

Workers Together

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church

Volume 9, Issue 8
October 2003

Equipping the Church

by President Keith E. Kohlmeier

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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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Deadline: 15th of each month

Once again, let me revisit with you the targets of our work together. In priority order they are:

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

This month we take up number two, Equipping the Church.

First of all, let it be said clearly that there is only One who equips any one of us, much less His Holy church, for the work He commissions us toward. Only the Spirit of our Lord calls, gathers, enlightens, sanctifies the church for the opportunities to be His witnesses here in Kansas and throughout the world. But the gracious hand of God is shown in that He has chosen us, men, women, and children, to be the means by which His will and work are accomplished. What a precious and awesome opportunity we have then, to be the very hands, heart, voice, and presence of our God in our local communities.

I am writing this article on the week preceding the 14th Sunday of Pentecost, and the gospel lesson of this coming Sunday seems most appropriate. Within that text Jesus says, "This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless the Father has enabled him." Recognizing this truth, we also affirm that one of the ways that our Father enables is through the support of people like our district staff and ministries. If you can, picture with me an advancing column of military personnel, engaged in battle across the front against the enemy. We know full well that the advance is directly affected by the ability of the supply line to keep up with them. Now consider the fact that you, men and women and young people who comprise local congregations, are those who are on the front line of the battle. Before you lies the enemy. The devil and his angels work the effects that sin produces. You are engaging these powers and effects on a daily basis. The devil's ploy is most often not to overpower but to cut you off from the supply lines.

Individuals become exhausted and feel alone in the battle. Congregations feel cut off and abandoned. Hope is stolen and the labors become focused on maintenance and survival. It is a critical point to "check your supply line." It is the Lord who has formed His church, and the same Lord who has made some of us the feet, the hands, the head of His body. The goal of our district board of directors and ministry staff is to continue to strive to establish and sustain the supply lines of support, innovation, connection, and partnership ministries to the congregations and workers of Kansas. My challenge to churches and workers of Kansas is that if you are not making full use of these supply lines you are not making full use of the gifts by which God has "enabled" you and the ministry of your congregation. Together, our target is to make full use of the gifts and opportunities God has blessed this church with, that His kingdom may be proclaimed and His name be honored. To that end "enable us" good Lord.

Calls Accepted

- Chaplain Larry Block to Our Savior, Platte City, Mo.

Calling Congregations

- *Zion, Argonia
- *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

Ordination Anniversaries

October

Larry McDermott 10 years

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.

District Phone

Phone 1-785-357-4441

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FAX 1-785-357-5071

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Brenda Barton (200)

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Garry Niehoff (101)

Doris Wilson (101)

Directory press 8

Extension by name press 9

Operator press 0

District Calendar

October

8 District Staff Retreat, Office closed

10-12 Singles Retreat, Salina

11 LLL Convention, Great Bend

17-19 Lay Ministry Training, District Office

20-21 Professional Church Workers Conference, Wichita

24-25 Marriage Retreat, Salina

31 Board of Directors, District Office

November

1 Board of Directors, District Office

7-8 LWML Fall Retreat, Wichita

7-9 Family Life Academy, District Office

14-16 Lay Ministry Training, District Office

21-23 District Youth Gathering, Topeka

27-28 Thanksgiving, District Office closed

Prayers

- Family and friends at the death of Wilber Tegtmeier on Sept. 23, Manhattan, former member of Kansas District BOD and past President of LLL.
- Rev. Eldor Meyer, retired pastor, Girard, broken hip.
- Rev. Jerome Deister, Trinity, Holton/Immanuel, Netawaka, health concerns.
- Michelle Brown, daughter of Milt Brueggemann, Principal at Hope, Shawnee, recovery from a severe stroke.
- Joyce Pool, wife of Rev. John Pool, Wichita, health concerns
- Donna Mease, wife of Chaplain Rocky Mease, Wichita, health concerns.

