

Workers



Together

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church

Volume 9, Issue 6

August 2003

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Where Are We Going?

by President Keith E. Kohlmeier

That was the basic question that was put before the Kansas District when we met in convention the first week of May. Through a series of small group discussions around the tables, the delegates of our congregations considered our history and resources, God's plan, and the mission before us. They responded by recording their responses and offering them to the newly elected Board of Directors of the District to consider as a first step in laying out the work program of the Kansas District in the united work of our congregations over the next three years.

This "raw material" was the subject of our first Board of Directors meeting held in Wichita on July 13th and 14th. We affirmed that the heart of our work together shall remain founded in the Mission Statement, "The servant mission of The Kansas District is to equip, empower and encourage each congregation in its mission vision and Christ-care ministry."

On that foundation, and after hours of prayerful consideration, the men and women who comprise the Directors of our District identified five areas that shall be our targets for the work that we do in your name, on behalf of our Lord, in the three years that you have elected us to service. In priority order, those targets are:

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

None of these neglect our present work or emphases, but we have identified these five as our priority in the next three years. From these, the staff of our District office will be at work "putting legs and arms" on the target areas, and will then present back to the Board a clear vision statement and specific ideas to implement the targets in our distinct areas of service.

It sounds like a long process, I know. But trust me, these are essential steps as we pursue the plan that God has for us all. And with me, trust the Word of God and join in the prayer of the Psalmist "May He give you the desire of your heart and make all your plans succeed." (Ps 20:4) For ultimately we are a people whose planning and working come down to laying both before the throne of our God and subjecting all to His plan and will. Again with the Psalmist we affirm, "Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God." (Ps 20:7)

What can you do? First, join us in fervent prayer that the Lord of the church will use these first steps of a new day to accomplish that for which He has established and commissioned us as His church in Kansas, "to equip, empower and encourage each congregation in its mission vision and Christ-care ministry". Toward that end, God help us. Amen.

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:
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Phone: 785-357-4441, Ext. 223
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Email: lori@kslcms.org
Deadline: 15th of each month

Calls Accepted

- Kevin Hahn from St. Luke, Wheaton to Faith, Marinette, Wis.
- Terry Bird (Tchr) from St. Paul, Leavenworth to Bethlehem, Raymore, Mo. as Admin/Tchr
- Ray and Ina Diepenbrock (Prin/Tchr) from St. Paul, Truman, Minn. to Trinity, Paola
- Christa Doyle (Tchr) from Wheatridge, Colo. to Immanuel, Junction City
- Jennifer Keller (Tchr) from Concordia University ECEC, River Forest, Ill. to Trinity, Mission

Calls Pending

- Daniel Ramsey from Omak, Wash. to Zion, Chanute

Calls Declined

- Michael Herzberg from Bethany, Wichita to Our Savior/Peace, Pratt/Greensburg
- Vern Oestmann from Trinity, Mission to Zion, Newton

Calling Congregations

- *Zion, Argonia
- Zion, Chanute (Assoc. Pastor)
- *St. John, Easton
- St. Paul, Haven
- Zion, Hillsboro/Our Savior, Marion
- Trinity, Leavenworth (Sr Pastor)
- Zion, Newton
- St. John, Oberlin
- *First, Plainville
- Holy Cross, Scott City
- Hope, Shawnee (Sr Pastor)
- Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove
- Prince of Peace, Topeka (Sr Pastor)
- Christ, Wathena
- St. Luke, Wheaton
- Ascension, Wichita (Sr Pastor)
- Bethany, Wichita (Sr Pastor)
- Holy Cross, Wichita (DCE)
- *not actively calling

Area Chaplains

Wichita - Contact Reverend Rocky Mease. Home: 316-788-9627 Cell: 316-993-0746 Email: chaprm@aol.com.

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

Statewide - For assistance with special needs ministries, contact Dcs Jenny Wendling at dcs_fulte@yahoo.com.

