

Encourager

Mid-South District LCMS | June 2019

June's Focus: Leadership

This month, we celebrate the leaders of ministry across the Mid-South District. We give thanks for those celebrating great milestones in their service and welcome those who are just beginning their ministry journey.

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



In an article from *The Anglican Digest* (April 2001), there's a funny parody on First Century Church consultants. It goes like this, "A recent archaeological dig in Israel unearthed this rather interesting papyrus:

"To: Jesus Bar Joseph,
123 The Carpenter's Arms
Nazareth Village, Galilee

From: The Ebenezer Management
Consultants, Jerusalem

Dear Sir:

Thank you for submitting the resumes of the twelve men you have picked for management positions in your new organization. We have run the results of your evaluation of these men through our computer and

have also reviewed the results with our psychologist and our vocational-aptitude consultant. It is the staff's opinion that most of your nominees are lacking in the basic background, education, and vocational aptitude for the type of enterprise you are undertaking. They do not have the team concept.

We would recommend that you continue searching for persons of experience in managerial ability and proven capability. Simon Peter is emotionally unstable, outspoken, and given to fits of temper. Andrew and Philip have absolutely no leadership qualities. The two brothers, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, place personal interest above company loyalty. Thomas demonstrates a rather unsettling questioning attitude that would tend to undermine morale. We feel it is our duty to tell you that Matthew and his brother James the son of Alphaeus have both left the tax collecting industry and have both been blacklisted by the Greater Jerusalem Chamber of Commerce. Thaddeus and Nathanael definitely have radical leanings as does Simon the Zealot.

One of the candidates, however, shows great potential. He is a man of ability and resourcefulness, meets people well, has a keen business mind, and has contacts in high places. We recommend Judas Iscariot as your finance director and right-hand man. We wish you every success in your new venture.

Sincerely Yours,
The Ebenezer Management Consultants.”

Leaders are not always as apparent as that which first meets the eye. The consultants maybe thought Judas was a good leader, but history tells us otherwise. What would it take to get elected President of the United States? What’s the most important “thing” needed to attain that position? It’s not speaking skills or leadership qualities - it’s money. Without money to advertise, a person wouldn’t be able to tell the voters who they are and what they stand for. The importance of money was demonstrated in the last national elections. In just one US Senate seat, the two candidates for Senate from South Dakota spent \$26.3 million! That’s more than \$50 spent for each one of the South Dakota’s 502,000 registered voters. When it comes to attaining a temporal leadership office, you need money.

How much does it take to attain heaven? Money? No. Morality? No. Jesus taught that we receive eternal life when we wear the righteousness won for us by God’s grace. In the second letter recorded in the book of Revelation, the church in Smyrna was noted for its prosperity. Its citizens were especially proud of the public buildings that crowned their city’s landscape, because from the sea, Smyrna looked like it had a

crown. Smyrna prosperity wasn’t something that Christians enjoyed however. Yet, St. John wrote God’s Word to them to know they wore an unseen crown. Jesus said: *“I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich!”* (Revelation 2:9)

What was this unseen crown the Christians of Smyrna wore, despite their poverty? Timothy Dudley-Smith wrote, *“Christ be my Leader by night as by day. Safe through the darkness, for He is the way. Gladly I follow, my future His care. Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.”* (LSB 861) It was the crown of grace given by God – the crown that assured them their sins were forgiven, giving peace from a guilty conscience. It was God’s guarantee for eternal life – a life free from fear, sorrow, ridicule, sickness, and death. This was a crown that no worldly wealth could buy.

What had the Christians of Smyrna done to attain this crown? Nothing. The crown was given to them by God – a crown of grace. The Smyrna Christians were rich because Christ made them rich. He did that by taking their places under God’s wrath against sin, just as St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *“For you know the grace of*



our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich” (II Corinthians. 8:9). Jesus gave us His riches in the joyous exchange - on the cross where He suffered the heavenly rejection and punishment in order to give us His divine righteousness. But Jesus’ death didn’t make us rich. It’s His life He gave us. Think about it this way: If I owe a million dollars, and someone paid my debt, I’d thankfully be debt-free. But, I wouldn’t be rich. But, if the same person who paid my debt gave me another million dollars, then, I’d be rich – at least by worldly standards. But,

that's what Christ did that when He paid for our sin and gave us credit for His life without sin. In God's eyes, we are rich because we are wrapped in the perfect righteousness of Christ through His means of grace.

