

# Workers Together

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church

**You did not choose me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit - fruit that will last.**

Volume 9, Issue 5  
June/July 2003

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“With the Lord begin your task, Jesus will direct it. For His aid and counsel ask, Jesus will perfect it.” Those words of the old hymn were a familiar part of the openings back at Immanuel Lutheran grade school in Linn, Kansas when I was a child, and they are apt words for the beginning of our walk together in the unified work of our Kansas District.

Let me also begin by telling you a little bit about myself. My wife, Marlene, and I are both from the Linn, Kansas area. I grew up on a farm near Linn, and Marlene’s parents ran a café in town. We are graduates of St. John’s College of Winfield. I attended Concordia Senior College in Ft. Wayne, Indiana and Concordia Seminary in Springfield, Illinois. I actually graduated from Concordia Seminary of Ft. Wayne, Indiana. The seminary moved during the year that we were serving our vicarage in Des Moines, Iowa.

We have served three parishes in our ministry. The first two were in Iowa, at Holy Trinity in Farnhamville and First English in Spencer. The last 12 years we have served Ascension Lutheran in Wichita, Kansas. Marlene is an R.N. who for years specialized in Oncology, and most recently served as a school nurse in the Wichita School District. She was also part of the original pilot for the Parish Nurse Program in Iowa and has served in Parish Nursing here in the Kansas District and directed the program at Ascension. We have three children, Jake, Jeremy, and Emily. And one of the cutest grandchildren that God has created to date, Christopher.

That tells you a little about where we have come from. Today you and I begin a walk together that will focus on where we are going. History and past are always a part of where we are going as well. One of the popular lines today is “This is no longer your grandfather’s church”. That is true when we are talking about the context in which we are in ministry together today in any of the settings of Kansas. But I celebrate the fact that this is still the church of my grandfathers’ faith.

I was raised on a heritage of faith, family, and farm. These ethics are a part of my being, and I believe that they are a part of the heritage of Kansas congregations and people, whether those settings are rural, urban, or city. The fact that we are confessional in our approach to the faith is significant, but never enough! We are called to be confessing the faith in a fashion that is winsome to those in our communities, no matter what the setting, in ways that reveal God’s passion for the men, women, and children who are facing eternity separate from Him because they do not know Jesus Christ as their Savior.

Together, this shall be our banner and our credo for the task that we begin together in the name of our God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Dear Jesus, direct and perfect it! Amen.

In Christ’s Service,

Keith E. Kohlmeier (JN 15:16)  
President Elect

*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 items 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, Ext. 223  
Fax: 785-357-5071  
Email: lori@kslcms.org  
Deadline: 15th of each month*

## Calls Accepted

- Andria Urban (Tchr) from Trinity, Paola to Immanuel, Okawville, Ill.
- Stacie Davis (Tch Placement) from Concordia, Portland to Trinity, Atchison

## Calls Pending

- Kevin Hahn from St. Luke, Wheaton to Faith, Marinette, Wis.
- Michael Herzberg from Bethany, Wichita to Our Savior/Peace, Pratt/Greensburg
- Ray and Ina Diepenbrock (Prin/Tchr) from St. Paul, Truman, Minn. to Trinity, Paola

## Calling Congregations

- \*Zion, Argonia
  - \*St. John, Easton
  - St. Paul, Haven
  - Trinity, Leavenworth (Sr Pastor)
  - Zion, Newton
  - St. John, Oberlin
  - \*First, Plainville
  - Holy Cross, Scott City
  - Hope, Shawnee (Sr Pastor)
  - Prince of Peace, Topeka (Sr Pastor)
  - Christ, Wathena
  - St. John, Alma (Tchr)
  - Trinity, Atchison (Prin/Tchr)
  - St. Paul, Cheney (Tchr)
  - Immanuel, Garden City (Tchr)
  - King of Kings, Gardner (Child Care Center Director)
  - St. Paul, Haven (Prin/Tchr)
  - Trinity, Mission (ECE Dir)
  - Trinity, Paola (Prin/Tchr)
  - Holy Cross, Wichita (DCE)
- \*not actively calling

## District Phone/Email

We have made changes to the phone menu that we hope are easier to use. A complete listing of the available options, extensions and emails follows. When the system answers, you may immediately enter the extension you desire.

