

Workers Together

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

...And Praise Your Father In Heaven

Volume 8, Issue 6
June 2002

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

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If Lutheran mothers were asked what the virtue or value of priority in the lives of their children should be, I am quite sure the majority would answer rather immediately "Faith"! "We are justified by faith" ... "Saved by faith!" However those of us who were raised by Lutheran mothers know the real answer, the deep answer, the culturally appropriate answer is "Humility". Born of a fear that we might as the Scriptures say, "think more highly of ourselves than we ought to think", good Lutheran mothers produce regular evidence of just how much reason we have to be humble.

Given that "Humility" may be the virtue most deeply inscribed upon our souls the rest of this brief article may be as difficult for you to read as it is for me to write ... it sounds like it might be bragging. But our Lord Jesus says, "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." And in addition to the permission-giving of our Lord the bragging I am about to do is about you. I believe my mother would approve.

1. The North American Mission Department of Synod's Board for Mission Services recently published a statistical analysis of Synod and its Districts based upon the 2001 figures. Sadly the year 2001 saw a Synodical loss of 28,000 members. Much room for humility here. However, the report also includes the information that in this same year only seven districts showed an increase in communicant members. The Kansas District was one of the seven. Congratulations! God's Blessings! You still have much Kingdom work to do!

2. The Kansas District has celebrated the dedication of a major new church facility virtually every month since last September. September, St. Paul's, Clay Center - November, Risen Savior, Wichita - January, Christ, Topeka - February, Ascension, Wichita - April, Zion, Newton - May, Lord of Life, Leawood - June, Holy Cross, Wichita - August, Faith, Ottawa. Congratulations! God's Blessings! You still have much Kingdom work to do!

3. With the May '02 graduation of the second class of Lay Ministers - Deacons and Lay Assistants - the Kansas District now has in service over 30 full and part-time well prepared men and a first woman graduate to assist pastors and congregations in mission and ministry to the communities they serve. Approximately another 20 have completed the first year of preparation and will be entering the second year this fall and pre-enrollment for the 2002 entering class indicates at least this number.

Synod's Distance Education Leading to Ordination (DELTO) Oversight Task Force is presently looking toward partnering with the Kansas District and other Districts which are developing leadership development programs like the one in Kansas to teach the first two years of the six year Distance Education process in the District. This would provide both increased Concordia University and now Seminary involvement in the educational program and greater opportunity for Kansas participants to continue their academic preparation toward ordination through distance education. Congratulations! God's Blessings! You have much Kingdom work to do!

*A monthly publication of
The Kansas District of The Lutheran
Church - Missouri Synod for
congregations, schools, professional
church workers and lay leaders.*

*If you have any news to share with
congregations in our district, please
direct them to:*

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4. The Kansas District Together in Mission Congregation plan led by Marvin Kohlmeier, District Mission Development Counselor, is presently providing funds in excess of a half million dollars each year to underwrite Synod's mission efforts around the world. This is in addition to the District's direct contributions to the Guinea Partnership program through the regular mission offerings of congregations and the \$760,000 to the general mission of Synod which we have committed for 2002. Congratulations! God's Blessings! You still have much Kingdom work to do!

5. Beginning this fall the Kansas District will begin offering a new service to congregations and congregational families, "The Family Life Academy". This program will assist congregations through an extended and intensive preparation of congregational teams in the development of a broad range of family based education and spiritual growth experiences. Another "first of its kind" for Synod this Kansas designed spiritual formation process will serve congregational families and individuals of all ages as they intentionally and together grow in Christ. Congratulations! God's Blessings! You still have much Kingdom work to do!

Quite frankly there is much more - new mission starts, new congregational initiatives, new leaders being prepared, new worship services for community outreach being developed - but there is a point at which our constant talk of God's blessings poured into and through His people sounds almost like bragging. So we will stop with this for the moment. But we are only beginning to offer "Congratulations", and "God's Blessings". And we are still only beginning, I suspect, to properly thank our mothers and fathers who believe passionately in humility and would quickly remind us, "You still have much Kingdom work to do!"

Prayers

- The family of Rev. Andy Keltner, St. John, Ellinwood, at the death of his father.
- Rev. Chad and Patty Eckels, St. John, Oberlin, birth of a baby boy, Jacob Isaac.

