



MID-SOUTH LUTHERAN

Tetelestai

The mission is completed, there's nothing left to be done



thinkstock

It probably doesn't happen often in your daily vocabulary. In fact, it may never have been uttered by your lips. But the word *tetelestai* is one of the most important words we can ever hear. It's a Greek word that means "it is finished." It comes from the root word *telos*, which always means an end, a maturity, a completion, bring to completion or fulfillment. But when adding the prefix *te-* to the word, it means something coming to its finality and takes on a completely different meaning.



Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola
District President

The English translation "It is finished!" doesn't do much justice to what Jesus cried out from the cross only moments before He died. It's not a word of a dying martyr. It's not the agony of a crimi-

nal justly executed for a capital crime. Instead, *tetelestai* is (because of that prefixing stutter at the beginning) encapsulating a profound and utterly eternal significance for us to understand.

One of the meanings of the prefix *te-* is this particular moment of the fulfillment of prophetic Scripture. In other words, this is the apex of Messianic prophecy! There's no more to see. There's no more to do. No one can add to or take away from what it is that Christ completed.

"When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, 'It is finished,' and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit." **John 19:30**

This means that the Messiah promised to our first ancestors — Adam and Eve (Gen. 3:15) — the Incarnate God promised to be born to a virgin mother (Is. 7:14), born in Bethlehem (Micah 5:2), despised and rejected (Is. 8:14; 53:3) and dozens of other prophecies about

the coming Christ are fulfilled in Him and His death on the cross.

Prophecy painted numerous pictures of what the Christ would look like, where He'd come from, what He'd do, His humiliation, His mistrial and His execution and death.

Prophecy said His hands would be pierced, but no bones would be broken. He would hang from a tree, suffer and bleed and die. He would die between two criminals, be buried in a borrowed tomb and His executioners would cast lots for His clothing.

Thousands of years before His birth, specific details about the Messiah began to develop to an exacting probability that could only be fulfilled by one Man.

His final declaration, "I thirst," completed an unsuspected fulfillment of His own humiliation:

"Truly, I say to you, I will not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." **Mark 14:25**

The throne of the Kingdom of God began at the cross. The grace and mercy of God was shown in utter, stark carnality. The full and awful realization of the sole (soul) purpose of the Christ — God in flesh — was shown in the Incarnate God hanging on a cross, suffering and dying for our sins.

But the *te-* at the beginning of the Greek word doesn't only leave us in agonizing reality of the God-Man dead on the cross. It also speaks of the clear and present suffering of our Savior. He was called a "Man of sorrows" by the prophet Isaiah (Is. 52-53). His entire earthly life was riddled with suffering. He suf-

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TETELESTAI

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

ferred at the hands of men. He suffered the temptations of Satan and his evil minions. He suffered at the hands of His closest friends and family. And, in His final hours, He suffered at the hand of God.

From the beginning of His earthly ministry (at the wedding of Cana), Jesus knew His hour was His mission and purpose. When Nicodemus spoke with Him in the middle of the night (John 3), Jesus spoke of Himself being lifted up as the Son of Man. When John's and James' mother came to request a place of honor in His kingdom, Jesus spoke of the "cup" from which He was to drink — the cup of suffering and pain.

After Peter acknowledged that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God, Jesus told His disciples that He must "...go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." (Matt. 16:21).

Now the closing hour of His passion, suffering and death were on Him. After commending the Lord's Supper for the use by the entire Christian Church until eternity, Jesus faced

His final humiliating pain and suffering. Before Caiaphas, Pilate, Herod, an angry crowd and Roman soldiers, Jesus faced mockery, degradation and shame.

The brutal beatings, the agonizing walk to the hill of Golgotha, the iron nails driven through His hands and feet and a host of taunting strangers, Jesus suffered all for our sake. But the worst was the mystery of the cleaving of the Godhead, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?" The storm of God's wrath were poured over Him. The wages of sin were hoisted upon Him — millions

of sins from billions of people, crushed down on the body of Christ.

