

Workers Together

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Keep the Unity of the Spirit

Volume 8, Issue 1
January 2002

Inside

From the President	1
Calls in Kansas	2
District Calendar	2
Parish changes	2
District prayers	2
Mission & Stewardship	3
Volunteers needed	3
Scholarship applications	3
Business Office	4
Year End Checklist	4
LCEF Interest rates	4
Educational Services	5
Prof Workers marriage retreat	5
Youth Sunflower Summit	5
Planned Giving	5
Guinea Prayers	6

From the office of the President

Reverend Howard J. Patten

Synodical controversies centering around pastoral decisions and actions by Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, Synod President and Dr. David Benke, Atlantic District President, subsequent to the terrorist attacks on the U.S. have brought confusion and anger to many members of our church body. A flood of reporting by the national media on both pastoral decisions made by these men in the wake of the attack and cries for their removal from office by some who have disagreed with these decisions have greatly escalated these deep feelings. These events have been reported in ways and mediums that many consider a scandal and offense to our Gospel witness to the world.

As District President I have spent many hours over the past months listening to both lay people and professional workers who are deeply concerned about what is happening in our church body. Virtually all of the persons speaking with me are supportive of the decisions of Dr. Benke and Dr. Kieschnick. Their concerns, however, go beyond expressions of support. They are hurt and confused about the way in which some people have chosen to express their concerns about actions by our leaders. For the first time in the history of our Synod, two pastors filed petitions that charge conduct worthy of removal of our synodical president not only from his office, but from the roster of Synod. Five pastors from outside the Atlantic District have brought charges which, if supported, could lead to the removal of the president of the Atlantic District from both his office and the roster.

Again, however, the expressions of anger and confusion bear a deeper concern, a concern that asks why we deal with one another through *charges* rather than through *conversation*. Those concerned are wondering what they tell others about what is happening in their church body. They are asking what they can do to be of help.

My response is, first, neither Dr. Kieschnick nor Dr. Benke will be removed from office. Recent rulings of the Commission on Constitutional Matters and statements by the synodical president have made that clear. The Board of Directors of the Atlantic District plans to ask action through the dispute resolution process of the Synod to require those who have brought charges against Dr. Benke to follow the process of reconciliation rather than the process of ecclesiastical discipline. The Synodical Reconciliation process is the appropriate forum for concerns of this type. Most persons in Synod who have genuine concerns recognize this. Most people also recognize that the few people on either side of the controversy who want to make this a political issue within the Synod have probably picked the wrong issue and the wrong time.

Second, I ask for both patience and prayers with our church body. Our Synod is in a time of transition as we seek to balance our strong commitment to faithful doctrine with our firm desire to be in mission to the world. We will work through these issues, and we will find that because of our both our scriptural theology and our missional passion we are destined by the Spirit to be leaders in sharing the Gospel throughout the world in a "high tech/high touch" age of historic cultural transformation.

Finally, when a member asks, "What can I do?", the question is really one of asking, "to whom can I express my deep feelings of embarrassment, anger, and disappointment as well as my concern for Synod and care for the church. Most of the persons or congregations contacting me want to write to Dr. Benke and Dr. Kieschnick expressing support. I don't discourage anyone from this. I personally try to stay in regular contact

*A monthly publication of
The Kansas District of The Lutheran
Church - Missouri Synod for
congregations, schools, professional
church workers and lay leaders.*

*If you have any news to share with
congregations in our district, please
direct them to:*

Workers Together Editor
Kansas District LCMS
1000 SW 10th Ave
Topeka KS 66604-1104

Phone: 785-357-4441
Fax: 785-357-5071
Email: debbie@kslcms.org

Calls in Kansas

Calls accepted

□ Paul Beyer, St. John, Nashville/
Trinity, Medicine Lodge to Immanuel,
Daykin, Nebraska

Calls pending

□ Richard Luttmann, South Dakota to
Zion, Offerle/Our Redeemer, Kinsley
□ Ron Gloe, Zion, Newton to Trinity,
Reseda, California
□ Craig Boehlke, King of Kings,
Gardner to Christ, Saint Paul, Nebraska
□ Stephen Sweyko, Mt. Savage,
Maryland to Trinity, Fort Scott

Calls declined

□ David Ersland, Bethlehem, Greenleaf
to Trinity, Fort Scott
□ Paul Hoppe, Hope, Shawnee to
Trinity, Hoffman, Illinois
□ Mark Eichler, Christ, Wathena to
Zion, Pittsburg
□ Ken Kaufmann, St. Paul, Cheney to
St. John, Stuttgart, Arkansas
□ Jim Bradshaw, Faith, Topeka (DCE)
to Florida-Georgia District as District
Executive
□ C. Jay Koehler, Trinity, Traverse City,
Michigan to Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove

Calling/vacant congregations

Trinity, Atchison (Assistant, DCO)
Zion, Argonia
Bethlehem/Immanuel, Bremen
Trinity, Caney
Faith, Emporia
Trinity, Fort Scott
Immanuel, Hoxie
Immanuel, Junction City (Tchrs)
Grace, Kansas City (Tchr)
Our Redeemer, Kinsley/Zion, Offerle
Immanuel/St. John, Herington
St. John, Nashville/Trinity, Medicine Lodge
Trinity, Parsons
Zion, Pittsburg
Trinity, Salina (DCE)
Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove
Ascension, Wichita (DCE)
Bethany, Wichita (Prin/Tchr)
Holy Cross, Wichita (Associate)

District calendar

January

3-6 Youth Ministry 2002 - San Diego, California
18-19 DYMC Retreat - Topeka
Prof Workers Marriage Retreat - Salina
18-20 Lay Ministry Training - District office
24-26 District Board of Directors
28 Guinea Task Force - Holy Cross, Wichita
28-30 Pre-Lent Retreat - Wichita

February

10-12 DCE Retreat - Hesston
15-16 Pastor's Wives Retreat - Salina
15-17 Lay Ministry Training - District office
22-23 Youth Sunflower Summit - Manhattan

Air attack donations

Donations for air attack victims in New York City and Washington D.C. may be directed to LCMS World Relief. Gifts designated for the Sept. 11 air attacks will be used entirely for that purpose. Contributions to the General Disaster Fund will support response to other current and future disasters.

Donations may be sent to LCMS World Relief, P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO. 63166-9810, or through the toll-free credit card gift line (888) 930-4438.

Parish changes announced

A new dual parish agreement has been signed between St. John, Herington and Immanuel, Herington.

The dual parish agreement between the following churches has been dissolved:

□ Immanuel, Herington and Zion, Latimer
□ St. John, Herington and Trinity, Ramona
Zion, Latimer and Trinity, Ramona are very small congregations and will be served by circuit pastors. Both are considered permanent vacancies.

Attention Pastors

Effective Jan 1, 2002 all Self-Evaluation Tools for Pastors (SET's) must be available in electronic format. If you have not completed your SET using the computer-based program created for use by the Council of Presidents, contact Marie Holt in the President's Office (1-785-357-4451.)

District prayers

□ Joyce Juergensen, Administrative Assistant in Parish Education, on her marriage to Jim Tate, December 21.
□ Pastor Joe and Sherri Jones, St. Luke, Manhattan, fire in their Wichita home.
□ Peace Lutheran Church, Natoma, installation of their new pastor, Rev. Troy Watford on January 6.



Area Chaplains

Wichita - For hospital visits you can contact Reverend Rocky Mease. Home: 316-788-9627, Cell: 316-993-0746 or by email at: chaprm@aol.com.

Topeka - Please contact Reverend George Bruening for hospital or institution visits. You can reach Rev. Bruening at 785-273-5769.

Do You Fit Your Size?

Ill-fitting clothes are not becoming. Congregations and pastors that do not fit their size are even less becoming and inviting. Over the next few Workers Together I intend to describe congregational size theory initiated in 1983 by Arlin Rothauge in his classic work, *Sizing Up a Congregation for New Member Ministry*. I hope you have some “aha!” thoughts as you read them.

Rothauge created a typology of Protestant mainline congregations according to their sizes: family, pastoral, program, and corporate. He divided the types primarily by average number of worshipers per weekend. Two other factors also have to be taken into account, relationship style and leadership style. Difficulties emerge when leadership style/vision and/or relationship style/vision do not fit the size of the congregation.

This month I'll describe the family church on the basis of an article by Roy Oswald of Alban Institute. Thirty-two (32) parishes in Kansas are of this size.

Family churches have up to fifty active members. The church's leadership is controlled by patriarchs and matriarchs. What family-size churches want from clergy is pastoral care, period. For clergy to assume that they are also the chief executive officer and the resident religious authority is to make a serious blunder. The key role of the patriarch or matriarch is to see that clergy do not take the congregation off on a new direction of ministry. Clergy are to be the chaplain of this small family. When clergy do not understand this, they are likely to head into a direct confrontation with the parental figure. It is generally suicide for clergy to get caught in a showdown with the patriarchs and matriarchs within the first five years of ministry at that particular church.

