



# Workers Together



*"The servant mission of The Kansas District is to equip, encourage and empower each congregation in its mission vision and Christ-care ministry."*

Volume 17, Issue 1 January 2010

## What is Faith-Talk?

by Rev. Jim Bender from Faith, Topeka

What is faith-talk? Well, it isn't talking about your faith as much as it is talking from your faith. It is personal and unashamed. It is conversation that flows from your own story of God's love. It always involves listening more than speaking, and is most often fueled by a good question or an expressed struggle. It is often marked by gratitude and humility, by blessing, by the Word of God, and by wonder.

Bible stories have characters from which we can learn and grow in the skill of faith-talk. Consider the Advent story in Luke 1:39-80 with Elizabeth, Mary, and Zechariah. Elizabeth demonstrates three markers for faith-talk that we can model – humility, gratitude and blessing.

Have you been humbled by someone's visit, filled with gratitude that they cared enough to take the time in this fast-paced world to come to you? The Spirit of God is moving when we can express with Elizabeth, "Why am I so favored by your visit?"

Elizabeth, humbled by the visit of Mary, nevertheless speaks with authority over her and loudly proclaims, "Blessed are you and blessed is the child you will bear." Don't ever be ashamed to speak a blessing upon someone. It could be laying hands upon someone and speaking to them directly, offering prayer for the person's need. It could be a clear and expressed hope for the person, and more than a hope – a speaking it forth, saying, "This is what I see happening for you and I will pray for that." None of this, the gratitude and humility upon being visited, the blessing and prayer for another, could happen without relationship. Faith-talk is always relational. Without the relationship, it becomes gossip or lecture.

Zechariah is mute, stricken by God to be silent for a period of time. It is time to name the baby. Zechariah writes the name "John" on a tablet. His mouth is opened and he speaks and praises God in relation to the whole story of salvation. Another marker for faith-talk is that it is informed by Scripture. It flows from the Word of God and is held accountable to it. Faith-talk is not mere opinion or feeling or fancy. Much of spirituality in our culture today is nothing more than inflated ego-speak. Our talk flows from what God is doing and has done. It is always cognizant of the larger picture of God in this world. Our stories and experience find connection to others' stories in the Bible. We learn from each other and are never alone in our experiences when engaged in faith-talk that is connected to Scripture.

The Advent story continues as each of the neighbors went home, filled with awe, talking about these things and asking, "What then is this child going to be?" Praise be to God that you and I have something to talk about, something that provokes awe and wonder in us! Faith-talk often leaves things open-ended. What is God doing in the world right now? How is He present in your life? What does He have planned for your future? We talk about these things. We are humbled and grateful for a fellow pilgrim who listens and shares and prays and blesses. We, in turn, listen and share and pray and bless, always under the authority of God's Word.

God is alive and active in our world! Let's encourage each other to look for His work and to talk about the wondrous things He is doing!

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### District Website/Email

**Website:** [www.kslcms.org](http://www.kslcms.org)

#### President's Office

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Marie Holt - marie@kslcms.org

#### Mission & Stewardship

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#### Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Steve Bremer - sbremer@kslcms.org  
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#### Planned Giving

Doris Wilson - servantwo@kslcms.org

#### Caring Ministry/Disaster Response

Chaplain Rocky Mease - chaprm@aol.com



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  
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Topeka KS 66604-1104  
Phone: 785-357-4441, ext. 223  
Fax: 785-357-5071  
Email: [lori@kslcms.org](mailto:lori@kslcms.org)  
Deadline: 15th of each month

## Calls Accepted

- Rev. Ervin Daugherty from Immanuel, Kansas City, Mo. to Trinity, Garnett
- Thomas Moll from Crown of Life, San Antonio Texas to Christ, Topeka, DCE

## Calls Pending

- Rev. Scott Snow, from LCMS World Mission to Holy Cross, Wichita, Senior Pastor

## Calls Declined

- Rev. Timothy Kinne from Minnesota South District Office to Grace/Trinity, Wichita
- Rev. Clint Poppe from Good Shepherd, Lincoln, Neb. to Trinity, Colby
- Rev. Rick Twenhafel from Nortonville, Kan. to Salem, Springville, NY

## Calling Congregations/Schools

Trinity, Colby  
Zion, Claflin/St. Peter, Holyrood  
Immanuel, Junction City  
Immanuel, Kansas City (Hispanic Pastor)  
St. John, Oberlin  
Bethany, Overland Park (Principal)  
Grace/Trinity, Wichita  
Holy Cross, Wichita (Senior Pastor, Principal)

### Pre-Lent Retreat

**When:** January 25-27, 2010

**Where:** Spiritual Life Center, Wichita

**Theme:** "Credo: I Believe"

**Presenter:** Dr. Jon Bruss

Questions? Contact Marie at 800-357-4421 ext. 219 or marie@kslcms.org.