- President's Office** press 7
- Marie Holt (219) marie@kslcms.org
- Pres. Kohlmeier (219) kekohl@kslcms.org
- Business Office** press 3
- Brenda Barton (200) brenda@kslcms.org
- Debbie Crites (204) debbie@kslcms.org
- Lutheran Church Ext. Fund**
- Larry Crume (205) lcrume@kslcms.org
- Mission & Stewardship** press 4
- Lori Hennessey (223) lori@kslcms.org
- Gary Rueter (222) garyr@kslcms.org

## June

- 3 Professional Workers Golf Event - Vassar
- 8 Ordination/Installation of Candidate Philip Hoppe at St. Paul, Ellsworth
- 29 Ordination/Installation of Candidate Christopher Stoltz at St. John, Topeka
- Installation of Rev. Andrew Becker at Our Redeemer, Kinsley

## July

- 6 Installation of Rev. Adam Reichart at Immanuel, Hoxie
- 13 Installation of Rev. Keith Kohlmeier as District President at Ascension, Wichita
- 13-14 Board of Directors meeting at Ascension, Wichita
- 20 Installation of Rev. Troy Slater at Our Redeemer,

## District Calendar

## Prayers

- Reverend Arlin E. Alpers, retired pastor, died Sunday, May 25 in Kansas City. Services were held Wednesday, May 28 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Raymore, MO. Pastor Alpers served at Christ Lutheran Church, Hutchinson from 1967 to 1974 and at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Humboldt from 1974 until his retirement in 1993. Memorials may be made to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Hwy 58 & Johnson Pkwy, Raymore, MO 64083-1155.
- Charlie Glanzer, at KU Medical Center, as he proceeds with a bone marrow transplant.

## Area Chaplains

*Wichita* - Contact Reverend Rocky Mease. Home: 316-788-9627  
Cell: 316-993-0746 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.

## Education

- press 5
- Joyce Tate (206) joyce@kslcms.org
- Al Gunderman (208) agunderman@kslcms.org
- Beth Eubanks (100) bethe@kslcms.org

## Planned Giving

- press 6
- Doris Wilson (101) servantwo@kslcms.org
- Garry Niehoff (101) servantwo@kslcms.org

## Directory

- press 8
- Extension by name** press 9

## Operator

- press 0

## Kansas District Convention News

At the Kansas District LCMS District convention May 1-3 in Topeka, delegates elected a new district president, Rev Keith Kohlmeier, on the first ballot. Kohlmeier previously served as First Vice President for the District. He will be installed July 13 at Ascension Lutheran Church, Wichita, where he has been senior pastor since 1990. He succeeds Rev. Howard Patten, who is returning to parish ministry after the maximum three terms as president. A complete listing of the election results appears in this issue.

Under the convention banner "Christ Be My Vision," Synod president Dr. Gerald Kieschnick delivered his "ONE Mission, ONE Message, ONE People" initiative. Rev. Arthur Scherer, Southeastern District President was the

convention essayist, leading delegates through a process titled "The Church's Vision in a New Missionary Age." Convention delegates attending the Friday banquet were entertained by the "Horseshoe Farmers Band" of Hanover/Bremen and special recognition was given to Rev. Patten as he closes out his term as District President.

Resolutions approved during the convention included the reaffirmation of the Kansas Guinea Partnership with LCMS World Mission to provide a minimum \$75,000 support per year for the next three years and affirm its intention to sponsor the translation of the Book of Concord into the Bandi language by the year 2009. "Resolveds" of the district resolution praise God for the involve-

ment of the Children's Christian Concern Society, Kansas District LWML and Kansas lay volunteers in this mission field.

Another resolution adopted addressed the Recruitment of Professional Church Workers in the Kansas District. Each Kansas district congregation is encouraged to develop an intentional plan for the recruitment of professional church workers and publicize and support "For the Sake of the Church" as well as other recruitment initiatives of our Concordia Universities and Seminaries. The full convention proceedings, including all resolutions considered for action, will be mailed to each congregation and will be available on the website, [www.kslcms.org](http://www.kslcms.org), this summer.

