



St. Paul's Lutheran School Groundbreaking, page 10

From the President's Desk:

The cities, towns and curves in the road where Missouri District congregations are found represent a significant geographic, cultural and ethnic diversity. From the prairie to the urban core, our congregations are located in quite varied places.

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THE VOICE

October 2018

What the Research Says About Ministerial Health in the LCMS

When young men attend Seminary to pursue life in ministry, they may picture the worship service, scratching and editing weekly sermons, and offering counsel. Maybe they expect to visit congregants suffering from illness or distress.

But what they may not realize is that life in ministry can come with health and spiritual challenges. Church workers have higher rates of obesity, depression, stress and overall life dissatisfaction when compared with the general population of the US. This can be confusing and unexpected.

A Close Look at the Wellness of LCMS Ministers and Families

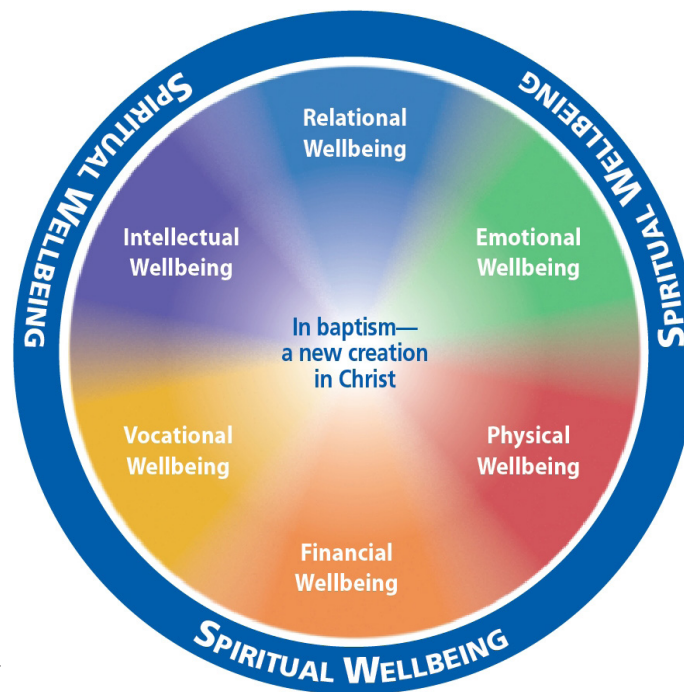
In 2016, a resolution passed at the Synodical Convention laid the groundwork for a joint effort from many partners who serve LCMS ministers and their families. This included a comprehensive survey about ministerial wellness in the LCMS. Results were released this week.

The study focused on the areas from the Wellness Wheel--relational, emotional, physical, financial, vocational, intellectual and spiritual. The survey has a found-

ation in robust research methodology and includes both ordained and commissioned church workers, as well as their spouses.

Financial Support

The survey results point to significant financial stress, across the spectrum of people participating. This was the category from the wellness wheel mentioned most often. The survey also asked people to rank the categories based on their preference for turning to a Lutheran service provider. Interestingly, they also expressed indifference to relying on Lutheran service providers for finance.



Strained Family Relationships...Which Are Contagious

The research shows an alarming number of church workers (one in three) that report challenges in their family relationships. This often correlated with emotional, vocational and relationship issues as well. Though the results were anonymous, spousal results were linked, which revealed that if

one spouse faced a hard time, the other did as well.

This means that one area of poor church worker well-being is likely to spread across the wellness wheel, continued on page 3



From the President's Desk

Walking Together

The cities, towns and curves in the road where Missouri District congregations are found represent a significant geographic, cultural and ethnic diversity. From the prairie to the urban core, our congregations are located in quite varied places.

In Kansas City and St. Louis, our congregations may be located in neighborhoods of people from many nations, yet in some small towns there is still a strong German heritage. We also have retirement communities and industrial centers, as well as our historic ties to agriculture. Our congregations are located in diverse places and are even made up of diverse people, but we are called to walk together.

One of the challenges that the Church faces today is a proper understanding of its place in our culture today. For the latter half of the Twentieth Century, the Church was fooled into thinking that it had a friend in the culture. As our privileged position in society has dissipated, many are grieving this loss. But the Church never existed to be a power player in the culture. The Church has always existed to proclaim the Gospel. Jesus' commissions found at the end of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke and in Acts 1 make clear that this proclamation is to be to all peoples, to the ends of the earth.

While there may be great geographic, cultural and ethnic diversity where our congregations are found, we give thanks to God for the blessed gift of unity in Christ. The word Synod means to be on the road together, often described as walking together. Right now, in these challenging times, it is vital for our congregations to walk together, both in doctrine and mission. No congregation is an island unto itself. Rather, walking together, we support and encourage one another in our confession of the truth.

