

The VOICE

SEPTEMBER 2020

MISSOURI DISTRICT NEWSLETTER

IN THIS ISSUE: SCHOOLS IN THE MISSOURI DISTRICT



A NEW PLAYGROUND FOR CCLS

From the President's Desk: A Different Year, But the Same Message

This will be a different year at our Lutheran schools. Principals, teachers, custodians, cooks and board members have all busied themselves for any number of contingencies. Even the simplest of details were re-examined. Drop off, restroom break, recess, lunch, athletics, activities and pick up were all considered in light of the safety of students and staff alike. As one who has spent most of my life around Lutheran schools, it is hard to think of a school-year with no hi-fives, fist bumps or hugs (elbow bumps just aren't the same). But what sets our schools apart is not the educational strategies or interactions between teachers and students.

Our schools have always been different. What distinguishes Lutheran schools from others is that Christ is at the center of everything we do and the COVID-19 crisis cannot change that. Whether instruction is online or in person, Christ is the reason for our school to exist and the foundation on which all of our education takes place. Even though many things are different about this school-year, that purpose and focus has not changed at all.

The sharing of Christ's love in word and deed is what motivates those who serve and sacrifice for the sake of our Lutheran schools. The goal is that every student who walks through the school doors (or even enters the virtual classroom) would know that Jesus Christ died and rose for all. None of us know exactly how this school-year will go, but pointing students and families to Jesus will remain our mission no matter how the instruction is delivered.

Our Lutheran schools across Missouri reach thousands of children with the Gospel each day. I invite your prayers for the health of the faculty, staff and students of our schools and for the opportunities to share God's love through our schools. These are obviously challenging for our Lutheran schools. Please consider contacting your pastor or principal if your church supports a Lutheran school or reach out to a Lutheran school to find out how you can help! It is a different year, but the message has not changed at all! May God bless our schools as they share Christ with those they serve!

Fraternally in Christ,



President Lee Hagan



PRESIDENT'S PRAYER LIST:

Please pray for our teachers, principals, pastors and other servants to be healthy as they serve.

Also, pray for the opportunities to share the Gospel with those who have not yet been brought to faith.

Lastly, continue to pray for those who have not been able to return to in-person worship that they would be preserved in the faith.

Lutheran Schools During COVID-19



When President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Lewis and Clark to explore the territory of the Louisiana Purchase, he gave them a map. However, of course, the map contained little information as the point of the exploration was to discover and map this uncharted territory. At this time the territory of the Louisiana Purchase was Terra Incognita, "Unknown Territory," and Lewis and Clark were responsible for filling in the map as they journeyed this new territory.

As Lutheran schools have opened the 2020-2021 school year, administrators have started a journey that may seem much like Lewis and Clark exploring the lands of the Louisiana Purchase. Our Lutheran school administrators and educators have been working hard as they prepared for this unknown school year and they are prepared to educate and most importantly to bring Jesus to students, families, and the communities they serve! Lutheran schools have opened the 2020-2021 school year with in-person learning or providing parents with a choice to have their student attend virtually. Schools are following CDC guidelines, and local health department guidelines for cleaning, social distancing, and Covid-19 quarantining. Several Early Childhood Centers opened in June of 2020 and led the way on developing re-opening plans, guidelines, and best practices.

Our Lutheran schools recognize that while we are working in uncharted territory, God is not. He has seen such circumstances before, and He is with us to guide us. God has shepherded His people through circumstances like this before, He will do it now, and we know He will continue to do it in the future. This is why Lutheran schools exist, to proclaim His Grace, Mercy, and Peace; to give the students, families and communities that they serve Jesus! Lutheran schools throughout the Missouri District are open for the 2020-2021 school year and providing educational excellence in a Christ-centered environment whether that is in-person or online. Lutheran schools are open and providing the life-giving message that Jesus Christ is Our Lord and Savior and whoever believes in Him shall not be lost but have eternal Life! Please pray for our Lutheran school Educators to have stamina and endurance as they are called to deliver so much more and to do so in different learning formats: please pray for Lutheran school administrators as they lead and guide their schools; please pray for the students attending our Lutheran schools that they are comforted, supported, and grow educationally, but most importantly that they know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior; please pray for families as they send their students to Lutheran schools, may they have comfort and peace at this time of unknowns. May we all give praise, thanks and Glory to God knowing that He has this, just as He has everything!

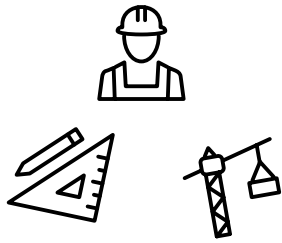


Alan Freeman

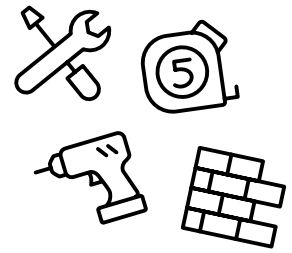
Assistant to the President: Schools

Please note that many of the pictures in this publication were taken before COVID-19.



