

Workers Together

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Religion in Kansas Reported for the 90s

Volume 8, Issue 10
November 2002

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By Rev. Gary Rueter, Mission & Stewardship Executive

In the decade of the 90s the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod declined from 171 congregations and 63,145 adherents* [see below] to 166 congregations and 62,712 adherents for a 0.7% loss. At the same time the population of Kansas was increasing by 8.5% from 2,477,574 to 2,688,418.

Though it dropped 43 congregations, the Catholic Church gained 36,603 adherents (9.9% increase) to claim almost 406,000 total adherents. Southern Baptists added 36 congregations and increased adherents by 5.4%. Mormons added 17 congregations in Kansas and 3,415 adherents for a 20.2% gain. Christian Churches & Churches of Christ added 29 congregations and 9,483 adherents for a 20% gain.

Other denominations losing ground over the decade were Episcopalians (-13.8%); E.L.C.A. (-5.9% to 42,491 adherents); Mennonite USA (-13.3%); Presbyterian USA (-20.2%); and United Methodist (-13.4% to 206,187 adherents), though Wesleyans grew by 5,167 adherents for a 75.9% gain [the losses in one may account for some gains in the other].

Religious adherents reported in Kansas were 49.4% of the population. Thus, one in every two Kansans is not claimed by any religious group. [A major mission field surrounds all of our LCMS congregations.]

You can access data for your own county or metropolitan area at www.thearda.org [American Religious Data Association website]. Click on maps/reports and make your choices. Use the data as one measure of what has happened religiously in your area.

* [Adherents include adults and children. Using adherents allows for more meaningful comparisons between groups that count children as members (e.g., Catholics) and those that don't (e.g. Baptists).]

The data is self-reported by all religious bodies that could be identified as having congregations in the United States. Final totals include information from 149 Christian and other religious bodies. Participants included 139 Christian denominations, associations, or communions (including Latter-day Saints and Unitarian/Universalist groups); two specially defined groups of independent Christian churches; Jewish and Islamic estimates; and counts of temples for six Eastern religions. The 149 groups reported 268,254 congregations with 141,371,963 adherents, which is 50.2% of the population of 281,421,839. There are 14 non-participating religious bodies that reported more than 100,000 members to the Yearbook of American and Canadian Churches, 2000, including all historically African American denominations. These groups reported a combined membership of 31,040,360 in the Yearbook, which is not reflected in the congregations and membership data. The lack of African American denominations should be noted when referencing the number of total adherents or denominations in an area.

The data comes from *Churches and Church Membership in the United States 1990* and *Religious Congregations and Membership in the United States 2000*. Copyright © 2002, Association of Statisticians of American Religious Bodies (ASARB). All rights reserved. Published by Glenmary Research Center. www.glenmary.org/grc.



*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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Calls in Kansas

Calls Accepted

- Kevin Wilson, Trinity, Leavenworth to Pacific Southwest District, Missionary-at-Large
- Mark Anderson to Rose of Sharon, Cottage Grove, Minnesota (DCE)
- Rebecca Brockman, Holy Cross, Wichita to Divine Shepherd, Omaha, Nebraska (DCE)

Calls pending

- Randy Jahnke, Holy Cross, Dodge City to St. John, Burns, Tennessee
- Keith Kohlmeier, Ascension, Wichita to Trinity, Clinton Township, Michigan
- Jack Kirk, Fallon, Nevada to Bethlehem/Immanuel, Bremen

Calls declined

- Loren Cooper, Hampton, Nebraska to Immanuel/Bethlehem, Bremen

Calling/vacant congregations

Zion, Argonia
Bethlehem/Immanuel, Bremen
St. John, Easton
Our Redeemer, Herington
Immanuel, Hoxie
Zion, Newton
Our Redeemer, Kinsley/Zion, Offerle
St. Paul, Leavenworth (Tchrs)
Trinity, Leavenworth (Sr Pastor)
Immanuel, Oakley
Redeemer, Olathe
Bethany, Overland Park (Tchrs)
First, Plainville
Our Savior, Pratt/Peace, Greensburg
Holy Cross, Scott City
Christ, Wathena

Area chaplains

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

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

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

Prayers

- Marvin and Karen Kohlmeier and family at the death of Karen's mother, Lilly Schultz, Ellsworth
- Charlie Glanzer, Director of Finance at the District Office is hospitalized at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka undergoing treatments for leukemia.