God's wrath against sin was stilled. The darkness and quaking earth signaled the death of the creating, gracious hand of God. Divine holiness succumbed to Divine judgment. Christ was Himself, the High Priest, offering Himself as the one and only pure Lamb of God, upon the mercy seat of an ugly, cruel cross. With His last breath, Jesus shouted out in a loud voice, "Tetelestai!" It is finished, for all of creation to hear.

The mission upon which God sent His Son was completed in full. Atonement for the sins of all the world was done. The salvation plan of God was fulfilled. God sent His Son to "...take away our sins" (1 John 3:5). Sinners could only be saved when a perfect and holy life

stepped in to take our place under the justice of God. It all involved the cross and Christ's suffering on it.

The temple curtain to the Holy of Holies was torn in two, top to bottom, the earth shook, rocks split and a darkness covered the entire earth (Matt. 27:45-51). What a pure and holy God required of mankind was complete. Nothing is left to be done. No works from us sinners can add to what Christ accomplished on our behalf.

But *tetelestai* means something even more. The nails that pierced Christ's feet couldn't withhold the divine omnipotence of God to drive His heel down upon the head of our adversary.

Tetelestai is the final triumphant cry of all humanity to the rage of mankind and the enmity of Satan. It tells the perfect work of Christ crashed together with sin in the place of God's justice. The ultimate Passover Lamb delivered all of mankind from death with His own precious life and blood. Old Testament ceremonies were overshadowed, divine



Photos©LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford



holiness succeeded, sinners were given what sinners needed.

"*Tetelestai*," cried the Son of God.

So who is left to doubt it? Our heavenly Father is satisfied with His sacrifice, why would we demand even more? *Tetelestai*! It is finished! These are not the sounds of a helpless victim, but the sounds of a Victor — Christus Victor — the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of all the world.

The beauty of the word *tetelestai*, because of that tiny little prefix, means it's a never-ending fulfillment. This isn't a completion like baking a cake, running a race or picking a ripe apple from a tree. Those are only examples of *telos* — a completion. The extra prefix says what Christ accomplished on the cross will be brought to completion on the Day of the Lord — the Day of salvation eternal.

This is why we join together at the foot of the cross — where our sins were paid for — and proceed together to the open tomb on Easter that spells out our justification by the gracious and merciful, nail-pierced hands of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Mercy in Gatlinburg

By Rev. Robert Portier
Pastor, St. Paul, Sevierville, Tenn.

In the weeks following the Gatlinburg fires, I was regularly answering the questions “What can I do?” and “How can I help?” The care and concern for neighbors in need was a wonderful thing to see in the light of such grief.

We, as the congregation of St. Paul, Sevierville, have found a number of ways to plug into the relief effort. In addition to volunteering some time, we established a fund so that caring, concerned Lutherans from all over the country could send funds to us and have us pass them on to fire-affected families. We received more than \$12,000 from more than 50 individuals, groups and congregations across a dozen states and decided Smoky Mountain Area Rescue Ministry (SMARM), a local

ministry we have a long-standing relationship with, was the best place for the funds to reach the most people in need.

I recently delivered the first check from that fund, \$10,237, to Dick Wellons, its executive director. Those funds were used to help 32 families with shelter expenses, 44 with rental expenses and 87 with utility expenses. These families were helped in their great hour of need through the love and generosity of our brothers and sisters in Christ, near and far.

We continue to pray for all 884 families that lost their homes. We are honored and blessed to be a part of this loving, caring community and look forward to continuing this mercy work as we love and serve our neighbors as volunteers and messengers of kindness.



The congregation of St. Paul, Sevierville, is helping raise funds for those impacted by the disastrous Gatlinburg fire. The Rev. Robert Portier, right, presented more than \$12,000 to Dick Wellons, executive director of Smoky Mountain Area Rescue Ministry (SMARM).

Students: apply now for financial aid

Students who plan to attend an LCMS seminary or college/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, or by postal mail to 1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN 38016.



