



# MID-SOUTH LUTHERAN

## CELEBRATING our freedom in Christ

By Rev. Paul Hass

Pastor, Bella Vista  
Lutheran Church,  
Bella Vista Ark.  
Mid-South District  
Third Vice-President



When I think  
of July, I  
think of July

4! Perhaps you think about a day off from work to enjoy picnics, fireworks and those red, white and blue flags displayed in front yards around your neighborhood. It is a fact that since we live in the United States of America, we can voice our opinions freely and can vote for the people of our choice. There are very many good reasons why we should never take our freedom for granted.

In July, we will hear, celebrate and be reminded many times about the freedom we enjoy in the United States, where we can worship our God without reprisal and without concern. As citizens of our beloved country, we should give thanks for the many blessings we have, and especially for the many who fought for and paid the price for our liberties.

As we bask in the glow of this holiday, there is also a part of me that wonders if we are engaging in that freedom to its fullest. What if there was more for us to do than we previously thought? What if there were more people around us that are hungering and thirsting for what so many of us have known for so long? What if there were a way to give voice to

our faith and to intentionally share the cause for our freedom for all of eternity? We know who that is: Jesus!

While we are reminded of our civil freedoms in this country, there is another real freedom we as Christians share in. We do not need a special holiday to display our freedom found in Christ Jesus. As those baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, we have the forgiveness of our sins and freedom to love others as we have been loved.

In Rom. 8:2-4, St. Paul talks about freedom by speaking of what we have become free from:

“For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

God, through His Son Jesus Christ, has by your baptism made you His and has set you free. That is what John communicates to us in his Gospel. In John 8:36, Jesus says:

“So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Taking Jesus at His Word, that He frees us, means celebrating our freedom by



focusing on living in such a way as to worship God in every aspect of our lives. As Christians, we do not need to wait for an annual holiday to recognize true and eternal freedom. Daily, we hold fast to the wonderful news that the battle has been fought and the price has been paid by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, that we may have freedom from sin, eternal death and the devil, now and forever.

The only person that can set us free from the enslavement that captures all humanity is Jesus Christ!

In response to the Gospel, we are challenged to hear and obey the Spirit-inspired words of freedom found in our Bibles. Christ is with us as we share that word of freedom and redemption with a culture around us that is lost.

When we serve others, we share with them the freedom found in Christ, the One who sets us free. Who knows? Your neighbors may well respond and ask you why you are serving them. When that happens, you may be privileged to share the source of your freedom to serve: Jesus.

That means that right where you are, right now at this moment, you have the joyous freedom to love and serve one another as you have been loved and served by Christ. Celebrate!



fascinating historical and cultural side of Southern California — from the early 1800s Mission San Juan Capistrano to the 1900s nostalgia of the golden era of Hollywood and its famous Walk of Fame, to the historic Queen Mary docked at the beautiful Long Beach harbor. Ring in the New Year with a champagne toast and a delicious New Year's Eve dinner celebration, and on Jan. 1 share an unforgettable day as you watch the Rose Parade from the grandstand seats and cheer for the Lutheran Hour float as it passes by.

For more information and early booking savings before July 31, visit [LutherTours.com](http://LutherTours.com), call 1-866-777-1517 or request details in an email to [info@luthertours.com](mailto:info@luthertours.com).

Petal Pushers is a program of the Southern California LLL (Lutheran Laymen's League) District.

# WANTED:

## Petal Pushers to help decorate 2018 Rose Parade float

Be a Petal Pusher® and help decorate Tournament of Roses Parade floats, including Lutheran Hour Ministries' the Lutheran Hour 2018 parade float, "Bringing Christ To The Nations," the only Christian-themed float in the parade.

The Lutheran Hour float is the longest-running — and currently the only — religious float in the Tournament of Roses parade, appearing since 1951.

There are two ways you can participate:

**1. JOIN THE PETAL PUSHERS GROUP** of more than 4,000 volunteers who decorate the Lutheran Hour float and other floats for the Tournament of Roses Parade on New Year's Day. Each year, these volunteers travel to Pasadena, Calif., from across the nation.

