

# Encourager

Mid-South District LCMS | November 2017

## Focus for November

One of the greatest ways that we show thanks to God is by serving his people. This month we highlight a few of the ways congregations and schools choose to Serve their communities and show love to God's people.



*Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. —John 12:26*

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



It all began when the well-intentioned mother of the sons of Zebedee (James and John) who asked Jesus to allow her two sons to be seated at His right and left, "... in Your kingdom." Whose mother doesn't want to have the best for her children? The parent who sees the dedication to any cause (as long as it's good!) wants to have her children be recognized for their efforts and dedication. Some modern parents have taken it to the far end of the spectrum that has them doing most of the work for their child... like a helicopter hovering over their child's every moment.

As Jesus responds to her request, He reminds them of His earlier conversations of His impending death; asking the two sons if they are able to "...

*drink of the same cup that I am to drink?"* What is the "cup" Jesus mentioned? He further explained it with these words, [Jesus said], *"But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* (Matthew 20:26b-28, ESV) As unfortunate and perhaps not "politically correct," Jesus was settling a disagreement among the Twelve.

We must not overlook the significance of His statement, however. Service for His Kingdom takes sacrifice. Like the Apostle Paul, Jesus illustrates total dedication to His Kingdom by fully giving of Himself for the sake of the Kingdom. Even though Jesus later says to Pilate that He can give His life and take it up again, He would graciously and selflessly gave Himself to be a *doulos* (δουλος) slave for the Kingdom.

But, the mystery of His statements is clarified when He said, *"But whoever would be great among you must be*

*your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many.*" Inherently, we don't like the word, "slave." But, don't miss His point: When you are not compelled to love someone, you are then free to love unconditionally. Jesus had no compulsion to enter into His humiliation for our souls' salvation. His love and mercy prompted Him (before Creation) to "enslave" Himself to the punishment and death our sins would foist upon Him. He was free of compulsion, so He loved us freely and gave of Himself unconditionally.

How, then, does that apply to His disciples? Sitting at the right hand or left hand of Christ in His eternal glory and majesty would have signaled greatness. Yet, sitting in the center seat is the ultimate greatness – reserved for Christ alone! Greatness, according to Jesus, is defined by the self-sacrifice for the good of others, without an expectation of anything in return, or compulsion to do so.

This month, we're focusing on service. Service is a part of the stewardship that comes without compulsion for us, but comes freely as a response to the grace, mercy, and peace we have already received in an overflowing abundance from God. Stewardship is not just about giving money – despite what most congregants think! Our stewardship is also time and talents. All three are part of our

uncompelled response to God. The point is this: *"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* (II Cor. 9:6-7, ESV)

In my former congregation, we had several community projects, where anyone could work, based on their individual talents or experiences. One of those projects was construction work on Habitat for Community homes in our community. When we appeared for work at one particular home, we were joined with several dozen young people – both from our congregation and from the community. We showed the young people from the community about carpentry, siding, roofing, and so forth. I happened to be on a scaffolding with a young lady who struck up a conversation with me. As the morning went on, she blind-sided me with the question, "So, what are you in for?" I was confused and asked, "What do you mean?" Her reply was illustrative of what Jesus was getting across to His disciples. She answered, "Like... All of us are here like... doing community service time... like getting a reduced sentence instead of jail time. How about you?"

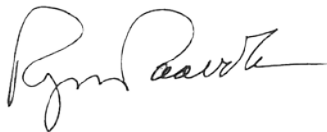
When I replied that we were from the Lutheran Church and we volunteered to do this work, she was taken back. "Why!?"

Our conversation impacted the way I said a prayer later at lunch time. We thanked God for the opportunity to share our work together, asking for His blessing and safety in our efforts, and thanking God for the young people who could be with us in our cheerful giving in service.

When St. Paul wrote his second epistle to the Corinthians, he must have seen that incident on the scaffolding happening. When he wrote about a "cheerful giver," Paul used an ancient Greek word that is *hilaron* (*ἡλᾰρον*). If you sound it out, *hilaron* it is where we get our English word, "hilarious." Yes, the situation on the scaffolding was hilarious, but, more to the point, it illustrates Jesus' message: Our service to our community, to our congregation, to our neighbors, or strangers is a cheerful, joyous opportunity to share the grace of God in Christ with those who need Him so deeply. What may appear to be hilarious volunteerism to some, is nothing more than cheerful stewardship of what God has already given us so freely.