District Calendar

August

- 2 Singles Summer Conference
- 8-10 LLL/LWML Family Retreat, Salina
- 22-24 Lay Ministry Training Weekend

September

- 8-9 Circuit Counselor Conference
- 11-12 Principals Conference
- 15-16 Timothy Gathering
- 19-21 Lay Ministry Training Weekend
- 24-25 Child in Our Hands Workshop, Topeka
- 24-26 Family Life Academy, Topeka

Prayers

- Rev. Howard and Marilyn Patten as they relocate to Angel Fire, NM.
- Brenda Barton, of the district office, and family at the death of Brenda's father, Robert Grant, at the VA Medical Center on July 22. Bob was active in the LCMS Board for Black Ministry and a long-time member of Hope Lutheran Church, Topeka.
- Rev. Jerome Deister, Trinity, Holton/Immanuel, Netawaka for health concerns.
- Rev. Gerald Radtke, St. John/Lincoln for health concerns.

Charlie Glanzer, long-time servant, friend and employee of the Kansas District, received his crown of glory June 15, 2003 following complications from a bone marrow transplant. Charlie originally was diagnosed with AML Leukemia in October, 2002.



Charlie was employed at the Kansas District office for 15 years, most recently as Director of Finance and Operations. Charlie is survived by his mother, brother, sister-in-law, nieces and nephews and an extended family very near and dear to him. Funeral services were held at St. John, Topeka with burial in Randolph, KS. Memorial contributions may be sent in care of the Kansas District office.

Ordination Anniversaries

June

- Eugene Hicks 40 years
- David Parks 35 years
- John Drush 35 years
- Carroll Ohlde 35 years
- Tom Mendenhall 30 years
- Richard Zabel 30 years
- Keith Kohlmeier 25 years
- Robert Nestler 25 years

July

- Tom Brooks 40 years
- Roger Goetz 35 years
- Jerry Peck 30 years

July, cont.

- Gaylen Burow 30 years
- David Meier 25 years
- Alan Stahlecker 10 years
- Scott Golt 10 years
- Andrew Wehling 10 years
- Gene Holtorf 10 years

August

- Arlin Holtz 55 years
- Wilbur May 55 years
- Earl Zimmerman 50 years
- Bob Roberts 30 years

Board of Directors Assignments

ADMINISTRATION

Les Walters, Laity, Chair
Dennis Hintz, Educator
Rev. Robert Schaedel, Secretary
Mark Zillinger, Treasurer (ex officio)
Larry Crume, Staff Advisory

STAFF

Rev. Keith Kohlmeier, President
Larry Crume, LCEF Vice President
Alan Gunderman, Education
Garry Niehoff, Planned Giving
Rev. Gary Rueter, Mission & Stewardship
Rev. Rocky Mease, Executive Chaplain
Marvin Kohlmeier, Mission Developer

EDUCATION

Jim Bradshaw, Educator, Chair
Rev. Robert Grimm, 3rd Vice President
Barb Teske, Laity
Doug Wolters, Laity
Al Gunderman, Staff Advisory

MISSIONS

Art Vogel, Laity, Chair
Rev. Ed Trost, 1st Vice President
Ken Jorns, Laity
Betty Kruse, Laity
Rev. Gary Rueter, Staff Advisory

CARING MINISTRY

Barb McComas, Educator, Chair
Rev. Randy Jahnke, 4th Vice President
Bruce Schultz, Laity
Rev. Ron Flentgen, Circuit Counselor
Rev. Rocky Mease, Staff Advisory

STEWARDSHIP

Rev. Vern Oestmann, Pastor, Chair
Rev. David Meier, 2nd Vice President
Ed Bierbaum, Educator
Walt Frederking, Laity
Rev. Gary Rueter, Staff Advisory
Garry Niehoff, Staff Advisory

Caring Ministry

Reverend Rocky Mease, District Chaplain

Presentations

Over the past several years I have developed several presentations for different groups within the District. I am available to congregations or circuits to speak on the following topics:

- Mission Festivals: Mission Work Among Inactive Lutherans in Wichita Hospitals
- Care Committees: Support for professional church workers and their families (this could be a presentation to groups in congregation(s) or a listening post at Winkel about how “you” would want to be supported by your congregation and/or the District)
- Sharing the Work of the Board of Caring Ministry (with Winkels)

- Visiting Absent Members (with Board of Elders)
 - The Health Benefits of Forgiveness
 - Nuts and Bolts of Hospital Visitation
 - The Ethics of Pastoral Visitation
 - Who Moved My Cheese (A Christian/Lutheran look at how we respond to “change”)
 - End of Life Issues
 - Theology of Health, Healing and Wholeness
 - An Incarnational Model of Pastoral Assessment and Intervention
 - Other topics of interest to you or your group(s)
- You can contact me by email at chaprm@aol.com or by cell at 316-993-0746.

