

The VOICE

July 2023

Missouri District Newsletter



Respite & Reconciliation
Pictured: Campers at Heit's Point

From the President's Desk

An Unchanging Word for a Changing World

You've heard the joke about how many Lutherans does it take to change a lightbulb. The point of the joke is that there is a tension among Lutherans about change. However, the issue is no joking matter. We need to be clear about change as we sit in climate-controlled buildings and hear the message service generally in English through a sound system that Lutherans are not against change. Our church body is no longer known as "Die Deutsche Evangelisch-Lutherische Synode von Missouri, Ohio und andern Staaten" (The German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio and other States). We have changed.

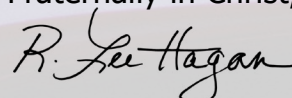
In a time in our country when so many things are changing though, we should be clear about what can and even should change and what must not change. Many of our congregations are changing as the communities surrounding them change. Congregations that were once comprised of children of German immigrants now include immigrants from other nations. Parishioners in the church pew may follow along to the Scripture readings on their phone rather than reading out of a pew Bible. There are many ways in which our congregations are changing in our world today.

However, the things that do not change are the almighty God and His revealed Word. What a comfort it is to know that in a culture of constant change, our Lord remains the same, yesterday, today and forever. His Word, likewise, is true and sure and does not "change with the times." Neither does the Church's confession change. We may be answering different questions than in previous times, but we continue to confess what we have learned from the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.

As a parish pastor, I would encourage members to attend "new member classes" to get to know those who were interested in joining the congregation and as a refresher on the basics of the Christian faith. One evening I was interrupted during a class by an older member who wanted me to know that what I had just said was what the pastor at the congregation had said in her confirmation class sixty-five years earlier because she had written it in the margin of her copy of Luther's Small Catechism. She was encouraged to see so clearly how our confession does not change.

It is a comfort to young and old alike that the congregations of the Synod do not change our public confession of the faith. We do need to address issues that were not facing the Church in previous times, but God and His Word remain the same. Our prayer is that our congregations will adapt and even change to reach their communities and in service to the proclamation of the Gospel in matters that are neither commanded, nor forbidden by Scripture. Finally, may our congregations and those who serve as pastors and servants in the Church, be faithful in teaching God's unchanging Word in this ever-changing world.

Fraternally in Christ,



President Lee Hagan

Enjoying God's Creation

Summer brings a great chance to disengage from usual routines and a chance to engage with God's beautiful creation. But one doesn't have to travel far to enjoy nature. Here are two camps in Missouri that not only have great accommodations, they offer respite through a Lutheran lens. Both of these camps are open year round, have a beautiful commitment to sharing the Gospel, plus they have discounts for church workers! These are great for a small weekend get away, a meet up with a group or retreat, or even hosting a big conference.



Camp Trinity

Contact: (573)237-2072 or camptrinity73@yahoo.com

Camp Trinity is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Whether you like to spend time on the water, play sports, or simply soak in nature, Camp Trinity has something for everyone. There are dormitory style buildings, plus tent and RV hook-ups, and a rec hall. Their new "St. Matthew Family Cabin" makes for a perfect stay for a pastor's or youth leader's family.

"Immanuel's confirmands have long looked forward to summer gatherings at Camp Trinity," says Rev. Alex Schrader, Associate Pastor at Immanuel, Olivette. "It is one of the long-lasting summer gatherings in our church's history, which has benefited generations for multiple decades. Camp Trinity staff work hard to maintain a safe, comfortable, and fun place for our youth, who are able to enjoy God's creation in a variety of ways. The beauty, seclusion, and landscape make Camp Trinity a perfect place to escape for an extended period of time to study, relax, and have fun... We thank the Lord for the founders, staff, and all who have made it a unique and memorable experience."



Heit's Point Lutheran Ministries

Contact: 660-668-2363 or info@heitspoint.com

Heit's Point sits on 168 acres next to Warsaw, right on the Lake of the Ozarks. They have accommodations for all kinds of groups and individuals: RV spots, tent sites, a shelter that fits 100 people, two chapels, bunk houses, cabins, an indoor pool, boat ramps with lake access, a gymnasium, and more. Plus they have the Dr. Paul Spitz Retreat Center, complete with hotel styled suites, meeting room, and a dining hall.



