

# The VOICE

April 2019



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

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## *From the President's Desk:* 9 Ways to Encourage Young People to Consider Church Work Careers

One of the most common questions that I hear is, “What can the congregation, district and Synod do to recruit more church workers?” Recently, I had a layperson ask me the question, but the thrust was wondering what she could do personally. I had to pause for a second and think. While I responded, I have continued to think about the question. So after a weeks of mulling it over, here are a few thoughts.

**1. Pray for current and future church workers**

Your pastor and other church workers need your prayers. We pray that God would give them the strength that they need to serve faithfully and joyfully. Please also be fervent in praying to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field.

**2. Get involved in teaching children and youth activities**

To encourage children and young people to consider church vocations, then get involved. Many church workers identify a pastor, teacher, or some other adult as being a key influence on the decision to enter church work.

**3. Ask youth and parents to consider church vocation**

Encourage both promising youth and their parents to consider church vocation. Some families have never considered such a possibility, while others may just need to hear affirmation from someone else.

**4. Take summer trips to CUS campuses**

I would love to see vans of district youth traveling to a different Concordia University each summer. This is a great way congregations can work together to raise awareness of our Concordias and church work. You could be the person who takes the lead.

**5. Identify fertile ground**

Lutheran elementary schools and high schools, Lutheran camps and district and National Youth Gatherings are filled with involved young people. Promote and support these opportunities in your congregation.



## **6. Financially support church work scholarships**

We provided \$105,000 this year in church worker scholarships. If you would like to contribute to the Missouri District Scholarship Fund, please send your checks made out to "Missouri District" to the district office and write "Scholarship Fund" on the memo.

## **7. Speak positively about church work**

St. Paul describes the pastoral ministry as a "noble task." You have the opportunity to show that it is important and valued work. When we speak about the eternal significance of these callings, it helps us attract the best and brightest to this profession.

## **8. Support current church workers**

When youth and families see great support for church workers, it makes church work feel like a more legitimate career choice. Congregations and schools can offer adequate salaries and even financial assistance with school debt. If you would like more ideas, contact Rev. Gene Wyssmann ([gene.wyssmann@mo.lcms.org](mailto:gene.wyssmann@mo.lcms.org)).

## **9. Fund costs of church recruitment event**

Both seminaries and Concordia University Chicago host events for youth considering church vocations. If you want to help recruit church workers, suggest to your pastor sending young people to one of the events and offer to cover some or all of the registration and travel costs.

There is no single solution to the challenge of raising up the next generation of servants in our congregations and schools. However, we can together pray for those who currently serve and those who will follow them. But we can also help to do our part to involve children and youth in activities within the LCMS, where service to the Church is modeled and encouraged.

Caring for our current church workers is a way to show the value of church work vocations, but it's also simply part of our responsibility as congregations. Lastly, when we work together (as individuals, congregations, circuits, district and auxiliaries such as Lutheran Women's Missionary League and Lutheran Laymen's League), by God's grace, we are able to address this pressing need for our congregations and schools. May God bless us as we work together to that end.

Fraternally in Christ,



President Lee Hagan

## **PRESIDENT'S PRAYER LIST:**

- Please pray for your pastor(s), for our Lutheran school teachers, deaconesses and directors of christian education, outreach, family ministry and parish music.
- Please pray that children and young people would consider church work as a professional vocation.
- Also, pray for our universities and seminaries in their critical task of training pastors and church workers.
- Lastly, please pray that God would use you to help encourage the next generation of servants in the Church.





# Healthy Servants: What Your Pastor Wishes You Knew

Preaching is one of the most visible tasks of being a pastor. It's easy to envision your pastor in his office, Bible open and pen sliding across his notebook, getting that sermon just right before sharing it Sunday morning. But being a pastor comes with many day-in-and-day-out challenges that are invisible to people in the congregation.

Much of a pastor's work (and stress) flies under the radar even to people who work alongside him at the church office.


Here are some things your pastor wishes you knew:

## He Won't Know You're in the Hospital, Unless You Tell Him

Visiting the sick is a regular part of pastoral care. However, you might be surprised how often people simply forget to tell the pastor someone is in the hospital. Needless to say, that makes it impossible for him to pay a visit.

In previous decades, pastors could call hospitals and ask how many Lutherans were receiving care. Hospitals can no longer divulge that information, due to changes in medical privacy laws.