Buffalo River Retreat Cabin

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

Tuttle Creek Cabin

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

Caring Ministry Reverend Rocky Mease, District Chaplain

Your Pastor Asked Me to Visit You

As I stood by the hospital bed, I introduced myself as the Lutheran Chaplain and then said, "Your Pastor called and asked me to visit you." You could see the relief in the patient's eyes. Patients in Wichita hospitals are confronted with and by strangers all day long. People they do not know come into their rooms, stick needles in their arms, ask them personal questions and in many other ways invade their privacy. I am one more of those bedside strangers who most often arrive uninvited and unexpected. To say to a patient, "Your Pastor called and asked me to visit you," gives me an entry into their room I would not otherwise have.

While most of the hospitals in Wichita provide a denominational list, referrals are still important. Some patients

admitted in an emergency do not have their denominational preference documented, so they do not fall on the list. The rehab hospitals, surgery centers and psychiatric hospitals do not have lists at all. Even when patients are on the list and even when patients are being seen occasionally by their out of town pastor, referrals are still helpful to me as the Lutheran Chaplain and to the patients. Most patients appreciate having met a local Lutheran Pastor who can be present with them quickly if an emergency occurs during their hospital stay.

So please do not hesitate to call or email me when members of your congregation are hospitalized in a Wichita hospital!

Planned Giving Garry Niehoff, Counselor

The Tax Economics of a Gift of Cash

Few concepts are more central to building than the idea of leverage. While engineering has created tools to move the seemingly immovable, there is another kind of leverage at work in the building of strong neighborhoods and communities. It is the economic leverage made possible by our tax laws.

In fact, since the dawn of the U.S. tax code, lawmakers have recognized that much of the real "heavy lifting" in society is accomplished through individual support of the

private sector. In order to encourage this support, the tax laws include planning tools that make it possible to leverage the strength of every charitable dollar.

For example, did you know that in the event of a \$1,000 gift to a qualified charity made by a couple in the 27% tax bracket, Uncle Sam actually picks up \$270 of the gift?

If you'd like more information on how to leverage every dollar that you give, call or write our Planned Giving Office: 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604, 785-357-4441, ext. 101.


Lutheran Church Extension Fund Larry Crume, Vice President

Congregations Honored by LCEF

Faith Lutheran Church, Topeka, Prince of Peace, Topeka, and Trinity, Atchison will be among thirty congregations Synod-wide recognized for achieving \$1 million in investments with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund at LCEF's Fall Leadership Conference this November in Miami, Fla. Investments by individual church members and the congregation are included in this total.

LCEF investors join a unique partnership. While they receive interest, their investments provide loans so congregations, schools and agencies can build or remodel facilities. And these facilities become places for worship, teaching and service in the name of Jesus Christ.

The Kansas Church Extension Fund joined LCEF in 1995 and has total assets of more than \$40 million today. For more information about LCEF within the Kansas District, contact Larry Crume at 785-357-4441 ext. 205 or at lcrume@kslcms.org.

 Lutheran Church Extension Fund	
Interest Rates - October 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%

The mission of LCEF is to provide opportunity to make funds and services available in support of the Great Commission through The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.

Business Office Debbie Crites, Business Manager

CHP “Choice” for 2004

January 1, 2004 kicks-off “Employer Choice” for the Concordia Health Plan and marks a major shift in the way Worker Benefit Plans provides health coverage for church workers. The new Choice options bring flexibility to the CHP, allowing employers to tailor more closely the health plan option that best fits them and their workers’ needs.