Prepare/Enrich

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

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

**Fall Pastor's
Conference
October 14-16, 2002
DoubleTree Hotel
Overland Park**

Ordination Anniversaries

June

- | | |
|------|-------------------------|
| 1942 | George Bruening, Topeka |
| 1962 | John Pool, Wichita |
| 1972 | Paul Hoppe, Shawnee |
| | Robert Schaedel, Salina |
| | Gary Rueter, Topeka |
| 1977 | John Ryding, Hillsboro |
| 1982 | Michael Sharp, Canton |

July

- | | |
|------|-------------------------------|
| 1962 | Howard Patten, Topeka |
| 1967 | Don Miller, Lawrence |
| | Eugene Stohs, Kansas City |
| 1972 | Larry Boye, Hiawatha |
| | Lee Hovel, Mission |
| | Richard Bruenger, Clay Center |

Contractor needed

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

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

Calls in Kansas

Calls Accepted

- Mark Eichler, Christ, Wathena to Faith, Emporia
- Eric Shieber to La Santa Cruz, Garden City (DCE)

Calls pending

- Christopher Hall, Northport, Alabama to Zion, Pittsburg
- Kevin Wilson, Trinity, Leavenworth to First Trinity, Tonawanda, New York
- Ted Cook, Immanuel, Oakley to Bethlehem/Immanuel, Bremen
- Mark Wenzelburger, Trinity, Girard to Good Shepherd, Lincoln, Nebraska
- Orville Altevogt, St. John, Alma to Zion, Independence (Prin)

Calls declined

- Mark Eichler, Christ, Wathena to St. Peter, Scribner, Nebraska
- Chad Eckels, St. John, Oberlin to St. John, Battle Creek, Iowa
- Frank Parris to Iowa Great Lakes Lutheran School, Spencer, Iowa (Princ)
- Joel Symmank, Redeemer, Olathe to Ascension, Wichita (DCE)

Calling/vacant congregations

Trinity, Atchison (Assistant, DCO)
Zion, Argonia
Bethlehem/Immanuel, Bremen
Immanuel/St. John, Herington
Immanuel, Hoxie
Immanuel, Junction City (Tchrs)
Our Redeemer, Kinsley/Zion, Offerle
St. Paul, Leavenworth (Tchrs)
Bethany, Overland Park (Tchr)
Zion, Pittsburg
Trinity, Salina (DCE)
Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove
Topeka Lutheran School (ECE)
Christ, Wathena
Ascension, Wichita (DCE)
Bethany, Wichita (Prin/Tchr)

Area chaplains

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

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

Candidate placements

- **Dennis Fangmeyer** attended Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne and was assigned to Trinity, Medicine Lodge and St. John, Nashville. He is 52 years of age, single and his home town is Indianapolis, Indiana. He vicared at Redeemer, Arkansas City. Dennis will be ordained in Indiana on June 23rd and installed at Medicine Lodge and Nashville on July 14th.
- **Damian Snyder** attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and was assigned to Trinity, Leavenworth as Associate Pastor. His vicarage was at Bethany, Kaukauna, Wisconsin. He is 26 years of age, single and he is from Shawnee, Kansas. His ordination and installation is scheduled for June 23rd at Trinity.
- **Thomas Brewer** is from Centerville, Iowa. He attended Concordia Seminary, St. Louis and has been assigned to Trinity, Mission as Associate Pastor. He is married to Donna whose hometown is Wathena, Kansas. He had a convertible vicarage at Trinity, Mission and will be ordained and installed on June 30th.

Vicarage assignments

- Daniel Galchutt, St. Louis to Ascension, Wichita
- Philip Zielinski, Ft. Wayne to St. John, Topeka
- Gerald Gauthier, Ft. Wayne to Redeemer, Arkansas City
- Gregory Griffith, St. Louis to Bethany, Overland Park
- Seth Hemme, St. Louis to Calvary, Topeka

**Circuit Counselor Conference
August 19-21, 2002
The Lutheran Center, Topeka**

Lutheran Family Retreat

Plan your summer weekend getaway with family and friends! The Lutheran Family Retreat Committee welcomes you August 9th -11th at Camp Webster near Salina, Kansas. The facility provides air-conditioned housing, plus lots of scenic outdoor areas and activities for young children, young adults and those young at heart!

A CPH display is also available for your browsing and buying pleasure at a 20% discount! Sound fun? It is!