It you want doctors to share information with your pastor, you have to formally give them written permission. And even if you take this step, he still has no way of knowing when you're sick unless you contact him. The medical staff will not inform him.



As a pastor's kid, I knew I couldn't ace my theology exams at school. Any time I answered a question at Bible study or showed any kind of concern for someone, I'd have to hear about being a "chip off the ole block." Or if someone didn't like something, it was, "Maybe the pastor would be interested in knowing about this!" So I aimed for a solid B or C in theology. People still commented on it, but for some reason, it was easier to take if they were slightly surprised or disappointed. I always liked math better anyway.

## His Family Doesn't Get as much Time Together as they Need

Finding time together as a family is hard for everyone in today's world, but it's even more of a challenge for pastors, due to the demanding schedules they keep. If the pastor has small children, he might be able to attend the regular meetings of various ministries, but that probably means his wife will be watching their kids—most likely alone. It might be an appropriate use of his time, but if the expectation happens too often (or people want both the pastor and his wife to attend too much), it's going to take a toll on family life.

## His Wife and Children Don't Deserve Extra Scrutiny

Think about your children for a moment. How much pressure they face from their friends, teachers—not to mention social media for the older kids. Now imagine everyone in a congregation watching your kids closely, analyzing their decisions and feeling entitled to judge them.

For some reason, there's still an idea that being a pastor's kid means your childhood gets broadcast for the congregation. It's simply not realistic to expect any child to be perfect or always stay in line or reflect their father's career in daily life.

And when it comes to the pastor's marriage, refrain from complaining to either of them about the other. Whether his wife is involved in every ministry or simply attends worship each week, respect her decision about her involvement and her boundaries. If you're concerned with how something is being handled in the congregation, don't needlessly involve the her.

## Even if Office Hours are Posted, No One Knows the Pastor's Schedule

He can't be everywhere at once. That might sound obvious, but it's one of those deceptive statements that's easy to forget in the moment. If a pastor is out of the office, remember that he could be helping someone through a private issue. Also keep in mind that he often serves in evenings and on weekends. This means he won't likely be spending 40 hours a week in the church office on top of that.

## He Wants to Know What You Think

Sometimes, people hesitate to come to the pastor with ideas or concerns, because they find his education and years of experience intimidating. Most pastors welcome input from members and would enjoy getting to know you better. Everyone in the congregation has something valuable to contribute, and your pastor knows that.

## Complaints Are Fine, but Handle them with Skill

If you have a concern about something, first ask yourself if this is a matter of acceptable theology or if it boils down to your personal preference. If it's the latter, still bring it up, but use that to frame the conversation.

Come from the perspective of "I think," or "I feel," rather than starting your sentences with "You." This makes it easier to find a consensus and lets the pastor know you're not accusing him of anything.

If the matter goes beyond personal preference, talk to the pastor directly and alone, in accordance with Matthew 18.



If you'd like to create a comprehensive support system for your pastor (and all the church workers in your congregation), contract Rev. Gene Wyssmann about starting a Congregational Worker Wellness Team. Learn more today by emailing [gene.wyssmann@mo.lcms.org](mailto:gene.wyssmann@mo.lcms.org) or call (417) 766-2183.

[mo.lcms.org/congregational-worker-wellness-teams/](http://mo.lcms.org/congregational-worker-wellness-teams/)

# Healthy Congregations:

## Prayers for the Call Process

by Rev. Bill Geis

Many congregations will be praying, watching and waiting, as our seminaries hold call services for our new pastors this week. Whether you or your congregation has a personal connection to these men and their calling congregations, I urge us all to pray for pastors and congregations involved in the call process.

Surprising though it may seem, a time of calling a pastor is a time of growing for the congregation. It may feel like winter at times, without leaves on the trees, but underneath God is at work in the root of congregations in these times. He's working in our hearts to prepare us for His next step.

Therefore, this is a time for listening to the Word of God and seeking His will for our harvest field. It is a time for prayer, so that the Lord's voice and plans will be the one that counts. We support one another in this process.

Pray daily for the congregations listed in "The Voice" who are in various stages of the call process.

Pray for their patience, discernment and clarity in the plans the Lord has established. Pray for those who shepherd congregations in the call process. This includes our District President, the Circuit Visitor, a Vacancy or Interim Pastor, the Call Committee and the congregational conversation through Bible studies, surveys, interviews and meetings.