Petal Pushers range in age from 13 to 85. Individuals, church groups, families, senior citizens and Girl Scout troops are a sample of the groups that participate each year. Youth from age 13 can accompany your group, but you must bring one adult for every five youth. This is the per-

fect winter break project for your youth group or high school class.

Many volunteers "urban camp" on floors of Lutheran churches. Volunteers not only decorate The Lutheran Hour float, but also other floats to raise enough money to pay for the float entry fees and supplies.

Visit [petalpushers.org](http://petalpushers.org) to register online, view this year's float, find lodging and a map of the area, and for more information.

**2. SIGN UP FOR A SPECIAL HOLIDAY LUTHER-TOUR** that includes the Rose Parade and historic Southern California Tour Dec. 28-Jan. 2.

Join the Petal Pushers for hands-on float decorating and help to decorate many meaningful floats, including the Lutheran Hour Ministries float for 2018, as they celebrate 68 years of witnessing the Gospel message in the parade. Enjoy grandstand premier seats for the parade and a post-decorating behind-the-scene special Petal Pushers dinner event.

LutherTour hosts will also take you back in time to learn more about the





# Seminary to hold workshop in Stuttgart

Pastors, church workers and laity are invited to summer workshops held by Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), led by seminary faculty and hosted by congregations across the country.

St. John's, Stuttgart, Ark., will host the Rev. Dr. Paul Raabe as he leads a three-day workshop focusing on "The Church and the Nations: Isaiah and Today."

Isaiah the prophet announces God's judgment against the nations and condemns Zion for becoming like the nations. There also is a third message that he emphasizes: He promises the coming



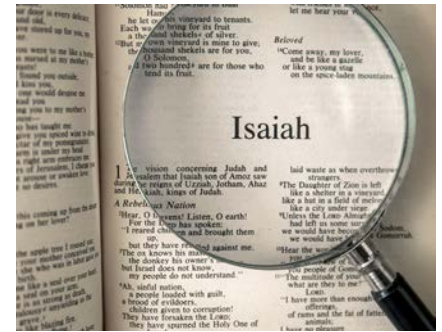
Paul Raabe

day when the nations will come to Zion. This workshop will examine how all three messages need to be heard today.

Raabe, a professor of exegetical theology at Concordia Seminary, is one of the most respected Old Testament scholars in the LCMS today and is currently working on a commentary on

Isaiah for Concordia Publishing House. Raabe is especially known for his theological insights into the Old Testament and its application for today.

**The workshop begins at 1 p.m. on Monday, July 31, and ends at noon on Wednesday, Aug. 2, at St. John's**



**Lutheran Church, 205 E. Fifth, Stuttgart, Ark., 72160.**

For more information about pre-registration (required) and costs, which include CEU credits, contact the Rev. Don White at [bobbiekazoo@gmail.com](mailto:bobbiekazoo@gmail.com); go to [csl.edu/summerworkshops](http://csl.edu/summerworkshops) or contact CSL Continuing Education at 314-505-7286 or [ce@csl.edu](mailto:ce@csl.edu).

## BIBLE QUIZ

### Angels appeared!

The Bible mentions at least 21 cases where angels appeared.

Can you name the people they visited in:

1. Genesis 16:1-12?
2. Genesis 19:1-22?
3. Genesis 22:1-18?
4. Genesis 32:24-30?

5. Exodus 3:2-4:17?
6. Numbers 22:22-35?
7. Joshua 5:13-15?
8. Judges 6: 11-23?
9. Judges 13:1-20?
10. 1 Kings 19:1-8?
11. Matthew 28:5-7 and Mark 16:5-7?
12. Luke 1:5-22?
13. Luke 1: 26-38?
14. Matthew 1:20-21?
15. Luke 2:8-15?
16. Acts 1: 9-11?
17. Acts 5:17-20?
18. Acts 8:26-39?
19. Acts 10:1-8?
20. Acts 12:1-19?
21. Acts 27:21-25?