Planned Giving

Garry Niehoff, Counselor

Auctions – A Great Way to Have a Fund Raiser

Be aware that all purchases at auctions may not be tax deductible. I believe that most churches and schools are well aware of this, but the volunteers and the people making the purchases may not be. If you buy an item at a charity auction, the value of the item purchased has a value for the purchaser and thus is not tax deductible.

The auctions may sell a number items donated by local merchants. For illustration purposes, let’s assume a local restaurant donated a meal valued at \$20.00. I am the successful bidder and I buy it for \$15.00. I have no deduction. However,

if I pay \$30.00 for the meal then I have a deduction of \$10.00.

Many times the charity bills the auction as being tax deductible on all purchases. This may be very misleading. The merchant who has donated the items does get a very nice deduction when he or she makes the donation.

There is one exception — if the purchaser can prove that the item is worth much less than they paid, the difference is tax deductible. This may be difficult to prove.

For more information contact our Planned Giving Office at 800-357-4421 ext. 101.

Mission & Stewardship

Reverend Gary D. Rueter, Executive

Do You Have a Complex Issue to Deal With?

Has your congregation ever faced a complex issue that members had a wide diversity of opinions about? There is a method available to help the congregation deal with the issue in very productive ways. It's called Open Space Technology.

First, the name is misleading. Space makes me think of the area where Capt. Kirk and the Enterprise explore and no one has gone before. But that's not what space is in OST. Space in this name is used for an opportunity for open discussion of complex issues. Most OST gatherings begin with a large circle of chairs and a blank wall and agenda. These set the open context for the discussions that will follow.

Technology is perhaps even more diverting. Technology makes me think of machinery or computers that serve as tools for industry and commerce. It infers some kind of science and OST is more art than science; it involves more feel and intuition than observation and analysis.

But Open Space Technology is the name given this method by its original developer, Harrison Owen, in 1985, and the name has stuck. In the ensuing years OST has been used on six continents, though it has no marketing budget or advertising department. It has been used in African villages, corporate boardrooms, all kinds of churches, the Peace Corps and the Pentagon, banks and tech firms, government and community organizations, schools and youth groups... with anywhere from 5 to 1000 people at a time.

I first became aware of OST in Bishop Payne's book: "Reclaiming the Great Commission." As the bishop described the change that has been wrought in the East Texas Episcopal Diocese, one of the major events leading to the change was an Open Space Technology event for the whole diocese. As I read the accounts of that event, I was intrigued by the possibilities. A little checking on the internet and I discovered that some OST training was being offered in Chicago, IL last January at a time that I could participate. I went and my interest was piqued even further.

Since then I have conducted two events in Kansas using OST and I have three more scheduled in the next month. Most are with individual congregations, but the weekend of July 19-20 we gathered five congregations to consider complex issues facing all of them. Each event has been gratefully received by the participants and has done what it promised to do.

OST has been described in several creative ways. It has the energy of a good coffee break. It is an invitation to maximize learning and contribution. It has been described as a simple, powerful way to raise spirit (including the Holy Spirit active in Christ's people) and catalyze self-organization.

Another practitioner has written: "Open Space is based in the belief that organizations and communities run on passion and responsibility. It allows groups of any size to self-organize around what they really care about to get things done."

OST meetings operate on four principles and one law. The principles are:

- Whoever comes is the right people
- Whatever happens is the only thing that could have happened
- When it starts is the right time
- When it's over it's over

The law is known as The Law of Two Feet. It states: "If you find yourself in a situation where you are neither learning or contributing, you must use your two feet to go somewhere where you can."

So OST meetings are characterized by high degrees of freedom and creativity for participants. And when done in a church setting they provide wonderful opportunities for God's Spirit to work among the participants (as promised in the "mutual conversation and consolation" of the Smalcald Articles).