First, we share a tremendous doctrinal foundation within the Synod as we hold to the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions. Whether our congregations are

found adjacent to a college campus or in a place not even on a map, we hold to the same confession regarding the triune God, God's creation of all things by the power of His Word, the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, baptismal regeneration, and the real presence of Christ in the Lord's Supper, God's design and gift of marriage. Both large and small congregations walk together in our doctrine based upon the Holy Scriptures and set forth in the Lutheran Confessions. This walking together in our confession is a true blessing.

Secondly, we also walk together in mission as we share in the call to participate in the commission to proclaim the Gospel to all. No congregation has the market cornered on mission. This call to participate in God's mission is given to us all. What a wonderful thing it is to see our congregations walking together in mission. As congregations shrink and face financial challenges, there are more opportunities for our congregations to walk together in this charge to bring good news to all the world. Right now, many smaller congregations are open and need the partnership and support of larger congregations so that they can participate in God's mission together. We are striving for diversity when it comes to mission as we strive to reach people from all over the world who are living in Missouri. My hope and prayer is that the congregation of the district will continue to walk together in our common confession and our common mission!

Fraternally in Christ,

President Lee Hagan

PRESIDENT'S PRAYER LIST:

PLEASE JOIN ME IN PRAYER THIS MONTH

- Please pray that God would strengthen our partnerships in the Gospel at the level of congregations, circuits, districts and Synod.
- We also pray that God would preserve His Word among us that we be faithful in confessing the truth.
- Lastly, please pray that God will lead congregational leaders to be open to greater cooperation as we walk together in doctrine and mission.



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and cause distress to their spouse, too.

In fact, the most commonly expressed need that came directly from the respondents' own words was better support for families and marriages. When it comes to relationships, church workers appear to have a strong preference for Lutheran service providers.

The Burden of Expectations and Scrutiny

Being a pastor or a pastor's wife comes with an added layer of scrutiny. A deaconess or church worker may feel like she or he isn't "supposed" to struggle. Emotional struggles are seldom logical, so it can seem like faith should be enough. But that simply isn't always the case.

Among church workers:

- 47 percent have experienced anxiety or depression related to their ministry
- 41 percent are often bogged down by people's expectations
- 20 percent say the demands of ministry are more than they can handle
- 55 percent have experienced significant stress from financial concerns (20 percent say it is ongoing)

Please know that the Missouri District's ministerial health committee is here for you, whether you're facing a significant life challenge or simply want to safeguard your wellness. Contact Rev. Gene Wyssmann at gene.wyssmann@mo.lcms.org.

Pastors Gather Together at Statewide Conference

Pastors from across the district came together for camaraderie, reflection and fellowship at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach. The conference began Sunday evening with an opening worship service at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Lake Ozark. Dr. Jeff Oswald, from Concordia Seminary, served as the Bible Study leader.

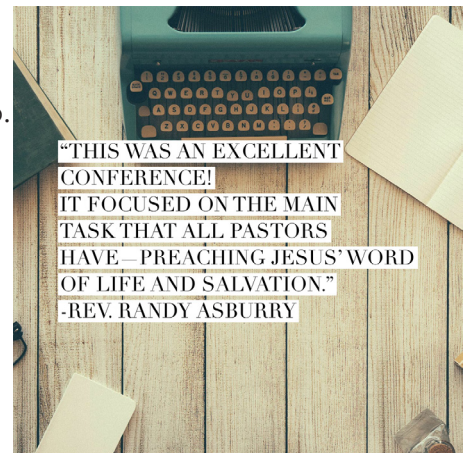


The interactive Preacher's Studio sessions were led by Drs. Carl Fickenscher and David Schmitt, with an in-depth look at the art of preaching and crafting sermons. Pastors Mark Rouland, Greg Truwe and Jeremy Schultz were the "brave" preachers who entered the studio with the presenters and there was much

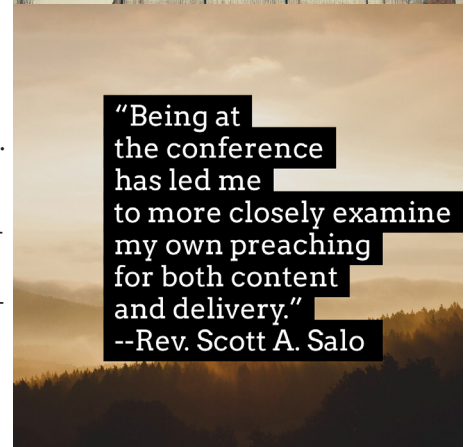
respect from the conference attendees for their willingness to do so. The format included conversations with each of the preachers, roundtable discussions and then viewing and reactions to a video of a sermon.

