

The VOICE

November 2019



Missouri District

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH — MISSOURI SYNOD

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**Fellowship Time
at the District
Youth Gathering!**

From the President's Desk:



Many Hands Make God's Work

Church members have set aside a month to show appreciation to their pastors. Our nation has a long history of remembering the service and sacrifice of those who have served in the Armed Forces. It is good for us to be thankful for those who serve in the Church by proclaiming God's Word and those who serve our nation by protecting our freedoms. But the Scriptures remind us that there are many hands through which the Lord serves His creation.

Throughout Paul's epistles, there are places where the saints of God are encouraged to view their labor as a form of service to God. Each individual Christian has a unique calling from God by which they serve Him with the respective gifts and talents that they have received as a trust from the Creator. This doctrine of vocation gives purpose to each task and form of service so that no one's service is deemed more important than another's or unnecessary. Parents, spouses and every type of worker understand that their service is offered to God and therefore blessed by Him.

But Christians also are blessed to see not only the importance of your own unique callings, but also those of your neighbors. God is ultimately serving you through the humble service of accountants and architects, bakers and bankers, cooks and custodians. As families prepare to give thanks to God for all of the blessings that He showers upon us, it is good for us to remember the many hands that He uses to serve us each day, though often forgotten. We are thankful for those whose work is carried out within the church and those who serve to protect and serve in the military and as first responders. But God also uses many hands to be His instruments of care for His creation.

Christians find their identity and purpose not in their work, but in the One who created them in His own image, redeemed them by the precious blood of Jesus, and made them His new creation in the baptismal waters. An identity that is rooted in the action of the triune God changes how we view the labor and service that we then offer. Therefore, we serve not ourselves or our masters or our bank account, but our merciful God and in turn our neighbor.

Each day as Christians serve in their particular callings, God is carrying out His work of preserving His creation through the hands and feet, minds and mouths of His servants. God even accomplishes His will through the service of unbelievers. For the family whose house is on fire, God works through believing and unbelieving fire fighters alike. As Christians, we can marvel each day as God serves us through the many hands that He uses. May God help us to see His hand at work through our own service and that of our neighbor.

Fraternally in Christ,



President Lee Hagan

PRESIDENT'S PRAYER LIST:

We give thanks to God for those who God uses to serve us in their unique callings.

We pray that God would give each of us joy as we serve in our homes, church, work, and community.

Finally, pray that many young people would consider vocations in the church as professional church workers



Missouri District Welcomes a New Team Member!

This Missouri District Office is pleased to announce a new face joining staff starting January 2020, Rev. Marty Hasz.

Rev. Hasz has accepted the call to serve as Assistant to the President: Church Worker and Congregational Health. You might be asking yourself, what exactly does "Church Worker and Congregational Health" mean?

In short, any time there is a major relational conflict, churches and/or pastors can reach out to the district office and ask for assistance. This conflict could be miscommunications between laypeople at the church, a conflict between pastors and the church, or even just something personal in a pastor's life. While –thankfully– this does not occur often in most churches, it –sadly– occurs at least once in most churches. This is where Church Worker and Congregational Health can help, serving as a counseling resource to the whole Missouri District! Rev. Hasz brings a lot of talent to the table!

Rev. Marty Hasz holds a Master of Arts in mental health counseling from Southeast Missouri State University. He is a National Board-Certified Counselor and works part-time at Great Oak Counseling specializing in Emotionally Focused Therapy for couples and individuals.





Rev. Hasz has also served on the Missouri District's Board of Youth & Family Ministry and currently serves as the Missouri District's LWML Sr. Pastoral Counselor. He is a Christian Reconciler through Ambassadors of Reconciliation and has been teaching, coaching, and leading LCMS church workers and

congregations through reconciliation and conflict management since 2015.

