

Our district has been richly blessed this year through the work and dedication of everyone's ministries.

Pastors, educators, church workers, volunteers and those behind the scenes who are not mentioned, each come together, daily, to show the love of Christ to those around us.

May everyone have a blessed Christmas in Christ Jesus.

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



God in Flesh made Manifest

One year for my birthday, Pat got me the 8-volume collection of the works of Martin Chemnitz. Sound exciting? Well, maybe not! But one of the books is an 800-page work called, *The Two Natures of Christ*. It's Chemnitz's response to the efforts of people around the time of the Reformation who tried to downgrade the Person of Christ. The heresy suggested that, as a Man, Christ Jesus was eternally doomed to be a "localized" human body; that is, since Jesus took on human flesh, He couldn't retain all the attributes of God. For example,

because Jesus ascended into heaven after His Resurrection from the dead, they suggest He was "stuck" here and couldn't exist in His omnipresence as He did prior to the Incarnation. It's the same explanation (or excuse) for those who suggested that the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist was (at least to them) impossible. Logically, they would posit, Christ's real presence in the Lord's Supper is impossible. But, for us Christians, God in Christ, it's a divine reality and mystery beyond human logic.

Our Christian friends who deny Christ's true presence in the Divine Supper, of course, may have logic on their side, as did the skeptics in Capernaum who asked, "How can this Man give us His flesh to eat?" But, Jesus declared, "This food is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world." *The doubters of Christ's Word were prevalent back then and are in abundance even today. But, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of His blood, you have no life in you. Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has*

eternal life and I will raise him up on the Last Day. For My flesh is real food and My blood is real drink."

This encounter between logic and a divine mystery hit its apex when St John recorded these words: *"On hearing this, many of His disciples said, 'This is a hard saying. Who can accept it?' Aware that His disciples were grumbling about this, Jesus said to them, 'Does this offend you? Then from this time many of His followers turned back and no longer followed Him."* Do we understand HOW Jesus gives His body and blood to eat and drink? No. But, do we understand WHY He gives us His body and blood in communion? Jesus tells us why: *"Whoever eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life and I will raise him up on the Last Day."*

Why is this Supper so important to us? And what does it have to do with Christmas? It's because this is precisely the point at which true Biblical Christianity departs from false teachings and all man-made religions. The most profoundly alarming verse in all of Scripture appears in the Gospel of St John 6:66 - *"Then from this time many of His followers turned back and no longer followed Him."* Does he imply that if one can't fully embrace Christ and all He says as divine truth, that they no longer follow Him... completely... and by faith?

We can't explain how Jesus gives us His true body and blood in the Lord's Supper. But we do understand why: That we may have eternal life. We believe Jesus Christ alone gives us forgiveness of sins that brings us to life eternal, by God's grace alone that we receive by faith alone, as revealed in His Word alone. What part of His Word is untrue? None of it! What part can we throw away because it doesn't jibe with logic? None of it! Can we really follow Him if we throw away some of the things He said just because we can't explain HOW He does them? No!

So, what does this question have to do with Christmas? Plenty! From the very beginning of Christianity, there were skeptics about what Jesus said in John 6. It became a major sticking point between Martin Luther and others within the

Reformation. But, as we dig deep into the theology of Christmas – the Word Incarnate – we find evidence of the horrible error and departures of these skeptics from Biblical doctrine. John's Gospel begins with the words: *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him, all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made. In Him was life, and that life was the Light of men. The Light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it."*

Christ's birth is the fulfillment of all Old Testament prophecies. Jesus is the Word: *"The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and only who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."* How did that happen? We don't know HOW. WHY did this happen? Scripture answers that too: *In Him was life, and that life was the Light of men.* There is no life outside of Jesus Christ. WHEN did all this happen? From before the very beginning, before time and creation, God foreknew He'd bring life and salvation to this world. The pre-incarnate Christ existed before creation. But, we also know He appeared many times before God's people. Moses encountered Him in a burning bush. He appeared to the Israelites as a pillar of smoke by day and a pillar of fire by night in Exodus. He appeared to Abraham to bless him with the announcement of the birth of Isaac. He gave living water to the Israelites from a solid rock along their Exodus; and that rock was Christ.