Each morning of the two-day event offered a walk or run as part of the district emphasis on worker wellness. The conference also included a report from President Hagan and election of new conference committee members for the next three years.

Pastor Nick Hagerman of Trinity Lutheran Church in Springfield says, "I



"THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT CONFERENCE! IT FOCUSED ON THE MAIN TASK THAT ALL PASTORS HAVE — PREACHING JESUS' WORD OF LIFE AND SALVATION."
 -REV. RANDY ASBURY



"Being at the conference has led me to more closely examine my own preaching for both content and delivery."
 --Rev. Scott A. Salo



appreciated the opportunity to listen to several different preachers in our district and learn about their approach to the preaching task. I'm always looking for new insights that will help me as I serve my congregation, and hearing from these brothers in ministry has given me great encouragement and some ideas that I believe will assist me in my sermon preparation and delivery. I'm very grateful to the pastors who agreed to be 'on display' for the conference, as well as Drs. Oswald, Schmitt, and Fickenscher for their presenta-

tions. The conference has made me very interested to participate in the Preach the Word program at some point in the future."

Pastor Kyle Castens of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Crystal City, had this to say: "I must admit, I don't always like the thought of going to conferences, but this one made me realize that they do bring benefit. Although I did enjoy the exercise of positively critiquing sermons--and reflecting on my own preaching abilities--the true joy of the conference was the ability to sit back and receive refreshment, to recharge in the study of God's Word with my brothers from the district. I appreciated the wisdom of Drs. Schmitt and Fickenscher, but especially the time in the Word with Dr. Oswald."

The 2019 Missouri District Pastors Conference will be October 20-22 at Tan-Tar-A Resort. More information about the conference theme and presenters will be available next summer.

Lutheran Schools Change Lives of Students and their Families

When people experience our schools for the first time, they often have the same response, "Something about this school is different." Over time, many parents come to recognize the difference a faith-based school of excellence can make in their children's lives.

It means a school that does not limit the teaching of the Gospel to Chapel. Teachers and administrators take an interest in kids personally, because they care not only about their academic success and extracurriculars, but about the students' faith as well.

Educating Children as Outreach to Families

Often parents turn to Lutheran schools when their needs are not being met at the local public school or in the aftermath of challenges such as bullying. Because many parents are not Lutheran, Missouri schools represent significant outreach within the Missouri District.

Although many parents cherish the benefits of Lutheran education for their children, the added expense of tuition is significant for many people in Missouri.

Last year, the Missouri District allocated \$35,000 in scholarships for elementary school students in Missouri. The funds went directly to the Lutheran Elementary

School Association, who allocates the awards for kids local to their St. Louis office and in other parts of the state as well.

The parents go through TADS, a third-party application website. Then, LESA administers the scholarships on behalf of the Missouri District for elementary school students across the state.

Supporting the Future Church Workers with College Scholarships

In addition to elementary school scholarships, the Missouri District supports college students at the Concordia University schools. Eligible students must have a Missouri address and be enrolled in one of the church worker programs at their school.

For this school year, the Missouri District has awarded \$127,350 in scholarships to elementary and high school students across the state, students at the Chicago, Irvine, Wisconsin, Nebraska and Texas Concordia Universities, and Concordia Seminary St. Louis and Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.



Senior High to Gather for Weekend of Faith and Fellowship Nov. 16-18, Registration Open



Few parents would say being a teenager is easy. In addition to school, teens face pressure and uncertainty in their relationships and from American culture. And then there's social media. The Missouri District Senior High Youth Gathering offers a chance for teens to take a step back and strengthen their faith.

The 2018 fall Senior High Youth Gathering is Nov 16 to 18 at Cross Pointe Retreat Center in Rocky Mount, Mo. The weekend includes time for recreation, with escape rooms, a rec center, S'mores and games. There will also be devotions, worship and break-out sessions.

A Brief Pause from Hectic Schedules

Jeffrey Kullmann, a volunteer at Salem Lutheran Church in Affton, has been to every Missouri District Youth Gathering since 1996. He says, "The event makes a positive difference in the lives of high school youth. It is a quick weekend that helps them pause from the craziness of life, have some fun, make new friends, solidify current friendships and reflect on what God has done for them and how much He loves them."



Hannah DeCuir, a college sophomore and member of Salem Lutheran Church agrees. She says these events are "definitely something that everyone should take advantage of because they're an opportunity to grow in your faith and also meet people the same age from all over the state, who share the same faith. It's so much fun to go on this trip and meet new people and spend time with your youth group family while

learning more about your faith and serving the community."