Whatever service we provide – without compulsion – within the congregation or community reflects the love of God to those we serve. The mother of the two sons of Zebedee had one thing right: Although she wanted one of her sons on the left and the other on the right, she intuitively knew the center seat of greatness still belongs to Jesus. He is the image of complete submittal

of servanthood, despite His rightful seat in of greatness and majesty in His eternal Kingdom. So, we keep on serving in the spirit of godly stewardship that the Gospel may continue to be proclaimed throughout the world, and even in your town. Hilarious? No, with a cheerful heart.



### Additional Installations

**Rev. Paul Baumann**, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Paragould, AR

**Rev. Neil Vanderbush**, Faith Lutheran Church, Bentonville, AR



The **Installation of Rev. Alebachew Teshome** as Associate Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Thompson's Station, Tennessee on Sunday, October 15, 2017. Pictured (L to R): Rev. Gerald Meyer (Circuit Visitor); Rev. Alebachew Teshome; Rev. Curt Hoover (Sr. Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church)



Rev. Timothy J. Henning (center bottom) and assisting Fort Smith Circuit Pastors, left to right (Top row) Rev. Darrell Kobs - Circuit Visitor, Rev. Jason Zirbel - Grace Lutheran, Greenwood, Rev. Joshua Willadsen - Bethel, Fort Smith; (Bottom row) Rev. John Truede - Our Redeemer, Fort Smith, Rev. Donley Hesse - Mena, Emeritus, Rev. Timothy J. Henning - Trinity, Mena, Rev. John Merrill - First, Fort Smith

The **installation service for Rev. Timothy J. Henning** (Trinity Lutheran Church, Mena, AR) took place on Sunday, October 8th, 2017. Presiding Minister was Rev. Darrell Kobs and Rev. Jason Zirbel gave the sermon. There were 60 in attendance.

Pastor Henning graduated from Concordia College at Seward, NE and from Concordia Theological Seminary at Fort Wayne, IN. He was ordained in 1999. He has served for eight years in the Army (active duty and the reserves) as a Chaplain's Assistant. He is also a veteran of the Persian Gulf War. He currently works full time with Tyson Foods in Dardanelle, AR. He and his wife Janet, and their three children ages 18, 16 and 14 live in Russellville, AR.





## DIAPER DRIVE

This fall, **Our Savior Lutheran Academy in Nashville, Tennessee** hosted a **Diaper Drive** through the organization, the Nashville Diaper Connection. Our Academy families, church members, and community collected diapers to give to families in need throughout Middle Tennessee. One in three families cannot afford to buy diapers for their children. These diapers will be a blessing to these families and their precious children. Our drive collected a total of 2,100 diapers!

## CONGREGATION SERVING A COMMUNITY NEIGHBOR IN NASHVILLE



John Overton High School is a large metropolitan school located in south Nashville on Franklin Road, which is also near the location of Our Savior Lutheran Church. For the last four years, Our Savior has reached out to Overton High School by providing meals and building supportive relationships with the 90 members and coaches of their football team before their home games. The usual menu is homemade lasagna, rolls, green beans and salad,

which the players devour before their game! When they come by bus to Our Savior's campus, they receive a rousing welcome, and a brief devotion is given by one of Our Savior's pastors. Over the years of this outreach event, Christian hospitality, good will and positive friendships have been established with a good community neighbor. Our Savior is also exploring additional ways that it can serve the Bobcats at Overton High School.

# SHARPS CHAPEL HOSTS FOOD DISTRIBUTION



On Friday and Saturday, October 6 and 7, fifty neighbors from across Sharps Chapel, TN worked together on a Second Harvest Food Distribution held in the Sharps Chapel Elementary School. Over 13,000 pounds of food with a retail value of almost \$23,000 were distributed to 135 families in need. The food was donated by the TVA.

