

# Workers Together

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

**‘...Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies...’**

**From the office of the President  
Reverend Howard J. Patten**

**Volume 8, Issue 4  
April 2002**

## Inside

Prepare/Enrich training .....	2
LCMS World Mission .....	2
Prayers .....	2
Calls in Kansas .....	2
Mission & Stewardship .....	3
District Calendar .....	3
Business office .....	4
Is your church ready .....	4
Tomah Shinga announces camps ...	4
Teachers get tax break .....	4
LCEF interest rates .....	4
Connect to your community .....	4
Educational services .....	5
Kansas Teacher of the year .....	5
Sr High summer camp .....	5
Professional educators conference..	5
Early childhood conference .....	5
Planned Giving .....	5
Guinea prayers .....	6

*“Now the green blade rises from the buried grain,  
Wheat that in dark earth many days has lain;  
Love lives again, that with the dead has been;  
Love is come again like wheat arising green.”*

Singing this hymn Easter morning I was filled not only with the joy of the Resurrection, but also with memories of winter wheat fields in the spring; wheat arising from melting snow with a green so pure it almost hurt your eyes. And I wondered what this image, so powerful in my memory, meant to the city dwellers singing all around me.

My mind turned from the hymn to a quote from an April article in an LCMS publication I recently read, “Much of our trouble lies in the fact that we have too many pastors who do not like to live in the country, and when they have accepted a call to the country they give the impression that they would not like to live there very long.”

The winter wheat memories are from the 1940’s and the quote from an article on rural mission in “Today”, April 1949. And for a brief Easter moment I longed for the former vision and fresh excitement of winter wheat in the snow and the challenges of rural ministry in the late 40’s. Then everything seemed if not easy at least possible, and the way before us if not smooth at least familiar. Now everything seems confusing, contradictory, in conflict and the way before us dark and alien.

“Love is come again like wheat arising green!” The Christ Who rises from the darkness of the earth with a glory so pure He stuns our eyes redeems even our memories. He also rescues us from a nostalgia which so easily becomes self pity and a retreat from the mission and ministry challenges of today ... 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

I have deep understanding and much sympathy for those of us who long for the church of yesterday as we cling to “page 5”, and struggle with the “Thee’s” and “Thou’s.” And I weep with those who weep for the loss of the warm and familiar of congregational life. However I also weep for the 40% of Lutheran congregations that want to grow, but have no plan for mission, and even more for the other 40% who just plain don’t want to grow and have no interest in mission to the lost and dying. In these congregations the snow melts, but there is no green. The field is bare, brown, and love never comes. Easter is not so much celebrated as observed and arises not as a promise, but only as a distant memory.

Easter proclaims “Christ is Risen!” Pentecost shouts “Christ is Risen in me!” This Easter to Pentecost season offers God’s people an extraordinary time for proclaiming, but also for planning, for pruning, for promising, and for preparing for our children and grandchildren tomorrows in Christ as rich as our yesterdays. This season when the green of April matures into the gold of June the Spirit calls His Church to comfort in the Gospel, but also confidence in His leading into the new, the uncharted, the unpredictable, the uncomfortable, the eternal.

“...Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies...” *John 12:24-25*

*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](mailto:debbie@kslcms.org)**

## Prepare/Enrich

AAL/LB is providing a generous grant to provide premarital and marital counseling training to pastors in all districts of Synod.

If interested, contact the President's office 800-357-4421 for information.

## Electronic SET

Effective Jan. 1, 2002 all Self-Evaluation Tools for Pastors (SET's) must be available in electronic format. Please contact Marie Holt in the President's Office 785-357-4451 if you have not yet completed your SET using the computer-based program. This program is available in both Mac and Windows format.

## Area chaplains

*Wichita* - contact Reverend Rocky Mease. Home: 316-788-9627, Cell: 316-993-0746 or email: chaprm@aol.com.

*Topeka* - contact Reverend George Bruening at 785-273-5769.