District Gatherings Provide Value in Times of Both Joy and Sadness

This year's gathering will include (among

other topics) attention to issues such as depression and suicide and how we face them as Christians. Recently, the American Academy of Pediatrics updated their guidelines because up to one in five teens will experience depression.

Hannah believes these events can lift teens up in troubled times, pointing out, "This trip is good for people that are struggling with their faith, too. Sometimes believing and maintaining your faith is hard especially when life is always throwing you curveballs, but you'd be surprised what a weekend trip like this can do with the right mindset."

Jeffrey has seen this many times of the years as well, pointing out, "When teens start to struggle with things like school or relationships, they are reminded of the promises of God, that were strongly taught at the District Youth Gatherings."

Register your group today!

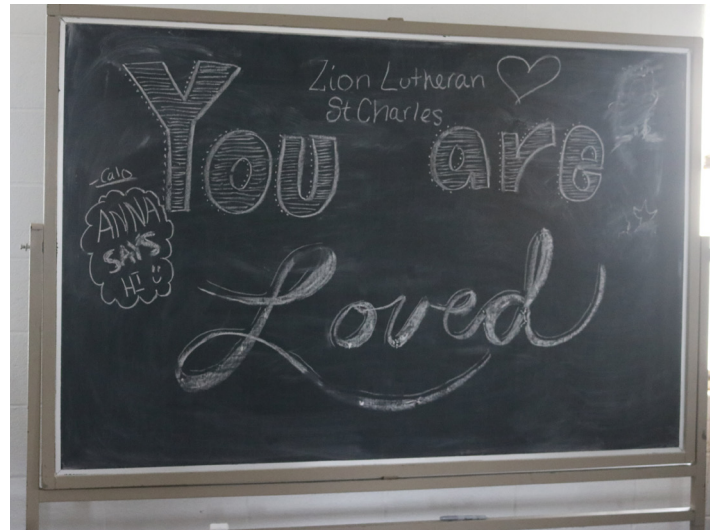
mo.lcms.org/event/missouri-district-senior-high-gathering/

The Impact of District Youth Gatherings Outlast the Weekend

Though the District Youth Gatherings occur over a few days, the wisdom and joy students receive continues to grow long after they return home. This leads to a long-term strengthening of both faith and relationships that students can carry with them for years to come.

DCE Andrew Nelson, Director of Family Life at Chapel of the Cross Lutheran Church, observes, "This event is a meaningful connection point for the youth and adults who attend. Upon returning home, there is a shared experience for those who attend. The relationships built and memories shared during a weekend like this help establish a foundation for our ministry throughout the year."

Jeffrey has also seen the lasting effects of this weekend. He notes, "We have been blessed, because when we go, most if not all of our group comes home with hearts on fire for God. They are energized and ready to serve God in their homes, schools, neighborhoods and communities."



Register your group today!

mo.lcms.org/event/missouri-district-senior-high-gathering/

Do You Ever Wish You Had Training for Being a Pastor's Wife? Pastors' Wives Invited to Retreat Nov. 3 and Nov. 10

by Mrs. Kathy Chinberg, a pastor's wife, chair of the Pastor's Wives Retreat Committee, and member of the District's Ministerial Health Committee



This past year, in the months leading up to the royal wedding of Meghan Markle and Prince Harry, one could access numerous magazine and internet articles on the training that Meghan Markle was receiving in order to become one of the royal family.

Among her many lessons she had to learn to curtsy properly, master the royal wave, get briefed on many of the British traditions, practice appropriate use of dinner cutlery, and rehearse slanting her legs instead

of crossing them. Apparently the life of a princess is more complex than Disney movies would have us believe.

Several years ago I was approached by a bright young woman who asked me where I went to "pastor's wife training."

Had I not been looking her in the eye I would have thought she was joking, but she was not. When I asked



Realizing the distinctive role in which the pastor's wife serves, we would like to offer opportunities for them to gather for fellowship, encouragement, care (and fun!). This fall the Missouri District will be supporting and encouraging pastors' wives to attend one of two retreats:

Greater St. Louis Area
Nov. 3, 2018
King of Kings Lutheran
Church
Chesterfield, MO

Greater Kansas City Area
Nov. 10, 2018
Timothy Lutheran Church
Blue Springs, MO

for further explanation to her question she said this. "You know, where did you receive training on how to be a pastor's wife: what to wear, how to play the piano, lead the choir, host people in your home and teach Sunday School?" Apparently the life of a pastor's wife is more complex (in the eyes of others) than I had believed!

The role of a pastor's wife is certainly unique, and while it can bring countless joys and unbelievable opportunities, it may also be accompanied with unrealistic expectations from those within the church. The life of a pastor's wife may even leave a woman in that role feeling puzzled as to where she might fit in and contribute using her unique personality, gifts and talents.

Both retreats will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The retreat theme for both of these events is "Puzzled." It is the desired outcome of the retreat that each pastor's wife will be affirmed that they are an important piece of God's perfect plan.

Invitations have been sent, but if, for some reason, you, or your pastor's wife did not receive one, please contact the district office, or Kathy Chinberg (dwchinberg@sbcglobal.net).

We hope that the pastors' wives of Missouri will be able to attend one of the two retreats in November!



Last year's pastors' wives conference

5 Ways to Celebrate Pastor Appreciation Month



October is Pastor Appreciation Month and there's still plenty of time to show the leaders of your congregation what their work means to you. From coming up with fresh sermon ideas every single week to being responsible for the administration and spiritual care of congregations, pastors dedicate significant energy and time to their calling.

Here are five ways you can show your pastor—and his family—what it means to you.

Express Gratitude

Something as simple as a hand-written card can send a strong message. Include information about specific sermons or conversations that encouraged you or helped you. Don't be stingy with your words. Paying special attention the pastor's wife and family will show them that you truly understand and value their contributions to your congregation. If you or anyone you know makes art or gifts by hand, these will be truly memorable tokens that come with a clear message, "We're glad you're here. Thank you."



You can also enlist the help of the congregation to express their gratitude publicly. Take an informal poll of everyone's favorite memories with the pastor and what they admire most about him. Surprise him by having someone read it during the service. If you include personalized attention to the pastor's family, it will be a home run.

Encourage Self Care

Most pastors know they "should" take more time off, spend more time on their hobbies or leave work on time. However, it can be a real challenge and for many pastors, because it never quite seems like the right time. Give the pastor a coupon for an afternoon or even a Sunday off, and put an expiration date on

it. To really go above and beyond, include some movie passes or tickets to an event he will enjoy.

Offer Quality Time with Loved Ones

Hiring a babysitter seems like a simple thing. But many families, especially those with pastors, tend to reserve this for the times they "have to," like family weddings or evening church functions. Find out who your pastor likes to hire to watch his children and cover the cost for a date night. If you know his family, you can also volunteer for the childcare duties. Find out what he and his family would enjoy doing, as a family or a night on the town. Musical tickets, Christian concert tickets, hotel reservations and new restaurants are just a few options.

Gifts and Experiences

This option has a wide range of possibilities. A great place to start is with gift cards or fresh meat and food subscriptions (especially useful in rural areas).

Additionally, ask your leadership to consider paying for the pastor's wife to attend one of the events for pastors' wives. If you have a lake house or other vacation property, consider letting the pastor and his family use it for a well-earned getaway.

These experiences can include you, too. Make an offer of friendship or fellowship, such as inviting the pastor and his family over for dinner and games. It's easy to forget that pastors are people who crave the simple joys of genuine friendship.

Help Grow the Community

Finally, invite friends to church events and programs, making sure to include a compliment of your pastor when you bring them. Pastors want to see the community grow. Let them know how you're willing to share your gifts and resources to help make that happen.

Zion in Prairie City Celebrates its 150th Anniversary

Zion Lutheran Church in Bates County recently celebrated its 150th anniversary. The oldest congregation in southwest Missouri, Zion Evangelical Lutheran was formed shortly after the Civil War. The war left much of community devastated, leaving only fireplace chimneys in place of homes and buildings.

The Lutheran presence was instrumental in rebuilding the area. John Marquardt, member of the 150th Anniversary Committee and church treasurer explains, "Ads were placed in German newspapers and magazines in the USA and Germany for Lutherans to join other Lutherans where the Word and Sacraments would be properly administered and where there was good rich soil, abundant fresh water, and plenty of hunting."

Rev. Lee Hagan, President of the Missouri District spoke at a special worship service on Saturday, Oct. 21 at 10 a.m. The service included joyful guest performances of the Lutheran High School of Kansas City choir and hand bell choir.

John says the approach anniversary makes him feel "very thankful to our God for the 150 years of grace and love He has given our congregation."

Throughout its history, Zion Evangelical has always had a school. Now, there are 31 students enrolled, from pre-school to eighth grade. Ten students are in preschool and 21 are in primary and middle school.

After the service, the smell of sausages, sauerkraut, reubens and more accompanied traditional German music—an ideal backdrop for the century old German family heirlooms on display.

The Zion Evangelical community looked to the future while celebrating the past. Proceeds from the goodwill offering and the food and music will go to the Backpack Program in Appleton City. Students in need in the area public schools receive food for the weekend. Approximately 30 to 40 students, kindergarten through fifth grade receive assistance.

Zion Evangelical's Fall GermanFest has been giving back to local charities for several years, to share Christ's love with the community.

Zion EVANGELICAL Lutheran Church CELEBRATION of 150 YEARS *God's Grace from Generation to Generation*



St. Paul's Lutheran School in Des Peres Rings in School Year with New Space for Students and Families

At St. Paul's Lutheran School in Des Peres, the faculty took the excitement and anticipation of their new space and folded it into the school year. The 2018-19 school year theme is "God at Work," from Hebrews 3:4, which states, "For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything."



On Sunday, September 23, the school broke ground on a new 32,500 square foot state-of-the-art, school building. This meant demolishing an older, 1980s wing of the building, for kindergarten through 8th grade.

Academic Theme Reflects God's Work

The theme, "God at Work," refers to more than the construction. It is about the people inside the buildings—their accomplishments, relationships and dreams, which are rooted in the love of Christ. Carrie Beary, St. Paul's Office Administrator, explains, "We cannot even imagine or comprehend the power of God at work in our church, school, community, and personal lives. This theme is about our relationship with our Lord and Savior that God has built."

She continues, "We will see God at work through our congregation, our children's ministries, boards and

committees, and all who love and support the mission of our school. We will also see God at work as we erect a new school building, remember the past students, lessons, and physical classrooms, while preparing for a new future of telling the next generation of the love and work of Christ Jesus. God's power is beyond us! God is at work!"

Celebrating throughout the Fall

The academic year started with a Family Faith Kick-Off. Faith families include students of all grade levels, with the 8th graders taking the lead, with the help of a faculty advisor.

Throughout the year, our Faith Families meet monthly for special worship services where they join together in God's word, work on services projects, and spend time bonding with students from all grades. At our first Faith Family Chapel of the year, we were in the Word, sang, prayed, decorated hard hats, and joined in some team-building games. We can't wait to see what all God has in store for us this year!



"My kids get so much love and attention at this school and they are encouraged to be leaders and to be kind to others and to be respectful to their teachers and the staff but most importantly at the heart of everything in their education is the Word of God."

—Laura Susic, parent of Brady (5th grade) and Brooke (3rd grade)



The students of St. Paul's sang "Take Me Out to the Ballgame" during the 7th inning stretch, Sat. Aug. 18.



When You Pray Your Ministry Is Not Needed: Disaster Response in the Missouri District

LERT certifies volunteers to FEMA standards, and makes them eligible for access to federal disaster sites. Across Missouri, these trained volunteers are ready to step in when the unthinkable happens. The district's goal is to have teams in every pocket of Missouri, so LERT volunteers can serve locally, without the need for travel or extensive lodging.

Rev. Charlie Schultz, the Missouri District Disaster Response Coordinator, says his first order of business is praying for a natural disaster not to hit Missouri. In addition to working with congregations and communicating with different LMCS entities, Charlie offers Lutheran Early Response Training (LERT) across the state to interested congregations.

An Unusual Request Reveals How No Two Disaster Responses Are Alike

Charlie first became involved in Disaster Response while attending Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, shortly after hurricane Katrina in 2005. He drove down a minivan full of supplies with five other men, with the intent to spend a week serving the community as well.

After finishing a task early, the group asked what else they could do. The answer surprised them: "I need you to go undecorate a Christmas tree. You'll understand when you get there."

They found an enormous home with two very damaged, fully decorated, ten-foot tall Christmas trees. The family kept the trees fully decorated but hidden away in closets after the holiday season ended. The

hurricane flooded the closets, damaging the treasured trees. To send them out for cleaning, the trees had to be redecorated.

Listening to Needs and Connecting People to Congregations

Charlie says listening to the needs of each situation is a big part of disaster response. Kent Kunkel, another member of the district disaster response team, agrees. He says, "When you go up to a house and you can see they've lost almost everything, one thing we can do is listen to them and their story. Make them feel heard."

The District Coordinators work with local congregations to assess community needs. Sometimes when the volunteers first arrive, the community isn't ready to ask for help. "It's hard, but sometimes the right thing to do is wait," Kent says. Then, after people have time to absorb what's happened and talk to their insurance company (if they have it) then he follows up. Often with a little bit of time, people are ready to ask for specific things.

He notes, "There's a difference between immediate

and early." In addition to sometimes waiting for others to get organized before stepping in, Kent credits LERT volunteers with helping communities over the long-term. LERT volunteers often remain with communities long after the news stories have faded from coverage.

Charlie Schultz thinks listening with an open mind will always be pivotal to valuable service. Every flood or tornado impacts each area differently. An every community has different resources. The goal, however, of LERT is to mobilize congregations to connect with people in the aftermath of natural disasters.