Some of the volunteers were children, others were adults of all ages. Some came from families who have lived in the Chapel for 100 plus years; others were people who only recently moved here. Some were from Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church who sponsored the event; others were from Oak Grove Baptist Church along with several other churches. Instrumental to the success of the food distribution were Eileen and Dudley Cunningham who have years of experience in organizing such helping events.

"It was wonderful to work alongside so many neighbors from across the Chapel," said Pastor Paul Kritsch of Chapel of the Good Shepherd. "We were privileged to be a part of sharing Christ's love and found ourselves growing in faith as a result. As Martin Luther wrote, 'God doesn't need our good works, our neighbor does.'"

## Congregational Mission Commitments

<b>Mission Commitment Receipts as of 09/30/17 (9 Mo.)</b>	
Anticipated Amount (75% of budget).....	\$1,179,858
Actual Receipts.....	<u>1,163,850</u>
Over (under) anticipated amount .....	<b>(\$16,008)</b>

<b>Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (9 Months)</b>	
Allocated to Synod for World Missions .....	\$330,405
Allocated to Tanzania .....	18,750
Retained for District Mission/Ministry Support (70% of receipts) .....	<u>814,695</u>
Total Receipts .....	\$1,163,850

<b>Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (9 Mo.)</b>	
Actual Receipts as of 09/30/17 .....	\$1,163,850
Actual Receipts as of 09/30/16.....	<u>\$1,166,368</u>
Over (under) prior year receipts .....	<b>(\$2,518)</b>



# THANKSGIVING NIGHT IN THE HUNGER FIGHT EVENTS

Hear a Haitian Feeding Program Director describe the work being done in Haiti and how the feeding programs are a blessing to the children and church. Many events include dinner, freewill offering, silent and live auctions and entertainment. Find an event near you and join us for a fun and entertaining fundraising event to feed the children attending Christian Schools in Haiti.

## **Saturday, November 4**

3 – 6 pm – St. Andrew Lutheran Church, Franklin, TN

## **Sunday, November 12**

Noon - Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

5:30 pm – St. Timothy Lutheran Church, Hendersonville, TN

## **Monday, November 13**

Morning Presentation to BCA (Belvoir Christian Academy), Chattanooga, TN

## **Wednesday, November 15**

11:30 am Presentation to Donelson/Hermitage Rotary Club, Hermitage, TN

## **Thursday, November 16**

5 pm – St. Matthew by the Lake, Benton, KY

## **Friday, November 17**

6 pm – Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Hermitage, TN

## **Saturday, November 18**

5 pm – Trinity Lutheran Church, Gallatin, TN

6 pm – Our Savior Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN

## **Sunday, November 19**

Noon – Christus Victor Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN

Noon – St. John's Lutheran Church, Effingham, IL



Join us for a fun and entertaining fundraising event to feed the children attending Christian Schools in Haiti.





*Don Israel, pictured with his wife, Katherine, accepted the 2017 Ralph Weiser Excellence In Ministry Award at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Nashville on Sunday, October 29.*

The Mid-South District is pleased to announce Mr. Don Israel as the 2017 Ralph Weiser *Excellence in Ministry* Award recipient. The award was given to Mr. Israel in a surprise presentation on Sunday, October 29 at his home congregation, Our Savior Lutheran Church in the Nashville, Tennessee. Introduced in 2016, the Ralph Weiser *Excellence in Ministry* Award recognizes the dedication and ministry-building work of one Mid-South District layperson. The award honors the life and work of the late Ralph Weiser, a

## DISTRICT ANNOUNCES 2017 RALPH WEISER EXCELLENCE IN MINISTRY AWARD RECIPIENT

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.

Like the award's namesake, Ralph Weiser, Mr. Israel 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. Don Israel—with wife, Katherine, 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. Don Israel!



## Perfect Christmas Gift for a Child!

Give the gift of a Young Investors StewardAccount® to enjoy these benefits:

- Minimum of \$25 to open the account.
- Premium interest rate of 3.5% on balances up to \$1,000.
- Interest compounded and paid monthly.
- Older children can earn up to \$25 a year for good grades.
- Empowering ministries in Kingdom work.

It's reassuring knowing your child is God's child—secure in His grace and love. Now your child's savings can help others experience God's love through the sharing of the Gospel.

