

Workers Together

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Volume 8, Issue 11
December 2002

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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:

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Kansas District LCMS
1000 SW 10th Ave Topeka KS 66604-1104.

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Theological Convocation

Invitations to the first Kansas District Theological Convocation were mailed on Nov. 20 to pastors and presidents of congregations. The Convocation is scheduled for Jan. 27-28, 2003 in conjunction with the Pre-Lent Conference. Pastors, Commissioned Ministers and up to three laypersons from each congregation were invited to attend the convocation. Registration forms and details were included with the invitations.

These convocations were requested by LCMS President Gerald Kieschnick and have been arranged by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations and the Council of Presidents. Six representatives from Kansas attended the model convocation in Scottsdale, AZ in August, which gave ideas for duplicating the experience in districts.

The convocations feature round-table discussion around issues of current theological import, church fellowship issues for the one in Jan. 2003. Much convocation time has been set aside for such discussions. To get them started, four papers

read by District Vice-Presidents will represent differing positions on the church fellowship issue.

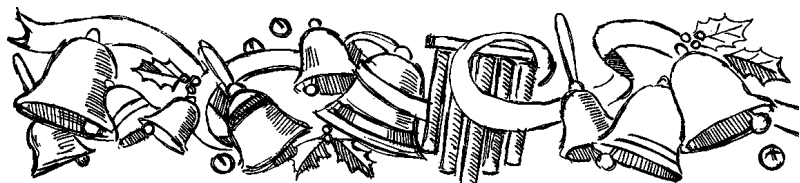
The convocation also will feature worship, Bible study based on Acts 15 led by Prof. Jeffrey Gibbs of Concordia Seminar, St. Louis, and an opportunity for confession and forgiveness among participants.

The convocation will begin with registration at 5 pm Mon., Jan. 27 at the Sedgwick County Extension Education Center at 7001 W. 21st st. North, Wichita and end by 8:30 pm on Tues., Jan. 28 with the closing worship at Holy Cross on Greenwich Road.

Lodging has been arranged at the Best Western Airport Hotel on Kellogg Blvd near Ridge Road. Reservations at the hotel must be made by Dec. 19 to get the special rate.

The Pre-Lent Conference will be held at the Extension Center on Wed., Jan. 29 through noon. Prof. Jeffrey Gibbs will speak on biblical texts for Lent.

For further information, contact Marie Holt at 1-800-357-4441, x219.



CALL UPDATE -

CALLS ACCEPTED

- Ron Gloe, Zion, Newton, to Immanuel, Sierra Vista, AZ.
- Jack Kirk, Fallon, NV., to Bethlehem/Immanuel, Bremen.
- Charles Merriman to St. John, Ellinwood as DCE.

FROM CONTRACT TO CALL

- Kimberly Myers (Bethany/Overland Park) to Bethany, Overland Park.

CALLS PENDING

- Keith Kohlmeier, Ascension, Wichita, to Trinity, Clinton Township, MI.
- Randall Jahnke, Holy Cross, Dodge City, to St. John, Burns, TN.

CALLS DECLINED

Loren Cooper, Zion, Hampton, NE., to Immanuel/Bethlehem, Bremen.

CALLING and/or VACANT CONGREGATIONS:

- * *not actively calling*
- * Zion, Argonia
Our Redeemer, Herington
Immanuel, Hoxie
- * Trinity, Leavenworth (Sr. Pastor)
Zion, Newton
Our Redeemer/Zion, Kinsley/
Offerle
Our Savior/Peace, Pratt/
Greensburg
Immanuel, Oakley
Redeemer, Olathe
- * First, Plainville
Holy Cross, Scott City
Christ, Wathena
- *St. John, Easton
Atchison—Trinity (Tchr)
Gardner – King of Kings
(Child Care Center Director)
Overland Park - Bethany
(Tchrs)
Wichita—Holy Cross (DCE)

Executive Chaplain Rocky Mease

By now most of you have heard that LSS of Kansas and Oklahoma has gone out of business. The last day for the remaining programs staff was November 15, 2002. This is a sad time as we grieve the loss of this wonderful staff and this opportunity for ministry. It is also a time to thank God for having given us this opportunity and this staff.

