

Encourager

Mid-South District LCMS | August 2018

Focus for August

Church Planting

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20 NIV

This month we focus on church planting. Please join us in prayer for those who are planting seeds to reach the lost and grow God's kingdom. May the Lord bless them and sustain them as they work.

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



Service in Mission

Webster's Dictionary defines MISSION as, "A noun; an allotted, self-imposed duty or task; a calling." It means something or someone is moving from one location to another for a specific purpose. Jesus says, "As the Father sent Me, I am sending you." (John 20:21) So, what is our mission? What are YOU being sent to do? Well, if you haven't already figured it out, our mission is founded in Jesus Christ's mission. He is the Key to what you and I do in our church.

It reminds me of a silly story I heard about Jesus returning to heaven after His earthly ministry. One of the angels saw Him and His nail-scarred hands. The angel asked, "Well, how did it go?" "It maybe looks bad, but, I got the work done to bring salvation

and, now the Gospel can be spread throughout the whole world," Jesus replied. "How's that going to happen," the angel asked. "I left the power of the Gospel with Peter, James, John and all the rest of the disciples," Jesus replied. "What's Your plan B if that doesn't work," the angel pressed. "There is no plan B," Jesus said.

Jesus came to seek and to save the lost (Luke 19:10). That was His mission. Mission Accomplished!! The Apostle Paul replies, "The most important thing is that I complete my mission, the work the Lord Jesus gave me, to tell people the Good News about God's grace." (Acts 20:24) Once we realize that God loves us, forgives us and makes us part of His family, St. Peter proclaims, "We can rejoice and give praise, "declaring His excellencies who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light." (1 Peter 2:9). Then, we can truly serve God and others for His building of His kingdom and the glory of His name. As soon as we are "given" the cure from everlasting death, we are free to share its Good News with others, as well. The mission of any Christian Church is to share this Good News... evangelism.

That's a dirty word in many circles. The word, "evangelism"

makes us think of men with “big hair” asking for money on TV. But, evangelism isn’t about big hair, fancy outfits, or slick talk. Evangelism is sharing... sharing the Good News so the lost and dying can be saved for eternal life through Jesus Christ. “Sharing, so we may share the Good News of Christ Jesus.”

Jesus didn’t call His people to be salespeople. He called them to be witnesses and sharers. All He wants us to do is to be His witness to others... letting others know the peace, hope and love that comes from God by grace. “*I once was lost, but now am found; t’was blind, but now I see,*” we sing in that old familiar hymn.

A Gallup survey last year found that 65 million Americans have no church home. Over 3 million people in the Mid-South District have never heard the name of Christ inside a church building. Many people in our communities don’t go to sleep at night knowing they have a Savior. Yet, over 35 million of the Americans with no church home said they would, “go to church, if someone invited them.” Opportunities surround us on every corner. Responsibility meets us at every door. The privilege of sharing Christ with a co-worker, a neighbor or friend walks alongside us on every street.

Is it tough work? Of course. But Paul says, “*Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders. Make the most of every opportunity.*” (Colossians 4:5) Sharing is frightening to witness to people about the Gospel. But, Paul

continues, “*Whatever a person is like, I try to find common grounds with him so that He will let me tell him about Christ, and let Christ save him.*” (I Corinthians 9:22)

It all boils down to this - do we really care? “*God does not want anyone to be lost, but He wants all people to change their hearts and lives.*” (II Peter 3:9) Yet, you and I are entrusted with the solution! This isn’t a message to pin guilt on your shoulders. It’s a message of encouragement to embrace witnessing - YOUR mission, God’s mission. If we care about it, we will share it and shout it. Whatever your gift - reading, praying, visiting or whatever God has equipped you with for His mission, it is meant for serving God.

