



MID-SOUTH LUTHERAN

Time to get Resurrection Re-oriented

Have you ever been on a stopped train that's next to another train? Have you looked out the window when either your train begins moving or the other one does, but you can't tell which one? You become disoriented by the movement.



Rev. Charles Neugebauer
First Vice-President,
Region 2

After waking up after a nap, have you wondered whether its morning or nighttime?

I've been so far under water that I have had a moment of terror as my air ran out wondering which way was up! Disorientation can be a scary thing.

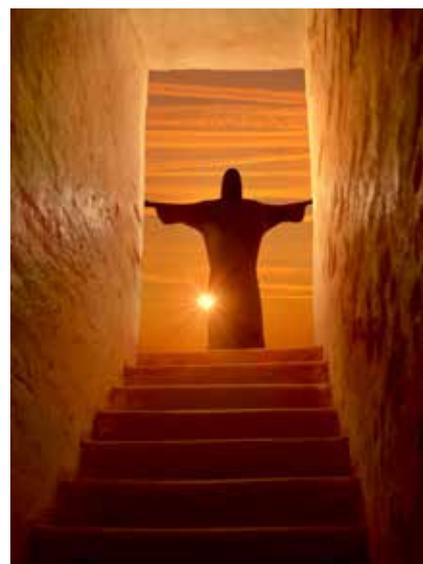
Harry Truman told a story about a man hit on the head at work. The blow was so severe that he was knocked unconscious for an extended period of time. His family, convinced he was dead, called the funeral director and asked to pick him up at the hospital, which he did. Early the following morning the man suddenly woke up and sat straight up in the casket. Confused, he blinked several times and looked around, trying to put everything together in his disorientation. He thought: "If I'm alive, what in the world am I doing in this soft, satin-filled box? And if I'm dead, why do I have to go to the bathroom?"

Disorientation is the pits. You often have to deal with it when traveling. You experience it when you fight deadlines and pull all-nighters. Astronauts, submariners, prisoners and long-term hospital patients are known to become disoriented and therefore depressed and lost until orientation comes back into their lives.

It seems the busier and more complicated we are, the more disoriented we become. Retirement for many people also brings disorientation. Suddenly there is no quitting time and no wake-up time, no boss to direct you (except your spouse), no to-do lists, no office chatter, no sense of importance that you even exist anymore. It's amazing how well the old business, school and church can get along without us isn't it?

Solomon was disoriented during his later years. He had been a great king; now he was lamenting some of the areas in his life by which he had been oriented. He saw it all as vanity in his old age; too quick from beginning to end and no bargain when he got to a ripe old age of disorientation. "...The years draw near of which you will say, 'I have no pleasure in them'" (Eccl. 12:1).

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia! Perhaps this month, in reaction to Easter Sunday, would be a great time to re-orient ourselves. Spiritual disorientation is a direct result of being mis-oriented in our daily lives. If you've ever seen a high diver getting ready



to jump off the platform, they always pause for a long moment to orient themselves. If they get disoriented on the way down ... a bellyflop is not a pretty sight.

Fresh from our resurrection celebrations, it is a great time to orient before we dive back into the pool of our crazy lives. I find people spiritually belly-flopping all the time because they never take the time to figure out where they are and where they are going in the precious time they have.

Because Jesus lives, we too shall live also ... not just someday, but here and now. Here are a few suggestions to keep yourself oriented on both our Lord Jesus Christ and the beauty of life He offers all the way through this crazy, short trip called life and into the next one, which lasts forever.

Cultivate a close, dynamic relationship with our Risen Lord Jesus Christ

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Feeding Haitian children, physically and spiritually

By Keith Logan

Executive Director, Trinity HOPE

With this issue of *Mid-South Lutheran* focusing on Lutheran schools, it seems appropriate to highlight Mourne Brouille, a Lutheran school in Les Cayes, Haiti.

This single building holds five classrooms with more than 175 students attending. The classrooms are divided by plastic tarps hanging from the ceiling, and with poor ventilation and small windows, the inside temperature was above 100 degrees the day a Trinity HOPE mission team visited the school in May 2016.