If you'd like more information about Open Space Technology or would like to schedule a meeting, give me a call (800-357-4421, ext. 222; garyr@kslcms.org).

Mission Grant Applications

Applications for mission grants are now being taken from congregations needing financial assistance. The documents must be completed and returned to the District office by Oct. 1 to be considered by the Board of Mission for the fiscal year 2004.

The District asks the congregation requesting mission grants to provide the Board with necessary information concerning their congregation's history, and current and projected expectations related to budget, membership and worship attendance. The goal is to help the congregation move quickly beyond the need for assistance to self-support.

To request a grant application, please contact Lori Hennessey, Department of Mission & Stewardship, at 800-357-4421 ext. 223 or lori@kslcms.org.

Education Loan Repayment Grants

Applications are now being accepted for the Kansas District Education Loan Repayment Grants. This program began in 1998 and helps newly graduated professional church workers with assistance in repayment of their educational loans. These grants are available to all rostered synodical graduates working in the Kansas District that graduated in 1993 or later.

Applications were recently sent to all Kansas Professional Workers that are eligible for the program. If you did not receive an application, please contact Lori Hennessey at 800-357-4421 ext. 223 or lori@kslcms.org. The deadline for submitting applications is September 1.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Larry Crume, Vice President



Lutheran Church
Extension Fund

Interest Rates - August 2003

Steward Account rates:

Congregational Certificates

Demand	1.750%
Steward Account	2.250%

Individual Accounts

Less than \$1,000	1.125%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	1.375%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	1.500%
\$10,000 and over	2.000%

StewardAccount®

StewardAccount® is an LCEF savings ministry offering easier access to the invested funds of both individuals and congregations. The **StewardAccount®** is an easy access investment account, paying competitive money market rates. It offers free check writing with monthly statements, as well as a VISA check card option and an Electronic Funds Transfer option. In addition, check card transactions which are made without entering a pin generate additional funds for LCEF world ministries!

KS District Board of Directors

The Kansas District Board of Directors met in Wichita July 13 and 14 following the installation of President Keith Kohlmeier and the Praesidium of the District at a worship service hosted by Ascension Lutheran, Wichita. In addition to conducting regular business, the Board was led through an assimilation and planning process by Rev. Gary Rueter and Al Gunderman. Much of the discussion focused on identifying Critical Target Areas of the District for the next triennium. Input from delegates to the District convention in May was the primary source of discussion.

Among official action taken by the Board was approval of the 2004 Salary base and the election Debbie Crites to serve as Business Manager for the District. Debbie has been employed with the District since 1991, most recently as Administrative Assistant for the Missions and Stewardship department. In her role, Debbie will be responsible for management of the Kansas District finances as well as serving as support to congregations and schools of the District with operational and administrative questions. In a related announcement, Larry Crume will serve as full-time LCEF Vice President. Previously, Crume has served both as LCEF VP and Business Manager.

The Board also elected Dennis Hintz as the Board's Advisory Delegate to the 2004 Synodical convention to be held in St. Louis. Chaplain Rocky Mease will be the Advisory Delegate from the district office staff.

Business Office

Debbie Crites, Business Manager

CHP Announces Choice for 2004

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

In an effort to maintain a balance between the contribution rates for employers and the out-of-pocket expenses for workers, employers will have the opportunity to choose among different CHP options, some of which contain significant savings to your organization through lowered contribution rates. However, all of the options will increase the out-of-pocket expenses for your workers. The different options will include reestablishing deductibles, increased prescription drug copays, and increased office visit copays for 2004.

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

Child Tax Credit Rebate

Taxpayers with children under 17 are about to receive an advance payment of up to \$400 a child as a result of the increase in the child tax credit. Rebates will be sent based on the final two digits of the primary filer's social security number. The lower the social security number, the sooner the rebate will be sent. The first checks will go in the mail on July 25th for those taxpayers who filed by April 15th for the 2002 tax year. Checks for those who filed after April 15th will be sent by the end of August.

The IRS will mail letters to taxpayers who are scheduled to receive rebates. These letters will notify the taxpayer of the amount of the rebate and when it will be sent. To get specific information on your rebate, visit www.irs.gov.