In addition to this, Rev. Hasz is a pastor and family man. The sole pastor to Eisleben Lutheran Church, Rev. Hasz, his wife, and three teenage sons have lived in Scott City, Missouri since 2012, when Rev. Hasz received his MDiv from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Before serving as an ordained minister, Rev. Hasz served in the capacity of DCE for 15 years in his native state of Indiana. Rev. Hasz says, "What I love about being a pastor is seeing a person or a group of people light up with the joy of the Good News of our Savior, spending time in God's creation with others in fellowship, and baptizing & teaching about the Lord... And, if you find yourself in need of your brakes changed, a wooden bench built, or curtains sewn- I'm your guy."



**Welcome Rev Hasz!
May the Lord richly
bless your work!**

What a Blessing!



Our sincerest thanks to the individuals and congregations that gave so generously to support the work of the Missouri District this year. What a blessing! Whether providing funds to aid those impacted by flooding, investing in a church plant, building the next generation of leaders on college campuses, or welcoming new neighbors from all over the world, your kindness is an answered prayer and a source of great encouragement.



Calendar year 2019 was filled with many opportunities for sharing the Gospel throughout our state. We look forward to where God will lead us in 2020 and invite all of you to join us in this Kingdom work.

Please prayerfully consider giving to the Missouri District this Christmas Season.
Options for giving include:



Checks

Payable to "Missouri District"
660 Mason Ridge Ctr Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63141



Credit Card

Online credit card payments
may be made at
mo.lcms.org



Phone

Phone credit card payments
may be made by calling
314-590-6200

**Again, thank you for your support.
God's peace to you and yours as we
celebrate the birth of the Savior!**

Amazing Milestone:

Lutheran High School Kansas City Celebrates 40 years

We are blessed to have over 60 Lutheran schools in the Missouri District! Lutheran schools are a wonderful way to raise children in a positive, Lutheran environment. This month we are celebrating with Lutheran High School Kansas City as they mark the 40th anniversary since they were founded. Hear from LHSKC's principal, Dr. Cary Stelmachowicz about the ups and downs of successfully running a school, and what the future holds.

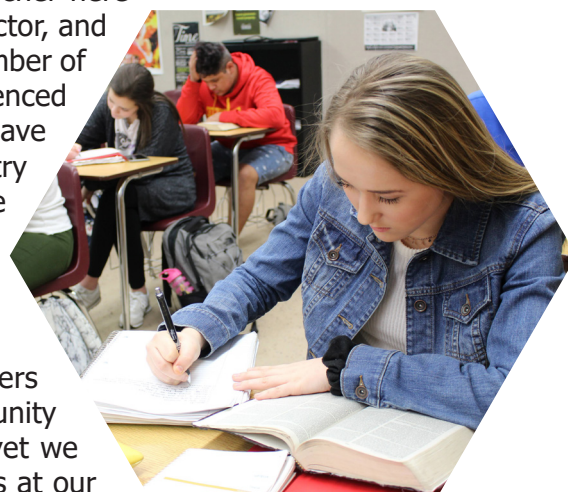
Years ago several Missouri Synod Lutheran churches in the greater Kansas City area wanted to start a Lutheran High School. They banded together to form the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Kansas City. The school began with 31 9th and 10th grade students in 1980.

To celebrate this occasion, we held a 40th anniversary dinner on Sunday, November 10th. 170 people attended including many alums as well as their parents and other supporters. President Lee Hagan and Alan Freeman Asst. to the President for Schools were in attendance. Pres. Hagan was among the featured speakers. We also kicked off a Capital Campaign to raise 4 million dollars to keep our school financially sustainable in the following three areas: capital improvements, debt reduction, and endowment growth (for student scholarships.) We have raised 1.5 million in the early phase. Through this campaign we hope to be able to add on to our athletic facilities, create another science lab, and add a digitally enhanced communications room.



In our forty years there were several bumpy roads. The school has been located in three different locales. Each time you change locations you lose a part of your identity. We are trying our best to reach out to all of our alums and reunite them with our current students and building in order that they feel the same pride that we feel towards them. Our current location at 124th and Wornall is a wonderful site. Located on 29 acres it provides us with ample room to grow our school.

