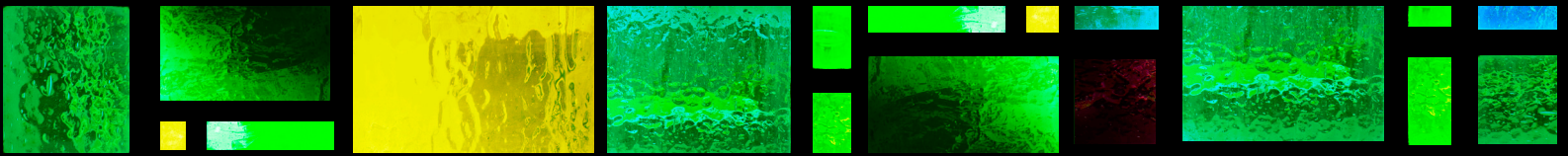


Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

Annual Report 2020





Welcome to the Missouri District!

Our congregations and schools have been blessed to see generations of baptisms, confirmations, graduations, marriages, funerals, and all the life stretched between! Here is an overview of all things Missouri District. May the Lord bless this work!

Vision

Congregations partnering as one church united in doctrine, ready, equipped, and acting to fulfill the Great Commission in their unique gifts.

District Office

located in St. Louis



Who We Are

290	Congregations
119,738	Baptized Members
93,643	Communicant Members
50	Early Childhood Centers
50	Elementary Schools
9	High Schools
1,649	Rostered Workers

Mission

To serve and encourage congregations to fulfill the Great Commission and promote unity of the true faith.

Staying Connected



@LCMS_MODist



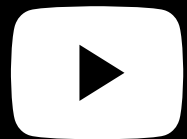
The Missouri
District LCMS

Stay up to date on all things happening around the District with emails: weekly messages from President Hagan, as well as news and updates like installations, obituaries, and current news.

Sign up online: mo.lcms.org/resources



@lcmsmodist



Missouri District
LCMS



Dear Saints of God,

People have all but ceased making plans. From businesses and institutions to families and students, the last few months have plans of all sorts and lengths set aside as we try to adapt to the changes forced upon us. The uncertainty of the moment has been compounded with financial crisis and social unrest. The fears and worries have affected the college student and the nursing home resident alike. Corporate leaders and part-time employees have found themselves in the same boat wondering what else can change. So many things have changed in such a short time period that many have been left wondering where they can turn.

The Psalmist writes, "Of old you laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe, and they will pass away, but you are the same, and your years have no end. The children of your servants shall dwell secure; their offspring shall be established before you." (Ps 102:25-28) Hymnwriter Henry Lyte expressed the same confidence with these words, "Change and decay in all around I see; O Thou who changest not, abide with me." (LSB 878:4)

Our Lord Jesus Christ remains the same yesterday, today and forever. What confidence that gives to His beloved children no matter what changes they are facing. While the last months have seen the congregations, schools, and missions of the Missouri District adapt, their common purpose and mission have not changed. Our Lord still wants all to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. That saving message continues to be proclaimed across Missouri in a variety of settings and now through new formats, but it is still the same Word of God about the same loving Savior, who gave His life on the cross.

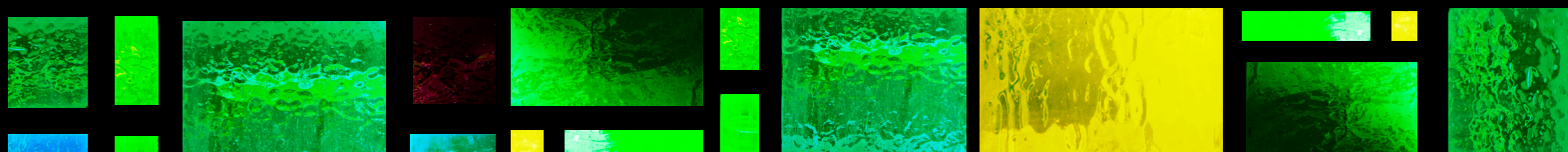
What a blessing it has been that Christ continues to care for His Church even at times such as this. Our churches and schools, campus ministries and church plants have so many stories about how they are bringing hope and comfort to those who are buckling under the burdens of life. From a pastor's podcast heard by a soldier in the Middle East to a Director of Christian Education having a video training to help parents lead devotions in the home, Christ and His Word are still being proclaimed. From a campus ministry leader's emails to college students who returned to their homes across the country and even the world to a school teacher taking the time to check in on a student who seems to be struggling with online learning, God is still carrying out His mission here in Missouri District!