## Ash Wednesday

The Board of Directors designated 2010 Ash Wednesday offerings to be divided equally between the Scholarship and Education Loan Repayment Funds. A newsletter article, bulletin blurbs and a bulletin insert are available on the district website, [www.kslcms.org](http://www.kslcms.org) - click on the Publications tab and scroll down to Mission & Stewardship Resources.

### District Congregation Mission Receipts

Last month:	Nov. 16, 2009 - Dec. 15, 2009 .....	\$132,421
	Nov. 16, 2008 - Dec. 15, 2008 .....	\$133,957
Year-to-date:	Jan. 16, 2009 - Dec. 15, 2009 ...	\$1,447,325
	Jan. 16, 2008 - Dec. 15, 2008 ...	\$1,472,793
To LCMS:	Jan. 16, 2009 - Dec. 15, 2009 .....	\$607,877
	Jan. 16, 2008 - Dec. 15, 2008 .....	\$618,573

## District Calendar

### January

- 1 District Office Closed, New Year's
- 24-25 Circuit Counselor's Conference, Wichita
- 25-27 Pre-Lent Retreat, Wichita
- 25-26 DCE Retreat, Hesston
- 29-30 Board of Directors, District Office

### February

- 5-6 Daughter Church Planting Seminar, Wichita
- 7 NLSA Training, District Office
- 8-9 KAIRS Conference, Topeka
- 27 Conversations of Grace Conference, host sites across Kansas

## Prayers

- Rev. Charlie Adams and family, Trinity, Salina, at the death of his stepfather
- Kathy Starr, teacher at Faith, Derby, health concerns
- Vicar Terry Wiechman, Trinity, Wichita, health concerns
- Rev. Larry Brakenhoff, St. Paul, Alta Vista, health concerns
- Rev. Jim Larson, retired, health concerns
- Barb McComas, District Office, cancer treatments



## Area Chaplains

- ♦ *Wichita & Topeka* - Contact Rev. Rocky Mease. Home: 316-788-9627. Cell: 316-993-0746. Email: chaprm@aol.com.

### Wichita Hospital Referral

- ♦ *Kansas City* - Our Saviour Lutheran Church has an apartment available for families who have patients in Kansas City area hospitals (sleeps 4). Families must live outside a 35 mile radius of Kansas City. Contact Donna Bottemuller at 913-236-6228 for more information.

### Kansas City Hospital Referral

## District Directory

**Phone** 1-785-357-4441  
**Toll Free** 1-800-357-4421  
**FAX** 1-785-357-5071

### Extensions:

**President's Office** press 7

Pres. Kohlmeier (219)

Marie Holt (219)

**Business Office** press 3

Debbie Crites (204)

Tami Lierz (200)

**LCEF** press 3

Steve Bremer (118)

Barb McComas (100)

**Education** press 5

Jim Bradshaw (206)

Joyce Tate (206)



**Mission & Stewardship** press 4

Mark Frith (223)

Lori Hennessey (223)

**Planned Giving** press 6

Doris Wilson (101)

**Directory** press 8

**Extension by name** press 9

**Operator** press 0

## Conversations of Grace Web Conference

◆ **When:** Saturday, Feb. 27, 2010, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.  
◆ **Where:** Host sites across Kansas  
◆ **Our Presenters:** Rev. Carlos Hernandez works with Rev. Matthew Harrison and LCMS World Relief & Human Care. At our Conversations of Grace event participants will explore simple ways for getting out into their community to find unmet human care needs, and then consider possibilities for meeting some or all of those needs. The Gospel proclamation is a natural fit in fulfilling many community human care needs. Taking the Gospel out into the streets often times produces abundant fruit, in ways that many of us have long forgotten.

