

MID-SOUTH LUTHERAN



Students at Holy Trinity Lutheran School, Bowling Green, Ky., line up for a prayer chain.

The mission of education

Take a look at any one of our Lutheran schools' mission statement and you will probably find something like, "St. Timothy Lutheran School is established to prepare our youth for the future — academically, physically and spiritually." There is really nothing wrong with that statement, and it sounds good. Isn't that the reason we've established Christian daycare, early-childhood centers (ECC) and primary and secondary education?

We have some of the best schools and ECCs anywhere. Why do we establish schools for youth to prepare for the future? Parents send their children to a Christian school because they realize their children are also to prepare spiritually for their future.

So what's wrong with the statement? Schools do prepare children for the



Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola
District President

future. But those kinds of mission statements leave us with the impression that our children's lives don't matter right now. We prepare them for the future, so what do we do for their life right now?

Every Christian school has to wrestle with the concern of its students today! Their lives are cluttered with a daily, if not hourly, barrage of "stuff" that doesn't really matter. What our young people learn today will make a difference in this world tomorrow.

They'll get their act together. They'll need to learn how to be organized and dependable. Where will their foundation of a spiritual life come from, not only for the future, but to deal with what they hear on the street today?

God never says that a person can sin all they want while they're young. My point is, their lives matter right now. God's plan for their lives is taking place not someday, not just in the future, but right now. The apostle Paul wrote:

Now is favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. — **Cor. 6:2**

God is working out an awesome plan for our lives today, tomorrow and into life everlasting.

I salute the schools, ECCs and daycare centers of our Mid-South District. I am honored to work with each and every staff member who has taken up the mantle to bring the Gospel of Christ into the hearts and minds of these precious children He entrusts to our care, but I am also honored to work with the leaders of other education ministries that you — the faithful people of the Mid-South District — support around the world.

Please enjoy our schools issue. Consider what LIME, a Lutheran post-high school ministry is doing in Madagascar. Read about the work the many schools supported by you are doing in Haiti. And take a look at what our own district schools have shared. The Word of God is alive and well through your support here and around the world.

God bless all they do today, tomorrow and, yes, even every day in the future.

‘Raised from death’

LIME shines as Gospel light for students

By Rev. Joseph Randrianasolo
Rector, LIME

For some years now, the LCMS Mid-South District and the Lutheran Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship (LIME) in Fianarantsoa, Madagascar, have undertaken a courageous adventure in doing mission together. The Holy Spirit has inspired them to choose to do that mission. This Spirit is the same Holy Spirit who has sent the apostles out of their closed room to reach out into the world with the mission to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Doing mission by means of education reverses the dynamism. Instead of going out to reach people from afar, it attracts people from afar to one place. But the mission is the same: To preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Education plays the role of spiritual gift and net.

Mission

LIME is a confessional Lutheran university, as its name indicates. Therefore, it has a mission and a vision: To make Jesus Christ known to students under the Lutheran confession. Staff and faculty are not only recruited based on their competence in their profession, but also in their Christian faith. They must be active Lutheran members.

Each Monday morning, LIME has a one-hour devotion led by staff members. All students are required to attend the devotion, which consists of a Lutheran hymn; a short, heartfelt prayer for the school and the future of the students; and a short sermon based on a verse or story from the Holy Scripture. The devotion concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

Students are also encouraged to ask for counseling from the LIME president

and pastor, or from a member of the staff to whom the student feels close. The relational atmosphere is that of the “Communion of Saints” as stated in the Creed's third article.

Preaching the Gospel to students is not an easy task. Most are between 18 and 25 years old and not all are from a Lutheran denomination. Some are Catholic, Anglican or Reformed. There are even some Muslims and ancestor worshipers. LIME does not need to go outside the region of Fianarantsoa to do mission work.

LIME acts as the lamp and the salt for its young students. It is not only a school for the sake of knowledge and job preparation; it is also a school which has a mission to carry out to the young people. This mission from Jesus Christ, the Great Teacher, consists in working as a net to draw them into the Kingdom of God. An efficacious education serves as that net.