Without electricity, the classrooms are dark and it is hard to read the old blackboard propped against a painted wall. However, as many schools in Haiti have dirt floors and thatched roofs, Mourne Brouille school is fortunate to have a cement floor and a metal roof, keeping the children dry when it rains.

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 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 nutritious meals to more than 23,000 children, teachers and cooks in 119 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 about the ministry, please visit trinityhope.org or contact us via email at admin@trinityhope.org.

RE-ORIENTED

(Continued from page 1)

through daily devotions and prayer, worship, mission and stewardship. From there make a few real close Lutheran Christian friends and commit yourself to stick by them through thick and thin. Stay in touch with people you love through every means modern life provides, but especially in person, whenever possible.

Give of yourself. Read widely. Exercise regularly and strenuously. Turn off your various screens. Leave time for leisure instead of always doing housework or yard work (unless you enjoy it!).

Walk outdoors, hike, breathe, start a hobby which involves God's gift of nature.

Have more fun on purpose. Eat less and laugh more. Quit fussing and worrying about everybody else's business. Encourage at least one person a day. Stop living for money. Plant something.

Like Abraham with his son Isaac, trust God for something that seems impossible. Loosen up your intensity. Stop taking yourself and your kids so seriously. Live by faith and not by sight, loving others whether they love you back or not, just like Jesus did and does.

A boat in the ocean and a plane in the sky need instruments to keep them from becoming disoriented in the vastness of the space in which they operate. God has provided us with the faith-orienting instruments of His Means of Grace to guide us through our lives as well. The first day of this month started with our celebration of Christ rising from the dead.

Nothing is impossible for God! Not even you. Now is the time to orient yourself heavenward, to be guided by the Holy Spirit to change what needs changing, and to hold fast to what works in keeping you and your loved ones oriented in our hope in the Risen Jesus Christ.

God bless you and all the families of the Mid-South District. Stay close to your church, stay close to our Risen Lord and Savior!

Church-work students: apply now for financial aid



The Mid-South District Financial Aid Committee awarded \$80,000 in student aid grants for the 2017-18 school year. In addition to the 11 seminary and university students who applied, available funds were also awarded to students who are enrolled in the Specific Ministry Pastor and colloquy programs.

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

- ▶ LWML grants.
- ▶ Endowment funds provided by faithful servants of God for the sole purpose of scholarships.
- ▶ The district budget,



made possible from congregational monthly mission commitments.

For forms, please contact the district office by phone at 866-373-1343, by email to jtyler@mid-southlcms.com,

or by postal mail to 1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN 38016.

Applications for the coming school year must be postmarked by June 15.

Students who plan to attend an LCMS seminary or college/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.

Students listen and take notes during class at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Amended district Bylaws now available online

By Rev. John Gierke
Mid-South District Secretary

The district Board of Directors is pleased to announce that the amendments to the district Bylaws, to bring them into harmony with the various Bylaw amendments made at the 2016 LCMS convention, were approved by the Synod's Commission on Constitutional Matters (CCM) on Dec. 21, in Opinion 17-2855, and adopted by the Mid-South District Board of Directors on behalf of the district convention on Dec. 23.

After being drafted, they were reviewed by the CCM and adopted by the board through Bylaw 1.1.3, to amend the Bylaws prior to a district

convention to comply with resolutions and Bylaw changes made by the Synod in convention. These Bylaws became effective upon their unanimous adoption by the Board of Directors, and the action was read into the minutes at the recent Board of Directors' meeting on Jan. 28.



A copy of the amended Bylaws will be available at mid-southlcms.org/resources/convention, and will also be included in the upcoming 2018 district convention workbook as part of the report of the

Board of Directors, and for congregations and their delegates to prepare for the convention.

Congregation mission commitment receipts

as of Jan. 31, 2018 (1 month)

Anticipated amount (8.3% of budget)	\$131,341
Actual receipts	\$113,795
Over (under) anticipated amount...	(\$17,546)

Use of mission commitment receipts

Allocated to Synod for world missions	\$32,055
Allocated to Tanzania	\$2,083
Retained for district ministry/mission support (70% of receipts)	\$79,657
Total receipts	\$113,795

Mission commitment receipts comparison

Actual receipts as of Jan. 31, 2018	\$113,795
Actual receipts as of Jan. 31, 2017	\$96,534
Over (under) prior year receipts	\$17,261

Celebrating our Lutheran schools

Greetings from the Mid-South District office.

