

## Focus for November

...

This month we focus on ministries serving their communities. As we serve others in Christ's name it shows gratitude for His sacrifice and love for us.

...

GIVING  
**THANKS**  
—Today—  
Tomorrow  
**ALWAYS**



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



### UNDERSTANDING GOD'S LOVE

I, for one, will never understand God's immense love. On this side of eternity, no one will be able to explain, understand, or do away with His love for us in Christ. It reminds me of an acquaintance of mine who was asked to give a prayer prior to a "tail-gate" party before a football game. The crowd complied by taking off their caps, folding hands, and bowing their heads. In his prayer he gave thanks for the great weather, the safety of everyone who traveled to get to the game, and, of course, for the meal. He concluded his prayer, "In the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, who died on the cross that we might have life and salvation. Amen."

As always, people went to the goodies provided and began to mingle with each other. My friend was taking a bite of his bratwurst when gentleman came up to him,

making the comment, "I want to thank you for the fine prayer. I agreed with you all the way, until you came to that part about Jesus Christ." He went on to explain, "I thought prayers should be more inclusive. I believe we all try to get to God – Jews, Christians, Muslims alike – it makes no difference. You see, I'm Jewish and feel our culture should be more tolerant of one another's feelings. After all, we're all praying to the same God."

My friend wanted to defend himself, but, instead, said, "I hear you saying that there are different religions that have a ladder to God, but we all have the same objective: to be with God. You just feel Christians are too narrow." The gentleman agreed, "Yes, that's right." Then, my friend said, "First, I thank you for your kindness in the way you expressed your concerns. Second, thank you for sharing your Messiah with me. I'm that Gentile dog who is thrilled to have received the crumbs that have fallen from your Messiah's table."

Various religions have many different ways to get to God... ladders if you wish. Ladders that somehow get the people to realize their life's fulfillment of ultimate peace. However, all the ladders of human obedience, achievement and pursuit fall short. Jesus is the only "Ladder" that reaches between heaven and earth. Today, as we Lutheran Christians celebrate the 502nd anniversary of the Reformation, we take pause for the

great and bold steps taken by the reformers back in the early 16th century. The general public, back then, misunderstood God. They viewed Him as an angry God of wrath and judgment. Human beings could only hope to appease God with good works and wealth. They considered Jesus so holy that He was unapproachable.

As a result, people were taught to pray to the saints to intercede on their behalf before an angry God. Yet, they had the same needs as the people of today. They, like us, were left to ask, “Does God love me, or hate me? How can I have peace with God when I’m not sure I’ve done enough to please Him?” The question provided an opportunity for the Church of that time: “Sell forgiveness!” But, not only does such a false doctrine fill the coffers, but the church’s leaders wouldn’t have any problems getting “volunteers” to work for the church. As such, if it worked for the living, they could convince families to help “pay for” their dear

departed loved ones as well who hadn’t completed enough “good deed things” in their lifetime.

But, that’s *not* the God of Holy Scripture. Yet today, we hear the gnawing question, “How can I be assured of forgiveness of my sins and thus, be at peace with God? How much is enough to be sure that heaven is my eternal destiny?” Whether a person believes in God or not, the consensus of an objective truth gives birth to the form and substance of every discipline of human rational thought.

Art, music, science, politics, and religion are based on the thought that there is an ultimate truth. But, post-modernists disagree, saying there is no ultimate truth. As a result, Western thinking has been invaded by Eastern mysticism and secular humanism. Severed from absolute truth, we’re lost in a cosmos where we’re left wondering where we fit in the grand scheme of the universe.

Pontius Pilate asked Jesus, “What is truth?” Jesus answered,

*“I am truth.” “Everyone who hears of the truth, hears My voice.”* Christianity today faces the same challenge Martin Luther faced over 500 years ago. People demand tolerance. People declare there is no truth. Christianity and the Bible are on the same shelf as other religions and books of philosophy, New Age, and navel gazers. Secular humanism, post-modernism, and free thinkers are a denial of St Peter’s words, *“Salvation is found in no one else; for there is no other name given under heaven by which we must be saved [Jesus Christ].”*

Like many others of his day, the early Martin Luther worked hard to find peace with God. He fasted, he prayed, he became a monk, he flogged himself, but, like the others, he found no peace in what he tried to do. The more he prayed, the more he disciplined his body and mind to be perfectly pure, the more anxious and uncertain he became. Then, while teaching a class at the University of Wittenburg, on the Book of Romans, Luther stumbled across the words, “...righteousness from God is revealed in the Gospel, the righteous shall live by faith.”