Rev. Fred Darkow has a huge heart for reaching the lost in communities. He has spent hours and hours writing materials that he takes with him when hitting the streets of communities. Back to the Bible Catechism and

Family Evangelism are two pieces that he will share with our participants. Making disciples is done through baptism and teaching. We know that from Matthew 28. Taking time to teach takes the dedication of the congregation to spend time with new followers. Pastor Darkow presents great tools for beginning deliberate outreach in catechism classes, extending through High School, and into early adulthood. The whole family can get involved.

◆ **More Information:** Make plans now to attend! More details are available on our website, [www.kslcms.org/cog](http://www.kslcms.org/cog), including new publicity materials such as posters, bulletin/newsletter articles, bulletin inserts, Sunday announcements, schedule, and registration. If you have any questions, contact Lori at 800-357-4421 ext. 223 or [lori@kslcms.org](mailto:lori@kslcms.org).

Make plans now to attend!

## Mission Moment by Rev. Mike Ruhl, Center for U.S. Missions

Author Tom Rath in *Strengthfinder 2.0* refers to a "misguided maxim" which deceives people and deludes organizations: "You can be anything you want to be, if you just try hard enough." This humanistic delusion leads people to conclude that the pathway to "success" is by overcoming deficits. Our culture is obsessed with books, motion pictures, and folklore, which are packed with narratives of the "underdog" who conquers unbelievable odds and emerges in triumph. Even now a host of football fans are waiting for an "athletic underdog" to rise up by its own cleat-straps and topple the New England Patriots.

Can you think of a single culture that does not embrace the "deficit delusion"? One study in the United States revealed that 77% of American parents think that a student's lowest grades deserve the most time and attention. How ironic that many parents celebrate excellence in their children with apathy, but instead concentrate passionately on wanting

to "fix" their children's shortcomings and weaknesses. Rath cites the example of the legendary Michael Jordan, who incarnated the giftedness of raw talent on the basketball court, but was not able to become the incarnated champion of baseball or golf. The tasks of baseball and golf were not in tight alignment with his (God-given) strengths. All too often, that humanistic assumption (You can be anything you want to be, if you just try hard enough) leads to the "deficit delusion."

So what does this have to do with *Missio Dei* – the great gospel imperative of Jesus to His people and His church to go and make disciples of all the nations (people groups)? The Holy Spirit imparts to Christians and to congregations through the Word the burning missionary burden to reach unconverted people with the good news of salvation by grace and through faith in Jesus Christ. And the best stewardship of mission is to express and develop that mission on a local level by aligning our God-given

## Daughter Church Planting Seminar

Statistics analyzed over the past few decades indicate that new church plants appear to have a big advantage in reaching the unchurched. New congregations are often time more conducive to welcoming new people. With a growing trend of unchurched people in our communities, one avenue of mission work we want to explore seriously in the Kansas District is the start of new congregations.

For this reason, we are hosting a Daughter Church Planting Seminar, Feb. 5-6, 2010, at Risen Savior in Wichita. Congregations of all sizes will benefit from this fresh and hope-filled seminar that approaches church multiplication from a Biblical and practical point of view. Come and explore planting strategies, timing, process, and more! Pastors, mission leaders, and congregation members are invited to learn, pray, and consider preparing for multiplication work through the local congregation.

For more information, contact Lori Hennessey at 800-357-4421 ext. 223 or [lori@kslcms.org](mailto:lori@kslcms.org) OR visit our website at [www.kslcms.org/dcp](http://www.kslcms.org/dcp).

## Mission Moment, continued

gifts and strengths with the missionary purpose of God in the world. Avoid the trap of assuming that, "until we focus and fix our weaknesses," we are unable to have missionary impact. That is simply yielding to the "deficit delusion." Instead, build mission momentum and impact by aligning and deploying personal, corporate, and God-given strengths (spiritual gifts, ministry competencies, unique talents) to make Gospel connections with those who do not yet know Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

Let the missionary people of God declare: We cannot be anything that we want to be – but we can be a lot more of who our God has gifted us to be! *used with permission of the Center for U.S. Missions*

**New Cloth, New Wineskins, New Times** by Steve Bremer

Remember the famous Budweiser lizard commercials? Two reptiles were on a tree limb talking, and Louie would always get wrapped around the axle about something. The “voice of reason” frog would always remind Louie to, “Let it go.” So, to the year 2009, “Let it go, Louie, let it go.” The year 2010 will bring “New Cloth”, “New Wineskins”, and “New Times” given to us by God.