One piece of good news is that the LSS staff was able to find homes for all the children we served under our foster care contracts. In addition all of our social work staff were given the opportunity to work for the agencies which took these children.

Some have asked, "What now?" The Kansas District Board of Directors has asked the Board of Caring Ministry to develop a Social Ministry Taskforce to explore the options for social ministry in our midst. Rev. Bob Roberts from the Board of Directors will lead this effort.

Another question arose about Christmas offerings traditionally gathered for LSS in the Kansas District. The LSS Board of Directors would encourage congregations to take this offering and give it to the agency. While the agency no longer is involved in social service or ministry, there is significant cost related to the final liquidation and shut down of the agency (this is even beyond the debt the has led to the need to liquidate the agency). Two staff have been retained to finalize the liquidation and close the books. The LSS Board needs your help to make certain we can continue to pay for these necessary services.

If you have questions about the closure of LSS or the future of social ministry in Kansas, please contact: **Rocky Mease, chaprm@aol.com**, Executive Chaplain, Board of Caring Ministry, Board Member – LSS

Area Chaplains

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

Topeka - For hospital visits in Topeka, contact Reverend George Bruening at 785-273-5769.

Statewide - For assistance with special needs ministries, contact DCS Jenny Wendling at Bethesda/Faith Village in Shawnee Mission at 1-800-750-5566, locally 913-469-5566, or email: jwendling@blhs.org.

Prayers

- Charlie Glanzer, Director of Finance at the District Office is undergoing treatments for leukemia.
- Rev. Jim Webster, St Luke, Bazine, health concerns.
- Comfort to Carla Jo Brakhage, (DCE, St Paul, Coffeyville) and family, at the death of her husband, David.

Mission & Stewardship
Reverend Gary D. Rueter, Executive

Foxes and Hedgehogs: Who wins?

Rev. Gary Rueter, Mission & Stewardship Executive

Isaiah Berlin wrote a famous essay, "The Hedgehog and the Fox," which divided the world into hedgehogs and foxes on the basis of an ancient Greek parable: "The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one big thing."

The fox is cunning, able to devise complex strategies for sneak attacks on the hedgehog. Daily the fox circles the hedgehog's den, waiting for the perfect moment to pounce. Fast, sleek, beautiful, fleet of foot, and crafty—the fox looks like the sure winner.

The hedgehog on the other hand is a frumpish creature, resembling a mix between a porcupine and a small armadillo. He waddles along, going

about his simple day, searching for lunch and taking care of his home.

The fox waits in silence at a juncture in the trail. The hedgehog, minding his own business, wanders right into the path of the fox. The fox licks his chops as he leaps out, lightning fast, and charges the hedgehog.

The little hedgehog thinks, "Here we go again. Will he ever learn?" Rolling up into a perfect little ball the hedgehog becomes a sphere of sharp spikes, pointing outward in all directions. The fox sees the defense and calls off the attack, returning to the forest and conniving a new scheme for the next day. Despite the greater cunning of the fox, the hedgehog always wins.

Berlin extrapolated from this parable that there are some people, who like foxes, pursue many ends at the same time and see the world in all its complexity. They are scattered or diffused, never integrating their thinking into one overall concept or unifying vision. Other people, like hedgehogs, simplify the complex world into a single organizing idea, a basic principle that unifies everything. They are not stupid. Quite the contrary. They understand that the essence of profound insight is simplicity.

Jesus compares his church to sheep, but it appears to me that we do well to consider the hedgehog as a model for us as well. Again this Christmas we will be

reminded that God has come to us in the person of his Son so that the whole world might have eternal life. Jesus sends his people as he was sent, to bring that good news to others. God has given us a single, unifying principle upon which to work, that we live and speak and work as his people so that others may know him.

In all the complexity of our world and modern church life do we spend too much time acting like the cunning fox when Christ has called us to act more like the focused hedgehog?

For further thought on the hedgehog concept, read Chapter 5 of "Good to Great" by Jim Collins from which some of these ideas were borrowed.



Tell the Good News

The "Evangelism Outreach through Congregations" grant, a component of the "Tell the Good News About Jesus" project, is accepting grant applications for the coming year. This program, funded by the Marvin M. Schawn Charitable Foundation, is designed to provide financial assistance to congregations who wish to begin, or extend, outreach ministry projects. The completed grant applications are to be returned to Pastor Meadows and must be postmarked no later than Dec 31, 2002.