Church planting is just one way we can collectively catch the attention of a person God places in front of us for the privilege of sharing the Gospel. We can continue planting and re-planting churches

only with the support of the congregations and faithful servants in the Mid-South. “Yeah, but we’ve tried these things before,” is the criticism we’ve heard before. “Tried”? It’s perhaps time for us to engage, equip, and encourage us to really do it. Whether it’s by personal witnessing, or financially supporting our church planting initiatives, we’re about God’s work in the harvest field where He’s placed us. The most engaging prayer - and perhaps the most dramatic - is the prayer that says, “God use me for Your kingdom.” Watch the almighty hand of God equip and supply us in the most incredible ways.

Your servant in Christ,
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola



Camp Restore - New Orleans youth mission trip was (July 22-25) had 49 participants from 6 congregations across the Mid-South District.

Christus Victor Lutheran Church (CVLC) welcomes new members

July has been an exciting month as CVLC was blessed with an adult confirmation. Scott Gloeckner who had taken new member classes, and sat through confirmation class with his son, asked to be confirmed in front of the church (pictured left). On the July 15th CVLC welcomed new members, Tom and Christine Smith (right).



KATIE'S GARDEN

Grace Lutheran Church, located in Murfreesboro, TN, kicked off a community outreach project in the spring of 2018. Named Katie's Garden, it commemorates Katharina Luther's contributions to their community in Wittenberg.

The garden team at Grace grows a variety of vegetables, including zucchini, acorn squash, beans, peppers, cucumbers, and tomatoes. Volunteers from the congregation have been instrumental in donating plants and tending to the garden's needs to include planting, weeding, watering and harvesting the fruits of the soil.

Vegetables are given away to members of the community each Saturday morning. Any vegetables left over from the giveaway go to help members of the congregation, as well as to local needs in the area.



CHURCH PLANTING IN THE SOUTH EAST OF LAKE VICTORIA DIOCESE (SELVD)

Two weeks and 2745 were baptized

By Bob Allen

Two teams of 23 adults from the Mid-South District went to Tanzania in May for mission trips to the Southeast of Lake Victoria diocese (SELVD). Each trip lasted for approximately two weeks. The teams were made up of members from 8 Mid-South congregations and 4 LCMS congregations from other districts. Each team went into remote areas of the diocese where few churches existed and many of the Sukuma people in the area had never heard the name of Jesus. This area is known to be home to over 4,000 witch doctors. The teams used a short presentation to tell the story of Jesus and local people accompanied to translate.

The success of the teams were astounding; during a 2 week period over 2745 men, women and children were baptized. In addition, 7 new sub-congregations were established. Land was purchased by the congregations from funds donated to the trip or raised by mission team members. These funds also were used to purchase motorbikes for the evangelists serving the Ushetu and Itilima districts. The teams were also blessed with the opportunity to work with a number of pastors serving in the SELVD and with five young men currently in the pastor training program in Negezi. They were able to work with us as part of their internship. Another team member, Pastor



Will Miller from Immanuel, Memphis taught at the Makala Training Center, and participated in a symposium featuring witch doctors and people afflicted with albinism who are attacked by the witch doctors because of this affliction.

New church's need help in purchasing materials for a church roof. The members clear the land and make their own bricks for the building. If you would

like to help, please check out the website <http://elct-selvd.org> for stories and pictures of these and other trips.

Many individuals have contacted us about joining next year's trip to Tanzania and possibly Madagascar.

If interested contact the district office or Bob Allen rjallen@prodigy.net or 615-672-7438.

PASTORAL TRAINING IN THE SOUTH EAST OF LAKE VICTORIA DIOCESE (SELVD)

By Bob Allen



Third Annual Theological Symposium of the SELVD was held at the Bishop Emmanuel Makala Training Center (MTC) where all pastors gathered for the symposium

Pastoral training continues in the SELVD as the 3rd group of pastoral candidates came to Negezi training center for the July training classes. This week, Dr. Naomichi Masaki, from Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne (CTSFW), is teaching classes on Christology and the Lord's Supper for the pastoral and deaconess training programs. This was his fourth time teaching in the SELVD. He was also invited to speak at the Third Annual Theological Symposium where all pastors of the SELVD are gathered at the Bishop Emmanuel Makala Training Center (MTC), that was held last week. The pastors and leaders of the SELVD are so proud and appreciative of the relationship they have with the CTSFW and the solid confessions of the Lord as Lutherans. Dr. Masaki said, "They

are consciously convinced of the Book of Concord Lutheranism!"