Retreat fees are Friday and Saturday-\$50, Saturday and Sunday-\$55, or Friday to Sunday-\$65, with children 5 and under free. Those attending the retreat but not lodging at Camp Webster receive a \$5 discount per night. A \$15 deposit per person is required by August 1st.

An information and registration brochure is being sent to each congregation. Additional copies are available from Eden Keefe, 16018 W. 136th St. Olathe, KS 66062 Phone: 913-829-1220 or email: kckeefe@juno.com.

District Calendar

June

- 11 Professional Church Workers Golf Tournament - Vassar
- 13 Congregational Stewardship Task Force
- 16 Holy Cross, Wichita dedication
- 23 Damian Snyder, Ordination/Installation - Trinity, Leavenworth
- 30 Tom Brewer Ordination/Installation - Trinity, Mission

July

- 14 Dennis Fangmeyer Installation - Medicine Lodge and Nashville
- 17-20 International LLL Convention - Ontario
- 25-27 KS District Board of Directors

District-wide Marriage Retreat

Why this retreat? To provide you and your spouse the opportunity to get away from the day-to-day routine in order to focus on your relationship to one another and to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. When? October 25-26, 2002 (Friday-Saturday) at the Country Inn & Suites in Salina. Cost? \$150 per couple which includes one night's lodging, Saturday breakfast and lunch, and all retreat materials.

Couples will participate in the Christian Prevention and Relationship and Enhancement Program ® CPREP® developed by Dr. Howard Markham and Dr. Scott Stanley. The comprehensive program teaches couples essential skills for maintaining a lasting love: how to communicate effectively, work as a team to solve problems, manage conflicts without damaging closeness, and preserve and enhance love, commitment and friendship. CREP® is solidly based on Scripture and responsible university research to provide a unique, proven program that will equip you to grow stronger in your faith and your life together as husband and wife.

For further information and registration contact Joyce in Educational Services at the District office by calling 785-357-4441 ext. 206 or email joyce@kslcmcs.org.

Seminary to offer Church Career event

Do you know any high school youth who just might be interested in a church career or in becoming a pastor? Concordia Seminary in St. Louis will be offering the following events: Exploring Church Careers (August 3-6) and Exploring the Pastoral Ministry (August 6-9).

For more information call 314.505.7722, email: ECCE@csi.edu or visit Concordia Seminary's web site www.csi.edu.

Mission & Stewardship
Reverend Gary D. Rueter, Executive

Oh, No! Our Congregation Is Shrinking!

Congregations do not only grow. Most congregations come to points in their life when they experience times of plateau or decline. A congregation's community context drives growth-and-decline trends to a higher degree than is sometimes acknowledged. Congregational size theory helps congregations understand why they may plateau at certain points as they grow; it also addresses the issues they must face when they decline.

One mistake congregations make when they begin to decline is that they refuse to look at the trends and the facts. They avoid paying attention to what might be bad news. The second mistake is to blame someone, normally a pastor. The third is to seek a quick answer, often programmatic, before the problem is understood. To avoid all these mistakes congregations need to ask, "What choices do we have about how we respond to the changes we are experiencing?"

From Program- to Pastoral-Size Church
The key issue in downsizing from program to pastoral size is the responsible management of volunteer energies. Lay leaders will easily burn out and their cynicism, disillusionment and fatigue may permeate the whole parish. People start serving on two or more committees to keep them afloat and the committees do little of significance because everyone is simply too tired.

A downsizing strategy may include a suspension of all parish committees and programs so that energy can be put into activities that spiritually nurture the parish leaders. At the end of this sabbatical a retreat is held to invite members to assess where God seems to be calling them to serve. Part of this retreat might be a planning process that helps the parish discern a vision as a pastoral-size church that fills them with hope and excitement.

Can this group find energy in doing things (parish dinners, worship, service activities) as a single unit where everyone can participate? Can they appreciate having more quality time with their pastor? Can they begin to allow their pastor to become the primary source of their spiritual feeding? What was done in formal programs can now be done informally around the edges. The pastor needs to let go of many administrative and program development tasks and

begin to appear in people's lives in a variety of informal settings. People will let go of some of their program needs more easily when they begin to feel more cared for personally.

From Pastoral- to Family-Size Church. This transition begins with a congregation's discovery that it can no longer afford a

pay package that will meet the minimum salary scale set by the denomination. Many members will read this as a sign of failure. Many people will also experience an unconscious anxiety when they realize that they do not have a religious authority available to them around the clock.