Grant applications may be obtained by contacting the Kansas District Coordinator, Rev. Phil Meadows. Meadows can be reached at the following: Phone: 785-467-8816; email: jmeadows@jbntelco.com or by mail: St. Paul Lutheran Church, PO Box 158, Fairview, KS 66425.



LSF Fellowship National Gathering

Lutheran Student Fellowship (LSF), The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's organization for college-age young people, will hold its national gathering Dec. 27-31 at the Crown Plaza Hotel in suburban St. Louis.

The gathering is held every two years to bring together college students involved in LSF chapters to share faith, fellowship and fun. This year's theme is "Walking In The Shadow Of The Cross,"

based on 1 Cor. 1:18. Activities include worship, servant event, meetings of regional LSF groups, small-group discussions, with more than a dozen workshops.

The \$200 registration fee includes meals, four nights' lodging, and a T-shirt. To register on-line go to www.lcmscampus.org, or contact Sally Koester at 1-800-433-3954, ext. 1313 or by email to ic_koestesj@lcms.org.

District Calendar

December

13-15 Lay Ministry Weekend - Topeka

24-25 Christmas holiday - District office closed

Retreat information

Information on the February 14-15, 2003 Professional Church Workers Marriage Retreat brochure and application can now be accessed on our web page. Go to: http://www.kslcms.org/ks_registrations/index.htm.

Camp director needed

Camp Tomah Shinga, located near Junction City, Kansas is currently seeking qualified candidates for the position of Camp Executive Director.

The Executive Director is responsible for forwarding the mission of the camp through public relations, financial development and the oversight of the camp program and operations.

The search committee is seeking a highly motivated, responsible individual who demonstrates strong leadership skills to fill this full-time position. To apply, please send resume and a letter of introduction to:

Debbie Crites, Kansas District LCMS, 1000 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS, 66604 or call 785-357-4441 or email; debbie@kslcms.org.

As a year-round ministry of the church, Camp Tomah Shinga provides opportunities for all ages to experience Christ's love, grow in faith and serve God. Camp Tomah Shinga is a partnership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

District email

President's office

Rev. Howard Patten - patten@kslcms.org
Marie Holt - marie@kslcms.org

Mission & Stewardship

Rev. Gary Rueter - garyr@kslcms.org
Debbie Crites - debbie@kslcms.org

Educational Services

Al Gunderman - agunderman@kslcms.org
Joyce Tate - joyce@kslcms.org

Business Office

Larry Crume - lcrume@kslcms.org
Charlie Glanzer - charlieg@kslcms.org
Brenda Barton - brenda@kslcms.org

Planned Giving

Garry Niehoff - servanttwo@kslcms.org
Doris Wilson - servanttwo@kslcms.org

Media Library

Beth Eubanks - bethe@kslcms.org

Educational Services
Al Gunderman, Executive

Youth ministry course offered online

Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska is once again offering a Youth Ministry course (EDUC 388) online through the world wide web. This course is targeted for lay practitioners of youth ministry interested in a higher education experience that will enhance their ability to work with young people. This is one more avenue for lay practitioners serving the church to grow in their knowledge and skills and their relationships with others who are doing youth ministry.

The course will be offered during the spring semester 2003. The on-line version of EDUC 388 will be equivalent to the on-campus version both in terms of course objectives and the academic credit that is earned. To participate, students will need a personal computer with a modem and a connection to the web through an internet service provider. Tuition for the 3 credit hour course is \$714 (\$238 per credit hour), the same as our on-

campus cost for part time students taking one course.

If you would like to view the course information, you can access it by going to <http://www.cune.edu:2217/public/EDUC38802/index.html>. You can also access the site through Concordia's homepage at <http://www.cune.edu/>. For more information please contact Professor Paul Schoepp at 1-800-535-5494 x7437 or by email to: pschoepp@seward.cune.edu.

Best kept secret ...

There is still a place where young people from around the world live and learn together in an atmosphere of Christian commitment. Saint Paul Lutheran High School in Concordia, Missouri is the only Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod boarding high school. This 2002-2003 academic year marks 120 years of Christ-centered education.