The first pastors trained at the MTC by professors from Fort Wayne were ordained in 2015 and the second group was ordained in 2017. Dr. Emmanuel Makala, Dr. Daniel Mono, and Rev. Yohana Nzelu have graduated from CTSFW. The training programs at Negezi and Fort Wayne are supported by the Mid-South District, CTSFW, and LCMS. I might add that, Pastor Will Miller from the Mid-South taught the May training at Negezi and later joined the mission team on evangelizing in the SELVD.

Bishop Makala said recently that the main problem of the diocese is how best to cope with the rapid numerical growth. Although the number of pastors in the SELVD has increased from 17 pastors in 2012, to a little more than 60, the number of

new Christians has grown at a much faster pace. This diocese continues to reach the many people in this region who have never heard the Gospel.

It is fascinating to observe what a wonderful thing that the Lord is continuing here. It is also amazing how appreciative the pastors are for the work of the CTSFW and the Mid-South District.



Bishop Makala and Dr Naomichi Masaki

SNAPSHOT OF A CHURCH PLANTER

By Genie Swan



Rev. JD Zischke, Church Planter in the Fayetteville, AR community

Confident without cockiness, self-assured with a measure of humility, Rev. John David Zischke, also known as JD, meets the challenges of church planting in the West Fayetteville, AR, area with poise. Growing up as a Southern Baptist in San Antonio, TX, supported by a single-parent mother who worked four jobs in order to give her children a private (Lutheran) school education, Pastor Zischke was raised in a home where church-going and fellowship were valued and encouraged. As he entered Concordia College at Seward, Nebraska, he was concerned by the fact he was not in communion fellowship with his fellow Lutheran students, which led him to delve into the Confessions and Luther's writings, seeking instruction from his professors at Seward, and eventually being confirmed in the Lutheran faith as a junior at college. While studying to become a DCE, he was re-directed to the pastoral ministry after encouragement from his mentors. He spent his senior year at Seward feverishly studying Greek and Hebrew to prepare for the seminary.

Upon Pastor Zischke's graduation from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, the Mid-South District called him as Missionary-at-Large Church Planter for the Fayetteville Circuit, with the intention of beginning a congregation in West Fayetteville, a quickly growing area which is 80% unchurched. Quickly, JD realized that evangelism efforts that may have worked in his vicarage town of Clio, Michigan, were going to need some re-thinking in West Fayetteville, which is largely suburban. After six-eight months of prayer-walking, learning the ins and outs of the city and its history, meeting city leaders, and sitting down with pastors in the circuit, one-on-one, to get a better sense of life in northwest Arkansas, he became comfortable in a place which was to be his city. With the movement of the Holy Spirit through his efforts, a core group evolved, praying together, building relationships, enjoying a rhythm of studying God's Word and Lutheran theology.

As the group solidified, thoughtsturnedtofundraising in order to provide a place to worship. With the help of

the Mid-South District Office and Paul Reaves, Lutherans from around the neighboring Arkansas cities gathered in May for a Celebration Banquet, raising both interest in the ministry and financial support for Pastor Zischke's church plant: Restoration Lutheran Church. So now that he has done his research, created community with other Lutheran pastors and congregations, and generated momentum and funds, the dream is set to become a reality. With continued prayer and support, Pastor Zischke is eager to see what the Lord has in store for him and his family (wife, Mikaela and three beautiful babies), for West Fayetteville, and for the Lutheran Church in the Mid-South District. May the Lord continue to bless his efforts!