Congregation mission commitment receipts as of Jan. 31, 2017 (1 month)

Anticipated amount (8.3% of budget)	\$131,033
Actual receipts	96,534
Over (under) anticipated amount...(\$34,499)	

Use of mission commitment receipts

Allocated to Synod for world missions	\$26,877
Allocated to Tanzania	2,083
Retained for district ministry/mission support (70% of receipts)	67,574
Total receipts	\$96,534

Mission commitment receipts comparison

Actual receipts as of Jan. 31, 2017	\$96,534
Actual receipts as of Jan. 31, 2016	\$94,680
Over (under) prior year receipts	\$1,854

Malagasy church celebrates Reformation with **RENOVATION** and **GROWTH**

By Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola
President, Mid-South District

The Rev. Joseph Radrianasolo, a pastor with the Malagasy Lutheran Church in Madagascar, has established a relationship with the LCMS Mid-South District. The district has directly helped the Lutheran Institute of Managerial Enterprise (LIME) at Masombahoaka during the past four years.

Prior to that time, there has been support for building churches, getting transportation for the ministers, securing computers for teaching and internet access for the college students at LIME, helping with room renovation and the most recent project to upgrade their building.

LIME is an upper-division education facility that offers Lutheran students college-level courses that equip them to compete in a very limited job market, and to become workers for the Malagasy Lutheran Church.

The Malagasy Lutheran Church is known in Madagascar as FLM (Fiangonana Loterana Malagasy), and functions under the leadership of its newly elected president, the Rev. Dr. David Rakotonirina. It is a denomination established in 1950 by the unification of 1,800 Lutheran congregations in central and southern Madagascar. The oldest of these congregations was founded in the early 19th century, leading to this year's celebration of 150 years on the island nation. FLM has grown from a handful of families to more than 3 million members, making FLM one of the fastest growing Lutheran church bodies in the world.

The growth of FLM is due in large part to an indigenous revival movement, known as Fifohazana, that has worked through the church since the early 20th century. Most of the church leaders are members of the Fifohazana movement.

In addition to serving more than 5,000 member congregations with only 1,200 pastors, FLM also boasts a healthcare program of nine hospitals and 13 dispensaries. SALFA, as it is known, is a community-based primary health project with special initiatives that covers childcare, family planning, HIV/AIDS prevention and providing for missionaries who serve in Cameroon and Papua New Guinea.

Radrianasolo advises that the first phase of

LIME renovation — exterior repairs and painting — has been completed. “We are now undertaking the interior repairing and painting,” Radrianasolo says. “It has been more than 25 years that the building has had no maintenance at all.”

He expresses gratitude that support from the Mid-South District has made this necessary maintenance possible. “I reiterate again our deep and sincere thank you!”



Painters upgrading the LIME educational facility show the ingenuity of the people and their willingness to do everything possible to grow the Lutheran bridge to their community.



Celebrating Lutheran schools



upon
this
ROCK

By Allen Piepenbrink
Education Executive, Mid-South District

The first Lutherans in the United States understood the importance of schools. In fact, during the mid-1800s, they operated more schools than congregations. Schools were a priority for these Lutherans and we do not want to lose this heritage. Having good, solid Lutheran schools means a lot to the future of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Why do you think we operate 10 colleges/universities and two seminaries? We believe strongly in training leaders for our classrooms and parishes.

From the very beginning, there have been at least two reasons for operating schools. First, the Bible commands us to make disciples of all nations. Second, we are instructed to teach our children to obey the commands of Christ, our savior. C.F.W. Walther himself said that our objectives are to establish a true and correct way to worship, maintain Christian schools for our children and help others to increase their faith in Jesus as Lord of all.

There is no doubt that operating a

The LCMS supports
the work of



2,068

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS



1,173
early-
childhood
centers



804
elementary
schools



91
high
schools

The Mid-South District supports
11 elementary schools and 25
early childhood centers.

Lutheran school takes a lot of time, effort, energy, staff, money and prayer. A congregation that is willing to commit to such a task is telling its community that it is willing to invest in the present and future of its children. And this effort is not just for its own members as Lutheran schools are a mission field. In Matthew, we are told to go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing and teaching them all the Lord has commanded.