Jesus is our hope for 2010. No seamstress worth her salt would take a new piece of cloth and patch it onto an old garment. Such action would produce two problems. The new cloth would tear the old and the pieces of material would not match. There is irony here: the patch that is supposed to fix the garment would end up ruining both. May we focus on the future with Jesus as our “New Cloth” and pray for His continued guidance that His will may be done. The year 2010 will bring us to convention in Houston. May we use this platform to introduce a new era. This new era Jesus brings simply cannot be sewn to the old practices.

On January 14, 2010, LCEF will introduce a new President, Richard (Rich) C. Robertson, to lead us into

the future. Rich was a member of the LCEF Board of Directors and has spent extensive time as a leader in his home church of St. Paul in Peachtree City, Georgia. His knowledge and expertise as former President and CEO of Wise Foods, Executive Vice President of The Kellogg Company, and Vice President and General Manager of Keebler Foods have worked to prepare him for this most important call. On April 16th and 17th, Rich will bring the LCEF Board of Directors to Kansas. Several of our investors will be invited to meet with Rich and discuss the “New Cloth” of direction for LCEF.

New wine must be poured into “New Wineskins.” Jesus’ presence requires a new way and a new spirit. For LCEF, we must take 2010 and look for new wineskins in the form of a new, younger generation of investors. We must revitalize our presence in congregations, pinpointing our future generation of investors and developing products that will bring LCEF to the forefront as an investment priority for our young adult membership.

The year 2009 is in the past, so it’s time to, “Let it go, Louie, let it go.” With Jesus’ presence in 2010, things

**LCEF Interest Rates**

*January 2010*



**Steward Account Rates:**

<b>Congregational Certificates</b>	
Demand	1.125%
Steward Account	2.125%

**Individual Accounts**

Less than \$1,000	0.625%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	0.750%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	1.125%
\$10,000 and over	2.125%

**LCEF provides loans for LCMS Congregations, Schools and Professional Church Workers:**

Monthly, quarterly or annual adjustable	5.500%
5 Year fixed	6.125%

**Congregation Endowment**

**(60-Month Fixed or Floating):**

Min. Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	2.695%	2.722%
\$10,000	2.820%	2.850%
\$100,000	2.945%	2.978%

will be different. “New Cloth”, “New Wineskins”, and “New Times” require fresh ways. Through God’s gifts of hope, peace, joy, and love, may we accomplish the will of our Lord and Savior.

Blessings to you in the New Year!

**Human Care Ministry**

**Rev. Rocky Mease, Chaplain**

**Our Congregations and Workers in Kansas**

This month I would just like to make a brief statement about the state of the church. As many of you know, for the past year I have been making visits to the church workers of two to four congregations each week for which our District staff members are praying. As these visits are confidential, I can only make general comments about them. But the most obvious general comment I can make is that most workers in our District are very satisfied with the ministries they share with their congregations. On most visits, our prayers are to thank God for blessings. This confirms a recent

survey of LCMS workers that found 93-94% of church workers in the LCMS are satisfied or very satisfied with their ministries.

This does not mean that all of our church workers are without issues or that every worker and congregation is living in perfect harmony. The devil is hard at work to disrupt worker satisfaction. It seems to me that the chief form of temptation comes in tempting all of us (myself included) to violate the First Commandment. When we fail to “fear, love and trust in God above all things” it is difficult to find satisfaction regardless of our station

and calling in life.

Work in the church is never without challenge and conflict. My encouragement this year is that when we feel those pangs of discontent, we look to our keeping of the First Commandment or our failure to do so, rather than to look at others we can blame. We can always find others to blame - and many times the blame would be well-placed. The problem with blame is that it doesn’t add to our satisfaction. Fearing, loving and trusting in God above all things - now THAT adds to our satisfaction.

## District Fiscal Year End Close

The District will close its 2009 fiscal year on **Friday, Jan. 15, 2010**. Any receipt received after that date will be credited to the fiscal year 2010 for your congregation. In order to meet the standards for a not-for-profit corporation audit, we cannot credit any 2009 mission gift received after the close of our fiscal year, so please work to meet this deadline. If you are sending any 2010 gift prior to January 15, please indicate that the gift is for 2010 so that we may credit it correctly for your congregation.