## ANSWERS

1. An angel appeared to Hagar
2. Two angels rescued Lot
3. An angel spoke to Abraham
4. An angel wrestled with Jacob
5. An angel appeared to Moses
6. An angel dealt with Balaam
7. An angel confronted Joshua before battle
8. An angel appeared to Gideon
9. An angel spoke to Samson's parents
10. An angel dealt with Elijah
11. An angel was at Jesus' tomb
12. The angel Gabriel appeared to Zacharias
13. The angel Gabriel appeared to Mary
14. An angel appeared to Joseph
15. An angel announced the birth of Jesus
16. Angels spoke to the disciples at the ascension

## Congregation mission commitment receipts

as of March 31, 2017 (3 months)

Anticipated amount (25% of budget).....	\$393,286
Actual receipts .....	378,480
Over (under) anticipated amount...(\$14,806)	

### Use of mission commitment receipts

Allocated to Synod for world missions .....	\$107,294
Allocated to Tanzania.....	6,250
Retained for district ministry/mission support (70% of receipts) .....	264,936
Total receipts .....	\$378,480

### Mission commitment receipts comparison

Actual receipts as of March 31, 2017 .....	\$378,480
Actual receipts as of Feb. 28, 2016.....	\$405,552
Over (under) prior year receipts ..(\$27,072w)	

17. An angel released the apostles
18. An angel told Philip to go to Gaza
19. An angel appeared to Cornelius
20. An angel helped Peter escape from Prison
21. An angel spoke to Paul.



## MISSION CONFERENCE

**F**aith Lutheran Church, Hot Springs Village, Ark., is sponsoring the Rev. Greg Finke, author of the popular book, “Joining Jesus on His Mission,” as he brings his “Kick the Tires” mission conference to local congregations.

His clear, simple and often humorous insights help ordinary Jesus-followers get off the bench and onto their adventure with Jesus. This is not about how to become a more effective “Jesus salesperson,”

but how to support each other in becoming more intentional about joining Jesus in everyday living.

The conference will be held Saturday, Sept. 30, at Faith. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m., the conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The registration fee of \$10 includes materials, refreshments and lunch. For more information, call 608-217-7236 or 501-204-4019.

### REGISTRATION

Congregation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Registration Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_  
(\$10 per person)

Return to: Faith Lutheran Church-KTT  
1196 DeSoto Blvd.  
Hot Springs Village, AR 71909

## District welcomes **Beautiful Savior**



The Mid-South District is pleased to welcome the workers and members of Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, 7630 Davidson Road in Olive Branch, Miss., to its network of ministries.

Formerly a congregation of the LCMS Southern District, Beautiful Savior officially joined the Mid-South District in late 2016 as part of the Memphis Circuit.

The district looks forward to serving Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church and invites you to get to know this congregation by visiting them on the web at [beautifulsaviorlutheran.org](http://beautifulsaviorlutheran.org) or by contacting them at 662-890-7272 or [churchbslc@gmail.com](mailto:churchbslc@gmail.com).

### BIBLE QUIZ

#### Finding Giants in the Bible

In addition to Goliath, other giants are mentioned in 10 biblical passages listed below. Can you identify them?

- |                  |                                    |
|------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Gen. 6:4      | 7. Joshua 14:15                    |
| 2. Gen. 15:18-20 | 8. Joshua 15:13                    |
| 3. Num. 13:33    | 9. Joshua 15:14                    |
| 4. Deut. 2:9-11  | 10. 2 Sam. 1:16-22<br>and 1 Chron. |
| 5. Deut. 2:19-21 | 20:4-8                             |
| 6. Deut. 3:11    |                                    |

#### ANSWERS:

1. There were giants in the land before Noah and the flood.
2. The giants called Rephaim existed at the time of Abraham.
3. The sons of Anak were giants.
4. There were giants known as Emims.
5. The Zamzummims were giants.
6. The giant named Og of Bashan had a large bed.
7. There was a giant named Arba.
8. Anak was a giant.
9. Sheshai, Ahiman, and Talmai were giants.
10. The brothers of Goliath: Saph, Lahmi, and Ishbi-benob.  
(One of the brothers had six fingers on each hand and six toes on each foot.)