Activate Members with LERT

Kent has found LERT to be a great option for members who want to serve, but don't want to be on committees. He's found people who want to roll up their sleeves and make a tangible difference right away are often very happy to serve in disaster response.

Inspiration at National Conference

Both Charlie and Kent recently attended the 2018 National LCMS Disaster Response Conference, with the theme, "Lift High the Cross: The Comfort of Christ for Those Who Suffer." From Oct. 16 to 18, people from all over the country with a heart for disaster response heard speakers, shared stories and kindled their passion. Kent says the conference, "really motivated me to refocus on the great outreach and 'inreach' to inactive members, rolling up their sleeves and going to work."

Training

Charlie prefers to conduct LERT trainings for groups of 15 people. However, the people don't need to be from the same congregation. The initial LERT training covers the basic information required by FEMA and takes four to six hours.

If your congregation is interested in hosting a LERT training event, please contact Pastor Schultz at 314-779-4714 or pastorschultz@att.net.



Above: Photos of the aftermath of the 2011 Joplin tornado
Below: Photos from the 2018 National LCMS Disaster Response Conference at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis



Sharon Gutowski Joins Missouri District Office for Strategic Communications



In September, Sharon Gutowski started work at the Missouri District office to steer the strategic communications. Sharon came here after working as a freelance writer and content strategist. Some of her favorite projects included writing a course instructing low-income mothers how to care for their premature babies and creating quirky t-shirts for the B2B food industry.

Her work experience spans across industries, with significant experience in the non-profit realm, including on key projects for Concordia Seminary in St. Louis.

In addition to maintaining regular communications, such as the website, social media and emails, Sharon will be available for special projects and constantly be looking for the best ways to tell the story of the Missouri District.

When she's not working, she can be found at home in her Energizer Bunny slippers, with her music teacher husband, young son and three cats.

PERSONNEL CHANGES – COMMISSIONED MINISTERS OF RELIGION

Graduates Installed:

Delleart, Sarah (Colloquy RF '18) to Immanuel – Washington 10/21/18 by M. Bangert
Maita, Ruth (Colloquy P '15) to LCMS Office of International Mission – St. Louis 10/14/18 by C. St. Onge

Transferred from Other Districts:

Poppe, Molly (RM) to Candidate 8/23/18
Strecker, Ashley (NI) to Candidate 6/11/18
Thiem, Sarah (NEB) to Candidate 8/31/18

Reinstated:

Johnson, Mireya (Reinstated by COP 9/18) to Candidate
Ogden, Kathryn (Reinstated by COP 9/18) to Candidate
Walker, Audrey (Reinstated by COP 9/18) to Candidate

Changes Within District:

Boehlke, Christian (LCMS Office of International Mission – St. Louis) Director of Missionary Services to Associate Executive Director, St. Louis Operations 10/24/18 by M. Harrison
Dixon, Joshua (St. Mark's – Eureka) to Green Park – St. Louis 10/24/18 by J. Cloeter

Candidate Status:

Esselman, Adele (St. Paul – Jackson) 8/1/18
Jackson, Linda (Immanuel – Olivette) 8/3/18
Rathke, Beckie (Messiah – Independence) 6/1/18
Roundey, William (Lutheran High School of St. Charles County – St. Peters) 7/1/18
Wing, Sara (St. Paul – Concordia) 7/1/18

Retired:

Domsch, Christopher (Lutheran High School of Kansas City – Kansas City) 8/2/17
Florine, Sharon (St. John – Arnold) 8/1/18
Nebel, Ingrid (Grace Chapel – Bellefontaine Neighbors) 6/9/18
Perschbacher, Gerald (Lutheran Hour Ministries – St. Louis) 10/25/18

Deceased:

Holzerland, Arnold (Emeritus) 9/9/18

Transferred to Other Districts:

Lubben, William (Emeritus) to TX 8/22/18
Walker, Audrey (Candidate) to TX 9/21/18
Wolfe, Morgan (Immanuel – Wentzville) to MI 8/1/18

PERSONNEL CHANGES — ORDAINED

TRANSFERRED TO OUR DISTRICT:

Schempf, Michael (SW) to Board for International Mission – St. Louis 9/23/18 by D. Groth

Transferred to Other Districts:

Mueller, David (St. Paul – Fulton) to New England District 10/1/18

Schempf, Michael (Board for International Mission – St. Louis) to South Wisconsin District 9/24/18

Changes Within District:

Haeger, Martin (Emeritus) to Ebenezer – Leslie 10/6/18 by J. Ehrhard

Marks, Matthew (Associate Pastor, Immanuel – Perryville) to Senior Pastor, Immanuel – Perryville 9/29/18 by L. Hagan

Retired:

