

Encourager

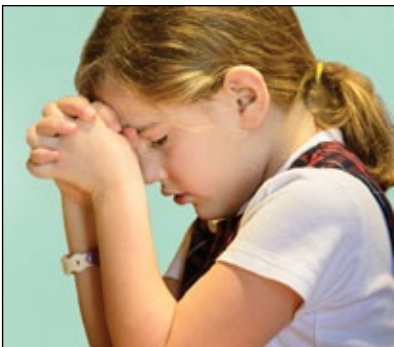
Lutheran Schools
Week

Mid-South District LCMS | January 2018

Lutheran Schools Week

This month's Encourager features inspiring updates from our wonderful Lutheran schools. Across Arkansas, Tennessee and southern Kentucky, young minds are growing and lives are being touched by Christ through the impact of these amazing ministries.

As 2018 gets underway – and as our education ministries prepare for the upcoming Lutheran Schools Week later this month – please keep our schools, students, teachers and staff in your prayers.



A Message from Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, President

In 1943, a rumor that spread throughout North America like wildfire! The rumor was that anyone could buy a brand new Ford car for the price of one penny. The rumor was that if anyone would bring in a new, 1943 US copper penny, they could buy a new Ford car. People by the thousands, called Ford wanting details. Banks were deluged with people wanting as many pennies as they could get in their hands. Ford Motor Company was forced to investigate. It turned out that the rumor was false. Of course, it was a hoax. Out of the millions of US pennies minted in 1943, *none of them* contained a speck of copper. The 1943 penny was made of zinc because copper was too valuable for the WWII Allied effort.

St. Paul had to end another rumor flying around in First Century Christianity. The rumor

was that good works justify a person before God! But, a hoax cannot save you! Righteousness and salvation are gifts of God's grace through faith. Later, Martin Luther reminded Emperor Charles V that nothing had changed: We're still justified by grace through faith. Rumors, hoaxes, and corruption both in Paul's and Luther's time, threatened the pure teaching of God's grace. The Christian Church needed money. So some clergy decided the way to get money was to go on the road and demand money in exchange for time of in some concocted "sinners' holding tank." Full forgiveness was no longer pronounced. Even after a poor soul died, the Church taught the families had to pay to release them from torment and punishment.

An outspoken monk was confused by a price tags and

gimmick attached to forgiveness, grace, and repentance. He discovered that the Bible said we're saved by grace through faith. He couldn't understand why, nor find anywhere in the Bible that money ever enter in into the equation of God's grace. He searched for answers but was turned away. "Don't trouble yourself, Martin," he was told, "Do your job, teach what you're told, not what you read."

Luther was troubled to the point that he wrote 95 questions because the Bible said one thing but he heard 16th century clergy say something different. He just wanted answers. He wasn't looking for anything new. Just answers. Eventually, Luther's scholarship led him to write over 250 books, preach twice a week, print the Bible in the common language of the people, headed of a university department of theology, raised a family, and traveled extensively throughout Western Europe. Yet, Luther found time to pray, study Scriptures and do his devotions 6 hours each day.

We've inherited a very precious gift: The distinction of God's pure Gospel. St. Paul wrote that the Gospel is God's pure promise of grace - not by works. Salvation, forgiveness, and grace cannot be

replaced by human reason, human work, or human obedience. Grace is purely and solely God's action on our behalf. This precious gift is what we *must* teach and confess. This is precisely why the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod supports Christian education.

When the LCMS was founded in 1847, the tradition of Lutheran education was a first and high priority. The synod was started by twelve churches that operated a total of nineteen schools. Several of the churches operated a number of schools in the rural countryside so that students would not have to walk too far to school each day. What is more, most of the rural areas did not have a schooling option available for the children.