A righteousness from God, apart from the Law – what we do, say, think, or decide – has been found and made known to which all the Old Testament Law and the prophets testify. This righteousness – living in the state of being right with God – comes by faith, given by the Holy Spirit, in Jesus Christ to all who are led to believe. Luther’s burdens, his fear of death, his unsettled spirit all evaporated in the cleansing flood of God’s Gospel Promise through Christ Jesus.

Perfect deeds under the Law, perfection of character, pure and holy living – all these were done on our behalf through God’s grace,



Education executive of the Mid-South district, Allen Piepenbrink, presented the accreditation certificate to interim principal, Cara Steely, and Pastor Dan Hauser during a worship service. **Christ School in Little Rock successfully passed its accreditation review sponsored by National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) in St. Louis, MO.**

mercy and love in Jesus Christ. In Luther's day the familiar words, "As soon as the coin in the coffer rings, the soul from purgatory springs." The doctrine of the church before the Reformation was that coins could earn one's salvation. Its corollary error surmised that Jesus' suffering and death, the blood shed on the cross of Christ was not enough. Tolerance, post-modernism, secular humanism, New Age and all man-made religions do nothing more than those coins that clinked together in the coffer. Even the post-modern man wants to build their own ladders to God, rather than accept the "Ladder" of Christ who came down from heaven to be our Savior, and the Risen and Glorious Lord who will come down again, to bring us to Him in eternal peace.

In Luther's day, the absolute truth of justification by faith through grace was tossed out for the sake of coins and indulgences. In our day, justification by faith in Jesus is tossed for a demand for co-existence, tolerance, loss of absolute truth, and human rationale.

Buddha searched for truth and developed an eight-fold path.

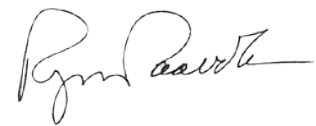
Mohammed declared himself to be the prophet of truth and wrote the Koran with its internal contradictions. Hindu's declare truth to be an elusive quality until the ultimate reincarnation can be achieved. Everyone's betting on something esoteric... rather than trusting in Christ alone. Atheists are betting their life that there is no God at all. Jesus said, *"I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."* He didn't say, "I am a truth... I am just one of the many ladder..." He said, *"I AM the Truth."*

The Dalli Lama once appeared on the Larry King show, shortly after Hurricane Katrina. King asked him what hope he could offer the victims. He offered none. No words of hope, no comfort, no peace can come from a religion that believes, "If something bad happens to your life, it's your fault because of something bad you did in your previous life." Are we supposed to "coexist" with that as a part of our politically correct society?

As Christians, we possess the message of God's love for all humanity. He proved that love when He sent Christ Jesus to

save us. We have received His undeserved love, forgiveness and mercy. We cannot and must not keep the truth of that kind of love to ourselves. St Paul wrote, *"For God made Jesus who had no sin to be sin for us, that in Him we might be made righteous, holy, forgiven in God's sight."* Psychologists may call that "transference." But, God transferred our sins to Jesus; and as a result of His innocent death and resurrection, God transferred Christ's righteousness to us and all who believe in Him as Lord and Savior. It's a free gift – grace. God brought back all things on to Himself in the reconciliation offered in Jesus Christ. By faith we stand before the Creator of all things, holy, without blemish, free from sin – perfect and holy – made righteous through Jesus Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. Now, that's a great reason for us to have a Happy Thanksgiving!

Your servant in Christ+  
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola




## Mission Training

**Centers**-an essential tool for evangelism and discipling the new Christians.

Engage - Training  
Centers in Tanzania,  
VimeoLCMS <https://vimeo.com/363840833>



## ANGEL WORKSHOP

### God's Holy Helpers

Shepherd of the Hills presented an Angel Workshop at the Fairfield Glade Community Center on Saturday, September 28th, in FFG. The Event was sponsored by Thrivent Financial as a "LIVE GENEROUSLY" action team project. The workshop developed into a great spiritual outreach for the church. Forty-seven people attended, including twenty-five non-members. At least one participant traveled all the way from Nashville to attend.