## 'A remarkable book'

From marriage to definitions of gender to homosexuality and beyond, tough issues related to sexuality are widespread in our modern culture. The authors of *Ethics of Sex: From Taboo to Delight*, just released by Concordia Publishing House, aren't afraid to challenge the tough issues of sexuality. This timely compilation of essays equips readers to recognize the nature of Christian sexual ethics as simultaneously positive and prohibitive.

"*Ethics of Sex* is a remarkable book," says Dr. David Jones, professor of Christian ethics at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C. "It is biblically faithful, theologically sound and above all, Christ-centered. While the authors responsibly draw from fields such as science and psychology, they constantly return to the cross, emphasizing themes such as forgiveness, healing and reconciliation. Christians across denomination lines will appreciate this book for its winsome style, pastoral tone and Kingdom focus."

*Ethics of Sex* is comprised of 10 essays on distinct yet connected topics, including male and female differences, marriage,

polygamy, contraception, sex education, self-pollution, homosexuality and transgenderism. These essays invite us back to a way of life in harmony with the Lord's created order, an order that bears fruit in intimacy, compassion, love and joy.

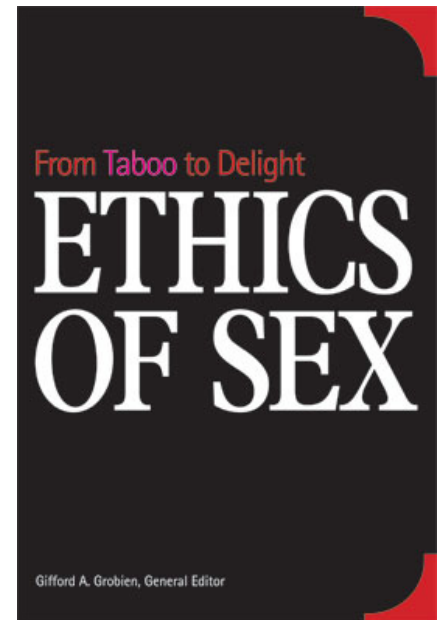
Editor Rev. Dr. Gifford A. Grobien (PhD, University of Notre Dame) is an assistant professor of systematic theology at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.

### Critical Reviews for Ethics of Sex:

"A necessary resource to the Church; something that will help open dialogue around topics that are far too often ignored."

— Rev. Bart Day, executive director, the LCMS Office of National Mission

"The collection of essays in *Ethics of Sex* addresses the questions that our young people simply can't help but ask, giving them the biblical and practical response that they both need and want, while not ignoring the science of the day. The world around us is certainly not shy to present its views. The Church must be at least equal to the task. What a complete



joy this book will be for all who read and discuss its contents as we seek to proactively tackle together the issues that we face on topics related to marriage and sexuality in the years to come."

— Rev. Marcus T. Zill, LCMS director of Campus Ministry and LCMSU

For more information on *Ethics of Sex* or to order, visit [cph.org/ethicsofsex](http://cph.org/ethicsofsex) or call CPH customer service at 800-325-3040.

## NEED A PRIMER on what we believe?

### Book is beneficial for Lutherans both old and new

In conjunction with this year's 500th anniversary of the Reformation, Concordia Publishing House released on March 28 *Lutheranism 101 — All About Jesus*, by the Rev. Paul T. McCain, publisher and executive director of Editorial for CPH.

*Lutheranism 101 — All About Jesus* is the seventh in CPH's Lutheranism 101 series of books that explore various topics on what Lutherans believe and teach. The books — written in a conversational, easy-to-skim style — are intended for both lifelong and new Lutherans.