On the advantage side of this downsizing is that the congregation may no longer have to use the majority of its income to support a pastor. They may find some money to support other kinds of parish activities. The other blessing is that members will need to get clear about what pastoral services are essential for them to function as a church. Which duties will need to be picked up by lay volunteers? This sifting of essentials can open up fulfilling ministries for some lay leaders.

True to its nature as a patriarchal/matriarchal church, the parish needs to assume control of its own life, taking over all leadership functions and delegating specific caring ministries to clergy.

From Family-Size Church to Nonexistence
There have been congregations that, when confronted with the alternative of either living or dying, have made the conscious decision to die. Some in the process of dying well have generated so much energy that they changed their minds. Others have ended with dignity and have merged with other neighboring congregations, using their remaining assets to support ministry elsewhere. This is far better than simply fading into oblivion. Blessed are those congregations that recognize that their mission has ended, but who find ways to continue to support the mission elsewhere.

If you would like to delve deeper into congregation sizes, get a copy of *Size Transitions in Congregations*, Beth Ann Gaede, Alban Institute. It's available at www.alban.org.

District email

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Planned Giving

Garry Niehoff - servanttwo@kslclms.org

Doris Wilson - servantwo@kslclms.org

Media Library

Beth Eubanks - bethe@kslclms.org

7th Annual Professional Workers Golf Tournament

Tuesday, June 11

Start time - 11:00 a.m.

Lamont Hill Resort, Vassar, KS

Sponsor - LCEF

Campus Ministry "Ignite"

Campus ministry individuals from Kansas District Campus Contact Congregations will gather on Saturday, August 17, 2002 from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm at Wichita State University Lutheran Center located at 3815 East 17th Street, Wichita, Kansas. Phone: 316-684-5224. A luncheon will be served and there is no cost for the Ignite conference to anyone coming.

Presenters for the Ignite Conference will be Rev Richard Manus, Campus Counselor, LCMS Office of Campus Ministry; Rev Alan Estby, University of Kansas/Kansas District Missionary East; Rev Eric Wood, Kansas State University/Kansas District Missionary Central; Terry Wiechman, Campus Missionary and Sue Crane, Director at Wichita State University and some students from the area involved in our campus ministries.

The Ignite Conference for Kansas will be aimed at our needs, so we have sub-titled it "Prairie Fire: Making Greener Pastures for Campus Ministry." Some of the topics involved will be: What is Campus Ministry and its Importance; Challenges of Campus Ministry; Peculiar Challenges of "Contact" Ministry; Connecting with the institution; Bible study or leadership team; contacting students; and a student panel helping to answer questions which you would have about reaching students at your area college.

To help us with providing materials and lunch, we would ask for reservations from you by August 1st. You may respond to Rev. Alan Estby at Immanuel Lutheran Church and University Lutheran Center, Lawrence, Kansas; 785/843-0620; email: lsfku@ku.edu or Rev. Eric Wood at St Luke Lutheran Church, Manhattan, Kansas; 785/539-2604; email: campusmn@flinthills.com.

Worship concerts planned

Dave and Barb Anderson will present a series of "worship concerts" and worship services in Kansas on September 13-22. Any church interested in hosting them should contact Dave Anderson at Fellowship Ministries by email at: Fministry@aol.com or by calling 1-800-783-3079.

IRS milage rates

Here are the current IRS mileage rates that went into effect for 2002:

Medical and moving expenses	\$.13
Charitable	\$.14
Standard Business	\$.365

The District has made no changes in the mileage reimbursement rate and it remains \$.31 for 2002 .

Family Life Academy

The Kansas District Family Life Academy is an intentional congregational leadership development plan, conducted over a two-year period, for congregations whose mission and vision includes family ministry. For more information refer to the enclosed brochure or go to our website at http://www.kslcms.org/ks_flm/index.html or http://www.kslcms.org/ks_flm/ks_flm_app.htm for an application.

Marvin's mission message

This months focus on Missions will feature the Rev. John and Susan Mehl family who have served as God's missionaries in Russia since 1993. John serves as Area Director of the Commonwealth of Independent States, supervising and supporting the work of LCMS missionaries serving in the CIS. He also serves in church planting and leadership development in the Moscow region and supervises the on-the-job training of Lutheran deacons. John served as Pastor of St. Paul, Lincoln, Kansas before being called as the "Pioneer Missionary" to Russia after the fall of communism. His great grandfather was Pastor of Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove for 29 years and thus Kansas is considered his home district.