We hope that this Annual Report will help you to see how the Lord's work continues in spite of the changes. We also hope that you will support that work with your prayers and gifts. Thanks for your participation in God's unchanging mission!

Fraternally in Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R. Lee Hagan".

President Lee Hagan





LIVING IN HISTORIC TIMES

The spread of COVID-19 throughout the United States this spring certainly changed how ministry happens in the state of Missouri. What didn't change, however, are the priorities of the Missouri District. Sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ through our congregations and schools, as well as caring for the well-being of church workers remains paramount.

When meeting face-to-face was no longer an option, the District was quick to provide resources and care via the web. In addition to revamping our website, we kicked off a series of webinars for church workers and laypeople throughout the state. A selection of topics included:

Guidelines for Resuming Worship
Engaging Communities in a COVID World
Mental Health Issues for Workers
Stewardship and Generosity
Payroll Protection Program Loans

District staff was readily available for prayer, time in the Word, and counsel. All of this meant a lot to church workers. "The Missouri District has been extremely proactive in helping our congregation and church leaders understand the ins and outs of the ever-shifting cultural landscape in the days of this pandemic," shares Rev. Jeremy Schultz, senior pastor of St. John's in Arnold. "From weekly video Zooms with pastors to electronic devotions to Zoom calls with our school and other staff to helping us understand the CARES Act and making sure we're being cared for spiritually and emotionally during this time, the Missouri District has proven that they can be counted on in the Lord."

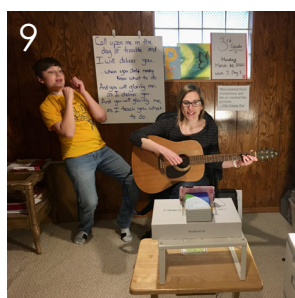
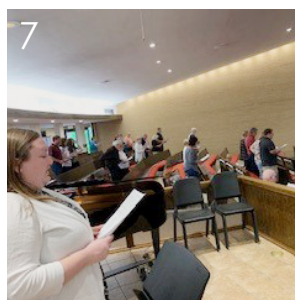
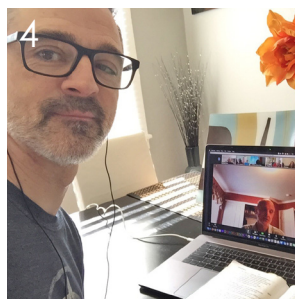
Linda Huning of Our Savior Preschool in St. Charles also appreciates the guidance from the Missouri District in recent months. "Throughout the lowest, most difficult, challenging times, not only was I leaning on my Lord, I was leaning on fellow workers in the Church. The collaboration during our virtual meetings provided insight, guidance, and hope for reopening our center successfully," she adds. "I felt empowered to take that leap of faith and reopen our school. I felt empowered to share our center's protocols with others. What a blessing to have others in the Synod share their protocols as well."

“SHOW ME” PHOTOS

In March, the challenge was put forth statewide to share your photos of worship and school at home with the Missouri District. And you certainly delivered! For months, these photos served as a source of great encouragement—proof that the Kingdom of God just cannot be stopped!

Thank you for your submissions.