Clergy do have a role to play in these congregations. In addition to providing quality worship and home or hospital visitation, clergy can serve as consultants to the patriarchs and matriarchs, befriending these parental figures and working alongside them. They must recognize, however, that when the parental figures decide against an idea, it is finished.

Clergy should watch out for the trap set when members complain to them about the patriarch or matriarch of the parish and encourage the pastor to challenge the parental figure. Clergy who respond to such mutinous bids, expecting the congregation to back them in the showdown, do not understand the dynamics of small-church ministry. It is far too risky for members to get caught siding with pastors who come and go against their resident patriarch or matriarch.

Family congregations are not a good place for pastors right out of seminary. Seminarians are up to their eyeballs in new theories and good ideas. They want to see if any of them work. A family church's openness to trying any of them is next to zero. The stage is set for a very uncomfortable scenario.

Often parishes with more than fifty active members will function as a family congregation. Helping a congregation to appreciate its size and to function accordingly is an important task for all the leadership of the congregation. That will become clearer as I discuss the pastoral-size parish next month.

If you would like to delve deeper into this topic, I'd encourage you to get a copy of *Size Transitions in Congregations*, Beth Ann Gaede, Editor from Alban Institute. It's available on their web site at www.alban.org.

Volunteers needed for tornado relief

The Hoisington Ministerial Association Disaster Recovery Committee needs volunteers to help with rebuilding from the tornado of April 21. Short term volunteers are needed for applying sheet rock, taping, and mudding. Small groups would work best, perhaps your group could help over a week-end.

Contact Kate Debes at 620-653-9976 for further information. If she can't be reached call Rev. Gary Dassow at 620-653-7739 and leave a message on the answering machine.

Scholarship applications now available

Do you know of students pursuing a career at one of LCMS colleges or seminaries in professional church work and in need of financial aid?

Please have them request an Application For Financial Assistance by writing to the following Kansas organizations who award money yearly to students from the congregations in Kansas District.

LWML

Jean Kaiser
31285 Hedge Lane Rd
Paola KS 66071-8200
913-294-3707

LLL

Rev. Rodney Fritz
Trinity Lutheran Church
2943 27th Rd
Hanover, KS 66945
Phone: 785-337-2665
(LLL Applications **must** be requested by **April 1, 2000**)

Kansas District LCMS

Attn: Financial Aid
1000 SW 10th Ave
Topeka KS 66604
Phone: 800-357-4421 ext. 223
Email: debbie@kslcms.org
Application deadline: June 1, 2002

St. John College Alumni

Rev. Wallace Behrhorst
PO Box 376
Winfield KS 67156
Phone: 620-229-8521
Fax: 620-221-0032
Email: sjcaa@hit.net
Application deadline: May 1, 2002
(Must be related to St. John's alumni)

Greece trip planned

Walk in St. Paul's footsteps in Greece and visit the islands of Rhodes, Ephesus, and Patmos. Pilgrimage led by Rev. & Mrs. Cliff Winter, Wichita Mar 5-15, 2002. \$2,378/includes 2 meals per day. Call 316-942-5811 for more information.

Year end checklist

□ Fiscal year to close

The District will close its 2001 fiscal year on Tuesday, January 15, 2002. Any receipts received after that date will be credited to the fiscal year 2002. Please work to meet this deadline. In order to meet the standards for a not for profit corporation audit, we cannot credit any 2001 mission gift received after the close of our fiscal year.

If you are sending any 2002 gift prior to January 15, 2002, please indicate that the gift is for 2002 so that we may credit it correctly for your congregation.

□ Mission commitments

Mission Commitments for 2002 are due at the District Office by December 15th. Statements were recently mailed with the form to return. If you would like to know the current status of your 2001 commitment, or would like another form for 2002, call the business office or e-mail Charlie Glanzer, charlieg@kslcms.org.

□ Gifts to church workers

Christmas Gifts to Church Workers from the congregation in most cases represent taxable income and not a tax-free gift. Be sure to report correctly on the recipients W-2 or 1099 the amount of these gifts. Also important to note: Donations made by members for these gifts are *not* included as tax deductible contributions recorded by the church office.

□ Charitable contributions

Charitable contributions for 2001 must be received before the first worship service in 2002 in order to claim the deduction. Contributions received after that date are counted as contributions for 2002 for income tax purposes even if the check was written in 2001. However, checks that are written, mailed and postmarked in 2001 will still be deductible. A reminder in the weekly bulletin would be appropriate.

