

Workers Together

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church

Volume 9, Issue 9
November 2003

Networking Congregations

by President Keith E. Kohlmeier

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Sitting down to write the fourth article on the targets of our Kansas District Board of Directors, I would like to think that you are beginning to recognize, if not remember, the listing. In case you don't, they are:

1. Pursuing Kansas as a Mission Field
2. Equipping the Church
3. Networking Congregations to One Another and the Church at Large
4. Building Relationships with One Another
5. Connecting with Congregations

This month we take up number three, Networking Congregations to One Another and the Church at Large.

Living in an age when computers and internets and cell phones have connected us to others in ways that were not even thought of 20 years ago, we also find ourselves at times feeling as lonely and as isolated as we ever have been. That reality has affected us as individuals. We spend a lot of time "visiting" sites, but are largely anonymous in those worlds. The world around us promotes ferocious autonomy and promotion of "self" and private agendas. Yet in the midst of that we are looking for connections and support. And it affects us as organizations. We spend a lot of time "gazing at our navel" and identifying what it means to be parts of a body, firmly believing that the most important thing is to identify our critical mission and set personal goals. Too often even those who are closest to our organization or church are almost irrelevant, or even enemies, of the personal goal of trying to reach our objectives. These factors have affected each of us individually and all of us together.

It's in that context that the elected leaders of the Kansas District of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod have said, "We want to be agents of change." We choose to be counter-culture. We choose to recall and challenge each other to desire a time when we were dependent upon our connection with one another for our very survival. To remember a time that we could not reach our personal goals unless we succeeded and profited as a body at the same time. We firmly believe that the time we are describing was not an historical event, but part of the cause of the anxious world that has been created by the frenzy of individualism.

It would be too simplistic to say that we simply want to be the phone line by which congregations and ministries talk to each other. Those opportunities are still there. Rather, we want to be and do those things that remind and emphasize the congregations of faithful men, women, and children that they "need" each another, not merely that they can benefit from each other. Our goal is not to only do and be those things as Kansas District leaders that promote our goals. That would simply make us one more subject on the field of individuals. Rather, we would promote those ministries and offer those opportunities which stress and suggest the absolute necessity of our "synod", that is, our walk together.

Time and again our Lord emphasized our interdependence upon one another as part of his family of faith, and our ultimate dependence together upon His redeeming love for us all. We recall His illustration of vines and branches, of heads and hands. Our experience confirms what God has revealed to us through His Son. We are more in Him than any of us are separate from Him and one another. *Bind us together, Lord, bind us together, bind us together in Love.*

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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:
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Fax: 785-357-5071
Email: lori@kslclms.org
Deadline: 15th of each month

Calls Pending

- David Gruoner from Zion, Linn to Zion, Poplar Bluff, Mo.
- John Einem from Christ, Augusta to Our Savior, Chatham, Ontario

Calling Congregations

- *Zion, Argonia
- *St. John, Easton
Peace, Greensburg/Our Savior, Pratt
St. Paul, Haven
Zion, Hillsboro/Our Savior, Marion
Trinity, Leavenworth (Sr Pastor)
Zion, Newton
St. John, Oberlin
- *First, Plainville
Holy Cross, Scott City
Hope, Shawnee (Sr Pastor)
Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove
Prince of Peace, Topeka (Sr Pastor)
- *Christ, Wathena
St. Luke, Wheaton
Ascension, Wichita (Sr Pastor)
Bethany, Wichita (Sr Pastor)
Holy Cross, Wichita (DCE)

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.

2004 Synodical Convention

The deadline for Circuit Counselors to file names and addresses of delegates and alternates to the 2004 Synodical Convention is November 7, 2003. Please send information to: Rev. Robert Schaedel; 702 S 9th St; Salina, KS 67401.