## LCMS World Mission

Hundreds of LCMS members around the country serve as volunteer missionaries. Most opportunities are overseas. Ellen Hladik, a member of Holy Cross, Wichita will begin her service June 29 for one year in China. We keep Ellen and all volunteer missionaries in our prayers as they reach out in faith to others as a blessing and resource to the ministry of the Kansas District, sharing their love for Jesus with people from all over the world.

## Contractor needed

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

If you know anyone that might be interested, have them contact the Marie in the President's office at 1-800-357-4421 ext. 219.

## Prayers

- The family of Rev. Reuben John Schmidt, who was called to his eternal rest. He served as pastor at St. Luke, Manhattan from 1949 until 1956.
- Rev. Eugene Eckhardt, Topeka, who is recovering from heart surgery.
- The family of Jean Tegtmeier, Manhattan, who died March 12 of cancer.
- Velma Bass, Leavenworth, recovery from surgery

## Continuing education course offered

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis will offer a summer extension continuing education course, "*Confirmation at the Crossroads.*" The course will be held at Holy Cross, Wichita, June 10-12, 2002. The Presenter will be Dr. John Oberdeck, Director of Continuing Education and Parish Services at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

For further information please contact the office of the District President, 1-800-357-4421 x 219, or Rev. Jeff Crane at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 316-684-5201.

Deadline for registration is May 17, 2002. Tuition cost is \$80 and includes credit for CEUs.

## Congregations calling spring graduates

Immanuel, Hoxie  
Trinity, Leavenworth (Associate)  
Trinity, Mission (Exclusive - Tom Brewer)  
Zion, Offerle/Redeemer, Kinsley  
Trinity, Medicine Lodge/St. John, Nashville  
Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove

## Congregations submitting vicarage applications

Redeemer, Arkansas City  
Ascension, Wichita  
Calvary, Topeka  
St. John, Topeka  
Bethany, Overland Park

## Calls in Kansas

### **Calls Accepted**

- Daniel Myers, Our Redeemer, Staplehurst, Nebraska to Holy Cross, Wichita

### **Calls pending**

- Michael Erickson, Albuquerque, New Mexico, to Zion, Pittsburg
- Jim Bargmann, King of Kings, Roseville, Minn. to Trinity, Salina (DCE)
- George Nelson, Hope, Shawnee to Ascension, Wichita (DCE)
- Eric Shiffer to La Santa Cruz (DCE)
- Susan Topolosky, Grace, Kansas City to Good Shepherd, Marysville (Tchr)

### **Calls declined**

- Jay Watson, Redeemer, Lawrence to Bethlehem/Immanuel, Bremen
- Mark Boxman, Redeemer, Arkansas City to Good Shepherd, Edgewood, New Mexico
- Paul Koehler, Plainview, Missouri to Good Shepherd, Marysville (Tchr)

### **Assignments**

- Kaja Heinecke, Concordia, St. Paul to Holy Cross, Wichita (Intern)

### **Calling/vacant congregations**

Trinity, Atchison (Assistant, DCO)  
Zion, Argonia  
Bethlehem/Immanuel, Bremen  
St. John, Easton  
Faith, Emporia  
Immanuel, Hoxie  
Immanuel, Junction City (Tchrs)  
Our Redeemer, Kinsley/Zion, Offerle  
Immanuel/St. John, Herington  
St. Paul, Leavenworth (Tchrs)  
Trinity, Leavenworth (Associate)  
Good Shepherd, Marysville (Tchr)  
St. John, Nashville/Trinity, Medicine Lodge  
Bethany, Overland Park (Tchr)  
Trinity, Paola (Tchr)  
Zion, Pittsburg  
Trinity, Salina (DCE)  
Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove  
Ascension, Wichita (DCE)  
Bethany, Wichita (Prin/Tchr)  
Holy Cross, Wichita (Associate)

## Mission & Stewardship

Reverend Gary D. Rueter, Executive

### Do you fit your size? Part 4

This is the fourth article in which I describe congregational size theory initiated in the classic work, *Sizing Up a Congregation for New Member Ministry* (1983) by Arlin Rothauge.