The Mehl's are returning for a home leave for R & R, reunions including John's 25th from St. Paul Lutheran in Concordia, Mo., and to visit their Together In Mission congregations. Following is a schedule of those visits arranged as of this time and you are encouraged and invited to attend when they are in your region or area:

Saturday, June 29, Redeemer, Atwood-6:00pm Worship; Sunday, June 30, Redeemer, Atwood-Sunday Worship & Bible Class, Fellowship Dinner Sunday; June 30, Grace, Liberal-7:00pm Fellowship Dinner and Mission Presentation; Monday, July 1, St. John, Meade-6:30pm Fellowship Dinner and Mission Presentation; Tuesday, July 2, Trinity, Wichita and Grace, Wichita at Trinity-Fellowship Dinner and Presentation. Monday, July 22-Faith, Emporia, and Grace, Strong City-6:30pm Fellowship Dinner and Mission Presentation; Tuesday, July 23, Grace, Iola-6:30pm-Fellowship Dinner and Mission Presentation; Wednesday, July 24- Zion, Newton-6:30pm Fellowship Dinner and Mission Presentation; Thursday, July 25, St. Matthew, Nortonville, 6:30pm-Fellowship Dinner & Mission Presentation; Friday, July 26, Visit Kansas District Board of Directors in Topeka for lunch at 12:00 noon and Board of Missions at 1:00pm at District Office; Friday, July 26, St. Luke, Wheaton-6:30pm Fellowship Dinner & Mission Presentation; Saturday, July 27, Trinity, McFarland-6:30pm Fellowship Dinner & Mission Presentation; Sunday, July 28, St. Paul, Lincoln-8:30am Worship and Breakfast afterwards; Sunday, July 28- St. John, Lincoln, 10:30am Worship and Fellowship Dinner Sunday; July 28-St. Paul, Ellsworth, 6:00pm Fellowship Dinner & Mission Presentation; Monday-Wednesday morning, July 29-31 in Lincoln area; Wednesday, July 31-St. Paul, Fairview, 6:00pm Meal and Meeting with Marvin and their church council; Wednesday, July 31-St. Paul, Fairview, 7:30pm-Mission Presentation for Circuit 1.

The Mehls ask you to pray that God would make them humble instruments in His hand to willingly do His work in His way and for safe travel as they travel on home leave.

Business Office
Larry Crume, Business Manager

Small church edition of Shepherd's Staff

CPH now offers a small church edition of Shepherd's Staff. Previously, CPH used to provide a product called Membership Tools which was an inexpensive system for smaller congregations. It contained modules for Membership, Attendance, and Contributions, but not Finance. In an effort to continue serving small congregations, approval to release a Small Church Edition of Shepherd's Staff has been received. Now, the same technology is attainable for these churches.

Besides the price, there are 2 main differences. First there is a limit to entering only 150 households. Second, there is no Finance module. The cost is \$400 and this includes one year of Platinum level support (normally \$400 in itself). To maintain a support contract in subsequent years the cost will be \$200/year, for this platinum level. Contact CPH for details and further information.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Interest Rates - June 2002

Steward account rates:



Congregational Certificates

Demand	2.875%
Steward Account	3.250%

Individual Accounts

Less than \$1,000	1.75%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	2.00%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	2.50%
\$10,000 and over	3.00%

Annual certification due

IRS Form 5578 which is the annual certification of racial nondiscrimination for private schools is to be filed by the 15th day of the fifth month following the end of the organization's fiscal year. For many churches, that would have been May 15th. The term "school" also includes preschools operated by churches as well as primary, secondary and high schools. The form is available at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/f5578.pdf>.

Is your church ready?

Are you ready for Electronic Offering and 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 email at lcrume@kslclms.org.

Housing allowance bill signed into law

President Bush, on May 20, signed into law the Clergy Housing Allowance Clarification Act of 2002 (HR 4156), which ensures that ministers may deduct the fair market value of their homes from their church income, including costs incurred for furniture and utilities. Rep. Jim Ramstad, R-Minn., sponsored the legislation in response to a pending appellate court ruling in the Ninth Circuit that could invalidate the parsonage allowance deduction. If the deduction were eliminated, Ramstad estimated that ministers would pay \$2.3 billion in additional taxes over the next five years.