Today The LCMS operates the largest Christian (protestant) school system in the United States. Among its 6000+ congregations, it operates 1,368 Early Childhood Centers, 1,018 elementary schools, 102 high schools, ten universities, and two seminaries for a total of 2,488 schools in the United States. These schools educate more than 280,000 students and are taught by almost 18,000 teachers. We are blessed with eleven elementary schools and twenty-five early childhood centers in

the Mid-South District. The only state without a Lutheran school is Maine. We can't do anything for Maine, but there's room for more in the Mid-South District. Because Lutheran schools are operated by the LCMS also exist in Hong Kong, mainland China, and, several countries in Africa, and Vietnam, we have to recognize that people around the world are hungry for Christian education and the solid doctrines of the Lutheran Church.

Our founders knew full well that the Gospel can be and should be proclaimed to the earliest age. Children are moved by the same Spirit who brings about faith in an adult. This message - our privilege of Christian education - was first taught to Adam and Eve when God pronounced the Gospel of grace to them. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the faithful of old heard the same Gospel promise, awaiting the joyous announcement of the angels that our Savior was born, to redeem, to save and to win God's pure grace for us as well.

What a great honor and privilege for our congregations, schools, and pre-schools have: To share God's pure promise of life in Christ Jesus. Jesus brought the Light of truth and grace to everyone. Luther only repeated

IT'S STILL ALL ABOUT JESUS

2018 NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK



the urgent plea, "As the head of the family teach them in a simple way to his household," by educating everyone – young and old – in the basic doctrines of the church that begins in the home and is supplemented in the schools of the church. Through God's Word, superstition, rituals, legalism, false rumors, and hoaxes evaporate. The only justification for mankind is the sacrificial, vicarious suffering and death of God's own Son. No one in secular society can or ever will provide our young people with that life-giving truth. Faith is a gift of the Holy Spirit. Justification by God's grace is the center of our Lutheran confessions.

Liberal theology and secular scholarship paint a picture God as some old, senile grandfather, who

would never think of punishing anyone. New age searches for perfect harmony in all creation, Eastern religions construct gods from imagination and probability. But, in the end, there is no solution offered to sinners who fall short of the glory of God. It is only Christ's perfect life, given to us by the grace of God, through His perfect Son that will stand. It's truly a matter of life and death that we teach and confess in this time and place.

Just like trying to get a single penny that never existed, self-righteousness and finding "inner peace" by navel gazing is an empty rumor that is short of winning the blood-bought prize that is ours in Christ Jesus. How else can sinners stand before a perfect

and righteous God? Despite rumors of modern thinking, and flawed theology, God is still holy and living. Human reason is nothing but filthy rags. But, we may confidently stand before our Almighty and eternal God - justified by the Lamb of God, our Lord Jesus Christ. But, it's free! Jesus gave us His life out of love. Where else in a dark and decaying world can our precious young lives hear this message? That's why we want, support, and promote our Lutheran education, schools, and early childhood centers.



First Lutheran School – Fort Smith



First Lutheran School in Fort Smith, Arkansas, is celebrating its 164th year of education. Like most schools, we have seen many educational fads or trends come and go. However, at First Lutheran, it's still all

about Jesus! Each week, we gather together to learn more about Jesus in chapel services. This year our chapel leaders have been using the various names of Jesus found in Scripture to teach our students about our Savior.

This is a picture of our students after a chapel service led by the second graders seated in the front row during which they shared the story of Martin Luther and the Reformation.

WHAT PARENTS WANT IN A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

— *Allen Piepenbrink (Education exec.)*

Barna research and discussions with educators and parents have led to some logical reasons regarding the desires of parents in a Lutheran (Christian) school. Millennial parents do not seem to be grounded in faith like previous generations, but there are four basic issues that define the educational choices for their children.

First on the list seems to be that of safety. Based on what is going on in the world today that seems pretty obvious. But safety goes beyond having a fence around the property and locked doors. A safe environment also includes a padded playground, a toxin free building, and an environment free of bullying. Safety in a Christian school also includes the culture of the classroom. Do the students have the freedom to ask questions and express their feelings? Can individuals work out their differences in a loving way? A Christian school is a place where sinners are welcome, the Gospel dominates relationships and behavioral situations, and forgiveness is liberally applied.