Lives are changed in Lutheran schools as the teachers and staff proclaim Jesus every hour of every day. Our Lutheran schools give these leaders an opportunity to share God's Word and witness about the love God has for all. Our schools literally seek those who are lost and provide an opportunity for hope and forgiveness.

I had the opportunity to teach in the South Wisconsin District, where I witnessed how the Lutheran Urban Mission Initiative (LUMIN) is able to do great things in an urban setting. LUMIN has developed a network of schools that share resources, expertise and safe environments where children are able to not only learn the required curriculum, but also about Jesus. What a great mission field.

When I am asked about Lutheran schools today, I reply that we must keep open the ones we have and start new schools in communities where none exist. Think of the school as being the front porch of your church where we welcome all to come and learn. Our schools are a place where students grow mentally, physically and spiritually. What could be a better place for our children than being in a Lutheran school?



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford



Concordia Christian Academy, Jonesboro

At CCA, we continue to experience God's blessings each day as He allows us to serve each one of our 80 students.

Last year, we expanded our ministry to include high school students, and we are continuing to foster and grow this wonderful educational opportunity. CCA students experience first-hand what it means to give back to those in need in our community

and across the globe through various school-wide initiatives.

This year's school theme has been "Put on the full armor of God...", which coincides with the adoption of our new nickname — the Knights. We ask for prayers as we continue to serve our students and, with God's blessing, grow to reach even more young people.



Christ, Little Rock

Christ Lutheran School kicked off its 2016-17 school year with a back-to-school bash and ribbon-cutting for three new classrooms, home to children 6 weeks of age through 2 years old. This new early childhood program cares for the children, offering opportunities for play, learning and social interaction. Nearly 55 infants and toddlers joined the program, increasing enrollment by more than 30 percent school-wide.

Our youngest students now join the preschool-3 through eighth-graders in a school setting where they can grow in faith and academics. Christ Lutheran School believes every child is a gift from God with talents to be discovered!

We are thrilled to welcome new little ones to the CLS family!

First, Fort Smith

Since 1853, First Lutheran School has endeavored to provide a Christ-centered curriculum to students of the Arkansas River Valley. We strive to educate our students in a manner that most people would consider to be very traditional. However, we also have always tried to make sure that we were also innovative in our methods and subject matter. This year, while continuing to offer an outstanding fine arts



program, we went in a totally different direction by offering a robotics program based on the Lego platform. Each week about 20 students, mostly third- through fifth-graders, meet after school with a parent volunteer, assisted by one of our teachers, to learn about coding and building small robots.

Avilla Christian Academy, Alexander

At Avilla Christian Academy, we want to grow kids in three ways: spiritually, socially and academically, and thus equip them to further the Kingdom of God in this world. We know the world is becoming a very different place from what previous generations knew. For our students to be able to effectively function as Jesus' disciples in the world of tomorrow, they will need to be mature in every aspect of their humanity. These kindergarten students seem small now, but the



time we have to invest in what they become is rapidly passing by. In fact, look! They are already growing moustaches! Oh yeah — we also have some fun at our school!

St. John's, Stuttgart

Located 50 miles southeast of Little Rock, St. John's Lutheran School offers a preschool program beginning with infants through preschool-4. Our elementary school is kindergarten through grade six. The enrollment for the 2016-17 school year is 180 students, a large increase over last year.

Students at St. John's participate in a variety of school and community activities. In the fall, the students collected more than 2,200 items for the ICCM food bank. The school and church also hosted a meeting for The Call, an organization that helps place foster children.

For Lutheran Schools Week, a penny war and other activities were planned.



Belvoir Christian Academy, Chattanooga

With the economy sputtering, there was concern that we would need to close our doors about six years ago. However, we are slowly seeing an increase in our infant through prekindergarten-4 and kindergarten through eighth-grade student population. This year we welcomed new headmaster Linda Dahnke and developed a curriculum to address our changing needs and made several cosmetic changes.