Please carefully check over your Year-To-Date Statement of Receipts to be sent Jan. 18 and report any discrepancies no later than Jan. 25 to Tami at 800-357-4421 ext. 200 or [tami@kslclms.org](mailto:tami@kslclms.org).

## Charitable Contributions

Charitable contributions for 2009 must be received before the first worship service in 2010 in order to claim the deduction. A contribution received after that date is counted as a contribution for 2010 for income tax purposes even if the check was written in 2009. However, checks that are written, mailed and postmarked in 2009 will still be deductible. A reminder in your weekly bulletin would be appropriate.

## IRS Mileage Rates for 2010

The IRS has decreased the standard business mileage rate to 50¢ per mile (from 55¢ in effect since 1/1/09), effective Jan. 1, 2010. The standard medical and moving mileage rate has likewise decreased to 16.5¢ per mile (from 24¢). These new rates apply to mileage reimbursements paid to an employee on or after Jan. 1, 2010 with respect to transportation expenses paid or incurred by the employee on or after Jan. 1, 2010.

## Congregation Treasurer's Manual

Do you need help with W-2 and 1099 preparation? The updated 2009 Congregational Treasurer's Manual is now available online and will guide you through the process. Go to [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org) and click under the link "Resources" for Congregations or go to the District website at [www.kslclms.org](http://www.kslclms.org) under the Publications tab. If you would like us to send you a copy, contact the Business Office at 800-357-4421 ext. 200 or [tami@kslclms.org](mailto:tami@kslclms.org). Cost of a CD of the 2009 Treasurer's Manual is \$6.00.

## 2009 Statistical Reports

Congregational Statistical Reports for 2009 will be mailed by Synod in January 2010. Please remember to make a copy of the completed form and mail it to the District Office. Forms are due back by February 28.

## 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.

## W-4

Have all full-time and part-time employees complete a new W-4 for 2010. This will insure that your withholding records for the year will be accurate. If the employee does not provide a completed W-4, the employer must withhold federal income tax as if the worker were single with no withholding allowance.

## Lutheran Witness Renewals

Lutheran Witness billings were sent to all congregations and were due **December 15, 2009** using the current subscription number. If you have any questions or need more change forms, please contact Tami Lierz at 800-357-4421 ext. 200 or [tami@kslclms.org](mailto:tami@kslclms.org).



## Synodical Convention Assessments

Your congregation's 2010 Synodical Convention assessment is \$2.45 per communicant member, based on the data received from the 2008 statistical reports. Convention assessment invoices were sent to each congregation at the end of October. Assessments are due July 1, 2010.

## Mission Commitments

All congregations should have received a letter and mission pledge form for 2010. We ask that you prayerfully consider your support of District and Synod. You can submit your commitment any of the following ways:

- ◆ send the **green** copy to Lori Hennessey, 1000 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604
- ◆ call Lori at 800-357-4421 ext. 223
- ◆ email Lori at [lori@kslclms.org](mailto:lori@kslclms.org).

For budget purposes, we would appreciate receiving your commitment no later than Jan. 15, 2010.

## Education Calendar

Jan. 25-26	DCE Retreat at Cross Winds in Hesston
Feb. 7	NLSA Training at District Office
Feb. 8-9	KAIRS Conference (Principals) at Ramada Inn in Topeka
Feb. 18-20	LEA-LEAD Conference in New Orleans, La.
Feb. 12-13	District Youth Ministry Team Retreat at the Retreat Center in Herington
Feb. 24-26	Early Childhood Consultants in Phoenix, Ariz.
Mar. 7-13	National Lutheran Schools Week

## Youth Ministry Academy Training

Youth Ministry Academy training workshop Module 3 will focus on sustaining and managing God's resources.

- ◆ Administration and budgeting for youth ministry
- ◆ Event planning (including retreats)
- ◆ Relationship management with youth and adults.

Led by professional youth ministry leaders, the module will engage the participants through a variety of instructional strategies: lectures, experiential learning, reflection, and small group processes. The cost is \$25 for the day, which includes lunch and all instruction costs. Contact Educational Services at 800-357-4421 ext. 206 to register by March 22.

## Adult Education Minute - The Holy Spirit

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer." *Acts 2:42* The early Christian Church exhibited a plethora of Spirit-led activities. Let us consider the actions cited in this singular verse from the book of Acts.