A very caring team helped put the workshop together, along with Chris Dalton the church secretary. Pastor Andrew was at his finest as a great lecturer and apologist. He presented very useful and pertinent information on angels in the Biblical narratives of the Old and New Testaments and in the Christian Tradition as well. A beautifully crafted, handmade embroidered Angel Quilt, sewn by Kathi Parli, was awarded to Pastor Andrew for offering the workshop. Immediately following the lecture and presentation, a light lunch was offered to participants. It was a time of very enjoyable Christian fellowship. A love offering for the youth ministry at Shepherd of the Hills was taken.

Pastor Andrew & our Growth Team have two upcoming workshops planned for 2020, which we hope will also be well attended!

1) Shroud Encounter ~ March 22nd. Presenter is Russ Breault, internationally acclaimed authority on the Shroud of Turin. To reserve your spot please call Chris Dalton at 484-3461.

2) The Old Testament History ~ Date TBD Speaker is Rev. Andrew J. Abraham, pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran (1461 Sparta Hwy).

To reserve your spot please call the Church Secretary at 484-3461.

*Contributor: Salli Lemke*



*Attendees at Angel Workshop*



*Handmade Angel Quilt, sewn by Kathi Parli, was awarded to Pastor Andrew*



*Attendees*



*Pastor Andrew*

## Heavenly Host is Cookin' on the Square

"Cookin' on the Square" is an annual fundraiser for the Putnam County, Tennessee, Habitat for Humanity. Heavenly Host Lutheran Church and School has participated in the event for several years. Typically, the event is the last Friday in October. Cookeville's historic downtown square is transformed into a Cajun culinary destination with live music and more than 75 teams preparing gumbo, jambalaya, red beans and rice. The proceeds go to the Putnam County Habitat for Humanity. We help local families build and BUY affordable homes. Heavenly Host cares for our community.



## Pastor Norman Groteluschen Celebrates 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of His Ordination



On Sunday, Oct. 20, family and friends gathered in worship at Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, to celebrate with Pastor Norman Groteluschen on the 70th anniversary of his ordination into the Holy Ministry. Senior Pastor Chuck Neugebauer presented his friend and mentor with a handsomely framed plaque from the Mid-South District Office recognizing Norm for his many years of faithfulness and witness. A letter of congratulations from District President Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola and greetings from former District President Rev. David Callies were presented to Norm during a reception in his honor. We give thanks for Pastor Groteluschen's inspiring leadership as former District Executive Secretary for Missions and as former District President. His impact on pastors and mission plants in the District has been ongoing and has borne much fruit, thanks be to God. Norm's humility and graciousness remain constant; in the words of his favorite verse: *"By the grace of God, I am what I am, and His grace to me was not without effect...yet [it was] not I, but the grace of God that was with me."* 1 Corinthians 15:10



## St. Paul Lutheran Church Says Thanks to Those Who Protect and Serve



*Rev. David Graves presented Sheriff Wayne Potter and Wartburg Police Chief Teddy Bales with each a framed print of St. Michael embracing a deputy by LCMS artist Edward Riojas of Michigan to commemorate the day*

On September 29th St. Paul Lutheran Church in Wartburg held a special single service celebration for the local law enforcement officers of Morgan County Tennessee. The Sheriff, Wayne Potter, and Wartburg Police Chief Teddy Bales were accompanied by thirty of their deputies and officers. The service was the celebration of the feast of St. Michael and All Angels which historically has been linked to law enforcement. St. Michael has authority given by God to expel Satan from Heaven as the Epistle lesson from Revelation 12 pointed out. Both law enforcement and the military have long embraced this vision from Revelation as a parallel to their own duties to enforce the law of the land and to defend the people of our nation. Because of this special day the people of St. Paul wanted to thank and honor our law enforcement and those in active military service and to impart a special blessing. To commemorate the day both the Sheriff and Chief of Police were given a framed print of St. Michael embracing a deputy by LCMS artist Edward Riojas of Michigan. The service of thanksgiving concluded with a blessing for both the Sheriff's Department and the Wartburg Police Department. A meal was held after the service and was provided by the members of St. Paul Lutheran Church to further thank our men and women who protect and serve.