Rothauge's typology examines Protestant mainline congregations according to their sizes: family, pastoral, program, and corporate, sizes set primarily by average number of worshippers per weekend.

This month I'll consider the corporate church (over 350 average in worship) on the basis of an article by Roy Oswald of Alban Institute. Thirteen (13) congregations in Kansas are corporate size; three out of ten Kansas LCMS worshippers praise God in these congregations.

The quality of worship is probably the first thing you will notice about a corporate-size church. It has the abundant resources to have excellent music leadership and instruments. The head of staff usually spends more time than other clergy preparing for preaching and leading worship.

The head of staff is also likely not to remember the names of many parishioners. Members understand that they will be visited by an associate, assistant or lay leader in the hospital. Those who associate with a corporate parish are willing to sacrifice a personal connection with the senior pastor in exchange for the variety and quality of its program offerings. The head pastor does serve as a symbol of unity and stability in a very complicated congregational life.

Key to the success of the corporate-size church is the multiple staff and its ability to manage the diversity of its ministries in a collegial manner. This is where clergy are very vulnerable since they receive little training in working with a multiple staff. The head of staff normally learns to manage by trial and error. Sacrificing a few associate and

assistant clergy on the altar of experience is the price the church pays for this lack of training.

Research shows that congregations are best served when the multiple staff includes different personality types. The more diverse the staff, the greater its ability to minister to a diverse congregation. But this requirement for diversity makes multiple staff functioning more complicated. The more diverse the staff, the harder it is to understand and support one another's ministries. Multiple staffs need to be meeting regularly with an outside consultant to keep lines of communication open and difficulties surfaced.

When the multiple staff is having fun working well together, this graceful interaction becomes contagious throughout the congregation. Lay people want to get on board and enjoy the camaraderie. The parish has little difficulty filling the many volunteer jobs needed to run the church.

Heads of staff in corporate-size churches need to hone their administrative skills, emphasizing leadership skills over managing skills. While managers can manage the energy of a parish, leaders can generate energy. This size church needs leaders who know how to build momentum. Otherwise, even when managed well, they can run out of gas and begin to decline.

In a system as hard to turn as an ocean liner, the senior pastor and the central board

will need to keep their focus on the big questions of the church's purpose and role. The congregation will need to have in place an excellent pattern of small group ministry through which members can connect faith with daily life. Small group leaders will need to be trained through apprenticeship, so that the more experienced leaders can constantly be forming new groups.

Helping a congregation to appreciate its size and to function accordingly is an important task for all the leadership of the congregation. If you would like to delve deeper into congregation sizes, get a copy of *Size Transitions in Congregations*, Beth Ann Gaede, Alban Institute at [www.alban.org](http://www.alban.org).

If you have questions about size appreciation and transitions in your congregation, contact me at [garyr@kslcms.org](mailto:garyr@kslcms.org) or call me at 1-800-357-4421.

### District calendar

#### April

- 8 Campus Ministry Forum
- 18 Deaf Ministry Task Force - District office
- Worship Committee - District office
- 18-20 LEA Convocation - Minneapolis
- 19-21 Lay Ministry Training
- 26-27 District Board of Directors
- 26-28 LWML Convention - Colby
- 29-30 Timothy Gathering - District office

#### May

- 5` Outreach Workshop - Christ, Overland Park
- 16 Outreach Committee - Olathe
- 17-19 Lay Ministry Training
- 20 Guinea Partnership Task Force - Salina
- 21 Campus Ministry Committee - Salina

**Business Office**  
**Larry Crume, Business Manager**

## Is your church ready?

Electronic Offering and Tuition Payments is available and it is free to LCMS Congregations and schools. This service is provided by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and called *Joyful Response*.

The cost for set-up and administering the program is paid for by LCEF. If you are interested, call Larry Crume at the district office, or e-mail at [lcume@kslcms.org](mailto:lcume@kslcms.org).

