

The VOICE

Pictured:
College of the Ozarks
and Lutheran Student
Center, MSU at Table
Rock Lake



Pictured:
College of the Ozarks,
Campus Ministry at Andy's
Frozen Custard Fall Kickoff
Event

“Building Relationships”
October 2024 Missouri District Newsletter

“From the President’s Desk”

Let the Word of Christ Dwell in You Richly!

On Sunday morning, thousands of saints gather for worship in more than a dozen different languages across Missouri.

On Sunday evening, high school youth meet in the youth room for devotions and games.

On Monday mornings, pre-school children sit on rugs for “Jesus Time” as they fold their hands in prayer and listen to God’s Word.

On Monday evenings, smaller numbers who couldn’t attend worship on Sunday mornings gather for worship wearing their work clothes and school/athletic uniforms.

On Tuesday mornings, pastors assemble at their “circuit winkels” for a time of worship and study as they support and encourage one another in the faith.

On Tuesday evenings, a group of church leaders begin their meeting with a study of God’s Word and time of prayer for the needs of the congregation.

On Wednesday mornings, students focus on the Scripture for the week as a local pastor leads chapel for the area Lutheran high school.

On Wednesday evenings, confirmation students sit with their parents and pastor to discuss the Introduction to the Lord’s Prayer and then spend time praying together.

On Thursday mornings, a group of men meet at the local diner for a hearty breakfast and their ongoing study of Romans.

On Thursday evenings, college students sit around the tables at the Lutheran student center to enjoy the casseroles provided by the local congregations and to study Christian apologetics.

On Friday mornings, women of all ages gather to continue their study of women in the Old Testament.

On Friday evenings, families gather to be equipped for family devotions by the church and school staff.

On Saturday mornings, men gather for devotional time before setting out to people in need with yard work and home repair projects.

On Saturday evenings, church staff and volunteers spend time in God’s Word and prayer before the Sunday services and Sunday School and Bible classes.

These things don’t happen in every congregation every day. However, such gatherings are happening in one of our congregations, schools or campus ministries across the district each day. Everything that we do comes back to the Word of Christ dwelling in us richly as the Holy Spirit gives to us the forgiveness of sins and strengthens our faith. May the Word of Christ dwell in you richly and in the hearts and lives of the members of all our congregations.

R. Lee Hagan

“Preparing Students for Christ-Centered Vocations” *A Look Into Lutheran South High School Initiative*

The Lutheran South High School Theology Academy offers students a unique opportunity to deepen their faith through theological education and prepare them for Christ-centered vocations in service to the church. As part of the Set Apart to Serve initiative, the academy guides students toward careers in church work while nurturing their personal spiritual growth. Open to all students, regardless of denomination, the academy provides an additional course of study that is certified on their diplomas, highlighting their preparation for church vocations.

The academy’s mission is to help students grow in faith while equipping them for leadership and service, both in the church and beyond. With a strong Lutheran theological foundation, the academy encourages students to explore a variety of vocations while committing to a life of faith.

The four-year curriculum combines formal theology, vocational discernment, and personal faith development. Freshmen begin with an intro theology course and interview with faculty, staff, and church workers to explore vocations. They also participate in Bible studies and maintain regular church attendance. Sophomores delve deeper, serving their home congregations under the guidance of mentors and studying the Lutheran Confessions. Juniors take on leadership roles, serving as Kairos leaders, volunteering in church settings, and participating in retreats like Teens Encounter Christ. Seniors complete a Church Work Vocation Research Project, visit Concordia colleges, and mentor incoming freshmen while continuing their leadership roles.



Students who complete the program and earn this special certification on their diplomas have greater advantages in scholarship opportunities, particularly at Concordia universities. The academy also encourages students to reflect on their growth through journaling and writing assignments, helping them articulate their vocational journey. Mentorship also plays a key role, with regular meetings between students and theology faculty to guide personal and vocational growth.

Though focused on church work, the academy broadens students’ understanding of how they can serve the church in various capacities, from pastoral roles to non-profit and para-church work. This comprehensive preparation equips students for ministry and lives committed to faith and service in any vocation.

The Lutheran South High School Theology Academy offers a pathway for students to explore and prepare for lives of service to God and others. Through a combination of theological education, mentorship, and practical experiences, the academy fosters both spiritual growth and vocational clarity, shaping future leaders for Christ’s church.

"BELIEVE!"

Missouri District Youth Gathering

"But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name."
John 20:31



It was 15 years ago that the chants of "We Believe!" filled the dome in New Orleans as thousands of LCMS youth came together from around the country for The National Youth Gathering.

Our team wanted to reflect on a familiar theme for our spring Missouri District Youth Gathering on April 4-6, 2025! We are excited to announce that Pastor Brian King will be leading us through the Apostle's Creed to help us understand what it means when we confess what we **BELIEVE**.

The Missouri District Youth Gathering is for both high school and junior high youth. Our main sessions will unite both youth and adults to grow in faith through singing, learning, and experiences centered on scripture. We strive to provide tailored experiences for all. Senior high youth can expect to attend breakout sessions led by passionate leaders on relevant topics, while junior high students will engage in activities such as service projects, scavenger hunts, and games that promote fellowship.



Rev. King graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1998. He received his MA in Systematic Theology, followed by his Pastoral ordination at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri.

Pastor King lives in the St. Louis area with his wife (Liz), son (Simon), and daughter (Alice), and currently serves at Webster Gardens as the Pastor of Family Ministry.