The **Rite of Installation for Rev. Danny Anderson** was held at Grace Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN on Sunday, September 22, 2019. Pastor Anderson became the Associate Pastor for Grace Lutheran Church, after serving at Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston. Pictured with Pastor Anderson (Front L-R) are Rev. Ray Kreig, Rev. Lane Reuter, President Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, Rev. Danny Anderson, Rev. Rich Elseroad, Rev. Roger Reckling, and President-Emeritus Rev. David Callies. (Back L-R) Rev. Robert Portier, Rev. Derek Roberts, Rev. Phil Bohlken, Rev. John Schultz, Rev. Gordon Smith, and Rev. Steven Skov.



The Mid-South District was well represented at the recent **Lutheran Education Association (LEA) convocation** held in Saint Louis, MO. Both current and retired teachers from as far east as Knoxville, TN, central Memphis, and far west Fort Smith, AR had many opportunities to learn new ideas and skills.



## Like Father...Like Daughter

*Mission Trips & Mission Life*



As I sit down to write this article, it's Father's Day Weekend. After 23 years of being a father, there is no doubt that one of the greatest blessings from the Lord is being a parent! What a joy it is to be a daddy, to watch your child begin to walk, talk, to see their personality develop, to see them learn by the realities of life, and ultimately to become fully functioning men and women.

Yet besides all the joys of being a parent, there is great responsibility. It begins when they are young, helpless and totally reliant upon us to provide for them; and it continues as they go through their teen years and we seek to keep them safe from the dangers of the world and those who might negatively impact their lives. Our responsibility as parents has many facets, but the most important one is that of teaching them to know and love Jesus.

For many years, one of my favorite passages has been Deuteronomy 11: 18-19 *Fix these words of Mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.* These words record the Lord's instructions through Moses to God's people as He gave them the Commandments. I love how the Lord understands us and our need for reminders of who He is, whose we are and to what we have been called. He therefore says, make yourselves reminders by "fixing these words of Mine upon your hearts and minds...tying them

as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads."

But the next verse really speaks to me as a parent. He's not just telling us to "take them to worship," or "tell them what to believe on occasion" or "just make sure they see you now and then pray and worship." No! Listen again to how the Lord emphasizes that discipling our children is to be fully integrated into every aspect of our lives. *Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.* Did you hear it? Our responsibility, our privilege is to pass on our own faith by living it out in every aspect and area of our life. It's not what we do, it's who we are!

We all know the saying, "Like father, like son" or "Like mother like daughter." Well in my case, with two daughters, mine is "Like father like daughter." I have prayed and sought for our girls to see that my faith is more than a religion, and more than my occupation. I have prayed that they have seen my faith to be intimate and personal. My youngest, Julia, just graduated from High School and before she heads off to the University of Florida, I wanted to help her to see this with me in a fresh way. So, we went on a "Father-Daughter Mission Trip" to Haiti.

This time, I didn't go as the "leader" or "pastor" but I went as a participant. Together we served side by side. Together we marveled at what the Lord was revealing to each of us, and together we were humbled at how the Lord used us and touched us.



Yes, even if I were not a pastor tomorrow, I am and will remain a disciple of Jesus, living under His grace and sharing His message of hope and life with those around me. And...I will remain her father, seeking to model life as mission wherever I am, and in whatever I do.

May the Lord empower you to live the same whether to your children or to whomever He places in your life.

*Contributed by*

Rev. James H. Rockey

Pastor of Amazing Grace – Oxford/The Villages, FL

FL-GA District 3rd VP



Pictured above is the Mid-South District education executive, Allen Piepenbrink, presenting the **accreditation certificate** to school board chairperson, Joyce Enloe. **Belvoir Christian Academy** in Chattanooga successfully completed the review sponsored by National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) in Saint Louis, MO.

## 2019 mission trip church plant in Welezo, Tanzania

What an inspiration to receive this picture of the church building in Welezo! The mission team visited this area last year in May 2019 to work with Pastor Geoffrey Tenga on outreach.

Donations from members of Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in White House TN purchased the land for this building. The members have worked hard to build the building and are proud of their new home, which is also named Prince of Peace.

On this mission trip, 423 people were baptized. Plans are being made for an upcoming mission trip this May. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Bob Allen.

Congratulations to the congregation and Pastor Tenga.