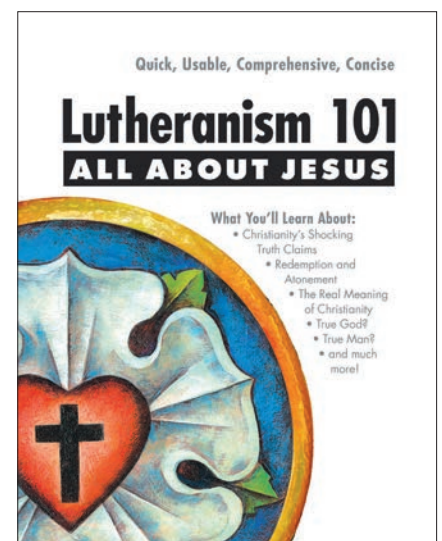
The book is divided into three parts that address "Why is Christianity all about

Jesus?," "Who is that God-man?" and "What Jesus does for you, then and now."

Graphic symbols used throughout the 204-page book alert readers to quotes from Martin Luther, the Bible and the Lutheran Confessions as well as "connections" between theology, faith and life; definitions of terms and phrases; and "big theological concepts" presented in "bite-size pieces."

Included are study and discussion questions — and answers. A free Leader Guide for this latest edition as well as former ones may be downloaded from [lutheranism101.com](http://lutheranism101.com).

"*All About Jesus* is a book jam-packed with the truth of God's Word and the beautiful, forgiving, liberating joy of the Good News of JESUS. Truly, it is a book



that is 'all about Jesus,'" said McCain.

To order (\$10.99, item no. 124397WEB), contact CPH at 800-325-3040 or [cph.org](http://cph.org).





## LCMS congregation reaches out to vandalized Jewish cemetery

In photo, the Rev. Chris Paavola, pastor of All Nations Church in University City, Mo., poses for a photo to March 3 with the \$3,348 check he gave to Anita Feigenbaum, left, director of the Chesed Shel Emeth Society, to be used for repairs at a vandalized Jewish cemetery in St. Louis. Feigenbaum was both “elated and startled” by the gesture from a Lutheran church to show *chesed*, or kindness, Paavola said.

This April 5, 2017 story is reprinted from *Reporter Online*, the web version of *Reporter*, the official newspaper of the LCMS.

*The Rev. Chris Paavola, featured in this story, is the son of Mid-South District President Roger Paavola — evidence, indeed, that the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.*

**By Paula Schlueter Ross**  
Senior Staff Writer, LCMS Reporter

When the Rev. Chris Paavola, pastor of All Nations Church in University City, Mo., handed a check for \$3,348 to Anita Feigenbaum to help with repairs and increased security at a vandalized Jewish cemetery, “she was both elated and startled” and asked the pastor why Lutherans would do such a thing.

“We wanted to show *chesed* to our neighbors at Chesed,” Paavola responded, referring to the Hebrew word for “kindness” and the nearby Chesed Shel Emeth Cemetery.

Feigenbaum, director of the Chesed Shel Emeth Society, “erupted in a huge smile and said, ‘Chesed! Kindness! Yes, you did show us *chesed*!’” according to the pastor.

All Nations — an LCMS congregation — meets at an ice cream shop some 2 miles from the cemetery. Paavola, who lives just 2 blocks from the cemetery, recalls seeing the police cars and news vans there on Feb. 20, the day after nearly 200 headstones were overturned and damaged.

With details “still unclear,” the congregation “decided we didn’t need a verdict to show mercy to our neighbors in need,” he said, so a fund was promptly set up on the church’s website, with All Nations members contributing

the first \$500.

News about the fund also was shared via the church’s Facebook and Twitter accounts, and when reporters discovered, retweeted and covered the effort, more than 5,000 people visited the website within hours, Paavola said.

“Nearly 100 people across the country, from multiple faiths, visited our website to give,” he said. Among those who shared information about the fund, he noted, was a Muslim woman who tweeted: “A local church is reportedly seeking donations to undo the damage caused by Jewish cemetery vandals.”