Tour of Bethlehem

St. Peter, Holyrood, is offering a tour of ancient Bethlehem Sunday, December 8th and Sunday, December 15th, from 2 until 5 p.m. in the church parish hall.

The all new "Streets of Bethlehem" will be presented by over 30 performers as the travelers wander the streets. Passports are not required; however a free will donation will be accepted. For additional information call Linda Kootz at 785-252-3275.

Theological Convocation

The Kansas District Theological Convocation on church fellowship issues will take place in conjunction with the 2003 Pre-Lent Conference. Pastors, Church Workers and three laypersons from each congregation are invited to attend the convocation.

The convocation will begin in the early evening of Mon., Jan. 27 at the 4H hall at Ridge and 21st St. in western Wichita and end by 8:30 pm on Tues., Jan. 28 with the closing worship at Holy Cross on Greenwich Road. The Pre-Lent Conference will be held at the 4H Hall on Wed., Jan. 29 through noon. Lodging has been arranged at a Best Western Hotel on Kellogg Blvd. near Ridge Road.

Prof. Jeffrey Gibbs of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis will be the featured Biblical essayist at the convocation and will speak on biblical texts for Lent at the Pre-Lent Conference.

Invitations, assignments and more details will be mailed to each congregation in mid-November. Reservations at the hotel must be made by Dec. 15 to get the special rate.

District Calendar

November

- 7 Worship Committee - District office
Campus Ministry Committee - Salina
- 8-9 Family Life Academy - District office
- 9 CCCS Mission Conference - St. John, Topeka
- 14 Deaf Ministry Task Force - District office
District Outreach Committee - Olathe
- 15-17 Lay Ministry Weekend - District office
- 22-24 LCEF Conference - Irvine, California
District Youth Gathering - Topeka
- 28-29 Thanksgiving - District office closed

December

- 13-15 Lay Ministry Weekend - Topeka
- 24-25 Christmas holiday - District office closed

Mission & Stewardship

Reverend Gary D. Rueter, Executive

Lutheran Social Services ceases operations

After 123 years, one of Kansas' oldest social service agencies is going out of business, crushed by the debt it accumulated after becoming the state's first contractor for adoptions of special-needs children. Marc Bloomingdale, Acting CEO of LSS announced in late October that LSS would cease operations immediately. This announcement came on the heels of an earlier statement that the agency's Special Needs Adoptions would no longer be provided because of the financial losses it was causing for the agency.

LSS lost the bid for the Kansas adoption program in 2000 and has been struggling to keep afloat ever since. After losing the adoption contract two years ago, LSS was on the verge of bankruptcy before settling with its creditors for 74 cents on the dollar. Its debts at the time were \$2.5 million. About 90 foster children were in homes sponsored by Lutheran Social Service. Each foster home and each child was transferred to one of the other private agencies that have contracts with the state.

"The kids will stay where they are and the foster families will change sponsoring agencies," Bloomingdale said. "There is absolutely no reason to panic — I want to make that very clear."

Similar problems have arisen for other agencies that contracted with the state under the privatized child welfare system. Foster care provider United Methodist Youthville, for example, is nearing the end of a Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Child welfare advocates have long argued that the rates spelled out in the state's adoption contract were too low to cover the high costs of caring for older, mentally ill and developmentally disabled children awaiting adoption.

Tell the Good News

The "Evangelism Outreach through Congregations" grant, a component of the "Tell the Good News About Jesus" project, is accepting grant applications for the coming year.

This program, funded by the Marvin M. Schawn Charitable Foundation, is designed to provide financial assistance to congregations who wish to begin, or extend, outreach ministry projects. The completed grant applications are to be returned to Pastor Meadows and must be postmarked no later than Dec 31, 2002.

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

Hispanic Outreach in SW Kansas

A new day dawned for outreach to Latino peoples in Kansas when Erich Schieber was installed as Director of Christian Outreach for La Santa Cruz in Garden City on Sun., Nov. 3. Clergy and other Directors of Christian Education in the region participated in the service and brought greetings and blessings from their congregations.

DCO Schieber will not only serve the congregation of La Santa Cruz, Garden City, but is also already working one day a week (12 hours) at Grace, Liberal. His supervising pastor is Pr. Lyle Stuerenberg of Trinity, Garden City, assisted by Pr. Andrew Wehling in Liberal. Future sites for Erich's work are potentially Ulysses and Hugoton.