A second characteristic of a Christian school is that of quality teachers. Although having teachers with a good academic background is important, the research indicates that a quality Christian school is one where the teachers value every student. It's all about relationships. Every student in the school needs to have at least one strong adult advocate. Classroom teachers know that all students learn differently and attempt to accommodate learning differences using a variety of teaching methods. Students who are different are embraced and accepted for who they are by both peers and adults. Teachers in Christian schools do their best to speak positively about all their students putting the best construction on everything.



A third desire of parents in a Lutheran school is that of academic excellence. And the research indicates that this is a priority at all levels of education. Teachers who are properly trained will have the knowledge and understanding to lead students to a higher level of thinking. What students learn in chapel, religion classes, and Christ centered curriculum will be a benefit to their understanding of what it means to be a servant for Christ. Service opportunities will translate into actions centered in positive relationships between fellow students, teachers, parents, and the community.

A fourth desire for parents is one of character development and spirituality. In a Christian school, minor transgressions are treated as teachable moments, even if those transgressions are repeated. Parents appreciate the intentional development of children's character in a Christ centered environment. Character and spiritual development are among the crucial purposes of education. Christian schools operate with the attitude that disruptive students most need a Christian school with caring Christian teachers.

Lutheran schools don't want to just develop good students, but desire to develop children into believers in Christ Jesus as their personal lord and savior. In the book of Romans Paul tells us that "We even take pride in our problems, because we know that trouble produces endurance, endurance produces character, and character produces hope" - the hope (assurance) of salvation.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN SCHOOL (Stuttgart,AR)

St. John's Lutheran School is located in Stuttgart, Arkansas, 50 miles southeast of Little Rock, Arkansas. We currently offer a pre-school program which begins with Infants through pre-school four. Our elementary school is Kindergarten through grade six. Total enrollment for the 2017-2018 school year is 190.

Students at St. John's participate in a variety of school and community activities. In the fall,

the students collected over 1500 items for the local ICCM Food bank. The school and church also hosted a meeting for The Call, an organization that helps place foster children. Students in Kindergarten – 6th Grade raised \$2300 for "Adopt a Classroom" in efforts to help with the Hurricane Harvey relief.



Principal Lindsey Hoffman at First Lutheran School in Knoxville accepts the accreditation certificate for preschool and elementary school from the Mid-South District Education Executive, Allen Piepenbrink. CONGRATULATIONS FIRST LUTHERAN!



The **Installation of Pastor Edward K. Rosser** was held on December 3, 2017 at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (Chattanooga) where he will serve as Assistant Pastor. Pictured L to R, Pastor Gilbert H. Pingel, Circuit Visitor; Pastor Edward K. Rosser; Pastor H. Chris Sheets

Our Savior Lutheran Academy in Nashville...

It has been a busy year at Our Savior Lutheran Academy in Nashville, TN. Our staff, students and families are giving back and blessing those who are in need in our local community! Throughout our first semester, our Academy has hosted several donations drives and outreach events which included: a community blood drive with the Red Cross, a diaper drive for the Nashville Diaper Connection, Trunk or Treat, a food drive for Second Harvest Food Bank, a toy drive for the Metro Police Christmas Charities, and we had the opportunity to go Christmas caroling at a local nursing home. It is so important to us to instill these values early in the hearts and minds of our students, families and staff at Our Savior Lutheran Academy.



...blessing those who are in need

First Lutheran in Knoxville

Each year brings new trials and triumphs. In 2017 the ministry of First Lutheran in Knoxville had both, and has emerged a stronger more well equipped ministry. We have been blessed with growth in enrollment which has presented wonderful ministry opportunities and renewed excitement for our future. We loved being able to educate our new and returning students about our history and heritage as a Lutheran Church and School with our Reformation party on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Students loved their "Diet of Worms", writing with quills just like Luther, learning the symbolism and coloring Luther's Rose, and bowling. That's right, Martin Luther was instrumental in setting the guidelines for 9 pin bowling!

