

# Encourager

JANUARY 2025

Mid-South District LCMS



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

A young man called his parents to wish them Happy New Year. His Dad answered the phone, so he asked, "Well Dad, what's your New Year's resolution?" His dad replied, "To make your mother as happy as I can all year." When his mom got on the phone he asked her the same question. His mother replied, "My resolution is to see that your dad keeps his New Year's resolution."

Are we Americans optimistic? A recent poll off the Internet said 70% of American expect 2025 to be better than 2024 - 70%! So, does the clock striking 12-midnight or flipping the calendar to the next day, month, and year really mean 2025 is going to be better? Will we change our bad habits, January 1, 2025 be that much different than December 31, 2024? Our wellbeing, the world, our bodies, and the entire Cosmos aren't

inseparably tied to our calendar. In fact, 2/3 of our world doesn't even celebrate New Year's Eve.

So, where's our optimism coming from? Because we're a follower of Christ, we know our life should be filled with joy, and hope amidst all things – good or bad. We also know we have joy despite the junk that messed up those last years – but may likely happen again in 2025. St Paul's Epistles say joy in Christ is our strength – in bad or good times. This joy and peace passes our human understanding, that if properly grounded, nourished, and found, it will overcome even great grief and suffering.

When Jesus prayed to the Father, He said, *"I pray that they [that's us – His dear children] - may have the full measure of My joy within them."* He also made a great promise, saying, *"You will*

*rejoice. And no one will take away your joy"* No person, no thing, no circumstance, or no event life thrown in our way can take our peace and joy that passes our understanding!

It's Christ's Promise! Remember the times when Jesus spoke to His disciples about troubles and persecution. They were going to be stripped of everything they owned. Ten of the Eleven would be tortured and put to death. Despite all of this, Jesus promised them joy. So, why do a majority of Americans feel 2025 will be better? Because they realize 2024 hasn't even come close to what they wanted!

St Paul picks up on this idea saying, *"Nothing -no disease, no persecution, no alienation, no loneliness, no torture, not even death can take this gift of Divine peace and joy away."* Paul knew

how to live in a dying world – a world that’s deeply immersed in brokenness, troubles, persecution, and conflict. Look at our city’s streets! How can Christians live like that?!

Paul’s answers us on our entry into another optimistically-filled New Year: He says that because we’re followers of Christ, our bad things are real, but God will work them together for good, our good thing won’t be lost – the reason for our Divine joy. The bad things that happen to us (are bad) but will work together for good in Christ. Paul says, *“We know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to His purpose.”*

Everything! The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly can happen to Christians, just as they do to the rest of the world. But for the Christians – those called according to His purpose - these things will

never make us lose our hope in our Promise from God.

The sun rises on the evil and on the good. God sends rain on the just and the unjust. We face the reality of what it means to journey through this temporal life. Bad things happen. But God wants us to live in an eternal joy and get us out of this rat trap where evil things happen. Being a Christian doesn’t put an invisible shield around us or give us trees in our backyards that grow money. That’s not the ways things happen in this real world.

Too many Christians hear preachers say that if you have enough faith, love God, and serve Him faithfully, then you won’t have any bad things happen to you. If that’s true, explain the martyr deaths of countless thousands who died for their faith in Christ? How do we explain the poverty, suffering, and death of

Jesus? Simply stated, false teachings that becoming a Christian turns everything on this earth into a bed of roses is simply false!

Scriptures doesn’t teach that nonsense. St Paul makes this clear. He says “All things” good and bad will be used for the good of those who love God. *“What then will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress or persecution, or famine, or nakedness or peril or sword?”* Those aren’t good things. They’re terrible! God’s Word says that when these things do happen to those who love

God, they won’t separate us from God’s love, peace, and joy... ever! Thanks be to God, when the good things come by His grace.

Paul doesn’t say, *“Things work together for good.”* He knew that when he relied on his own works or flesh, he constantly failed. He wrote, *“O wretched man that I am! Who can deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God: [it is] through Jesus Christ our Lord.”* If St Paul struggled with sin and failure, what makes us think we won’t?

When someone is there to hug us when we’re hurting, or holds our hand when we’re in despair, if someone loves us despite all the flaws and sin, God brings all these things together for our good! Paul says that we have the promise that all these things will work for our good because of His love for us.