The House, by a 408-0 vote, passed HR 4156 on April 16 (TAXDAY, 2002/04/18, C.4) and the Senate unanimously approved the measure, without amendments, on May 2 (TAXDAY, 2002/05/06, C.2).

Connect to your community

Lutheran Church Extension Fund provides demographics to schools and congregations that provides information on your congregation and community including age, income and lifestyle. Useful in making informed decisions on outreach and stewardship. Email Larry Crume at lcrume@kslclms.org or by calling 1-800-357-4421.

Substantiation of contributions

Publication 1771 issued by the IRS explains the proper documentation necessary for recognizing cash and non-cash gifts to charitable organizations. The document can be found at <http://www.irs.gov/pub/irs-pdf/p1771.pdf>. You will need to download the free Adobe Acrobat Reader available on the website to read the document.

In summary, a donor cannot claim a tax deduction for any single contribution of \$250 or more unless the donor obtains a contemporaneous written acknowledgment from the organization. The acknowledgment must contain the following information: 1) name of the charity; 2) amount of the cash contribution; 3) a description (but not value) of non-cash contributions; 4) a statement that no goods or services were provided by the charity, if that was the case; 5) a description and good faith estimate of goods or services the donor received in exchange, if there was any; and 6) a statement that goods or services, if any, that the charity provided in return consisted entirely of "intangible religious benefits" if that was the case. It is not necessary to include the donor's social security number. A separate acknowledgment may be provided for each single contribution of \$250 or more, or one acknowledgment, such as an annual summary, may be used to substantiate several single contributions of \$250 or more. It is advisable that if the summary is used, that language include "No goods or services were provided in exchange for your contribution." Please refer to the publication for further details. Samples are included in the publication.

Educational Services

Al Gunderman, Executive

Benefit Concert for CCCS

"For the Children" is a benefit concert for the Children's Christian Concern Society (CCCS) and will be held Sunday, June 9, 7:30pm at Faith Lutheran Church (Topeka), 17th and Gage Blvd.

CCCS was established over 34 years ago by Edie and Jim Jorns from Manhattan, Kansas. The mission of CCCS is to share the love of Jesus with children around the world through Christian education. Presently they are accomplishing this by providing scholarships for students to attend Lutheran schools and other schools in Mexico, Central America and Liberia, West Africa. Many of these children would not attend school if it were not for CCCS.

Al and Bev Gunderman recently went on a two-week mission tour with CCCS to Guatemala and Honduras. They were so impressed with the work of CCCS and the impact their work is having on the lives of children, that Al wanted to help the mission by putting together this benefit concert.

The concert will feature Al (tenor), Dr. Lee Snook (baritone), Dr. Ann Marie Snook (alto), Carol Fowler (soprano) and Linda Laird as accompanist. All participants are donating their time. The program will include the quartet, soloists and a variety of duet combinations singing both secular and sacred music. Faith's barbershop quartet (Al Gunderman, Bill Gloy, Dave Siewert and Tom Dittmer) will also reunite for Sunday evening's performance.

Early Childhood Teachers

Kansas District Summer Early Childhood Teachers conference is scheduled for August 10, 8:30-3:30 at Immanuel Lutheran School in Junction City.

Theme for the conference is "Love and Logic." Information has been sent to each of the preschools in the Kansas District. This conference is for anyone working with preschool-age children.

Upcoming events

- ✓ "For the Children" benefit concert - June 9, Faith, Topeka
- ✓ National Youth Christian Leadership Conference - July 12-15, Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska
- ✓ Senior High summer camp - July 14-19 - Lutheran Valley Retreat, Colorado
- ✓ CLYC - July 25-28 - Scottsdale, Arizona
- ✓ Single Summer Workshop - July 27 - District office - "Every Day a Christian"
- ✓ Early Childhood Conference - August 10 - Immanuel, Junction City
- ✓ Principal's Conference - Sept. 12-13 - District office
- ✓ Singles Fall Retreat - Oct 4-6 - Camp Webster, Salina
- ✓ Educators Conference - Oct 7-9 - Westin Crown Center, Kansas City
- ✓ District-wide Marriage Retreat - October 25-26 - Country Inn and Suites, Salina
- ✓ District Youth Gathering - Nov 22-24 - Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka
- ✓ Professional Workers Marriage Retreat - February 14-15, 2003

LOGOS Leadership School

A LOGOS Leadership Training will be held at Messiah, Emporia July 18-20, 2002. The school will equip you with the tools you need to establish and sustain the LOGOS Program.