## We have moved!

No, not really. However, we have been notified by the post office that they have received mail directed to our previous address. It appears that well-intentioned individuals have sent birthday and seasonal cards and the like for the Heiney's, Oetting's and other missionaries. Please be sure to notify your membership of our "new" address in your monthly newsletter periodically.

## Trail days and clean up announced

Tomah Shinga is sponsoring their annual Trail Days and Spring Clean up the first weekend in May beginning on Friday May 3rd and running through Sunday afternoon. Stay at the camp all weekend for free or just come in for a few hours or part of day.

Many volunteers of all ages and skill levels are needed to help get the trails in shape for the heavy foot traffic of summer along with lots of cleaning, painting, raking, repairs and a whole lot of fun and Christian fellowship. Meals will be provided.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get involved with your camp. Bring your youth group for a service trip and/or families or other church groups. Space is available to pitch your tent or park your trailer as well. Contact the camp to register your group.

## Tomah Shinga offers new camps

Several new and expanded camps have been introduced to the 2002 summer schedule at Camp Tomah Shinga. New camps include the following:

- ➔ SOS Camp - The parent/child overnight.
- ➔ TEC Camp - (Teens Encounter Christ) Senior High
- ➔ First annual Junior High Christian Swing Choir camp
- ➔ Singles camp - age 25+
- ➔ Family Tent & Trailer camp
- ➔ Family & marriage enrichment

Contact the camp for a summer schedule and registration details or to schedule a retreat or program for your church group. You can reach them on their new toll free number 866-238-3654, 6605 W Lyons Creek Rd Junction City, KS 66441. Email: [director@tomahshinga.org](mailto:director@tomahshinga.org)

## Teachers get tax break

The President signed into law on Saturday, March 9, the "Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002". The Act includes a new tax deduction of up to \$250 per year, for 2002 and 2003, for a teacher's unreimbursed expenses for certain materials, supplies, and equipment used in the classroom.

The deduction is available for a kindergarten through grade 12 teacher, instructor, counselor, principal, or aide who works in any school, public or private, that provides elementary or secondary education, as determined under State law. The statement appears at [www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020309-2.html](http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020309-2.html). We encourage you to make this information available to your school administrators and teachers.

### **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**

#### **Interest Rates - April 2002**

##### **Steward account rates:**

<b>Congregational Certificates</b>	
Demand	3.125%
Steward Account	3.50%
<b>Individual Accounts</b>	
Less than \$1,000	1.75%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	2.00%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	3.00%
\$10,000 and over	3.25%

## Connect to your community

Lutheran Church Extension Fund provides demographics to schools and congregations- An in-depth tool that provides information on your congregation and community including age, income and life-style. Useful in making informed decisions on outreach and stewardship. E-mail [lcume@kslcms.org](mailto:lcume@kslcms.org) or phone 1-800-357-4421.

## Are you planning to build?

If your congregation is contemplating a building program please call Larry Crume at the District Office.

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund provides number of resources to schools and congregations to assist in the planning phases of a building program. For example, through the services of the Architectural Advisory Committee members and its network of architectural advisors and liturgical- artist consultants, the committee is available to help LCMS congregations begin planning a building to meet their needs.

A detailed Architectural Handbook, suggesting necessary steps through the entire building process is also available on request. For further information call 785-357-4441 or e-mail: [lcume@kslcms.org](mailto:lcume@kslcms.org).

## **Educational Services**

**Al Gunderman, Executive**

### **Kansas LCMS teacher of the year**

Congratulations to Mrs. Marcia Bosse, first grade teacher at Zion Lutheran School, Independence.

Marcia has served Zion as first and second grade teacher since 1989. Her commitment to each student and their learning, the rapport she establishes with parents and her classroom management techniques have led parents year after year to refer to Mrs. Bosse as "the best first grade teacher in Independence."

The award was presented at the annual KAIRS (Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools) conference in February.