Employers are concerned about the welfare of their workers. They are concerned about providing quality healthcare, and they are concerned about providing appropriate salaries. No employer wants to give up one for the other. “Choice” simply gives employers more tools to try and find a balance between both. Church workers enrolled in the CHP should keep in mind that “Choice” will not change the following in 2004:

- Services – Workers will still have medical, dental, mental health, and prescription drug benefits. No benefits will be dropped as a result of a change to a different option.
- Coverage – Workers will still be enrolled in a Preferred Provider Organization (PPO) program.
- Managed Care Provider – Workers presently covered under Aetna will remain with Aetna, and workers presently covered by Blue Cross Blue Shield will remain with Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Beginning in January the CHP will offer employers a choice of four health plan options for their workers – a zero deductible plan, and then a \$300, \$500, or \$1,000 individual deductible plan (the family deductible will be twice the amount). Rates for option A (zero deductible plan) will increase about 15% over 2003 rates. Rates for option B

(\$300 deductible) will be about the same as 2003 plan rates. Rates for option C (\$500 deductible) will have rates about 8% less than 2003. Rates for option D (\$1,000 deductible) will have rates about 15% less than 2003 rates.

For employers that are considering a change to an option with deductibles, WPB is recommending that they also consider establishing a Flexible Spending Account reimbursement program. An FSA allows workers to set aside payroll dollars on a pre-tax basis to pay for certain healthcare expenses that are not reimbursed under health coverage (like deductibles and coinsurance). An FSA can also be used to fund eligible dependant day care expenses. FSA details will be included in the “Choice” information packet sent to employers.

Complete information, with final costs and full details, about the CHP “Choice” options will be mailed by the first of October. Treasurers, business managers and plan administrators should be on the lookout for this important mailing. The health plan choice will have an impact on the finances of your organization and the finances of your church workers. Worker Benefit Plans encourages employers to carefully review the “Choice” materials, discuss the options with all involved, and examine the different ramifications of each choice. The deadline for choosing a plan option will be early November 2003. The health plan option chosen will be effective for your workers January 1, 2004. At the end of 2004, employers will have the opportunity to remain with their original choice, or elect a different health plan option for 2005. To read the CHP letter on “Why Choice” go to www.wbp.org/homepgs/choice.htm.

Kansas District Archives

The District office has a fine collection of Kansas congregation/school memorabilia. Many congregations have a large file documenting the history of the congregation. But others have little or nothing. This information is invaluable, particularly when planning special celebrations such as a 50th anniversary.

Send information of special events (anniversaries, installations, building programs, ...), including pictures, to the District office, Attention: Rev. George Bruening, Kansas District Archivist.

2004 Synodical Convention Election of Delegates and Alternates

October 10, 2003: Deadline for the election of delegates at a circuit meeting.

November 7, 2003: Deadline for Circuit Counselors to file names and addresses of delegates and alternates with: Rev. Robert Schaedel
702 S 9th St
Salina, KS 67401

CCCS Mission Conference

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

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

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

The registration deadline is October 31. The cost is \$20 per person which includes lunch. For more information, contact Beth Eubanks at 785-357-4441 ext. 100.

Mission & Stewardship

Reverend Gary D. Rueter, Executive

Provide Opportunities for Giving

Good reasons are at hand for conducting an annual financial stewardship emphasis. In 1989 the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America conducted research on its 10,000 congregations and discovered the following:

- ♦ Congregations that asked members to pledge had average giving levels 30.2% higher than congregations that did not pledge.
- ♦ Congregations that had a financial stewardship emphasis had average giving 23.3% higher than those that did not.
- ♦ Congregations that asked members to consider tithing had average giving levels 19.6% higher than those that didn't ask.
- ♦ Congregations that used all three of the above activities had giving levels 38.5% higher than those that used none of them.

I would guess that we would discover similar figures in the Kansas District, LCMS for 2002 if we did such a survey of our congregations. Do you have an annual emphasis under way?

I will be serving as an outside leader for seven congregations for their Consecration Sundays this fall. The Consecration Sunday approach has been used by dozens of congregations around Kansas in recent years, always with

positive results. Other approaches are also helpful. For samples and further instructions see the Congregational Stewardship Workbook 2000 that is available in your church office. If you don't have one, we have a few more available in the office for \$50 each. Give us a call.

Our District Congregational Stewardship Team is led by Pr. Ken Kaufmann, Cheney with Don Copley, Humboldt serving as the team leader for Consecration Sunday events. Contact them or me for more information.

