

Encourager

Mid-South District LCMS | March 2018

Focus for March: YOUTH

In this issue of the Encourager we focus on stories of the many ways that young people are making a difference for Christ in the Mid-South District. If you would like to showcase the young people of your ministry please share on the district's facebook page or send a photo and caption to webmaster@mid-southlcms.com.

In this month's issue you will also find opportunities for the district youth to serve and grow in their faith.

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



The famous author, Zig Ziglar wrote a story about a situation that happened in the Great Smoky Mountains decades ago. Some hogs escaped from a farmer's pen. Over the years, the hogs became more and more wild. They were a menace, eating up gardens and threatening children, pets, and livestock. Hunting was unsuccessful. The feral hogs flourished in the unlimited environment of the Smoky Mountains. One day an old farmer went to park officials saying he'd get rid of the hogs. The park officials doubted him but let him proceed. With a few of sacks of grain and some lumber, he went to a

clearing near where the hogs congregated to eat. He put out a few handfuls of grain. At first, the hogs were hesitant, but eventually ate the grain. The next day he laid a plank next to the grain. The hogs were hesitant, but eventually ate the grain. He repeated the process with posts, a few rails lying next to the grain. Each time the hogs hesitated, but eventually ate the grain. Each time he added something, the hogs hesitated, but came back to get "something for nothing." It took time but, the temptation of a "free lunch" captured the whole herd.

The hogs became dependent on someone else to give them food. Is the same true for human beings? But, this isn't about capturing pigs. It's about our youth and young people. According to a recent report in The Huffington Post, it hasn't been a good time for America's young. The study shows American education needs an overhaul. There's a huge rise in the number of college-age suicides, finding jobs is challenging,

and marriage and birth rates are decreasing compared to past generations. The family structure is getting weaker. The number of high school dropouts is making America the best half-educated country in the world. According to the College Board, 857 students drop out of high school in the U.S. *every single hour*.¹

Public school success was questioned. Just last September, high school graduates scored a four-decade low in reading on the SAT's. The Pew Research Center found that in 2011, less than half of U.S. adults were married. The birth rate fell to its lowest level since the earliest year of reliable statistics, 1920. The confusion escalated when a perplexing case, like that of Rachel Canning, an 18-year old teen, sued her parents for private school, college tuition and living expenses. The case is a tragic example of a family where communication has collapsed and animosity has replaced needed family foundations. On the surface, her case should have been a private matter. Why did it receive so much attention?

The answer lies within a misunderstanding of basic family values and an older generation that resists how "entitled" youth appear to be. David Finkelhor coined a phrase, *juvenoia* - the fear of juveniles by older adults². *Juvenoia* is manifest in a multitude of ways, including the belief that today's youth are worse behaved than ever before, despite much evidence to the contrary. Many older adults continue to think that youth violence is the worst ever, despite the fact that it stands now at only about 12% of what it was in the 80's and 90's. But in the current case, many comments have focused on how "entitled" Rachel Canning is, implying that this is part of a greater trend in the current generation of youth.

The parallel studies show a precipitous decline in family values and the decline in

church affiliation. The staggering results of these trends cannot be ignored.

Percentage of Church Participation³

	Silent Gen	Baby Boomer	Gen-X	Gen-Y	Millennials
Christians	85%	78	70	57	56
Protestant	57%	52	45	38	36
Catholic	24%	23	21	16	16
Unaffiliated	11%	17	23	34	36

At the same time, family life is changing. Two-parent households are on the decline as divorce, remarriage, and cohabitation are on the rise. Families are smaller now, both due to the growth of single-parent households and lower birth rates. Not only are we having fewer babies, but circumstances surrounding parenthood have changed. In the early 1960s, babies typically arrived within a marriage. Today fully four-in-ten births are within single parent or non-marital partners. Family structures have transformed. The role of mothers in the workplace and in the home saw more women in the labor force, becoming breadwinners; in many cases, *primary breadwinners*.

