

Encourager

Mid-South District LCMS | January 2020

2020

As 2020 gets underway – and as our education ministries prepare for the upcoming Lutheran Schools Week later this month – please keep our schools, students, teachers and staff in your prayers.



A Message from Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, President

Alan, a very muscular big man in my last congregation told me a fascinating story about the time he was scared in his work as a coal miner. He told about the times when coal miners dug for coal in eastern Kentucky, but had to leave pillars of coal – lines of unsteady compressed hydrocarbons that were left to support the roof of the mine. The coal pillars weren't excavated but were left as supports for the next portion of the mining operation. But, when a mine was worked so there was no more coal left to dig, the dangerous task to remove the coal pillars began.

"It's called 'Robbing the Mine,' Alan explained. "It's when we'd go deep back inside to take down the coal pillars." Starting in deepest part of the mine, the miners chipped away at the coal

pillars and systematically let the mine collapse behind them. One by one they would "Rob the Mine" and make their way back out of the shaft with smoke, soot, and flammable gases belching from the collapsing mine behind them. The process is obviously dangerous. Alan said that most coal mining casualties came when the miners had to "Rob the Mine."

Listen to what's happening in our nation and to our parochial schools across the span of Christianity. Are we watching as Robbing the Pillars that once brought safety and purpose to our Church and general society begin to disappear? The pillars of the nuclear family, traditional values, and Christian virtues are not only waning, but are under direct attack. In a recent COMPASS visit, we heard that one of our

Lutheran parochial schools could never achieve that state's highest standards of excellence. It wasn't because of bad curriculum, or poor staffing, or poor academic performance. It was because the school's library had, "...literature of a violent nature." The title of that specific literature is, "The Holy Bible"! Because it contains "stories" like David and Goliath, wars, famine, and a crucifixion, the school's standards were beneath the compared standards of public education.

Proverbs 9:1 states, "*Wisdom has built her house; she has hewn her seven pillars.*" Lutheran education was the beginning of mission and ministry when Lutheran immigrants first set foot on this continent. Lutheran schools were essential ingredients for an emerging American frontier. Yet, fundamental progressive thinking challenged Christian parochial education. A man named Horace Mann (c. 1796 – 1859) was best known for his commitment to promoting public education. His vision was: "It is the law of our

nature to desire happiness. This law is not local, but universal; not temporary, but eternal. It is not a law to be proved by exceptions, for it knows no exception." [Horace Mann (1853). "A Few Thoughts for a Young Man" A lecture, delivered before the Boston Mercantile Library Association, on Its 29th Anniversary. p. 9.]

Mann's ideal to follow the "Law of Nature" as it forms the education norms for American children seemed to be focused on an "eternal" outcome. But, in reality, Mann was more committed in his opposition to religious influences on the minds of young children. In a review of Mann's educational progressivism, the historian Ellwood Cubberley wrote, "No one did more than he [Horace Mann] to establish in the minds of the American people the concept that education should be universal, non-sectarian, free, and that its aims should be social efficiency, civic virtue, and character, rather than mere learning or the advancement of sectarian ends." [Cubberley, Ellwood P. (1919).

Public Education in the United States. p. 167] His use of the word "sectarian" is a euphemism for "parochial" education. Growing out of progressive Massachusetts soil, state supported public education grew.

What does this have to do with our precious Lutheran schools in the Mid-South District? First, this is neither an indictment of our public school systems or its dedicated teachers. They are to be honored and supported for what they do to sacrifice for the educating of our young people. Nor is this about the products coming out of our public schools. American students rank among the best in the world in educational excellence.

No, this is about the role, purpose, and unique opportunity we have in the privilege of having great Lutheran schools in our Mid-South District. We have a clear purpose for our education ministries. Our Lutheran schools provide a foundation for a Christian life that has a plan and purpose for now and for eternity. It's about faith formation. Every world religion states they "have faith." Whatever form their "faith" has, there is a belief system that forms one's dedication to the object of that faith. Any "faith" has an object of faith. However, no other religion in the world has the Object of faith that we Lutheran Christians have – Jesus Christ.