Salary Guidelines Available

Salary Guidelines for 2004 are available on the Kansas District website, www.kslcms.org. Just click on the "Departments" tab and select "Business Office." If you are unable to download and view this online, call or e-mail Debbie Crites, 800-357-4421 ext. 204 or debbie@kslcms.org.

Camp Tomah Shinga Quilt Auction

WHEN: Saturday, August 2
WHERE: Baptiste Memorial Hall (newly air-conditioned!)
6605 W Lyons Creek Rd
Junction City, Kansas
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS:
9:00 a.m. Quilts on Display
10:00 a.m. Live Auction Begins
11:00 a.m. Lunch Service Begins
2:00 p.m. Joyful Noise Choir Concert

125th Anniversary Celebration

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church in Palmer is celebrating its 125th Anniversary on August 10th. This day of celebration will begin with a worship service at 10:00AM with Rev. Dr. Wallace Schulz from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation as guest speaker. A catered meal will follow at noon with games and festivities planned for the afternoon. Please RSVP for dinner at 785-692-4205 or stjohn125@yahoo.com.

Kansas District Website

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

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

Other home page links will connect you to:

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

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

Seminary Receives LWML Gift

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, received a gift in excess of \$15,000 from LWML. The gift, a result of an offering taken during the 30th biennial LWML Convention, will be used to provide financial assistance for students preparing to serve in the pastoral ministry. This generous gift was doubled thanks to the \$1.5 million student financial aid matching grant received by the Seminary earlier this year.

"The decision of the LWML to dedicate one of its convention offerings for financial aid to seminary students is a wonderful example of the mission of this organization at work," commented Dr. John F. Johnson, president of Concordia Seminary. "This support is greatly appreciated."

St. Louis Seminary Visitations

The Seminary's next structured visitation opportunities for high school students will be the Exploring Church Careers Event on Aug. 2-5, 2003, followed by Exploring the Pastoral Ministry on Aug. 6-8, 2003.

Fall Visitation Weekend, designed for those of college age or older, is Oct. 9-11 on the Seminary campus. All meals and lodging are provided free of charge. Participants will hear presentations on academic offerings, financial assistance, housing, Resident Field Education, vicarage and the admission process. For more information, contact the Admissions Office at 800-822-9545 or admissions@csl.edu. Registration deadline is Oct. 1, 2003.

Concordia Seminary Lutherhostel

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

Scheduled activities for LutherHostel 2003 will begin on Saturday evening with a western-style cookout. Additional activities include presentations by Seminary faculty, class visitation, a carillon concert, student-led evening devotions, and visits to Concordia Historical Institute, KFUE Lutheran radio station and the Seminary bookstore.

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

LHS Golf Tournament

Lutheran High School in Kansas City is sponsoring a golf tournament Thursday, August 28, at Drumm Farm Golf Club in Independence. Registration is \$175 per golfer, \$650 per team of four. Businesses may register to sponsor holes and carts. If you're not a golfer, you may join the golfers at a special luncheon on the banquet patio at Drumm Farm about 12:30PM (cost \$25) and participate in a silent auction and raffle. Call Jack Umbach at 816-241-5478 for more details or to register for this event.

Educational Services **Al Gunderman, Executive**

Early Childhood Conference

This year's Kansas District LCMS conference will be held in Junction City on Saturday, August 9 at Immanuel Lutheran Church and School. The workshop is open to preschool staff, weekday staff, Sunday school workers, etc. In-service credits will be available. Keynote presenter is Jill Glinka whose expertise is in behavior disorders. Jill will focus on Sensory Integration Dysfunction. Cost is \$30 which includes lunch. Funding has been provided in part by Kansas-Missouri AAL/Lutheran Brotherhood.

Lutheran School Teachers/Principals

Donna Eakins will be compiling another "Idea Book" for the Church Workers Conference October 20-21, 2003. Please send your classroom ideas for any subject area by October 3rd to Donna Eakins, Topeka Lutheran School, 701 SW Roosevelt, Topeka, KS 66606 or eakins@topek Lutheran school.org. PLEASE put your name and a way to get in contact with you on your idea sheet in case someone has questions about your idea.

Your school name will be on the notebooks this year and a designated person may pick them up at registration. Thank you in advance for your valuable contributions.