During National Lutheran Schools Week, a different speaker each day shared with us how God is our rock and He provides and cares for us in all we do. Staff from the Creative Discovery Museum also visited every day. Every Friday in February, students in grades 2-4 chose courses in magic, fairy gardens, cake decorating and more. BCA is on the move and excited about the future!

Faith, Collierville

Registration Day at Faith Lutheran Preschool is a very well-attended event! We have had such interest in the school that 16 parents waited through the night, camping out in the cold temperatures in order to get their kids into the school.

This thumbs-up daddy was super excited to get the last 2-year-old spot available for the 2017-18 school year. This year we had a 99-percent retention rate, and the few spots left for the entire school for 2017-18 school year are filling up fast!



EDUCATION

Christ the King, Memphis



Our Lutheran school is located in the heart of Memphis and Memphis is in the heart of CTK!

We believe in giving back to our community and we teach this to our students. Our students and faculty celebrated “901 Day” on Sept. 1. This outreach mindset began with making cards to send to shut-ins, helping our church host a “Cop Stop” to feed

local emergency first responders, and later hosting a Veterans Day celebration during chapel.

Although two wonderful servant leaders recently retired — Cissy Welch after 27 years and Sue Rogalski after 33 years of teaching, they continue to volunteer in the school’s library, sharing literacy and the love of Jesus with children.

First, Knoxville

First Lutheran School is dedicated to serving our community. We recognize the need for students to learn how to serve the Lord through their service to others. Throughout the year, our students participate in service events like the St. Jude’s trike-a-thon, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society fundraiser, food drive and Veterans Day program.

We have been blessed to provide an ESL class for the influx of Chinese students attending our Early Childhood Education Center.

Our ministry has



been blessed richly by this new and exciting opportunity to witness to families of various cultural and religious backgrounds.

We’re also blessed to witness the blossoming faith of a child learning about Jesus for the first time.

Heavenly Host, Cookeville



Heavenly Host Lutheran School offers a Christ-centered learning environment where students learn the wisdom and knowledge of God and His creation and sacrifice for us upon the cross. We do this while providing academic excellence, developing spiritual grounding and having a love of learning designed to lead children throughout their lives.

HHLS welcomes all faiths and families in the hope that our community might be afforded the opportunity to hear the Gospel as we celebrate what Christ has done for us and worship Him in spirit and in truth. Our float in the community’s recent Christmas parade was titled “Glory to God in the Highest,” and enjoyed immense student and parent participation.

Immanuel, Memphis



Immanuel Lutheran School has embarked on a facility expansion that will include a 2,000-square foot dedicated STEMM SmartLab™. STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics; the extra “M” is for “ministry.”

The new resource will be the state’s first full-blown SmartLab for grades kindergarten through 8, and will include all the technology resources needed to engage students in practical, collaborative learning — a classroom where students build bridges, design homes, work with hydropower or code an app for a smartphone — using knowledge to solve real-world problems. Students participate in colorful fundraisers to make this dynamic learning environment available to Immanuel’s 200 students this fall.

Our Savior Lutheran Academy, Nashville

Our Savior is blossoming! We have doubled our enrollment from the start of last year and for that we are truly grateful to God for His many blessings!

One of our biggest missions at the Academy is to make a positive impact in our community. This past semester, we collected school supplies for a local school in need, and we were able to deliver all sorts of supplies from crayons to notebooks, glue, pencils and much more! The students also started to collect items for blessing bags that will be delivered to those in need in the Nashville community.

For Jesus tells us in Matt: 25:40: “Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”



Holy Trinity, Bowling Green

At Holy Trinity Lutheran School, we are so excited this year to have new technology to share with our students and teachers. With last year’s PTO funds, we purchased 20 Chromebooks for our second- through sixth-graders, 15 tablets for our kindergarten and first-grade students, 17 new computers for our computer lab, and projectors, cameras, carts and cabinets for classroom use. Michael Parsley, our new IT Support specialist, has been hard at work rolling out all of our new items and is helping our staff integrate this new technology into the classrooms.

