MID-SOUTH LUTHERAN



Where we belong



Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola District President

rom the very beginning of our lives, we seek and work on belonging to something worthwhile. Family, neighborhoods, social organizations and churches attempt to fulfill that longing within our human spirit. The search for belonging probably goes back to our first parents, Adam and Eve. Created in the image of God, they once belonged to the family of God but lost their belonging and their belongings when they fell into sin. St. John of Chrysostom wrote in the third century, "My soul will not be at rest, until it finds its rest in You, O God."

And that is the difference between the church and all of the social organizations most people turn to in order to find belonging. Belonging to the church is a true fulfillment of the seminal need within our soul that can find no rest until it finds its rest in God. So what is a church? Is it a long list of names on the congregation's roster? An organization out to get your name and dollars into a new building? A social club of financially well-to-do elitists?

The Bible describes church membership (at least in the true Christian church) quite differently. We pray for and we receive all sorts of new members when we're about the work of making disciples. We need to understand what our membership means to those who join, and what impact it has on our lives. We cannot stay the same as we were years ago; yet we will never be the same as we were a week ago. This world is dynamic and ever changing, and when we place our lives in the hands of almighty God, things are going to happen in a big way.

St. Paul says church members are ordinary people, just like you and me. In 2 Corinthians 4:7, he writes: "But we have this treasure in jars of clay..." — ordinary ground down dirt. We're ordinary people who sin, get hurt and struggle with the old Adam within us. But we're all clay pots — some made like fine China that might easily crack if handled in a not-so-gentle manner, while others of us are hardly more than sundried mud hardened with dirt and grime, but which easily crumble if bumped. We all have the same limitations and problems and are subject to the same cracks and fractures.

Paul is being realistic. It's humbling to realize that our beginning and belonging starts with the same basic ingredient — dust. According to St. Paul, our purpose, designed by God, isn't to make ourselves great, but to be of service to others and to God. Our first purpose, as clay pots, is to be filled by God with all His blessings so He can spill us over to serve Him and build up His kingdom.

St. Paul goes on to say that we have this all-sufficient power in us, so that people will see that the power for our life comes from God. If a pot is made out of dirt, then it stands to reason that the value of what it represents lies within it as it serves.

St. John of Chrysostom described his life as "empty without Jesus," because that's

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CHURCH

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

what we are without Jesus — empty. The world suffers from this emptiness and lack of belonging because there is no peace without Jesus Christ. When our goals disappear, meaning disappears. When meaning is gone, purpose is gone. And when purpose is gone, life is dead. Emptiness and despair run over the top of those who struggle trying to find identity and belonging.

Even within some churches, there are people who can't find purpose or relevancy for their lives. They attend church because they're drawn by culture, friendship or family. Serving in a church accomplishes some activities and they can begin to move to places of leadership. But that emptiness can remain because the sufficiency and purpose of their lives is hollow because they didn't find a way for Jesus Christ to fill their empty clay pot.

Like clay pots, we were created to hold "something." Genesis says that "something" is the breath of life and the image of God, His light and life within us. Without God, our lives are hollow and meaningless. When God created us from the dirt, He breathed life into our souls. So when we're invited to come to Christ as earthen vessels, the living, breathing Christ brings us back to life again. He *is* the life within us as Christians.

Don't be confused by this life. Being a member of the true confessional Christian church means opening ourselves up so Christ can fill us with life and purpose. But St. Paul also says that there are some cracked pots. If we did a survey, we might find that maybe everyone has cracks. He writes:

We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be manifested in our bodies. 2 Cor. 4:8-10

It's hard for me to admit that I'm cracked — not a crack-pot, but fractured in my sinful nature. I may try to glaze over it, glue my broken parts back together,

cover them up or hide them. But when that happens, I truly find nothing but emptiness and the reasons why so many others have crumbled under the burden of carrying their own weights of life.

St. Paul says afflictions, doubts, persecutions and being hurt are examples of the burdens that come from outside of ourselves that will shatter our family, our relationships, and even our person. But Paul says for the Christian, those kinds of things don't have a victory over us. Jesus takes the chains of afflictions, removes the shadows of doubt, lifts us up in the persecution and shows us in the most dramatic way — "My grace is sufficient for you," God told Paul when he was persecuted and hurting (2 COR. 12:9).