For more information, call us at 800-843-5233 or visit [lcef.org](http://lcef.org).

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. StewardAccount access features are offered through UMB Bank n.a. The StewardAccount is not available to investors in South Carolina.



# Thank You for a Wonderful Mid-South District Reformation Celebration Weekend!

The weekend of October 13 & 14 was an exciting and busy time as the Mid-South District's official Reformation events took place in Memphis. On Friday, October 13, just over 500 people gathered for a special Reformation Choral Concert at the Rose Theater on the University of Memphis campus. On Saturday, October 14, the District's celebration took a more casual and festive turn at an Oktoberfest event, hosted on the campus of Immanuel Lutheran. Over 300 people came out to enjoy the food, beer, Oompah band and German-inspired fun of the day.

"Thank you" to all who participated in these events! The Mid-South District is especially grateful to Charlie Gemeinhardt (Christ the King - Memphis) for his coordination of the Choral Concert and Diane Reimold (Immanuel - Memphis) for oversight of the Oktoberfest event. In addition to the wonderful work of these individuals and many other volunteers, the District is grateful to Thrivent Financial for its generous sponsorship of both events.



**The Reformation Choral Concert included stirring renditions of both Lutheran hymns and classic works from Lutheran composer Johann Sebastian Bach. Photo courtesy of Caroline Johnson – Johnson Photography**



**Oktoberfest attendees took advantage of a Martin Luther "photo op," with Wittenberg's City Square as the backdrop.**



## Treasurers' Workshops Coming Up in 2018

Treasurers' Workshops have been scheduled for early 2018. Complete schedule and registration information is available on the District website at <https://mid-southlcms.org/treasurers-workshop-2018/>. Please encourage your congregation's Treasurer and/or Bookkeeper to attend one of these free, informative sessions.

### Petal Pushers® Will Decorate Rose Parade Floats in Irwindale CA

*You can help decorate*

Decorating will be at the PHOENIX DECORATING COMPANY, 5400 Irwindale Ave. Irwindale, CA 91706. The 2018 Lutheran Hour Ministries Tournament of Roses Parade float is entitled: *Bringing Christ to the Nations*. The theme of the parade is Making a Difference. His difference making allows us to make a difference in the lives of others.

CHANGE THEIR  
WORLD.

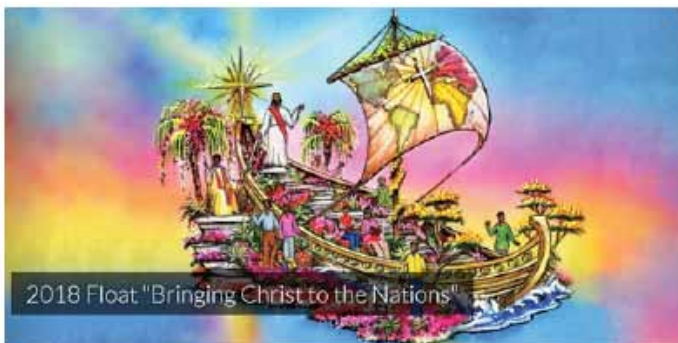
CHANGE YOURS.

THIS CHANGES  
EVERYTHING.

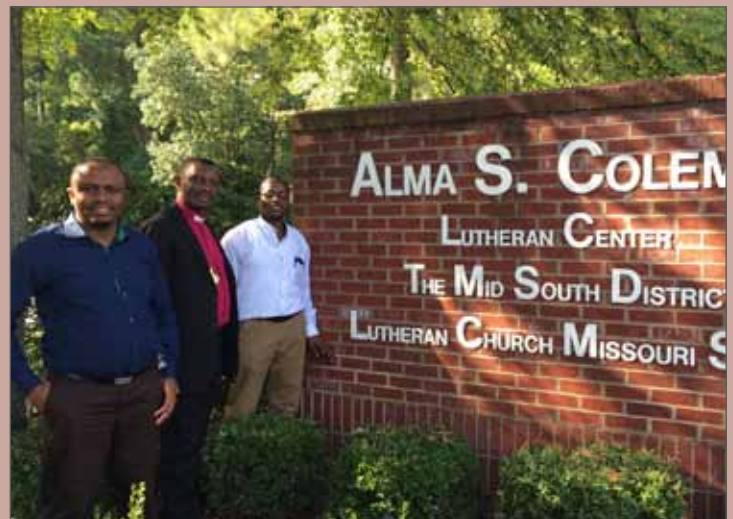


Register on-line

<https://volunteer.petalpushers.org/>.