Paul writes, *“For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, in order that He might be the firstborn among many brothers. And those whom He predestined, He also called, and those whom He called, He also justified, and those whom He justified, He also glorified. What shall we say of these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all, how will He not also with Him graciously give us all things?”*

Isn’t the word “glorified” past tense? Shouldn’t Paul have said, “He will glorify?” The Greek is clear, Paul speaks of glorification as an accomplished fact: Glorified! God won’t let anything in this life get between us and His eternal





Promise. We're predestined, chosen, elected, and conformed into the image of Christ by God's grace in Holy Baptism. When simple water and His Word was poured over us, we became an inheritor of God's Kingdom, one with eternal intimacy with God. "...predestined to be conformed into the likeness of his Son."

Paul gives us certainty, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present,

*nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other thing in all of creation, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is ours in Christ Jesus our Lord."* It's our covenant relationship given by God.

We don't have to wait for another day, another year, the ticking of a clock, a month on the calendar, a year in our journals, a decade, or even for a lifetime. God promises a better eternal life filled with joy – a life glorified in Christ

– a life being conformed into the image of His Son – and a life that never ends. May God bless you in your New Year and forever.

Your servant in Christ +  
Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola



**National Lutheran Schools Week provides more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.**

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families.

National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to

proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve.

Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.





## OFFICIAL NOTICE

### The 22nd Regular Convention

### Mid-South District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Memphis, Tennessee

**Dates:** Thursday, June 12 (mid-afternoon) to Saturday, June 14, 2025 (mid-afternoon)

**Location:** The Hilton Hotel  
939 Ridgelake Blvd., Memphis, TN 38120; Phone: 901-684-6664

**Theme:** "Christ: The Church's One Foundation" - 1 Corinthians 3:10-11

**Opening Service with Holy Communion:**  
Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 7:30 p.m.  
Christ the King Lutheran Church  
5296 Park Avenue, Memphis, TN 38119  
Preacher: *Synodical Representative*

### **NOTICE TO ALL CONGREGATIONS**

*Please remember the following deadlines to submit nomination ballots and convention resolutions:*

#### **NOMINATION BALLOTS FOR DISTRICT PRESIDENT NOMINATION BALLOTS FOR DISTRICT REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENTS NOMINATION BALLOTS FOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS (Commissioned and Lay)**

Deadline: **February 11, 2025**

**To be sent to the Mid-South District Secretary**

Rev. Larry Peters  
Mid-South District – LCMS  
1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN 38016

#### **NOMINATION BALLOTS FOR DISTRICT SECRETARY NOMINATION BALLOTS FOR DISTRICT NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE**

Deadline: **February 11, 2025**

**To be sent to the District Nominations Committee c/o Mid-South District President**

Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola  
Mid-South District – LCMS  
1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN 38016

#### **REPORTS, MEMORIALS AND OVERTURES TO BE PRESENTED TO THE DISTRICT CONVENTION**

Deadline: **March 15, 2025**

**To be sent to the Mid-South District President**

Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola  
Mid-South District – LCMS  
1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN 38016

#### **NOMINATION BALLOTS FOR CIRCUIT VISITORS**

Deadline: **One day before the Circuit Forum**

**To be sent to Each Congregation's Respective Circuit Visitor**

*(Each Circuit Forum will be held at the District Convention or as scheduled by the individual Circuit per Synod Bylaw 5.2.2)*



# Rite of Installation of Rev. Mark Goble

*Christ the King Lutheran Church - Memphis*



Rev. Mark Goble was installed as Senior Pastor to Christ the King Lutheran Church in Memphis, Tennessee on Sunday, December 8. Clergy present for the installation included (pictured L to R) Rev. Clayton Sellers, Associate Pastor of Faith Lutheran Church (Collierville, TN); Rev. Matthew Lynch, Associate Pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church (Memphis, TN); Rev. Mark Goble, and Rev. Charles Neugebauer, Pastor Emeritus of Christ the King Lutheran Church (Memphis, TN). May God bless Pastor Goble as he continues to serve with the church family of Christ the King!