Christ's victory is our victory. So our ego, our pride, our filling ourselves up with hot air have to be crucified — put to death — so that our new life in Jesus can fill us up, heal our cracks and let His light reflect the new life in us.

St. Paul concludes:

For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

2 Cor. 4:11

Through Baptism, we are crucified to sin in Christ. By His grace, we become living members of His body. He fills us with the Holy Spirit, who calls and enlivens us for a new, sanctified life. Jesus transforms our ordinary lives into vibrant, extraordinary lives of service to Him and to those He has entrusted to our keeping. We not only confess our sin, but in church membership we also confess the wonders of the mystery of the life we share in common union with our Savior and Lord, Jesus Christ.

I pray that our church memberships aren't taken lightly. I pray church membership and attendance is our honest, sincere desire to be filled anew by God's marvelous grace and mercy. I pray God's Spirit leads us to let others who suffer in fear and darkness know of the love, forgiveness, mercy and grace that is ours through Jesus Christ, who is our salvation and life eternal, for the sake of our blessed Savior Jesus Christ.

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. John Schulz 1932-2025

The Mid-South
District offers prayers
of peace and comfort
for the family and
friends of Rev. John
Schulz, who was
called to glory on March 12.



A husband, father and faithful servant of the Lord, Pastor Schulz was ordained in 1957 and served congregations in Texas, where he also served as pastoral advisor for the Houston-area Lutheran Laymen's League.

During his 17 years as pastor of First Lutheran Church, Knoxville, from 1981 until his retirement in 1997, he served on the board of Tennessee Right to Life.

Thanks be to God for Pastor Schulz and his years of service in faith.

District offers scholarships for church work students

To support students pursuing full-time church work, the Mid-South District is pleased to once again offer financial aid. To be considered for financial assistance, a student must be a member in good standing in a Mid-South District congregation and be enrolled in a Synod seminary or university preparing for full-time service to the church.

Rostered workers are pastors, teachers, deaconesses, directors of Christian education, music directors, family ministry directors and other vocations.

Students must first inform the district office that you are or will be a student at a Synod school. All related forms, including the financial aid application, and instructions for submitting are available at *mid-south* lcms.org/student-financial-aid.

The application deadline is June 15.

Salem, Springdale, strengthens faith formation with Grow Grant

By Rev. Brandon Martin

Salem Lutheran Ministries, Springdale, Ark.

At Salem Lutheran Ministries, we are evaluating, revising and expanding our faith formation to use the strengths of Lutheran doctrine and practice in order to develop mature, lifelong disciples in our multiethnic congregation.

In other words, we want *all* our youth to trust and follow Jesus ... with *all* their heart ... and for *all* their life.

We lament that we have lost many youth following confirmation. So for several years, we have evaluated how to revise our faith formation (youth catechesis) in order to be more enduring. This past year, we sought the help of two experts in this field and began to implement some of their recommendations.

The results so far have been fantastic. We are now partnering with parents, equipping and encouraging them to be spiritual leaders in their home. We have also centered our faith formation on the Divine Service, where God gives the gift of faith and nurtures that faith for life.

Yet we still face various challenges in our multiethnic context. The Grow Grant is helping us to gain further feedback from our coaches, develop a long-term plan, implement further changes and then share what we learned with other multiethnic congregations.



From left, Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola, Mid-South District president, presents a Grow Grant of \$6,000 to Salem Lutheran Ministries' Rev. Adam Gless, senior pastor, and Rev. Brandon Martin, associate pastor. Salem holds services in Spanish (and bilingual services) for its Hispanic members.



Concordia, Nashville, held its annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper March 4 to benefit Trinity HOPE, which provides lunch to children in Christian schools in Haiti, and to provide pancakes and sausage to fortify members for Lent. Pictured are, from left, Jim Brown, Carol Hall, Conner McMinn, Paul Doster, Celia Gulbenk, Michael Noyes, Amy Maas, Rev. Eric Phillips (Concordia pastor) and Keith Logan (Trinity HOPE director).

Share your news with us!