District Phone

Phone 1-785-357-4441
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FAX 1-785-357-5071

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President's Office press 7
Pres. Kohlmeier (219)
Marie Holt (219)
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Debbie Crites (204)
Brenda Barton (200)

LCEF press 3

Larry Crume (205)

Mission & Stewardship press 4
Gary Rueter (222)

Lori Hennessey (223)

Education press 5

Al Gunderman (208)

Joyce Tate (206)

Beth Eubanks (100)

Planned Giving press 6

Garry Niehoff (101)

Doris Wilson (101)

Directory press 8

Extension by name press 9

Operator press 0

District Calendar

November

- 31-1 Board of Directors, District Office
- 7-8 LWML Fall Retreat, Wichita
- 7-9 Family Life Academy, District Office
- 14-16 Lay Ministry Training, District Office
- 21-23 District Youth Gathering, Topeka
- 27-28 Thanksgiving, District Office closed

December

- 12-14 Lay Ministry Training, District Office
- 24-25 Christmas, District Office closed
- 31 New Year's Eve, District Office closed

Prayers

- The family of Rev. Tim Wangerin, Zion, Downs, at the death of his father. Funeral services were held at First St. John, Kensington.
- Rev. Eldor Meyer, retired pastor, Girard, recovery from a broken hip.
- Rev. Jerome Deister, Trinity, Holton/Immanuel, Netawaka, health concerns.
- Michelle Brown, daughter of Milt Brueggemann, Principal at Hope, Shawnee, recovery from a severe stroke.
- Joyce Pool, wife of Rev. John Pool, Wichita, health concerns
- Donna Mease, wife of Chaplain Rocky Mease, Wichita, health concerns.

Buffalo River Retreat Cabin

There are still dates available for the Buffalo River Retreat Cabin in Arkansas for the fall and winter. This can be one of the best times of the year! The rates are \$30 per night with a minimum of 4 nights. The facility may accommodate a family, 2-3 couples, a church staff, or leadership group. Eureka Springs and Branson are both within 1¼ hours. Many of those who have been there are now regulars, and for good reason! If you haven't been to the Buffalo River Cabin, you're missing out. Plan to give it a try. Call Doris at 785-357-4441 ext. 101 to make your reservations.

Tuttle Creek Cabin

The cabin located on Tuttle Creek Reservoir is now ready to be reserved. The cost is \$15 per night with a minimum of \$30. This is a one bedroom furnished cabin. It has heating and AC, but no phone. If you need more information or are interested in booking the cabin, please contact Doris Wilson at the District office at 785-357-4441 ext. 101.

Caring Ministry

Reverend Rocky Mease, District Chaplain

Prison Ministry

The opportunities for being a “little Christ” to others who need Christ’s love in the world are endless. One area that has been neglected is the growing number of incarcerated persons in the United States. By the end of 2001 more than 5.6 million adult U.S. residents (1 out of every 37) were serving time or had previously served time in a state or federal prison. The opportunities for ministry not only include those individuals serving time or previously incarcerated, but also their families, victims and their families, as well as those working in the criminal justice system.

On October 3-5th I attended a training opportunity in Chicago arranged jointly by the LCMS and the ELCA. Persons trained at this event are to return to Districts,

Synods and Congregations to create and/or improve our opportunities for ministry in this area.

In the Kansas District I know that Michael Brockman conducts a Lutheran Call-out at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility. I visit Lutheran inmates in the Wichita area when I am given a referral. Beyond that, I do not know of others who are involved in jail or prison ministry.

The eye-opener for me was how varied are the opportunities for ministry. Opportunities for ministry are not limited to visitation within the prison walls. There are opportunities for ministry that would fit any of our God given gifts and talents. As we explore how to be “little Christs” to others in Kansas we will want to keep in mind those impacted by the criminal justice system.

Planned Giving

Garry Niehoff, Counselor

Transferring Assets to Beneficiaries

Not all property gets transferred in a will. Estate planning involves the use of so-called probate-avoidance mechanisms. Assets that pass by beneficiary designations are such property. Beneficiary designations take assets out of the control of the will.

There are other such mechanisms:

- Property held in joint tenancy passes to the surviving joint tenant. A will should be written naming a third party in case of a simultaneous death.
- IRAs, 401Ks and other retirement accounts pass to the

named beneficiary.