## Christ Little Rock

Join us for a fun night of talent and friendly competition Saturday January 25!! Sign up below to enter our Mac & Cheese Cook off or talent show! Bring spare change and money to vote for your favorite mac and cheese! (1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Prizes). All proceeds go to NYG! Concessions and Baked Goods available for purchase.

[Sign Up ONLINE](#)

Contact [linaya@christlittlerock.com](mailto:linaya@christlittlerock.com) for more information

A promotional graphic for a Mac &amp; Cheese Cook Off &amp; Talent Show. The graphic features a red curtain background with yellow cheese dripping from the top. The text reads: "MAC &amp; CHEESE COOK OFF &amp; Talent Show". Below this, it says "FUN FOR ALL!" and "Doors Open at 4:30PM Fun starts at 5:00PM". There is a QR code and a "SIGN UP TODAY!" button. At the bottom, it says "SATURDAY JANUARY 25" and "5:00PM". The website "WWW.CHRISTLITTLEROCK.COM" and the address "315. S Hughes St. Little Rock, AR 72205" are also included.

## Does Your Congregation Need a GROW Grant?

The Mid-South District encourages innovative and creative new ministry initiatives of its existing congregations and schools through the GROW Grants program. What is a GROW Grant? It is a financial contribution from the Mid-South District to support an innovative ministry program or initiative to reach new hearts with the Gospel. Examples of such programs/initiatives include new ethnic ministries, outreach to college students, a community food pantry or clothing closet, a ministry for the homeless, or any ongoing program that provides opportunities for Gospel-sharing with the community at large. A GROW Grant is a one-time financial outlay of up to \$15,000 for a ministry or program that will be on-going and self-sustaining after its initial launch phase.



Complete information about GROW Grants is available on the [Mid-South District website](#), as well as a grant application. Please take a moment to learn about this important resource for ministry—and consider how your congregation or school may benefit. If you have questions about the GROW Grants process or program, please contact Angela Fowler (<mailto:afowler@mid-southlcms.com>) at the District office.

## District Staff Lends a Hand for the Holidays

Staff of the Mid-South District Office had a great time volunteering at Neighborhood Christian Centers, Inc. (NCC) in Memphis in mid-December. The mission of NCC is “to guide those in need towards stability and sustainability through compassionate, Christ-centered ministries and empowerment programs.” Throughout the year, NCC serves those in need in the Memphis community through a wide range of transformative services and resources. In December, one of those services is providing a toy store filled with donated items, allowing parents to provide their children with a special Christmas experience, despite financial struggles. The Mid-South District staff was blessed to be a part of this service by helping to sort the hundreds of donated toys that would stock the shelves of the toy store. The group looks forward to serving as “elves” for the NCC toy store again next year!



*Photo caption: Mid-South District Staff (L to R) Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, Lisa Pennington, Julie Tyler, Missy Washburn, Angela Fowler, Michelle Fischer and Renae McElwain enjoyed serving together at Neighborhood Christian Centers, Inc. in Memphis.*



## Redeemer's New Baptismal Font

The font that was installed recently at Redeemer was supplied jointly by New Holland Church Furniture of New Holland, Pennsylvania, and Henninger's Inc of Brook Park, Ohio. New Holland crafted the base out of rift-sawn red oak wood, and Henninger's sourced the carving of the marble top from artisans in Carrara, Italy.

The font was custom-designed, and a traditional eight-sided font was chosen because of the symbolism associated with the eight sides. Christ was raised on the 8th day of the week, and likewise believers received new life through baptism. Also, in the Old Testament, infant boys were circumcised when they were eight days old. With circumcision being the shadow of the substance that is baptism, an eight-sided font reminds us of that connection. Lastly, the eight-sided font reminds us of the eight souls that were saved in the flood on Noah's ark. The Flood Prayer is traditionally said during a baptism, so this symbolism provides additional reinforcement.

The font was placed at the entrance to the nave in part to provide ornamentation where there had previously been none, but also to show that we are a congregation that places an emphasis on the sacraments. The placement of the font also is in keeping with the tradition that baptism is the entrance into Christian life in the church.

The eight-sided font presented us with the opportunity (and challenge) of including carved imagery on the font. It was decided that four alternating panels would contain Luther's Rose. The remaining four panels would contain Noah's Ark, the Agnus Dei, a shell (a traditional symbol of baptism), and a descending dove which represents the Holy Spirit who is delivered in baptism. Mr. Edward Riojas was commissioned to provide graphic consistency amongst the carvings. Mr. Riojas' designs are also featured in Redeemer's new paraments.