“While some people in our community may not agree with what our church believes, they cannot argue with what we do,” the pastor said. “For All Nations, this effort was a perfect opportunity for us to live out our value of being ‘a church as diverse as the city we serve.’

“But ‘more than an opportunity to serve,’ he added, “we saw this as an opportunity to demonstrate our heart. To let our ‘light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven’” (Matt. 5:16).

### ‘Be the beacon of hope’

The Rev. Kevin Parviz, pastor of Congregation Chai V’Shalom (Hebrew for “Life and Peace”), an LCMS congregation in St. Louis with ethnic Jewish members, and executive director of Burning Bush Ministries, considers the Jewish-cemetery vandalism in St. Louis and in Philadelphia a few days later, “absolutely” hate crimes.

His own church has been vandalized twice — most recently about two years ago, when a swastika was painted on the front of the building, bringing to mind the horrors of the Holocaust.

Desecrating a cemetery is especially hurtful to Jewish people, Parviz said, because “all they have is the memory of their loved ones. There’s no afterlife, there’s no hope of reunion, no resurrection.”

Those who visit graves at a Jewish cemetery sometimes place small stones on top of the headstones, a tradition that tells the community that “someone is coming

and visiting and remembering” — a sort of “guestbook,” he explained.

Parviz, an LCMS pastor, grew up in a Jewish home and came to faith in his early 30s before entering the seminary, so he is well-acquainted with Jewish beliefs as well as their fears.

Synagogues today typically hire armed guards for their worship services “because there have always been death threats,” he said. “It’s sort of the way we live,” as Jewish people.

As Christians, “we need to become sensitive to their reality — that they are not only perceiving persecution, but are being persecuted,” he said. “And just love them and really be the beacon of hope in our love for them.”

When Jewish people ask the pastor, “Why does the world hate us so much?,” he points out that “Satan was defeated at the Resurrection by a Jew named Jesus. And he has, ever since, taken out his wrath on the Jewish people.”

That idea can spark a conversation about Christianity, he said, paving the way for sharing with them “the hope that you have.”

Ideal faith-sharing scenarios might involve “one-on-one conversations, over coffee, with a dear [Jewish] friend.” It’s “risky,” he adds, and may lead to broken friendships, but “if you really have a friendship with someone, they want to know who you are as much as you want to know who they are.” And you might

even ask if you can accompany them to synagogue, and invite them to your church.

“We just have to trust the Holy Spirit to do the work,” Parviz says, noting that some Christians “are afraid they don’t know enough or they’re going to make a mistake.

“We’re not the one that brings people to faith,” he adds. “It’s God. And we can’t make a mistake if we witness in love and authenticity.”

### ‘Let us love lavishly’

Steve Cohen, founder and director of The Apple of His Eye Mission Society, an LCMS Recognized Service Organization, says incidents such as the attacks on Jewish cemeteries “have to be taken seriously” as “they add to the stress of life in the Jewish community.”

Cohen, an LCMS Lutheran who was born and raised Jewish, said he believes that the “pendulum of anti-Semitism is swinging back toward aggressive, intentional persecution,” and agrees that because it is “satanically based” it’s not going away.

It’s “important,” he says, for Christians to show care and concern to their Jewish neighbors “because during the Holocaust we were silent,” which can be understood as “agreement.”

“Jesus tells us to lay down our life for others, not stand by and idly watch while bad things happen.”

Christians, Cohen says, “must stand for

justice and truth” in the face of “tragedy, loss and attacks — verbal or physical,” and “not squander the opportunity to be invested and involved in our communities, even with those who do not yet share our faith in Y’shua, the Messiah.”