- Property placed in a living trust.
- Payable-on-death contracts are also transferred by a designated beneficiary. These can be set up at banks and brokerage firms.

For more information on how to transfer your assets to the next generation by avoiding probate and minimizing taxes, call our Planned Giving Office at 1-800-357-4421 ext. 101. We are here to serve you on a confidential, no-cost basis.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund


Larry Crume, Vice President

National Youth Gathering News

If your youth are planning to attend the 2004 National Youth Gathering, please consider the benefits of opening a StewardAccount® with LCEF. Not only will you earn interest on your fundraising dollars, but you will have access to your account while on the road to pay for housing, transportation, meals and more! What’s more, your investment will help to provide resources for LCMS congregations and schools that borrow from LCEF. For more information, call Larry Crume at the District Office (Ext. 205) or visit www.lcef.org.

New Direct Mail Service

Are you aware that 28% of the unchurched in America would be willing to read an invitation from the church? Are you struggling to identify households for a direct mail piece from your Lutheran School? Do you have a new singles ministry? Something else to share with your community? If so, LCEF now has available a service to LCMS schools and churches that can provide targeted mailing labels to enable more effective outreach ministry. This new service is only provided four times per year because of the time-sensitive nature of the information. Call or e-mail Larry Crume for pricing and additional information.

 Lutheran Church Extension Fund <i>Interest Rates - November 2003</i>	
Congregational Certificates	
Demand	1.750%
Steward Account	2.250%
Individual Accounts	
Less than \$1,000	1.125%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	1.375%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	1.500%
\$10,000 and over	2.000%

Immanuel Lutheran Church at Linn, Kansas is vacant due to the retirement of Pastor Erwin Meyer. They are being served by Deacon Don Dodd. Pastor Meyer wrote the following article sharing his observations of how the Lord has worked in this little corner of God's world, and his vision of the future of the church.

As I See It

Permit me to share what I "see" at Immanuel, Linn. In August, 2003, ten years since I first saw you, I see all of us ten years older, still fighting the good fight of FAITH, still under the umbrella of Immanuel, our God STILL WITH US. We may have changed, but He NEVER changes - always and FOREVER, all OMNI - omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent and omni-LOVING, especially omni-forgiving!

But change has come! I have become FULLY and FINALLY emeritus! It's a major adjustment for me but God remains with ALL of us to affect necessary changes. I see a NEW church emerging here - and I give glory to God for it, for there are things that MUST be NEW if Immanuel is to survive. Some things MUST be born again, and I SEE it happening!

God has blessed us especially with one who can take on the challenge of leadership. No, we can't get a pastor, but the LCMS is turning to laymen to keep His kingdom coming among us. God has raised up among us a layman, one of US, and still can lead us. It IS, in what has happened to our brother, Don Dodd, who has stepped out from among us and been given the call - "FORWARD!" Where would we be without him? I sense his enthusiasm

for the task. He's not a pastor but is learning FAST how to do what a layman CAN, and Don has stepped into the gap and is leading us with NEW enthusiasm. It is a privilege to be his mentor and I marvel at his gifts.

I asked him, "Where is your enthusiasm coming from?" He pointed to his shirt pocket, pulled out a cross and gave the best answer any man could give!

O, bless you, Don - what an example! ALL he is given for this is put into a BUILDING FUND for the future of this congregation. He is still learning the skills of leadership, etc. But what a future is in store for this church if the rest of the laymen and women catch the vision he has of what this church needs most - faithfulness to the WORD.

God forgives our past neglects. We repent of them. But we face the future confidently as we move some pews and get serious about the Word!

What can YOU do? Be thankful to God for Don. Show it by joining in rekindling the fervor, or it will be doomed to ashes. We want more out here than a beautiful cemetery.

Holy Spirit, LIGHT OUR FIRE!