Treasurer's manual available

Congregational Treasurer's Manual is ready for mailing. In order to reduce the cost of the manual, you will NOT automatically receive a copy. To reserve your copy, call the business office 800-357-4421 or e-mail charlieg@kslcms.org. The cost for the 2001 edition has been reduced to \$7.00.

Among the major changes included with this year's revision are updates on the new backup withholding rate, W-4 form revisions, Labor Law posting requirements, mileage rates and other payroll and Concordia Disability and Survivor Plan changes.

Hymnals available

St. John, Aliceville has several copies of The Lutheran Hymnal available for a congregation that might need them.

Contact Rev. Glenn Wootton for additional information. Call 785-489-2534 or by email to: Emerson51@aol.com

Contractor needed

The Kansas Lutheran Historical Society is looking for a Contractor to rebuild the Wetzel log cabin near Junction City.

If you are aware of anyone that might be interested in this project, please have them call or write to:

The Kansas District Office
1000 SW 10th Ave.
Topeka, KS 66604
1-800-357-4421 ext. 205

Taxes and Ministers 2001

Taxes and Ministers, 2001 is available by e-mail. This is a useful resource for ordained and commissioned ministers and covers such topics as: The IRS's definition of minister; Employment status: W-2 or 1099; Housing/Parsonage allowance; Reporting income and expenses; Paying federal and state taxes; Social Security taxes and Tax-favored savings plans. Call or e-mail the business office and one can be sent to you.



*Lutheran Church
Extension Fund*

Interest Rates - November 2001

Steward account rates:

Congregational Certificates

Demand	3.125%
Steward Account	3.50%

Individual Accounts

Less than \$1,000	1.75%
\$1,000 and less than \$5,000	2.00%
\$5,000 and less than \$10,000	3.00%
\$10,000 and over	3.25%

Marriage retreat offered

When--January 18-19, 2002

Cost--\$25 per couple with \$125 scholarship which includes one night's lodging, Saturday breakfast and lunch and all retreat materials

Where--Country Inn & Suites, Emporia

Why--To provide you and your spouse the opportunity to get away from the day-to-day routine so that you can focus on your relationship to one another and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Program--Couples will participate in the Christian Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program ® (CPREP®) developed by Dr. Howard Markham and Dr. Scott Stanley. This program teaches couples essential skills for maintaining a lasting love: how to communicate effectively, work as a team, manage conflicts without damaging closeness, and preserve and enhance love, commitment and friendship. CPREP® is solidly based on Scripture to provide a unique, proven program to equip you to grow stronger in your faith and your life together.

Ø Registration--Space is limited so make reservations early but not later than January 7, 2002. Call Joyce Juergensen at the District Office (1-800-357-4421).

Polish off those bowling balls

The District LLL Bowling Tournament will be held March 9-10 and March 16-17, 2002 at the Flint Hills Bowling Lanes in Emporia. Squad times available are 12:00 noon, 3:15 and 6:30 if needed. These times are for singles and doubles on both Saturdays. The team events are scheduled for both Sundays at 12:00 noon or 3:00 p.m. Cost for the tournament is \$14.25 per event or the cost for singles, doubles or team is \$42.75. To bowl in all events with a chance to earn extra money and additional \$1.00 will be charge.

The Bowling Tournament is an opportunity for fun, fellowship and fund raising for the District Project. To participate in this annual event you may contact Deb Doesken at 316-788-4354 or Jane Benjamin at 316-524-0285. Let's make some "strikes" for Christ!

Youth Sunflower Summit

Theme--Basic Training: Building Community. **When**--Friday (7 p.m.) February 15 to Saturday (3 p.m.) February 16, 2002. **Presenters**--Kansas District Youth Ministry Committee (DYMC).

Synopsis-- At the 2001 Council of LYF Representatives (CLYFR), Jessica Lester and Zach Mendenhall, youth reps and Joel Symmank were trained in "Teens Building Teams" an approach to building community. The DYMC will lead participants through "Teens Building Teams" in a very experiential way.

The Summit is designed for both professional and lay youth leaders AND YOUTH, especially those in leadership positions within their group. This year's event will be held at the Holidome in Manhattan, KS.

Program cost is \$25 per participant, covering registration and Saturday lunch; lodging is \$69 per room (up to four per room.) Make your room reservations by calling 785-539-5311. Be sure to mention the *Sunflower Summit Retreat*.

To register, call Joyce at the district office (1-800-357-4421).