"They devoted themselves...":

- ◆ To the teaching of the Word - which is anointed by the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ To fellowship with one another - which is sharing in the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ To the breaking of bread or communion - which is the partaking of Christ's body through the experience of the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ To prayer - which is guided by the Holy Spirit.

In these, as you hear the word, as you fellowship, as you break bread,

## NLSA Accreditation Training

All interested Lutheran educators in Kansas District early childhood centers and elementary schools are invited to attend NLSA Accreditation Training with Terry Schmidt of LCMS Schools Ministry on Sunday, Feb. 7, from 1:30-5:00 p.m. at the District Office. There is no cost for this event. To register, contact Joyce Tate at 800-357-4421 ext. 206 by Feb. 1.

**Mark your calendars for  
Youth Ministry Training for  
Adults Working with Youth!  
Saturday, March 27  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Messiah, Emporia**

and as you pray, the Holy Spirit leads you to higher ground. He leads you to the Rock that is higher than you. He leads you to holiness, to fellowship, and to communion. He leads you to Jesus. The Holy Spirit will continue to work in developing your Christian growth. Begin each day by reading God's Word!

## Walk Thru The Bible In One Day Adult Education Web Conference

Featuring Dr. Reed Lessing,  
Concordia Seminary, St. Louis  
**When:** Saturday, Nov. 13, 2010  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
**Cost:** \$25 (includes lunch)  
**Where:** Locations TBA in Spring

## Attention DCEs & Friends

The Kansas City DCE Cluster is cooking up plans for an awesome DCE Retreat to be held Monday-Tuesday, January 25-26, 2010, noon to noon, at the Cross Winds Conference Center in Hesston. The theme of this year's retreat is "Radical Shift," based upon Matthew 25.

The cost is \$115, payable to the Kansas District LCMS, and is due by January 4.

## Faith and the Home Workshop in April

The Kansas District Family Ministry Team welcomes Concordia/Ann Arbor Professor Ben Freudenburg to Kansas as he will lead a one-day Faith and the Home Workshop at Zion Lutheran Church, Newton, on April 10, 2010. This Saturday workshop, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., will focus on the following:

**Presentation I - 9:00 a.m. to Noon**

- ◆ Sounding the Alarm - Why the family friendly church?
  - ◆ Present the Biblical foundation for home-centered, church supported family ministry based primarily on Deuteronomy 6:6-9
  - ◆ Describe keys for a family friendly church culture
  - ◆ Explore ministry structures which support a home-centered, church-supported mindset; overview foundations for partnering home and congregation in Christian education.
- Presentation II - 12:30-3:00 p.m.**
- ◆ Assist participants in evaluating present ministry based on arenas for faith formation.
  - ◆ Present a step-by-step process for revolutionizing family ministry.

Faith and the Home is unique in providing training for leader teams or individuals in congregations who have a passion for family ministry. Individual workshop registration has been set at \$35. This includes all instruction costs and a lunch. Contact the Educational Services Office at 800-357-4421 ext. 206 to register. Deadline to register is Monday, April 5. ALL are welcome!

Join our Facebook Group  
"Kansas District LCMS  
2010 NYG WE BELIEVE"

Visit [www.lcmsgathering.com](http://www.lcmsgathering.com)  
and [www.kslcms.org/nyg](http://www.kslcms.org/nyg)

## National Youth Gathering Meetings

These meetings are designed for the National Youth Gathering Shepherds and will include information on the NYG schedule, possible sightseeing options, restaurants, pre-gathering opportunities, getting around the city, discipline/covenants, and things to discuss prior to leaving Kansas.

◆ Garden City – Jan. 15, 6:30 p.m., at Trinity. In the event of bad weather, the meeting is moved to Jan. 22, same time/place.

◆ Phillipsburg – Jan. 16, 10:00 a.m., at First. Bad weather - meeting moved to Jan. 23, same time/place.

◆ Manhattan – Jan. 16, 4:30 p.m., at St. Luke's. Bad weather - meeting moved to Jan. 23, same time/place.

◆ Chanute – Jan. 30, 10:00 a.m., at Zion. Bad weather - meeting moved to Feb. 13, same time/place.

◆ Ottawa – Jan. 30, 2:30 p.m., at Faith. Bad weather - meeting moved to Feb. 13, same time/place.