I recently read an article written by Dale Hudson for Relevant Children's Ministry — "Kids Who Grow Up to Follow Jesus Have Parents Who Do These 7 Things." — that I would like to share with all of you.

As I pondered the title, I realized that many children have fallen away from Jesus at an early age, particularly in their teens and early 20s. But there are also children who have remained faithful to God throughout life.

Now maybe those who remained faithful had good Christian friends, or maybe they got into the daily habit of reading the Bible and praying, or maybe they had good Christian teachers, pastors and other adult leaders who helped them stay true to their faith. But this article points out that a very important reason many children stay faithful to God is because of their parents. I once read that a child needs at least five strong Christian influences in order to remain faithful to their Lord and Savior. I also believe that the parents are the key ingredient for this success. The following bullet points come from the article.

- *"Kids who grow up to follow Jesus as adults have parents who pray with them at home."*

This is important, but it goes beyond the table and bed time prayer. Parents need to teach their children how to pray and allow them to say the prayer out loud.

- *"Kids who grow up to follow Jesus have parents who read God's Word with them at home."*

Notice the quote says "with them" rather than just "to them." Daily devotions are important for the development of the faith life of both parents and children. Finding a time in our busy schedules might be difficult at times, but it is a necessary ingredient to success.

- *"Kids who grow up to follow Jesus as adults have parents who take them to church consistently."*

In this day and age, when sports are scheduled on Sunday mornings and parents are less likely to want to get up and go to church, we can follow the lead of businesses like Chick-fil-A, whose CEO believes that Sunday morning is a time for corporate worship in church. It should also be noted that once a month is not consistent. The best way to instill consistency is to attend church every week.

- *"Kids who grow up to follow Jesus as adults have parents who create a place where questions are welcomed and encouraged."*

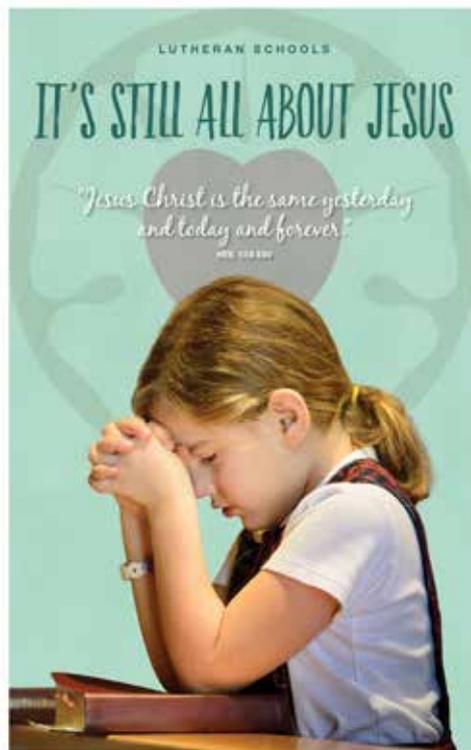
Having been a teacher my entire life, I quickly came to realize that I did not have all the answers. But I also realized that my pastor was a good source for finding answers about the Bible and other topics that I didn't understand. I also purchased books that could lead me to understand God's will in my life.

- *"Kids who grow up to follow Jesus as adults have parents that emphasize relationship over rules."*

This doesn't mean we should throw out the rules because as sinful beings, we do need boundaries and consequences. What this does mean is that through a strong relationship with Jesus, children are more likely to follow the rules. Many problems in today's world result in the fact that many do not know the love of Jesus in their life.

- *"Kids who grow up to follow Jesus as adults have parents who live authentically."*

We parents are certainly not perfect, but we need to practice what we preach. I taught junior high students for 20 years and believe me, my students knew when



I wasn't being truthful. There were a few times when I had to admit that I was not practicing what I was preaching.

- *"Kids who grow up to follow Jesus as adults have parents who actively serve and involve their children in serving."*

Our Lord Jesus came to serve rather than be served. When the Lord put you on this earth, He didn't need another couch potato. He expects us to do something in service to others. Oh, I know you are busy, but there needs to be a time and a place when we go out of our way to serve others.