"Our society is moving so fast that it is important to slow down..." notes Heit's Point's Director's Assistant Janine Mallardi. "Heit's Point Lutheran Ministries is here to help strengthen your connection to Christ, the True Vine. Christ has given us life and salvation. He has blessed us with His Church, and He has called us to not only witness to others, but also to rest in Him. Heit's Point Lutheran Ministries gives each of us the perfect opportunity to REST in Christ and His amazing love and creation!"



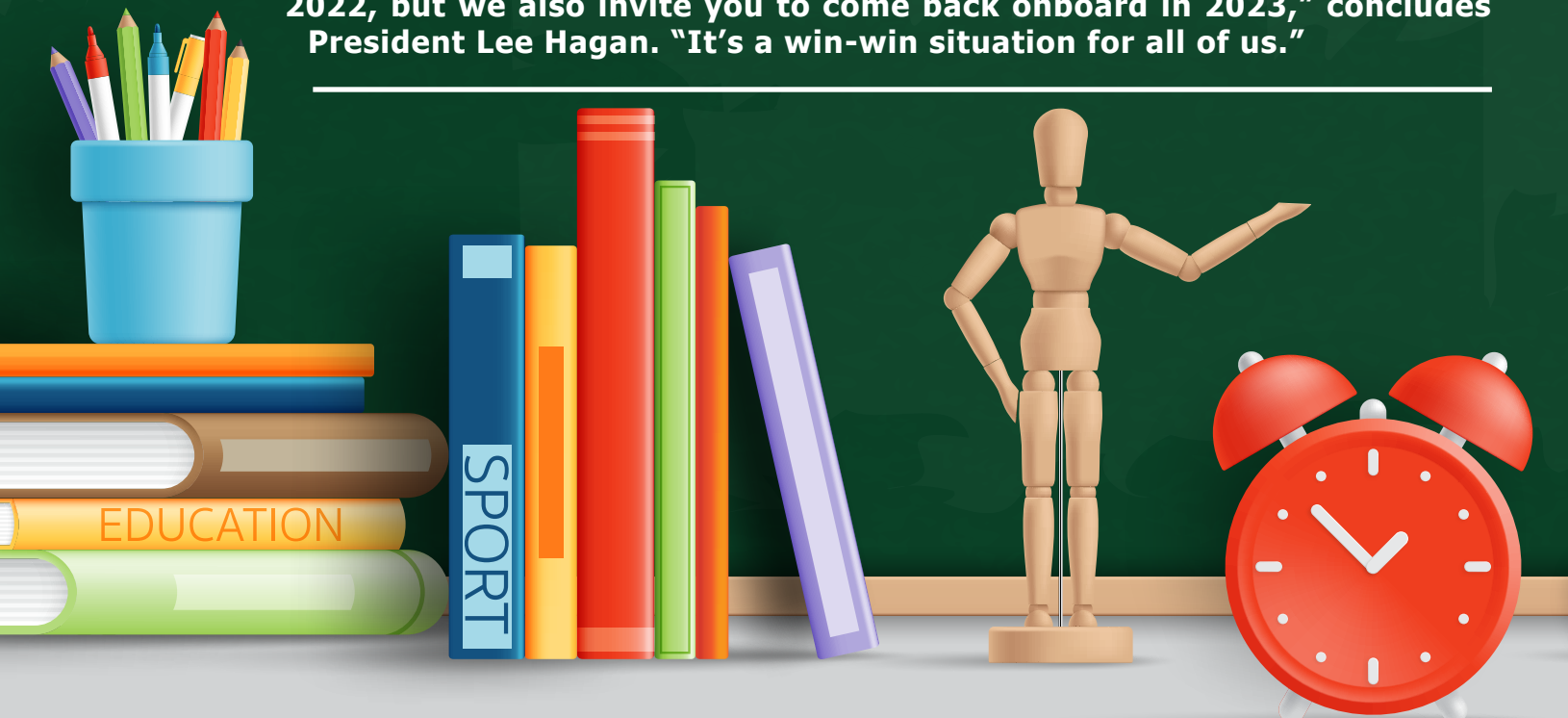
MOScholars Kicks Off Second Year

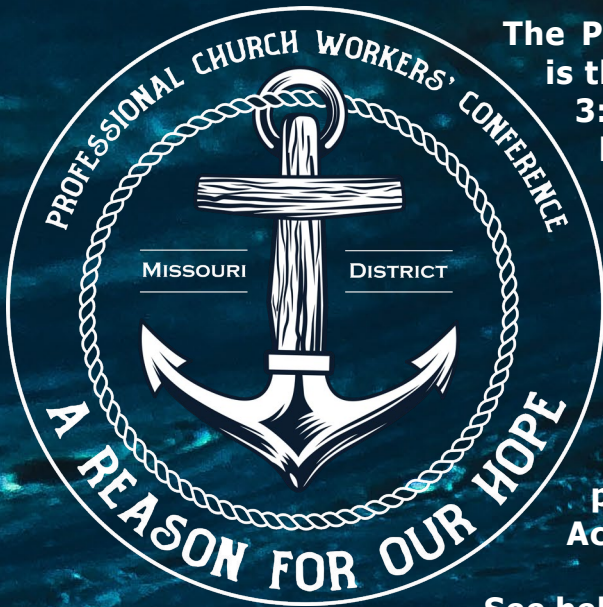
On July 1, 2022, the state of Missouri launched MOScholars—a new tax credit program to provide educational scholarships for qualifying K-12 students attending private institutions. The Missouri District of the LCMS is blessed to be an Educational Assistance Organization within this program, enabling us to use the tax dollars of participants to walk with students and their families as they seek to defray the cost of tuition at our Lutheran schools. The inaugural year was a success—providing 97 full and partial scholarships to students attending 24 LCMS schools.

For CCLS Academy at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in north St. Louis, MOScholars was a sustainable funding source for this brand-new micro-school. “Here in the Hyde Park area, we serve underserved families that are mostly low to moderate income,” says Principal Tequila Pruitt. “Through the MOScholars program, we are now able to provide these families with scholarships to afford a quality education.”

Directing your taxes to Lutheran education through this program is as simple as completing an online form and pre-paying a portion of your taxes in the amount of your credit reservation. The Missouri District website (mo.lcms.org) contains even more information on MOScholars, as well as the links to get the process started. Leah Sieveking at the District office can be reached at 314-590-6211 or leah.sieveking@mo.lcms.org with any other questions.

At no additional cost and with minimal effort, MOScholars allows taxpayers to decide how their tax dollars should be spent. Directing these tax dollars for scholarships to attend Lutheran schools is a blessing to children and families that will make an eternal difference. “We’re so thankful for all of you who were willing to participate in 2022, but we also invite you to come back onboard in 2023,” concludes President Lee Hagan. “It’s a win-win situation for all of us.”