Each year we look for new ways to find opportunities for our students to participate in Service events. This year our ECE participated in the St. Jude Trike-a-thon and raised \$3,000! Additionally, we participated in Pennies for Pasta to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Our students more than doubled our goal of \$600 for this service project and raised \$1300. We look forward to continuing these events for years to come as we Faithfully Learn and Serve in Knoxville!



Lutheran World Relief CARE-VAN 2017



At this year's Lutheran World Relief CARE-VAN ingathering the Mid-South District once again had eight drop sites collecting handmade quilts, school kits, personal care kits, baby care kits, fabric kits and boxes of soap the weekend of Nov. 3rd – 4th. Our drop sites included Christus Victor, Knoxville, TN.; Cross of Christ, Chattanooga, TN.; Emmanuel, Hermitage, TN.; Immanuel, Memphis, TN.; First, Fort Smith, AR.; Grace, Little Rock, AR.; Pilgrim, Jonesboro, AR.; and Salem, Springdale, AR.

At the time of this report (12/15/2017), the top three quilt-producing congregations that dropped off their work at an LWR CARE-VAN ingathering site were St. Paul Lutheran, Gillett, AR (236 quilts), Zion of Avilla, Alexander, AR (179 quilts), St. John's, Russellville, AR (154 quilts). A total of 1,981 quilts (202 from several area ELCA congregations) were donated.

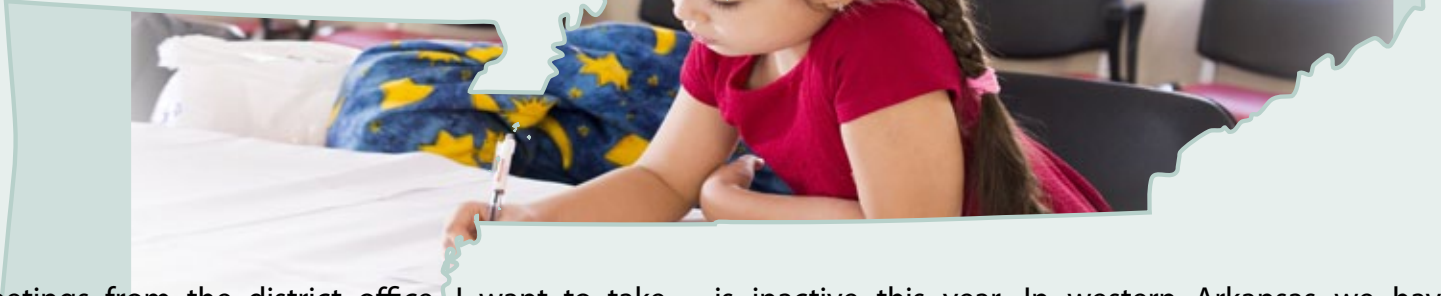
To date we had 44 congregations participate (3 ELCA), collecting over \$4,423.20 for shipping costs. We also collected 1,317 personal care kits, 57 fabric kits, 979 school kits, 15 baby care kits and 27 boxes of soap. The CARE-VAN loaded up with 647 boxes (weighing approximately 12,000 pounds!) of offerings from District congregations for Lutheran World Relief. Way to go Mid-South District!

Many of the congregations' efforts are coordinated by LWML groups and longstanding quilting groups in the congregations. They participate in this effort to share the love of Christ in a personal way. The tireless efforts of those who share their talents and the generous contributions of many make this a successful ingathering. Thank you to all who participated in this year's annual LWR CARE-VAN drive!

— Julie Tyler
Mid-South District CARE-VAN Coordinator

The State of Our Schools

— Allen Piepenbrink
Education Executive



Greetings from the district office. I want to take this opportunity to tell you about the schools in our district. I will tell you about the number of schools, teachers, and students in the district. I will show some facts about the number of Lutheran, non-Lutheran, and mission students enrolled in our schools. And I will give you some ideas about how you can help a school in your area continue to be successful.