Parents are vital in making sure their children stay faithful to Christ. As pastors, teachers, administrators, principals and church members, we need to find ways to help parents be that key factor in their children's lives.

The district Generation to Generation program, which is in the pilot stage, is one of those opportunities to share the Good News at every level and at all ages. May we be successful in helping our children develop a faith in Jesus that will be everlasting.

Allen Piepenbrink
Education Executive, Mid-South District

ARKANSAS



Christ Lutheran School • Little Rock

While learning about community servants, our students had the amazing opportunity to watch an Arkansas State Police helicopter land on our football field.

A state trooper also brought his cruiser on the field for students to see up close, and sit in the driver's seat. Three officers talked with the entire school about their roles, and students were able to ask questions. We love meeting servants in our community and appreciate their service and sacrifice.

Our 2017-18 theme is "Live Out Loud," and we have enjoyed learning about all the different ways we can "live out loud" our faith as followers of Christ.



Concordia Christian Academy • Jonesboro

This year, we have focused our entire school around the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Students learned every aspect of the event through special artwork, performances and chapel messages that brought Luther's life and message to a new generation.

Our students have also achieved new heights in giving and community service. As a school, we collected more than \$700 in chapel funds to support the Salvation Army, and supplied the shelter with more than \$500 worth of new bed sheets and pillows.

We also helped our sponsor church raise funds for our local veterans' PTSD group. This semester, we aim to serve even more.

**Avilla Christian Academy
Alexander**



Avilla's mission is to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

One of Jesus' primary attributes is serving others (Mark 10:45). Service is a value our students learn about and practice through acts of service, like this year's diaper and gift-card drive for The Call, a local ministry that finds homes for foster children and equips foster

parents to succeed.

Our students collected diapers and clothing-store gift cards for The Call to distribute to foster parents.

This service created a fascinating pattern of our kids giving to a ministry which ministers to parents so they can minister to needy kids.

EDUCATION

ARKANSAS



St. John's Lutheran School • Stuttgart

Students at St. John's participate in a variety of school and community activities. In the fall, the students collected more than 1,500 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 in homes. Students raised \$2,300 for "Adopt a Classroom" in efforts to help with Hurricane Harvey relief.

St. John's is located 50 miles southeast of Little Rock and offers a preschool program that begins with infants, and an elementary school that teaches kindergarten through sixth-grade students. The current enrollment is 190.

First Lutheran School • Fort Smith



"It's Still All About Jesus" — that theme led us to focus weekly chapel messages on the various names of Jesus, from Christ and the Good Shepherd to the Alpha, Faithful Witness, Advocate and Lion of Judah.

During the Advent/Christmas season we learned the prophet Isaiah's names for Jesus — the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the

Wonderful Counselor and the Prince of Peace — who was the focus as the kindergarten students and their sixth-grade chapel buddies led our last chapel of 2017.

First Lutheran School exists to share the love of Christ with students and their families and to equip them to go out and share that Good News!

KENTUCKY

Holy Trinity Lutheran School Bowling Green

The mission of Holy Trinity Lutheran School is to reach out to children and families with the Good News of the Gospel through a Christ-centered, loving and forgiving environment of academic excellence.

This year, our PTO raised enough funds to expand and improve our playground area. The project included moving fences, assembling and installing play units, shade units and protective bollards.



TENNESSEE



Belvoir Christian Academy
Chattanooga

Belvoir recently celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week. Students learned that “It’s Still All About Jesus,” which was the week’s theme.

Each day, students attended a special chapel service and also had fun by dressing up in their fanciest outfits and wearing their craziest hats and mismatched outfits. Since 1887, Belvoir Christian Academy has made disciples for Jesus through learning, loving and serving.



Faith Lutheran School • Collierville

During National Lutheran Schools Week, we wore our favorite team jerseys, brought our families to a fundraiser night at Marco’s Pizza for our STREAM programs, dressed in crazy outfits for Wacky Tacky Day and enjoyed family chapel messages from Rev. Clayton Sellers (Faith associate pastor), followed by our 4-year-olds playing the hand bells.

We enjoyed school spirit days and an open house when parents joined in a scavenger hunt and bake sale. Sunday’s sermon focused on the history of Lutheran schools and how they are our partners in educating and sharing their faith with children. What a fun week!