Christian education begins from what Jesus told His disciples, "*All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore,*

January 26 – February 1, 2020

Please keep our schools, students, teachers and staff in your prayers throughout the coming school year and as they prepare for Nation Lutheran Schools Week.



when you go from here, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching (διδάσκοντες) them to observe all that I have commanded you." (Matthew 28:19ff, my wooden translation) The basic foundation upon which we can ever build the Church is granted by God's will and the starting point of all ministry, and for our discussion, also teaching ministry. This διδάσκοντες means to teach, or more literally, "cause to learn", instruct, impart knowledge, or disseminate information.

Imparting knowledge begins the way Martin Luther arranged the Catechism's chief articles of the Christian faith. It begins with The Decalogue. Society cannot build character or a sound society without the foundation of God's Commandments. They firmly place the family, the church, the schools, and our whole society in the fundamental truths of God's precepts.

The Psalmist writes, *"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; but his delight is in the law of the Lord."* (Psalm 1:1-2) Delight in the Law of the Lord is hardly the characteristic of certain segments of our public. I John 5:1-2 (ESV) states, *"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has been born of God, and everyone who loves the Father loves whoever has been born of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and obey*

his commandments." His Law is one of the pillars in Christian education - firm, upright supports of structure that gives strength to it.

It takes teamwork between the church and the family to teach a strong structure for moral character and Godly values. The nuclear family is essential for any chance of meaningful faith formation in future generations. The old advertisement said, "Don't take your children to church, bring them with you." Sunday School is a great resource, but the greatest help to establish meaningful faith formation rest in the nuclear family supported by Christian education.

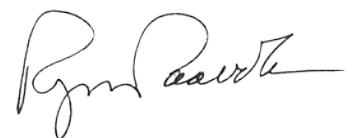
Dedicated parents with Christian resources are key in faith formation. There are thousands of negative influences that chisel away at character and faith building for our children. Television, video games, and peer pressure push shove their way influence on the malleable minds of our youth. Trustworthy bonds of relationship are needed to hold the next generation away from perilous collapse of Christian virtues. The pillars of respect for First and Fourth Commandment is firmly understood in a unique way within Christian education. It's a respect that begins in the home. Ephesians 4:32 states, *"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake has forgiven you."*

Without the moral teaching of God's Word, eternal truths will be laid aside. There can be no absolute

truths when the absolute truth of God's Word is dismissed. By the time America entered the 60's and 70's, Dr. Dennis Brogan had determined that public education had become, "...a formally unestablished national church." (Time, September 14, 1969, p. 70) In other words, he saw public education replacing traditional religion. We need God's gift of understanding and wisdom in our homes, our churches, and in our schools. That is easier in Christian education since, beginning at the very earliest age, it is not merely adding religion to wrap around what we need to learn for an adult life, but an education shaped by our Christian faith founded in God's Word.

Miners chipped away at the coal pillars in the mine when the supply of coal neared its end. Lutheran Christian education builds not only for what our youth need in this life, but the life that is to come. Our Lutheran schools teach loyalty to Christ and citizenship to the state. We can never allow our stewardship of Christian education to be eroded, chipped away, or allowed to collapse. Pray for and support Lutheran Christian education because it is the mother lode for the next generation's faith formation.

Your servant in Christ –
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola



Faith Development at Home and at School

— Allen Piepenbrink, District Education Executive

The Mid-South District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod has schools that work together with parents to build children’s faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In this district we support 1 high school, 10 elementary schools, and 22 early childhood centers. So, the question that I would like to address is, “How does faith at home improve the effectiveness of the schools?”

Teaching children and teenagers to develop Christian values and character takes the entire community of believers. At home the parents of the children need to give positive support, communicate well, and set responsibilities and boundaries. The community itself should be caring, value the youth, and have positive peer influences. The church should have positive adult role models, be honest in everything, and engage the youth in the work of the church. The school must have a caring climate, set boundaries and high expectations, and involve the parents.

Ben Freudenberg, in his book *The Family Friendly Church* states four family practices that are particularly important in helping young people grow in their faith. (p. 17)

1. Talking about faith with your mother.
2. Talking about faith with your father.
3. Having family devotions or prayer time.
4. Doing family projects to help other people.