- 1 The music team prepare for distance worship at Trinity, Freistatt.
- 2/3 Students at Trinity, Jefferson City, participate in at-home activities.
- 4 Timothy, St. Louis, hosts virtual Bible study with online video technology.
- 5 A family at Trinity, Cape Girardeau, participates in virtual worship service.
- 6 The door crew at Our Savior, St. Charles, checks congregants' temperatures
- 7 The congregation at Immanuel, Perryville, hosts worship with social distancing.
- 8 It's a family affair! Rev. Klaustermeier preaches while his family runs tech support at St. John's, Warrenton.
- 9 Word of Life Lutheran School, St. Louis, hosts music lessons via online streaming.



SCHOOL NEWS:

“It brings you closer to Him.”

As the pandemic spread, Lutheran education ministries in Missouri made a complete shift to virtual learning...in just a matter of days. An undertaking of this magnitude required quick thinking, creative problem solving, and a deep faith in God. We're blessed with many educators and leaders who continued to make these ministries function in such challenging times. Thank you for your service.

Along the way, the Missouri District continued to offer support. Included in our care was a webinar hosted by Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS) in St. Louis County, to share some of their best practices for virtual learning.

Executive Director Rev. Dr. Matt Hoehner says the virtual learning plan for CCLS came together quickly due to the can-do attitude of the staff and the families connected to the school. “School is a community...bound together in support,” Hoehner says. He was particularly struck by the love the staff has for Christ and the children entrusted to their care. “They would go through a wall for these kids.”



Pictured above are CCLS students and families learning and celebrating community during quarantine.

The path to a successful completion of the school year was not without its hardships. Dr. Hoehner says the temporary closing of the school's early childhood center was difficult due to the important role it played in childcare for area families and the staff of CCLS. Recognizing its value, the center was able to eventually open back up for families of first responders and then went on to have a summer program that met safety standards.

Despite the setbacks, CCLS got to see the theme of their school year—Love Beyond All Measure—in a very tangible way. When asked where God was in all of this, Dr. Hoehner shares, “So many places. It brings you closer to Him.”

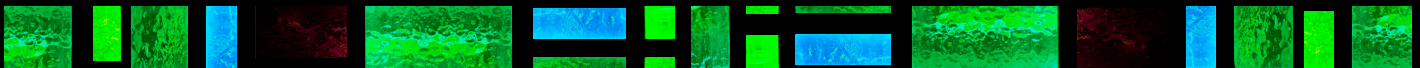
Each weekday morning at 8:30 am, students were invited to participate in a ten minute discipleship time. The program eventually became something families did together and has now been requested as something that continue.

New Teacher Mentorship

The start of the 2019-2020 school year brought the arrival of many new teachers and principals to the Missouri District. As is our tradition, all were welcomed to the District at the New Teacher Orientation retreat in October in Columbia. One-on-one mentorship for these 17 teachers and two principals continued throughout the year. These partnerships are key, as they are linked to lower attrition rates.

"The Missouri District has developed programs to provide foundational support for both new teachers and new principals as we recognize both are vital to the success of educational ministries throughout the Missouri District," says Alan Freeman, Assistant to the President for Schools.

Freeman goes on to note how the success of the program is also due to the caring mentors. "New teachers must feel confident in expressing doubt or admitting mistakes to experienced teachers, without fearing embarrassment or repercussions. The mentors in the Missouri District's program serve as confidants, not evaluators, concerned only with helping mentees succeed in their educational ministry."

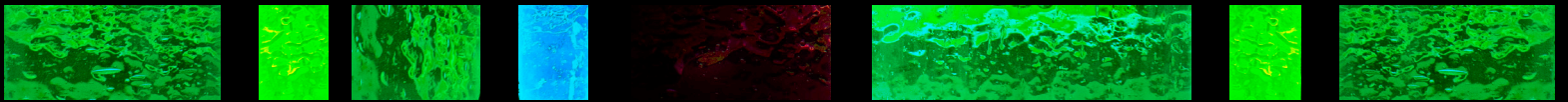


Participants from the Early Childhood Conference held March 2020, hosted by Immanuel, St. Charles.