Lee Rudzinski has been a history and theology teacher here for 36 years. He has also served as interim principal twice, athletic director, and the head coach of girls' volleyball for the past 36 years. He is also a member of the Missouri Volleyball coaches Hall of Fame. He stated "I have experienced many changes in the educational landscape here at LHSKC, and we have survived them all because we have remained true to our values. We try and balance excellence in the classroom and on the athletic field with the constant pursuit of a greater relationship with our Lord. This attitude has allowed this school to be successful in the past and to remain successful for another forty years."



Lutheran schools are schools of quality and mission. Dedicated teachers who believe in their Lord and their students. We operate in a community of love and forgiveness. We hold our students to high expectations, yet we realize the complexities of a 21st century world we all live in. Students at our school experience many opportunities to participate in sports, leadership, drama, and music. If you want your child to be an active participant in a quality educational institution, and if you are looking for a Christ-centered school that caters its education toward the best interests of its students, you should consider the Lutheran High School of Kansas City. Stop by and visit, you may not want to leave.

Campus Ministry Spotlight

“18-24 is an important time for your faith. It switches from something that was given to you to something that you actually hold yourself. Your faith becomes yours at that time. It’s extremely powerful.”



The Missouri District is pleased to provide grants to several campus ministries sites across the state. Check out this awesome campus ministry at University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg spearheaded by Rev. Jon-Michael Schweigert.

Pastor Schweigert finds campus ministry so important because, “It’s really a bad idea to intentionally commit religious genocide in our denominations. On the flip side of that it’s very important to nurture the faith of our young men and women so that we don’t find there aren’t any anymore. 18-24 is an important time for your faith. It switches from something that was given to you to something that you actually hold yourself. Your faith becomes yours at that time. It’s extremely powerful.”

In addition to weekly Bible Studies, chapel services, and lots of other events (including servant events and going shooting), every year around Halloween, the LCMS U group in Warrensburg has a huge weekend of fun and outreach in their community. First students start the weekend by picking and carving pumpkins. Then students go and buy hundreds of basic-necessity items, dress in costume, and distribute soaps, shampoos, and toothbrushes to help sponsor their church’s car in the town-wide trunk-or-treat. To end the evening, they gather back at their church for a night of hotdogs around the bonfire.

Pastor Schweigert’s final thoughts to students? “Don’t let your faith languish. It’s really easy to be like, ‘oh I’ll go to church when I get home.’ You’re really destroying your faith at that point. Don’t lose your support group. Also when joining a Lutheran organization consider not just what you get out of it, but what you can give.”

Pastors' Wives Retreat

Missouri Pastors' Wives Gather for Time of Encouragement
"I don't want to miss a single retreat. It fills my heart."

Debbie Alter, attendee at the Missouri District Pastors' Wives Retreat held this fall looks forward to the gathering.

"We laugh and cry together. We play games. We study scripture together. More laughing and game playing. We sing and we pray. We eat delicious food. We bond."



This year, pastors' wives from Missouri had two opportunities to gather for fellowship, support, study, and fun. For those living on the eastern side of the state, the first retreat was held at King of Kings in Chesterfield on Saturday, November 2nd. The second retreat was held further west at Timothy, Blue Springs, on Saturday, November 9th.

With the theme "It's About Time," participants took a careful look at Ecclesiastes 3 and were reminded of the various "seasons" and "times" in the life of a pastor's wife. A service component was incorporated as the groups assembled care packages for international students in St. Louis and St. Paul's Lutheran High School in Concordia.



Organized by Kathy Chinberg, the retreat is looking to expand in the future. "It is the hope and desire that we will be able to offer three retreat opportunities for the wives of pastors in Missouri next year in 2020," she explains.

Debbie Alter encourages her fellow pastor's wives to participate. "Your presence there is a blessing to others even if you don't know it. Come and be a blessing. You will be blessed in the process."

Pastor's Conference

Fun Times for all!



Pastor's Conference 2019

From Oct 20-22, pastors across Missouri assembled at Tan-Tar-A Resort in Osage Beach Missouri.