Digital files are preferred. Email submissions to **LW@mid-southlcms.com** or send by postal mail to: Judy Otto; 150 N. Maury St.; Holly Springs, MS 38635 The deadline for the August issue is June 15.



Congregation mission commitment receipts

as of Feb. 28, 2025 (2 months)

Anticipated amount (17% of budget) \$271,449
Actual receipts \$228,991
Over (under) anticipated amount \$42,458)

Use of mission commitment receipts

Allocated to Synod for

world missions\$64,531 Allocated to Tanzania\$4,167 Retained for district ministry/

mission support (70% of receipts)\$160,294 Total receipts\$228,991

Mission commitment receipts comparison

Actual receipts as of Feb. 28, 2025.......\$228,991

Actual receipts as of Feb. 29, 2024...... \$242,335

Over (under) prior year receipts(\$13,344)

Meet the candidates

The Mid-South District Convention will be held June 12–14 at the East Memphis Hilton. The opening Divine Service will be held at 7:30 p.m. on June 12 at Christ the King, Memphis.

Visit *mid-southlcms.org/convention-2* to stay updated on convention news. Following are biographies and statements of the candidates for district president.

Rev. Curtis Hoover

Educational background: M.Div., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (2006); BA, Concordia College, River Forest, III. (1982)



Home congregation: Faith, Thompson's Station, Tenn.

Synod experience: Regional Colloquy Interview Committee (2018-2019); Pastoral delegate to Synod convention and new governance resolution process (2010); Synod-selected church planter out of seminary and first place of the eight selected from both seminaries (2004-2006)

District experience: Pre-seminary and Colloquy Interview Team (2016-present); COMPASS visit team for six consultations (2017-2022); Lay Ministry Colloquy Transition Team (2016-2019); Convention Subcommittee member (2018); circuit Visitor (2012-2018); Reconciliation Team member (2013)

Congregational experience: Senior pastor, Faith, Thompson Station (2008-present); SMP supervisor (2019-present); lay deacon supervisor (2008-2019); replanted existing congregation into a different community — designing, constructing and dedicating a new church building (2011); associate pastor (2006-2008); church planting convertible vicar (2005-2006)

Community/other experience: Ongoing host to local symphony; musical recitals; traveling choirs and bands; Right to Life groups; three neighborhood associations; chaplaincy to two senior living centers and the mayor's office; musician and singer in several bands, performing regularly at senior living centers, community parks and public music venues

Statement: Priorities, if elected, and desired of whoever is—

- Confessional to the letters of its articles and their loving intentions.
- Be known first and foremost as Pastor.
 I'd encourage being called part-time to a congregation, connecting me to pulpit and altar.

- Regular and champion of winkels and continuing education programs ... attending each to listen, learn, and participate.
- Accountable and transparent in the stewardship of entrusted funds and duties.
- Encourage mission and ministry creative brainstorming, prudent decisions, appropriate funding, and accountability to be administered through circuit forums or mission action councils.

Rev. Eric Longman

Educational Background: BS, Georgia State (1992); M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (2015); D.Min., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (in progress, candidacy status)



Home congregation: Holy Trinity, Rogers, Ark.

Synod experience: Alternate pastor delegate to Synod convention (2023)

District experience: District reconciler, ordained (2023-present); Pastoral delegate to district convention (2022); Floor Committee on Structure and Administration, Missouri District (2018); Pastoral delegate to district convention, Missouri District (2018); Lay delegate to district convention, Florida-Georgia District (2009)

Congregational experience: Senior pastor, Holy Trinity, Rogers, Ark. (2019-present); associate pastor, St. Paul, Jackson, Mo. (2015-2019); head elder, Rivercliff Lutheran Church, Sandy Springs, Ga. (2005-2009); Loving Shepherd, Dallas, Ga. (2001-2003); Bible study leader (2001-2009); assistant minister (lay), First United Lutheran Church (ELCA), Kennesaw, Ga. (1998-2001); financial secretary, Trinity (ELCA), Snellville, Ga. (1994-1997)

Community/other experience: Rogers Ministerial Alliance, Rogers, Ark. (2019-2025); City of Jackson Outreach Board (2016-2019), Jackson Ministerial Alliance (2016-2019), Jackson Chamber of Commerce (2015-2019), Jackson, Mo.