Do we wear this crown of grace? Jesus lived and died, and rose to life again for all. He died to become our Leader through this pilgrimage to life everlasting. He died for the sins of all the world, not just for those who believe in Him (II Peter 2:1). Not everyone, however, appreciates or accepts what God freely offers or what Christ has done to save us. Instead, boasting in their own "goodness," their "crown of glory" is no better than Burger King's cardboard crown. Their crowns of "good" works won't lead to the crown of life offered only through Christ.

The real crown of righteousness comes from the real King, our Lord Jesus, who suffered Hell's pains on the cross and declared His victory in exaltation giving life to everyone joined together with Him through God's means of grace. That's leadership! But, it's that crown of grace that is not an easy crown to wear. The Smyrna Christians heard Jesus say, *"I know the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days"* (Revelation 2:9b -10a). Just as Christ wore the humiliation and pain of a real crown of thorns, the crown of grace will likely have thorns as long as we live in this world. While the Smyrna Christians were ridiculed and jailed for their faith, they withstood those thorns for the glory of God's promise. Jesus knows what it takes to be a Christian leader – more so than we're going through. Jesus experienced it all Himself, bear a crown of thorns in mockery of Him, plunged into his skull by Roman soldiers.

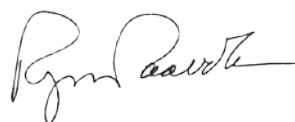
Interestingly, Jesus said the Christians in Smyrna would suffer persecution for ten days. The point Jesus makes is that persecution comes but will also end. Jesus sets limits on Satan's assaults. Jesus knows how much we may suffer

for the sake of the Gospel. But assures us that we will never beyond what we can bear. He promises we will be armed with His strength, comfort and loving Word. We are God's dearly loved children. He won't let anything come into our lives that will separate us from His love and care (Romans 8:38, 39).

Did the Smyrna Christians listen? One of my favorite First Century leaders of our Christian faith is a man named Polycarp. When St. John wrote to the Smyrna Christians, Polycarp was just a teenager. He later became the pastor of the Smyrna congregation. He served the Church well into his eighties. The persecution Jesus predicted came true for Polycarp when he was arrested and taken to the coliseum in Smyrna. There he was told to curse Christ and proclaim Caesar as Lord or die. Polycarp replied, *"For 86 years I have served Christ and He has done me no evil. How could I curse my King, who saved me?"* (Justo L. Gonzales, *The Story of Christianity*, Vol. 1, pp. 42-44). They first tried to feed him to the lions, but it was too late in the day for the lions to be released. So, they burned him at the stake.

Was Polycarp defeated? No. In the great stadium of Smyrna, neither the mob who cried for his death, nor the Roman official received a crown of glory. That went to Polycarp. He continued to praise God in Christ as the flames enveloped him. But, now he sits with the saints of heaven praising God for his deliverance. Edward Parronet (+1792) wrote these familiar words: *"Oh that with yonder sacred throng we at His feet may fall! We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all. We'll join the everlasting song, and crown Him Lord of all!"* (LSB 549) May Christ be our Leader, to keep us as faithful in wearing the crown of grace until He exchanges it for the eternal crown of life.

Your servant and follower of our Leader, Jesus,
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola





New Principal Installed and Milestone Workers Honored

Sunday, May 5, First Lutheran in Knoxville held a Commissioning and Installation service for their newly called Principal, Jessie Irwin. Ms. Jessie is a graduate of First Lutheran School. She has earned multiple degrees including a Bachelor in English Literature from UT-Knoxville, her Master in Education from Concordia University - Portland in 2011, and her colloquy in 2018. Ms. Jessie has served First Lutheran School by working in our Early Childhood Education center, school secretary, and as a Middle School teacher. She is an avid life-long learner and has a passion for education that is enthusiastic. Her love for the school and its mission, staff, and students creates an environment where all students can learn of God's love and become good stewards in the world.

A reception was held to welcome Jessie and honor our workers who have reached a 10-year milestone in service to the Lord. They are: Ann Marie Bissell, Lindsey Hofman, Erin Rodgers, & Kari Williamson.

First Lutheran's Vacancy Pastor, Rev. Larry Rockemann, presided over the service.



Applications for Student Financial Aid

Deadline is June 15, 2019

To support the education efforts of individuals pursuing a full-time career in church work, the Mid-South District is pleased to once again offer opportunities for student financial aid. To be considered for financial assistance, a student must be a member of good standing in a Mid-South District congregation and be enrolled in a seminary or university to prepare for full-time service to the Church as a rostered worker. Rostered workers are pastors, teachers, deaconesses and Directors of Christian Education.