### Installation of the Praesidium

Our new District President, Vice Presidents and Secretary will be installed July 13 at 4:00p.m. at Ascension Lutheran Church in Wichita. There is a reception following the service. Ascension is located on the west side of Wichita at 842 North Tyler Road.

## Kansas District LCMS 2003 Leadership

### EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

District President:  
Rev. Keith Kohlmeier  
1st Vice President:  
Rev. Ed Trost  
2nd Vice President:  
Rev. David Meier  
3rd Vice President:  
Rev. Robert Grimm  
4th Vice President:  
Rev. Randy Jahnke  
Secretary:  
Rev. Robert Schaedel  
Treasurer:  
Mark Zillinger

### ADVISORY

Alan Gunderman, Parish Education  
Rev. Gary Rueter, Mission/Stewardship  
Larry Crume, LCEF Business Mngr  
Garry Niehoff, Planned Giving Office  
Rocky Mease, Chaplain

### BOARD MEMBERS

Pastor:  
Vern Oestmann  
Circuit Counselor Chairman:  
Ron Flentgen  
Commissioned Ministers:  
Barb McComas  
Dennis Hintz  
Jim Bradshaw  
Ed Bierbaum  
Laypersons:  
Barb Teske  
Les Walter  
Arthur Vogel  
Ken Jorns  
Walt Frederking  
Betty Kruse  
Doug Wolters  
Bruce Schultz

### CIRCUIT COUNSELORS

Circuit 1: Rev. Mark Janzen  
Circuit 2: Rev. Ed Mease  
Circuit 3: Rev. Ron Flentgen  
Circuit 4: Rev. John Duran  
Circuit 5: Rev. Richard Peckman  
Circuit 6: Rev. John Hopkins  
Circuit 7: Rev. Rod Fritz  
Circuit 8: Rev. Larry Brakenhoff  
Circuit 9: Rev. Alan Stahlecker  
Circuit 10: Rev. Dean Von Stroh  
Circuit 11: Rev. Rick Hathaway  
Circuit 12: Rev. Charlie Adams  
Circuit 13: Rev. Richard Andrus  
Circuit 14: Rev. Andy Keltner  
Circuit 15: Rev. Joel Hiesterman  
Circuit 16: Rev. Bob Roberts

## **Mission & Stewardship**

**Reverend Gary D. Rueter, Executive**

### **Consultants Bring a Wider Perspective**

A consultant is one sought for expert advice on a specific subject, often for a fee. In my service to the congregations of the Kansas District I offer consulting services for mission and stewardship challenges. My expertise is built on twenty-three years of pastoring parishes and continuing exposure to presentations and seminars by nationally known church consultants. I have no fees since my expenses are covered by the offerings that your congregation sends to the Kansas District.

Through consultants, God has blessed me with insights and creative ways of looking at parish challenges and I seek to bring those same gifts to my consulting. With the exposure that I have to all 164 Kansas congregations and the contacts that I'm blessed with in my office, I can bring a wider perspective to the challenges that you face as leaders of your congregation.

I've listed below some of the specific areas of consulting that I am prepared to do. If you wonder if I could be helpful in some area of your parish life, give me a call and ask. Where I can't help, I can often connect you with someone else who can.

#### **Mission Challenges**

- **Mission Festivals** - When you need a speaker on mission challenges in Kansas or for motivation in local and international mission, I'm ready to preach or to lead your sessions.
- **New Sites & Mission Planting** - Does your congregation see a need for a new site for outreach? I can help with information and resources for determining the need and a process for proceeding.
- **Share Life** - Leaders are often called upon to help members improve their witness to the Good News of Jesus in their daily lives. Share Life is a one day workshop that develops improved witness and prepares leaders to provide further opportunities to provide Share Life locally.
- **Servant Evangelism** - One of the best ways for your congregation to reach out locally is by finding ways to serve your community. "A small act done with great love can change the world."
- **Community Demographics** - I have access to information about the people in your community that can assist you in determining ways to proclaim the Good News of Jesus to them.
- **Rural, Urban, Ethnic, and Deaf Missions** - These venues of ministry have unique aspects which require specialized attention. Call me and we'll work together on teasing them out.