These are a few of the manifestations – *Shekinah* – of the pre-Incarnate Christ. But, what does these have to do with Christmas? When did the Word become flesh incarnate? It wasn't in fire, smoke, a Traveler, or a Rock. When Almighty God humbled Himself to assume human flesh, He fulfilled the prophecies of the coming Messiah to be our Savior. We boldly confess that truth in our Christian Creeds; *"I believe...in one Lord, Jesus Christ, begotten of the Father before all worlds... **begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father,** by whom all things were made, who for us men and*

for our salvation *came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made Man...*" The Apostolic Creed succinctly says, "I believe... in Jesus Christ...who **was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary...**"

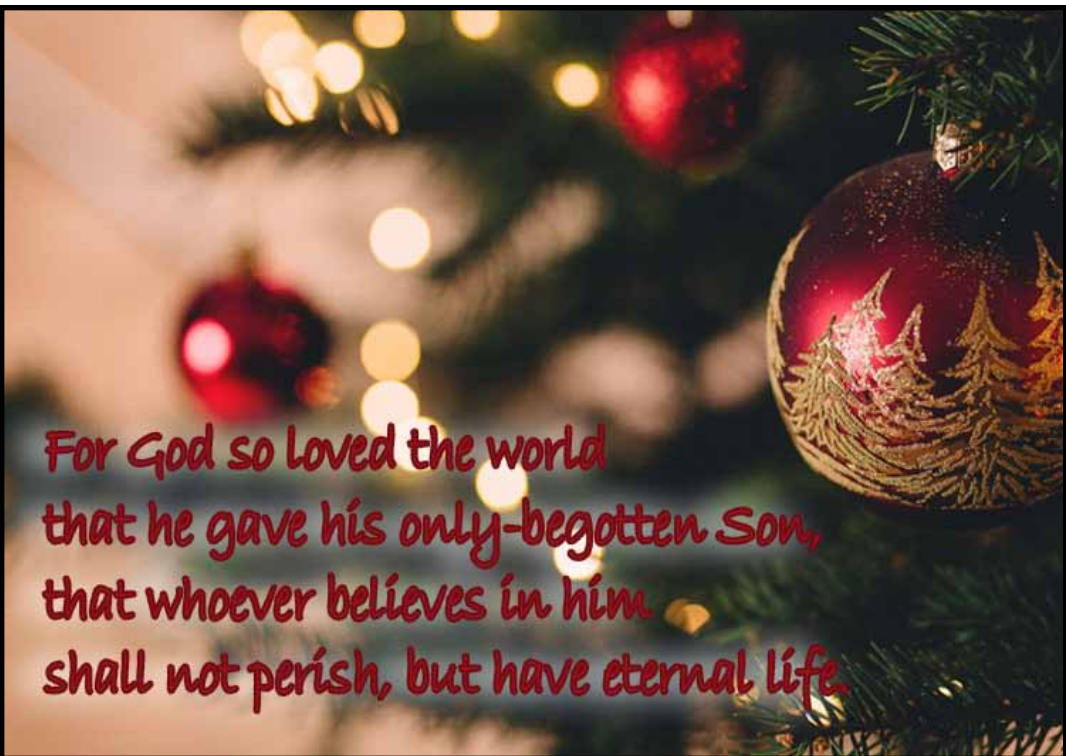
WHEN did the eternal Christ become Man? When He Himself assumed human flesh – (the Incarnation) – simply meaning to put on human flesh. That happened precisely at the instant of His conception by the Holy Spirit. God was Himself - a tiny living incarnation within the womb of His human mother, Mary. His humiliation laid aside His almighty powers in order to become our Savior. Yet, He was, is, and always will be fully Almighty and eternal God. If this Divine reality and mystery weren't true, there'd be a point in time where the Christ was NOT God. If He wasn't fully God, or was made into God at a later time, He would've been mere un-divine humanity - an inheritor of original sin by a human birth. And we'd be doomed because no perfect life would be yet offered as an atonement for our sins.

God's Word brings us by His divine omnipresence to the foot of the cross where our many sins were washed away. His Word brings us to the empty tomb to witness the Resurrection of God in flesh made alive, signaling the justification of all human flesh joined together in Christ Jesus by His means of grace, where His Word brings us back to our Baptismal covenant, to enjoin us in Christ's righteousness. His Word brings us to receive the living Christ in the Supper, that we may receive the forgiveness of sins and strengthening of our faith toward life everlasting. After hearing Jesus say His flesh is real food and His blood is real drink, and people began walking away, He asked His disciples, "Do you want to

leave Me too?" Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord to whom shall we go? You have the Words of Eternal life. We believe and know that You are the Holy One of God."