As a result, there is no longer a traditional family form. Today's parents raise their children against a backdrop of increasingly diverse and constantly evolving family forms. In 1960, the height of the post-World War II baby boom, the dominant family form was where 73% of children lived in a family with two married parents. By 1980, only 61% of children lived in this type of family. Today less than half (46%) are. The declining percentage of children living in a "traditional" family has been largely replaced by a majority of children living with single or cohabiting parents.⁴

Jesus calls Himself the Bread of Life – Bread He gives for us to eat and live forever. When the crowds asked for this "free bread" Jesus didn't rebuke them for their shortsightedness. He said, "...to work for bread that does not spoil."

¹Arzu Kaya Uranli, The Huffington Post, June 2014.

²Chris Ferguson, Time Magazine, March 12, 2014.

³Pew Research Center, 2014.

⁴Pew Research Center, December 17, 2015.

In response, the crowds ask, *“What must we do to accomplish the work God requires?”* Their Old Adam kicked in. They thought there’s something we can do or have to do to please God, to accomplish His will, and to develop our relationship to Him. Our obedience doesn’t earn a place in His eternal kingdom. Only Christ’s cross and His victorious resurrection are acceptable to God for our redemption.

God is the source of life. The Bread Jesus spoke of isn’t ground flour. It’s the Person of Christ and His means of grace. *“No man can come to Me unless My Father draws him. And I will raise him up at the last day, for whoever eats of My flesh and drinks of My blood, has eternal life; and I will raise him up on the Last Day.”* (John 6, ESV) That’s a promise no other person can make. No other bread can offer us life eternal. Jesus said, *“The work of God is this: To believe in the One He has sent.”* Not too tough, right? So, why is it so difficult to accomplish? Why is the next generation falling away?

Jesus told the people His flesh is real food and His blood is real drink. The crowd didn’t mistake this as being something symbolic. They left Him in disgust! They left Him – the Son of God who came to save us and give us life by dying on the cross – beyond our human logic. Faith, isn’t logic or reason. Pure, child-like faith receives the means to receive this Bread of Life – Jesus Christ. This Spirit-given faith journey begins in the home – a family gathered together around God’s Word, and His nurturing in the Church entrusted with His unending grace. For those who rely on the handful of “grain” offered by a secular world, *“There is no free lunch.”* Getting drawn into something that sounds too good to be true is probably too good to be true.

“Why aren’t we able to have more young people?” is heard in nearly every congregation. Who’s feeding our young people? What’s trapped a whole generation to becoming “fenced in” by secular temptations? Is the world becoming progressively more and more

Congregational Mission Commitments

Mission Commitment Receipts as of 01/31/18 (1 Month)

Anticipated Amount (8.3% of budget)	\$131,341
Actual Receipts	<u>113,795</u>
Over (under) anticipated amount.....	(\$17,546)

Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (1 Month)

Allocated to Synod for World Missions	\$32,055
Allocated to Tanzania	2,083
Retained for District Mission/Ministry Support (70% of receipts).....	<u>79,657</u>
Total Receipts	\$113,795

Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (1 Month)

Actual Receipts as of 01/31/18	\$113,795
Actual Receipts as of 01/31/17	<u>\$96,534</u>
Over (under) prior year receipts	\$17,261

irreligious or is the Church that has “let the kids decide for themselves?” Hollywood, TV, and secular media continue lay the “grain of vices” for our youth to eat. But, the Church offers the Bread of Life. God’s grace is free because Christ paid for the sins of all the world.

Bringing up a family founded on Christian values will take work, to be sure. But, it’s our privilege and responsibility to feed them with His Word. Is their eternal well-being important enough to prevent them from the trap of the “easy fixins” of this world? Jesus wants us to think so! *Generation to Generation* is a significant first step.

Your servant in Christ +
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola



Students Welcomed to Petit Jean Mountain for Two Great Retreats

Lutheran Camp at Petit Jean Mountain in Arkansas is frequently the site of fun and transforming gatherings for the youth of the Mid-South District. Most recently, the camp welcomed Jr. high students for a fall gathering and Sr. high for a mid-winter event, both with a focus on equipping teens for the spiritual warfare they face in today's challenging world.



From November 10-12, 2017 the annual LinkT Jr. High retreat took place, with 100 youth, leaders and adult volunteers representing 15 LCMS congregations in the Mid-South District.