You may already know that our district is very wide spread geographically. Our borders reach as far as the western border of Arkansas to the eastern border of Tennessee, and south as far as Chattanooga up to the northern school of Holy Trinity in Bowling Green, KY. We currently have one high school, located in Alexander, AR, eleven elementary schools with five being in Arkansas, five in Tennessee, and one in Kentucky. All eleven elementary schools also have a preschool. In addition, we have thirteen stand alone preschools.

Of the elementary and high schools, Avilla Christian Academy in Alexander, AR is the only K-12 program in the district. Heavenly Host Lutheran in Cookeville, TN has a K-9 program and there are six K-8 schools in the district. Those six schools include Concordia Christian Academy in Jonesboro, AR, Christ Lutheran School in Little Rock, AR, Belvoir Christian Academy in Chattanooga, TN, First Lutheran School in Knoxville, TN, Christ the King Lutheran School in Memphis, TN, and Immanuel Lutheran School in Memphis, TN. The three K-6 schools in the district are First Lutheran School in Fort Smith, AR, St. John's Lutheran School in Stuttgart, AR, and Holy Trinity Lutheran School in Bowling Green, KY. Each of those eleven elementary schools also has a thriving preschool.

We currently have thirteen freestanding active childcare / early childhood centers, and one that

is inactive this year. In western Arkansas we have St. Johns Lutheran Childcare in Fayetteville which accepts students ages 1-4, and Salem Lutheran School in Springdale which has three and four-year-old students. Two other day care centers in Arkansas are Grace Lutheran Early Childhood Development Center in Little Rock with infants through age 4, and St. Paul's Lutheran Preschool in Gillett with three and four-year-old students.

There are two preschools in the Memphis area. Faith Lutheran Preschool in Collierville accepts students ages 1 through 5. Grace Celebration Child Development in Cordova has infants through age 4. The preschool in Collierville is the largest in the district with 243 students and 61 teachers.

Preschools in the center of Tennessee include Grace Lutheran Preschool in Clarksville which accepts students ages 1-4, Our Savior Lutheran in Nashville, ages 2-5, Emmanuel Lutheran Church Learning Center in Hermitage, infants through age 4, Trinity Childcare in Gallatin, inactive this year, TLC Child Care Ministry in Columbia, ages 2-5, and Faith Lutheran Preschool in Tullahoma, ages 3-5.

Two of our preschools are in eastern Tennessee. Shepherd's Little Flock Daycare in Crossville accepts infants through age 5 children and St. Paul Lutheran Preschool in Wartburg has three and four-year-old students.

Here are some district totals for you to think about. Of the eleven elementary schools with early childhood centers there are 679 students in the early childhood programs, 142 students in kindergarten, and 776 students in the first through ninth grades for a total of 1,597 students. These students are served by 49 full-time and 34 part-time teachers in the early childhood

centers and by 88 full-time and 40 part-time teachers in the elementary schools. The stand alone early childhood centers in the district serve 773 students. There are 64 full-time and 113 part-time teachers in these centers.

Our district serves a diverse population. In our schools we have students who are American Indian, Asian, Black, White, Hispanic, Hawaii Pacific, and Multi Race. But here is the reality of this important ministry. In all the early childhood programs, 9% of the children are Lutheran, 64% are non-Lutheran, and 27% have no church home. In the elementary schools, 13% are Lutheran, 70% are non-Lutheran, and 17% have no church home. Yes, the statistics that I received from the synod do not indicate how many of the non-Lutheran children are Christian, but the statistics still tell us that these are very important ministries.