Building positive relationships is key to all humans. Parents are of course the key faith developers for their children both positively and negatively, and it’s important for both church and school to help parents understand their role in helping children grow in their Christian faith. Rev. Todd A Biermann states it quite clearly in his book *Handing Out Life* when he points to Jesus as our number one priority in building relationships. And what follows you might ask? Well as we order our priorities, they should be spouse, family, other believers, and the world. You see that is where we often go astray because we put worldly relationships too far to the top.

In terms of faith development in children, parents have always been given the primary role to instruct and be an example for their children. Today’s busy lives make it difficult to prioritize schedules and resources, but engaged Christian parents are to be consistent in their church attendance, prayers, family devotions and reading the Bible. As it says in 3 John 1:4, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” Statistics have shown that parents are willing to provide spiritual leadership for their children, but often feel ill equipped to do so. This is where the church and school can aid the parents in being the spiritual leader for their children. The school and church can help the children and youth understand their lives as forgiven sinners with the promise of eternal life because of the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The schools in our district not only offer a great curriculum, but also offer the care and nurturing needed by the children that God has put into their midst. The number one goal has always been and will always be to see each and every child in heaven one day. Schools and churches are meant to support the parents by developing short-term and long-term relationships. May the Holy Spirit guide us all to that end.



District Announces 2019 Ralph Weiser Excellence in Ministry Award Recipient



Virginia (Ginny) Prince receives the Ralph Weiser Excellence in Ministry Award from Mid-South District President, Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola (center), with Rev. Don Schmidt, pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church.

The Mid-South District is pleased to announce Virginia (Ginny) Prince and her husband, the late Robert Prince, as the 2019 Ralph Weiser Excellence in Ministry Award recipients. The award was presented to Ginny Prince by Mid-South District President, Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola on Sunday, December 15 at her home congregation of Messiah Lutheran Church in Memphis, Tennessee. The occasion was made even more special by a congregational celebration of Ginny's 80th birthday. She was clearly overjoyed to share such a special celebration with her church family—and honored to be recognized by the District award. Both Ginny and her husband, Robert, have been faithful ministry partners for their local congregation and the Mid-South District, serving in numerous volunteer and

leadership capacities, including Ginny's many years as a Scholarship Committee member for the District. The Mid-South District is pleased to be able to highlight their many contributions through the presentation of the Excellence in Ministry Award.

Introduced in 2016, the Ralph Weiser Excellence in Ministry Award recognizes the dedication and ministry-building work of a Mid-South District layperson. The award honors the life and work of the late Ralph Weiser, a long-time friend of the Mid-South District whose example of leadership, service and faith impacted his local Lutheran congregation and community, as well as ministries across the entire District. Congratulations and many thanks to the Princes for the many years of ministry-building work shared by Ginny and her late husband, Robert.

Life Plan for the New Year

In this New Year, I pray for the Lord to continue to give us wisdom and compassion in teaching and standing for the sanctity of human life. January is an important month for us to confess life boldly because of the unfortunate anniversary of Roe v. Wade, January 22, 1973. However, the whole year can be used to educate congregation members and others that abortion and euthanasia are moral issues and that life is to be celebrated and protected.



In the month of January, you may consider the following:

1. Attend the March for Life in Washington D.C. The dates are January 24-25, 2020. Many congregations have been planning a trip and are set to go. Some go every year. Ask around. There may be additional spaces on a bus.
2. Observe Life Sunday on January 19, 2020. Visit www.lutheransforlife.org for bulletin inserts and sermon ideas. This year's theme is "Did God Really Say . . . ?" For the year 2021, consider inviting a guest preacher (District V.P., Circuit Visitor, emeritus pastor).
3. Attend a state or city rally for life. Or, organize your own circuit prayer rally on the state capitol steps or in your city square.
4. Write letters to your state senators and congressmen on your support for abortion restrictions and bans. The real action is at the state level. Tennessee, especially, has a chance to enact a ban on abortion based on the Ninth Amendment of the U. S. Constitution. I encourage sending letters to all members of the Tennessee Senate Judiciary Committee since they will be ruling on this bill in January! (See my article in the [September 2019](#) issue of the *Encourager*.)