## BISHOP MAKALA'S RECENT VISIT TO MEMPHIS



Bishop Makala, Bishop of Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese (SELVD), Victor Malewo, CEO of the Lutheran Investment company and Loata Mungaya, Treasurer of the Lutheran Church of Tanzania stopped into the Mid-South District and Christ the King (Memphis) during a recent USA trip.

Bishop Makala wanted to come to Memphis to meet the people at the Mid-South District who have been so helpful to the Southeast of Lake Victoria Diocese and visit Christ the King that has been such a good friend to him and the Diocese for many years. He was able to meet with President Paavola in St. Louis at the Council of Presidents.

**Mid-South District 2017 CARE-VAN  
November 3-4, 2017  
Locations and Coordinators**



**Loading Friday and Saturday, November 3-4, 2017  
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	<b>Mr. Lou Fellwock</b> 1-479-646-5462	Rev. John Merrill 1-479-785-2886 (church) <a href="mailto:jfmerrill@gmail.com">jfmerrill@gmail.com</a>
Jonesboro, AR	Pilgrim Lutheran Church 1812 South Rains Jonesboro, AR 72401-5046	<b>Rev. Russell Shewmaker</b> 1-870-935-2001 (church) 1-870-897-4443 (cell) <a href="mailto:pastor@pilgrimlutheran.us">pastor@pilgrimlutheran.us</a>	Rev. Russell Shewmaker 1-870-935-2001 (church) 1-870-897-4443 (cell) <a href="mailto:pastor@pilgrimlutheran.us">pastor@pilgrimlutheran.us</a>
Little Rock, AR	Grace Lutheran Church 5124 Hillcrest Little Rock, AR 72205	<b>Rev. James Walter</b> 1-501-663-3631 (church) 1-501-240-7729 (cell) <a href="mailto:walter@aristotle.net">walter@aristotle.net</a>	Rev. James Walter 1-501-663-3631 (church) 1-501-240-7729 (cell) <a href="mailto:walter@aristotle.net">walter@aristotle.net</a>
Springdale, AR	Salem Lutheran Ministries 1800 West Emma Avenue Springdale, AR 72762-3905 <b>Only Saturday - Nov. 4 (9 a.m.-1 p.m.)</b>	<b>Ms. Darlene Diercouff</b> 1-479-751-9500 (church) <a href="mailto:ddiercouff@aol.com">ddiercouff@aol.com</a>	Rev. Mark Krause 1-479-751-9500 (church) 1-479-841-4898 (cell) <a href="mailto:mekrause40@aol.com">mekrause40@aol.com</a>

**Tennessee**

CITY	Location for YRC Freight	Contact Person	Pastor of Church
Chattanooga, TN	Cross of Christ Lutheran Church 3204 Hixon Pike Chattanooga, TN 37415 <b>Only Friday, Nov. 3 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.)</b>	<b>Ms. Lanette Bagley</b> 1-423-344-9324 1-423-653-6673 (cell) <a href="mailto:laja40@yahoo.com">laja40@yahoo.com</a>	Rev. Barry Hildebrandt 1-423-877-7447 (church) 1-423-255-4746 (cell) <a href="mailto:church@cocluth.com">church@cocluth.com</a>
Hermitage, TN	Emmanuel Lutheran Church 1003 Hickory Hill Lane Hermitage, TN 37076	<b>Mr. Bruce Palmer</b> 1-615-594-6160 (cell) <a href="mailto:robertpalmer@tds.net">robertpalmer@tds.net</a>	Rev. Keith Enko 1-615-883-7533 (church) 1-615-812-5955 (cell) <a href="mailto:keithenko@yahoo.com">keithenko@yahoo.com</a>
Knoxville, TN	Christus Victor Lutheran Church 4110 Central Avenue Pike Knoxville, TN 37912-0312	<b>Mr. Tim Rearick</b> 1-865-719-1123 (cell) <a href="mailto:timrearick1@yahoo.com">timrearick1@yahoo.com</a>	Rev. William Ondracka 1-865-687-6622 (church) 1-734-368-1703 <a href="mailto:pastorbill@christusvictorknoxville.org">pastorbill@christusvictorknoxville.org</a>
Memphis, TN	Immanuel Lutheran Church 6325 Raleigh LaGrange Road Memphis, TN 38134-6907	<b>Ms. Diane Reimold</b> 1-901-679-0626 <a href="mailto:dianereimold@hotmail.com">dianereimold@hotmail.com</a>	Rev. Will Miller 1-901-373-4486 (church) <a href="mailto:millerpw@live.com">millerpw@live.com</a>