## Rural & Small Town Mission Office November News & Events

The LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission November newsletter is now available. The issue focuses on an important and troubling concern for many small towns across America: addiction. The November issue also includes details on the following upcoming events:

**November Newsletter**  
read [online](#)

**Webinar - November 21**  
"Dealing with Addictions in Rural and Small-town Areas" (11.21.19 Thursday), 1-2 PM Central, Presenter: Rev. Gary Griffin, Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lockwood, MO

**2019 RSTM Conference**  
November 14-16 in Minneapolis, "Running with Endurance: Eyes Fixed on Jesus"



Reaching Rural  
America for Christ

## Taste of the Sem



### February 15-17, 2020

Concordia Seminary and Taste of the Sem: Is there a young man in your high school youth group who has gifts that would be well served in pastoral ministry? Do you have a high school student who has expressed an interest in the pastoral ministry?

If so, please consider encouraging him to check out Concordia Seminary's "Taste of the Sem," being held February 15-17, 2020. During this on-campus event, young men considering the ministry will be connected with a current seminary student to see what life is like at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

To register or to get more information, please check the Concordia Seminary website at <https://www.csl.edu/admissions/visit/taste-of-the-sem/>. If you would like more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Scott Holder in the Admissions Office at 314.505.7225.

## Tour Israel Aug. 24-Sept. 5, 2020

Beloved in the Lord Jesus, you are invited to join me (on my 24th tour), a native of Israel, born in Nazareth on a Journey to the Holy Land-Israel for an experience of a lifetime. We will depart from Chicago on August 24 and return on September 5, 2020...walk where Jesus walked... where every page of the Bible is seen in its original context alive...cruise the Sea of Galilee... climb the Mount of Olives and view the Old City of Jerusalem... visit Tabgha, scene of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes...the Mount of Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount and where Jesus chose His Twelve Apostles...walk the Via Dolorosa (Road of Suffering) to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher...stroll in the Garden of Gethsemane...visit Bethlehem...the Church of the Nativity and much more

What to expect: During this 13-day tour, you will experience the sounds, smells and sights of two civilizations the old and the new. You will stand at the cross roads of history and feel the vibrant influence of how this land shapes all other lands.

The price is \$4,000.00 p/p includes: air fare from Chicago to Tel Aviv and back to Chicago, hotel accommodations (for double occupancy) tips, entry fees and all meals.

**For further information contact:**

Pastor Nabil Nour

46448 263rd St.

Hartford, SD 57033

605-526-3571 (O)

605-201-6998 (Cell)

[preachermanfootwasher@gmail.com](mailto:preachermanfootwasher@gmail.com)



**Thank you to all who donated their time and talent to making the  
LWR CARE-VAN Drive a success in 2019.**

*Please verify the time by calling the church.*

**Mid-South District 2019 CARE-VAN  
November 1-2, 2019  
Locations & Coordinators**



Loading Friday and Saturday, November 1-2, 2019  
Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. – 11 a.m.  
(time for drop-off donations may change according to church)

**Call church to verify the time**

**you will be bringing your LWR items so someone will be there to help you.**

**Please package boxes properly. Thank you.**

**Arkansas**

CITY	Location for YRC Freight	Contact Person	Pastor of Church
Fort Smith, AR	First Lutheran School 2407 Massard Road Fort Smith, AR 72901	Mr. Lou Fellwock 1-479-650-5886	Rev. John Merrill 1-479-785-2886 (church) <a href="mailto:jfmerrill@gmail.com">jfmerrill@gmail.com</a>
Little Rock, AR	Grace Lutheran Church 5124 Hillcrest Little Rock, AR 72205	Rev. James Walter 1-501-663-3631 (church) 1-501-240-7729 (cell) <a href="mailto:walter@aristotle.net">walter@aristotle.net</a>	Rev. James Walter 1-501-663-3631 (church) 1-501-240-7729 (cell) <a href="mailto:walter@aristotle.net">walter@aristotle.net</a>
Springdale, AR	Salem Lutheran Ministries 1800 West Emma Avenue Springdale, AR 72762-3905 <b>Only Saturday - Nov. 2 (9a.m.-12p.m.)</b>	Ms. Darlene Diercouff 1-479-751-9500 (church) <a href="mailto:ddiercouff@aol.com">ddiercouff@aol.com</a>	Rev. Mark Krause 1-479-751-9500 (church) 1-479-841-4898 (cell) <a href="mailto:mekrause56@gmail.com">mekrause56@gmail.com</a>

\*\*\*There will not be a truck at Pilgrim this year. *Please drop off your boxes at Pilgrim the week of October 28-31.*

\*\*\*Pastor Shewmaker will bring all boxes to the truck at Immanuel, Memphis.