"I did get some great ideas for Bible class from the folks I hung out with...I like hanging out and getting caught up with friends. I appreciate the schedule that allows for this to happen," says Pastor Joe Rodriguez of St. Stephen's in Liberty. Rev. Rodriguez was one of the pastors in attendance, "I was once again reminded there are so many great resources out there to help in practical ministry. I appreciate the topics that relate to current ministry challenges or cultural challenges."

Pastors get to stay at the resort, attend topical presentations, and join in fellowship.

"For me," says Rev. Rodriguez, "I go to get recharged by my brothers in Christ's ministry."

LCMS Advent Media Kits

Not sure how to reach your community this December? The LCMS is providing free media kits! Simply download the media kit from the LCMS website and add your church's advent worship information!

There are resources to add these media to print, website, and social. Download yours today!



<https://blogs.lcms.org/2019/advent-christmas-media-kit/>



Youth Retreats

DCE Jason Glaskey fully understands the importance of his vocation. "Youth ministry is just so important in this day and age. Connecting with our young people. Letting them know that we care about them and their relationship with Jesus." He, along with several other DCEs and volunteers, have been instrumental in organizing and conducting the district's recent youth gatherings.

More than 225 junior high students, adult leaders, and volunteers descended on Camp Windermere in Roach, MO, for the Fall 2019 Missouri District Junior High Youth Gathering. The overnight event was held October 25-27 and explored the theme "Peace Rules." Based on Colossians 3:15, Presenter Sarah Salzberg (a Lutheran high school teacher from California) walked participants through the Table of Duties from Luther's Small Catechism—highlighting questions about relationships and Christian vocation. The band, Bread of Stone, was welcomed back to a district event for another weekend of great music.



As is our custom, the same format will be offered March 27-29, 2020, to all youth and leaders who were unable to attend in October. Registration will be open after the first of the year.

DCE Glaskey was pleased with the October retreat and offers his encouragement for those who are considering attending in March. "The program is really strong this year. It's a great way to get to know other kids from Missouri. A great opportunity to grow in faith."



More recently, the Missouri District Senior High Retreat was held November 22-24 at Cross Point Retreat Center in Rocky Mount. Professor Brad Alles from Concordia Wisconsin led mass sessions pertaining to the theme, "Fantastic Truths and Where to Find Them." Participants also had their pick of interest centers where they were able to hear more about Christ's certainty in an uncertain world and even ask youth leaders any questions they wanted pertaining to faith and life.

DCE Mark Thompson of Timothy in St. Louis shares, "My students go because it is great mix of time with people you know and like, new friends you find and enjoy, and growing together with great speakers, music, and God's Word in a beautiful setting in God's Creation."

While geared towards youth, DCE Thompson sees how even he grows from these gatherings. "As a youth leader, I have some of the same blessings and interest as my students. I meet new students and leaders from other churches. I reconnect with other DCEs and student ministry leaders I know and am encouraged to be around. I play and learn and grow alongside my students so we get to experience head, heart and lifestyle growth as we spend some time in our shared faith. God works through all of that, and His Word in the theme and activities is evident as you watch students progress from Friday to Saturday to Sunday. The weekend just works because it is not overcomplicated and the wonderful leadership sticks with stuff that works."



Home for the Holidays

Pastor Bill Geis, Missions and Congregational Services



Many college students will be traveling home for Thanksgiving, Christmas and semester breaks. Prepare the way for them with your prayers—personally and as a congregation—as they make their re-entry home. Enlist a prayer team to be intercessors for students. Share a note or text with a blessing. Ask a simple question, “how can I pray for you?”

This summer the Missouri District launched the Campus Ministry Network to encourage, support and resource congregations in mission to our campuses. Since its launch, the network has grown to 14 congregations serving 21 campus communities. Pastors, DCEs Deaconess, and Lay Ministers across the District are collaborating in new ways.



Share the Link

If you know students attending a college in state, visit our District Campus Ministry referral tool (www.molcms.college). The website opens a dialog with the student and a campus ministry leader. While anyone can refer a student, the most effective way to use the online tool is to share the link with the student. In this way, the student is voluntarily initiating contact. DCE Lydia Ross, who oversees the network, reports several seniors have connected with ministries for the first time through the network. It all happened because their pastor, parent or friend shared the link. Vicar Ian Thormodson reports that campus ministry to Lindenwood University grew substantially through the network. In September alone, they added six students through connections with the network.