-Chris Goldbeck



*Blessing of Redeemer's new Baptismal Font on the Last Sunday of Church Year.*



*Redeemer's Font Committee. From left: Chris Goldbeck, Matthew Young, Rev. Philip Young, Carol Childress, Matthew Carver  
Not in Picture: Brenda Douglass, Stephen Hallock*



# In Case You Missed It on Facebook...



Faith In Action Disaster Response

21h · 🌐

Just a snapshot of our year.

Deployments and Trainings our team participated in:

1. Madison, TN deployment tornado Dec.- Jan.
2. LCMS DR Leadership Conference in St. Louis
3. Basic LERT class in April (Hopkinsville, KY)
4. Chainsaw class in April (Hopkinsville, KY)
5. Columbia, TN deployment tornado (1 full week)
6. Hopkinsville, KY immediate tornado clean up (May)
7. Clarksville, TN immediate storm clean up (May)
8. Rogers, AR deployment (5 weeks)
9. Basic LERT class in June (Rogers, AR)
10. Chainsaw class in June (Rogers, AR)
11. Basic LERT class in August (Batesville, AR)
12. Chainsaw class in August (Batesville, AR)
13. Revisit to Columbia, TN tornado (2 days)
14. LCMS National Disaster Response Conference STL  
- Pastor Fistler attended and spoke at the conference.
15. Valdosta, GA deployment Mid-South District ran and organized volunteers. (3 weeks)
16. Chainsaw class in October (Evanston, IN)
17. Chainsaw class in December (New Albany, IN)
18. Assisted LCMS Disaster Response in reworking and updating our basic LERT curriculum and manual.
19. Boots on the ground and grant writing for Eastern TN Hurricane Helene Relief.

This only scratches the surface for our district but Pastor Trae Fistler clocked around 270 hours in the field running a chainsaw, teaching, or leading chainsaw teams this year. Our best guess at how much Faith In Action alone saved homeowners (homeowners previously received quotes to have work done by someone else) is around \$300,000 worth of tree work. Our team assisted in the removal of around 450 storm damaged trees this year.

This year the [Mid-South-LCMS](#) District assisted in the instruction of 50 new LERT chainsaw trained operators.

Thank you all for your support! Soli Deo Gloria.

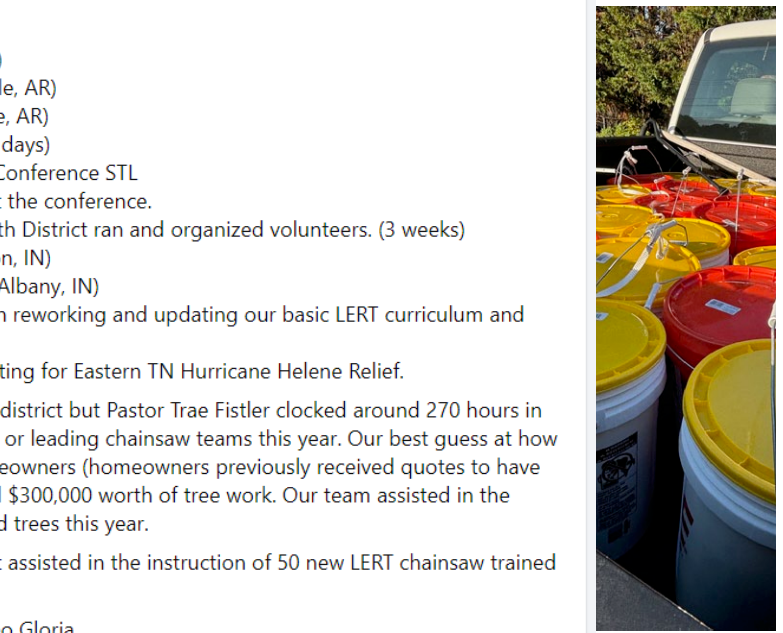
👍❤️👏🙏 21

7 comments 1 share

👍 Like

💬 Comment

🔗 Share



Don't miss any of the great news and updates from **FAITH IN ACTION DISASTER RESPONSE**, the Mid-South District's primary Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT). Follow them on Facebook at [Faith In Action Disaster Response](#).





# FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP FACILITATOR TRAINING

## What is Family Discipleship?

*Christ's gifts nurturing  
faith in God's children  
through the partnership of  
home and congregation.*

Building on our Lutheran heritage, Concordia Center for the Family (CCF) is training **pastors**, other **church workers**, and qualified **lay leaders** to help us ignite new zeal for Family Discipleship in our LCMS. As homes and congregations work together to disciple the next generations, our LCMS and **Christ's Kingdom will flourish!**

Would you like more **training and resources** to support this vision? CCF would love to have you join us! Scan the QR Code to learn more!

### Our next training events:

April 22-26 - Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

May 12-16 - Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne



CCF is an  
LCMS RSO



[concordiafamily.org](http://concordiafamily.org)



1-888-553-5133



[toddbiermann@concordiafamily.org](mailto:toddbiermann@concordiafamily.org)



CONCORDIA  
CENTER FOR THE  
FAMILY

# Prayer Summary, December 2024

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 December 2024

## PRAYER CONCERNS

**REV. BOB BENKE** (Faith Lutheran Church, Hot Springs Village, AR)

**REV. RONALD HALAMKA** (Waxahachie, TX)

**REV. PAUL DONNER** (Emeritus, Paducah, KY)

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

**MRS. MARY ANN HERD** (wife of Rev. Clifford Herd, Hixson, TN)

**REV. TOM SAYRE** (Emeritus, St. John's, FL)

**REV. TOM MOORE** (Emeritus, Cordova, TN)

**REV. ALBERT EICHELBERGER** (Emeritus, Knoxville, TN)

**REV. TIMOTHY SCHARR** (District President, Southern Illinois District – LCMS)

**MRS. FLORENCE EICHELBERGER** (wife of Rev. Albert Eichelberger, Knoxville, TN)

**MRS. NORMA MOORE** (wife of Rev. Tom Moore, Emeritus, Cordova, TN)

**MRS. JUNE WIESE** (wife of former MDS Pastor, Rev. Ron Wiese)

**MS. STEPHANIE ELSEROAD** (daughter of Rev. Rich Elseroad (EM) Knoxville, TN)

**MR. ROBERT NERGER** (Former Mid-South District Board of Directors, Wartburg, TN)

**MR. MARK MCELWAIN** (brother-in-law to Renae McElwain, Mid-South District Office)

**MRS. RACHEL PREUS** (wife of Mr. Samuel Preus, Director of Development, Lutheran Classical College, Wyoming District)

All those continuing to recover and rebuild from the flooding and damage of Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton

Rev. Trae Fistler and Kurt Ludwig, Mid-South District Disaster Relief Coordinators and all teams deployed in recovery efforts.

## CALL UPDATE

**ACCEPTED:** **Rev. Mark Goble**, Associate Pastor to Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN has accepted the Call to serve as *Senior Pastor to Christ the King Lutheran Church, Memphis, TN. Installation took place December 8, 2024.*

**PENDING:** **Pastor-Elect Addison Pope** (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, IN) has received a Call to serve as Pastor to Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cabot, AR.

**Rev. Dr. Philip Rigdon**, Senior Pastor to St. John Lutheran Church, Kendallville, IN, has received a Call to serve as *Senior Pastor to Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY.*

**DECLINED:** **Rev. Michael Kumm**, Part-time Assistant Pastor, Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Dakota Dunes, SD, has returned the Call to serve as *Intentional Interim Pastor, to Grace Lutheran Church, Little Rock, AR.*

## VACANT CONGREGATIONS & MINISTRIES

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Bowling Green, KY** – Senior Pastor -\*\*Pending Call

**Our Savior Lutheran Church, Cabot, AR** – Pastor \*\*Pending

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Hermitage, TN** – Senior Pastor

## IN THE CALLING PROCESS- COMMISSIONED MINISTERS

**Our Savior Lutheran Academy, Nashville, TN** – Full-time PreK Teacher; Full-time and Part-time Preschool Teachers and Aides

**Grace Lutheran Church Early Childhood Center, Little Rock, AR** – Director



# 2024/2025 Treasurer's Workshop



## REGISTER ONLINE

Join us for one of the upcoming workshops. The Presenter for the Treasurer's manual (Volume 1) session will be Mr. Charlie Rhodes, Executive Director of Synod Accounting (Retired). The District's Executive Director for Business & Finance, Angela Fowler, will be the presenter for the afternoon Best Practices session.