Education

If LIME has to work as a net to draw the young people into the Kingdom of God, that net must win in competition with schools of its categories. It is here

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Rev. Joseph Randrianasolo stands with students outside the LIME building on graduation day in January 2019. A total of 38 students graduated that day.

that the LCMS, through the Mid-South District, plays its irreplaceable role. The partnership of the Mid-South District with LIME has exceeded our early expectations by far.

More than 10 years ago, LIME was a tiny school composed of seven students for three classes when I was appointed by the Central Synod of the Malagasy Lutheran Church to be its first president. The school building, a former boys' dormitory for a Lutheran high school, had been closed for 30 years and received no maintenance since then. Two taps provided water at the back of the school and there was no working electricity at all, so obviously, there were no desk computers either for staff or students. It was literally a dead school.

The LCMS Mid-South District was the voice of Jesus of Nazareth in helping to raise LIME from death. The outside of the building and the 14 rooms inside were painted. "Lutheran Institute of Management and Entrepreneurship" was written in big

black letters on the wall facing one of the main roads of Fianarantsoa. Working electricity was installed in every room of the school. More than 10 computers

were bought for students to use. One laptop and one phone were given to the director. Wi-Fi was made available for the school.

And grace came upon grace. The German embassy has chosen LIME to be a center for German language classes, and the number of students has not stopped from growing year to year. This was so because of the maintenance done from the Mid-South District-LIME partnership.

In addition, LIME has run media advertisements and participated at job forums initiated by the local public university. LIME has gained visibility among comparable institutions.

However, COVID-19 did not spare LIME. The school was closed for seven months. As LIME depends on monthly tuitions paid by the students, the finance department was closed during the pandemic. Again, Jesus of Nazareth used the

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Mid-South District to keep LIME alive by sending financial support. Water and electricity bills were paid, as were salaries of the staff and teachers.

But when the government allowed classes to begin five months ago, LIME lost half of its students because of the financial impact of the pandemic. Student enrollment before the pandemic was 134. It is now 54.

Nevertheless, LIME does not despair. It believes in Jesus Christ, the Good Shepherd, who started the adventure. And LIME has the Mid-South District as its partner in that adventure. Therefore, it will keep its head up. It will face the challenge and win the victory.

Glory be to God, our Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

Studying for a church work career?



Students work in Greek class at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, last July.

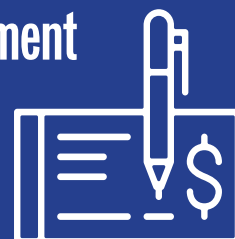
To support the efforts of individuals pursuing a full-time career in church work, the Mid-South District is pleased to once again offer student financial aid. To be considered, a student must be a member in good standing in a Mid-South District congregation and be enrolled at an LCMS seminary or university and studying for full-time service to the LCMS as a rostered church worker.

Rostered workers include pastors, teachers, deaconesses and directors of Christian education. To be considered for financial assistance, you must first inform the district office that you are or will be enrolled at an LCMS school. All forms, including the financial aid application, are available at mid-southlcms.org/student-financial-aid. The application deadline is June 15.

The application may be sent to Julie Tyler at jtyler@mid-southlcms.com or Attn: Julie Tyler, Mid-South District LCMS, 1675 Wynne Road, Cordova, TN 38016.

Congregation mission commitment receipts

as of
Jan. 31, 2021
(12 months)



Anticipated amount (8.3% of budget)	\$122,801
Actual receipts	\$81,952
Over (under) anticipated amount	(\$40,849)

Use of mission commitment receipts

Allocated to Synod for world missions	\$22,502
Allocated to Tanzania	\$2,083
Retained for district ministry/mission support (70% of receipts)	\$57,366
Total receipts	\$81,952

Mission commitment receipts comparison

Actual receipts as of Jan. 31 2021	\$81,952
Actual receipts as of Jan. 31, 2020	\$122,342
Over (under) prior year receipts	(\$40,390)

'AN EMPTY STOMACH HAS NO EARS'

Nutritional and spiritual care in Haiti

"The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few."

— Matt. 9:37

How true that is in Haiti, where voodoo is sanctioned as a national religion and more than 50 percent of the population worships Satan through voodoo rituals. To advance God's Kingdom, the country desperately needs to train up more "workers" in the Christian churches.