Professional Church Workers Joint Conference

DATE: October 20-21

PLACE: Holy Cross, Wichita

THEME: "Response"able Living - *Freed by the Gospel for Spiritual, Physical, Emotional and Relational Wellness (John 8:36)*

KEYNOTE PRESENTERS: Bruce Hartung and Kurt Bickel

Lutheran Schools' Week Materials

"Growing in Grace and Knowledge" is the sub-theme for the 2004 National Lutheran Schools' week (March 7-13) and is based on 2 Peter 3:18a ("But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ"). Materials are being developed for use during Lutheran Schools' Week. The Worship and Activity Manual will be available in September 2003. Visit the District and Congregational Services, School Ministry website at <http://dcs.lcms.org> for updates and information on NLSW.

Some statistics: Total Number of Lutheran Schools: 2,481 (Early Childhood Centers: 1,361; Elementary Schools: 1,028; High Schools: 92); Total Number of Association Schools: 174; Total Number of Students: 289,112 (Child Care/Full Days: 17,526, Pre-K: 105,443; Gr. K-8: 147,613; Gr. 9-12: 18,530). The "average" Lutheran Elementary School has 9 full-time teachers, 155 students, and a ratio of 17 students per one, full-time teacher.

Upcoming events

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

Family Life Academy

Does your congregation desire to develop a leadership plan that includes family ministry in its mission and vision? Then perhaps you will want to consider the Family Life Academy (FLA) in your plans. FLA is conducted over a two-year period, meeting 4 weekends beginning from September through March with a Year I class beginning October 3-5 at the District Office. For complete information and application forms, visit our website at http://www.kslcms.org/ks_flm/index.html or http://www.kslcms.org/ks_registrations/academy_app_0302.pdf or call Educational Services at 800-357-4421 ext. 206.

Child In Our Hands

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

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

You don't want to miss this extraordinary event! Put a team of volunteers and leaders together TODAY to head for Topeka this September. For more information, contact DCE Sarah Boles at Prince of Peace at 785-271-0808 or sarahb@princeofpeacetopeka.org.

Equipping Lay Leaders for Ministry

Does your congregation need more expertise and support in expanding its mission and ministry? Are you looking for new challenges in your life? Do you enjoy spiritual growth and commitment? Are you retired, or about to be retired and have the desire to serve your church and your Lord? Do you have a passion for Jesus Christ and His Mission?

The solution: Enroll in the Kansas District Lay Ministry Program. This school prepares lay men and women to be “credentialed” to serve Kansas District Congregations in a supporting role. For more information contact Marie Holt in the District office at 800-357-4421 ext. 219 or marie@kslcms.org. There is still time to enroll for the fall program that starts August 22.

Guinea Prayers

Prayer requests from Dr. Schmaltz:

- ✚ Thanksgiving for safe travel and reasonably quick border crossings for her as she drove from Ouagadougou to Bamako in Mali and then into Guinea.
 - ✚ Thanksgiving for being able to start the medical work in Kissidougou. She is thrilled to be there and use all that hard earned French in real work and practice! God has already opened doors for contacts, willing persons, and work possibilities that have so easily fallen into place. She sees His hand in this and asks for His continued guidance in all of this.
 - ✚ Thanksgiving for providing the travel companion Kristin had. She was a blessing!
 - ✚ Thanksgiving for the rest and relaxation times for renewal after the voyage.
 - ✚ For the Guinean church - encouragement and blessings for them as they share the gospel message; it is a blessing and pleasure for her to be with them and see all they are doing and being for those who have not heard about Jesus.
 - ✚ For guidance for the best housing place for her. She is busy house hunting.
 - ✚ Pray for peace and resolution to the warring regions like Liberian and Ivory Coast according to God’s will. She asks to pray especially for the vulnerable little malnourished kids she loved and cared for in the hospitals in these three West African nations.
- Prayer requests from the Norton family:

- ✚ Thanksgiving that God has provided a great house for them in Siguiri (the new site for their ministry) which is close to town and meets their needs.
 - ✚ Thanksgiving for the completion of the project to set the Abraham story to music, and prayers that God would use it to work in the hearts of many Maninka.
 - ✚ Thanksgiving for the completion of the chronological bible study, and continued prayers for “Owen” that God would work in his heart.
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