We continue to press on through the successes and challenges to the upward call of God in Christ Jesus our Lord to share Him with children and families.

The Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Ordained ministers celebrating anniversaries in 2017



65 Years

Rev. Robert Miskimen (em)
Bella Vista, Ark.

60 Years

Rev. Paul Donner (em)
Paducah, Ky.

Rev. Donley Hesse (em)
Mena, Ark.

Rev. Herbert Klepatz
Nashville, Tenn.

Rev. John Schulz (em)
Knoxville, Tenn.

55 Years

Rev. Wesley Toncre (em)
Conway, Ark.

Rev. Fred Hagemeyer (em)
Lakeview, Ark.

50 Years

Rev. James Evers (em)
Oak Ridge, Tenn.

45 Years

Rev. Peter Ave-Lallemant
Faith, Fairfield Bay, Ark.

Rev. William Barthel (em)
Loudon, Tenn.

Rev. Paul Baumann (em)
Paragould, Ark.

Rev. Gary Heckmann (em)
Cookeville, Tenn.

40 Years

Rev. Jan Munch (em)
Athens, Tenn.

Rev. Don Schmidt
Messiah, Memphis, Tenn.

Rev. Roland Schutz (em)
Benton, Ark.

35 Years

Rev. Gary Carstens (em)
Mena, Ark.

Rev. Keith Enko
Emmanuel, Hermitage, Tenn.

Rev. Stewart Marshall
Trinity, Pine Bluff, Ark.

Rev. Richard Mayer (em)
Bentonville, Ark.

30 Years

Rev. Steven Harmon
Bethlehem, Johnson City, Tenn.

Rev. H. Christopher Sheets
Good Shepherd, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Rev. Russell Shewmaker
Pilgrim, Jonesboro, Ark.

25 Years

Rev. Jon Bischof
St. Matthew, Corning, Ark.

20 Years

Rev. Mark Goble
Christ the King, Memphis, Tenn.

Rev. Mark Louderback
Beautiful Savior, Olive Branch, Miss.

Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola
Mid-South District President

Rev. Andrew Smith
Heavenly Host, Cookeville, Tenn.

15 Years

Rev. Tracy Nelson
Our Savior, Nashville, Tenn.

Rev. Chad Philipp
St. Paul, Gillett, Ark.

Rev. Kenneth Shaw
Trinity, Gallatin, Tenn.

10 Years

Rev. Daniel Hauser
Christ, Little Rock, Ark.

Rev. Robert Portier
St. Paul, Sevierville, Tenn.



Rev. Gregory Truwe
Concordia, Jackson, Tenn.

Rev. David Vandercook
Shepherd of Peace, Maumelle, Ark.
Trinity, North Little Rock, Ark.

5 Years

Rev. Mark Bushuiakovish
Grace, Knoxville, Tenn.

Rev. William Stevenson
Trinity, Dyersburg, Tenn.

Rev. Joshua Woodrow
First, Chattanooga, Tenn.

*Well done, good and faithful
servants!*

Are you teachable?

By Julie Keck, Media/Marketing
LWML Mid-South District

This issue of *Mid-South Lutheran* features the education and learning happening in our district schools. Along these lines, are you still learning? Are you still teachable?

John 14:26 (NIV) says:

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”

As believers, we each have the Holy Spirit within us and teaching us, but are we listening?

Reading and studying God’s Word is the way to “hear” the Holy Spirit and be open to His teaching. Praying for wisdom before you start your study or devotion will make your heart and mind ready. Personal quiet time is essential for Christian growth and group Bible



Group Bible study gives you needed Christian fellowship as you learn.



LCMS/Erin M. Lunsford

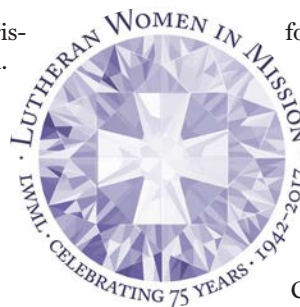
study gives you needed Christian fellowship as you learn.