Lutheran Education Scholarships

A key line item within the budget of the Missouri District each year is for scholarships for those attending Lutheran schools—elementary through college and even on to seminary. Thank you for walking with these future church leaders. As one recipient shares, "I truly value the financial and prayerful support that you are providing to me through this gift. May the Lord continue to bless the ministry of the Missouri District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, as you faithfully serve Him."



MISSOURI DISTRICT MISSIONS

Missions are possible
because of your support!

Here is a sampling of the
missions across Missouri. For
a list of District-supported
missions, see page 15.

THANK YOU!



*Rev. Ed Lim teaches a
children's message.*

Multi-ethnic Ministries: Light of Christ

Light of Christ is a Chinese ministry based out of Immanuel, Olivette, in the St. Louis area. They reach out to the many Chinese nationals living in St. Louis, offering worship services that blend Mandarin and English, Bible studies, prayer meetings, youth group, and a book club with an English-language Christian book. Light of Christ's building also serves as a Chinese Community Center, providing outreach. Like many, COVID-19 has impacted Light of Christ's normal programs, but members are still active. In April 2020 the congregation raised around \$12,000 in matching funds to buy and give away masks. They even found suppliers who donated masks.

Rural Partnerships: Immanuel & St. John's

Rural partnerships are a unique mission opportunity where larger churches can partner with smaller churches that might be struggling. This partnership results in the sharing of resources, like sharing a pastor, administrative assistance, or even things like technology help. St. John's in Arnold is partnered with Immanuel in Barnhart, who has a pastoral vacancy. Rev. Andy Becker, Family Life Pastor at St. John's, explains, "Really the idea is not to create a second campus of St. John's. Immanuel has their own unique personality and culture that we want to be able to help flourish so that God's Kingdom will flourish. We want to help them move forward so that they are able to move forward in ministry."



Seminarian Austin Wellhausen provides online worship for Immanuel during COVID-19.

Urban Ministries: Our Redeemer

Our Redeemer is located in such a diverse part of Kansas City that 47 different languages are spoken at the local high school. Our Redeemer is also multi-lingual, offering three different language services: English, Spanish, and Konobo, a Liberian tribal language. Rev. Brad Zerkel, senior pastor at Our Redeemer, credits his congregation with ministering to different cultures. "The need for these ministries is layity led," comments Zerkel, "they noticed the church was changing so they wanted to change with it or else it would die. If a congregation doesn't embrace change, it won't happen."



Some of the children who attend the Konobo language service.

Military Ministries: Faith

Missouri is blessed to be home to many military bases and training facilities. Faith Lutheran Church in St. Robert, next to Fort Leonard Wood, is one of the Missouri District's military missions. At Faith, Rev. John Perling provides chaplain support to military personnel on base, support for military families in his congregation, and outreach to the military families in the surrounding area. Some of Faith's outreach includes hosting meals during national holidays (when military are on break) and providing visitor guides and resources for those new to Faith. "They have enough change going on in their lives," says Perling, "we can provide stability in worship service."



Rev. Perling (right) at a Fort Leonard Wood installation

CHURCH WORKER HEALTH

Sharing the precious Gospel of Christ crucified *for everyone to everyone* is a wonderful calling. But, like every job it has its challenges. Where do our church workers turn when they are seen as pillars and leaders in our community and faith walks? On top of this, COVID-19 has added even more pressures and demanded even more work from our already busy church workers. Teachers had to transform a camera into an interactive classroom and many pastors had to become video technology experts in a matter of days.

Then COVID-19 lingered. An eight week shut down turned into months of different hurdles and pressures from society, government, and even congregants and parents. There's been a lot of stress lately, so please know at the District Office that we are here for you. We see you. We hear you. We pray for you.

If you are a church worker and would like to talk to someone, know that we have a Church Worker Care Team that offers confidential counseling. Visit mo.lcms.org/church-worker-care-team for more information.