The Sr. High mid-winter retreat took place February 9-11, with about 100 students and adult leaders from 14 congregations attending.



275 Towels!

The Senior Youth from Grace Lutheran Church (Knoxville, TN) delivered 275 towels to KARM (Knox Area Rescue Mission) that they collected during the month of January. Pictured are 5 members of the group.

KARM is an overnight mission and they have a need for towels for those who stay there.

Mark Your Calendar for Lutheran Children's Camp!

Camp Clark Williamson in Humboldt, TN (right outside of Jackson) is the site for Lutheran Children's Camp, which is coming up **June 18-22 (Mon.-Fri.)**. The camp is open to kids in grades 3-7. Camp activities include Bible study, swimming, outdoor games, crafts, woodworking, hiking, campfires and performing arts activities, all built around the camp theme "Faith Expedition."

The cost is \$245 for the first child and \$225 for additional children from the same family. Camp details and the application are coming soon! For now, please make a note on your calendar and start spreading the news in your congregation or school.

For more information on Lutheran Children's Camp, feel free to contact Ellis Winter at ellis_winter@yahoo.com or (901) 373-4486.



Calling High School Students

Camp Restore

2018 Mission Trip

July 22-25 New Orleans. High school students across the Mid-South District are invited to take part in an enriching mission trip experience this summer in New Orleans. Students will travel to Camp Restore and take part in outreach projects to help New Orleans residents who are still struggling to recover from the devastation caused by Hurricane Katrina. The trip will take place July 22-25. For the first fifty students who register, the complete cost is \$95 (includes meal and lodging). The fee increases to \$120 after the first fifty registrations, so encourage students to sign up early.

Register Online

Visit the Mid-South District website for [online registration](#). A Camp Restore flyer is also provided for you to share the news about this outreach opportunity within your congregation.



Summer Retreats

June 2018

Theologically-Engaged Students.

Every summer, Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, offers two theological conferences for high school students: Christ Academy High School for men, June 17–30, and Phoebe Academy High School for women, June 17–24.”

The week-long Phoebe Academy High School costs \$400, while Christ Academy High School costs \$600 for two weeks (or \$400 for returning participants). The cost is inclusive, covering housing, meals, a Christ Academy shirt and admission to any other events or planned outings. Some financial aid is available based on need, which will be considered by Academy Director Rev. Matthew Wietfeldt. Contact him at ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu or PhoebeAcademy@ctsfw.edu.

For more information about Christ Academy High School, visit www.ctsfw.edu/CAHS. For more about Phoebe Academy High School, go to www.ctsfw.edu/PAHS. Registration is available through these sites, as is additional information for pastors and parents, including a general FAQ.



2018 National Lutheran Youth Workers Conference

The 2018 National Lutheran Youth Workers Conference (#National18) is scheduled for July 8-11, 2018 in Minneapolis, MN. The conference is geared toward those who serve youth in a professional, lay, full-time, part-time, or volunteer capacity. The conference provides the participants an opportunity to explore the LCMS National Youth Gathering host city the year before the 2019

Gathering as well as familiarize adult leaders with the NYG theme, connect with other leaders and encourage each other. Adult participants will receive a complimentary registration to the 2019 LCMS National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis.

More information available here: <https://calendar.lcms.org/event/2018-national-lutheran-youth-workers-conference/>

Results of the LCMS Lutheran Youth Fellowship 2018 Leadership Training Search

The Youth and Family Ministry Board of the Mid-South District sought senior high youth to participate in a leadership development training to be held from March 15 to 18, 2018 in St. Louis, MO. The focus of this year's training is *Speaking the Truth in Love*. As a result of their excellent essays, the board will pay the expenses of these three youth.



Jackson Lelle
Faith Lutheran Church
Oak Ridge, TN



Laura Katherine Tooley
Peace Lutheran Church
Conway, AR



Monserratt Gordillo
Salem Lutheran Church/Cristo Para Todos
Springdale, AR

After the training sessions, these three youth, will help to organize and participate in the youth servant event this summer, visit several other youth groups to share what they have learned, encourage and be an example of youth leadership in the district, and help other youth as well as themselves to continue to grow in their own Christian faith.