Fayetteville Church Plant Blessed by Many Faithful Supporters



On Sunday, May 20, 2018, nearly 200 people from the Northwest Arkansas area came together at a banquet in support of Restoration Lutheran Church—the new ministry in the Fayetteville area, led by Pastor JD Zischke. After an inspiring line-up of speakers that included Rev. Dr. Dale Meyer, President of Concordia Seminary—St. Louis and Rev. Chris Paavola, Church Planter and Pastor of All Nations Church in University City, MO, attendees were invited to share a financial commitment in support of Restoration Lutheran Church. The response was outstanding, with 81 pledges and gifts received totaling \$217,620! Since the banquet, additional pledges and gifts have been shared, adding another \$10,000 to the total amount raised. On behalf of Pastor Zischke and Restoration

Lutheran Church, we thank God for His abundant blessings made possible through these generous and prayerful supporters. Pastor Zischke is currently pursuing a regular worship space for the core group already gathered for Restoration Lutheran Church. The ministry's simply-stated focus is "introducing Jesus and providing Jesus" in a community where 80,000 people either do not know their Savior, or have abandoned their relationship with Him. Please keep Pastor Zischke and this new ministry in your prayers as Restoration Lutheran Church begins to take root in Fayetteville.

ORDINATION ANNIVERSARIES CELEBRATED



Rev. Ken Haydon - 50th Anniversary

Rev. Robert Herring - 40th Anniversary

On Sunday July 8, Grace Lutheran Church in Holiday Island, AR, celebrated the ordination anniversaries of two pastors. Rev. Ken Haydon celebrated 50 years in the ministry and Rev. Robert Herring celebrated 40 years in the ministry. Shown (L-R) Rev. Herring, President Paavola, and Rev. Haydon.



Rev. Paul Kritsch - 45th Anniversary

On Sunday, June 17, Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Sharps Chapel, TN celebrated the 45th anniversary of Pastor Paul Kritsch's ordination into the Holy Ministry. The congregation provided a special cake for the coffee fellowship hour along with notes expressing their appreciation for his ministry and friendship. Kritsch has served four churches over the years: Christ, Aurora, Ontario; St. Paul, Westport, CT; Redeemer, Westfield, NJ; and now Chapel of the Good Shepherd. "The past four and one-half decades have been filled with many dear people and countless wonderful memories," noted Kritsch. "And now there are even more to come. I never could have done it without my precious wife, Dorothy who has been with me every step of the way."



The Rite of Ordination for Rev. Jeremy McDonald took place at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, on Sunday, July 15, 2018

Rev. McDonald was certified as a Specific Ministry Pastor through the Colloquy Committee for Pastoral Ministry of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

Pictured (Front Row L-R) are President-Emeritus Norm Groteluschen, Rev. Mark Goble, President Roger Paavola, Rev. Jeremy McDonald, Rev. Don Schmidt, Rev. Russell Belisle, Rev. Jim Belles; (Back Row L-R) Rev. Jerry Stobaugh, Rev. Will Miller, Rev. Chuck Neugebauer, Rev. Terry Tieman, and Rev. Dan Hawkins.

CHRIST ACADEMY ATTENDEES



Three young men from the Mid-South District attended Christ Academy at Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, Indiana, this summer.

Shown (L-R) **Evan Barnett** (Grace Lutheran Church, Clarksville, TN), **Seminarian Sawyer Meyers** (Zion Lutheran Church, Avilla, AR), **Caleb Mohr** (St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Conway, AR)

For young men in grades nine to twelve Christ Academy from June 17-30. It is an opportunity to explore the vocation of pastor, learn what it is like to live and learn on campus, and to meet other theologically-minded men their age.

CONVENTION DELEGATES CHOOSE LIFE

At the 20th Regular Convention of the Mid-South District the delegates had the opportunity to adopt three Mission and Ministry Directives for the Synod to consider during the 2019-2022 triennium. Each circuit forum (of pastoral and lay delegates) discussed and submitted recommendations on what is most important for the Synod to emphasize and teach by developing further resources. The entire assembly then voted on the list to determine the top three. Of the eighteen worthy recommendations on the list, the top one chosen was: **Strong Support for Pro-Life Initiatives and Legislation.** (Second and third were: Examining Best Practices in Reaching Millennials and Next Youngest Generation, and Focus on Reconciliation and Unity Within the Body of the LCMS.)