2004 Congregational Commitments

Letters were sent to your congregations requesting the amount of your commitment to Synod and District for 2004. As you set your budget for next year, ask your decision-making body to consider increasing your support of the services your national and regional judicatories provide for you and for others. The District staff would appreciate receiving your commitment as soon as it has been decided by your Voters, Council, or other governing body, but surely no later than December 31st.

The Team Leader for District/Synod Support is Rev. David Meier, Humboldt, 2nd VP of the District. If you would like graphs and charts for explaining how Kansas uses Congregational Receipts, please be in touch with Pr. Meier or the District Stewardship Department. If you would like to know the current status of your 2003 commitment or need another form to complete for 2004, please contact Debbie Crites at 785-357-4441 ext. 204 or debbie@kslcms.org.

Updating Kansas District Email List

The Kansas District Email list is used to send out timely information such as missionary newsletters, changes or additions to scheduled events and new postings to the website (such as new editions of Workers Together). We are in the process of updating our list. If your current email address has changed or you would like to be added to the list, please contact Lori Hennessey at lori@kslcms.org.

Rural/Small Town Ministry

Is your Rural/Small Town church caught up in survival and facing difficult changes? The Kansas District Rural and Small Town Church Mission Team has identified areas that are common to the struggles of rural/small town churches. In the near future, we will be able to supply information to congregations about dual parish arrangements, mergers, sanctified closings, shared workers, preaching stations, and utilization of Deacons.

For congregations looking to explore new horizons, we will offer a unique program for planning. It will allow a congregation to evaluate its entire ministry in a non-threatening manner and set goals that will lead them to new growth and outreach in their ministry.

The committee is also looking for programs or events that are working for your congregation. Do you have special Sundays such as a Homecoming Sunday or a Pack The House Sunday, or any church mission event that is keeping you vital and visible in your area? Let us know so that we can share it with other congregations. We want to know what is working in Rural/Small Town ministry. We also want to know your needs. You will certainly be hearing more from us. Team members are: Rev. Dave Hutson, Rev. Rodney Fritz, Rev. John Drush, Steve Wangerin, and Rich Schotte. If you have questions or concerns, contact Dave Hutson at hutson@ruraltel.net or 785-476-2246. Let's work together!

Mission & Stewardship

Reverend Gary D. Rueter, Executive

A Rose By Any Other Name

Do you agree with Will Shakespeare that a rose by any other name would still be a rose? Then you won't be surprised when I tell you that a congregational renewal program named "Child in Our Hands" is still a congregational renewal program even though its title points toward youth and family. The name of the organization that sponsors the workshops, Youth and Family Institute, adds to this aura and makes one think it is for DCEs and educators.

But I learned differently when I had a chance to attend the Child in Our Hands workshop at Prince of Peace in Topeka in late September. This organization is not only about youth and family ministry, but also about helping a congregation refocus its mission and ministry in a thoroughly Lutheran way.

Its emphasis on baptism and milestone ministries speaks to Lutheran ears and hearts. Its mantra, "Faith is formed through trusting personal relationships," helps participants

to understand mission and outreach. And its line that the "front door of the church is not the address of the church building, but the door of every home of every member" crystallizes vision on finding ways to assist members to be about mission in their neighborhoods and daily lives.

Child in Our Hands not only helps this understanding to emerge, but also provides many resources and helps to congregational leadership in implementing the understanding. It proclaims as we Lutherans believe, "All depends on the work of the Holy Spirit through the Word and Sacraments as they are lived out in the relationships of the individuals and families in the congregation."

So If you are looking for a means to refocus and renew your parish, one venue to pursue is the Youth and Family Institute at www.youthandfamilyinstitute.org. For more information, contact me at 800.357.4421 ext 222 or GaryR@kslcms.org.

Business Office

Debbie Crites, Business Manager

CHP Option Deadline Approaches

If you are an employer participating in the Concordia Health Plan and are choosing a plan coverage option for your workers that is different from your current health plan, the deadline for returning your election form to Worker Benefit Plans is November 7, 2003. If you do not return an election form, your health plan participation will default to their current plan, which is Option A for all workers. You may mail the election form to their office or fax it to 314-996-1127. If you have misplaced the election form, you can download it from their website at www.wbp.org or call 888-927-7526 to request another copy.