To be considered for the student financial assistance program, you must first inform the Mid-South District Office that you are or will be a student enrolled at a synodical school. This information may be sent via email to Julie Tyler (jtyler@mid-southlcms.com) or in a written letter (Attn: Julie Tyler / 1675 Wynne Road / Cordova, TN 38016). All related forms, including the financial aid application, are on the [District's website](#).



Thank You for Encouraging Great Participation in 3L Summits!

We thank our Mid-South District pastors and other leaders who spread the word about the 3L Summit events, encouraged attendance and attended themselves. Over 100 lay people and professional church workers from across the District attended the two free evangelism events, held in Nashville on May 10 and Little Rock on May 11. Speakers Rev. Zach Zehnder (The Cross Church - Mount Dora, FL) and Rev. Chris Paavola (All Nations Church - University City, MO) shared encouragement and innovative ideas for spreading the Gospel and growing the Church. Feedback from a post-event attendee survey has been overwhelmingly positive--so we look forward to hosting a similar event in the future! Stay tuned...



Nashville



Little Rock

2019 Synod Convention Updates

The 67th Regular Convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod will take place July 20-25, 2019 in Tampa, FL. Complete, up-to-date information for congregations is available on the Synod website at <https://www.lcms.org/convention>, including the most recent reminder regarding the upcoming Synod President election. The election, conducted by Election-America, will take place by electronic ballot (via the Internet) between June 22-25, and if necessary, June 29-July 2.

About one week prior to the election, Election-America (E-A) will send (via U.S. mail) information to all

voters regarding the voting process, the candidates, and the code numbers needed to participate.

Your congregation should make certain that your voter(s) will be available to participate. Accurate mail and email addresses are essential to provide this necessary election participation information. For a "Voter Update Form" go to [lcms.org/convention/nominations-and-elections/president](https://www.lcms.org/convention/nominations-and-elections/president) and follow the instructions on the form.

For more information on the upcoming LCMS Presidential election, please see POSTCARD #13 at [lcms.org/convention/postcard-mailings](https://www.lcms.org/convention/postcard-mailings).

Summer Youth Retreat June 4-8

Hosted in Florence, Alabama

A dynamic retreat for both high school and middle school youth is coming up at the University of North Alabama in Florence. The retreat will take place from June 4-8 and will include opportunities for fun and fellowship, as well as worship and study. Participants will visit the home of Helen Keller and learn about the unique relationship she shared with her teacher and friend, Anne Sullivan. The story of Helen Keller will be a focal point of the retreat as participants learn about and discuss merciful actions. The retreat will also include time to explore other attractions in the Florence area, including the Cane Creek Canyon Nature Preserve, the Alabama Music Hall of Fame and the Rattlesnake Saloon--a unique burger joint nestled in a cave!

**To learn more about this event,
including participant cost,
please contact the retreat
representatives:**

Rev. William Parsons
(Redeemer Lutheran Church in
Fairhope, AL) - 251-591-0602
w.a.parsons.3@protonmail.com

Rev. Curt Hoover
(Faith Lutheran in Thompson's
Station, TN) - 615-533-4636,
pastorcurthoover@gmail.com

Party in the Park NYG 2019 Youth Event

FRIDAY, JULY 12 AT 4:30P-7:30P

Minnehaha Falls Park | Wabun Shelter D
4655 46th Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55406

Cost: \$40/person—includes taco buffet dinner, carnival activities, and a t-shirt.

Please join us for a afternoon of food, carnival games, inflatables, splash pad and fantastic scenery while we connect with one another. All students and chaperones from the Mid-South District are welcome to attend.

Register online

Fill out the registration form online, payment to be mailed to the District Office

Contact Info

Tabitha Wildhirt, NYG District Coordinator

Phone 501-414-4726

Email wildhirtsing@yahoo.com

More Info [District website](#)



Christus Victor Is Celebrating for Many Reason



Christus Victor has many reasons to celebrate. "We celebrated the resurrection of our Savior Jesus the Christ, but also over a three week span brought in nine new members by transfer, baptism and adult confirmation. God is good." said Pastor Bill Ondracka.

Adult confirmations - Lenore Ancera and her daughter Angel, along with her mother Linda. David Haire, and his fiancé Victoria Smith.