Jonesboro, AR	Pilgrim Lutheran Church*** 1812 South Rains Jonesboro, AR 72401-5046 <b>Drop off boxes at Pilgrim during the week prior to Care-Van Drive</b>	Rev. Russell Shewmaker 1-870-935-2001 (church) 1-870-897-4443 (cell) <a href="mailto:pastor@pilgrimlutheran.us">pastor@pilgrimlutheran.us</a>	Rev. Russell Shewmaker 1-870-935-2001 (church) 1-870-897-4443 (cell) <a href="mailto:pastor@pilgrimlutheran.us">pastor@pilgrimlutheran.us</a>
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**Tennessee**

CITY	Location for YRC Freight	Contact Person	Pastor of Church
Chattanooga, TN	Cross of Christ Lutheran Church 3204 Hixon Pike Chattanooga, TN 37415 <b>Only Friday, Nov. 1 (10 a.m.-2 p.m.)</b>	Ms. Lanette Bagley 1-423-344-9324 <a href="mailto:laja40@yahoo.com">laja40@yahoo.com</a>	Rev. Barry Hildebrandt 1-423-877-7447 (church) 1-423-255-4746 (cell) <a href="mailto:church@cocluth.com">church@cocluth.com</a>
Nashville, TN	Our Savior Lutheran Church 5110 Franklin Pike Nashville, TN 37220-1814	Mr. Kenneth Priest 1-615-969-6225 <a href="mailto:kapslp10@comcast.net">kapslp10@comcast.net</a>	Rev. Lane Reuter 1-615-833-1500 (church) <a href="mailto:osloffice1@gmail.com">osloffice1@gmail.com</a>
Knoxville, TN	Christus Victor Lutheran Church 4110 Central Avenue Pike Knoxville, TN 37912-0312	Ms. Carol Rauch 1-865-687-6622 (church) <a href="mailto:carolrauch44@gmail.com">carolrauch44@gmail.com</a>	Rev. William Ondracka 1-865-687-6622 (church) 1-734-368-1703 <a href="mailto:pastorbill@christusvictorknoxville.org">pastorbill@christusvictorknoxville.org</a>
Memphis, TN	Immanuel Lutheran Church 6325 Raleigh LaGrange Road Memphis, TN 38134-6907	Ms. Diane Reimold 1-901-679-0626 <a href="mailto:dianereimold@hotmail.com">dianereimold@hotmail.com</a>	Rev. Greg Prauner 1-901-373-4486 (church) <a href="mailto:gprauner@immanuelmemphis.org">gprauner@immanuelmemphis.org</a>

# BIG NEWS from Lutheran Church Extension Fund

## Exciting changes have been made to Lutheran Church Extension Fund's (LCEF) ConnectPLUS and PartnerPLUS investments.

LCEF wouldn't be able to support Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) ministries without the faithful support of our investors. This strong and stable base means the important role LCEF plays in supporting the LCMS will continue long into the future.

### CONNECTPLUS\*

3%

On balances up to \$50,000

- For new LCEF investors.
- Balances up to \$50,000 earn 3.0%.
- Balances over \$50,000 earn 2.25%. Rates subject to change.
- Minimum of \$500 to start.
- Two-year fixed term note.
- Additional funds can be added during the term (\$25 minimum).
- ConnectPLUS is now available to congregations, businesses, RSOs and trusts.

### PARTNERPLUS\*\*

2.50%  
2-year

3.00%  
4-year

On balances up to \$50,000

- For current LCEF investors, including LCMS organizations and congregations.
- Balances up to \$50,000 earn 2.50% for a two-year term or 3.00% for a four-year term.
- Balances over \$50,000 earn 2.25%. Rates subject to change.
- Minimum of \$500 to start (no transfers from other LCEF investments).
- Additional funds can be added during the term (\$25 minimum).
- New money only.
- Open multiple accounts.

**Get started today!**

Visit [lcef.org/invest](http://lcef.org/invest) or call 800-843-5233.

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. The primary owner on the account must be 18 years or older. The State of Washington has adopted a regulatory position that currently prohibits residents of Washington State from opening a new investment unless they are already an LCEF investor. \*This offer is available on a one account per investor basis only to new investors 18 and older who have not had an LCEF investment in the past 24 months. ConnectPLUS is not available to investors in Ohio and Pennsylvania. \*\*PartnerPLUS is available to investors 18 and older. New money only. Rates as of Oct. 2019. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit [lcef.org](http://lcef.org) for details. 1019NO59



**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
> where investments build ministry





# PRAYER SUMMARY

Following is a list of all the people that have appeared on the Mid-South District website prayer list [www.mid-southlcms.com](http://www.mid-southlcms.com) during the month of October 2019.