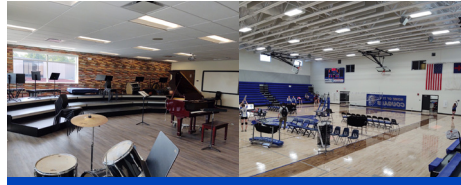


NEW BUILDINGS ACROSS MISSOURI



**CCLS
Kirkwood**

Concordia Lutheran Church opened a new Center for Christian Education. This facility houses the CCLS middle school with special areas such as the Innovation Center – a STEAM space for students – and classrooms with Clevertouch interactive displays. There is also a new space for the Early Childhood program, which has infant classrooms, a new playground, and a soft play area.



**Lutheran High
St. Charles**

Lutheran High expanded their campus to accommodate a growing student body. The building addition features a new gymnasium, locker rooms, chemistry lab, music and choral room, and a STEM/Engineering lab. There was also a renovation of existing facilities, including the remodeling of the Library/Media Center, Commons, entry lobby, creation of a 48-seat lecture hall, and updating of art studios and multiple general classrooms.



**St. Paul's
Des Peres**

St. Paul's built a 32,000 sq ft. facility to house all students K-8th and expanded the Early Childhood Center. Students now have access to 15 tech-enabled classrooms, a science and STEM lab, art studio, and library.

This new state-of-the-art school building designed by the Ittner Cordogan Clark Group and built by K&S Associates, Inc.



Casey Carlson LCEF

Did you know LCEF collaborated on these projects? Since 1978, LCEF's greatest joy is watching LCMS ministries and workers thrive. Because of this, we will continue to make precious resources available. These projects are great examples of this commitment of LCEF across the Missouri District. We want to be part of your great and exciting work now and long into the future! Have a facility improvement in mind? LCEF can help with that.

Contact Casey today!

casey.carlson@lcef.org 314-221-4503



**Faith
Kirksville**

Faith Lutheran School in Kirksville has also been blessed with a major expansion project. They have a new gymnasium, new classroom space, and have added additional restrooms for a growing school. There is also space for two future classrooms.



**St. John's
Arnold**

Not all school improvements come in the form of a major building addition. St. John's has been working hard to make many smaller-scale, but impactful improvements. They have built a school entrance canopy and installed rubber tile on the playground surface. They are also in the process of replacing the exterior fence and installing a playground shade structure.

TEACHING DURING COVID-19

An Interview with Ruth Temme Calvary Lutheran High School in Jefferson City

One question that many are asking is exactly how are students returning to schools while COVID-19 is still in society? Lutheran schools across the Missouri District have worked tirelessly over the summer to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. While schools have slightly different policies and procedures, they all share the same goals: safety and education of their students. We had the opportunity to interview Ruth Temme who serves as a science teacher for Calvary Lutheran High School in Jefferson City.



Temme teaching a science class at Calvary.

Currently, Calvary has taken many steps so that in-person classes can be held. Ms. Temme notes that one of the first things one would see is the physical appearance of the school is quite different. "We have clear plexiglass sheets dividing desks, and partitions in the cafeteria. That way if a kid tests positive, the barriers allow for decreased contact tracing." Temme continues, "Kids are encouraged to wear masks if they can't be six feet away for more than five minutes. For example, if we're having assemblies, if they're working together in a group project, like in my classrooms working with labs, they are supposed to wear masks."

One thing that most people wouldn't see is Calvary's high-tech thermometer. As students walk into the building, there is a thermal camera that instantly scans the students' temperatures. If anyone registers over 100°F, the machine beeps.

Like many schools, Calvary is ready in case students and faculty need to switch to all-digital learning. "This year, every student has a laptop, either they have their personal laptop, or through generous donors, [Calvary has] enough Chromebooks for each student to have a laptop," explains Temme. This is even a blessing for students who don't have COVID-19, but are too unwell to come to class. "They can still remote in and watch and interact with teachers during a lecture," notes Temme, "This allows students to be marked as 'virtual attending' and also not fall behind with the material." The virtual classes have many safety features, such as using "invite only" links, and requiring passwords for users.

Temme says that despite everything 2020 has brought, students at Calvary are able to receive a Lutheran perspective about living in a time like this. For devotions, she frequently leads students in Responsive Prayer, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, and Morning Prayer. "Just last Thursday [a student commented], 'it's nice to be reminded that God's will, will be done,'" notes Temme, "It's reassuring for me to see the kids are also very confident that they're safe and God is watching over them in all spiritual aspects."



Ruth Temme is originally from Evansville, IN; she was homeschooled before attending Concordia University: Wisconsin. She says that her love of learning is what inspires her to teach.

SAINT PAUL CONCORDIA: MISSOURI'S LUTHERAN RESIDENTIAL HIGH SCHOOL

Concordia, Missouri has a strong history of Lutheranism. A great example of this is Saint Paul's Lutheran High School. With roots tracing back to 1883, this high school is unique in that it is a boarding school, so many students stay in residential halls on campus. Saint Paul's hosts students from many places, including across Missouri, an impressive number of international students, and local students who come for the day.