What can you do to help the schools in the mid-south district? First of all, we should all pray that

the Lord will bless these ministries. Your prayers for the teachers, students and support staff are important. Secondly, if you are close to one of these schools and you have the opportunity, I would encourage you to volunteer some time. There are many opportunities to read stories, supervise at recess time, tutor those who need additional help, and in general be a servant to the needs of the school. Simply contact the school's principal or director and ask how you can be of service. You can also help financially by sponsoring a student or by purchasing needed supplies. There are certainly many needs at each of our great schools.

I have had the opportunity to visit each and every one of the schools in our district. There are a lot of good things happening at our schools, but the devil is constantly attacking the good we are trying to accomplish. Pray that the Lord's will be done in all circumstances.

LUTHERAN SCHOOLS – IN EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD

With this issue of the Encourager focusing on Lutheran Schools as we celebrate Lutheran School Week January 22-28th, it seems appropriate to highlight a specific Lutheran School in Haiti. These pictures are of Mourné Brouille in Les Cayes, Haiti.

This single building holds five classrooms and over 175 students. Their classrooms are divided by plastic tarps hanging from the ceiling, and with poor ventilation and small windows, the inside temperature had to be well over 100 degrees the day a Trinity HOPE mission team visited the school in May, 2016.

This school is fortunate to have a cement floor and a metal roof, as many schools in Haiti have dirt floors and thatched roofs.

Despite the many differences between the Lutheran schools in the United States and those in Haiti, one thing remains consistent...they ALL concentrate on teaching the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. Above all else, we take comfort in knowing that those children attending a Lutheran School anywhere in the world are getting an education that goes well beyond just reading, writing and arithmetic. In the country of Haiti, where many of the children come from homes where the parents worship Satan through Voodoo, teaching the



Gospel is changing the eternal future for thousands and thousands of children.

Trinity HOPE is a ministry that provides a nutritious noon meal to over 24,000 children, teachers and cooks in 118 Christian schools throughout Haiti. In many instances, this food received at school is the only food the children will receive all day. In every instance, this food feeds the children both physically and spiritually, allowing them to better learn and become a light for Jesus Christ. If you would like more information concerning the ministry, please visit www.trinityhope.org.



State of Tennessee Bestows Honor on St. Paul in Wartburg



The congregation of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg, TN was surprised with a special honor from the State of Tennessee in late November of 2017. At the request of state Senator Ken Yager, an official proclamation was issued honoring both the 170th anniversary of St. Paul's and its positive impact in the community throughout its history. The proclamation was read in Nashville at the September general assembly and presented to Rev. David Graves and the congregation of St. Paul Lutheran on November 26, 2017—the Feast of Christ the King. Representative John Mark Windle and Senator Yager were in attendance for this special presentation. Senator Yager, who frequently interacts with St. Paul Lutheran on community projects and events, was the facilitator for the issuance of this special proclamation, which reads in part:

“WHEREAS, St. Paul Lutheran Church is truly one of the great religious institutions and catalysts for positive spiritual change in our State and nation, and the members of this exceptional congregation should be appropriately honored for their exemplary service to their fellow Christians and to the good people of Tennessee;...”

Congratulations to Rev. Graves and the members of St. Paul Lutheran in Wartburg for this very special

and unique recognition—and for 170 years of Christian service in their community!

Rev. David Graves accepted a beautifully framed copy of the official proclamation for St. Paul Lutheran from Tennessee State Representative John Mark Windle (center) and Senator Ken Yager.

CONGREGATIONAL MISSION COMMITMENTS

Mission Commitment Receipts as of 11/30/17 (11 Months)

Anticipated Amount (91.67% of budget).....	\$1,442,049
Actual Receipts	1,401,633
Over (under) anticipated amount	(\$40,416)

Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (11 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World Missions	\$397,573
Allocated to Tanzania.....	22,917
Retained for District Mission/Ministry Support (70% of receipts)	981,143
Total Receipts.....	\$1,401,633

Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (11 Months)

Actual Receipts as of 11/30/17	\$1,401,633
Actual Receipts as of 11/30/16	\$1,413,920
Over (under) prior year receipts	(\$12,287)



LCMS Lutheran Youth Fellowship 2018 Leadership Development Training

Mid-South District's Call For Sr. High Youth:

The Youth and Family Ministry Board of the Mid-South District is seeking Sr. High youth and adult chaperone applicants from our district to attend the LCMS Lutheran Youth Fellowship's Leadership Development Training - March 15-18, 2018 In St. Louis, MO.



This annual training takes place at the Pallottine Renewal Center in St. Louis, MO.

The focus of this year's training is: ***Speaking The Truth In Love***. The training equips teens to develop and use leadership skills as they serve Christ within their congregations and communities. The training offers many resources, equipping teens to lead and mentor each other.

This experience is facilitated by the teen LYF Executive Team. The event makes use of leadership resources developed to give teens the tools they need to mature in their faith, become leaders in their congregations, and reach out to their peers with the love of Christ.

VISION AND COST

The Mid-South Youth and Family Ministry Board will pay the registration costs for 3 Sr. High youth and 2 adult chaperones. Registration is \$375 per person (youth or adult), which covers training, housing and meals. Participants are responsible for their transportation costs.

There will be one youth chosen from each Mid-South District region (i.e., west, central, east). Each youth should write a 200 word essay that conveys the following:

1. Local ministry involvement
2. Interest in this type of training
3. What they hope to do with this experience.

Each essay should include:

Name, Address, Phone number, Email and Church of Membership

Essays should be emailed by the deadline of: January 31st

Please email them to Mr. Allen Piepenbrink, Mid-South District Education Executive for Education and Preschools at: apiepenbrink@mid-southlcms.com

Participants will be notified by no later than Feb. 15th

Adult Chaperones will be selected from those on the District Youth and Family Ministry Board.

2018 STUDENT LEADER MINISTRY RESPONSIBILITIES:

Selected students are required to give of their time in two ways during the 2018 calendar year. These include:

1. Attend (in person or through online conferencing) two of the Youth and Family Ministry planning meetings to help in the details of planning a District Youth and Family Servant event for the Summer of 2018.
2. Visit at least two youth groups (other than your own) in your region to share insights and experience you gained through the LCMS training. This visit should be designed by each student to accommodate their style and personality. The goal of each presentation is:
 - A) To bring encouragement to each youth group
 - B) Be an example to other youth to engage in church ministry/leadership
 - C) To help youth grow in their Christian faith

Prayer Summary, December 2017

Following is a list of all the people that have appeared on the Mid-South District website prayer list www.mid-southlcms.com during the month of December.

PRAYER CONCERNS

MR. BRAD BINGHAM (Cookeville, TN)
MS. SHERRY COSTELLO (secretary at Trinity, Pine Bluff, AR)
MS. SARA FEURESTEIN (daughter of Rev. Donley Hesse, Mena, AR)
THE GEMEINHART FAMILY (Christ the King, Memphis, TN)
MR. BILL FOWLER (husband of Angela Fowler, Mid-South District)
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)
REV. DARRELL KOBBS (Emeritus, Russellville, AR)
MR. RICHARD MEYER (Bella Vista, AR)
MRS. MEGAN NAVRATH (daughter of Rev. Carl and Gwen Wenck, Grace, Murfreesboro, TN)
REV. TIM RAKE (Russellville, AR)
REV. DAVID RUBKE (Tullahoma, TN)
REV. MERLIN SEPMAYER (Crossville, TN)
REV. KEN SHAW (Gallatin, TN)
REV. GORDON SMITH (Morristown, 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)

CALL UPDATE

IN THE CALLING PROCESS – CONGREGATIONS ORDAINED MINISTERS

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

PENDING: **Mr. David Manning**, Staunton, IL, has been issued a call to serve as **Principal at Belvoir Christian Academy, Chattanooga, TN.**

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

Renaë 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

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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 **January 24, 2018** to Rhonda, webmaster@mid-southlcms.com.