In his free time, Pastor "BK" is a powered paraglider pilot, Bob Dylan fan, and is currently in the process of teaching his daughter how to drive in his 1988 Oldsmobile station wagon.

“Cultivating Leaders”

Missouri District New Teacher Orientation

At the beginning of Paul’s second letter to Timothy, we are reminded of the significance of relationships - teachers to students and teachers to parents - and how sharing God’s word through these bonds shapes hearts and minds for eternity. This same sentiment echoed through the halls at a recent retreat, where a diverse group of 23 educators gathered at Margaritaville Lake Resort in Osage Beach, Missouri, in late September.

Among them were second-career educators, recent graduates, and seasoned educators stepping into new roles. They came together not just to network, but to gain fresh perspectives, be encouraged, and experience support as they prepared to face the school year’s challenges. The retreat was a much-needed pause for reflection. It served as a reset and helped refocus them on their God-given calling to lead students in faith.

The event, organized by the Missouri District, was aptly themed “People of HOPE,” drawing from Isaiah 52:7: “How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who proclaims salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’” This verse is a powerful reminder that when educators form a relationship with a child reconciled through Jesus Christ, they become conduits of God’s love and hope.



The retreat started with a warm welcome and an invitation to think deeply about how educators can shape their students’ futures both academically and spiritually. Workshops focused on practical yet powerful topics: techniques for reaching challenging students, keys to effective parent-teacher conferences, and a teacher’s ministry of presence. The retreat was not just about adding new tools to the teachers’ skill sets but also about cultivating a resilient and hopeful mindset. As they gathered for round-table discussions, educators exchanged ideas, shared stories, and encouraged one another in their collective mission.

As the retreat ended, participants left with more than just a list of strategies; they walked away with renewed energy and inspiration. They were reminded that their work is more than a job – it is a calling. Every day, they have the unique opportunity to connect children to Christ and impact lives for eternity. In Paul’s words to Timothy, there is encouragement to persevere, to share the gospel, and to lead by example. This same encouragement was given to the educators who attended the retreat. They are God’s chosen people of HOPE, entrusted with the care and nurture of young hearts and minds.

**““ For you have been called for
such a time as this!**





"Bold Hope In Christ" *Missouri District Convention, 2025*

The Twenty-Second Missouri District Convention will be held June 22-24, 2025, at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, Missouri. The theme for the Convention is "Bold Hope in Christ" based upon 2 Corinthians 3:12. The convention essayist will be Rev. Dr. Kevin Golden, Associate Professor of Exegetical Theology, Dean of Theological Research and Publication, and Director of Resident Field Education at Concordia Seminary.



The District Convention occurs every three years and allows delegates to elect officers and establish priorities on behalf of the congregations of the district. The LCMS Handbook states, "Conventions of the districts shall afford opportunities for worship, nurture, inspiration, fellowship and communication of vital information" (4.2.1).



A packet with materials regarding nominations for President, First Vice-President, and other positions was sent to each congregation in September. The deadline for nominations for District President and First Vice-President is December 16, 2024. All nomination forms are available on the District website's "District Convention" page under "Events".

Mark your calendars:
**Registration for the
convention opens on
December 13, 2024.**

“God’s Plan for Marriage”

An Interview with Todd Biermann



Rev. Dr. Todd Biermann in his book *“Handing Out Life”* explains the three parts of the way to be wound up with your spouse:

1. “...a man shall leave his father and mother...”

To be married, both the husband and the wife (the remainder of Ephesians 5 and other passages show that it applies to the wife as well) must **SACRIFICIALLY** leave behind their selfishness. They leave the comforts of childhood and parental care to focus full attention on each other.

2. “...and hold fast to his wife, ...”

Both husband and wife are **UNCONDITIONALLY** committed to each other. In other words, there’s no sin or evil that will stop them from choosing to love and be married to this person. It’s based on a conscious choice, not feelings. Feelings come and go, but the decision to love will never change.

3. “...and the two shall become one flesh.”

The love between the man and the woman in marriage is lived out **INCARNATIONALLY**. That means it’s “in the flesh.” We care for the physical well-being of the other. We enjoy the culmination of that physical care in the sexual union.”



A cord of three strands is not easily broken.

(Eccl 4:12)



Biermann continues: “Is such beautiful marriage easy to attain? No. It will require us to return to Jesus every day. It will require us to learn how to be more sacrificial and unconditional in our love. It will be painful as we give up our sinful self and say “No” to Satan and the world. No more insisting on “my way”. No more whining about “my entitlements”. Such a change is possible as the Spirit works daily in us through God’s Word, Baptism, and Supper to make us disciples of Jesus.”

God’s blessings as you and your spouse are wound up with Jesus and love each other sacrificially, unconditionally, and incarnationally in His name.

“Handing Out Life” by Todd A. Biermann – Includes God’s basic plan for marriage based on Eph 5:31-32 along with eight brief Bible studies for personal, couple, or small group use.

Upcoming Events

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

2024

Oct. 20-22

Pastor's Conference

Margaritaville, Osage Beach

Nov. 24-26

Educator's Conference

Four Seasons, Lake Ozark

2025

Mar. 15

**Tell the Next Generation (Family Discipleship)
Conference**

Lutheran High School, St. Charles

Apr. 4-6

District Youth Gathering

Cross Pointe, Rocky Mount

June 22-24

Missouri District Convention

Columbia, MO

July 19-23

LCMS National Youth Gathering

New Orleans



Missouri District

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