

Report for Education, Youth, and Families

Update

- Monthly Zoom gatherings
 - 2nd Friday- District Principals
 - 3rd Tuesday- District Early Childhood Directors
 - Last Thursday - District DCE's
- Summer 2024- Early Childhood Conference 71 participants, 85 total present including speakers, vendors and participants. Theme "Connected" based on John 15:1-5.
- October 10-11, 2024- District Workers Conference 61 participants from the Mid-South and Southern District. 75 total present including speakers, vendors and participants. Theme "Rally Together" based on Nehemiah 4:20.
- Attended National 24 Conference in New Orleans. Looking forward to The Youth Gathering in Summer 25. Getting involved wherever I can to support the amazing work Chris Jones is doing.
- Attended National Accreditation Commission in St Louis. MDS schools that went through accreditation last year were approved for accreditation. Received updates on NLSA, the rollout of the new protocols and new data system (jetpack). Now working on how to assist schools in meeting the new Accreditation standards. Need to develop training modules.
- Delivered 2 NLSA certificates this Fall.
 - Christ Little Rock- Little Rock, AR



- Belvoir Christian Academy- Chattanooga, TN



- Special Education Grants from the District were approved and distributed.
- Continue to be active with district and national Set Apart to Serve meetings and initiatives.
- Emphasis of learning this fall is statistics and importance increasing family ministry opportunities. The role of the father in the house and in the spiritual development is a critical component in the long-term faith formation of the youth and young people in our congregations.
- Work with School ministries to complete Statistical Reports so that we can continue our 3-year achievement of 100% of our ministries submitting their reports to Synod.
- As requested, assist Congregations and Schools with the Calling Process of Commissioned workers.
- Assist Congregations and Schools in signing up and utilizing Ministry Safe (Synod Emphasis) as a tool to increase safety and security in our ministries.

On the Horizon

- Stay up-to-date on current trends in Education and youth ministries through reading and attending conference.
- Increase my understanding on the DCE and Youth Worker roles and responsibilities so I can better serve these workers and congregations of the District.
- Create communication tools that are helpful for different ministry areas that educate and offer encouragement to our commissioned workers across the district.
- Get to all EEC programs and Schools in the District to build relationships- lead chapel if possible. Determine what they feel would be most helpful from the district.
- Planning District Youth Event in Nashville area in Spring of 25.
- Micro-Schools/Homeschool Partnerships - Research, and Resource the possibility of starting 2 within the District.
- G2G- Develop a full understanding of the research and history within the MDS. Work with other District Leadership to develop the new direction for G2G in the District.
- NLSA-
 - Continue to work with Holy Trinity Lutheran School in Bowling Green, KY, to complete NLSA this fall
 - Continue working with Belvoir Christian Academy Preschool, Chattanooga TN, to complete the NLSA Process Spring 2025.
 - Train schools on Protocol G, New EEC Protocol, and Micro-School Protocol. Train schools in area of Strategic Planning. Look at possibility of increasing the number of EEC/Preschools accredited by NLSA. Maintain State partnerships in AR, TN, and KY with NLSA.
- Supervise (University Field Supervisor) 4 Student teachers in Memphis Oct-Dec 2024. (2 at CTK and 2 at ILS)
- Participate in conferences and training sessions to enhance knowledge and build connections throughout the Mid-South and Synod, in consultation with President Paavola.
- Provide School Board Training and Lead Chapel in Schools and EEC Programs across the Mid-South, Spring 2025 as requested and/or invited.

Key Goal for first year-developing relationships and getting to know those I am called to serve.

NLSA Update

NLSA is seeing extensive changes in the next year. NLSA was just approved to be a member of the National Council for Private School Accreditation (NCPSA). This partnership will strengthen NLSA's influence and ability to be recognized by State Education agencies. This is important in light of so many states voting voucher into existence. New protocols in Elementary and EEC are being rolled out. Schools will be expected to have a comprehensive Strategic Plan and an external financial review. Most of our schools do not have regular external financial reviews, this new expectation will be a challenge for some of our schools. However the data has shown financial stability is critical for long term sustainability in our Schools.