There are currently thousands of children attending Christian schools throughout the country. When effectively trained, these children become the little missionaries God calls them to be, teaching their families what they learned about Jesus Christ in school. However, there is a well-known phrase in Haiti that says, "An empty stomach has no ears."

Think about that for a minute. Can you imagine being so hungry that you cannot retain anything you are taught? One 12-year-old girl explained how she lost her sight due to having nothing to eat for several days. Fortunately, after receiving desperately needed nutrition, her eyesight returned. This is real life in Haiti, and Trinity HOPE is responding to this challenge.

Trinity HOPE started in 1999 and partners with Christian schools to share the love of Jesus with the children of Haiti, one meal at a time. The ministry has been blessed to add an additional 12,000 children, teachers and cooks to the feeding programs throughout the country this school year. Through God's grace, it is now serving over 42,000 meals each school day to these hungry children in over 200 Christian schools. That is over 7.5 million meals per year!



Beyond receiving a nutritious noon meal each day to sustain their life, each child is now also better equipped to hear and retain the Gospel message their teachers and pastors are sharing with them at school.

Feeding a child for a day is absolutely critical, but feeding a child the True Bread of Life that gives them eternal life in Heaven with Jesus is the real goal. That is exactly why every school Trinity HOPE feeds is required to be a Christian school.

Thanks and praise be to God for allowing these additional children to now be part of Trinity HOPE's programs.

Surveys have shown that about 50 percent of the children Trinity HOPE

feeds had not received any food at home within the last 24 hours. The meal they are served at school is critically important to their well-being.

Another common phrase in Haiti is, "An empty sack cannot stand." Children have fallen asleep in class or are unable to raise their heads off their desks because they are so malnourished. This nutritious meal served at school is truly life-sustaining. It feeds a child both physically and spiritually, enabling them to better share the light of Jesus with others.

Each day when they receive this meal, the children are clearly reminded that this food is being provided to them through the love of Jesus Christ. The children are taught to pray before they eat, and in many schools they are leading the prayers. With food in their bellies, these children are much more alert and fully prepared to participate in classroom activities and hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Trinity HOPE employs local feeding program directors to visit and inspect each school at least two times per month, ensuring the school is following all guidelines, meeting the expectations of the program and interacting with the children. Of the 23 feeding program directors employed, 10 are also Lutheran pastors. While interacting with the children, they share the Gospel of Jesus Christ through teaching and witnessing.

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The facts show that the education these children receive at their Christian school along with the meal to help them better retain this knowledge has had a significant impact. Through surveys performed while visiting the schools, Trinity HOPE has found that about 95 percent of the children being fed profess their faith in Jesus Christ as their Savior. Praise be to God!

Trinity HOPE is pleased to announce that it has received a 4-star rating — the highest available — from Charity Navigator, the largest and most used independent charity evaluator in America. It evaluates nonprofits on financial health, accountability and transparency. If you would like to learn more about Charity Navigator's findings, visit charitynavigator.org and enter "Trinity HOPE" in the search box.

As we all strive to be good stewards with the gifts and talents we have been given, may we always remember the words of Col. 3:23:

Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men.

Thank you for your continued support of Trinity HOPE and God's blessings to each of you.



TRINITY HOPE

HAITIAN FEEDING PROGRAM

For more information about Trinity HOPE, visit trinityhope.org or call **615-394-4950**.

Outdoor education available for schools

Camp Trinity's Outdoor Classroom for homeschooling families is now available to Lutheran and private schools for outdoor education.

Among the topics to choose from are:

- ▶ Native American history and archeology
- ▶ Mammals of Arkansas
- ▶ Frontier skills
- ▶ Birds of Arkansas
- ▶ Nature photography
- ▶ Pioneer history
- ▶ Old fashioned games
- ▶ Wilderness survival
- ▶ Orienteering
- ▶ Found object assemblage (junk sculpture)
- ▶ Mountain music

Also available is landforms and land features, in which campers will hit the trail to identify and explore caves and rock shelters, natural arches, waterfalls, turtle rocks, carpet rocks, pedestal rocks, mesas, glades and more.

Camp staff will work with teachers to put together a program to suit each



Schools that sign up for outdoor education can enjoy many camp activities, including canoeing and kayaking.

class. Outdoor education retreats can be one-day or overnight camps, lasting as many days as teachers desire.

