial aid through the Mid-South District office. Financial aid amounts are granted for a period of one year, and a new application must be made each year. **Applications for the coming school year must be postmarked by June 15, 2017.**

For forms, please contact the district office by phone (toll-free) at 866-373-1343, by email to [jtyler@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:jtyler@mid-southlcms.com), or by regular mail 1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN 38016.



## "CHAPEL TALKS" AND NLSW RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE

The LCMS Office of National Mission and School Ministry recently introduced the 2017-2018 Chapel Talks and National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW) materials. Both are available for schools to access and use in their planning for the upcoming school year. Both resources can be found on [LuthEd.org](http://LuthEd.org) through the Chapel Talks and the National Lutheran Schools Week pages as well as through the document library on [LCMS.org](http://LCMS.org).

## New Testament Patterns for Pastoral Ministry

### July 24–28, 2017

This class will study various portions of the New Testament, especially the words and actions of Jesus and Paul, to see and understand the guidance these texts offer for shaping our pastoral theology and practice.

#### Location

**Ascension Lutheran Church**  
 610 W. Old Hickory Blvd.  
 Madison, TN 37115

Coordinator:

Rev. T. David McMinn III

Email: [pastor@sothlutheran.org](mailto:pastor@sothlutheran.org)

Phone: 931.303.2439

For more information about Continuing Education opportunities and/or registration, you may call Kara Mertz at 260.452.2103, email [CE@ctsfw.edu](mailto:CE@ctsfw.edu) or visit [www.ctsfw.edu/CE](http://www.ctsfw.edu/CE).

## Israel Trip with Pastor Abraham



Come on an unforgettable adventure to the Holy Land with Pastor and Teacher, Andrew Abraham and life will never be the same...watch this video -

[https://youtu.be/4R\\_DW9SDjUg](https://youtu.be/4R_DW9SDjUg)

**For more information call Pastor Abraham at 931-337-1384.**

## Congregational Mission Commitments

### Mission Commitment Receipts as of 04/30/17 (4 Months)

Anticipated Amount (33.33% of budget) .....	\$524,381
Actual Receipts.....	<u>514,385</u>
Over (under) anticipated amount .....	(\$9,996)

### Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (4 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World Missions .....	\$145,982
Allocated to Tanzania .....	8,333
Retained for District Mission/Ministry Support (70% of receipts).....	<u>360,070</u>
Total Receipts .....	\$514,385

### Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (4 Months)

Actual Receipts as of 04/30/17 .....	\$514,385
Actual Receipts as of 04/30/16 .....	<u>\$542,553</u>
Over (under) prior year receipts .....	(\$28,168)



**the LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES FLOAT**

**Proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ**

in Pasadena's Tournament of Roses Parade for six decades.

The 2018 Petal Pushers® Rose Parade Float, entitled Bringing Christ to the Nations, provides many opportunities for witness conversations. **Petal Pusher® Outreach Booth Volunteers needed!** [PetalPushers.org](http://PetalPushers.org)

For information contact Ed Stelling [kuwaa513@att.net](mailto:kuwaa513@att.net)



## Early Childhood Conference Registration Reminder

The 2017 Early Childhood Conference is coming up July 10-11 at Faith Lutheran Preschool in Collierville, TN. Complete registration materials, as well as a conference agenda, are available on the [District website](#). Registration materials have been mailed to all of the Early Childhood centers. Registrations and the conference fee of \$45 are due by June 23.



## Accreditation Team Training Coming to the Mid-South District

Terry Schmidt, Director of Schools for LCMS, will be conducting NLSA Training at the Mid-South District office in Memphis on Friday, June 23 from 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. The focus of this training will be to have individuals in the district who will be able to serve on accreditation teams. Lunch will be provided. All other expenses will be covered by each individual attendee. Please contact Julie Tyler ([jtyler@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:jtyler@mid-southlcms.com)) if you plan to attend or would like to recommend individuals from your ministry who would be good candidates for this training.

# LuthEd

## Check Out the NEW LuthEd.org!

Administrators and educators are reminded to check in on the new [LuthEd.org](http://LuthEd.org) site on a regular basis. At least one section of the site is being updated every week-and sometimes many more than that! Thus, it is important to check back and see what is new. The old Portal is gone, having been replaced by the LuthEd.org site. All of these resources from the LCMS School Ministry Office are available free of charge. Remember, this is a great resource for our Lutheran educators!