I've had church leaders share their personal gratitude for what they learned through the call process. Time and time again, they shared their initial doubts that this would be helpful and fears that it was only delaying a Call. Yet consistently, the word I hear is "gratitude" for how the call process became a spiritual process for their congregation to be ready for their next pastor or church worker.



*"The harvest is plentiful,  
but the workers are few.  
Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore,  
to send out workers  
into his harvest field."  
—Luke 10:2*

These will be our "10:02" daily prayers this month: let's pray for churches in the call process and the church workers they impact.

### Pray: To Recognize and Raise Up Church Workers

The Church is in great need of pastors, teachers, directors of christian education and deaconesses. Even before they were born, the Lord has prepared men and women to serve in these ministries. He uses the teaching, nurturing and praying people of congregations to recognize and raise them up. **I would not be a pastor today, if it were up to me alone to figure that out. My church family saw my Calling before I did.** This week I experienced the mutual comfort shared among one of those families. Their 91-year old mother had died, and in our conversations were stories of how she had prayed for me, and rejoiced the day I was ordained, and had prayed for me ever since.

### Pray: For Congregations in the Call Process

As you read news from the Missouri District, you will see many congregations in various stages of the call process. There are many challenges for a congregation without a called pastor. One of the most unnoticed of those challenges is the anxiety we naturally feel to fill the void quickly with our own plans. We believe, however, that God's Spirit is in this process. He graciously gives our congregations the privilege of participating! It is not merely hiring a new worker. The call process is more about the Lord shaping our congregation in the transition. If we skip these steps, we act on our plans rather than what the Lord has established.



# Healthy Schools

## Joy in the Accreditation Journey: Uncovering and Celebrating what Makes Your School Special and Unique

When parents first tour an LCMS school in the Missouri District, they know something is different, even though they can't quite articulate what it is. Sometimes, with education, it's hard to explain what's all around you—what makes one school truly distinctive and such a special experience for students and teachers alike. This is true for parents, students, educators and administrators.

The National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) offers educators the chance to take a step back and objectively evaluate where they stand. In addition to offering another layer of credibility to parents, this process brings the entire school community together for a collective assessment of what's going well and what could be improved.

### How the Process Works

Self-evaluation is one of the cornerstones of the NLSA process, as is celebrating each schools' individual strengths. The entire process usually takes approximately 18 months, starts off with intense introspection. First, the school's accreditation team collects evidence to give itself a score on a scale from one to four on 41 indicators of a strong school. On this scale, a three would be considered like an A, and a four would be even higher (fours are somewhat rare). Any item earning a one or two would require the school to develop an action plan for improvement in that specific area.

After this process, a validation team of NLSA accreditors reviews the school's self-study and then visits the school in person for two days of intense examination. After their visit, they write a report and make a recommendation to the Missouri District and the National Lutheran School Accreditation Commission. To earn accreditation, the school must meet expectations in the appropriate indicators.

Yes, the process is designed to pinpoint areas for improvement. However, Diana Meers, a principal at Immanuel Lutheran School in St. Charles, MO, believes accreditation can be a "joy-filled process." Meers has been on both sides of accreditation—on NLSA validation teams as well as a participant in her school. You can read her article, [Loving Accreditation](http://stf.lea.org/winter2019/feat2meers.html), here:



## Finding the Joy in Accreditation

Meers says one of the most important ingredients to a successful accreditation is the attitude of the school leadership—something she has seen become contagious. When the leaders look at this process as an opportunity to celebrate what's going well and openly seek opportunities for improvement, everyone else in the community will follow. Conversely, if the leadership feels closed off to the process and sees it as an opportunity only for criticism, Meers has seen that attitude permeate the process so much it almost flavors the final report.

Meers has seen many schools celebrate the start of accreditation with a dinner, with stakeholders such as teachers, board members and parents attending. This gives everyone the chance to learn about the process, the standards, and sets a positive, open-minded tone before getting started.

Michelle Fischer, a principal at Calvary Lutheran Church, has been involved with many different accreditation teams.

She says, "You can be a good school without being accredited, assuming you're in a state that doesn't require it. Missouri doesn't, for example. However, accreditation keeps you from becoming stagnant."