Saint Paul Lutheran High School has a 10-1 student to teacher ratio with faculty dedicated to a strong learning environment and a commitment to Christian morals, ethics, and ideas. Saint Paul offers a college preparatory curriculum with more than 80 courses designed to prepare students for post-secondary education and beyond. A number of courses are accredited by Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska and act as dual high school and college credits.

Students entering grades 9-12 are encouraged to apply now.

Phone Gloria Burrow in the admissions office at (660) 463-2238 ext. 231 and visit us at www.splhs.org for more details.

Upcoming events

- ✓ Professional Workers Marriage Retreat, February 14-15, 2003
- ✓ Youth Summit 2003, February 21-23, 2003, Crosswinds/Hesston
- ✓ Pastor's Wives Retreat, February 21-23, 2003
Country Inn & Suites, Salina

Educators Conference thank you

Pam Gieseke, Urban Ministry Coordinator, writes the following note to Sarah Wittrock (conference committee ingathering coordinator): "I wanted to thank you and the members of the Educators' Conference committee for designating the Christmas stores as the beneficiary of the ingathering at your recent conference. We received seven big boxes of new clothing and several sacks containing miscellaneous merchandise. In addition, we received cash donations totaling \$105.00. The merchandise was taken to the Christmas Store which will be held at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Kansas City, KS, and the monetary donations will be split between the Missouri Christmas Stores. Thanks, again, for partnering with us in urban ministry."

Urban Ministries also received the Conference worship offering which totaled \$250.00.

Business Office
Larry Crume, Business Manager

**Lutheran Church
Extension Fund**



Interest Rates - December 2002

Steward account rates
Congregational Certificates

Demand	2.375%
Steward Account	2.75%

Individual Accounts

Less than \$1,000	1.50%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	1.75%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	2.00%
\$10,000 and over	2.50%

**Fiscal year
to close**

The District will close its 2002 fiscal year on Wednesday, January 15, 2003. Any receipts received after that date will be credited to the fiscal year 2003. Please work to meet this deadline. In order to meet the standards for a not for profit corporation audit, we cannot credit any 2002 mission gift received after the close of our fiscal year.

If you are sending any 2003 gift prior to January 15, 2003, please indicate that the gift is for 2003 so that we may credit it correctly for your congregation.

Housing allowance

Housing allowance for Pastors and Commissioned Ministers should be approved by December 31 in order to obtain the full annual benefit of housing allowance exclusion for 2003.

The designation should be adopted during a regular or special meeting of the church board and should be contained in the minutes of the meeting. A worksheet for calculating the housing allowance is included in the *Congregational Treasurer Manual*.

**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.

**Mission
commitments**

Mission Commitments for 2003 are due at the District Office by December 31st. Statements were recently mailed with the form to return. If you would like to know the current status of your 2002 commitment, or would like another form for 2003, call the business office or e-mail Debbie Crites at debbie@ksclms.org.

**Charitable
contributions**

Charitable contributions for 2002 must be received before the first worship service in 2003 in order to claim the deduction. Contributions received after that date are counted as contributions for 2003 for income tax purposes even if the check was written in 2002. However, checks that are written, mailed and postmarked in 2002 will still be deductible. A reminder in the weekly bulletin would be appropriate.



Pastor's Wives Retreat 2003

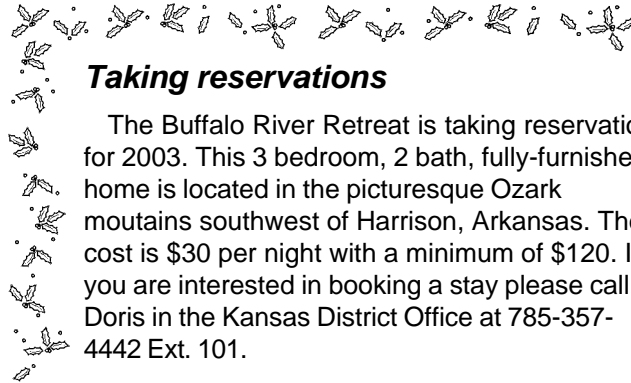
*Theme: JOY (Jesus, Others, Yourself)
February 21-23 (Friday evening - Sunday afternoon)
Country Inn & Suites - Salina
Guest Presenter - Jan Struck*

Van for Sale

2001 Chevy Astro Van
All wheel drive
35,000 miles

If interested, please contact
Gary Junghans, 785-238-6622 or
785-238-6367.