Janette Martin adult confirmation.



Justin Birchfield and his daughters Brittney (left) and Jessica (right). New members by transfer.



Baptism of David Smith.

We Are Very Grateful to LCMS Mid-South District

"Hi President Paavola and Pastor Russell,

Greetings from Bor town, South Sudan in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

It is my pleasure to let you know how the funds you sent me last year to assist Rev. David Alier Makuol's widow was used. The SSELC leadership weighed several options on how to give the funds to late David's widow.

Among the options which were weighed by SSELC leadership, were whether the funds will be given to the widow in cash or buy her a cow.

A cow being highly regarded and of significant value among the Dinka, the idea of buying a cow carried the day and the cow with a calf was bought and handed over to Mary Ateny Tong, the widow of the late Pastor David Alier Makol on Sunday 12th of May 2019.

The USD 700 which was donated by LCMS Mid-South District Pastors' Conference which was held at the same month the late David Alier was killed by cattle raiders was changed to South Sudan Pounds, and its became 192,500 South Sudan Pounds, 1\$ @ 275. The cow and its calf cost SSP 172,500 including transport and the balance of SSP20,000 was given to late David's widow in cash.

The entire SSELC, the late Pastor David Alier Makol's relatives, and the entire community are very thankful to LCMS Mid-South District for this great assistance given to the widow of the late Pastor David Alier Makol. The widow of the late David widow and her brother-in-law holding the money with her in the attached picture are so grateful for the gift and sent you special greetings.

The South Sudan Evangelical Lutheran Church (SSELC) members and leadership are also very grateful to LCMS Mid-South District for assisting the widow of the late David Alier and for boosting the name of SSELC among the relatives of the late David Alier and the entirely community in Bor area. It has become a very powerful message to the community because this is a very unique gift which no Christian Church tradition has ever done it in this area.

So we say glory be to God!

Attached find some of the pictures taken during the memorial service in which the cow was given to late David Alier's widow.

Peace

Rev. Bol Nyok"



Unrest

As we prepare for another trip to Haiti, we pray for the Holy Spirit to bring fruit to the seeds we plant. Jesus came to save each of us and bring us hope for today and eternity. Our amazing staff in Haiti plant the seeds daily as they ensure the feeding programs are running smoothly, especially in this time of political unrest in Haiti.

Trinity HOPE feeding programs are managed by our team of 16 Haitian Feeding Program Directors/Supervisors. We do not have any Americans on the ground in Haiti. The Feeding Program Directors purchase all the food, and oversee the distribution, cooking and feeding of the children. We rely on them a great deal and believe we must empower and train Haitians to work towards self-sufficiency.

Willy, our supervisor in Haiti, works with our Feeding Program Directors to be the best they can be so more children can be fed according to God's will. Willy lives in the Port-au-Prince area. Recently we asked him what impact all the protests and political unrest has had on the children and parents in our schools. Willy replied, "During this situation life becomes more difficult for the parents which most of them used to manage small businesses around the street. The kids find something to eat at school and that really helps the parents and the kids."

A big concern has been whether the children can safely attend school and if our feeding program directors can travel safely to the schools twice a month for their required inspection. Willy shared that they are carefully planning



their visits to the schools, but sometimes it is difficult. We are so thankful for God's protection for each of them.

Some areas of Haiti are impacted more than others with the protests and demonstrations. Cities like Port-au-Prince have more violent protests, which can then prevent children from attending school on a regular basis. The schools located in the rural countryside are often impacted much less.



in Haiti, people pray more and in many churches you can find many people come to pray all week."

Feeding children in Christian schools through Trinity HOPE is more important than ever. Your unceasing prayers for God's ministry to the Haitians is our primary request. Thank you for all of your support.

- Denise Gudlin

www.trinityhope.org



Willie and Keith Logan



LIFE LEADERSHIP

Exercising leadership in the Church's ministry for life remains critically important. In an effort to encourage and learn from one another, we hear from two district Pastors (one from the east region and one from the west) on their pro-life efforts. They have answered five survey questions to help us grow as life leaders.

Rev. Paul Becker, Concordia Lutheran Church, Kingsport, TN (east region)

1. Why is it important for you as the pastor to lead your congregation in confessing and standing for the sanctity of human life?