Christmas blows away all reason and human logic and lets us rest in the divine mystery of God's grace. Christmas brings us a real God who still comes to us by real means – bread, wine, water and the Word, and pronouncement of God's absolute forgiveness of our sins for the sake of Jesus our Christ. St John concludes, "No one has ever seen God; the only God, who is at the Father's side, He has made Him, our God, known to us through Christ." May He grant you a blessed Christmas to you and yours.

Your servant in Christ – God Incarnate
Rev Dr Roger Paavola



*For God so loved the world
that he gave his only-begotten Son,
that whoever believes in him
shall not perish, but have eternal life.*

Celebrate 150 years of First in Little Rock

You're invited to share the joy and thanksgiving on Sunday, Dec. 9, as First, Little Rock, observes its 150th anniversary. The celebration begins at 3 p.m., with guest Rev. Dr. Gregory P. Seltz leading a special worship service. A reception will follow.

Seltz serves as executive director of the Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C., which was established in 2017. He previously had served as speaker for The Lutheran Hour since 2011.

The members hope you will join them in celebrating 150 years of God's Grace at First Lutheran Church. For more information, contact First at 501-372-1023 or

1stlutheran@att.net.



NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK



Get Ready to Highlight Your School in January's Encourager

With National Lutheran Schools Week coming up on January 27- February 2, 2019, it's a perfect time to highlight all the great things happening in our Lutheran schools across the Mid-South District.

"Real. Present. God." is the theme for the 2019 National Lutheran Schools Week celebration. The associated scripture verse is Psalm 46 and schools are encouraged to pick a portion of the Psalm which applies specifically to their school!

If you have news to share about your school in the January issue, please be prepared to submit to the Encourager before December 15 of this year. Simply email submissions to webmaster@mid-southlcms.com and note "for JANUARY Encourager" in your subject line.



The Importance of Accreditation

Every five years, Lutheran high schools, elementary schools, and early childhood centers across the United States undergo the process of accreditation through our synods National Lutheran School Accreditation teams. The process is time consuming and takes a strong commitment by the principal or director and the committee that helps with gathering the needed information. So, what is the value and effectiveness of such a process?

As I think about education these days, I support those who have the vision of educating the whole child. Yes, I truly believe we need more of God in our lives, but education is more than just religion. I pray that each child would come to school healthy and learn about practices that would promote healthy lifestyles. I pray that every child would attend school in a safe environment both physically and emotionally (bully free zones). I pray that every child is actively engaged in learning and has a strong connection to the school and the community at large. I pray that every student has the support of a well-qualified individual who values personalized learning. I pray that every child is challenged to do his or her best, to be prepared for college, trade school, or whatever is best for their success.

It is with those thoughts in mind that I want to congratulate the schools in our district that have gone through the accreditation process in the past or are considering the process in the future. The accreditation process, though it may seem difficult, does a great job in pointing out the school's strengths and weaknesses. Strengths should be celebrated and weaknesses should show the way to becoming better at educating the whole child.

In His Service
Allen Piepenbrink
Mid-South Education Executive

Mid-Winter Retreat for Sr. High Youth

February 22-24, 2019
Fall Creek Falls

Spread the word about the 2019 Mid-Winter Retreat for Sr. High Youth, coming up February 22-24 at beautiful Fall Creek Falls in Tennessee. Youth leaders from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Nashville and Grace Lutheran Church in Knoxville are joining forces to reach out to all surrounding congregations within the Mid-South District-and they have an exciting weekend planned for all who attend!

The cost to participate in the retreat is \$50, which covers lodging, food and retreat materials. DCEs and youth leaders interested in signing their group up are asked to use the [REGISTRATION LINK](#) to provide some general information for planning purposes. For complete details on the Mid-Winter Retreat, please read the letter from Pastor Christensen, lead retreat coordinator. Watch for more on the Mid-Winter Retreat to be shared on the District website.



Sr. High LinkT Retreat — February 2019



Attention all Senior High Youth!

Come out and enjoy a great weekend of worship, fellowship and a servant project.