Throughout the year, you may consider doing the following:

1. Include in your bulletins and newsletters Life News, Life Quotes, or Life Thoughts in the Church Year. See the media tab at www.lutheransforlife.org.
2. Consider starting a Life Team in your congregation.
3. Regularly include petitions for the unborn/preborn, the infirm, and the elderly in the Prayer of the Church.
4. Listen to a Frontline Conference Call. Lutherans For Life puts them on quarterly. This is a great way to get new ideas.
5. Remember October as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Month. Remember October 15 as the observance day. I, somehow, did not know this and was only recently made aware of this remembrance. People are looking for this to be acknowledged, and, as Lutherans, we have the Gospel message of comfort and hope to give.
6. Host a guest speaker.
7. Get involved with a crisis pregnancy center. I know that many congregations are making a great impact in volunteering and fund raising for clinics that help women carry their babies to a joyful birth.
8. Contact me with your ideas. Share them with other pastors and congregations.

Rev. Philip Young
Mid-South District Life Coordinator



Faith in the Home

Building Faith • Starting At Home

G2G is inviting everyone to this one day forum for everyone interested in passing faith to the next generation.

Save the dates ~

Saturday, March 21 @ Our Savior in Nashville

April 25 @ Christ Lutheran in Little Rock

Contact Tessa Brasher, email: brashert@csp.edu or phone: 870-215-3261.

More details to follow-check the [District website](#).

Installation of Rev. Bradley Heinecke

The installation of Rev. Bradley Heinecke as pastor for Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Horseshoe Bend, AR was held at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church Horseshoe Bend, AR on Sunday, November 3, 2019.

Pictured in the photo are, front row: Rev. Russell Shewmaker, Rev. Brian Pummill, Rev. David Tews, Rev. David Gadbow; back row: Rev. Michael Diener, Rev. Bradley Heinecke, Rev. Joel Krogen.

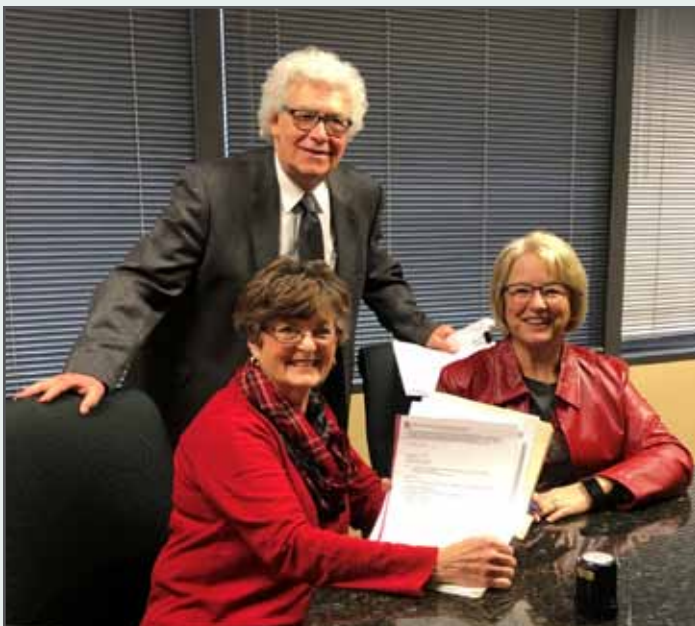


Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, closed on their building loan

On the morning of December 17 Chapel of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Sharps Chapel, TN closed on their building loan from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund.

The next step: Groundbreaking for their first church building early in 2020.

Pictured -- seated left to right Co-President Margo McCaffery; Treasurer Cindy Garretson; standing Co-President Tom McCaffery.





—The Lutheran Witness— Special School Edition

Attention Principals,

It is that time of year once again when we are seeking information from you for *The Lutheran Witness Supplement* highlighting the ministries in our Lutheran schools. The theme for 2019-2020 Lutheran Schools Week is "Joy:Fully Lutheran" 1Thessalonians 5: 16-18.