Website adds resource

Who Will Teach is the latest additional to the Lutheran Hour Ministries web site. This new resource provides information on different religious faiths around the world. The first religion featured is the Islam. The topics covered include What is Islam, Islam & Christianity, Do's and Don'ts, Questions and Answers, Resources, and Who Are We (LHM). The first page features the photo of a young child with the question "Will you teach me about Jesus?" The caption underneath reads "Each day, more than 3,500 people respond to Lutheran Hour Ministries' Gospel programs, while more than 62,000 people become Muslim." One person can make a difference. Go to their website to find out how.....

The information provided is excellent and concise. It can be used personally or in any teaching situation. This resource will be found in the International Ministries page. You may go directly to the site at: www.lhmint.org/whowillteach/. Check it out!

Planned Giving Garry Niehoff, Counselor

Keep business separate from family

Many times Mom and Dad are willing and able to loan money to the children for a down payment on a house or business. They may be willing to make the complete loan for a major purchase. I always encourage people to have a written contract with a payment plan even to the extent of going through an escrow account. Most of the time I am most concerned about other siblings who may feel slighted.

The larger concern is how IRS views this practice. Parents are allowed to gift \$10,000 per year to each child with no gift taxes. There have been several recent rulings that say if you loan your children more than the \$10,000 it will be ruled as a gift; therefore, gift taxes are due. Especially vulnerable, are the parents who say we don't need the money; there is no need to pay any

interest. If this happens, not only is the amount loaned subject to gift taxes, but also the interest due.

The best way to loan money to children and not be at risk is to have a signed contract and use the services of a bank's escrow department. The children make payments to the escrow account. The parents may gift back the interest the children paid. When you do it this way, there are gift tax forms you will need to file with your income taxes. This completely eliminates the risk of the IRS coming back and saying you have made a gift to the children that is above the amount allowed by the tax code.

For this and other information, please feel free to call my office at 785-357-4441 or 800-357-4421. I may not know all the answers, but I will know where to find the answers.

Controversies - continued from page 1

with one or both of these men and their offices. However, I also recommend that they write to the Council of Presidents and the Board of Directors of Synod stating clearly their concerns and saying in effect, "We have elected you as our leaders. Now please lead!" There are deep issues of relationships between pastors, congregations, and districts. There are the fundamental concerns of how we care for one another in crises and deal with one another in differences. There are theological issues that call for a fresh look at what Synod's Constitution means with concepts and words framed in mid-19th Germany and America; words like Unionism", "Syncretism" and "Fellowship" and particularly what freight these concepts carry in a pluralistic society and a post-Christian age. There are questions of what the role of the church may be in the public square and in the market-place of ideas where the church no longer holds a favored institutional position in a Christendom culture.

These issues must be addressed outside the politically charged venue of a Synodical convention and faster than the snail's pace of a study by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations. Our synodical president is taking action to help us address these issues. I along with other representatives of the Council of Presidents, Seminaries, and President's office have been appointed to develop a series of

theological convocations dealing specifically with these issues.

Finally keep our dear church body in your prayers not simply that it would continue, but that it would continue to give a clear witness to God's love in His crucified and resurrected Son and provide bold leadership into a new missionary age. Regardless of where you stand on the issues, if you want to do something to help us all grow in wisdom and in the nurture of the Lord, encourage the leadership of Synod to lead us in both addressing the questions and seeking God answers.

Dr. Billy Graham over two decades ago spoke of the Missouri Synod as a "Sleeping Giant". I believe God is now giving us a clear "Wake-up Call"! Two weeks ago in a

conversation with President Kieschnick I offered my firm conviction that if in these moments we rely upon the wisdom and guidance of God's Holy Spirit, short-term our present crisis may be painful, but long-term this moment of travail may give birth to a renewed and dynamic Lutheran Church-Mission Synod.

Guinea prayers

- Please offer prayers of thanksgiving for the gift of baby Jesus- may all in Guinea hear about Him.
- Pray for guidance and wisdom for Sandy and Kristen in their preparations to go to Guinea in late January. Please pray for safe travel and health for all of us traveling this upcoming month - especially baby Phillip Norton.
- Praise and thanksgiving to all the generous people, congregations and agencies willing to send medical supplies and other humanitarian items. Orphan Grain Train has said they will ship it free of charge - a whole container!!
- Please pray for God's continual blessings for all of the missionaries' family and loved ones.
- Please pray for healing, according to His will, for the sick.
- Pray for peace for the country of Guinea, guidance and wisdom for all the leaders, and peace promoting councils that advise Guinea and it's neighbor countries.
- Blessings on your celebration for baby Jesus' coming.



Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Kansas District
1000 SW 10th Avenue
Topeka Kansas 66604-1104

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 16
Topeka KS