◆ Wichita – Jan. 31, 3:00 p.m., at Trinity. Bad weather - meeting moved to Feb. 20, 10:30 a.m., same place.

Please call or email us with your questions and/or concerns: contact Elaine Whitneck at 620-342-8181 or [ekwhite@messiahlutheran.org](mailto:ekwhite@messiahlutheran.org); Vicki Lessman at 316-641-9392 or [vlessman@cox.net](mailto:vlessman@cox.net).

## NYG Events

Online registration for NYG Kansas District events will be available by the end of January on the district website at [www.kslcms.org/nyg](http://www.kslcms.org/nyg). In addition, please let us know which event you plan to attend by emailing Elaine at [ekwhite@messiahlutheran.org](mailto:ekwhite@messiahlutheran.org). This will insure that all the events have adequate numbers of attendees and will give us contact emails in case the event is postponed due to weather issues.

## Kansas Leaders Visiting Guinea

A small team of Kansas District leaders is scheduled to visit our Guinea missionaries, March 2-23, 2010 - District Staff members Chaplain Rocky Mease, Jim Bradshaw, Debbie Crites; Guinea Task Force members Jane Limback and Nina Borgstadter; Mission Board member Betty Kruse and her husband, David. The main purpose of the trip is to facilitate a spiritual retreat for Rev. Tim and Beth Heiney; Tim, Heidi, Philip and Leslie Norton; and Andrea Herman. Jane Limback (Our Saviour, Kansas City) is serving as the leader for this trip.

Another goal is to encourage our District congregations and Lutheran schools to become active participants and supporters of this mission, both through prayer and financial support. With this in mind, team members will

seek support from the 16 Lutheran elementary schools in Kansas to donate towards the purchase of French Bibles and copies of Concordia Publishing House's *100 Bible Stories* to distribute to the Children's Christian Concern Society (CCCS) schools while they are there. Team members will also seek support from congregations to cover the costs of travel - transportation to, from and in Guinea; travel insurance; visas; lodging; food, etc. We want to support the ministry of CCCS and strengthen the Kansas District Partnership with Guinea. Publicity materials are available for both congregations and schools. Please contact Lori Hennessey at 785-357-4441 ext. 223 or [lori@kslcms.org](mailto:lori@kslcms.org) for more information.

## Making Sense of American Christianity

Is America a "Christian Nation"? Why are there so many different churches in the United States? How does the past history of Christianity in the United States affect the present and how might it shape the future?

Find answers to these questions and others as we hear the amazing story of Christianity in America on Saturday, Feb. 13, at St. John's Lutheran Church in Topeka. This event is open to all.

Guest presenter will be the Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast, Jr., Academic Dean and Professor of American Christianity and American Lutheranism at

Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne. Dr. Rast is a 1986 graduate of Concordia College, River Forest, and a 1990 graduate of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne. He earned his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt University in 2003.

Dr. Rast will speak at two 90-minute sessions on Feb. 13, beginning at 1:00 p.m. He will also preach at St. John's on Sunday, Feb. 14, and speak during the 9:45 a.m. Bible class.

A suggested minimum donation of \$5 will be received at the door on Saturday to help defray expenses.

## Reaching Out Together Conference

The "Reaching Out Together" evangelism conference will take place Feb. 13, 2010. It is designed to inspire, encourage, teach, and put into practice principles for talking about Jesus to others. Pastors, evangelism boards, church leaders, and laypeople are invited to attend.

Featured speakers include Dr. Thomas R. Zehnder, executive director of LCMS World Mission; Kay L. Meyer, author of *Witnessing - A Lifestyle*; Rev. John Rathje, pastor of Christ in the City Lutheran Church, St. Louis; Rev. Peter Kirby, Ongoing

Ambassadors for Christ; Rev. Kevin Parviz, Lutherans in Jewish Evangelism; and Rev. Brad Aldrich, CrossPollination Ministries.

Registration fee is \$20 per participant for the first four people from a single congregation, and \$15 for each additional participant. Fee includes lunch and all materials.

The registration deadline is Feb. 5. For more information, contact Concordia Seminary Continuing Education at 314-505-7486 or [ce@csl.edu](mailto:ce@csl.edu).