Bowder, Russell (Trinity – Jefferson City) 8/24/18

Erkkinen, Eric (LCMS Armed Forces – St. Louis) 7/1/15

Resigned/Removed from Roster:

Pike, Joel (Immanuel – Rosebud) 10/18/18

Employment Opportunities

Director of Music

St. Lucas Lutheran Church, LCMS, St. Louis, MO, is seeking candidates to serve as a Director of Music. Online applications for these two positions are available at www.stlucaslcms.org. For more information, please contact the church office at 314-351-2628, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Early Childhood Center Director

St. Lucas Lutheran Church, LCMS, St. Louis, MO, is seeking candidates to serve as an Early Childhood Center Director. Online applications for these two positions are available at www.stlucaslcms.org. For more information, please contact the church office at 314-351-2628, Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

For Sole Pastors:

Alma, Trinity
Carrollton, Immanuel
Chillicothe, St. John (Called Rev. Alan Hubbard – Princeton, MO)
Conway, Immanuel
Frohna, Concordia
Independence, St. Paul's (Called Rev. Christopher Jackson – Forestville, WI - Declined)
Moberly, Zion
Park Hills, Trinity
St. Clair, Holy Trinity
St. Peter, Child of God (Called Rev. Jeremy Gorline – Tomball, TX)
Trenton, Immanuel

For Senior Pastors:

Blue Springs, Timothy
Des Peres, St. Paul
Independence, Messiah
Jefferson City, Faith
Jefferson City, Trinity
St. Louis, Messiah (Called Rev. Stephen Miller – Silver Spring, MD – Accepted)
St. Louis, Timothy (Called Rev. Andrew Dinger – Somerset, NJ – Accepted)
Weldon Spring, Messiah

For Associate or Assistant Pastors:

Immanuel and Light of Christ Chinese Mission Olivette, MO (Called Rev. Edmund Lim – Indianapolis, IN – Accepted)
St. Charles, Immanuel

Served by Intentional Interim Pastor or Interim Pastor:

Alma, Trinity (Rev. Mike Gallagher)
Independence, St. Paul's (Rev. Steven Streufert)
Jefferson City (Honey Creek) (Rev. Dr. Richard Foss)
New Melle, St. Paul (Rev. Tom Schoech)
Slater, Peace & St. Paul (Rev. Douglas Dubisar) – Called Rev. Walter Snyder (Accepted)

Vacant (on hold, but being served):

Ashland, Family of Christ
Aurora, Grace
Barnhart, Immanuel
Bethany, Hope
Buffalo, Our Savior
Center, Trinity
Doniphan, Trinity
Elk Prairie (Rolla), Peace

Hermitage, Hope

Ironton, St. Paul
Isabella, Faith
Kansas City, Immanuel
Kennett, Redeemer
Malden, Grace
Memphis, St. Paul
Milan, Peace
Oak Grove, Shepherd of the Valley
St. James, St. John
St. Louis, Ebenezer
St. Louis, Emmaus
Sarcoxie, Trinity
Sedalia, Amigos de Cristo
Sweet Springs, Christ
Trenton, Immanuel
Valley Park, Zion
Vandalia, St. John
Washington, Faith

Pastors Considering Calls:

Herald, David (Trinity – Appleton City) to Redeemer – Kansas City, KS (Accepted)
Kueker, Jesse (Trinity – Clinton) to Zion, Leigh, NE/Trinity, Howells, NE

Sr. High District Youth Gathering

Cross Pointe Retreat Center, Rocky Mount, MO
November 16-18, \$165



Interest Center Announcement:

The creators of "Walking Man" will be leading a session on mental health issues including depression, anxiety, bullying, and suicide.



After a Missouri high school loses three students to suicide, Mark Norwine (a mental health advocate) embarks on a 200-mile walk across the state, seeking to educate students and better understand the epidemic for himself. Mark is joined by his son, Eric, but when the road proves difficult, father and son must confront their own mental health struggles, which they've kept secret for so long. Endorsed by universities and mental health organizations across the U.S., Walking Man is an honest look at one family's journey with mental illness.

www.walkingmanmovie.com

Pastors' Wives of the Missouri District

Plan to come to one of our two upcoming pastors' wives retreats!

Saturday, November 3rd

10am-2pm

King of Kings in Chesterfield, MO



Saturday, November 10th

10am-2pm

Timothy in Blue Springs, MO

Puzzled

Discover that you are an important piece of God's perfect plan!

Join us for a time of:

- Fellowship with Other Ministry Wives•Light Breakfast and Lunch•
- Fun Activities•Bible Study and Prayer•Service Opportunity•

Babysitting will be provided upon request

Look for your invitation to arrive in September!

Would you like to help with the planning?

Please contact Kathy Chinberg (dwchinberg@sbcglobal.net)



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