2004 Congregational Commitments

Letters will be coming soon to your congregations requesting the amount of your commitment to Synod and District for 2004. As you set your budget for next year, ask your decision-making body to consider increasing your support of the services your national and regional judicatories provide for you and for others. The Team Leader for District/Synod Support is Pr. David Meier, Humboldt, 2nd VP of the District. If you would like graphs and charts for explaining how Kansas uses Congregational Receipts, please be in touch with Pr. Meier or the District Stewardship Department.

Rural/Small Town Ministry

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

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

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

Campus Mission Team

Do you have a heart for campus missions? A new Campus Mission Team for our Kansas District is being organized by Rev. Cliff Winter under the auspices of the District Board of Mission. The new team will focus on outreach, equipping, networking, and sharing God's blessings.

Briefings (60-90 minutes) for anyone interested will be held at the following places:

- Topeka, Prince of Peace (29th & Wanamaker) on Sat. Sept. 27 at Noon (bring a sack lunch)
- Salina, Trinity, (702 S. 9th) on Sat. Oct. 4 at 10:30 a.m.
- Wichita, University Lutheran Center (3815 E. 17th N.) on Sat. Oct. 4 at 2 p.m.

Lay men and women and professional workers are all welcome. Vision, organization, and opportunities to serve Kansas' college campuses will be presented.

For more information call Cliff Winter at 316-838-0944.

Education Loan Repayment

The Education Loan Repayment Committee will distribute \$32,400 to thirty-six applicants for repayment of educational loans. The funds for these grants came from: the 2003 Ash Wednesday offering, direct gifts from individuals and congregations, several bequests designated by the Board of Directors, gifts received at installation and ordination services, and interest from the endowment fund set up specifically for Education Loan Repayment grants.

Making Disciples Workshops

King of Kings Lutheran Church, Gardner, is offering Making Disciples, a series of six professional development workshops for anyone interested in Christian education. You can attend all six workshops or only the ones that most interest you. Cost is \$20 per person/per workshop. Lunch is on your own. Pre-registration is necessary to assure enough material and supplies for all participants. Rev. Craig Boehlke is the presenter. The workshops, all from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., are listed below.

- 9-27-03 The Ministry of the Lutheran Teacher
- 10-25-03 Lutheran Thought and Teaching
- 11-22-03 Nurturing the Faith
- 1-24-04 Building on a Solid Foundation
- 2-28-04 Colloquy - Who, What, When, Where, Why, and How?
- 3-27-04 Methods and Materials for Teaching the Faith

For more information, contact King of Kings Lutheran Church, 913-856-2500, kingofkingsks@earthlink.net.

LWML Fall Retreat

The Kansas District LWML Christian Growth Committee invites you to join your sisters in Christ for a terrific weekend of Bible Study, Christian fellowship and personal growth, November 7-8, 2003, at the Hilton Wichita Airport Executive Conference Center. This retreat will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Friday and conclude at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Gloria Edwards will present the Bible study, "Courageous Living." The Lord said, "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9) Gloria is a past president of the national LWML and a renowned speaker.

For more information and registration forms, contact the retreat co-chairs: Arleata Harmon, 316-683-5538, Arleata@RisenSavior.net or Norinne Petersen, 785-625-2917.

New Student Enrollment Jumps

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, began its 165th academic year by welcoming 178 new students to campus. This is a 44% increase over last year and the largest incoming class in 32 years. "These numbers are evidence of God answering the prayers of His people to raise up workers for His harvest field," commented Rev. Glen Thomas, the Seminary's vice president for seminary relations.

Colloquy Opportunities

The Colloquy program at Concordia University, St. Paul is designed to prepare lay practitioners for the public ministry of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod as Lutheran Classroom Teachers or Directors of Christian Education. Colloquy applicants may take their religion and theology courses through on-site summer school classes, via one of Concordia's off-site colloquy programs or via CUENET. For further information on the Colloquy program, visit <http://wwtest.csp.edu/cvm/colloquy/index.html>.