#### **Strategic Planning and Leadership Training**

- **Strategic Planning Process** - A weekend event involving many congregation members in discerning God's mission for the congregation for the next five to twenty years, including follow-up sessions with leaders to multiply the participants in the mission.
- **Mission and Vision Statements** - Establish or update your congregation's guiding statements.

- **Open Space Technology** - For any complex issue that involves potential conflict and diverse opinions, OST will provide a framework for surfacing all the people with passion for the issue who are also willing to take responsibility for engaging in action on the issue. I'll write more about OST in the next Workers Together.

- **Healthy Congregations** - Dr. Peter Steinke's application of systems theory to congregational life assists leaders to better understand how to function in leadership for the benefit of the mission.

- **Bridgebuilder** - This is a specialized form of Healthy Congregations intervention for a congregation experiencing conflict and provides a process for emerging from it in a productive manner. This is the only consultation for which I arrange a fee because of the extra time and travel involved.

- **Flexible, Missional Constitutions** - This process designed by Alan and Cheryl Klaas enables a congregation in one day to rewrite its constitution and bylaws to reflect the changes in how people work and relate in today's world so that members and leaders are empowered for greater service for the Lord.

- **Leadership Retreats/Seminars** - When you want to provide a process or a program for a gathering of congregational leaders, I can help with your planning.

#### **Stewardship Challenges**

- **Consecration Sunday Stewardship** - I can serve as an outside leader for this process of gathering annual financial commitments in your congregation. It has been used by over twenty congregations in Kansas with great results. It focuses on the giver's need to give rather than the congregation's need for the gifts.

- **Budgeting & Salary Issues** - Congregation leaders often face questions about budgeting and salaries. I can provide information and guidance in dealing with those issues.

- **District Stewardship** - What happens to those dollars that your congregation sends on to the District? I have charts and information about this question that can assist you in answering the questions in your congregation.

Call (800-357-4421, Ext 222) or email ([garyr@kslscms.org](mailto:garyr@kslscms.org)) and make arrangements for me to be a consultant for you and your congregation. I can provide you and your congregation with a wider perspective on your mission and ministry.

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### **St. Louis Seminary Visitations**

The Seminary's next structured visitation opportunities for high school students will be the Exploring Church Careers Event on Aug. 2-5, 2003, followed by Exploring the Pastoral Ministry on Aug. 6-8, 2003. Fall visitation is Oct. 9-11. The next Institute on the Ministry will take place Oct. 9-11, 2004. Prospective students interested in receiving some of the material distributed at the Institute or in arranging a campus visit should contact the Admissions Office at Concordia Seminary at 1-800-822-9545 or [admissions@csle.edu](mailto:admissions@csle.edu).

**Business Office**  
**Debbie Crites, Business Manager**

## Concordia Health Plan announces Choice for 2004

In the fall of 2003, Worker Benefit Plans will offer to all LCMS employers a choice of health plan options. Concordia Health Plan announces Choice for 2004.

In an effort to maintain a balance between the contribution rates for employers and the out-of-pocket expenses for workers, employers will have the opportunity to choose among different CHP options, some of which contain significant savings to your organization through lowered contribution rates. However, all of the options will increase the out-of-pocket expenses for your workers. The different options will

include reestablishing deductibles, increased prescription drug copays, and increased office visit copays for 2004.

All organizations will be asked to make a decision regarding the Concordia Health Plan coverage provided for your workers. Complete information about the CHP options will be mailed to all employers by mid-September. The deadline for choosing a plan option will be early November 2003. The health plan option chosen will be effective January 1, 2004. For additional information go to CHP "Choice" on the Worker Benefit Plans web site: [www.wbp.org](http://www.wbp.org).

## Filing Form 5578

Does your church operate a preschool? An elementary school? If you answered yes to either question, then you are required to submit Form 5578 to the IRS each year. Filing the certificate of racial nondiscrimination is one of the most commonly ignored federal reporting requirements.