The Professional Church Workers' Conference this fall is themed "A Reason for Our Hope". Based on 1 Peter 3:15, the conference will focus on confessing the hope that we have in Christ to a world that is often hostile to our message. Participants will learn the art of speaking the truth in love about difficult topics, and will join together for refreshment and encouragement to live out each day.

The schedule of events is now online. For those new to this conference, it's held every three years with part of the conference dedicated to pastors and part for commissioned church workers. Activities overlap with coming together for worship

See below for more about our great plenary speakers and the sessions they'll be leading.

Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford serves as President of the Minnesota South District and the Associate Pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Farmington, Minnesota. Dr. Woodford is a prolific author, and serves as a member of the Board of Regents of Concordia University, St. Paul, an adjunct instructor for Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne and the Institute of Lutheran Theology in Brookings, South Dakota. He is also a Fellow in the Collegium of DOXOLOGY: The Lutheran Center for Spiritual Care and Counsel. He is married to his bride, Becca, and they have seven precious children.



Rev. Dr. Hannemann, his wife Katherine, and their four children live in Seward, Nebraska. He is the Cofounder and CEO of GracePoint Institute for Relational Health. He is also Executive Assistant to the Nebraska District President, with a special emphasis on Ministerial Health. Dr. Hannemann has a passion for helping people develop and maintain healthy relationships in the name of Christ. You can find more information about Dr. Hannemann and GracePoint at www.relationalhealth.org



Dr. Brad Alles is an Associate Professor of Education at Concordia University Wisconsin, and is in his 36th year of teaching. He has won the Concordia University Nebraska Outstanding Student Teacher Award, the Milwaukee Lutheran HS/Heartland Funds Teacher of Merit Award, the South Wisconsin District Teacher of the Year Award, and the CUW Master Educator Award. You can visit his website which focuses on apologetics and worldviews at <https://bradalles.com/>.