Camp Tomah Shinga News

October is "Outdoor Ministries Month" and we are excited about the fifth annual Camp Tomah Shinga Quarter Challenge. Thrivent is willing to help us out by matching what you donate through this fun fundraiser.

What can you do? For each Sunday in October, your congregation designates all of the quarters in the collection plates for Camp Tomah Shinga. Then a Thrivent member from your congregation contacts Rebekah Hubbard at campdirector@ourtownusa.net or 1-866-238-3654 by the following Wednesday with your collection results.

We are hoping at least four Thrivent chapters will participate. The regional Thrivent office is prepared to match \$.50 on every dollar raised, up to \$1000 per chapter. This will cost the chapters nothing and will help the camp raise up to \$12,000!

Coming events:

- ♦ October 24 -26, LCMS Confirmation Retreat, headed by DCE Leland Jackson of Trinity Lutheran, Garden City. The Lord's Prayer will be the topic of the weekend. The kids may be able to experience some aspects of the Challenge Course and the swimming pool, campfires and good camp food and fellowship. The cost of this retreat is \$80, which includes 5 meals, snacks, the challenge course, and 2 nights lodging. There must at least 10 signed up by October 20 in order for this retreat to proceed.
- ♦ November 1, Thrivent Work Day, hosted by Camp Tomah Shinga and Chapter #30277 (Central Kansas Chapter). There is much to be done and we need many hands to work. Lunch will be provided.

As a year round ministry of the Church, we provide opportunities for all ages to experience Christ's love, grow in faith and serve God. We simply cannot fulfill that mission without the support of people like you! Please contact Rebekah Hubbard at 1-866-238-3654 or campdirector@ourtownusa.net for more information.

Rural Health Ministries Conference

The 9th annual Concordia Parish Nurse and Congregational Health Fall Conference will be held on Friday, October 31, 2003 on the campus of Living Word Lutheran High School in Jackson, Wisconsin. The conference is open to anyone interested in congregational health.

Keynote speakers will be Rev. Dan Paavala and Dr. Roger Williams. Paavala will address the topic, "Rural Ministries, Extending God's Mission in Rural Settings." Williams will introduce "Farm and Rural Health: The Growing Challenge."

Conference participants will also have the opportunity to attend breakout sessions on nine topics including: Self-care Issues for Women, Farmer Suicides, Toxic Exposures, Women's Health Grapevine, Medical Ethics of Human Cloning, Card Ministries, Journaling and Exercise.

Registration is \$65 and a box lunch will be offered for \$5. For more information, please call Carol Lueders Bolwerk, Director of Parish Nurse Ministries, at 262-243-4233 or carol.lueders.bolwerk@cuw.edu.

Educational Services

Al Gunderman, Executive

Professional Church Workers Conference

The Professional Church Workers Conference will be held October 20-21 at Holy Cross Lutheran School in Wichita. The theme is *"Reponse"able Living, Freed by the Gospel for Spiritual, Physical, Emotional, and Relational Wellness*, based on John 8:36. Information packets, including registration forms, were mailed out to all district rostered workers. The registration deadline is October 13. Keynote speakers are Dr. Bruce Hartung and Kurt Bickel.

For more information on breakout sessions and presenters, check the District website at http://www.kslclms.org/ks_registrations/index.htm or call 800-357-4421 ext. 206.

Human Sexuality Workshop

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

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

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

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

Lutheran College Fairs

Here are dates for Fall 2003 Lutheran College Fair events in our area:

Sunday, October 12	St. Louis, Mo.
Monday, October 13	Kansas City, Kan.
Tuesday, October 14	Des Moines, Iowa
Sunday, October 19	Denver, Colo.

Admissions representatives of Lutheran colleges and universities, including the Missouri Synod's ten Concordia University System schools, will be on hand for the events. Most fairs also will feature financial-aid and career-planning workshops.

Go to the LECNA Web site at www.lutherancolleges.org for more information about a particular college fair, including detailed directions to its location and the colleges and universities that will be represented.