Other available camp activities are hiking, canoeing, archery, axe throwing, group initiative (challenge) course, gaga ball, sand volleyball, kickball, fishing, large-group games, star-gazing and evening campfires.

Camp staff will prepare meals and snacks. The staff can also lead Bible studies and campfires.

To learn more, teachers and administrators are encouraged to call the camp office at 501-652-6304.

Register for summer camp

A busy summer season is expected for Camp Trinity, the Lutheran Camp on Petit Jean Mountain, with 10 sessions for campers of all ages.

Camp staff anticipates resuming Adventure Camp for high school students, with a river float trip, overnight camping and rock climbing. The session had to be canceled in 2020 because of Arkansas Department of Health restrictions.

For a full schedule, rates and session descriptions, visit lutherancamp.org and click the "Summer Camp" link at the top of the page.





Leadership – and God’s guidance

By Allen Piepenbrink

Mid-South District Education Executive

Following the will of the Lord is the right thing to do, but in today’s world it is not always easy. We as parents and church and community members need to understand the full ramifications of our actions. As Is. 42:16 states:

And I will lead the blind ... in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, and the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them.

We as leaders need to always follow Christ. Leaders are to blaze paths rather than just follow them. Children need a leader who will help them reach their full potential. Churches need leaders who will help them be Christ’s witnesses to the world. Our communities need leaders to show love and compassion to all, which on my soapbox includes the unborn.

As we see in John 13:3-5, Jesus was a servant leader:

Jesus ... rose from supper. He laid aside his outer garments, and taking a towel, tied it around his waist. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples’ feet.

A servant leader puts others ahead of himself. A servant leader initiates service to others. And a servant leader does not hesitate to serve out of love.

Parents have had to endure a lot of stressful moments over the past year.

Developing faith in their own children was probably a test of their own faith. But as Luke writes:

And he (Paul) entered the synagogue and for three months spoke boldly, reasoning and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ... This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.

— Acts 19:8, 10

This passage reminds us that faith development takes time. As parents we need to be constantly in the Word, diligently teaching our children the ways of the Lord.

When helping your children with their homework, there are some things to remember. First, know your own strengths and weaknesses. When it comes to assignments from the teacher, have clearly defined goals about when, where and how work should be done. Hold your child(ren) accountable for their work, and give them the freedom to fail. Yes, we want the best for them, but they have to succeed on their own, with help from us as needed.

As church members, remember that it takes a team to be successful in ministry. I certainly do encourage you to witness one-on-one to those around you, but the total ministry of a church has a great number of twists and turns to consider. Remember the cry of Moses in Num. 11:14:

“I am not able to carry all this people alone; the burden is too heavy for me.”

Moses trained 70 elders to help him in the ministry. Your pastor is there to train you in participating in the ministry, so take every advantage to learn how by attending Bible classes and Sunday-morning worship.

As members of the community, I would remind you to not go it alone when trying to right the wrongs of this world. Remember Moses in Ex. 4:14-16:

“Is there not Aaron, your brother, the Levite? I know that he can speak well. Behold, he is coming out to meet you, and when he sees you, he will be glad in his heart. You shall speak to him and put the words in his mouth ... He shall speak for you to the people, and he shall be your mouth, and you shall be as God to him.”

If you are passionate but not confident to carry out God’s command by yourself, then find some supporters who can help you carry out the will of the Lord. Who do you know that shares your vision? Who has the gifts that can help you accomplish all that God has for you to do?

Remember that leadership involves many. Don’t be the lone ranger. Think about what David did in 1 Chronicles when he built a strong inner circle to help him carry out the will of the Lord. David gathered individuals with varied gifts who were loyal to him and the cause. And remember, David delegated responsibilities according to their abilities.

May your ministries at home, in the church and in your community be a blessing to the Lord. He will bless your work if it is for the sake of the cross.

State of our SCHOOLS

All 10 of the Mid-South District's elementary schools have been able to stay open for in-person learning during this pandemic, with only some short-term closures of classrooms. Two of those campuses also have a high school, Avilla Christian Academy, Alexander, Ark., and Heavenly Host Lutheran School, Cookeville, Tenn.