Share the Experience

Coming this Spring, Campus Lutheran in Columbia will host college students from Missouri and neighboring states to its annual "Go Conference." This is a fun, powerful, experience where students explore the intersection of their God-given gifts, education and vocation as disciples. The "Go Conference" is March 6-7, 2020 with an inexpensive early registration of \$35 before January 25, 2020. (www.goleadretreat.com)

Share the Vision

The Campus Ministry Network also supports 15 church workers serving campus communities. They connect for encouragement and prayer, resource sharing and professional development via regular video conference calls. DCE Lydia Ross (lydia.ross@campuslutheran.org) is available as a resource to give presentations to congregations considering ways to engage a campus or students in their community. Missouri District Plus One coaches and ministry (mo.lcms.org/plus-one) grants can help more churches share the vision and take one new step into the their campus communities.

E2: Equip & Encourage

Encourage | Equip | Connect

Volunteers: learn how to better serve your congregation, your neighbor, and your community in this free workshop with practical presentations, partnership, and networking.

Conferences run from 8a.m. - 12p.m.
Check out a location in your area!

Register Here:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/E2Conference

Jan 25, 2020
St. John's, Arnold

Feb 15, 2020
Calvary HS, Jefferson City

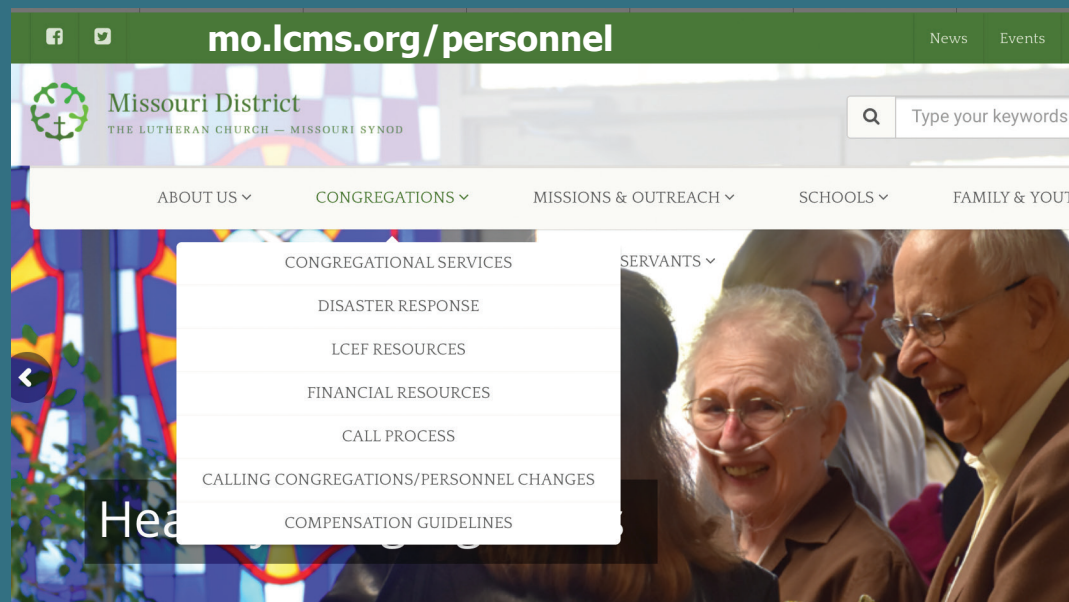
Feb 29, 2020
Saxon Lutheran HS, Jackson

March 7, 2020
Faith, Springfield

Calling Congregations and Personnel Changes Now Available Online!

Did you know that you can now view Missouri District roster changes for ordained and commissioned ministers of religion online? The Calling Congregations and Personnel Changes lists can be found at

mo.lcms.org/personnel/



Missouri District

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