The Mid-South District is for Life. Even more important, the Mid-South District is for boldly proclaiming Life! In a culture of death that is resulting in millions of abortions and a growing number of suicides, the Christians of the Mid-South District LCMS want strong support, not tepid support, for pro-life initiatives and legislation.

This boldness is born out of faith in Christ our Savior and love for neighbor. While the pro-life movement could just be seen as an affirmation of the natural knowledge of the law that is written on the hearts of even unbelievers (Rom. 2:15), and while we may partner with a variety of religious and non-religious groups that want restrictions on abortion, our efforts in promoting the sanctity of human life are done in the hopes of bringing souls

out of captivity to sin and death. We certainly will use our voice to support laws that curb the gross, narcissistic, and violent impulses of man. But our true hope is to give a reason for our support of life, namely, the full life that is given in and through Jesus Christ (Jn. 10:10).

It may be that the Roe v. Wade decision will be overturned, and many children will be preserved. We pray! (As I write this the political world is agitated at the news of a vacancy on the Supreme Court of the United States.) But the government will never be able to deliver any comfort for those who regret their “choice” and their false beliefs. Only God’s people, the Church, have the proclamation of Christ and the means to deliver the forgiveness of sins that He won through his death and resurrection. Therefore, for us, pro-life legislation/laws and pro-life initiatives that hold out the Gospel must go together.

*The dates for
the national Life
Conference are
January 17-19, 2019*

The Mid-South District will continue to inform member congregations about state legislative proposals in Arkansas, Kentucky, and Tennessee. We will boldly use our voice to support what is good in the civil realm, as we did with Amendment 1 in Tennessee. (The 2014 East Region Spring Pastors’ Conference of the Mid-South District unanimously supported Amendment 1 which was written to nullify a state supreme court ruling that found a right to an abortion in the wording of the state constitution.)

Convention Delegates Choose Life, continued

If you become aware of civil legislative proposals on the sanctify of human life, please contact me that I may then inform the District President.

Nationally, we will partner with the Synod's Office of Life Ministry and its new Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty. What may be of special interest is that next year is the Synod's biennial Life Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference is titled *Joy:Fully Alive > Body & Soul* in conjunction with the Synod Convention theme *Joy:Fully Lutheran*. The dates for the national Life Conference are January 17-19, 2019. It would be great to have a "strong" contingent from the Mid-South District since we are for the "strong support" of Life. Please contact me if you have members who are considering attending.

Lastly, as we urge the Synod to create more pro-life initiatives, please make use of the current *Eyes of Life* initiative. It has high production value and may be used to share with others who are willing to listen to real people in their struggles and blessings. *Eyes of Life* is an effort to spread the stories of Christians who see with eyes of life, eyes that recognize God's gift of life, eyes that see life with the lens of God's Word. Find out more at eyesoflife.org.

May the Lord continue to strengthen us that we may continually show "strong support" for Life in the District and Synod to the glory of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Rev. Philip H. Young
District Life Ministry Coordinator
Mid-South District, LCMS

SAVE—the—DATE

September 14 & 15, 2018

CALLING ALL Youth Leaders Ministry Teams

We are excited to invite
youth leaders
-both called and volunteers-
from across the Mid-South
to "ROOT" where we will
relax, connect and
dig deep into God's Word.

ROOT

Relax.Connect.DigDeep

ROOT will be held on Friday, September 14 and Saturday, September 15 at Grace Lutheran Church in Murfreesboro, TN.

"Standing Together in Youth Ministry" is the theme, based on Isaiah 41:10: *Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with My victorious right hand.*

It's a time of reflection, support, encouragement, building community, worship and Bible study, specific resource sharing and preparing for "hot topics."
Registration opens August 6th.



PASTOR BRIAN'S RUN FOR FREEDOM



Pastor Brian Truog is running the Runloco Marathon in Loudon on December 1st to raise funds for the Lutheran Center for Religious Freedom and Bridge City Community Church. If you are interested in supporting one or both of these ministries, please use the pledge form below or the [district's website](#).

You can find out more about these ministries at:

www.facebook.com/LCRLFREEDOM or

www.bridgecitycommunity.com

You can follow my progress at:

www.facebook.com/Pastor-Brians-Run-for-Freedom-863843893630886/



Pastor Brian's Run For Freedom Pledge Form

Name: _____

Charity: (Circle One)

Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty or Bridge City Community

I pledge \$_____ per mile of running in training and the actual marathon. (max. 500 miles)

I pledge \$_____ as a bonus for finishing the marathon.

I pledge \$_____ as a bonus for finishing in under 5 hours.

I pledge \$_____ as a flat donation.

Thank you for your support!

Pledge forms and donations can be sent to: Christ our Savior Lutheran Church
260 Wade Road West
Loudon, TN, 37774

Donations can also be sent directly to:
Bridge City Community Church Or The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
3300 Brannon Ave. Campaigns and Special Initiatives
Chattanooga, TN 37407 1333 S. Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, MO 63122

**On the memo line of the check or in an accompanying note, write "LCRL" or "Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty."*

MID-SOUTH PASTOR HOSTING EUROPEAN TOUR

Rev. Stewart Marshall of Trinity Lutheran Church (Pine Bluff, AR) is hosting a tour in 2020 to see the historic passion play of Oberammergau, as well as the splendor of several eastern European cities. It is a 12-day tour scheduled from September 21-October 2, with departure from Memphis. The tour is all inclusive except for one meal each day. For a complete itinerary please use the link below to see a day by day description of the complete tour:

<http://www.ittworld.com/tours/imperial-splendor-including-oberammergau/>

A tour description and invitation from Pastor Marshall is also provided. For more information, please contact Pastor Marshall at 870-592-9404 or trinityowr@gmail.com.

Register online

RegisterNow.ittworld.com

Tour Code: Marshall20

2018 NATIONAL RSTM CONFERENCE

The 2018 National Rural & Small Town Mission Conference will be held Nov. 8-10 in Kansas City, Mo., at the Hilton Kansas City Airport.

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission hopes you'll join us by registering now and reserving your spot! **And did you know you can earn Continuing Education credits by attending the 2018 National RSTM Conference?**

The conference will address blessings and challenges facing rural and small town congregations today. Congregations will be encouraged in becoming healthy churches, eager to bear witness for Christ and able to show mercy to those in need in communities and develop a robust life together with fellow members. This conference is meant for anyone living, serving or interested in rural or small-town areas, with topics and resources specifically suited for this unique mission field.

Online Registration, lodging and more information are available at lcms.org/rstm/conference.

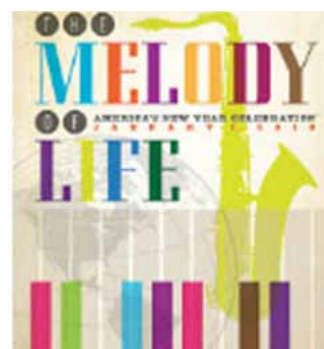
PETAL PUSHER® TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE

The 2019 Tournament of Roses Parade theme is The Melody of Life and the Lutheran Hour Ministries float is entitled: Joy to the World, the Lord is Come!

This hymn proclaims the greatest of life's melodies, the sweet song of salvation – victory over sin, death, and the evil one - and the eternal reign of Christ.

For float decorating information, watch here: <http://volunteer.petalpushers.org>

CHANGE THEIR WORLD.
CHANGE YOURS. THIS
CHANGES EVERYTHING.



PRAYER SUMMARY, JULY 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 July 2018.