LOGOS is a program to train youth in worship skills, biblical teaching, intergenerational family and activity time. All attending the Leadership Training will receive practical training in leadership and administration, nurtured by worship and Bible study, and be inspired by a vision of educational and nurturing ministry. Pastors, Christian educators, music directors, LOGOS staff, parents and other congregational members are encouraged to attend.

Cost is based on the size of your group and range from \$375 for 1-2 people to \$300 for 5 or more. Fee is per person and includes registration, workbooks, a resource manual, most meals and housing with host church members if requested 21 calendar days in advance.

For registration contact the LOGOS System Associates, 1405 Frey Rd., Pittsburgh, Penn 15235 or call toll free 1-877-937-2572.

For local information contact Elaine Whiteneck, MCE, Messiah Lutheran Church, 1101 Neosho, Emporia, KS 66801, 620-342-8181.

Attention Kansas teachers

The Professional Educators Conference will be held October 7-8-9 at the Westin Crown Center, Kansas City. The theme of this years conference is "Order out of Chaos." (Ministry with Children and Families in a Broken World) based on John 16.33. Featured speakers will include Dr. Barb Brunworth & Dr. Shirley Morgenthaler. Make your plans now to attend.

Teachers—We will be putting together a book that includes ideas that have worked for you within your classroom. Begin sending your classroom ideas, experiences and successes to Donna Eakins who will compile a book, partitioned by subject area, to be shared with all teachers.

Mail your ideas (in ready-to-copy form) to: Donna Eakins; Topeka Lutheran School; 701 SW Roosevelt; Topeka, KS 66606 or email them to: eakins@topek Lutheran school.org Send as many as you wish, as often as you want! We need everyone's help.

Sr High camp

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

Guinea Prayers

- Praise to God that the war in Sierra Leone has been officially declared "over" and many refugees are returning home with the gospel message. Pray that they will share that message with others in their homeland and not give into "peer pressure" and turn away from Christ.
- Praise God for the chance of renewal the missionaries recently experienced.
- Praise God that Lamine Kante's eyes were healed.
- Pray for peace in Liberia and for those who can only wait and exist in unsettled conditions. May they always look to their Savior for comfort and peace.
- Pray that the authorities can find and catch the thieves and have them locked away that have been stealing items from the Heiney compound.
- Pray that Guinea will continue to keep itself out of war as Liberia slides further toward it.
- Please pray for the Heineys as they prepare for their three-month furlough in the United States. They will be coming to the States in early July.
- Please pray for safe travel for the Heineys, Rebecca and Sandy.
- Please pray for the leaders and the church in Guinea. May they continue to grow in the knowledge of the Way, the Truth and the Life.
- Pray for the continuation of God's protection over Philip from the many diseases in Africa.
- Pray for Jon Oetting's and Tim Norton's safety as they travel to visit different villages throughout the coming month.
- Dr. Kristen Schmaltz is still trying to get the necessary papers in order so she can go to language study in Burkina Faso in June. Pray that the paperwork can be completed and her ministry can be a blessing to all she comes in contact with.
- The missionaries appreciate your prayers and support as they share the gospel message in Guinea. May God fill each of you with the sweetness of His Word. God be with you!

Planned Giving
Garry Niehoff, Counselor

Annual Gift Tax Exclusion Increases This Year

This year the annual gift tax exclusion has been increased from \$10,000 to \$11,000 (and from \$20,000 to \$22,000 for certain gifts by married couples).

Despite the planned repeal of the estate tax, lifetime gifts remain an effective estate planning strategy. Regular gifts within the annual gift tax exclusion allow you to transfer large amounts of wealth to family members or others tax-free without reducing your lifetime exclusion amounts. And amounts transferred by gift are generally removed from your taxable estate, which can be a big advantage for property

expected to appreciate in value.

Even if the estate tax is repealed as planned in 2010, starting a gift program now can pay off. After the estate tax is repealed, the gift tax remains in force, so if you plan to transfer any wealth to your family during your lifetime, the annual exclusion continues to provide substantial benefits. And if the repeal, which lasts only one year, isn't extended, those who continue to take advantage of the annual gift tax exclusion will enjoy a big tax advantage. For more information, call the Planned Giving Office at 1-800-357-4421.



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