February 15-17, 2019

at the Lutheran Camp at Petit Jean Mountain – Arkansas

Theme Verse: John 10:14-15 *"I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep."*

Registration Info

- Early bird price: \$105/person
- **Early bird deadline: January 15.** To receive the early bird price your church's registration form and a \$40/person nonrefundable deposit must be postmarked by January 15.
- Regular price: \$130/person. Any registrations postmarked after January 15 will be billed at the regular rate.
- Make all checks payable to Arkansas Lutheran Youth and mail to: Our Savior Lutheran Church, Attn: Paul Easterday, 301 S. Pine St., Cabot AR 72023
- Any specific questions, substitutions, cancellations or requests can be directed to Paul Easterday at 248-613-9172 or pauleasterday@gmail.com

Details

- Website: www.linktyouth.com. Check it out for paperwork downloads, pictures from previous events, digital content and more.
- Registration check-in will be Friday evening 8:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. in the Cafeteria building. The program begins at 9 p.m. Friday and ends on Sunday at 2:00 p.m.
- Each congregation is to provide their own counselors for their youth. Our ratio is one adult 21 years of age or older for every 6 youth. If your church is bringing both male and female participants, you must have both a male and female counselor, even if your total group number is less than 6 youth. If your church is having trouble meeting this requirement, please contact Paul (pauleasterday@gmail.com) ASAP.
- All participants must register as a part of a church group.
- Participants are to bring: a Bible, sleeping bag, pillow, towel, toiletries, warm clothes, flashlight, a big smile and a readiness to make friends and have fun!
- Please be prepared for the weather this time of year. Outdoor activities are planned.
- As part of the LinkT Retreat experience, each group will be participating in a service project. There will be multiple projects to choose from, some on site at camp and some off site. Please make your group aware so they can bring necessary clothing and be ready to make a project choice upon arrival at camp.
- A medical release and district policy form is enclosed. Please copy and have both forms completed for each participant. These must be brought with you at the time of registration at the Lutheran Camp. **DO NOT MAIL!**
- Lodging is bunk house style with bathrooms and showers in each cabin.
- There will be free time on Saturday afternoon with the option to either participate in pre-planned activities led by retreat staff or to enjoy time on your own!
- Worship will be held on Sunday morning at 10:15am and will include communion. Parents are welcome and encouraged to join us!

Ministry Partners Help the Mid-South District Do MORE

During this time of thanksgiving, celebration and joy, the Mid-South District humbly asks you to help us do more for our ministries by sharing a financial gift. A faithful donor will be matching the first \$25,000 received before the end of 2018, so please give generously!

The Mid-South District is blessed to have the opportunity to engage in work that positively impacts LCMS ministries and workers across Arkansas, Tennessee and southwestern Kentucky. From church planting to encouraging individual evangelism, and from student financial aid for future church workers to self-assessment tools for congregations, the Mid-South District continually serves and empowers ministries as they seek to reach more hearts with the love of Christ. It is rewarding work, strengthened by the generous support of many ministry partners—people just like you.

Gifts from individuals help the Mid-South District to serve, support and encourage our existing churches and schools and enable us to start new ministries, reaching even more people with the Gospel. During this time of thanksgiving, celebration and

joy, the Mid-South District humbly asks you to help us do more for our ministries by sharing a financial gift. A faithful donor will be matching the first \$25,000 received before the end of 2018, so please give generously! We are grateful for the prayers and support of ministry partners like you. Together, we can do more for ministry in the Mid-South District!

Ways to Give

To take advantage of the generous “matching” opportunity, please share your gift to the Mid-South District by December 31, 2018. You may share your gift [ONLINE](#) simply designate the amount in the IMPACT box. Gifts can also be mailed to the District Office (1675 Wynne Road / Cordova TN 38016), with IMPACT noted on the memo line.



Lutheran World Relief CARE-VAN 2018



At this year's Lutheran World Relief CARE-VAN ingathering the Mid-South District had seven drop sites Nov. 2nd – 3rd collecting handmade quilts, school kits, personal care kits, baby care kits, fabric kits and boxes of soap. Our drop sites included Christus Victor, Knoxville, TN.; Cross of Christ, Chattanooga, TN.; Emmanuel, Hermitage, TN.; Immanuel, Memphis, TN.; First, Fort Smith, AR.; Grace, Little Rock, AR.; and Salem, Springdale, AR.

At the time of this report (11/15/2018), the top four quilt-producing congregations that dropped off their work at an LWR CARE-VAN ingathering site were Cross of Christ, Chattanooga, TN (111 quilts), Faith, Hot Springs Village, AR (103 quilts), First, Chattanooga, TN (100 quilts) and St. Paul, Wartburg, TN (100 quilts). A total of 1,096 quilts were donated by our Mid-South District churches.