There is another great resource in the Missouri District for your church worker health. Rev. Marty Hasz, PLPC, serves as *Assistant to the President: Church Worker & Congregational Health*. Rev. Hasz joined the Missouri District Office in January after Rev. Gene Wyssmann retired in December 2019. Rev. Hasz previously served as senior pastor at Eisleben Lutheran Church in Scott City since 2012. Rev. Hasz also served as a DCE in Indiana for 15 years. Rev. Hasz and his wife have three sons.

**Rev. Marty Hasz | 573-979-2791
marty.hasz@mo.lcms.org**



YOUTH & FAMILIES

We are blessed in the Missouri District to have a thriving youth population!

Last October, the Missouri District hosted over 200 junior youth at the annual retreat. The theme was “Peace Rules” and featured Lutheran teacher Sarah Salzberg as main presenter. Participants journeyed through the Table of Duties from Luther’s Small Catechism—highlighting questions about relationships and Christian vocation. Music is always a popular part of the retreats and the band, Bread of Stone, was no exception, treating participants to a great and inspirational time.

The senior youth also enjoyed their annual retreat last November. The theme was “Fantastic Truths and Where to Find them” presented by Brad Alles of Concordia University, Wisconsin. Over 170 youth attended, learning about God’s fantastic truths.



Mega Gathering 2021



Though COVID-19 has postponed the annual fall Junior and Senior High retreats in 2020, the District Office has weighed many options and has decided to have one “Mega Gathering” in April 2021. This Mega Gathering will host both junior and senior youth. Worship, meals, and some activities will be shared among the two different age groups. However, for Bible studies and small groups, the age groups will be divided for optimum learning experience.

Mark your calendars today to join us in April!

ANNOUNCING...



THE MISSOURI DISTRICT'S FIRST EVER STATEWIDE SERVANT EVENT!

**"In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven."
Matthew 5:16**

Come together with other brothers and sisters in Christ in service!
Our beautiful state of Missouri has many amazing opportunities
to SHINE God's light to our neighbors.

Whether you have a group of 2 or 200, you can participate.

Here's how it all works:



Register Your Group at mo.lcms.org

Simply go online and click on the "SHINE" link in the EVENTS tab.



Find an Opportunity

Ask around your community. The options are endless!



Pick a Time to Serve Between April 16-25

Serve for an hour or a whole week– it's what works best for your group!



Get Amazing T-Shirts for Your Group

Thanks to our generous sponsors, shirts are free to participants!

See you in April!

AN INVESTMENT WITH AN ETERNAL IMPACT

The congregations and schools of the Missouri District are on our very own walk to Emmaus. COVID-19 has altered ministry plans and changed the economic landscape of our nation. Reports from various media sources seem to conflict, and our patience has been tested.

And yet, our God walks with us—never failing to teach us more about who He is and how much He loves us. Like the disciples, our situation has presented us with great opportunity for mission and ministry throughout the state of Missouri. We're blessed to have you as partners in this calling of making known the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Our hearts burn for Christ together.

The work of the Missouri District has always been and will always be a group undertaking—funded by the generosity of our congregations, foundations, and individuals. Thank you for being a blessing in the lives of many.

Making a gift to the Missouri District is as easy as:

Sending a gift with the centerfold envelope

Giving online at mo.lcms.org/donate

Calling 314-590-6200 and using a credit card

Using your own envelope and directing a gift to:

Missouri District LCMS
660 Mason Ridge Center Drive
Suite 100
St. Louis, MO 63141

As we all navigate the new normal and the beginning of a new calendar year, know that you will be in our prayers. Together we will meet new mission opportunities, strengthen Lutheran schools, and care for church workers...all for the glory of God.

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about *SHINE!* or about giving to the Missouri District, please do not hesitate to contact Leah Sieveking by email or phone:
leah.sieveking@mo.lcms.org | 314-590-6211

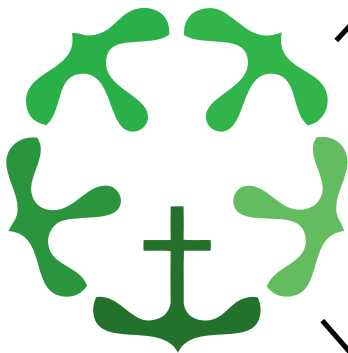
Thank you for your support!