St. John's, Easton has a set of Green paraments for anyone who is in need. If you are interested, or would like more information please call or write to Marlene Zabel, 24826 Logan Road, Easton, KS 66020, or phone (913) 773-5782.



Taking reservations

The Buffalo River Retreat is taking reservation for 2003. This 3 bedroom, 2 bath, fully-furnished home is located in the picturesque Ozark mountains southwest of Harrison, Arkansas. The cost is \$30 per night with a minimum of \$120. If you are interested in booking a stay please call Doris in the Kansas District Office at 785-357-4442 Ext. 101.

Planned Giving *Garry Niehoff, Counselor*

There are several methods for transferring stock to charity. These depend on how the stock is held. You may hold actual shares of stock in certificate form. Alternatively, you could have stock in an account with a brokerage firm or securities firm.

If you hold actual certificates, it is possible to endorse the certificates on the back and hand those personally to a representative of the charity. This is a perfectly acceptable method for making the gift. The representative of the charity will then send the certificates to the secretary of the corporation to have new certificates issued in the name of the charity.

You may be giving the certificates to a charity that is not in your immediate area and wish to complete the transfer by mail. It is possible to send certificates safely through the mail. You would send the certificates in one envelope by registered mail to the charity. In a second envelope, you would enclose a stock power. A stock power is a separate document used to transfer stock.

The stock power also has a signature guarantee, which means that a third person has witnessed the transfer. Normally, this is an individual from a bank or securities firm. By sending the stock through registered mail in one envelope and the stock power in a second envelope, you can make the transfer with safety. The charity will need both the stock certificate and the stock power to complete the gift.

Some stock is held in a street account at a brokerage firm or financial services firm. The firm will normally have a transfer document or form. You fill out this form and direct the securities firm to make a transfer. In some cases, they will create an account for the charity with the firm. In other cases, they will transfer the securities directly from their firm to the brokerage or financial firm that maintains the account for the charity.

If you would like more information on giving some stock to your church or other favorite charity, please call my office at 800-357-4421.

Please pray.....

Guinea Prayers

- That God would open the heart of "J," a Maninka seeker who has a high interest in Jesus. The Nortons had time to study together, but he's quite fearful of really committing to the Christian Faith.
- That God would work in the hearts of "O" and "K," two young men whose father runs a koranic school or "madrassa," but have said that once Ramadan is over they want to study the bible chronologically with Tim Norton.
- That God would reveal to the Maninka during Ramadan, "the righteousness apart from the law" through his servants here, and through dreams.
- A prayer of thanksgiving for a conference held last week in which all the missionaries working among the Maninka were able to share resources and strategize about new ways of reaching them.
- That God would provide people in Conakry to work with "M," a Maninka seeker mentioned in past news, who moved there to look for work. He has found no one to continue to disciple him.
- That God would give peace to the Guinea mission field, and bless the Heineys as they seek his direction and that God will make his will known to the Heineys as they struggle to understand what course they should now be following as they try to balance their family responsibilities with those of the work in Africa
- That God would grant a resolution for the Heineys as quickly as possible. .
- For the young church there, that the Heineys absence will be a growing time, and that Satan will not be able to use it to cause problems.
- A prayer of thanksgiving to God for the opportunities to share the loving gospel message - and for all the receptive Guineans and refugees who are asking to hear the message.
- That the needs of the refugees, Liberian and Ivorian, will be met according to God's richest gifts and care.
- Prayer of praise for the good health report Dr. Schmaltz received recently. She had undergone some medical tests, but all is well.
- For continued guidance for language learning for Dr. Schmaltz.
- A prayer of thankfulness for Tom Brinkley (the area director for West Africa) who recently visited Dr. Schmaltz in Ouaga and shared encouraging supportive talks on the blessings and opportunities of ministry in Guinea.
- That God will continue to guide and direct all the decisions for World Missions as they face tough decisions in tough economic times. God will provide the workers and the funds if we are willing to go and work for him and have faith. Strengthen our faith in all things.



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

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