Registration opens in August. Mark your calendars today to save the date.



9 STEPS TO PREPARING FOR A HOME LOAN

Purchasing a home is one of the biggest decisions to make in life. If you're a Rostered Church Worker (RCW) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, use these helpful tips as you prepare to purchase or refinance your home. The Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) team is here to walk you through the process.



LEARN Visit our special page for Rostered Church Worker Residential Loans at lcef.org/HomeLoans to learn about our mortgage program.



PRICE How much can you afford? Use a mortgage calculator to help determine your price range. Then, get pre-approval before you start looking at homes. This will also help when submitting an offer!



SAVE Determine how much you need for the down payment and closing and start saving.



DEBT AND PURCHASES Don't purchase any big items with credit or open new lines of credit (loans, vehicles, boats, furniture) leading up to your home purchase.

DEPOSITS Large deposits will require a signed explanation and documentation verifying the source of the funds.



ORGANIZE Take time to organize call papers, your spouse's pay stubs, two years of W2s and other important documents, so you're ready for the application process.

HISTORY Self-employment Income requires a two-year history as evidenced by two years of tax returns.

TOOLKIT Read and work through the home loan toolkit on our website: lcef.org/HLToolkit.

CONNECT Reach out to the LCEF mortgage team by calling 800-843-5233 to ask questions, talk through your needs and start the process.

Have questions about financing your church or school's project? Connect with Mike!
Mike Wadley mike.wadly@lcef.org 314-885-6489

Reconciliation Training

The Christian life is one of constant conflict, repentance, and forgiveness. To help navigate this, the Missouri District is offering a Conflict Resolution Vs. Reconciliation Seminar. It's an interactive Bible Study presentation to learn practical ways to apply your Christian faith in family, business, church, and legal conflicts.

When Christians respond to conflict as the world does, relationships are damaged, businesses and careers suffer, and the witness of the church is weakened. This seminar will study key scripture passages, learn basic conflict resolution principles, and application to everyday conflicts.

All children of God are called to be peacemakers, so this seminar is perfect for everyone. There is no cost to attend, and there are two locations from which to choose.



alive in christ

LUTHERAN CHURCH

201 Southampton
Columbia, MO 65203

September 23
8:00am-12:30pm

573-499-0443

[Click Here to Register](#)

St. Matthew



700 NE Chipman Rd.
Lee's Summit, MO 64063

September 30
8:00am-12:30pm

816-524-7068

Email otto@gracefaithlove.org to Register

“I look forward to partnering with Alive in Christ and St. Matthew to present this seminar. It will strengthen your Christian relationships and teach how to approach any conflict, with patience and tact. Using this Biblical process, we'll discuss how to turn seemingly mountain-sized challenges into manageable little speed bumps.”

Marty Hasz

Director of Church Worker Support

LCMS Convention This Month

The LCMS National Convention is later this month. There will be several people from Missouri in attendance. Each circuit will have a pastor and a lay delegate, plus there are advisory delegates including commissioned ministers. The District is hosting three breakfasts for the Missouri delegation during the convention. We look forward to seeing you there!

The purpose of the convention is to educate and inspire the delegates as well as conducting business in terms of elections and establishing priorities for the Synod through the resolutions. Please keep all delegates in your prayers as they travel to and from Milwaukee. If you see President Hagan there, be sure to say , "Hi!"



Upcoming Events

Visit mo.lcms.org/upcoming-events for more information on these events.

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| July 27-28 | School Administrators Conference |
| July 29-Aug 3 | LCMS National Convention |
| Aug 24-25 | New Church Worker Orientation |
| Sept 22 | New Teacher Orientation |
| Sept 23 | Reconciliation Seminar <i>(in Columbia)</i> |
| Sept 29-30 | Servant Leadership Academy I |
| Sept 30 | Reconciliation Seminar <i>(in Lee's Summit)</i> |
| Oct 10-13 | Professional Church Worker Conference |



Missouri District
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