## November Teachers' Conference, Hosted by the Southern District

Teachers and DCEs, please mark your calendars for November 19-21, 2017 for an outstanding conference to be hosted by the Southern District in Huntsville, Alabama. More information will be shared over the summer months.



## LIFT HIGH THE BANNER OF CHRIST

*Jean Philippe Paul has been our Feeding Program Director in Artibonite, Haiti since 1999. In addition to working with Trinity/HOPE he studied at the local Lutheran Seminary and completed his studies for ordination. He started a church in the Gros Morne, Haiti area which is very remote with many voodoo worshippers. It takes him a couple hours to reach his new church but the difficult trip does not discourage his passion and work. English is not Jean Philippe's first language but I think you will understand his points as he describes his new church in Haiti.*

*"My* church is started in Gros Morne Haiti with the support of a group of Haiti Mission who used to bring mission team down Haiti and bring teachers from the States to teach in the seminary. The status

of the church is Christian with the purpose to destroy the flag of the voodoo spirits in Haiti and lift up the banner of Christ Jesus.

That church is a baby of only one year old but grows up and seems a young man of twenties. In one year all the member is challenge to know they have potential in them, when God calls He doesn't ask you for what you are in the society, can you write or read. He asks you to hear, to answer with obedience and to believe and He will use you in the way He wants depending of the talent He gave you.

The members of my church are really poor economically, they have no resource at all but I can tell you they are rich in goodness. Even though they cannot preach or lead a service they talk to others, invite them to come to our meeting, they are participating.

They built a building to worship the Lord. They do everything they can as go the river which not far get the sand carry stone bring water carry mortar they are just interested in serving how they can.

Hearing and seeing are different. If you go to Gonaives area and do not plan to see that difficult and inaccessible place [where our new church is located] which have such good a people, your trip can be incomplete.

As you are talked about the status of the church the words of Philippe to Nathanael are lent to tell you **come and see (John1:46)**. Last year they had no understanding of God Grace, today they are beyond expectation. Out of all of that we say that God is good. God Bless you."

# Kids Feeding Kids



## VBS Mission Program

By  
Trinity/HOPE

VBS Mission Project to share Jesus and food with the hungry students in Haiti!

**This Mission Program can be used with any VBS curriculum as the mission project and will enable your children:**

- To share the love of Jesus with children in Haiti
- Make a difference in others' lives

**Mission Package includes the following:**

- Overview video - Click to watch the video or visit our web page ([www.trinityhope.org](http://www.trinityhope.org))
- A video for each day of VBS
- Teacher instructions/supply list
- Activities for each day
- Booklets about the children in Haiti
- Customized posters for your church with date and address

**The best part is it is all free!**

We may even be able to provide a Trinity/HOPE speaker if you are interested.



Reviewed and recommended for consideration by President Paavola and the district staff!



This program was used by several Mid-South District churches last year in a pilot program and it was well received. Read some of the reviews.

*"This is to give you a quick update on how our church received Trinity/HOPE's VBS program. Needless to say it was a **SMASH HIT, HOME RUN**. I had made up my mind to not teach VBS in 2013, but you & God changed my mind. ....The children were so motivated to give and also the adults. The children still talk about it 6 months later. It was hard for them to understand how some parts of the world lives. How the Haitian children have so little but are happy and love to talk about God, the one and only God and Jesus His Son. Thank you for the GREAT program." — Connie*



*"We loved the video and information you provided. It connected our kids to those in Haiti and it was a beautiful thing to see!" — Linda*

### CONTACT

Denise Gudlin  
615.400.4918  
[trinityhope.dg@gmail.com](mailto:trinityhope.dg@gmail.com)



*"This is all GREAT! I can't think of a time (over 45+ years) that we've had so much great material on a VBS Mission project." — Fredrica*

**Theme Verse:** Matthew 25:35,40 – "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink..." "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