To date we had 37 congregations participate (3 ELCA), collecting over \$3,081 for shipping costs. We also collected 928 personal care kits, 95 fabric kits, 727 school kits, 93 baby care kits and 29 boxes of soap. The CARE-VAN loaded up with 414 boxes (weighing approximately 8,564 pounds!) of offerings from District congregations for Lutheran World Relief. Way to go Mid-South District!

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

Julie Tyler
Mid-South District CARE-VAN Coordinator

Each One, Reach One Event

December 8, 2018

Attention congregations in the Mena, AR area: an Each One, Reach One event will be hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church on Saturday, December 8 from 10:00 a.m.-noon.

The event will highlight practical ways that your congregation members can share their faith in the community. Please watch for details on this event in the coming weeks.



Congregational Mission Commitments

Mission Commitment Receipts as of 10/31/18 (10 Months)

Anticipated Amount (75% of budget) ...	\$1,317,843
Actual Receipts	<u>1,255,755</u>
Over (under) anticipated amount.....	(\$62,088)

Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (10 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World Missions	\$355,893
Allocated to Tanzania	20,833
Retained for District Mission/Ministry Support (70% of receipts).....	<u>879,029</u>
Total Receipts	\$1,255,755

Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (10 Months)

Actual Receipts as of 10/31/18	\$1,255,755
Actual Receipts as of 10/31/17	<u>\$1,266,192</u>
Over (under) prior year receipts	(\$10,437)

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40-MONTH NOTE AT 4%

Leading the Way to 40 More Years



BENEFITS AND FEATURES

- 4% fixed rate
- \$500 minimum to open
- 40-month term note
- \$40,000 maximum per note
- Limit one per tax ID
- New money only

Students play on the playground with their teacher at Our Savior Lutheran Preschool in St. Charles, Mo. Our Savior is renovating their Early Childhood Center with an LCEF loan.

Your investments with LCEF help make LCMS ministry happen.

Over the last 40 years, our investors have made it possible for Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to support the work of tens of thousands of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod individuals and ministries through loans and ministry support services.

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund, you'll join over 60,000 investors who have discovered the joy of helping and supporting ministry work.

To meet future loan demand and help support growing ministry opportunities, we need to raise an additional \$100 million. Which is why we invite you to a special, **limited-time** investment opportunity: our 40-month 40th anniversary note at 4%.

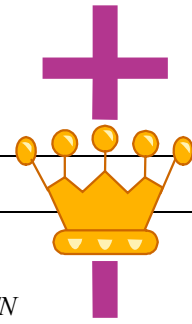
Visit lcef.org/40month or call
800-843-5233 to learn more.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

THE MID-SOUTH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH--MISSOURI SYNOD



Ordained Ministers Celebrating Anniversaries in 2018

60 Years

Rev. Henry Behling (EM)
Hot Springs, AR

55 Years

Rev. William Couch (EM)
Knoxville, TN

50 Years

Rev. Kenneth Haydon (EM)

Eureka Springs, AR

Rev. Arthur Kaufmann (EM)

Bristol, TN

Rev. Stephen Skov (EM)

Rockwood TN

Rev. David Tews

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church,

Horseshoe Bend, AR

45 Years

Rev. Barry Hildebrandt

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church,

Chattanooga, TN

Rev. Paul Kritsch

Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church,

Sharps Chapel, TN

40 Years

Rev. Johnny Graham

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Brinkley, AR

Zion Lutheran Church, Ulm, AR

Rev. Gene Henke (EM)

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,

White House, TN

Rev. Robert Herring

Grace Lutheran Church, Holiday Island, AR

35 Years

Rev. Thom Lakso

Celebration Lutheran Church, Seymour, TN

Rev. Charles Neugebauer

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Rev. Robert Pfaff (EM)

Spring City, TN

Rev. Robert Seaton

First Lutheran Church, Cleveland, TN

Rev. Larry Seiferth (EM)