2020 Missouri District Budget

\$3,518,409

What comprises the Missouri District?



Missions \$810,030

Support for District missions including church plants, multi-ethnic, military, Plus One initiatives, and more.

Services to Congregations & Church Workers \$679,357

Support from the President and other leaders to congregations, schools, and church workers. Scholarships awarded are reflected here too.

Office & Fundraising \$645,914

Administrative costs and others such as legal, audit, and accounting. This includes the costs of fundraising.

Conventions, Conferences, & Workshops \$523,791

The District hosts many events, conferences, and trainings for youth, church workers, and laypeople.

National Office Support \$496,102

The Missouri District supports the Synod and their many initiatives of the LCMS.

Ecclesiastical Services \$201,957

The oversight of ecclesiastical matters of congregations and their workers including records and rosters.

LCEF-Cooperative Ministries \$161,258

We are partnered with LCEF to benefit congregations and church workers within the Missouri District.

MISSOURI DISTRICT STAFF

REV. DR. R. LEE HAGAN
President

CASEY CARLSON
Assistant to the President,
Lutheran Church Extension Fund

ALAN FREEMAN
Assistant to the President,
School Ministry

REV. BILL GEIS
Assistant to the President,
Missions & Congregational Services

REV. MARTY HASZ, PLPC
Assistant to the President,
Church Worker &
Congregational Health

PETER KREGG
Chief Financial Officer

DANIEL KREIENKAMP, DCE
Assistant to the President,
Family Life & Youth

LEAH SIEVEKING
Assistant to the President,
Mission Advancement

MICHELLE CHRIST
Executive Assistant to the President

ELSA MORT
Strategic Communications

CASSIE BEHRMANN
Financial Specialist

MARTHA SCHELLIN
Rostered Worker Support Specialist

SUE THOMPSON
Events Specialist

COLLEEN ZARUBA
Administrative Assistant &
Receptionist

FISCAL YEAR 2021 MISSION PROJECTS

Campus Ministry Network

Northwest Missouri State | Maryville
Lindenwood University | St. Charles
Missouri State University | Springfield
International Student Ministry | St. Louis
Southeast Missouri State | Cape Girardeau
University of Central Missouri | Warrensburg
University of Missouri | Columbia

Military Ministry

Faith Lutheran Church | Knob Noster
Faith Lutheran Church | St. Robert

Multi-ethnic Ministry

Amigos de Cristo | Sedalia
Christian Friends of New Americans | St. Louis
Congolesse Ministry | Independence
Hodiamont Outreach | St. Louis
Jesus el Buen Pastor | Kansas City
Light of Christ | Olivette
LUMA | Kansas City
Nepalese Ministry | St. Louis
Oromo Outreach | Kansas City

New Starts

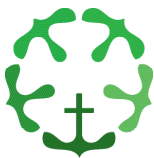
All Nations | University City
Christ Memorial/Reliant | St. Louis
Exchange Community | Southeast Missouri
Greater Things 2 | St. Louis
My Church | Ozark
Northland Lutheran Outreach | Smithville
North City Mission | St. Louis

Rural & Partnerships Grants

Concordia | Sikeston
St. John | Arnold with Immanuel | Barnhart

Urban Ministry

Allgn | St. Louis
Ebenezer Lutheran Church | St. Louis
Immanuel Chapel | St. Louis
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church | Kansas City
Saint Trinity | St. Louis
St. Paul | St. Louis



Missouri District—LCMS
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St. Louis, MO 63141

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Open to read the Missouri District's Annual Report!



Missouri District Convention 2021

It's almost time for our convention.
Mark your calendars today!

June 13-15, 2021

Holiday Inn Executive Center
Columbia, MO