# Engaging Your Community Event

Saturday, December 2nd  
Engaging Your Community Event at Bethel Lutheran Church  
5400 Euper Lane, Fort Smith, AR 72073

Featured Presenters:

Rev. Todd Kollbaum

Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola



If overnight accommodations are desired,  
make your own reservations in the  
Fort Smith area

## REACHING RURAL AMERICA for Christ

Let's go...to the small towns.  
Mark 1:38 (God's Word<sup>®</sup>)

[www.lcms.org/rstm](http://www.lcms.org/rstm)

[rstm@lcms.org](mailto:rstm@lcms.org)

What will you get out of an EYC Event:

- Bible Studies
- Community Demographic Studies
- Identifying Congregational Strengths
- Community Outreach Ideas
- Table Discussions
- Fellowship

Cost: \$25/participant or \$100/congregation

Register by Monday, November 27th

Online <http://www.lcms.org/rstm/engaging-rural-communities>

Call 888-463-5127 or  
email [rstm@lcms.org](mailto:rstm@lcms.org)



RURAL & SMALL TOWN

## MISSION

888-463-5127 or 660-463-9400

# Prayer Summary, October 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 October 2017.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**MS. SHERRY COSTELLO** (secretary at Trinity, Pine Bluff, AR)

**MS. SARA FEURESTEIN** (daughter of Rev. Donley Hesse, Mena, AR)

**MRS. NANCY HERD** (wife of Rev. Cliff Herd, EM, Chattanooga, TN)

**REV. DONLEY HESSE** (Emeritus, Mena, AR)

**MR. ADAM JANSEN** (brother of Rev. Nathan Jansen, Burns, 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** (Tullahoma, TN)

**REV. MERLIN SEPMEYER** (Crossville, 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 Rev. Nathaniel Bol (South Sudan Evangelical Lutheran Church),** as he mourns the loss of his mother who passed away.

## CALL UPDATE ORDAINED MINISTERS

**ACCEPTED:** **Rev. Don Coulter** has accepted the call to serve as **Pastor at Athens Lutheran Church, Athens, TN.**

**Rev. Edward Schmidt,** Rifle, CO, has accepted the call to serve as **Pastor at First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN.**

**Rev. Alebachew Teshome,** Nashville, TN, has accepted the call to serve as **Associate Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church, Thompson's Station, TN.**

**DECLINED:** **Rev. Chad Kendall,** Lowell, IN, has declined the call to serve as **Pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN.**

**IN THE CALLING PROCESS – CONGREGATIONS**  
**Trinity Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN – Pastor**  
**Mid-South District – Executive Director for Missions and Ministry**

**COMMISSIONED MINISTERS**  
**IN THE CALLING PROCESS**  
**Belvoir Christian Academy, Chattanooga, TN**  
**– Principal**  
**First Lutheran Church and School, Fort Smith, AR**  
**– Principal**  
**First Lutheran Church and School, Knoxville, TN**  
**– Principal**



# 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 **November 15, 2017** to Rhonda, [webmaster@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:webmaster@mid-southlcms.com)

*December Focus —*

*With the end of the year approaching, it's a great time to reflect on the ways that God has blessed ministries across the Mid-South District. For the December Encourager, please share stories or photos/captions of your ministry's "highlights" from 2017.*