The health plan option chosen will apply to your workers and their enrolled dependents for the full calendar year beginning January 1, 2004. At the end of 2004, employers will have the opportunity to remain with their original choice, or elect a different health plan option for 2005. Regardless of the choice among the four plan coverage options, the managed care provider for your workers will not change. For further information regarding "Choice" Options go to www.wbp.org/homepgs/choice.htm.

2004 Social Security/Medicare Tax

The Social Security and Medicare tax rate will remain unchanged at a combined rate of 7.65 percent for 2004. However, the maximum taxable earnings will be increased from \$87,000 to \$87,900.

Minimum Contribution Requirements

Beginning January 1, 2004, Concordia Health Plan provisions will require that employers pay a minimum of 50% of the worker-only coverage cost. This is a change from the current provision that calls for 100% payment of the worker-only cost. Employers who contribute more than 50% of the worker-only cost or contribute toward the cost of dependent coverage must make all such contributions on a uniform and nondiscriminatory basis for all workers in its employment.

New Annual Enrollment Rules

On January 1 of each year, any eligible worker employed by a qualified employer will be permitted to enroll individually and/or include any eligible dependents. The worker's signed application must be received by WBP no later than December 31 of the preceding year. The worker must also provide proof of employer group health coverage for the period immediately prior to the enrollment date.

IRS 2004 Mileage Rate

The Internal Revenue Service has released the new standard mileage rates that go into effect January 1, 2004. Business mileage - 37.5 cents per mile (up from 36 cents per mile in 2003); Charitable mileage: 14 cents per mile (no change); Moving/medical mileage: 14 cents per mile (up from 12 cents in 2003).

CCCS Mission Conference

The Children's Christian Concern Society's second annual Mission Conference will be held November 15, 2003 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Our Saviour Lutheran Church, 4153 Rainbow Blvd., Kansas City, KS. The theme is "A Miracle of Love."

The morning session will include a Bible study led by District President Keith Kohlmeier and a report from the field by Edie Jorns. The luncheon speaker is Gloria Conjura, CCCS's first student, currently a Lutheran school teacher and wife of a Lutheran pastor. In the afternoon, choose two of the following three workshops:

- ♦ Sharing the Miracle, presented by Rev. Amos Bolay of Liberia and Guinea and Beth Heiney, missionary
- ♦ Expanding the Miracle, presented by Edie Jorns and Joe and Joannie Harwell
- ♦ Visioning the Miracle, presented by Dr. Eugene Schmidt and Dr. Dick Hahn.

The cost is \$20 per person which includes lunch. For more information, contact Beth Eubanks at 785-357-4441 ext. 100.



Kansas District Website

Welcome to <http://www.kslcms.org>, the website for the Kansas District, LCMS. The home page features main links to the following pages:

- 1) District Calendar
- 2) Departments (featuring the President's Office, LCEF, Business Office, Mission & Stewardship and LCMS World Missions, Education & Youth and Media Library, Planned Giving, Caring Ministry)
- 3) Lay Institute
- 4) Publications (Workers Together)
- 5) Directories (featuring churches, schools, DCEs of the Kansas District, as well as links to popular sites throughout the web)

Other home page links will connect you to:

- 1) Upcoming Events w/registration information
- 2) GiftLaw home page site
- 3) The Kansas District Family Life Academy
- 4) Daily verse from KFUD, St. Louis
- 5) Kansas District address, map, website map, contact information and other links to pages that change from time to time
- 6) LCMS home page (point and click on Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod side banner)
- 7) History of the new District Office building (point and click on picture of District Office)

Subscribe to the Kansas District e-mail list to be notified of new postings to the web page, ie. new Kansas District board members, by emailing to lori@kslcms.org. Web questions should be directed to joyce@kslcms.org. Explore the site and return often!

Camp Tomah Shinga News

Greetings from your church camp! I am so excited about what God is doing at Camp Tomah Shinga! As I meet new people and see familiar faces, I am thrilled to be a part of this mission of the Church.