Churches that operate a private school (including a pre-school) may obtain a Form 5578 by calling the IRS forms number (1-800-829-3676) or by downloading a copy from the IRS website at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
**Larry Crume, Vice President**



**Lutheran Church  
Extension Fund**

**Interest Rates - June 2003**

**Steward account rates:**

**Congregational Certificates**

Demand	2.000%
Steward Account	2.500%

**Individual Accounts**

Less than \$1,000	1.375%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	1.625%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	1.750%
\$10,000 and over	2.250%

## LCEF's K.I.D.S. Stamp Program

Important new information on LCEF's K.I.D.S. Stamp Program was recently mailed to all congregations. Please call Brenda at the District Office to see about setting up your school or congregation with this program.

## Electronic Offering/Tuition Payments

Is your church or school considering electronic offering or tuition payments? It is available and it is free to LCMS congregations and schools. This service is provided by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and is 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 [lcrume@kslcms.org](mailto:lcrume@kslcms.org).

## Concordia Seminary announces LutherHostel 2003

"Light for All Ages" is the theme for LutherHostel 2003 to be held Oct. 4-7 on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. LutherHostel is an educational event for adults, age 55 and above, held every year at Concordia Seminary. Dr. Paul L. Maier, noted Lutheran scholar and author, will be the main presenter for the event.

Scheduled activities for LutherHostel 2003 will begin on Saturday evening with a western-style cookout. Additional activities include presentations by Seminary faculty, class visitation, a carillon concert, student-led evening devotions, and visits to Concordia Historical Institute, KFUA Lutheran radio station and the Seminary bookstore. An optional tour of the Lutheran historical sites in Perry County, MO, is also

available for LutherHostel participants on Oct. 8, immediately following LutherHostel.

Dr. Donald Miesner and his wife, Wilma, will lead evening activities on Saturday and Sunday. Dr. Miesner, a guest professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, also will lead the Sunday morning Bible study.

The LutherHostel fee is \$135 per person. Meals and refreshments for the event will be \$125 per person. Housing is available on campus (on a limited basis for an additional cost) or in nearby hotels. For more information contact the Seminary's office of continuing education at (314) 505-7105 or [ce@csl.edu](mailto:ce@csl.edu). or check the web site at [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu).

## **Planned Giving** **Garry Niehoff, Counselor**

### **Tangible Personal Property As Gifts**

Tangible personal property includes many types of portable items. Art, coins, stamps, gold bars, silver bars, silverware, crystal, china, music boxes, cars, boats, motor homes and other types of collections are all tangible personal property.

“How do I transfer this property to the charity?” While the Federal tax implications of a transfer are governed by Federal law, the actual ownership of property is defined by state law.

For cars, boats, motor homes or other vehicles, there normally is a state title.

For vehicles, the normal transfer method to any other party that may be used is to sign the title and transfer the item to charity. While delivery normally occurs together with the transfer of title, making the transfer of the official title and

paying the transfer fee should be sufficient to show a completed gift.

Crops and other agricultural products present a practical challenge. With agricultural property, it is helpful to create three different documents. The first is a deed of gift. The farmer or rancher identifies the property, the quantity or weight and then signs and dates a deed of gift. Quite often, agricultural property is sold at a specific market and must be transported by truck to market. The driver of the truck then signs the second form, receiving the gifted property as agent of either the charity or the trustee of the charitable trust. Finally, when the property is delivered to the appropriate market and sold, the representative at that market then receives the property for sale and acknowledges that he or she is the agent

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### **Seminary Enrollment Surges, Financial Aid Needed**

The Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is projecting 140 to 155 new students this fall who will prepare to serve as pastors in its residential programs. This follows three consecutive years of dramatic increases in new student enrollment, the best three years since the early 1980s. This enrollment surge has produced an urgent need for financial aid funds.

Recently, the Seminary received a \$1 million matching grant from a Lutheran couple who wish to remain anonymous. Gifts will be used exclusively to provide full-tuition support for

resident Concordia Seminary students. The matching grant has a June 30, 2003 expiration date. Donors can take advantage of the matching grant by contacting the Seminary via its toll-free number (1-800-822-5287) or utilizing the Seminary's new on-line donation function on its website ([www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu)). A credit card may be used to make an offering for full-tuition assistance and donors can designate that their gift be matched. Details of the Seminary's financial assistance program are available at [www.csl.edu/finaid.htm](http://www.csl.edu/finaid.htm).