Nineteen of our early-childhood centers are currently open. Several of them have had COVID-19 restrictions, which have caused a reduction in the number of students allowed in classrooms. Six of the centers are at full capacity and four of those are considering adding another classroom. We have had three early-childhood centers temporarily close, but are hopeful that they can reopen this fall.

There are many opportunities available for sharing the Gospel. There were 21 baptisms associated with our schools in 2020. Seventy of the students in the early-childhood centers are Lutheran, 571 are non-Lutheran and 273 have no church affiliation. In our elementary school, 191 of the students are Lutheran, 469 are non-Lutheran and 152 have no church affiliation. We pray that the Lord guide the teachers in sharing the Good News to all their students.

Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison, Tenn., has begun a relationship with The Edison School to serve children with learning differences and support families in need. The Edison School will operate the school using the church's facilities while maintaining the church's values in doctrine and LCMS practices. Please pray for Rev. Gregory Bauch and his congregation as they accept this ministry opportunity.

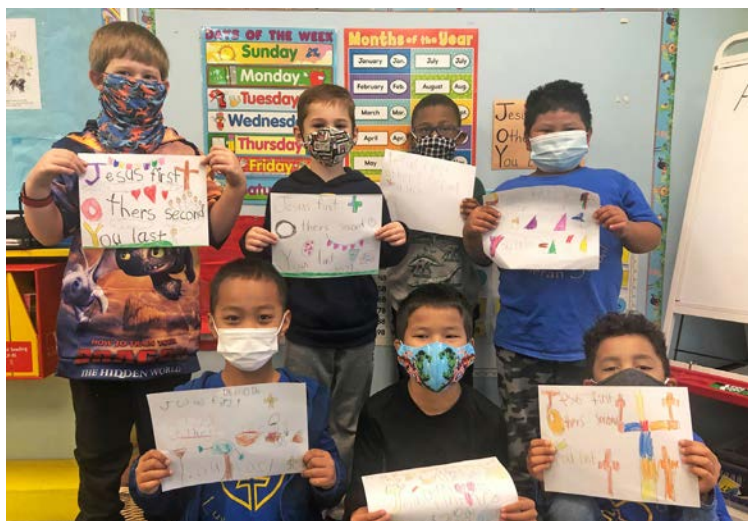
Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Jonesboro, Ark., has begun work toward opening a classical school and hopes to begin serving children this fall. At this point, they are searching for a headmaster and are developing appropriate curriculum. We pray that Rev. Joshua Leigebert and his congregation have a blessed beginning of their school.

The Mid-South District has had great success in maintaining a face-to-face relationship between teachers and students. We continue to pray that the Lord guide all our administrators, teachers, students and parents as the Gospel is shared.

Allen Piepenbrink

Holy Trinity Lutheran School BOWLING GREEN, KY.

The students at Holy Trinity have been very busy this school year learning how to serve others and be good neighbors. From learning about character-building characteristics like gratitude, compassion and courteous communication to supporting ministries like Samaritan's Purse, the Salvation Army and Room at the Inn with chapel offerings, the students are growing in their faith and learning how to love and serve others just as Jesus did.



Belvoir Christian Academy CHATTANOGA, TENN.

Making disciples for Jesus, Belvoir Christian Academy encourages lifelong learners and values students in a nurturing community. Service projects are an integral part of the students' spiritual training. Second graders in Brittany Webb's class (pictured) recently collected snacks to donate to nurses who serve COVID-19 patients at nearby Erlanger Hospital. The students also shopped for a variety of items that they hoped would brighten the day for those serving in the medical field during this time.



First Lutheran School KNOXVILLE, TENN.

First was blessed to be one of three schools in Knox County to receive a \$2,020 grant from Friends of Knox County Public Library. The grant will be used to set up a Little Free Library that will serve as a resource for the community to receive and share books. These libraries help in "Building Community, Inspiring Readers, and Expanding Book Access for All."