During the year-long self-study and the validation team visit, the school is examined for its success in the following seven distinct areas:

- Purpose
- Relationships
- Governance
- Professional Personnel
- Teaching and Learning
- Student Services
- Facilities

The evidence-based approach is a strength of the NLSA process. "The biggest thing is data. Don't just tell me the number, tell me why," she explains. One key benefit of accreditation is also one of its challenges: it's time-consuming. It requires educators to carve out time for reflection that includes the entire community, a luxury that simply isn't possible very often.

## The Validation Teams Look for the Positive in Every School

Both Fischer and Meers emphasize that the validation teams and the entire accreditation process is designed to help schools earn accreditation and celebrate what they do well. Meers has observed that people tend to be more nervous at the start of the process. She says, "It feels a little like preparing for a big test in school. There's this sense of, 'I hope I pass.'" She almost always sees people relax by the time the process wraps up.

Fischer says her favorite part of being on accreditation teams is meeting new people and learning from all the schools she visits, because she always gets ideas for things she can adapt and try in her school.

To learn more about NLSA accreditation, contact Al Freeman at [alan.freeman@mo.lcms.org](mailto:alan.freeman@mo.lcms.org) or (314) 590-6209.



# Strengthening Families:

## Family Ministry for Parents New to the Faith

by Haley Link



As I walked into my first Sunday school classroom, I felt like I was going to be sick. I didn't know anyone in the room and I wanted so badly to go home. The rest of the third graders were opening their Bibles and I was sitting there thinking, "What is a Bible?"

They had us all read from Deuteronomy and none of it made sense. I didn't even know who Jesus was. I felt miserable being out of the loop when it came to the Bible and not having any friends. I was one of the many kids that walk our churches with no knowledge of who Jesus is and what He has done for them. Although, I despised going to church when my family started attending, I eventually learned to love going to church and learning about Jesus.

It's almost laughable how God used my elementary school experiences to impact me as an adult. I am a Director of Children's Ministry now. I am passionate about making kids feel welcome and loved because of my third grade experiences. As a Children's Ministry Director, my goal is to train and equip parents to be faith educators. They are with their children far more than I am.

Our congregations are jam packed with lifelong LCMS members and we certainly love that, but we can't ignore our members that are newer to the LCMS or even the faith itself, for that matter. It goes without saying that each family in our congregations is valuable and important to us and God. It can be challenging to know where to start with our new families. It is important to note that there is a difference between a new Christian and a Christian from another denomination.

So here are some tips for engaging new families into the church:

**"Where are we?"**

Walking into a church for the first time can be intimidating for our new families. They might not have friends yet and could be confused on what is going on, kind of like third grade me. It is important our church leaders introduce themselves to these families, so they feel more comfortable talking about where they are in their faith journey, but also so they know who to go to when they need help or advice. As children's ministry is my primary area, I always make a point to introduce myself to the kids in the family. We want the kids to be comfortable as well as the parents.



**Missouri District**

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

## “I don’t get it.”

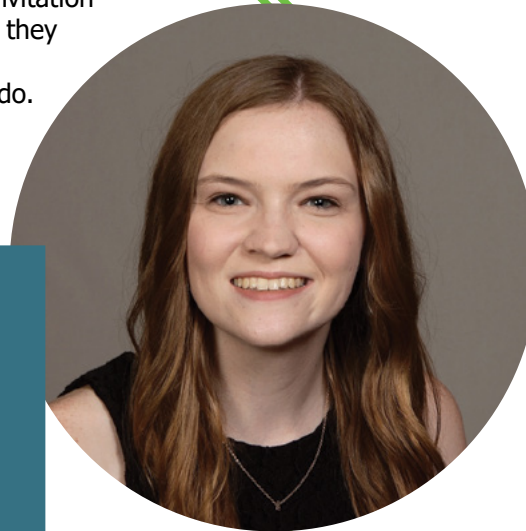
A rule of thumb that I use when teaching parents and kids is to never assume that they get it. It could be the most repeated Bible story ever and I will still give a quick synopsis for the whole group. That also means that I explain any “churchy” words to the group as a whole. It is a great teaching moment for all, whether a recap or new information, it’s worth the detour in your lesson.

I am constantly saying to parents, “It’s okay if you don’t know that Bible story, you can learn it with your kids.” We too often expect parents to have all the answers, but it is okay if they don’t. They can learn and grow in their faith at the same pace as their child. As long as parents get why it is important to be in God’s Word and learn about Him, everything is good. God just wants them to be a part of His family and so do we!

A practical application is to have easy to use resources for newer families. These can be children’s Bibles, devotional, or Bible story books. These resources take the pressure of the parents to know everything.