Christ the King Lutheran School • Memphis

Our mission is to teach our children how to be Christian leaders in the community. This year our charitable goal was to raise money to grant a child’s wish through the Make-A-Wish Foundation.

Our comfort dog, Job, joins students for a birthday lunch each month and also visits sick or hospitalized children and their families. On Veteran’s Day, we invited our veterans to chapel, and

honored them with a reception and a full honor guard.

Our diverse population coupled with our strong academic curriculum makes CTK the ideal environment for children to grow academically as well as spiritually.

TENNESSEE



First Lutheran School • Knoxville

In 2017, the ministry of First Lutheran School enjoyed both triumphs and trials, and has emerged stronger, well equipped and blessed with enrollment growth.

We celebrated the Reformation with an anniversary party. Students loved their “Diet of Worms”, writing with quills just like Luther,

and learning the symbolism of Luther’s Rose.

Our students raised \$3,000 in the St. Jude Trike-a-thon and raised another \$1,300 through Pasta for Pennies to support the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

We plan continuing to faithfully learn and serve in Knoxville events for years to come.

Immanuel Lutheran School Memphis

Providing an innovative and relevant education is crucial here. In August 2017, we opened the doors to a Creative Learning Systems STEMM SmartLab, the first facility of its kind in Tennessee. (STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics; the extra “M” is for “ministry.”)

Our young engineers have been building and programming robotics, using computer-aided design software to create inventions which can then be printed on the new 3D print-



er. They are designing houses, building bridges, creating stop-motion animations and more. This state-of-the-art facility helps students develop critical life skills (respectful team collaboration, critical thinking and real-world problem solving), while teaching the engineering design process and sparking imagination and curiosity. It’s a gymnasium for the mind where learning is definitely fun.



Heavenly Host Lutheran School Cookeville

National Lutheran Schools Week was celebrated with fun events every day. We dressed like our favorite holidays, participated in Homeroom Wars with surprise themes, and Dressed Our Best.

Thursday was Olympic Day — and the

games began (and later ended) with the National Geographic Bee.

On Friday, we stepped out of the building and had lunch at restaurants, only to meet up at Lazy Cow Creamery.

TENNESSEE



**Our Savior Lutheran Academy
Nashville**

Our Savior Lutheran Academy is making a positive impact in our community. This past semester, we hosted a Diaper Drive for the Nashville Diaper Connection, collected food for Second Harvest Food Bank and hosted a Toy Drive for the Metro Police Christmas Charities.

The students also visited the residents at a nursing

home and shared their talents through song and dance. For Jesus tells us in Matt. 25:40:

“Truly I tell you, whatever you did for the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Our biggest mission within our ministry is to spread God’s love all around.

What parents want in a Christian school

By Allen Piepenbrink
Education Executive, Mid-South District

Barna Group research and discussions with educators and parents have led to finding 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.

1 Safety

Based on what is going on in the world today, this 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 rela-



tionships and behavioral situations, and forgiveness is liberally applied.

2 Quality teachers

Although having teachers with a good academic background is important, the research indicates that a quality Christian school is one in which 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.

3 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 the Christ-centered curriculum will be beneficial 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.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

Not a hoax!

Christ appeared to hundreds of witnesses, many of whom suffered proclaiming His name

By Rev. Robert Portier

St. Paul, Sevierville, Tenn.

The first Easter was probably April 5, 33 A.D., according to experts. In this article, I address some interesting questions that arise concerning the 40-day period between Easter Sunday and Ascension Day, two very important dates on the church's calendar.

An article at answersingenesis.org does a good job of summarizing and addressing any supposed conflicts in the biblical accounts. And there are some historical facts that must be dealt with by those who claim Christianity is just a big hoax.

First, there was an empty tomb. There were also many witnesses not only to the empty tomb, but also to the multiple appearances of the man who was laid in that tomb — walking, talking and even eating. Second, if one were going to make up a story to support a false religion, would it not make sense that they would in some way benefit from the hoax? Keep in mind that the



list of reliable witnesses I am about to summarize for you were for the most part persecuted and martyred for their bold witness.