It would be helpful for you to have a copy of the manual with you, either the CD, hard copy or online version. The Treasurer's Manual is available on the LCMS website.

NOTE: Because the morning session will be devoted to updates in the Treasurers' Manual (Vol. 1), with time reserved for specific questions and answers, attendees are recommended to have copy of the manual available (either the CD, hard copy or online version).

### To Register

- 1) [REGISTER ONLINE](#)
- 2) Or, [download the Treasurers Registration 2025 form](#) and return it to the District Office

**For additional information** contact Angela Fowler by e-mail [afowler@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:afowler@mid-southlcms.com) or telephone (866-373-1343)

## Dates and Locations

### January 4, 2025 — Knoxville, TN

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. – 1:00 p.m. Church Treasurer Best Practices  
Grace Lutheran Church  
9076 Middlebrook Pike  
Knoxville, TN

### January 11, 2025 — Jacksonville, AR

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. – 1:00 p.m. Church Treasurer Best Practices  
Hope Lutheran Church  
1904 McArthur Blvd.  
Jacksonville, AR

### January 18, 2025 — Nashville, TN

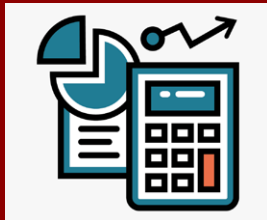
9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. Treasurer's Manual – Volume 1  
11:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Lunch (provided)  
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Church Treasurer Best Practices  
Our Savior Lutheran Church  
5110 Franklin Pike  
Nashville, TN

### January 25, 2025 — Russellville, AR

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. – 1:00 p.m. Church Treasurer Best Practices  
St. John Lutheran Church  
500 N. Cumberland Avenue  
Russellville, AR

### February 1, 2025 — Cordova, TN

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. – 1:00 p.m. Church Treasurer Best Practices  
Mid-South District Office  
1675 Wynne Road  
Cordova, TN



## Congregational Mission Commitments

### Mission Commitment Receipts as of 11/30/2024 (11 Months)

Anticipated Amount (91.67% of budget) ..\$1,502,916  
Actual Receipts ..... 1,484,289  
Over (under)  
anticipated amount ... (\$18,627)

### Use of Mission Commitment Receipts (11 Months)

Allocated to Synod for World Missions .....\$422,370  
Allocated to Tanzania .....22,917  
Retained for District Mission/Ministry  
Support (70% of receipts) . 1,039,002  
Total Receipts ..... \$1,484,289

### Mission Commitment Receipts Prior Year Comparison (11 Months)

Actual Receipts as of 11/30/2024 ..... \$1,484,289  
Actual Receipts as of 11/30/2023 .....\$1,430,538  
Over (under) prior year receipts ..... \$53,751

## SHARE YOUR NEWS WITH US!

### Encourager Topics in 2025

We invite you to share your stories with us please email stories by 20th to Rhonda, [webmaster@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:webmaster@mid-southlcms.com). Here's a look at the upcoming topics for 2025

- February – Outreach
- March – Youth
- April – Volunteers

### Lutheran Witness Supplement

The monthly deadline is the 15th. 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.  
Email: [LW@mid-southlcms.com](mailto:LW@mid-southlcms.com)  
phone: 662-252-1004. Judy will always acknowledge receipt of your submission if it is sent directly to her.

## Mid-South District, Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

### Staff

**Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola,**  
*President*  
**Angela Fowler,**  
*Executive Director for Business & Finance*  
**Michelle Fischer,**  
*Executive Director for Education, Youth & Family*  
**Scott Roberts,**  
*LCEF Vice President*  
**Missy Washburn,**  
*Executive Assistant to the District President*  
**Renae McElwain,**  
*Communications & Marketing Specialist*  
**Julie Tyler,**  
*Administrative Assistant for Education, Youth & Family*  
**Lisa Pennington,**  
*Finance Assistant*  
**Robin Moyer,**  
*Deaconess Intern*

### Contact

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"