I have two things that I would like to touch on this month, the annual Quarter Challenge and the Parish Ambassadors Program.

The 5th Annual Quarter Challenge is under way, with 20 churches collecting quarters during the month of October to benefit the camp. Our goal is to raise \$6000. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will match \$.50 on the dollar which could make our total \$9000! If you would like more information about the Quarter Challenge or other ways your congregation can financially support Camp Tomah Shinga, please contact me at the number or email listed below.

The Parish Ambassadors Program is a new volunteer program designed for Tomah Shinga to reach all of its partnering congregations in a more meaningful way. Parish Ambassadors will work closely with me for the purpose of raising awareness and promoting the camp within their congregations.

Camp Tomah Shinga serves almost 300 churches in Kansas alone! If each congregation had one or two Parish Ambassadors, we would be able to more effectively address the needs of our congregations and share the ministry of Camp Tomah Shinga with them.

Parish Ambassadors would come to the camp once a year for training. They would receive brochures, newsletters, summer camp information, simple scripts for announcements and other resources to help share the ministry of Tomah Shinga with their congregations.

If you know of someone in your congregation who would have the gifts for this type of ministry, please contact Rebekah Hubbard toll free at 1-866-238-3654 or campdirector@ourtownusa.net.

Thank you for your continued support of Camp Tomah Shinga!

*Have a blessed
Thanksgiving!*



Treasurer's Manual Available Now

The updated 2003 Congregational Treasurer's Manual is now available. In order to keep the cost of the manual down, you will not automatically receive a copy. The 2003 manual will soon be available on the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod website by going to www.lcms.org and clicking under the link "Resources". You are able to view or print the manual from this site. If you would like us to send you a copy, call the business office at 785-357-4441 ext. 200 or email to brenda@kslcms.org. Cost of this year's manual is only \$6.75.

Educational Services

Al Gunderman, Executive

District Youth Gathering

The District Senior Youth Gathering will be held November 21-23 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Topeka. The Gathering committee has chosen *E.P.I.C.* (Every Person In Christ) as our theme, pulling from the great epic story of God's love for mankind and our response to His love. As 2 Corinthians 5:17 says, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!"

Download more information, including a schedule for the weekend, on the District website, www.kslcms.org. Just follow the "Upcoming Events" link.

Human Sexuality Workshop

Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina is hosting a Human Sexuality Workshop on Saturday, November 8, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

With so many saying so much in so many ways about sex, and most of it far from helpful, we thought it would be well for the church to recall God's good news on this subject. We hope to strengthen Jesus' disciples in the truth of who we are as male and female that we might come to a better understanding of our world and its myths concerning sexuality, and learn healthy ways to respond and proclaim to our world God's good design for both male and female.

The presenter is Pastor Roger Sonnenberg - the author of a recent book on this subject, as well as other books on parenting and family issues; a part-time professor at Concordia University in Seward; and Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Arcadia, California.

To register, contact Rev. Charles Adams; Trinity Lutheran Church, 702 South Ninth Street, Salina, Kansas, 67401; 785-823-7151; revcwa@aol.com. Please let us know by November 3 if you plan to attend. We ask a \$10 donation for those who are not members of Trinity for lunch and materials.

Taste of the Sem

The second annual "Taste of the Sem" will take place Jan. 17-19, 2004 on the campus of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. This event is designed to allow young men in high school the opportunity to experience Seminary life.

Participants will be matched one-on-one with Seminary students and will accompany these students to their resident field congregations on Sunday morning and to classes and chapel service on Monday morning. There will also be a tour of the campus and an opportunity for dinner and discussion with Seminary faculty members.

All meals and lodging will be provided free of charge. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to St. Louis. Registration is limited to 38 participants and will take place on a first-received, first-registered basis. For more information, contact the Admissions Office of Concordia Seminary, 801 DeMun Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63105; 1-800-822-9545; admissions@csl.edu.