Statement: I rejoice in the faithful confession of



the congregations of the Mid-South District and the LCMS, and I pray for leadership that continues to emphasize the centrality of the crucified, risen and ascended Jesus Christ as the only way to the Father and the only means of salvation. The Mid-South District is filled with healthy and faithful congregations. I see the role of district president as one of support and encouragement, furthering our work together in support of the Gospel. I would emphasize outreach and faithful proclamation of the Gospel and recruit church workers to join in the task.

Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola

Educational background: BA, public administration, University of Minnesota—Duluth (1969); MBA, healthcare administration, University of Minnesota (1977);



M.Div., Concordia Lutheran Theological Seminary, St. Catherines (CLTS), Ontario, Canada (1997); D.Min., Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Ind. (2009)

Home congregation: Christ the King, Memphis

Synod experience: Council of Presidents (2012-present); Concordia Plan Services Board (2010-present); CTSFW Board of Regents; Synod Convention Floor Committee (four conventions, three as chair); CTSFW guest professor

District experience: District president (2012-present); secretary/second vice-president (2009-12); Small and Rural Congregation Committee chair; Mission Action Council chair

Congregational experience: Pastor, Heavenly Host, Cookeville, Tenn. (2000-12); pastor, Grace, Beausejour, Manitoba, Canada (1997-2000)

Community/other experience: Hospital CEO (1971-1992); Adjunct Faculty, University of Minnesota; Bemidji State University; Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne; served on numerous civic boards and councils: Regional Health Agency, hospital association legislative council, board for the

Continued on next page

Communications Services to the Deaf, chairman for a South Dakota safety council; Habitat for Humanity; the American Cancer Society; the American Red Cross; lecturer on business, management, and small church forums; Boy Scouts (1969-1983); published five books and several articles with two more books in process; parish administration for the International Lutheran Council and CTSFW; and the Jerusalem Temple for CLTS

Statement: Mid-South District priorities (2025–2028)—

- Plant churches, auxiliary church campuses, K-8 schools, ECCs and micro-schools
- Develop generational faith formation for every congregation, keeping our youth active
- Recruit, retain highly skilled church workers in all church-work professions
- Staff professional assistance to church workers' wellness using Lutheran family and CPS resources
- Implement best practices for congregations/ schools/ECCs, including our rural and small-town ministries to share successful advances in mission/ ministries
- Encourage CAR/COMPASS service to avoid stress on district ministries
- Establish on-site pastoral services provided to long-term vacant congregations
- Present witness seminars in all circuits
- Prevent closures by hub-and-spoke, merger, or re-planting methods

Rev. Lane Reuter

Educational Background: BA, history, University of Alabama, Birmingham (1991); M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (1996)



Home congregation: Our Savior Lutheran Church and Academy, Nashville

District experience: First vice-president, Region 3 (2021-present); vice-chair, Board of Directors (2021-present); secretary, Board of Directors (2011-2014)

Congregational experience: Senior pastor, Our Savior Lutheran Church and Academy, Nashville, (2014-present); senior pastor, Immanuel church and school, Memphis (2007-2014); Associate pastor, Grace, Knoxville (2000-2007); Pastor, Our Redeemer, Jackson, Miss. (1998-2000); Assistant pastor, Grace, Destin, Fla. (1996-1998)

Community/other experience: Police and fire outreach; Overton High School feeding program; Room In the Inn Ministry; Inspiritus work with the needy. AncoraTN (combating human trafficking,

formerly End Slavery Tennessee); Mission trips to Haiti, Peru, Mexico, Bangladesh, Guatemala and Colombia

Statement: Five Main Commitments—

- 1. To unchanging biblical and confessional truth in a changing world.
- 2. To all of our congregations to focus on reaching unchurched and de-churched people.
- To recruiting the best possible pastors and church workers from our seminaries, colleges, and the field.
- To being a pastor, not a church politician. I want to lead with humility and to admit when I'm wrong.
- 5. To use our district vice-presidents and circuit visitors with great frequency.