Congratulations to these three and may the Spirit continue to grow in all our youth across the district. Rev. Mark Tooley of Conway will coordinate transportation and other details for the March event in St. Louis.

In His Service
Allen Piepenbrink
Mid-South LCMS

Generation to Generation



**What is
Generation to
Generation?**
*Generation to
Generation*

invites, motivates, trains and educates leaders of the church (called and volunteer) to enable their congregations to be sustainable faith forming centers, helping families thrive for the sake of the Gospel. Faith in the home organically becomes ministry

outreach as adults, children and those in their older years share the light of Christ in their everyday lives in their home, community and world around them.

Generation to Generation is holistic family-life education training created to build and enrich Christ-centered marriages, train parents in parent education and to equip parents with knowledge and skills to influence their child's faith through the

developmental and family life cycle. This initiative involves all life stages, including young adults, later years, non-nuclear families, human sexuality and cradle-to-grave faith formation.

The Mid-South District in partnership with Concordia Center for the Family – Ann Arbor and The Family Friendly Partnership Network are excited to begin this ministry paradigm shift – a shift which includes every generation

living today, our parents, ourselves, our children, their children, to the next generation and beyond. This initiative will change the very DNA of how we live out our faith and encourage others to do so – beginning in our homes.

Why Generation to Generation now? Look at the following data concerning each generation in America that has an authentic relationship with Jesus Christ. As you look at the percentages, consider the Christian faith of the parents in each generation declining...

Builders born before 1945: 60%
Boomers born between 1946 and 1965: 40%

GenXers born between 1966-1985: 25%

Millennials born between 1986 and 2005: 4-6 %

Facts: One third of the world's population is 15 and under.

Many parents today believe that attending church once per month is regular attendance.

The main influencers of a child's faith are close family members and friends. Children may or may not be raised by their parents. Grandparents are often stepping into parental roles, raising their grandchildren while continuing to raise their adult children.

Many parents today do not understand their responsibility in passing their faith to their children.

The likelihood that a young adult will remain faithful to church and the faith after graduation if the only influence comes from the church is 25%...if from faith shared in the HOME, that number increases to 81%.

Generation to Generation will help the church move from the *Institutional View* of ministry (church asks homes and families to support and give to the church to build the organization) to the *Biblical View* (church intentionally forms their community of faith by partnering with the home and intentionally shapes the church to be a faith forming center). Through this initiative, parents will recognize their responsibility, mandated by God, to pass their faith on to their children.

Generation to Generation equips those who are in non-nuclear families, gets real and honest about human sexuality, helps people learn to manage the resources God has given them, and helps families with members in the later years. With the help of God, we will shift the function of the church, going from church centered/home supported ministry to home centered/church supported ministry.

Who is participating in Generation to Generation now?

Two BETA groups were selected by our District Pilot Team to represent a variety of churches – small, larger, rural, urban, school, preschool, dual parish, etc. – across the district. Ten congregations were recruited in the West Region, seven began Orientation in Conway last month. Included in West Region: Bella Vista Lutheran Church, Bella Vista; Salem Lutheran Ministries, Springdale; Peace Lutheran

Church, Conway; Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mountain Home; Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Jonesboro; St. John's Lutheran Church, Lafe; and Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis.



Over 60 people from those congregations gathered with Professor Ben Freudenburg for the first of seven training seminars. Each

congregation signed a two-year commitment.

Interested in learning more about Generation to Generation?

Generation to Generation is currently recruiting East Region congregations to participate, beginning orientation in January 2019. *Generation to Generation* District Representatives will be available at the Spring Pastors' Conference, the Mid-South District Convention, as well as the Fall Pastors' Conference to provide more information or you may call Alison Hawkins at the District Office.

What will be the results of Generation to Generation?

Churches across the world have recognized the importance and urgency to reach out to others with the Good News of Jesus Christ. However, families are struggling to reach out to their own children and loved ones with that same Good News. It is not too late – the time is now. *Generation to Generation* will equip and encourage families through these ever-changing times to become the faith influencers in their own homes, in their schools, their workplace, the community and the world.



LCEF's "Take Heart Scholarship" Is Back!