The LCMS in southwestern Kansas is benefiting from a Lutheran Brotherhood Grant of \$50,000 (\$25,000 each for two years). We are one of only six grants at this level. Thirty-six other congregations/missions each received \$10,000 for one year. The Lutheran Brotherhood Foundation gave a total of \$588,800 to the LCMS for these church extension grants through the LCMS North American Missions department. The Thrivent Financial Foundation intends to continue these grants again in 2003. Applications must be in by Dec. 1. Contact the Kansas District at 1-800-357-4421, x223 for more information.

Marvin's Mission Message

by Marvin Kohlmeier, Mission Developer

This month I would like to update you on the Heineys and their plans for the future. They are currently in Big Rapids, Michigan helping Jonathan work through his decision to not return to Guinea with the rest of the family. He has struggled through some difficult times during the last two years and didn't feel he could like he could return at this time. So Tim & Beth are staying in the US until such time that they can determine what is best for Jonathan and the rest of their family. They ask that you keep their family in your prayers, asking for wisdom and God's hand in leading them as they plan for the future. If you would like to send them a card or note of encouragement you may write to them at 19028 Arrowhead Lane, Big Rapids, Michigan 49307.

While the Heineys were on furlough, they produced some videos that you might find helpful:

- Tim has produced a video portraying their last two years in Guinea entitled "*Trials to Triumph*." (25 min)
- The Heiney children have a video about their life and living conditions in Guinea. This would especially be appropriate for Sunday school, day school, or VBS. (22 min)
- Tim Heiney's sermon entitled "*It's Not Our Ability, It's Our Availability*"

All three videos are available in the Kansas District media library. To reserve any of these for your congregation's use, call Beth Eubanks at 1-800-357-4421 ext. 100.

Business Office
Larry Crume, Business Manager

**Lutheran Church
 Extension Fund**



Interest Rates - November 2002

Steward account rates

Congregational Certificates

Demand	2.375%
Steward Account	2.75%

Individual Accounts

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

StewardAccounts online

Online deposits and withdrawals are now available for your LCEF StewardAccount to make deposits to or transfers from your local bank account. This service is available for both individual and congregational StewardAccounts.

This added convenience now eliminates the need to send deposits by mail or transfer funds to your regular account by writing checks from your LCEF account. It's fast, convenient and FREE from service fees. Call or email Larry at lcrume@kslcms.org or phone 800-357-4421 ext. 206.

Joyful Response

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 e-mail lcrume@kslcms.org.

District new website online

Check out our new Website! The new District website is now up and running. Visit www.kslcms.org and see what resources are now available online. In addition to the *Workers Together* online, the Business Office provides additional resources available for your use including the 2003 Salary Guidelines, congregational remittance vouchers and the

most recent *Taxes and Ministers* publication. Please let us know what other resources you would like to see.

2003 Treasurer's manual available now

The 2003 Congregational Treasurer's Manual is now available. The cost is just \$7.00, shipping included. To get your copy, call us or e-mail bhoke@kslcms.org.

A number of pastors received their copy at the recent Pastor's conference in Kansas City. If you received one at that time, you also received a discounted price of \$5.00.

2003 Convention assessments

District Convention assessments were mailed to all congregations in October. Although the remittance is not due until next year, you may remit them sooner.

The convention will be held in Topeka at the Kansas Capitol Plaza. The convention will begin May 1 and conclude at noon Saturday, May 3. The theme for next year's convention is "Christ Be My Vision."

In our Prayers

Charlie Glanzer, Director of Finance and Operations for the Kansas District is currently in the hospital receiving treatment for leukemia. You may send your cards to the Kansas District office and we will see he receives them. He has specifically requested no flowers or plants as he is unable to accept them.

During Charlie's prolonged absence, we have made some minor changes that you should be aware of. When calling the District Office you will be directed to our automated telephone system. We have made changes to the menu that we hope are easier to use and ask your patience during this time. A complete listing of the available options and extensions follows. When the system answers, you may immediately enter the extension you desire. The menu is:

Business Office	press 3
Brenda Hoke (200)	
Larry Crume (205)	
Mission & Stewardship	4
Debbie Crites (223)	
Gary Rueter (222)	
Education	5
Joyce Tate (206)	
Al Gunderman (208)	
Planned Giving	6
Doris Wilson (101)	
Garry Niehoff (102)	
President's Office	7
Marie Holt & Pres. Patten (219)	
Directory	8
Extension by name	9

Worker Benefit rates announced

Worker Benefit Plans has announced rates for 2003. All congregations and schools should have received the rate notice for 2003 in the mail. If you have not received yours or would like another copy, call 1-888-927-7526 or email wbp-info@wbp.org.