We want all families to be engaged in the events and programs that our congregation is putting on. New families generally just need an invitation to attend. They might be anxious about going to an event where they don’t know others. So being invitational and inclusive to our new families is the most welcoming thing that our congregations can do.

*“When working with new families,  
getting them engaged is as easy  
as putting yourself in their shoes.”*  
—DCE Haley Link



## “Everyone seems to get this, but I still don’t.”

Starting anything new in our lives is full of excitement and fear, it is the same with church. Families that are at new to the faith or LCMS can be overwhelmed and fearful that they are behind in their knowledge of everything going on. These families need our encouragement and enthusiasm. They need to know that we believe in them, but most importantly God is with them in this season of life. When working with new families, getting them engaged is as easy as putting yourself in their shoes.

If you don’t know how to engage them, think what you would want if you were new to the church. These families have so much potential and we need to maximize on that. All our kids need is to be told who Jesus is and how much He loves them, but it doesn’t hurt to also introduce them to a new friend and help them feel comfortable.

Strengthening families is one of the Missouri District’s critical targets. We’ve hosted Tell the Next Generation: A Family Ministry Conference and are dedicated to equipping congregations, church workers and volunteers with resources and ideas to reach families.

# Engaging Communities

## Campus Lutheran Church Provides Leadership and Ministry Skills to College Students

Every fall, millions of high school graduates start their journey into higher education. They pile into their parents' car with laundry baskets, a few suitcases and so many questions. Will I get along with my roommate? What if I never figure out what my major should be? Will I make friends? How long until I stop getting lost on campus?

One question not everyone thinks of— where should I go to church?

College is a time of intense growth and discovery. For many, it's also when their faith and values are tested for the first time as an individual. At college, they don't have the immediate influence of their family.

Plus, many students go home on the weekends, making it hard to find something to do. That can feel lonely and Rev. Pierce has seen students who feel like their only option for socializing is something that isn't necessarily healthy.

### Four Years to Equip Students in their Faith for the Long-Term

Rev. Pierce and the rest of the Campus Lutheran Church team work hard to foster a sense of community. Getting students involved with a congregation is important. Lydia Ross, the Director Student Ministries Intern, explains, "We only have these four years to invest in the future leaders of our church...Our goal isn't for them to hang back after college as lifelong members. We see this as a transient, in-between kind of ministry."

Ross says, "The [college] students involved in campus ministry are incredible because their parents aren't asking them to go church on Sunday and nobody is pressuring them to go to Bible study. It's fully on them."

### Walking Alongside College Students amid Crazy Schedules and School Pressure

Rev. Kent Pierce, a pastor serving Campus Lutheran Church in Columbia, knows that college students are feeling pulled in many different directions. They have so many organizations they can join, and they're more connected now than ever, due to technology. And yet, it's surprisingly easy for Lutherans on campus to feel a little lost.

Rev. Pierce works with many students who are navigating Greek Life and other opportunities that can enrich their college experience, but might be at odds with their values if they don't approach it thoughtfully and prayerfully.





Because college students are so busy, the team usually spends time with them on hour-long, weekly events, such as a small group or a Bible study. While these events offer great value, Ross had a vision of doing something even more intentional and in-depth.

### A Retreat to Equip College Students to Minister to Others

Campus Lutheran Church realized that they had a unique opportunity to unite Lutheran college students from across the region. They're centrally located, and they have a new building, equipped with shower and kitchen facilities, and ample room for activities. This meant they could offer a weekend long retreat at a low price point (approximately \$50), a huge advantage for college students. Despite a severe bout of winter weather, they ultimately had 15 students in attendance of what they've titled "the Go Conference."

The purpose of this weekend was to offer fellowship and consider the opportunities in their life to disciple others. Pastor Dave Benson spoke about helping the students discern how their God-given attributes could help them be a unique leader for Christ. Everyone has gifts, and each student evaluated how they could use their introverted or extroverted personality to reach other people.

Ross says, "A lot of the feedback that we got from students was that they never really thought about those things and that we hit the mark. This is something they were looking for."



### Redefining Christian Leadership

Many of the students have long done things like inviting their friends to church, praying in public, and striving to be a real friend to people. Yet few of the students attending ever considered these actions leadership. Since the event, the first weekend in March, Rev. Pierce and Ross have rejoiced in hearing stories of the students already finding new ways take initiative to reach out to their communities for Christ.