As young people across the country begin the next phase of their education journey by entering college, Lutheran Church Extension Fund's (LCEF) Young Investors (Y.I.) Club wants to help by offering financial support through the **Take Heart Scholarship**, with up to three awards of \$3,000, \$1,000 and \$500.

There are only a few eligibility requirements for the Take Heart Scholarship:

- Applicants must be an LCEF investor. (Students under the age of 19 can invest in [LCEF's Young Investors Club](#). Those who are age 19 can invest in [LCEF's StewardAccount®](#).)
- Applicants must be a high school graduating senior.
- Applicants must intend to be enrolled in or be accepted by a vocational/technical school, community college or four-year college/university as a full-time student.

For complete details on the Take Heart Scholarship opportunity—including how to submit application materials—visit the program website at <https://lcef.org/take-heart-scholarship/>. You may also speak with an LCEF representative about the program by calling 800.843.5233. **The Take Heart Scholarship application deadline is April 5, 2018.**

*LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Neither LCEF nor its representatives give legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult a tax advisor as to the applicability of this information to your own situation. UMB Bank n.a. serves as the custodian of the LCEF IRA program. *Contact your tax advisor for more information.*



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

Financial Aid Awards For Mid-South District Students

By: Mid-South District Financial Aid Committee

The Mid-South District Financial Aid Committee awarded \$80,000 in student aid grants for the 2017-18 school year. In addition to the eleven seminary and university students who applied, available funds were also awarded to students who are enrolled in the Specific Ministry Pastors and colloquy programs.

The District gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the individuals and organizations within our District who make it possible for students to receive financial aid:

- LWML grants;
- Endowment funds provided by faithful servants of God for the sole purpose of scholarships; and
- District budget made possible from congregational monthly mission commitments.

— 2018-2019 Academic Year —

Students who plan to attend an LCMS seminary or university during the 2018-19 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.**

For forms, please contact the district office by phone (toll-free) at 866-373-1343, by email to jtyler@mid-southlcms.com, or by regular mail 1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN 38016. All related forms, including financial aid application, are on the [District's website](#).

May God continue to bless these gifted and faithful students as they work toward their goals of serving our congregations and schools!



St. Paul Lutheran Church 125th Anniversary



St. Paul Lutheran Church (Gillett, AR) celebrated its 125th Anniversary on February 4, 2018. Pictured for the celebration are former pastors — Rev. Frank Zirbel (16 years in Gillett)(left) and Rev. Paul Jilg (11 years in Gillett)(right). Current pastor, Rev. Chad Philipp (left center) and Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola. Approximately 85 people attended the celebration.

3rd Annual Diaper Derby



On Sunday, February 11, Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Sharps Chapel, TN, celebrated the completion of their third annual Diaper Derby. This year's total of 3307 diapers far exceeds the first two years – 726 in 2016 and 1414 in 2017. Kitty Lewis who heads the Union County Food Pantry joined the congregation to receive the diapers. Many neighbors of the church contributed to this year's effort which was headed by Doreen and Mike Foley. Mike led the congregation in prayers for the families and infants who will use the diapers.

The church meets for worship each Sunday at 10:30 AM in the Community Center, 1542 Sharps

Chapel Road. They also gather each Tuesday at 9:00 AM in the Community Center for their Neighborhood Bible Breakfast which is currently using "Discipleship: Following the Master" by Terry Tieman of Transforming Churches Network. The study is equipping people to share their faith in Jesus Christ.

Other 2018 service events will include a Second Harvest food distribution sponsored by the TVA, Patriot Day baked goods baskets to honor first responders, and a table to give away toilet paper and paper towels at the Union County Christmas Charities in December.



Mark your calendar for the Pastors' Wives Retreat

The guest speaker will be Jan Struck. Contact the Mid-South District Office for details.