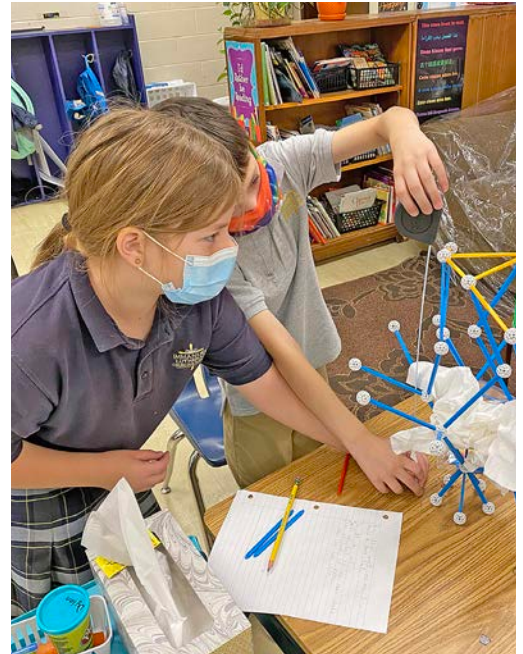
Immanuel Lutheran School MEMPHIS, TENN.

Immanuel (ILS) is finding so many ways to “Speak Life” to its students, ages 3 through eighth grade. The theme reminds the students to use their minds and voices to glorify God in all they do.

This year, Immanuel has been able to do that through chapel services broadcast via Facebook, service projects for families at home and soldiers far away, STEMM challenges and art contests, all the while smiling underneath their masks. Several classes worked together to gather, pack and send care packages to troops in Qatar. STEMM assignments such as paper-airplane distance flights and egg-drop challenges allowed the student engineers to stretch their minds while they reached for success.

ILS was so proud when Meagan McLellan won first place for sixth grade in the BRACE regional art contest.

ILS is using its many voices to “Speak Life” and share the love of the one true Christ!



Christ the King Lutheran School MEMPHIS, TENN.



Students of all ages enjoy creative Christ-based learning at Christ the King (CTK). The school year was kicked off with a transformation of the classroom into an outdoorsy "Camp Kindergarten" adventure, while preschoolers collected items for an animal shelter.

Older students sock-hopped with Elvis and enjoyed drive-in movies on "50's Day," celebrating the 50th day of school. The middle school girls' basketball team, led by called teacher Kara Harbin, is going strong with only one loss, while middle school students participated in a Color Fun Run to raise money for the new playground area.

The new building is almost finished. Construction has been led by CTK member Rusty Luloff, who brought students to the site so each could sign his or her name with a Bible verse or prayer, so the completed building will surround all with the Word of God!



The roots of LUTHERAN SCHOOLS



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

By Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola
District President

Schools were always a priority for the Lutherans who migrated to the United States and Australia from Germany and Scandinavia. One of the first things they did was create schools for their children. This strong educational tradition was handed down from Martin Luther himself.

When the LCMS was founded in 1847, traditional Lutheran education was continued in the congregations that already had an education ministry. The Synod started with 12 churches that operated a total of 19 schools. Several of the churches operated schools in the rural countryside, so students didn't have to walk too far each day.

In a 1524 letter to German councilmen, Luther wrote: "By helping the youth we shall be helping ourselves and all men." In other words, a well-ordered and stable society must have men and women who are professionally trained in their particular fields because, as Luther wrote, "Where there were no people who have been made wise through the Word and the laws, there bears, lions, goats and dogs hold public office and head the economy."

Lutheran schools are operated by individual congregations, groups of congregations or associations. The schools are autonomous in that they call or contract their own teachers, select their curriculum and establish

their own fee structure. The sponsoring congregation paid most of the costs for providing early and secondary education.

With the economic situation that exists today, most operating funds come from tuition and fees. Yet, tuition-based private education faces increased pressure to find other funding sources.

The LCMS operates the largest protestant school system in the United States. As of the 2017-18 school year, the LCMS operated 1,127 early-childhood centers, 778 elementary schools and 87 high schools. The LCMS also operates seven universities and two seminaries. These schools educate more than 180,000 students and are taught by almost 22,000 teachers. Schools in Hong Kong, mainland China and Vietnam are operated or affiliated with the LCMS.

By comparison, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS) operates 393 early-childhood centers, 304 elementary schools, and 29 high schools. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) operates 1,573 early-childhood programs, 296 elementary schools and 14 high schools as of Dec. 31, 2018.