### What You Can Do

If you're active in a congregation, now is the perfect time to assist campus ministry organizations. Find out where the students you know are going to college and find out if there's a Lutheran organization on campus. Make sure the student and the organization get connected, preferably before they depart for orientation or return to school.

It is the joy of campus ministry sites throughout Missouri to serve these emerging God-fearing leaders. Thank you for the ways you walk alongside these ministries through prayer and financial gifts. To learn how you can further support campus ministry in the Missouri District, contact Leah Sieveking at [Leah.Sieveking@mo.lcms.org](mailto:Leah.Sieveking@mo.lcms.org) or 314-590-6211.

## Mission Advancement Snapshot

Finals week on college campuses is almost here! Thank you for the source of encouragement you've been to students at five campus ministry sites throughout Missouri this academic year. (Next year it will be six!)

Students spent the year in worship and Bible study, went on servant event trips, cared for their local communities and had a lot of fun together. Interested in knowing how to be even more involved through prayer and giving? Contact Leah Sieveking at [leah.sieveking@mo.lcms.org](mailto:leah.sieveking@mo.lcms.org) or 314-590-6211.



# Partner News

## Small Grants, Big Difference: LCEF Signature Grants Now Available

Last year the pastor of Hanover Lutheran Church, Rev. Tony Kobak, had a very good problem. He was considering removing the walls in the classrooms to create more space for everyone clamoring to attend an adult Sunday school and Monday night Bible classes. There simply were more people than would fit.

However, instead of expanding the classrooms, he decided to move the classes to the much larger activity center, which they'd recently decided to build. They often used the activity center and gymnasium for community events, such as basketball games and sausage suppers, but he began to wonder if God would lead enough people to Bible class to fill this space, as well. That's exactly what happened.

Rev. Kobak says, "When our latest study kicked off in August we were shocked as 93 people showed up for the first Monday night adult bible class!" This led to some growing pains. Imagine trying to set up a room for a 93-person Bible study. The 50-inch TV simply wasn't big enough and people started to complain.

Rev. Kobak applied for one of the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF)'s Signature Grants, a small grant available in the Missouri District through conversations with Casey Carlson, the Assistant to the President for the LCEF. A new 70-inch TV went to the front of the activity center, and the 50-inch TV moved to another spot, ensuring everyone could fully participate in the bible study.

Carlson says, "I enjoyed the opportunity to present the Signature Sponsorship grant check to the Bible class at Hanover and to take part in the night's study. The Signature Sponsorship is designed to enhance ministries and provide new and exciting ways to assist them in communicating the Good News of Jesus with others, and I felt truly humbled to see these funds put in action at Hanover!"

Signature grants target the range of \$250 to \$1,000. To apply for one, contact Casey Carlson at [casey.carlosn@mo.lems.org](mailto:casey.carlosn@mo.lems.org) and briefly explain your needs and how the funds will help your ministry.



# Personnel Changes

## Transferred to Our District

Mueller, James L. (TX) to Messiah  
– Weldon Spring 4/7/19 by L. Hagan

## Transferred to Other Districts

Keller, Roger (Emeritus) to FG 4/17/19

## Changes Within District

Bomberger, Kenneth (Candidate) to LCMS Office of International Mission – St. Louis 4/7/19 by J. Wagner  
Glenn, Micah (Grace Chapel – Bellefontaine Neighbors) to Lutheran Hour Ministries – St. Louis 3/28/19 by A. Cook  
Mueller, Bart (Saint Paul Lutheran High School – Concordia) to Messiah – Independence 3/31/19 by S. Lemmermann  
Schlie, Charles (Senior Pastor, Messiah – Weldon Spring) to Associate Pastor, Messiah – Weldon Spring 4/1/19

## Candidate Status

Schuetze, Nathaniel (Campus – Columbia) 2/9/19

## Retired

Alter, Anthony (Faith – Jefferson City) 10/29/18  
Anderson, Darryl (Lutheran Senior Services – St. Louis) 3/16/19  
Hoppe, Hector (Concordia Publishing House – St. Louis) 3/31/19  
Steiner, Mark (LCMS Office of International Mission – St. Louis) 11/1/18

## Deceased

Eggers, Robert (Emeritus) 4/10/19  
Hoeferkamp, Donald (Emeritus) 3/28/19



Our Savior Christian Academy was privileged to present an Easter play, "Celebrate Jesus," focusing on the life of Jesus as an adult, from Baptism to His resurrection. Teachers and students used their musical gifts (both vocal and instrumental), acting and theater production to portray the life of Jesus.