Upcoming Events

- ✓ Fall Singles Retreat, October 10-12, Camp Webster/Salina
- ✓ Joint Church Workers Conference, October 20-21, Holy Cross/Wichita
- ✓ Marriage Retreat, October 24-25, Salina
- ✓ Family Life Academy, November 7-9, District Office
- ✓ District Youth Gathering, November 21-23, Capital Plaza Hotel/Topeka

District Youth Gathering

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

The Gathering registration packets have been mailed out. The registration forms and fees (\$60 per person) are due October 15th. Download more information and registration forms on the District website, www.kslclms.org. Just follow the "Upcoming Events" link.

Annual Marriage Retreat

The Kansas District will host its annual Marriage Retreat this year on October 24th and 25th at the Country Inn and Suites in Salina, Kansas. The program will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday evening and conclude not later than 5 p.m. on Saturday. Rev. Rick Twenhafel and his wife, Christine, will lead the retreat this year. Rick is the pastor at St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Nortonville. The cost will be \$150 per couple. This includes one night's lodging, the noon meal on Saturday and all retreat materials. Register no later than October 17 with Joyce in the District office, 785-357-4441, ext. 206 or joyce@kslclms.org.

Fall Singles Retreat

The Fall Singles Retreat will be held October 11-13 at Camp Webster in Salina. The theme is *"Called By Name, You Are Mine,"* Isaiah 43:1b. Pastor David Schemm from Christ, Topeka is the presenter.

The cost for this event is \$73 for the entire weekend, \$50 if commuting. This includes all the meals on Saturday and Sunday breakfast.

For more information, contact: Al Gunderman at 800-357-4421 ext. 206 OR Staci Timm at 785-823-6727 or stacitimm@juno.com. Registration forms and brochures are available online at http://www.kslclms.org/ks_registrations/index.htm.

Guinea Prayers

Heiney prayer requests:

- ✠ Praise for the safe move to the Kansas area and for their work and home.
- ✠ Praise that their children all got into school on time and are adjusting well to the Kansas City area.
- ✠ Pray for Tim as he begins his ministry at Lord of Life in Leawood, for direction and wisdom.
- ✠ Pray as he begins planning for a Guinea trip in November.

Norton prayer requests:

- ✠ Prayers for God's blessings and guidance as they move to Siguiri after their vacation. Pray that God will help them to settle in well to the new place, that He will lead them to establish good relationships with their neighbors, and that He will protect them as they will be the only missionary family up there for the time being.
- ✠ Pray for the missionary team, as they will be in three units in three different towns. Kristen in Kissidougou, the Oettings in Kankan, and the Nortons in Siguiri. Pray that God would facilitate communication, in a country where e-mail can often be disconnected, radios don't always work, and phones are unreliable at best.

Oetting prayer requests:

- ✠ Prayers of thanksgiving for Sharon's successful tonsil/sinus operation in Nebraska and for the family members and friends that supported her during her convalescence and watched their three children.
- ✠ Prayers of thanksgiving for Jon's safe return to Guinea.
- ✠ Ask God to facilitate the move to the new home Jon is preparing in Kankan for the family and the re-adjustment of Sharon and the children to life in Guinea.
- ✠ Ask God to help Jon with his goal of improving his Maninka language proficiency during the next six months.
- ✠ Pray for Jon's witness to his friend "Moses." Jon was able to spend a day at his friend's village and meet Moses' extended family recently.

Dr. Schmaltz prayer requests:

- ✠ Pray for direction for the medical ministries in Guinea as there are many options, including working with the Maninka team.
 - ✠ For the seminary students from Guinea who are studying God's word in Togo, that they may bring back pastor level training to Guinea where it is much needed.
 - ✠ For a safe and smooth transition as Dr. Schmaltz is moving into her home at the Telekoro Bible Institute later this month, after a year and a half of temporary living situations. She is thankful for getting to settle in!
 - ✠ For all those suffering from malaria which is afflicting many in this rainy season.
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