Rev. Clayton Sellers

Educational Background: BA, geology, Texas A&M University (2006); M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (2013)



Home Congregation: Faith Lutheran Church and Preschool, Collierville, Tenn.

District Experience: Seminary Interview Committee (2016-present); Generation 2 Generation (2019-2021)

Congregational Experience: Associate pastor, Faith, Collierville (2013-present)

Statement: Jesus promises that the gates of hell will not prevail against His church and her true confession of Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. It is our great privilege to proclaim this message to souls entrusted to our care and those moving into our district. The challenge for our district is to shepherd the areas that are growing and those that are seeing decline. Wherever the Lord gives growth and where we see decline we know He is forever victorious. It is our privilege to sew and water as Paul and Apollos and watch the Spirit give the growth.

Rev. Joshua Willadsen

Educational Background: BA, University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire (1999); M.Div., Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (2004)



Home Congregation: Bethel, Fort Smith, Ark., and Trinity, Sallisaw, Okla.

Synod Experience: Convention delegate (2010, 2016); Floor committee member, Structure and Administration (2016)

District Experience: Third vice-president, Region 1 (2021-present); Board of Directors, Mission and Ministry Vice-chair (2021-present); Circuit visitor, Fort Smith Circuit (2018-2021)

Congregational Experience: Pastor, Bethel, Fort Smith, Ark. (2013-present) and Trinity, Sallisaw, Okla. (2022-present); Founding pastor, Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Oakland, Tenn. (2004-2013)

Community/other experience: Volunteer, Western Arkansas Ballet (2021-present); volunteer, Reynolds Cancer Support House (2014-2021); president, Oakland Regional Chamber of Commerce (2010); Board of Directors, Oakland Regional Chamber of Commerce (2009-2011)

Statement: Priorities—

- Teaching, admonishing and encouraging pastors and congregations to hear, trust and obey the Word of God, the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, which alone are powerful to make one wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus and are the only true norm by which all teachers and doctrines are to be judged.
- Admonishing pastors and congregations to hold fast our confession and practice of the faith as stated in 1580 Book of Concord as a true and faithful exposition of Holy Scripture.
- Providing faithful pastors to congregations to conduct the Holy Ministry (AC V).



What's your 'USE-BY' DATE?



Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! PSALM 90:16-17

Do you regularly go through your cabinets to check the "use-by dates" on your canned goods and staple items? It came to mind that some folks think that, at some point, God stamped them with a "use by date."

We've all heard someone declare that they've done their part and it's time for someone else to take over. The LWML Mid-South District Board of Directors chose Psalm 90:16-17 as the theme verse for the 2024-2026 biennium. This verse clearly does not include a clause that says anything about how long we are to establish the work of our hands!

So take courage — you haven't expired yet! That means you can continue to work for the Lord in very meaningful and important ways. Keep fighting the good fight Christian soldiers!

Candy Habich, Chairman

LWML Mid-South District Media and Marketing Committee



On Feb. 16, a **Mission Grant** check for \$6,500 was given to Table Graces Food Pantry of Athens, Tenn., which distributes food to those in need in McMinn and surrounding counties in southeastern Tennessee. The presentation was held at Athens Lutheran Church. Pictured are, from left, Janis Wenzel, Athens LWML president; Heidi King, pantry director; and Kim Nosis, LWML Chattanooga Zone president. To learn more about the ministry, and all other Mission Grants, visit *midsouthlwml.org/mission-grants*.



Get registered for a fall retreat at one of three locations! The retreat Bible study, written by Miriam Maassel Neumann, is *Experience the JOY – Then SHARE IT!* The theme verse is from 1 Thess. 5:16. For more information, visit *midsouthlwml.org/district-retreats*.

WEST: Sept. 5-7, Mount Eagle Retreat Center, Clinton Ark.

MIDDLE: Sept. 19-21, Camp Garner Creek, Dickson, Tenn.

EAST: Sept. 26-28, Eagle Rock Retreat Center, Tallassee, Tenn.

Lutheran Women in Mission

41ST BIENNIAL CONVENTION



Omaha, Neb. | June 26-29

But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.

There's still time to send Gifts from the Heart! Amazon wish lists are available for three recipients. Whether you plan to attend the convention or not, you can still participate. Plus, you can get your whole congregation involved! For more information, visit *lwml.org/convention* and clink the link under "Convention Details."