North Little Rock, AR

Rev. Terry Tieman

Cordova, TN

Rev. Andrew Toopes

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY

Rev. Brian Truog

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Loudon, TN

30 Years

Rev. Russell Belisle

Cross of Calvary, Memphis, TN

Rev. Mark Krause

Salem Lutheran Ministries, Springdale, AR

Rev. Randy Loux

Clarksville, TN

Rev. Steven Teske

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Alexander, AR

Rev. William Wagner

Trinity Lutheran Church, Columbia, TN

20 Years

Rev. Robert Harbin

Faith Lutheran Church, Collierville, TN

Rev. Philip Young

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Nashville, TN

15 Years

Rev. Paul Hass

Bella Vista Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR

Rev. Shawn Hunze

Union City, TN

10 Years

Rev. Shawn Found

Little Rock, AR

Rev. Brandon Martin

Salem Lutheran Ministries, Springdale, AR

Rev. Theodore McMinn

Shepherd of the Hills, McMinnville, TN

Rev. William Miller

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Rev. Aaron Neugebauer

St. John Lutheran Church, Lape, AR

Rev. Gregory Prauner

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN

Rev. Mark Rhoads

Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, Loudon, TN

Rev. Gordon Smith

Christ of the Cumberland, Harrogate, TN

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Morristown, TN

Rev. Jason Zirbel

Grace Lutheran Church, Greenwood, AR

5 Years

Rev. David Graves

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Wartburg, TN

Rev. Joseph Jacks

St. Philip Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN

Rev. David Mohr

St. Matthew Lutheran Church, Conway, AR

Rev. Clayton Sellers

Faith Lutheran Church, Collierville, TN

Rev. Alan Thoe

Grace Lutheran Church, Murfreesboro, TN

Well done good and faithful servants!

Prayer Summary, November 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 November 2018.

PRAYER CONCERNS

MRS. SUSAN ELSEROAD (wife of Rev. Richard Elseroad, Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN)

REV. NORM GROTELUSCHEN (Germantown, TN, MDS President – Emeritus)

MRS. ALISON HAWKINS (Mid-South District Office)

MS. MICHELE LAYNE (ECE Director, St. John's, Fayetteville, AR)

REV. RICHARD MAYER (Pea Ridge, AR)

MR. RICHARD MEYER (Bella Vista, AR)

MR. DAVID OESCH (Jackson, TN)

REV. DAVID RUBKE (Tulahoma, TN)

REV. MERLIN SEPMAYER (Crossville, TN)

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)

THE MOTHER OF MS. MICHELE LAYNE (ECE Director, St. John's, Fayetteville, AR)

Our deepest sympathies to:

Our deepest sympathies go to Mrs. LaDonna Lyon and her family (EC Director, TLC Childcare, Columbia, TN) at the loss of her husband's sister on October 22nd and her brother on October 29th.

Mr. Reid Otto and his family (Principal, Heavenly Host Lutheran School, Cookeville, TN) at the loss of his wife, on October 22nd.

Our hearts go out to **Pastor Eric and Katie Rudsenske** and at the tragic loss of their newborn son, Lazarus. May our God of Grace and peace cover them in their grief with His divine comfort.

CALL UPDATE

ORDAINED MINISTERS

ACCEPTED: **Rev. William Miller, Senior Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN** accepted the call to serve as Senior Pastor at Faith Lutheran Church & School, Lincoln, NE.

PENDING: **Rev. Randy Loux, Military Chaplain of the LCMS Board for Mission Services**, has been issued a call to serve as Pastor of Waikoloa Lutheran Church, Waikoloa Village, HI.

Rev. Reed Shoaff, Sole Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, London, AR, has been issued a call to serve as Pastor at Salem Lutheran Church in Taylorsville, North Carolina.

DECLINED: **Rev. Johnny Graham, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Ulm, AR and Our Savior Lutheran Church, Brinkley, AR** has returned the call to serve as Pastor at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Horseshoe Bend, AR.

Rev. Reed Shoaff, Sole Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, London, AR, has returned the call to serve as Pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, San Benito, TX.

Rev. William Miller, Senior Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN has returned the call to serve as Pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church, Enid, OK.

IN THE CALLING PROCESS – CONGREGATIONS

Bella Vista Lutheran Church, Bella Vista, AR – Associate Pastor

Trinity Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN – Pastor
Mid-South District – Executive Director for Missions and Ministry

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, *Executive Assistant to the District President*

Renae McElwain, *Communications & Marketing Specialist*

Carolyn Metzger, *Finance Assistant*

Julie Tyler, *Administrative Assistant for Missions and Education*

Contact the Mid-South District

1675 Wynne Road

Cordova, TN 38016

PHONE: 866.373.1343 / 901.373.1343

FAX: 901.373.4826

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ON THE WEB - "mid-southlcms.org"

ON FACEBOOK - "Mid-South-LCMS"

ON TWITTER - "@midsouthLCMS"

Contribute

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 **December 14, 2018** to Rhonda, webmaster@mid-southlcms.com