The Mid-South District elementary schools will appear in the April 2020 issue of *The Lutheran Witness*. This annual section has been well received across the District. *We hope to have you send us your information ASAP.*

Deadline- Picture and a short paragraph highlighting a school event/activity.

Due Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Please email your original high resolution digital photo (.pdf or .jpg files only) and a short paragraph, to *The Lutheran Witness Supplement* editor, Judy Otto.

Judy will always acknowledge receipt of your submission if it is sent directly to her. If you don't receive an email reply that means she did not receive the information. Please call if you have any problems. Judy Otto email: LW@mid-southlcms.com phone: 662-252-1004.

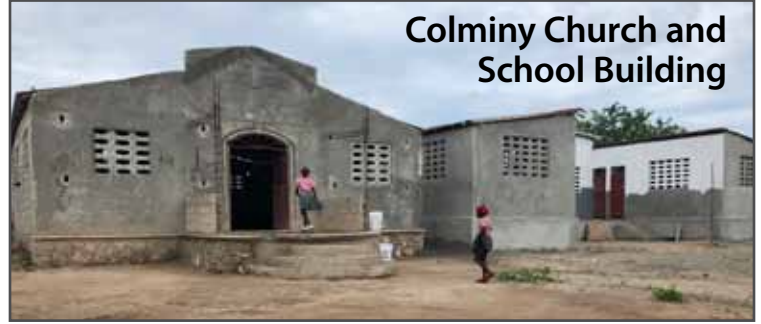
Thank you in advance for your cooperation,
Allen Piepenbrink
Executive Director for Schools and Early Childhood

Sharing the Message of Salvation

Children at Colminy



Colminy Church and School Building



Vodou Temple



"Jesus answered him, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.'" Luke 23:43

Consider how fortunate we are to be called His children living with His promise that we will be with Him in paradise one day. If you have ever been on the ocean in a boat during a storm or swimming against the current, you fully understand how helpless we are against its might. There are vodou priests living in the neighborhoods of many homes and schools we feed in Haiti. They refuse to pay attention to God's Word and instead seek out Satan for assistance as they sacrifice animals in their temples.

While on our May trip in Haiti, we drove past multiple vodou temples on the way to Colminy. This school meets in the church which has no walls around the compound for protection. Next to the school and church are many very small shacks where many families live. They were given chicken coops to raise chickens for food but with the lack of walls, the gangs in the area would come at night and steal the chickens. These children and families also hear the vodou drums pounding on Saturday nights in their neighborhood as the priests call upon evil spirits to do their business in attempting to keep the Christians from attending Colminy Church on Sunday morning.

I am sure that we all have known people who refused to heed God's Word and closed their ears so that they could not hear the Truth. Paul says that men also close their minds to God's general revelation in nature, as well as His special revelation in His Word. Sinful man turns away from God and willingly chooses to believe in the lies of Satan; the grand deceiver. Thank you for helping to prepare over 28,000 young missionaries in Haiti to bring the message of Salvation to the closed ears and minds in Haiti.

The children in the photo attend Colminy and they fully understand the power of the vodou priest, but take comfort as you and I do in knowing that the power of our Triune God is more powerful and mighty than all the forces of the evil foe. We can be sure that He is with us, in control of the storms and will ultimately bring us to be with Him in paradise.

Dear Heavenly Father, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us through Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Visit our website – www.trinityhope.org to see more devotions





LCEF Presents National Mission Award to The Hope Movement

LCEF Board of Directors Chair Rev. Max Phillips (left), Hope Movement Executive Director Desiree Skeya, Mid-South District LCEF Vice President Paul Reaves, and LCEF President & CEO Rev. Bart Day display the esteemed Fred E. Lietz Mission Project Award.

At the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) 2019 Fall Leadership Conference held in Houston, TX in late November, The Hope Movement of Hot Springs, AR was announced as the recipient of the Fred E. Lietz Mission Project Award—an esteemed award given in honor of LCEF’s first president. The unique distinction provided an opportunity to share the story and highlight the powerful work being accomplished through this incredible ministry that calls the Mid-South District “home.”