# Prayer Summary, May 2017

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 May 2017.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**MRS. GAYLE BOYSEN** (Memphis, TN)  
**MR. DAVID BRUGGE** (Memphis, TN)  
**MS. SARA FEURESTEIN** (daughter of Rev. Donley Hesse, Mena, AR)  
**MR. GLENN GOERES** (Former Education Executive, Central Illinois District – LCMS)  
**MRS. NANCY HERD** (wife of Rev. Cliff Herd, EM, Chattanooga, TN)  
**REV. DONLEY HESSE** (Emeritus, Mena, AR)  
**MRS. DOROTHY KRITSCH** (wife of Rev. Paul Kritsch, Sharps Chapel, TN)  
**MR. RICHARD MEYER** (Bella Vista, AR)  
**MRS. MEGAN NAVRATH** (daughter of Rev. Carl and Gwen Wenck, Grace, Murfreesboro, TN)  
**REV. KURT REINHARDT** (Stratford, ON)  
**REV. DAVID RUBKE** (Tulahoma, TN)  
**REV. PHIL SCHMIDT** (Emeritus, Memphis, TN)  
**MRS. CHLOE SWANSON** (wife of Rev. Herb Swanson, Lamar, AR)  
**MRS. SUE ANN TOOPES** (wife of Rev. Andy Toopes, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY)  
**MRS. MARGARET WENCK** (mother of Rev. Carl Wenck, Grace, Murfreesboro, TN)

### Our deepest sympathies to:

**President Roger and Pat Paavola** on the loss of Pat's sister-in-law, Soni Arvidson, who passed away on Wednesday, May 17, 2017.

**Rev. Michael Schleider and the congregation at Zion Lutheran Church of Avilla, Alexander, AR.** A fire destroyed the original chapel building, their food pantry, and the church/pastor's offices. Continued prayers as they recover from the loss.

## CALL UPDATE

### ORDAINED MINISTERS

**DECLINED: Rev. Christopher Waldvogel, Fargo, ND,** has declined the call to serve as pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Bentonville, AR.

### CANDIDATES FROM THE SEMINARY-

**Travis Ferguson (STL)** – Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN – Associate Pastor  
**Philip Girardin (STL)** – Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Searcy, AR – Pastor  
**Thomas Presley (FW)** – Mid-South District (for Jonesboro, AR) – MAL/Church Planter  
**Eric Rudsenske (FW)** – Concordia Lutheran Church, Jackson, TN – Pastor  
**Adam Woldt (STL)** – The Point Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN – Pastor  
**JohnDavid Zischke (STL)** – Mid-South District (for Fayetteville, AR) – MAL/Church Planter

### IN THE CALLING PROCESS – CONGREGATIONS

**Faith Lutheran Church, Bentonville, AR** – Pastor  
**First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN** – Pastor  
**Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN** – Associate Pastor  
**Grace Celebration Lutheran Church, Cordova, TN** – Pastor  
**Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN** – Associate Pastor  
**Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mountain Home, AR** – Associate Pastor  
**Trinity Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN** – Pastor

### COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

#### IN THE CALLING PROCESS – FOR COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

**Concordia Christian Academy, Jonesboro, AR** – Kindergarten Teacher  
**First Lutheran Church and School, Fort Smith, AR** – Principal  
**First Lutheran Church and School, Knoxville, TN** – Principal  
**Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR** – Director of Parish Music

# Staff of the Mid-South District, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod



Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola  
*President*

Paul Reaves  
*Executive Director for LCEF Vice President  
and Executive Director for Development*

Angela Fowler  
*Executive Director for  
Business and Finance*

Allen Piepenbrink  
*District Education Executive for  
Education and Preschools*

Carolyn Metzger  
*Finance Assistant*

Rena McElwain  
*LCEF Communications & Marketing Specialist*

Julie Tyler  
*Administrative Assistant  
for Missions and Education*

Alison Hawkins  
*Administrative Assistant  
to the District President*

## Contact the Mid-South District

1675 Wynne Road  
Cordova, TN 38016

PHONE: 866.373.1343 / 901.373.1343  
FAX: 901.373.4826

## Stay Connected With Us

ON THE WEB -  
"mid-southlcms.org"

ON FACEBOOK -  
"Mid-South-LCMS"

ON TWITTER -  
"@midsouthLCMS"

## Contribute to The Encourager

The Encourager is a monthly newsletter from the Mid-South District LCMS. If you would like your article or event published in the next Encourager, please email it by Friday, **June 23, 2017** to Rhonda, [webmaster@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:webmaster@mid-southlcms.com)