Martin Luther said something to the effect that if we are not confessing and fighting for the Gospel at that very point on which it is being attacked, then we are NOT confessing the Gospel. Our founding fathers believed that we were given certain inalienable rights by our Creator, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Since every human life, from conception to natural death, is a gift of God that is under attack from legalized abortion and euthanasia, pastors are especially called to teach and defend the sanctity of life.

2. How do you ensure that your congregation is taught and informed on life issues?

The life issue frequently finds its way into my sermons and prayers, not just on Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. There are great bulletin bullets from Lutherans for Life that we run weekly. During Bible Class, I will often address contemporary issues and legislation that directly effects life, marriage and family or religious liberty issues.

3. Are there any specific programs or resources that you have created or recommend?

I strongly recommend that every congregation support Lutherans for Life and receive their monthly newsletter which is overflowing with outstanding articles and resources. Population Research Institute (PRI) is another fantastic ministry and resource focused on global issues

related to human life and the family. I have helped bring about a new non-profit pro-life organization called Tennesseans 4 Life which is 100% volunteer-based. We run an annual billboard campaign here in the Tri-Cities, host an annual Crisis Pregnancy Center dinner/fundraiser in October, set up a booth at the Appalachian Fair, hold prayer vigils at the local abortion mill, etc.

4. How are your lay men and women engaged in using their voices for life?

The people of Concordia have many opportunities to support and participate in the activities listed in the previous question.

5. What advice would you give a new pastor or a congregation that has not yet been active in speaking up for life?

Be bold and courageous! Don't be afraid to speak the truth in love. Far too many congregations and pastors are silent on this critical issue of our time. Start a chapter of Tennesseans 4 Life in your area if there isn't one already, and do something to support your local crisis pregnancy center(s) and Lutherans for Life.

Rev. James Walter, Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR (west region)

1. Why is it important for you as the pastor to lead your congregation in confessing and standing for the sanctity of human life?

The psalmist writes, "Know that the Lord, He is God! It is He who made us and we are His; we are His people and the sheep of His pasture."

Life is God's gift and so it is important for me to proclaim that to God's people that all life is important from the unborn to the aged. As Pastor it is a part of my Calling to celebrate life and especially new life in Christ.

2. How do you ensure that your congregation is taught and informed on life issues?

By speaking the truth in love which happens as a text from Holy Scripture gives that opportunity. By offering prayers on behalf of all people, those in the womb and their mothers, those who are ill, and those who are disabled as well as those on their deathbed. By speaking about forgiveness and life to those whose hearts are broken by their past actions. My task as Pastor is to speak of the love of God in Christ Jesus and that His love is for all.

Most every household of my congregation receives the *Lutheran Witness* into their homes. This publication of our Synod coupled with articles in our Mid-South District section of the *Witness*, has excellent articles from time to time about all of life's issues and certainly has timely articles as it relates to the sanctity of life.

3. Are there any specific programs or resources that you have created or recommend?

We support "Birthright" a pan-Christian organization that promotes the sanctity of life by reaching out to women who are pregnant or who think they are pregnant.

We are involved in what is known in Arkansas as the CALL, "Children of Arkansas Loved for a Lifetime". This Christian agency works to recruit and provide resources for Foster Care and Adoption. We open our church facility to this organization to use for meetings to explain their programs to those interested in being foster parents or parents for a lifetime. We contribute to this organization helping with the physical needs of these children who are in need of this care.

4. How are your lay men and women engaged in using their voices for life?

Actually, many of the efforts for foster care and adoption through the CALL are done through our Board of Evangelism who keeps this church-wide organization and its work in front of our congregation for their support and prayers. We however, do not have an organized group that advocates on life matters for the unborn.

5. What advice would you give a new pastor or a congregation that has not yet been active in speaking up for life?

With any issue that can be a point of critical disagreement, it is important for people of God to speak the truth in love. That may be through the Prayers of the Church, Bible Class instruction and the proclamation of the Word of God. Those who wish to be pro-active in their support should use their voices and their gifts to support the cause for life from conception. Confrontation is not recommended, nor is accommodation.

Submitted by —
Rev. Philip Young
Mid-South District Life Coordinator



Prayer Summary, May 2019

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 May 2019.