Lutheran schools have always had a prominent role in the Lutheran church. Luther and Philipp Melanchthon were professors at Wittenberg University, where Melanchthon focused on curriculum revision at the post-

secondary level. Luther centered his attention on the lower academic levels. He stressed the education of children and assigned responsibility for this task to parents, the church and public authorities. He advocated instruction in the vernacular for girls and boys and a curriculum heavy on religion and music.

Lutherans immigrating to America often brought with them a determination to educate children using a religious-based curriculum. Rev. Dr. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg arrived in America in 1742 to help the scattered Lutheran churches and their schools, especially in Pennsylvania. In addition to helping with parish schools, Muhlenberg conducted one of the first "charity schools" in Pennsylvania. St. Matthew Lutheran School was established in New York City in 1752.

The emphasis on parish schools was even greater among the Saxon Lutherans who immigrated to the Midwest. Their goal was that every parish should support a school. So important were parochial schools to them that, when they organized what is now the LCMS, "the establishment and support of congregation parochial schools" was listed as one of the primary purposes establishing the Synod.

The growth of the LCMS can be directly related to the presence of its education ministries, which provide so much more than the high quality education for which they are recognized. The vital Christ-centered and life-changing Gospel message of salvation is infused daily into lessons and curricula that reach every child.

Our objective in the Mid-South District is to grow education ministry opportunities, following the pattern from the beginning of the Lutheran Reformation and its advent into the American landscape. We continue to pray for our education ministries, our workers and the congregations that support this vital link to our communities and around the world.

(Read the entire article in the January 2021 *Encourager* at mid-southlcms.org/about-us-2/publications.)

Penny wars build Mighty Mites!

By Frances Bacic

Media and Marketing

LWML, Mid-South District

Recently our school had a penny war. I was amazed at the number of coins that passed through the front door each day as I took temperatures. Each day I would think the coins must be gone — everyone has cleaned out their car, drawers and jars. The next day, I saw more baggies and jars brimming with coins!

Every two years, the LWML Mid-South District adapts mission grant recipients for our mites. This past June we adapted 14 missions to help support, the total of which adds up to \$96,000.

So far, six of our recipients have been funded:

- ▶ Camp Trinity, for camp scholarships.
- ▶ A pregnancy resource center in eastern Tennessee, for medical and program services.
- ▶ The Paradox Teen Center in eastern Tennessee, for activities for the teens it serves.
- ▶ Last Call radio ministry, which broadcasts a daily devotion that can be heard in much of Tennessee.
- ▶ Lutheran Heritage Foundation, for distributing catechisms and devotionals in Ethiopia.
- ▶ Financial aid for those studying to become full-time church workers.



Just like our penny war, we set our goal high and we are not disappointed. The mites come in and the baggies, jars and mite boxes are overflowing with God's goodness for others.

39th Biennial Convention

June 24-27, 2021 • Lexington, Ky.

Early-bird registration ends April 14!

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God" (Heb. 12:1-2).

Convention attendees' objectives will be to focus on Jesus through God's Word and Sacrament, joyfully celebrate our salvation with song and prayer, and serve our neighbors through witness and mission. Lutheran Women in Mission have a heart for sharing Jesus' sacrifice, and with the Holy Spirit's guidance, we will be "Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus."

Register online now at lwml.org/2021-convention.



Attend a district Fall Retreat!

Theme: "Our Hope & Future" / Bible study leader: Donna Pyle

WEST	MIDDLE	EAST
• Sept. 10-12	• Sept. 17-19	• Sept. 24-26
• Mount Eagle Retreat Center 935 Beal Road Clinton, Ark.	• Camp Garner Creek 700 Sam Hollow Road Dickson, Tenn.	• Eagle Rock Retreat Center 7143 Flats Road Tallasee, Tenn.
• info@mounteagle.org	• campgarnercreek.org	• eaglerockcamp.com
• 501-723-4580	• 615-446-3279	• 865-983-6688

Congrats!

Ernest and Donna

Miller, members of Faith, Fairfield Bay, Ark., will celebrate 63 years of marriage on April 19.



June-July issue deadline is April 15

Digital files, sent via e-mail, are preferred. Our submission deadline is the 15th of each month, two months before publication.

Send email submissions to LW@mid-southlcms.com or send by postal mail to:

Judy Otto • 150 N. Maury St.
Holly Springs, MS 38635