PRAYER CONCERNS

MR. BOB ASLINGER (Dayton, TN)
REV. PETER AVE-LALLEMANT (Fairfield Bay, AR)
MS. SARA FEURESTEIN (daughter of Rev. Donley Hesse, Mena, AR)
MR. STEPHEN GREGOR (Mena, AR)
REV. BRUCE HANSON (Blytheville, AR)
MRS. NANCY HERD (wife of Rev. Cliff Herd, EM, Chattanooga, TN)
REV. DONLEY HESSE (Emeritus, Mena, AR)
MRS. VALERIA MARCH (mother-in-law of Rev. John Gierke, Conway, AR)
REV. RICHARD MAYER (Pea Ridge, AR)
MR. RICHARD MEYER (Bella Vista, AR)
REV. DAVID RUBKE (Tullahoma, TN)
REV. ERIC AND KATIE RUDSENSKE (Concordia Lutheran Church, Jackson, TN)
REV. MERLIN SEPMAYER (Crossville, TN)
MRS. STEPHANIE TEWS (daughter-in-law of Rev. David Tews, Shepherd of the Hills, Horseshoe Bend, AR)
MRS. SUE ANN TOOPES (wife of Rev. Andy Toopes, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY)
MS. AMY WALTERS (sister of Julie Tyler, Mid-South District Office)
MRS. JEANNETTE ZIRBEL (wife of Rev. Jason Zirbel, Grace Lutheran Church, Greenwood, AR)
THE MOTHER OF MS. MICHELE LAYNE (ECE Director, St. John's, Fayetteville, AR)

We give thanks and praise for the birth of Ephraim Luke Greer (grandson of Rev. Carl and Gwen Wenck, Murfreesboro, TN) born on Tuesday, June 26, 2018.

Our deepest sympathy to Rev. Andrew Brondos (Allen, TX) and family as they mourn the loss of his wife, Elizabeth.

CALL UPDATE ORDAINED MINISTERS

PENDING: Trinity Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN, has issued a call to **Rev. Craig Boehlke (Slidell, LA) to serve as Pastor.**

IN THE CALLING PROCESS – CONGREGATIONS
Bella Vista Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR – Associate Pastor
Grace Celebration Lutheran Church, Cordova, TN – Pastor
Trinity Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN – Pastor
Mid-South District – Executive Director for Missions and Ministry

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

IN THE CALLING PROCESS – FOR COMMISSIONED MINISTERS
Avilla Christian Academy, Alexander, AR – Assistant Early Childhood Director and Director of Parish Music
Christ Lutheran Church and School, Little Rock, AR – Science Teacher/Athletic Director
First Lutheran Church and School, Knoxville, TN – Principal
Immanuel Lutheran Church and School, Memphis, TN – Principal

CONGREGATIONAL MISSION COMMITMENTS

Mission Commitment Receipts as of 06/30/18 (6 Months)

Anticipated Amount (50% of budget)	\$790,706
Actual Receipts.....	757,223
Over (under) anticipated amount	(\$33,483)

Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (6 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World Missions.....	\$214,667
Allocated to Tanzania	12,500
Retained for District Mission/Ministry Support (70% of receipts)	530,056
Total Receipts.....	\$757,223

Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (6 Months)

Actual Receipts as of 06/30/18	\$757,223
Actual Receipts as of 06/30/17	\$799,191
Over (under) prior year receipts	(\$41,968)



Mid-South District, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Staff

Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, *President*

Angela Fowler, *Executive Director for Business & Finance*

Paul Reaves, *Executive Director for Development & Executive Director for LCEF Vice President*

Allen Piepenbrink, *District Education Executive for Education and Preschools*

Alison Hawkins, *Administrative Assistant to the District President*

Rena McElwain, *Communications & Marketing Specialist*

Carolyn Metzger, *Finance Assistant*

Julie Tyler, *Administrative Assistant for Missions and Education*

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FAX: 901.373.4826

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