# Guinea Prayer Requests

## Heiney Family Prayer Requests

✠ Thanks to God that Beth and Tim are finally through with most of what is involved in the big move and position change, and that they are now settled in Siguiro and getting into the new jobs and routines.

✠ Pray for Tim as he learns the Maninka language - that he would be able, in his old age and by the grace of God, to handle the task quickly and thoroughly and get back into the real work of ministry.

✠ Pray for Beth as she learns the ropes of being in charge of tracking LCMS World Mission projects for all of Africa.

✠ Pray for the established churches of Guinea in the Forest region and in Conakry as they become more and more completely independent in their teaching and evangelizing work, as well as administration. May God fill them with His Holy Spirit and with Fire.

## Norton Family Prayer Requests

✠ Thanksgiving for the two people who said they want to follow Jesus as a result of last month's evangelism program. Pray that they will stand firm in their faith and will not be swayed by others who want to discourage them.

✠ Thanksgiving for studies going on in three villages. Pray that the participants will continue to grow in knowledge and love of their Savior.

✠ Prayers for continued peace in our host country which is very fragile right now.

✠ Pray that we may know how best to meet the challenges of serving in an area where Christians are easily discouraged, with some converts turning back to Islam.

## Andrea Herman Prayer Requests

Please join me in praising God for:

✠ Continued peace in Guinea and the ability to focus on ministry despite the political distractions

✠ Reuniting YD with her daughter, after she was kidnapped as a baby ten years ago!

✠ The total healing of JK's six-month-old baby's hand, which was severely burned a few weeks ago

✠ The work of the Holy Spirit in the hearts of YD and her family, that they would continue to seek God and eventually baptism

## Financial Aid Available

Do you know of any student(s) pursuing a career in professional church work at one of the LCMS colleges or seminaries? Financial aid is available for these students from the Kansas District, LLL, LWML and St. John College Alumni. Scholarship information will be sent to all congregations in early January. Scholarship applications, instructions, and financial aid contact information are available on the district website - [www.kslcms.org](http://www.kslcms.org), click on the Publications tab and scroll down to Mission & Stewardship Resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Hennessey at 800-357-4421 ext. 223 or [lori@kslcms.org](mailto:lori@kslcms.org). The deadline for the Kansas District is June 1.

## Andrea Herman Prayer Requests, cont.

✠ Small improvements in the marriage situations of MK and JK, that God would continue to bring healing

✠ Leading Andrea to women eager to hear God's Word

✠ The opportunity to participate in the wedding of a dear friend and my home church's annual mission festival in the U.S. in January

Please join me in asking God for:

✠ A full recovery for Guinea's president, who was shot in the head in early December

✠ Open hearts to hear and receive His Word and Spirit

✠ His wisdom and words as I share the hope I have for eternal life

✠ His intervention in struggling marriages here, that He would change the hearts of those who are not honoring their spouses

✠ Comfort for KK and her family, whose sister just died in childbirth, as did the baby

✠ His provision, comfort, and peace for the family who lost one of the week-old twin sons while I was with them. May God open their hearts to His love and hope (the mother refused my offer of prayer saying she didn't believe in the same God)

## Carlos Family Prayer Requests

✠ For Hannah as she begins the process of deciding which college to attend next year

✠ For Jack and Cathy as we continue to "aprenons le francais" - learn French

✠ For good health in the coming year

✠ For the political situation in Guinea and safety for the Guinean people and the missionaries on the ground there



## Seeking Admissions Counselor

St. Paul Lutheran School in Leavenworth is seeking qualified applicants for the position of Admissions Counselor. This part-time position will be filled by Feb. 1.

Responsibilities include:

- ◆ Evaluating, recommending and implementing strategic initiatives to meet enrollment goals
- ◆ Coordinating communication and publicity materials (to include admission materials and the website)
- ◆ Planning and attending admission events and activities (to include periodic weekend and evening community events)
- ◆ Exhibiting leadership and organizational skills, team building and ability to meet deadlines and manage details

Interviews begin as soon as qualified applicants are identified. Additional information on applying for this position is available by contacting Principal Jay Floetke (913-682-5553) or an Admissions Counselor Task Force Member: Carrie Carnoali (913-680-9781), John Denney (913-682-5144), Cheryl Kirkendoll (913-651-5961), Kandy Price (682-0996), or Tammie Wahaus (913-351-3146).