### **Upcoming events**

- ✓ *LEA Convocation* - April 18-20, 2002 - Minneapolis
- ✓ *KS District LCMS Volunteer Teacher of the Year award* - Nomination deadline - June 1
- ✓ *National Youth Christian Leadership Conf* - July 12-15, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska
- ✓ *Senior High summer camp* - July 14-19 - Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado
- ✓ *CLYC* - July 25-28 - Scottsdale, Arizona
- ✓ *Single Summer Workshop* - July 27 - District office  
"Every Day a Christian"
- ✓ *Early Childhood Conference* - August 10 - Immanuel, Junction City
- ✓ *Principal's Conference* - Sept 12-13 - District office
- ✓ *Singles Fall Retreat* - Oct 4-6 - Camp Webster, Salina
- ✓ *Educators Conference* - Oct 7-9 - Kansas City
- ✓ *District Youth Gathering* - Nov 22-24 - Capitol Plaza, Topeka

### **Sr High summer camp**

This camp is for youth in the graduating class of 2006 or older. Theme: "United We Stand in Spirit and Purpose" based on Phil. 2:2, Date: July 14-19, Place: Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado, Cost: \$265  
For more information contact Arleata Harman, Risen Savior, Wichita at 316-683-5538.

### **Professional educators conference**

This years Professional Educators Conference will be October 7-9 at the Westin Crown Center, Kansas City, Missouri. The theme is "Order out of Chaos" (Ministry with children and families in a broken world) based on John 16:33. Plan now to attend.

### **Early childhood summer conference**

Plan now to attend the Early childhood summer conference, August 10, 8:30-3:30, at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Junction City. Theme: "Love and Logic" Information was sent to each of our district preschools with more details coming.

## **Planned Giving**

**Garry Niehoff, Counselor**

### **Planned Giving services**

"A gift opens the way for the giver and ushers him into the presence of the great." *Proverbs 18:16*

The Planned Giving Office is here to serve the Kansas LCMS Churches and its members. We serve congregations by offering:

- Wills Awareness Seminars
- Assistance with Endowment Funds
- Suggesting guidelines for setting up congregational Endowment Funds
- Helping endowment committees publicize their funds
- Guidance in the design of an endowment fund brochure

- Providing ideas for funding the endowment fund with various planned giving tools
- Financial Planning Seminars  
We serve individual members by:
  - The use of a Christian Preamble to witness their faith in Jesus Christ
  - Finding options to help them remember the Lord's work
  - Charitable Remainder Unitrusts
  - Gift Annuities
  - Helping to save the family farm or business from shrinkage due to taxes
  - Preserving estate assets for the next generation by minimizing taxes and

avoiding probate

- Helping to properly distribute items of sentimental value
- Providing information on Trusts, Durable Powers of Attorney, and Living Wills
- Reviewing present documents

The Planned Giving Office is here to serve you and your congregations on a confidential, no-cost basis. To arrange any of the above services for your congregation or any of your individual members, call Garry Niehoff at the Kansas District Office at 1-800-357-4421, ext. 101.

## Guinea Prayers

- Praise God for the generous Kansan support of the work to reach the Malinké for Christ. 72 congregations in Kansas are TIM supporters, 40 designating support for one or more of the Guinean missionaries. Many other congregations keep the missionaries in their prayers or offer other financial support. Special thanks to St. Paul's - Coffeyville, Zion - Chanute, and St. Peter - Barnes for copying and distributing the missionaries newsletters.
- Please continue to pray for the home schools, for the missionary's children, and Rebecca, teacher for the Heiney children. Also, pray for Rebecca as she continues to make new friends and learns French.
- Pray for the mission field that they will be able to live and work along side each other without a lot of conflicts.
- The Oettings are asking God to help direct them to the site of ministry that will be faithful to the command of our Lord Jesus. They will keep us informed of the progress and results as they survey the land and intentionally select a place of outreach; a place to proclaim the Gospel in word and deed and to nurture Maninka believers to be disciple-makers throughout the world.
- We praise and thank God that he has given the missionaries and volunteers good health, and for the relationships they have made with the people which continue to blossom providing many open doors for the gospel.
- May God continue to give you His peace as you meditate on the sacrifice he gave for all of us.



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