**West Pastors Wives Retreat
October 5-6, 2018 (Fri.-Sat.)**
DeGray Lake Resort,
Bismarck, AR

**East Pastors Wives Retreat
October 12-13, 2018 (Fri.-Sat.)**
Clarion Inn, Cookeville, TN

Jan's "Life Story" has included the blessing of mothering three children, teaching school, working in secretarial and administrative job positions, and experiencing single parenthood after divorce. Additional "surprises", from a loving and delightful Creator, have brought the joy of a second marriage and a combined family that totals six grown children, their spouses, eleven grandchildren, and one great-grandson. She is delighted to have been given a lifetime of bizarre experiences and an ability to see humor and irony in her journey.

With over 35 years of experience in teaching, motivating, and entertaining her audiences, Jan brings a fresh approach to the journey of faith and uses her sense of humor as she shares her life with fellow travelers and leaves them laughing. Her trust and faith in Christ is her reason to make a "joyful noise unto God"!!



LUTHERAN HOUR
MINISTRIES
www.lhm.org

Tennessee District LLL Conference May 5, 2018

Christus Victor Lutheran Church
4110 Central Avenue Pike,
Knoxville, Tennessee 37912

FREE Registration @ 9:30 a.m.
Conference begins @ 10:00 a.m.
*Registration includes lunch,
dinner and child care (under the
age of 12)*

**For reservations call before
Friday, April 20, 2018
phone: 865-689-1011**

Guest Speaker is Rev. Dr.
Gregory Seltz, Executive Director,
Lutheran Center for Religious
Liberty

Highlights include: Outreach in
a Digital Age, Rachel Legoute,
LHM-Liberia Update



[Flyer and registration
information available on
district website](#)



CONCORDIA COLLEGE
ALABAMA

Concordia College Alabama to Close

It is with heavy hearts and deep regret the Board of Regents announced that after 95 years of fulfilling the dream of Rosa J. Young, Concordia College Alabama (CCA) will close its doors at the end of the spring semester 2018. No new students will be admitted after the current semester which began January 8th.

"The Board of Regents deeply appreciates the work of the faculty, staff, and others who have worked tirelessly, and at personal sacrifice, to keep Concordia College Alabama viable. We wish them the Lord's blessings as they move to other positions" said Mr. Lloyd Probasco, chairman of the Board of Regents.

LCMS Statement regarding the closure of Concordia College Alabama read more here [Link](#)

Prayer Summary, February 2018

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 February 2018.

PRAYER CONCERNS

MS. SHERRY COSTELLO (secretary at Trinity, Pine Bluff, AR)
REV. JOHN EASTERLING (Mountain Home, AR)
REV. KEITH ENKO (Hermitage, TN)
MS. SARA FEURESTEIN (daughter of Rev. Donley Hesse, Mena, AR)
THE GEMEINHART FAMILY (Christ the King, Memphis, TN)
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. DAVID RUBKE (Tullahoma, TN)
REV. MERLIN SEPMEYER (Crossville, TN)
REV. RUSSELL SHEWMAKER (Jonesboro, AR)
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)
The mother of Michele Layne (EC Director, St. John's Fayetteville, AR)

Our deepest sympathies to Rev. Carl and Gwen Wenck (Murfreesboro, TN) as they mourn the loss of Carl's mother Margaret who passed away on February 8, 2018.

Our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Mr. Brad Bingham (Cookeville, TN) who passed away on Wednesday, February 21, 2018.

CALL UPDATE

ORDAINED MINISTERS

PENDING: Rev. Philip Girardin, Our Shepherd Lutheran Church, Searcy, AR, has received a call to serve as Pastor at St. Paul's, Reedlyn, IA and Immanuel, Klinger, IA.

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

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

ACCEPTED: Mr. Samuel Fishburn of Affton, MO, has accepted the call to serve as **Principal at First Lutheran Church and School, Fort Smith, AR.**

PENDING: Mr. Todd Baringer, Principal at Immanuel Lutheran School, Memphis, TN, has received a call to serve as Principal at Prince of Peace Lutheran School, Carrollton, TX.

First Lutheran Church and School, Knoxville, TN, has issued a call to **Mr. Joel Rachow,** North Branch, MI, to serve as Principal.

IN THE CALLING PROCESS

Belvoir Christian Academy, Chattanooga, TN – 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

Renae 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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FAX: 901.373.4826

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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 MARCH 19, 2018 to Rhonda, webmaster@mid-southlcms.com.