The Hope Movement was established in 2014 as a ministry of the LCMS LakePointe City Church in Hot Springs. A residential program that ministers to up to seven women at any given time, The Hope Movement is focused on one objective: “to help women move forward from an addictive lifestyle to become fully-devoted followers of Jesus as they discover abundant life through Christ (John 10:10).” The ministry pursues its mission by providing a safe living environment, skills for gainful employment, life-skills training, Christ-centered counseling, and discipleship training to empower participants as they follow Jesus.

The Hope Movement was selected from among many LCMS ministries from across the Synod nominated for the Fred E. Lietz Mission Project Award. In addition to being a distinct honor,

the award designated The Hope Movement as the recipient of the offering gathered at the Fall Conference closing worship service—an amount that exceeded \$50,000 and was generously matched by LCEF! This financial blessing will go a long way in helping The Hope Movement take its next steps in ministry expansion, including acquiring a second residence to serve even more women overcoming addiction.

Congratulations to The Hope Movement on being selected to receive LCEF’s 2019 Fred E. Lietz Mission Award. We look forward to sharing more good news from this incredible ministry that is changing lives in the Hot Springs community through the love of Jesus.



An active church life and faith development are critical components of The Hope Movement program. Here, ladies from The Hope Movement are shown gathering with LakePointe City Church pastor, Rev. Greg Bearss, for the National Day of Prayer.



Treasurers' Workshops

Mid-South District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - MISSOURI SYNOD

Join us for a Treasurers' Workshop. We have five dates to choose from where we will be training on the Treasurers' Manual. This is an interactive workshop for all to learn and contribute. The Presenter for the Treasurer's workbook sessions will be Mr. Charlie Rhodes, Executive Director of Synod Accounting (Retired). Angela Fowler will be the presenter for the QuickBooks Best Practices sessions in the afternoon.

The conferences will be held on the following dates and places

January 4, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Treasurer's Manual – Volume 1
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. QuickBooks Best Practices
Grace Lutheran Church
9076 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN

January 11, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Treasurer's Manual – Volume 1
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. QuickBooks Best Practices
Grace Lutheran Church
5124 Hillcrest Avenue, Little Rock, AR

January 18, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Treasurer's Manual – Volume 1
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. QuickBooks Best Practices
St. John Lutheran Church
500 N. Cumberland Avenue, Russellville, AR

January 25, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Treasurer's Manual – Volume 1
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. QuickBooks Best Practices
Mid-South District Office
1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN

February 1, 2020

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Treasurer's Manual – Volume 1
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. QuickBooks Best Practices
Our Savior Lutheran Church
5110 Franklin Road, Nashville, TN

Details

The morning session will be devoted to training on volume 1 of the Treasurers' manual. The afternoon session will focus on Best Practices for QuickBooks. There will be time reserved for specific questions and answers after both sessions. It would be helpful for you to have a copy of the Treasurers' manual with you, such as, the CD on your laptop, hard copy or online version.

CD's and hard copies of volume 1 will be available at the workshops. Volume 2 has not been updated for this year.

Register Online

Go to the website: www.mid-south-lcms.com and click on "Treasurers' Workshop Online Registration"

Questions

Contact Angela Fowler by e-mail afowler@mid-southlcms.com or telephone 866-373-1343.

New Gold Tier StewardAccount® Available from Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Imagine investing in such a way that benefits LCMS ministries, earns a competitive interest rate and gives you (or your congregation) the kind of access you need to funds. That is what the new **Gold Tier StewardAccount** from LCEF does. Available to LCMS individuals, congregations and organizations, this new StewardAccount is for deposits of \$50,000 and above that you want to keep accessible and flexible. Interest rates are tiered based on the balance and range from 2.125% to 2.500%. This account can only be opened with new money. To learn more about this new investment option and download an individual, congregation or business application, please visit lcef.org. If you have questions about this or any other LCEF investment product, feel free to contact your Mid-South District LCEF Vice President, Paul Reaves at 901-395-7051 or paul.reaves@lcef.org.

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 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 and 18 years or older. Rates as of Nov. 2019. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. New money only. Visit lcef.org for details.