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## PRAYER CONCERNS

**MRS. DORIS BERTSCH** (wife of Rev. Arie Bertsch, District President, North Dakota District)

**MISS BELLE BRASHER** (daughter of Tessa Brasher, Paragould, AR, Mid-South District Board of Directors)

**MS. EVELYN DOUGLAS** (friend of Julie Tyler, Mid-South District Office)

**MRS. SARA FEUERSTEIN** (daughter of Pastor Donley Hesse, Emeritus, Mena, AR)

**MR. MARK GUDLIN** (hospitalized, wife Denise is with Trinity Hope)

**MRS. ALISON HAWKINS** (Mid-South District Office)

**DIONNE MILAM** (Secretary to Pastor Toopes, Holy Trinity, Bowling Green, KY)

**REV. DR. HERBERT MUELLER** (Former 1st Vice President of the Synod)

**MRS. MEGAN NAVRATH** (Daughter of Pastor Carl & Gwen Wenck Grace Lutheran Church, Murfreesboro, TN)

**REV. DAVID RUBKE** (Tullahoma, TN)

**REV. MERLIN SEPMAYER** (Crossville, TN)

**REV. NEIL VANDERBUSH** (Chaplain \* U.S. Army with the Board of International Missions \* Our Savior, Searcy, AR)

**MR. LEONARD YOUNG** (Father of Pastor Philip Young, Nashville, TN)

## Our deepest sympathies to:

**NANCY LEE AND FAMILY** on the loss of her son Keith Lee, who recently passed away.

## CALL UPDATE

### ORDAINED MINISTERS

**ACCEPTED: Rev. Bradley Heinecke**, Emeritus in Davenport, Florida, has accepted the call to serve as Pastor at **Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Horseshoe Bend, AR.**

**Rev. Charles Johnson**, Pastor at Our Savior Lutheran Church, El Dorado, AR has accepted the call to serve as Associate Pastor at **Christ Lutheran Church, Orland Park, IL.**

**Rev. Thomas Presley**, Associate Pastor, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mountain Home, AR has accepted the call to serve as Pastor at **Zion Lutheran Church, Chanute, KS.**

**DECLINED: Rev. Michael Schleider**, Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church of Avilla, Alexander, AR has returned the call to serve as Pastor at **Grace Lutheran Church, Fairbury, NE.**

### IN THE CALLING PROCESS - CONGREGATIONS

**First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN** - Pastor

**First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN** - Pastor

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Horseshoe Bend, AR** - Pastor

**St. John's Lutheran Church, Lapeer, MI** - Associate Pastor - \*A called has been accepted!

**Mid-South District - Executive Director for Missions and Ministry**

### IN THE CALLING PROCESS - COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

**Zion Lutheran Church of Avilla, Alexander, AR** - Director of Parish Music

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga TN** - DCE

**Christ Lutheran School, Little Rock, AR** - Principal

**Immanuel Lutheran School, Memphis, TN** - Principal

## CONGREGATIONAL MISSION COMMITMENTS

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### Mission Commitment Receipts as of 9/30/19 (9 Months)

Anticipated Amount (75% of budget) .....	\$1,149,206
Actual Receipts .....	<u>1,157,788</u>
Over (under) anticipated amount.....	\$8,582

### Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (9 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World Missions .....	\$328,586
Allocated to Tanzania .....	18,750
Retained for District Mission/Ministry Support (70% of receipts) ..	<u>810,452</u>
Total Receipts .....	\$1,157,788

### Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (9 Months)

Actual Receipts as of 9/30/19 .....	\$1,157,788
Actual Receipts as of 9/30/18 .....	<u>\$1,139,424</u>
Over (under) prior year receipts .....	\$18,364



## 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*

**Renae McElwain**, *Communications & Marketing Specialist*

**Carolyn Metzger**, *Finance Assistant*

**Julie Tyler**, *Administrative Assistant for Missions and Education*

### Contact the Mid-South District

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### 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 **NOVEMBER 19, 2019** to Rhonda, [webmaster@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:webmaster@mid-southlcms.com). The December issue will focus on highlights from 2019.