Are you in a Bible study? We all have a lot more to learn.

“He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them his way.”

Ps. 25:9 NIV

Many LWML societies have regular Bible studies that you can attend. The LWML website has many devotions and Bible studies that are free for downloading for use in your society or



for personal use. Visit lwml.org/program-helps.

There will be plenty of deep Bible study at the 37th Biennial LWML Convention June 22-25 in Albuquerque, N.M. Are you registered?

Check out the Winter 2016 issue of *Lutheran Woman's Quarterly* or go to lwml.org/2017-convention for convention details and registration forms. I'll see you there!

‘Enhance the joy’ of liturgy

By Rev. William Weedon
LCMS Director of Worship

The 2017 Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music will be held July 25-28 at Concordia University Chicago (CUC).

The triennial event, hosted by LCMS Worship, offers pastors, church musicians and laity who are passionate about the Church’s worship an opportunity to be refreshed in Word, song and prayer together with opportunities to grow in skills that enhance the joy of the people of God in the reception of His gifts.

This year’s institute takes its cue from the upcoming Reformation anniversary with the theme: “The Just Live by Faith—Make This Plain in Sermon, Service, Song.”

In addition to three keynote addresses,

we’ll have opportunity for daily study of the Word (featuring CUC President Rev. Dr. Daniel Gard), daily prayer services, two Divine Services (with new arrangements of Setting Five by Jacob Weber and Jonathan Kohrs, and LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison preaching the opening service and Gard the final one), a concert by the National Lutheran Choir from Minneapolis, a hymn festival featuring the hymns of Martin Luther, numerous breakout sessions for pastors and church musicians plus many others on general worship topics, and exhibitors with all kinds of wares and services.

Registration was slated to open March 31; find the link at lcms.org/2017-worship-institute. For more information, contact the LCMS at 888.the.lcms (843-5267) or infocenter@lcms.org.



LCMS/Erin M. Lunsford

Paul Soulek, director of parish and school music at St. John, Seward, Neb., rehearses with the choir before the opening worship of the 2014 Institute on Liturgy, Preaching and Church Music.

CELEBRATIONS

Rejoicing in Mountain Home

The Rev. John D. Easterling was installed as senior pastor of Redeemer, Mountain Home, Ark., on Jan. 15.

Brothers present for the service were, from left (front row) the Revs. David Tews, Shepherd of the Hills, Horseshoe Bend; Brian Pummill, Peace, Cherokee Village; Dr. Fred Hagemeyer, Mountain Home; Ken Taglauer, Grace, Mountain Home; (back row) Russell Shewmaker, Pilgrim, Jonesboro; Deacon Bill Schutte, Mountain Home; James Walter, Grace, Little Rock; Easterling; Ken Lampe, Aurora, Mo.; and Paul Baumann, Paragould.



Family grows in Sharps Chapel

Margo and Tom McCaffrey were Chapel of the Good Shepherd's, Sharps Chapel, Tenn., first two members to be received by adult instruction during morning worship service on Jan. 22. They are pictured with the Rev. Paul Kritsch.

Appold is now senior pastor

The installation of the Rev. David Appold as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Paducah, Ky., was celebrated on Feb. 5. Appold formerly served as associate pastor of St. Paul.

Joining the celebration were, from left, the Revs. Paul Donner, former pastor of St. Paul; Dr. Roger Paavola, Mid-South District president; Appold; Daniel Ulrich, associate pastor, Grace, Clarksville, Tenn.; Larry Peters, senior pastor, Grace, Clarksville; and Jim Dunn, pastor, Immanuel, Murray, Ky.

Deadline for the June-July issue is April 15

Digital files, sent via email, are preferred. Email submissions to lw@mid-southlcms.com, or mail via U.S. Postal Service to:

Judy Otto
150 N. Maury St.
Holly Springs, MS 38635

June and July are combined into one issue, out in early June.

Our submission deadline is the 15th of each month, two months before publication.