Upcoming Events

- ✓ District Youth Gathering, November 21-23, Capital Plaza Hotel/Topeka
- ✓ Family Life Academy, November 7-9, District Office

Church Workers Conference

The 2003 Professional Church Workers Conference took place on October 20-21 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and School in Wichita. The theme for the conference, based on John 8:36, was "Response"able Living – Freed by the Gospel for Spiritual, Physical, Emotional and Relational Wellness. Dr. Bruce Hartung and Mr. Kurt Bickel served as keynote speakers for the conference. They stressed the unity of body, soul, and spirit and how important it is for church workers to cultivate health in all of these areas of life. Again and again they directed us back to the freedom we have in Christ Jesus who gave His life to free us from sin and all of its encumbrances.

In keeping with the overall theme of wellness, a personal trainer from the Wichita area motivated and educated participants as to healthy life choices. Other highlights of the conference included a concert by John Leavitt on the magnificent Beckerath organ at Holy Cross, an inspirational worship service, and 46 dynamic workshops. The conference offering of \$1,302.32 will go to the LCMS World Mission and the Kansas District Guinea Mission.

Shepherds of God's Flock

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis will host its 6th annual "Shepherds of God's Flock" retreat Jan. 6-8, 2004, for men college age and older who are thinking of entering the pastoral ministry.

While on campus, participants will study the Scriptures and Lutheran Confessions concerning the pastoral ministry. Pastors, missionaries and chaplains will speak about the joys and challenges of their service. Participants can talk with other retreat guests from around the country who are contemplating such service, worship with the Seminary community in daily chapel services, talk with current students, and attend Seminary classes. Additional sessions will cover topics such as financial aid, housing and the admissions process.

Wives, fiancées and girlfriends are also encouraged to attend, with some special sessions planned for them.

There is no charge to attend. All meals and on-campus lodging are provided free of charge. Travel assistance is also available. Transportation to Concordia Seminary from the airport, bus or train station, and return transportation is provided as needed. For more information, contact the Admissions Office of Concordia Seminary, 801 DeMun Ave., St. Louis, MO 63105; 1-800-822-9545; admissions@csl.edu.

Guinea Prayers

Prayers for the Oetting family:

✠ Thanksgiving to God for the safe return of all the Oettings to Guinea. Ask God to continue to help Sharon recover fully from her operation.

✠ Please ask God to facilitate the move to the new house in Kankan, for peace and perseverance as they adjust to being back in Guinea.

✠ Ask God to help Jon with improving his Maninka language proficiency.

Prayers for Dr. Schmaltz:

✠ Blessings on all students starting their studies this fall - especially the CCCS kids. Dr. Schmaltz is looking forward to the occasional teaching experiences she will have to talk to them about various disease and health topics, as well as teaching other women's groups and health interested Lutherans.

✠ Thanks be to God for allowing Dr. Schmaltz the time to get settled into her new home. With a new puppy, she reports, it feels like home!

✠ Thanks to God for the USA medical team which came to do village healthcare work near Kankan in late October.

Prayers for the Norton family:

✠ They will be moving to Siguiri this month, which presents many challenges in Guinea. Pray that God would give them the energy for the many jobs ahead.

✠ Pray that God would bless the new relationships they are making in Siguiri.

✠ Prayers for the friends they've had the opportunity to share the gospel with in Kankan, that the seed would take root and blossom.

Prayers for the Heiney family:

✠ Pray for Tim as he travels to Guinea in early November. May he get a lot done and be an encouragement to the church, May it be a learning time for all the pastors and trainees, as well as a blessing to Tim in his service.

✠ Keep Beth and the children in your prayers while Tim is gone, that they can keep things going and not get lost!!

✠ Praise be to God that the Heiney children are doing well in school and are liking the Kansas City area.

Prayer for the Guinea mission field as a whole:

✠ Pray that God will continue to fill the positions needed for the Guinea mission team: a teacher, an administrator, a literature and resource person, and two women's ministry teammates.

✠ Pray for the Guinean church leaders, that they might be able to combat the temptations of corruption that often come with leadership roles.



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