Encouraging his fellow Lutherans to “live our faith in love right where God has placed us, and let us love lavishly,” Cohen offers these suggestions for how they might respond to anti-Semitism:

- ▶ “First, and most obviously, pray for those affected that they would find peace, safety and justice.
- ▶ “Second, reach out to those in your community. Send a letter from your church letting them know you are standing with them and offering to help.
- ▶ “Hold a prayer gathering for your community to bring believers together to stand against the frightfulness of these challenging times.
- ▶ “Write a letter to the editor of your [newspaper] expressing condemnation of vandalism and cowardly acts, and indicating that you are praying for your fellow members of your community.
- ▶ “Visit your local synagogue [during] a Sabbath service ... to show your care for those who are in your community, and invite them to visit your congregation.
- ▶ “Ask the local rabbi if you could bring your confirmation class to a service to grow in their understanding of their Jewish neighbors.
- ▶ “In [the] context of showing love for others, remember that the greatest act of love was given through the Messiah’s death and resurrection — let them know of God’s love for them through Jesus.”

Cohen, who calls the recent surge in anti-Semitic activity in the U.S. “alarming” and “horrible,” urges LCMS congregations to “take action now” by sharing shalom (peace, harmony) with their Jewish neighbors through prayers, words and actions.

“One never knows the impact of good done in the face of horrors unspeakable,” which “could lead to opportunities for meaningful evangelistic dialogue,” he says.



Children take a bow after performing in last year’s All Nations Church Christmas pageant. The University City, Mo., congregation is known as “a church as diverse as the city we serve.”



# Church plant officially has pastor

On Sunday, March 19, the Rev. Paul E. Kritsch was installed as pastor of Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sharps Chapel, Tenn. Mid-South District President Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola was the officiant of the service.

Under Kritsch's guidance, a small group of people began gathering in 2015 for Bible studies and discussion. In less than two years, the Good Shepherd congregation now has 25 members and is outgrowing its current meeting space at the Sharp's Chapel Community Center. They are planning a new building on a site available near the Sharps Chapel elementary school, and hope to complete and occupy it by Jan. 1, 2018.

Kritsch is confident in the direction of the recently planted church. "By God's blessing and through His leading, our church is growing in numbers and in service to our community."



The Rev. Paul E. Kritsch was installed as pastor at Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Sharps Chapel, Tenn. Participating in the service were, from left, the Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, Kritsch, the Rev. John Frietag and Deacon Tom Kyner.

The motto of the church, a quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, reflects their confidence in the Good Shepherd: "Christ leads the way, stay close to Him."

The congregation currently meets on Sunday at 10:30 a.m. for worship, and on Tuesday at 9 a.m. for a neighborhood Bible breakfast. Guests are welcomed.

## ANNIVERSARIES

(50 or more years)

- **Maynard and Charlotte Steinman** of Our Savior, El Dorado, Ark., will celebrate 60 years of marriage on June 14.

# Jesus Christ Above All

## Celebrate with LWML!

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

The Lutheran Woman's Missionary League (LWML) is celebrating 75 years of serving the Lord with gladness! Our rich heritage will be highlighted at the 2017 LWML Convention June 22-25 in Albuquerque, N.M., with the theme professing "Jesus Christ Above All."

Follow along at [lwml.org/2017-convention](http://lwml.org/2017-convention) for all the information.

Here are a few ways to participate, even if you are unable to attend the convention in person:

1. **PRAY** for God's guidance as mission grants and new leaders are voted on. Pray for safety and protection for all participants. Pray that convention goers will spread God's Light in Albuquerque.
2. **GET** the new 75th anniversary mite box and collect mites for missions!
3. **PURCHASE** convention and anniversary items at [lwml.org/store](http://lwml.org/store).

If the national LWML convention is too far for you to go, then consider attending a district event. Fall is just around the corner and it will soon be time for the Mid-South LWML District retreats! The theme is "Beautiful Feet" and we will enjoy Bible study, fellowship, singing and celebrating our lives in Christ. Find the date and location that works for you:



- Sept. 8-10, Morrilton, Ark.
- Sept. 15-17, Lexington, Tenn.
- Sept. 22-24, Tallassee, Tenn.

Visit [midsouthlwml.org](http://midsouthlwml.org) for more information and to register.

We are **Lutheran Women in Mission** — will you join us?

## Deadline for the September issue is July 15

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

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

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