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HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS:

Get a taste of seminary life

High school students who are interested in theology and church work are invited to apply to Christ Academy High School (CAHS) 2025, a two-week intensive program of learning, worship and fun to be held June 15–28 at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Ind.

Designed for boys and girls who are considering a career in church work, CAHS consists of three elements: confessional catechesis, liturgical worship, and a fun life together.

During CAHS, students take a variety of theology classes taught by CTSFW faculty. Learning also occurs informally in the invaluable discussions over the dinner table and in dorm groups.

Students will experience the joy of living a life of worship as they gather around God's Word four times a day. Students will also have the opportunity to serve the greater community and enjoy fun activities.

For more information, email Rev. Matthew Wietfeldt, director of Christ Academy, at *christacademy@ctsfw.edu* or call 260-452-3140.









UNITED in **WORD** and **SACRAMENT**

uring the past year, many people around the world have been rocked by disaster — flooding in North Carolina, typhoons in the Philippines, wildfires in California. Lutherans are not spared from the consequences of a fallen world. Yet, they are called "to be together around Word and Sacrament" even at a time like this, says Rev. Christopher Schaar, pastor of Historic First Lutheran Church, Pasadena, Calif., which narrowly escaped the Eaton fire in early January.

The Spring 2025 issue of *Lutherans Engage the World* includes these stories and more. You'll also read about a new hymnal in the Indonesian language that came about through a collaboration of the LCMS and the Indonesian

Christian Lutheran Church; two church plants that are taking root in the LCMS South Wisconsin District; and LCMS All Nations Ministry, a newly formed ministry that seeks to support those serving in Asian, Black, Hispanic, native American and other ethnic ministries around the United States.

Through good times and bad, we thank God for the projects that are completed, the people who are cared for and the seeds that are planted when the church clings to Jesus Christ and His promises.

Read the issue online at *engage.lcms.org*, or sign up for a free subscription at *engage.lcms.org/subscribe*.

DISTRICT NEWS

CAMP TRINITY

Quilts donated for Cornerstone Lodge

The Sew What quilters from Zion, Avilla, Ark. created and donated 20 beautiful quilts for the beds in Cornerstone Lodge, the new retreat center at Camp Trinity. The quilts provide cozy warmth and a homey atmosphere for guests.

Summer Camp

Registration is still open for summer camp. Parents can check availability and register online at *lutherancamp.org*.

Outdoor Classroom

Registration is open for the fall 2025 semester of Camp Trinity's Outdoor Classroom for homeschoolers. Parents can learn more and register at *lutherancamp.org* (click the "Home School" link at the top of the page).

PHOTOS: Left, students explored Cedar Creek Trail during a session of the Outdoor Classroom. Most of the 10 spring semester classes included a hike in Petit Jean State Park. Top right, staff teach archery to campers at each session of summer camp. Below right, the Sew What quilters from Zion, Avilla, Ark., donated quilts.







Register for Henkel Conference

The fourth annual Henkel Conference will be held Aug. 21-22 at Ascension Lutheran Church, Madison, Tenn.

The conference is devoted to Christian theology and cultural engagement, and aims to provide a forum of renowned theological and cultural speakers within the Christian faith in order to educate and encourage in the midst of the present assaults on God's eternal truth. Clergy and laity are invited to attend, and to bring friends, family and congregation members.

For more information, including the speaker list, schedule and hotel suggestions, and registration, visit *ascensionmadison.com/henkel.html*. You may also email *henkel@ascensionmadison.com*.

The webpage also has a link to presentations from previous conferences.



Young musicians sought for summer program

Spaces are still available for Lutheran Summer Music (LSM), scheduled for June 22–July 20 at Valparaiso University in Valparaiso, Ind.

Lutheran Summer Music is a faith-based residential music academy for high school students who have completed grades 8-12. Students from around the

country gather for a joyful summer of music-making through large ensembles (band, choir, orchestra), chamber music, private lessons, elective classes (conducting, composition, jazz, musical theatre, handbells, pipe organ) and use their musical gifts in performance and worship.

To learn more, visit *Ismacademy.org*.