On Easter day, Jesus appeared to no fewer than five women, four of whom we know by name: two named Mary; Salome and Joanna; and at least one other unnamed woman. He appeared also to no fewer than 12 men, including 10 of the apostles and the two disciples headed to Emmaus (Clopas and his unnamed companion). On April 12, you can add Thomas to the list. So already in the first week we have six separate appearances and 18 firsthand witnesses.

Additionally, sometime in the following weeks, recorded for our benefit, was an appearance at the Sea of Tiberius (which is what the Sea of Galilee was called in the coastal area around the town of Tiberius). This appearance included five named apostles and two other disciples. In Matthew 28, the resurrected Jesus appears to the apostles on a mountain in Galilee. He then institutes what is

often called the Great Commission, instructing them to baptize and teach the faith to all nations. This is also from where the church draws the “baptismal formula,” under which all Christians are to be baptized into the triune name of God. There was one more pre-ascension appearance recorded for us in 1 Corinthians 15, in which more than 500 brethren witnessed the resurrected Christ.

At last was Ascension Day on Mount Olivet near Bethany, May 14, 33 A.D. We do not know how many of Jesus’ disciples were there, but we do know he had more than 70. After 40 days, many if not most of them, would have been (I am guessing, of course) on sort of high alert, a “where will he appear next?” sort of mind set. Suffice it to say there were a lot of disciples there. A small chapel stands on the spot at which this is traditionally thought to have taken place.

Hundreds of reliable witnesses have given us reports of at least 10 post-resurrection appearances. The question now becomes, “what evidence exists to refute the claims of Scripture?” I contend that there is none, and disbelief that resurrection from the dead is possible is not a valid argument.

A post-resurrection appearance timeline appears at thelc.ms/answers-in-genesis-post-resurrection-appearances.

SCHOOL (Continued from page 9)



4 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 atti-

tude that disruptive students most need a Christian school with caring Christian teachers.

Lutheran schools don’t want to just develop good students, but they desire to develop children into believers in Christ Jesus as their personal Lord and Savior. In Rom. 5:3-4, Paul tells us that “We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope” — the hope (assurance) of salvation.

There's lots going on at camp

Battle of the (Praise) Bands

The Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean Board of Directors is issuing a challenge to any church that has a praise band; enter the Battle of the (Praise) Bands — the newest event at camp. The competition is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 20.

Each band will play five to six songs, and the audience will vote on their favorites with cash in jars. For an extra challenge, each band will be required to play a modern cover of an assigned traditional hymn. The judges will select the winner based on the bands' performances of the hymn.

A separate category is planned for youth bands, made up of musicians who have not yet graduated from high school.

The event will also include a barbecue, games, fellowship and tours of the camp to see all the new amenities and improvements.

More details will be sent to all LCMS churches in Arkansas and the Memphis metro area.

Summer Camp 2018

The Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean is preparing for eight exciting weeks of summer camp. Parents who register their children for summer camp before April 15 can save \$50 for each child. An additional discount of \$100 is available for campers attending more than one session. Discounts are also available for siblings of campers and for any returning camper who brings a friend attending for the first time.

No child will be turned away from camp because of finances. Families that need assistance can request a financial aid form from the camp. Email director@lutherancamp.org.

Summer camp is open to all. Traditional



Children and youth will “dive in” to fun at summer camp 2018 at the Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean. The early registration discount deadline is April 15.

camp sessions are planned for students entering grades 2 through 10 in fall 2018. Special sessions are scheduled for all age groups, including Family Camp for whole families with activities geared toward children too young for regular sessions. Adventure Camp and Senior High Arts Camp are for high school students and new graduates.

Parents can learn more and register their children at lutherancamp.org.

Help wanted!

The camp is also looking for high school students to serve as counselors-in-training. The job includes taking part in all camp activities while helping college-age counselors lead the younger campers. To request an application, email director@lutherancamp.org.

The camp is still looking for an experienced cook, possibly a school cafeteria cook, to lead the kitchen staff during summer camp. Contact the camp office for more information.

Looking forward to LinkT

Arkansas youth leaders have already begun planning for the fourth season of LinkT youth retreats, slated for November 2018 (junior high) and February 2019 (senior high).