### **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Lawrence**

On July 20, 2003, Immanuel Lutheran Church and University Student Center in Lawrence will celebrate 75 years of working for the Lord in this community and in the mission field. It is with great pleasure that we invite you and the members of your congregation to share with us on this special day of thanksgiving and remembrance. The schedule for the day includes the following activities:

- 9:30AM Social Hour
- 10:30AM Morning worship, with LCMS Kansas District President Howard Patten and other pastors affiliated with Immanuel in recent years
- 12:00PM Lunch served at Haskell Indian Nations University
- 2:00PM Afternoon service of praise and remembrance, with former District President Gene Schmidt and members of our congregation

Those wishing to attend the noon luncheon should make reservations by sending a check (\$9.50/person) by July 1<sup>st</sup> to the following address:

Immanuel Lutheran Church  
2104 West 15<sup>th</sup> Street  
Lawrence, KS 66049

Rejoice and be glad in the Lord!

### **Lutheran Family Retreat, Aug. 8-10**

Make your plans now and mark your calendar for August 8-10, 2003 to attend the Lutheran Family Retreat at the air-conditioned facilities of Camp Webster in Salina, sponsored by the KS District LLL and LWML. The theme is “Lord of My Heart, My Hope,” 1 Peter 3:15. Bring the kids or grandkids and enjoy all the fun and excitement of Bible study, swimming, relaxing, square-dancing, canoeing, archery and much more.

Registration for the full weekend is only \$65/person with those 5 and under free. This includes housing, meals and activities. There is a \$5 charge for those choosing to participate in the challenge course. A shortened weekend fee schedule is also available.

For more information, contact: Marj Stuckert; 1211 W 50th Terr. Kansas City, MO 64112; 816-753-2265; [marjds@msn.com](mailto:marjds@msn.com).

Take this opportunity to slow down and learn how great your family and friends are while you grow close to the Lord. It's a mini-vacation from which you will return with a wonderful feeling of contentment.

Faith Lutheran Church in Derby, KS has over 100 TLH books to give away. Contact Pastor Tom Johnson at 316-788-1715 if you have a home for these hymnals.

## Educational Services

### Al Gunderman, Executive

### Family Life Academy Class

Does your congregation desire to develop a leadership plan that includes family ministry in its mission and vision? Then perhaps you will want to consider the Family Life Academy (FLA) in your plans. FLA is conducted over a two-year period, meeting four weekends from October through March, with a Year 1 class beginning October 3-5. Like last year, four congregations will be accepted into the academy. Each congregation will be expected to have a minimum leadership team of five, including the senior pastor.

Complete information and application forms are found at [http://www.kslcms.org/ks\\_flm/index.html](http://www.kslcms.org/ks_flm/index.html) or call Educational Services at 1-800-357-4421 Ext. 206.

### DIRECTed™

There is excitement in announcing a new program aimed at helping LCMS early childhood program directors become better equipped to lead Lutheran ministries. The Kansas District has the honor of being only one of three districts to be invited to serve as a pilot district for this project. Plans include the first cohort of 12 early childhood program directors to begin the training in September 2003 with a second cohort to follow. The LCMS District and Congregational Services (DCS) - Children's Ministry is sponsoring *DIRECTed™*. This project is partially funded by a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Information was sent to all Kansas LCMS preschools and early childhood centers.

### Child in Our Hands

This September, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Topeka, Kansas will be hosting a "Child in Our Hands" conference. The Kansas District, the Family Life Academy and Prince of Peace would encourage you to place this event on your calendar and plan on attending. What an excellent opportunity for parents, godparents, grandparents, the church professional, ministry volunteers, or anyone with interest in raising a child in the faith.

- ✓ What: "Child In Our Hands" Conference
- ✓ When: September 26-27, 2003
- ✓ Where: Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Topeka, Kansas
- ✓ How much: \$180 per congregation (this includes 3 people), with each additional person only \$20
- ✓ Why: For down to earth, practical children's ministry tools to help you and your congregation.

You don't want to miss this extraordinary event! Put a team of volunteers and leaders together TODAY to head for Topeka this September. For more information, contact DCE Sarah Boles at 785-271-0808 or [sarahb@princeofpeace.topeka.org](mailto:sarahb@princeofpeace.topeka.org).