# Personnel Changes – Commissioned Ministers of Religion

## Transferred from Other Districts

Strong, Martha (NW) to LCMS Office of International Mission, Ministry to Armed Forces – St. Louis 3/17/19 by J. Perling

## Resigned/Removed from Roster

Justus, Paula (Candidate) 4/1/19  
Mattsfeld, Michelle (Candidate) 4/1/19  
Stewart, Timothy (Candidate) 4/1/19  
Templeton, Sue (Candidate) 4/1/19  
Wesselschmidt, Mary (Candidate) 4/1/19



Just this week Pastor Parviz from Congregation Chai v'Shalom, St. Louis visited and NLO held a mini-seder, "Christ is the Passover." It was very educational for those present to taste the foods of the Passover and learn of their significance.

# Calling Congregations

## For Sole Pastors

Appleton City, Trinity (Calling Seminary Candidate)  
Brunswick, St. John (Calling Seminary Candidate)  
Carrollton, Immanuel  
Conway, Zion  
Ernestville, St. Matthew (Called Benjamin Holt  
– Girard, IL - Accepted)  
Frohna, Concordia  
Independence, St. Paul's  
Park Hills, Trinity – (Called Rev. Jeremy May  
– Ponca City, OK - Accepted)  
St. Clair, Holy Trinity  
Sweet Springs, Immanuel (Calling Seminary Candidate)  
Trenton, Immanuel  
Warsaw, Faith (Calling Seminary Candidate)

## For Senior Pastor

Blue Springs, Timothy  
Des Peres, St. Paul

## For Associate or Assistant Pastor

Concordia, St. Paul (Calling Seminary Candidate)  
Jefferson City, Trinity (Calling Seminary Candidate)  
O'Fallon, Holy Cross  
Perryville, Immanuel (Calling Seminary Candidate)  
St. Charles, Immanuel (Called Rev. Daniel Potts  
– Monroe, MI - Declined)

## Served by Intentional Interim Pastor or Interim Pastor

Independence, Messiah (Rev. Bart Mueller)  
Independence, St. Paul's (Rev. Steven Streufert)  
Jefferson City (Honey Creek) (Rev. Dr. Richard Foss)  
Leslie, Ebenezer (Rev. Martin Haeger)  
New Melle, St. Paul (Rev. Tom Schoech)

## 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

Hetzel, Brian (Pointe of Hope – Blue Springs)  
to St. Paul – Roseburg, OR (Declined)



# Missouri District Office Staff

**President**

Rev. Dr. R. Lee Hagan  
314-590-6200  
Lee.Hagan@mo.lcms.org

**Assistant to the President – Missions and Congregational Services**

Rev. Bill Geis  
314-590-6205  
Bill.Geis@mo.lcms.org

**Assistant to the President – School Ministry**

Alan Freeman  
314-590-6209  
Alan.Freeman@mo.lcms.org

**Chief Financial Officer**

Peter Krege  
314-590-6200  
Peter.Krege@mo.lcms.org

**Assistant to the President for Family Life and Youth Ministry**

Dan Kreienkamp  
Daniel.Kreienkamp@gmail.com

**Assistant to the President – Church Worker and Congregational Health**

Rev. Gene Wyssmann  
417-766-2183  
Gene.Wyssmann@mo.lcms.org

**Assistant to the President – Lutheran Church Extension Fund**

Casey Carlson  
314-590-6207  
Casey.Carlson@lcef.org

**Assistant to the President – Mission Advancement**

Leah Sieveking  
314-590-6211  
Leah.Sieveking@mo.lcms.org

**Assistant to the President**

Michelle Christ  
314-590-6210  
Michelle.Christ@mo.lcms.org

**Financial Specialist**

Cassie Behrmann  
314-590-6213  
Cassie.Behrmann@mo.lcms.org

**Strategic Communications**

Sharon Gutowski  
314-590-6219  
Sharon.Gutowski@mo.lcms.org

**Rostered Worker Support Specialist**

Martha Schellin  
314-590-6215  
Martha.Schellin@mo.lcms.org

**Events Specialist**

Sue Thompson  
314-590-6217  
Sue.Thompson@mo.lcm



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