PRAYER CONCERNS

REV. DEAN BELL (Hendrum, MN)
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)
MR. RICHARD KLINE (father-in-law of Rev. Ron Bacic, First, Little Rock, AR)
MRS. DOROTHY KRITSCH (Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Sharps Chapel, TN)
REV. PAUL KRITSCH (Chapel of the Good Shepherd, Sharps Chapel, TN)
MRS. MEGAN NAVRATH (daughter of Rev. Carl and Gwen Wenck, Murfreesboro, TN)
MS. MICHELE LAYNE (ECE Director, St. John's, Fayetteville, AR)
REV. DR. HERBERT MUELLER (1st Vice President of the Synod)
REV. DAVID RUBKE (Tullahoma, TN)
REV. MERLIN SEPMEYER (Crossville, TN)
MRS. SUE ANN TOOPES (wife of Rev. Andy Toopes, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY)
MR. WHITNEY TYLER (Kansas City, MO son of Steve & Julie Tyler, Mid-South District)
THE MOTHER OF MS. MICHELE LAYNE (ECE Director, St. John's, Fayetteville, AR)
REV. NEIL VANDERBUSH (Former Pastor in Bentonville, Arkansas)
MR. RAY VESTER (Deacon, St. John's Lutheran Church, Stuttgart, AR)
MS. PHYLLIS WALLACE (St. Louis, MO)
REV. DR. LUCAS WOODFORD (District President, Minnesota South)

CALL UPDATE

ORDAINED MINISTERS

ACCEPTED: **Rev. William Ringer**, Pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, New Ipswich, NH and Christ Lutheran Church, Troy, NH has accepted a call to serve as **Pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church, Russellville, AR.**

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

PENDING: **Ms. Heidi Jerry**, Principal, Christ Lutheran School, Little Rock, AR, has been issued a call to serve as **Principal at St. Mark Lutheran School, Houston, TX.**

SPRING PLACEMENTS

CANDIDATES: Candidate **William Zwick** (Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana) to **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH, Harrison, AR as Pastor.**

Candidate **Joshua Ralston** (Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana) to **ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH, London, AR as Pastor.**

Candidate **Henry Thompson, Jr., (COY-SMP)** to **ST. LUKE LUTHERAN CHURCH, Malvern, AR as Pastor.**

VICARS: **Mr. Richard Neely Owen (ARFW)** to **FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH, Hopkinsville, KY.**

CANDIDATES: Candidate **Kara Harbin** (Concordia University, Texas) to **CHRIST THE KING LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL, Memphis, TN as Teacher.**

Candidate **Ashley Myers** (Concordia University, Texas) to **GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH and SCHOOL, Knoxville, TN as Director of Christian Education.**

IN THE CALLING PROCESS - CONGREGATIONS

Faith Lutheran Church, Bentonville, AR – Pastor
First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN – Pastor
Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Rogers, AR - Pastor
Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Horseshoe Bend, AR – Pastor
St. John's Lutheran Church, Lafe, AR - Associate Pastor
Mid-South District – Executive Director for Missions and Ministry

IN THE CALLING PROCESS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Avilla Christian Academy, Alexander, AR –Director of Parish Music
Christ the King Lutheran School, Memphis, TN – Teacher
Christ Lutheran School, Little Rock, AR – Teacher
Heavenly Host Lutheran School, Cookeville, TN – Principal
Heavenly Host Lutheran School, Cookeville, TN – DCE
Immanuel Lutheran Church & School, Memphis, TN – Principal
St. John's Lutheran Church, Stuttgart, AR – DCE

Early Childhood Educators' Conference Registration is Underway!

The 2018 Early Childhood Educator's Conference is coming up July 15-16 at Faith Lutheran Preschool, Collierville, TN. [Complete registration materials](#), as well as a conference agenda are located on the District website. Registration materials have been mailed to all of the Early Childhood centers. Registrations and the conference fee of \$45 are due by **June 15**.



Congregational Mission Commitments

Mission Commitment Receipts as of 4/30/19 (4 Months)

Anticipated Amount (33.33% of budget) ...	\$510,758
Actual Receipts.....	<u>529,699</u>
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$18,941

Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (4 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World Missions	\$150,576
Allocated to Tanzania	8,333
Retained for District Mission/Ministry Support (70% of receipts)	<u>370,789</u>
Total Receipts	\$529,699

Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (4 Months)

Actual Receipts as of 4/30/19.....	\$529,699
Actual Receipts as of 4/30/18	<u>\$511,347</u>
Over (under) prior year receipts	\$18,352

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, *Executive Director for Schools and Early Childhood*

Missy Washburn, *Administrative Assistant to the District President*

Rena 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

Stay Connected With Us

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 **June 21, 2019** to Rhonda, webmaster@mid-southlcms.com. The July issue will focus on Veterans.