### Upcoming events

- ✓ Singles Summer Workshop, August 2, District Office.
- ✓ Principals Conference, September 11-12, District Office.
- ✓ A Child In Our Hands workshop, Sept. 25-26, Prince of Peace/Topeka
- ✓ Family Life Academy, Year 2, September 26- 28, Prince of Peace/Topeka
- ✓ Family Life Academy, Year 1, October 3-5, District Office
- ✓ Fall Singles Retreat, October 10-12, Camp Webster/Salin)
- ✓ Joint Church Workers Conference, October 20-21, Holy Cross/Wichita

### Teacher Colloquy Program Changes

A decision from the office of Dr. William Meyer, Executive for Higher Education, brings off-site cluster groups, approved for teacher colloquy, to an end as of February 15, 2003. No new persons can be added, and no new clusters will be established. All clusters presently in process will be able to finish. Those interested in the teacher colloquy program will have to go either to a Concordia University System campus or enroll in the program through the CUENet on-line program.

The reason given for bringing the local class option to an end was to help boost the enrollment in the CUENet program, in which a significant amount of startup and operational funding was committed.

CUENet uses video streaming technology that allows the user to view both recorded class sessions and participate in live, interactive class sessions. There are a few important hardware and software requirements. The software requirements (except Windows operating systems) are all free and will be provided by CUENet on CD or can be downloaded from the Internet.

Since the classes are viewed over the Internet, the aesthetic quality of the classes will be determined by the quality and speed of your Internet connection. While classes can be viewed on a 28.8 modem, it is highly recommended that you have at least a 56K modem connection. The Internet and broadband (cable, DSL) is preferred.

More than 400 teachers have already signed up for CUENet to start their colloquy studies. For additional information about CUENet, the hardware and software needed to support this Internet version, or for classes offered, call CUENet at 800-238-3037 or turn to the CUENet Web site at <http://www.cuenet.edu>.

## Guinea Prayers

- † Please pray for closure as Tim and Beth Heiney are in Guinea and packing their belongings. Pray that Tim especially can feel good about the way things are left and that someone will be found quickly to take their place.
  - † Pray for direction for the Heiney's future and for clarity. Pray that as God opens doors they will see where He is leading them.
  - † Pray for the Heiney children as they adjust to life in the US. Katie especially is having a hard time missing Africa.
  - † Pray for "Owen" as the Nortons wrap up the chronological bible study and he comes face to face with the person and work of Jesus.
  - † Prayers for the missionary team as they make plans to head north to Siguiri (a town 132 kilometers north of where they currently live) as their future ministry site.
  - † Pray for wisdom in transition as many people leave LC-MS World Mission and for the Heineys as they leave the Guinea field.
  - † Offer prayers of thanksgiving for the volunteer opportunities Kristen had in a Protestant medical clinic in Ouagadougou to practice medical French speaking and serve in her profession.
  - † Pray for healing for all those malnourished and ill, according to God's will, that as they (most are Muslims) come for care they may be receptive to the gospel message they hear.
  - † Pray for peace for the war torn areas in West Africa.
  - † Pray for patience as Kristen continues in her language training and learning.
  - † Prayers of thanksgiving for the new place Kristen lives in that is more peaceful, cooler and conducive to study and rest, than the tiny temporary guest house place she had stayed during her language training.
  - † Offer prayers of thanksgiving for the safe arrival of the missionary family, the Mudges, to Togo. Pray for them as they continue adjusting with their new home, awaiting the arrival of shipment items, and are concerned about their health and the heat, especially how it will effect their two-month old daughter.
  - † Prayers of thanksgiving go to Gary Schultie who helped Kristen and the Guinea and Togo mission fields with financial matters. Kristen is especially thankful for his prayer support and communication as well as accounting information that was lost when her computer was stolen last year and the new reporting system now that she will have in Guinea.
  - † Prayers of thanksgiving go to the Burkinabe language helpers who watched Kristen fade in the 110 heat and kept on working with her. She enjoys their friendship and sharing. Pray for strength and relief for everyone as they are experiencing oppressive heat. Even the Burkinabe are saying this is the worst year for heat on record.
  - † Please pray for early rains and for a bountiful harvest this year.
  - † Please keep the Oettings in your prayers as they travel to the states and begin their three-month furlough.
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