Congregational Mission Commitments

Mission Commitment Receipts as of 11/30/19 (11 Months)

Anticipated Amount (91.67% of budget)\$1,404,585
Actual Receipts.....	<u>1,392,896</u>
Over (under) anticipated amount	(\$11,689)

Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (11 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World Missions	\$394,952
Allocated to Tanzania	22,917
Retained for District Mission/Ministry Support (70% of receipts)	<u>975,027</u>
Total Receipts	\$1,392,896

Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (11 Months)

Actual Receipts as of 11/30/19	\$1,392,896
Actual Receipts as of 11/30/18	<u>\$1,377,474</u>
Over (under) prior year receipts	\$15,422



Prayer Summary, December 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 December.

PRAYER CONCERNS

BISHOP NATHANIEL BOL (South Sudan)
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 (wife Denise is with Trinity Hope)
MRS. ALISON HAWKINS (Mid-South District Office)
REV. ROY JACOB (Emeritus, Hot Springs, AR)
DIONNE MILAM (Secretary to Pastor Toopes, Holy Trinity, Bowling Green, KY)
MRS. HARRIET MUELLER (Beautiful Savior, Olive Branch, MS)
REV. DR. HERBERT MUELLER (Former 1st Vice President of the Synod)
MRS. MEGAN NAVRATH (Daughter of Pastor Carl & Gwen Wenck)
REV. DAVID RUBKE (Tullahoma, TN)
REV. MERLIN SEPMeyer (Crossville, TN)
MR. STEVE TYLER (husband of Julie Tyler, Mid-South District Office)
REV. NEIL VANDERBUSH (Chaplain * U.S. Army with the Board of International Missions * Our Savior, Searcy, AR)

Our deepest sympathies to:

The family and friends of Rev. Luis Coroando, (Lutheran Church of Venezuela) who recently passed away.

Elaine Schleifer (DPAA New Jersey District) and family on the loss of her son, who recently passed away.

The family and friends of Rev. Chris Powell (Emeritus, Nashville, TN) who passed away on Dec. 14, 2019.

CALL UPDATE

IN THE CALLING PROCESS – CONGREGATIONS ORDAINED MINISTERS

PENDING: Rev. Nathaniel Hill, St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Winchester, TX has been issued a Call to serve as Pastor at First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN.

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

PENDING: A.J. Vega, DCE, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN has been issued a Call to serve at Acts Church Leander in Leander, TX as their Director of Discipleship and Family Life/Church Planter in Residence.

IN THE CALLING PROCESS – CONGREGATIONS

First Lutheran Church, Chattanooga, TN – Pastor
** A Call has been issued
First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, TN – Pastor
Mid-South District – Executive Director for Missions and Ministry
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Mountain Home, AR – Pastor

IN THE CALLING PROCESS-COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

Zion Lutheran Church if Avilla, Alexander, AR –
Director of Parish Music
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Chattanooga TN – DCE **A Call has been issued
Christ Lutheran School, Little Rock, AR – Principal
Immanuel Lutheran School, Memphis, TN – Principal

Encourager Topics in 2020

The monthly *Encourager* features news from across the Mid-South District on specific topics. If your congregation, school or ministry group has an update that fits with one of the monthly emphasis topics please email the articles and photos to webmaster@mid-southlcms.com. **Here's a look at the upcoming topics for 2020**

- January - Lutheran Schools
- February – Outreach
- March – Youth
- April – Volunteers
- May – Small Town & Rural Ministry
- June – Leadership
- July – Veterans
- August – Stewardship
- September – Church Planting
- October – Celebrating Lutheran Heritage
- November – Thankfulness
- December – Highlights of 2020

Lutheran Witness supplement

The Lutheran Witness supplement has the 15th of each month designated as the deadline to submit information to be published two months after. Items submitted by January 15 will appear in the March supplement.

If your ministry has items to share, please email your original high resolution digital photo (.pdf or .jpg files only) and a short paragraph, to The Lutheran Witness Supplement editor, Judy Otto.

Judy will always acknowledge receipt of your submission if it is sent directly to her. If you don't receive an email reply that means she did not receive the information. Please call Judy if you have any problems. Judy Otto, email: LW@mid-southlcms.com phone: 662-252-1004.



Mid-South District, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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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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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 **January 23, 2020** to Rhonda, webmaster@mid-southlcms.com