Educational Services

Al Gunderman, Executive

Youth Ministry course offered online

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

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

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

Prepare/Enrich seminars scheduled

Prepare/Enrich Basic Seminars are scheduled for Monday, November 18th at Emmaus Lutheran Church in Bonner Springs and Tuesday, November 19th at the Kansas District Office in Topeka. The Rev. Gaylen Burow will be the instructor. The cost of the seminars will be \$125. The seminar will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with registration beginning at 8:45 a.m.

An Advanced Prepare/Enrich Seminar will be sponsored by Gaylen Burow at Emmaus Lutheran Church, Bonner Springs on Monday, February 17, 2003 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guest presenter will be David Heikkila of Springfield, MO. Cost \$60, with light lunch included. Contact Gaylen at 913-441-3243 or gburow@planetkc.com for registration or additional information.

Upcoming events

- ✓ District Youth Gathering - November 22-24, Capitol Plaza, Topeka
- ✓ Professional Workers Marriage Retreat, February 14-15, 2003
- ✓ Youth Summit 2003, February 21-23, 2003, Crosswinds/Hesston
- ✓ Pastor's Wives Retreat, February 21-23, 2003

Planned Giving

Garry Niehoff, Counselor

Update beneficiary designations

Beneficiary designations are not affected by changes in a will. Many times people's goals change with their estate plan. They change their will and don't think about changing or reviewing their beneficiary designations on life insurance policies and annuities. Life insurance represents a huge part of many estates, and we don't think about the need to review these on a regular basis.

You may be a young couple who has a guardian and minor's trust in your will. The major funding tool of that trust is the life insurance but if you never changed the beneficiary to the trust, the trust is not funded. You may be an "empty-nest" couple who had a guardian and minor's trust but the children are now grown. You rewrote your will, but never changed your beneficiary to the adult children. Again, if death occurs and a trust is shown as the beneficiary and

you have no trust, there is a major problem.

Sadly, you may have lost a loved one and they are still shown as a beneficiary. You need to review your beneficiaries if there has been a death in your family and the deceased was one of your beneficiaries.

These are the most obvious reasons for a need to review your beneficiary designations. There are others. Call you insurance agent and review these designations and your entire plan on a regular basis. We can be assured that when change happens, we will need to review a number of items, one of which is our beneficiaries. All too often, we forget this very important step.

For more information on this matter, and other topics concerning your plan, please feel free to call my office at 1-800-357-4421 ext. 101.

Guinea Prayers

Please keep the following Heiney requests close to your hearts:

- For direction in how best to help Jonathan to deal with his struggles.
- For guidance in making decisions regarding their future.
- For the family as they work to settle in the US for however long.
- For the children's school year, especially Joel who is in high school!
- For patience to wait on God and His timing.
- To use this time as a time of refreshment and rejuvenation in faith.
- That God would provide an administrator to work in Guinea.

Please keep the following Norton requests close to your hearts:

- God's blessing on the ministry strategy plans as the field and region endures many trials.
- That those Maninka who are seeking the Lord will find him.
- Thanksgiving for continued progress in language learning (Tim Norton has started learning on the "N'Ko" indigenous script) and prayers that they would be able to speak the gospel clearly.
- Thanksgiving for a year of life, good health, and blessing that God has granted to their son, Philip.
- For the Heiney family as they seek God's will for their ministry.

Please keep the following request from Dr. Schmaltz close to your hearts:

- A special medical prayer for her as she is getting some tests done in Burkina.

Please keep the following requests from the Oettings close to your hearts:

- Pray for Ishmael, Momodou, and Moustapha and their families. Ask God to provide for their physical and spiritual needs.
- Ask God to guide the Maninka team as it prayerfully considers ministry location and direction for its work among the Maninka.
- Ask God to empower the missionaries and their families and cover them with His grace day by day in Guinea.
- Pray for wisdom and a covering of God's grace to the Heiney family while they determine if and when they may return to Guinea.



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