The two LinkT retreats for this school

year drew more than 200 youth and adult leaders from 16 Mid-South District congregations for fun, fellowship and challenging messages. The Rev. Kyle Blake, pastor of The Gathering Lutheran Church in Long Beach, Calif., spoke at the LinkT senior high retreat in February.

A committee of youth leaders — DCEs and pastors from district congregations — plans the LinkT retreats. Youth groups from other congregations are invited to get involved.

Final 'steps' to Trinity restoration

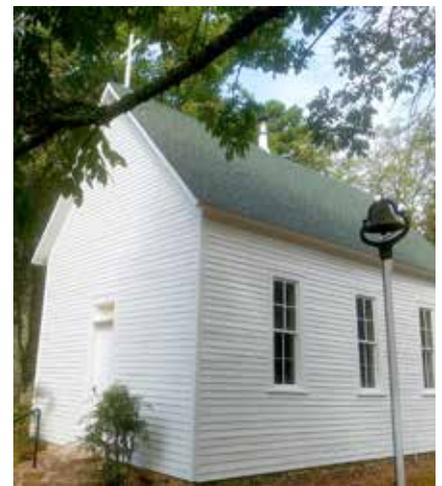
Thanks to recent donations from members of LCMS congregations, the Trinity Lutheran Church restoration project is just one “step” away from completion. All that remains is rebuilding the stone steps at the church entrance, which have settled and cracked.

The camp has raised \$7,600 for the second and final phase of the restoration, bringing the total raised for both phases to nearly \$20,000, to go with more than \$40,000 in grant funds from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program (AHPP).

The camp has until June 1 to raise the \$900 required to receive the final \$1,800 from the AHPP.

Donations earmarked “Trinity Restoration” can be sent to: Lutheran Camp, 110 Montgomery Trace, Morrilton Ark. 72110.

Pictured below is the church.



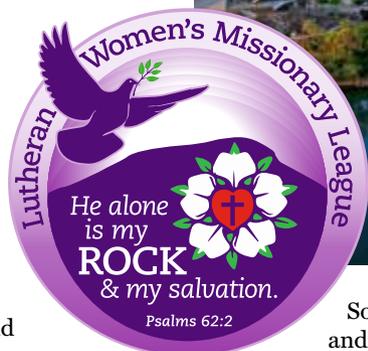
Grafted in

By Julie Keck

Media/Marketing
LWML Mid-South District

Creation is blooming and greening all around us as God takes us into the spring season again. This month we can celebrate God's beautiful creation by getting involved in some community projects on Earth Day (April 22) and Arbor Day (April 27).

All this gardening makes me remember Paul's illustration in Rom. 11:17-24, as we, believing Gentiles, have been grafted into the nourishing root of the olive tree, Jesus. We are now part of His chosen people along with Paul, Jesus' disciples and all other believing Jews.



So let's continue growing and producing fruit for the Lord by staying in His Word.

One way to do this is to join us at the upcoming 25th Biennial LWML Mid-South District Convention June 22-24 in Chattanooga, where you will have the chance to hear wonderful guest speakers, study the Bible and learn about missions supported by our

district LWML.

If you act quickly, you can take advantage of the early registration discount, which while expire April 16.

The registration form can be found at midsouthlwml.org along with more information about the speakers. Come join other Lutheran women in mission and see how God will grow you!

The convention will be in Chattanooga June 22-24. Chattanooga's nickname is "Rock City" because of the view from Lookout Mountain.



Happy 125!

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Gillett, Ark., celebrated its 125th anniversary on Feb. 4. Attending the celebration were, from left, Rev. Frank Zirbel, who served St. Paul for 16 years; Rev. Chad Phillip, who currently serves as pastor of St. Paul; Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, Mid-South District president, and Rev. Paul Jilg, who served St. Paul for 11 years. About 85 people attended the celebration.

ANNIVERSARIES

- ▶ **Earl and Ruth Grellck**, members of Faith, Fairfield Bay, Ark., will celebrate 70 years on April 17.
- ▶ **Richard and Barbara Kottler**, members of Faith, Fairfield Bay, Ark., will celebrate 67 years on April 2.
- ▶ **Ernie and Donna Miller**, members of Faith, Fairfield Bay, Ark., will celebrate 60 years on April 19.

Deadline for the June-July issue is April 15



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

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

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