This is Evan Magness' first year at Saint Paul's. Magness, a Junior from St. Louis, said that he chose to attend Saint Paul's "because of its strong academics and choral program, strong Lutheran identity, sound Lutheran theology and practice, and because boarding school was a good fit for our current family situation."

When comparing boarding school to previous school experiences, he said it was a completely different experience. "It was a bit stressful at first, but after a few days, you get used to. It's different because you're away from your family a lot more. The line between home and school gets blurred because you're living at school," explains Magness. "Because it's a boarding school and there are people that come from many places around the world, you get exposed to many more different types of people, and that's very interesting." Magness notes, "One of the things I like most about SPLHS is that the chapel services are liturgical, with solid preaching and traditional hymnody. They use other songs sometimes, but mostly use Lutheran Service Book."

Magness remarks despite a two week quarantine, mask wearing, and social distancing, COVID-19 "hasn't had too much of an impact on the curriculum. SPLHS tries to make every day as normal as possible while adhering to the rules."

Dr. Jerrode Marsh, Director of Music at Saint Paul, notes that, "Probably what strikes me the most about this school is the sense of family. People make friends for life here—friends from all over the world. Having such a closely-knit group of friends makes it a very unique high school experience for both the students but also the teachers."

Top to bottom: Magness with a Saint Paul comfort dog; campus at Saint Paul; students gather together; masks on in the classroom; and Magness at a cross country meet.





MEET YOUR PRINCIPALS



THE MISSOURI DISTRICT IS BLESSED TO HAVE MANY NEW PRINCIPALS SERVING AT OUR LUTHERAN SCHOOLS. READ MORE ABOUT THEM BELOW.



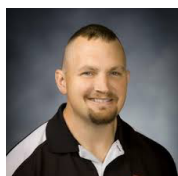
ANGIE MUNDT CALVARY LUTHERAN KANSAS CITY

Angie Mundt and her husband, Jeff, were educated in Lutheran schools and met at Concordia University, Nebraska, where her eldest daughter attends. Mrs. Mundt has previously worked as a Director of Children's Ministry and an EC Administrator and is excited to join the Calvary family!



MARTY ARCHER FAITH LUTHERAN KIRKSVILLE

Mr. Marty Archer graduated from Truman State in 1985, and has a master's degree from William Wood University in 2012. Previously he served as a physical education and social studies teacher at Faith. Mr. Archer also co-founded and performed in the Living Sacrifice Gospel Quartet.



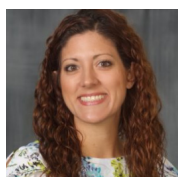
ANDY SPIELER IMMANUEL LUTHERAN PERRYVILLE

Mr. Andy Spieler graduated from Concordia University, Nebraska in 2002 and served in Aurora, CO before accepting a call in St. Paul in Jackson, MO where he taught physical education and religion for 16 years. He and his wife, Jennifer are blessed with two children, Emma and Cody.



LISA WHITE ST. PAUL LUTHERAN JACKSON

Principal White has a B.S. in Early Childhood Education (Concordia College, River Forest) and a M.A. in Elementary Education (SEMO). She has worked in Lutheran schools for 32 years, serving across Missouri before landing in St. Paul-Jackson where she now serves as interim principal.



KENDRA FLECK ST. PAUL LUTHERAN SAINT JOSEPH

Principal Fleck has a B.S. in Elementary Education (MWSU) and previously taught as a preschool and fourth grade teacher at St. Paul's. A Saint Joseph native, she and her husband, Terrance, have two children: Vayda and Nevaeh. She enjoys many hobbies in the great outdoors.



MARY WALTERS ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN SEDALIA

Principal Walters was called out of retirement to serve at St. Paul's. A teacher of 25 years in public school, Mrs. Walters taught a variety of grade levels and specialties and earned a Master's in Reading. She and her husband of 32 years are blessed with four children and a grandchild.



ANGIE WELLS TRINITY LUTHERAN ALMA

Principal Wells was born and raised just north of Alma in Waverly, MO. She has worked in Colorado and Marshall, MO, including teaching at St. Peter's in Marshall. Since 2013, Mrs. Wells has taught 3rd grade at Trinity. She and her husband have 4 children and live in Concordia.



LISA MARTIN TRINITY LUTHERAN CAPE GIRARDEAU

Previously Ms. Martin served as an English teacher for grades 9-12 at Perryville High School for 17 years. She has a Bachelor of Science in English Education from SEMO, a Master of Arts in Teaching from Webster University, and a Principal Certification (k-12) from SEMO.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT THE MISSOURI DISTRICT OFFICE

"MEET THE MISSIONARIES"

A Missouri District Virtual Series

SEPT 22

7PM CST
CHURCH PLANTING
IN OZARK

OCT 27

7PM CST
ETHIOPIAN OUTREACH
IN PLATTE WOODS

NOV 24

7PM CST
CHINESE OUTREACH
IN OLIVETTE

For more information visit mo.lcms.org/missionaries



LUTHERAN YOUTH
MEGA **SPRING**
GATHERING **2021**
JR HIGH / SR HIGH

APRIL 9-11, 2021

CAMP WINDERMERE, LAKE OF THE OZARKS



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD