

# Workers Together

Kansas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Volume 10, Issue 2  
February 2004

## Remembering a Servant of His Lord

by President Keith E. Kohlmeier

### Inside

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| District Calendar .....     | 2 |
| Calls in Kansas .....       | 2 |
| Prayers .....               | 2 |
| Mission & Stewardship ..... | 3 |
| Caring Ministry .....       | 4 |
| Planned Giving .....        | 4 |
| Education .....             | 4 |
| LCEF .....                  | 5 |
| Miscellaneous News .....    | 6 |
| Guinea Prayers .....        | 7 |
| Business Office .....       | 8 |

### District Email

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Marie Holt - marie@kslcms.org

#### Mission & Stewardship

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Lori Hennessey - lori@kslcms.org

#### Educational Services

Joyce Tate - joyce@kslcms.org

#### Business Office

Debbie Crites - debbie@kslcms.org  
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Larry Crume - lcrume@kslcms.org

#### Planned Giving

Garry Niehoff - servanttwo@kslcms.org  
Doris Wilson - servanttwo@kslcms.org

#### Caring Ministry

Chaplain Rocky Mease - chaprm@aol.com

#### Media Library

Beth Eubanks - bethe@kslcms.org

While much of the space of this newsletter is usually given to the work and ministry of the Kansas District, nothing has affected our walk together more in the last month than the will of God to call our friend and partner in ministry, Al Gunderman, to himself. I therefore chose to use this space this month to speak again a portion of the words I shared before Al's funeral.

"A Christian funeral service always has two themes. One is the theme of remembering the gifts of God that we have received through the person and gifts of the one we have known as family member, friend, and comrade. The other is the over-arching theme of the grace of God by which Al now stands redeemed before the throne, and the same grace through which we may seek comfort, peace, and hope in the midst of our grief and tears.

The account of Al's gifts and service would fill a volume, and one day it may. But today the two themes of our time here in this service were captured by words concerning Al that were spoken by members of our district staff yesterday while we met around the Word together to pray and remember.

The first word was the remembrance that Al was the type who could meet a person, no matter how broken they may be, and communicate to them that God loved them and cared for them. Nothing stronger could be said about a servant of God, or the way that God can use any one of us to be His presence and gifts to our world today. The second was the remembrance that as we met on a weekly basis for our staff devotions we would always conclude with individual prayer. When it was his turn, Al would always include the sentence, "And thank you God for Bev and the kids, and everything that they mean to me." ...

And so we meet in the context of our loss, Al's victory, and a common grief before the throne and grace of our God seeking the comfort that only He can give. God bless our worship today with His presence. And finally, then, on behalf of the church that Al loved and served so well and so long, I speak the words that Al has already heard from the mouth of His own Lord, 'Well done, good and faithful servant, enjoy the place that has been prepared for you as your rest from your labors.' The Lord has given, the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord."

The next steps of our district are being examined in the later days of the month of January by the leaders of our district. But of first importance, may we each continue to lift up Bev and the kids, as well as the future of our work together, before the throne in these days.



A monthly publication of  
The Kansas District of The Lutheran  
Church - Missouri Synod for  
congregations, schools, professional  
church workers and lay leaders.  
If you have any news items to  
share with congregations in our  
district, please direct them to:  
Workers Together Editor  
Kansas District LCMS  
1000 SW 10th Ave  
Topeka KS 66604-1104  
Phone: 785-357-4441, Ext. 223  
Fax: 785-357-5071  
Email: lori@kslcms.org  
Deadline: 15th of each month

## Calls Accepted

- Craig Boehlke from King of Kings, Gardner to Our Savior, Shreveport, La.
- Timothy Henning from Peace, Owensboro, Ky. to Peace, Greensburg/Our Savior, Pratt
- Nathan Schaus (Associate) from Faith, Topeka to Faith Community, Las Vegas, Nev.

## Calls Declined

- David Gruoner from Zion, Linn to Zion, Newton
- Ronald Rosenkaimer from Bowling Green, Ohio to Zion, Newton
- William Rusnak from Harvester, Mo. to Prince of Peace, Topeka as Senior Pastor

## Calling Congregations

- \*Zion, Argonia
- \*St. John, Easton
- Immanuel, Ellsworth
- King of Kings, Gardner
- St. Paul, Haven
- Zion, Hillsboro/Our Savior, Marion
- Trinity, Leavenworth (Sr Pastor)
- Grace, Lyons
- 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)
- \*vacant, not calling



## District Phone

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

### Extensions:

**President's Office** press 7  
Pres. Kohlmeier (219)  
Marie Holt (219)

**Business Office** press 3  
Debbie Crites (204)  
Brenda Barton (200)

**LCEF** press 3  
Larry Crume (205)

**Mission & Stewardship** press 4  
Gary Rueter (222)  
Lori Hennessey (223)

**Education** press 5  
Joyce Tate (206)  
Beth Eubanks (100)

**Planned Giving** press 6  
Garry Niehoff (101)  
Doris Wilson (101)

**Directory** press 8

**Extension by name** press 9

**Operator** press 0

## District Calendar

### February

- 2-3 Principals Conference and KAIRS Annual Meeting, Topeka
- 12 Family Life Committee, District Office
- 16-18 Regional Executive Conference, Memphis
- 20-22 Lay Ministry Training, District Office
- 25 Ash Wednesday
- 28 Deaf Task Force, District Office
- 27-28 Pastors' Wives Retreat, Salina

### March

- 1 Saints Alive After 55 Meeting
- 5-7 Singles Retreat, Topeka
- 7-13 National Lutheran Schools Week
- 19-21 Lay Ministry Training, District Office
- 26-28 Family Life Academy, District Office

## Prayers

- The family of Al Gunderman at his death on Christmas Day.
- The family of Rev. Walter Bussert, Lawrence, at his death on Dec. 22.
- The family of Viola Behrens, widow of Rev. Donald Behrens (served at Natoma and Hanover), at her death on Jan. 11.
- Milt Brueggemann, Principal at Hope, Shawnee, health concerns
- Joyce Pool, wife of Rev. John Pool, Wichita, health concerns
- Donna Mease, wife of Chaplain Rocky Mease, Wichita, thanksgiving for improved health.
- Pastor Jeff & Laura Geske, Trinity, McFarland, thanksgiving at the birth of Joshua Lynn on Dec. 29th.

## 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.

## Buffalo River Retreat Cabin

Now is the time to make your reservations for the Buffalo River Retreat Cabin in Arkansas for 2004. 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. Call Doris at 785-357-4441 ext. 101 to make your reservations.

## Tuttle Creek Cabin

Make your reservations for the cabin located on Tuttle Creek Reservoir. The cost is \$15 per night with a minimum of \$30. This is a one bedroom furnished cabin with heating and AC, but no phone. Call Doris at 785-357-4441 ext. 101 to make your reservations.

## Mission & Stewardship

Reverend Gary D. Rueter, Executive

### Mission Congregations Focus on Strengths

Every congregation has weaknesses. They are often obvious and glaring: an organ or organist that struggles with the liturgy; a pastor who doesn't feel comfortable with new people; a constitution that is limiting or too extensive; some members who seem to bring trouble rather than support.

When congregations focus on these weaknesses, change can't happen. Mission congregations focus in the opposite direction—on strengths.

One way for a congregation to focus on strength is to look to the future. A mission congregation will look at options, take stock of resources, seek out support, ask a variety of questions, and will affirm its ability to reach goals. God is already in the future to which he calls us and that gives us confidence to move into that future. Our fears will keep us focused inward. Our strengths and the promise of the gift of God's presence will propel us forward. Can we say with our African-American brothers and sisters, "God is good all the time; all the time, God is good"?

Another way to focus on strength is to focus on learning. Learning opens up life and preserves it. Our bodies learn to be healthy: the immune system memorizes the shape of aliens and develops "wise blood." It learns to

reject substances that would harm the body. Mission congregations know the value of exchanging ideas and of interacting. They focus on sharing ideas, dialoguing with others, and asking questions. They develop "wise blood."

And a focus on strength will always be a focus on grace and graciousness. Hans Selye, a pioneer in charting the effect of emotional states on physical health, noted that the two emotions most detrimental to health are vengeance and envy. Conversely, the most nourishing attitude is gratitude.

Mission congregations foster a caring spirit and encourage a confident tone. At the heart of their life together is the gospel of Jesus' steadfast love. In mission congregations, people are generous with one another and with outsiders. They are communities of thanks and praise.

Leaders are utterly important to the focus on strength. Their mood and tone can greatly promote either health or disease. Morale always flows down.

For assistance in focusing on strength, contact us at the district office (1-800-357-4421) and ask for ways in which we can support you. And to learn more about how God uses human relationships to build his church, schedule a Healthy Congregations workshop in your congregation.

### President Kohlmeier Out of Country

Because of the upcoming mission trip, President Kohlmeier will be out of the country and out of contact for several weeks at the end of this month, February 22-March 13. During that time you are invited to contact Marie Holt, Administrative Assistant, for your ministry needs from the President's Office (785-357-4441 ext. 219). The Vice Presidents of the Kansas District will be ready to assist you in most matters during this time. They are Rev. Ed Trost, Rev. David Meier, Rev. Randy Jahnke, and Rev. Robert Grimm.

### Spring Placement

There are 184 Candidates and 262 Vicars available for Spring Placement.

ALL vicarage applications and candidate call documents should be RECEIVED in the District Office by March 15.

Below is a list of the services.

St. Louis Vicarage Service: 4:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 27  
St. Louis Placement Service: 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 27  
Ft. Wayne Vicarage Service 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 27  
Ft. Wayne Call Service: 7:00 p.m. Wed., April 28

The new Call Document is available on the CPH website. Each district should have a user name and password to share with the churches that are calling. Only the NEW call documents will be accepted. All others will be returned. Please read through the complete step by step instructions on how to complete these new documents. You may contact Marie in the District President's Office at 1-800-357-4421 ext 219 if you have questions. You may also call the Board for Higher Education to answer questions at 1-800-248-1930 ext. 1252, ask for Trudy or Linda.

### Deaf Task Force

The Deaf Task Force is meeting Saturday, Feb. 28th, from 10a.m. to noon at the District Office. Contact Pastor Mark Eichler at 620-342-3590 or faithlu@birch.net if you have any concerns or suggestions for discussion.

### Pastors' Wives Retreat

When: Feb. 27-28  
Where: Country Inn & Suites, Salina  
2760 S. 9th St. 785-827-1271  
Presenter: Jan Borst  
Topic: Marriage & Family  
Cost: \$30 (double occupancy)  
includes breakfast & lunch on  
Saturday, snacks & materials  
Contact: Marie Holt, 800-357-4421 ext. 219  
or marie@kslscms.org

## Caring Ministry Reverend Rocky Mease, District Chaplain

### It Feels Good

I just had one of those days. I drove to Topeka for a meeting. I would rather have stayed home. I missed an Auxiliary Meeting because I didn't put it in my calendar. I decided to stop at the two Topeka hospitals after the meeting. There were only seven patients combined in both hospitals. It seemed like I had wasted a day.

Then I met two patients that made my day (and they thought I made theirs). Both of these patients were life long Lutherans. Both of them had Pastors who would visit them. Neither of them had expected me. But I was so warmly received by them.

I drove away from the hospitals tired from the travel, but my spiritual batteries had been recharged. Either one of these visits would have made my day. Even if only one of these patients had been in the hospital, it would have been

worth the drive. I know it was worth the drive for my sake. I trust it was also worth the drive for their sake.

Professional church workers sometimes forget the gifts God gives us in the work we are privileged to do. By virtue of Baptism, not only are we "Little Christs" to the people we visit but they are "Little Christs" to us as well. We are not merely visiting the sick and shut-in, but "whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers (or sisters, in this case) of mine, you did for me," were the words of Christ. It feels good. Our emotional and spiritual batteries are recharged!

When we lose sight of that gift, the hours seem long, the road seems long and our schedules seem unmanageable. When we remember this gift of meeting Christ every day in the work we do – we will remember how truly blessed we are.

## Planned Giving Garry Niehoff, Counselor

### A Myth About Wills

Some people believe that they don't need a will since they don't have a lot of property.

Many people are actually quite surprised at how much property they have. The first step is to make a list. Your property could include a home, certificates of deposit, and IRA or pension plans or savings account. Sometimes, people overlook their insurance, mutual funds or bonds, and especially personal collections. Your personal property includes vehicles, home furnishings and any collections such as stamps, coins, art or other items.

Most people find out that after making a list of approximate values of their property, they actually have considerably more than they realize.

Even if you do not have a substantial amount of property now, quite a few people end up receiving additional property. A parent, aunt, uncle or other relative may leave

you property. Some individuals have been 70, 75 or even 80 and received a significant inheritance from a brother or sister.

One woman was age 82 when her brother passed away. To her great surprise, she received an inheritance of over \$1 million.

Another person had fairly modest means and had been a very faithful volunteer at her favorite charity. Unfortunately, she was struck by a car while walking and passed away. However, the insurance company paid a large sum to her estate. If she had had a will, she could have benefited her favorite charity. Since she had no will, distant relatives and their attorneys divided the cash proceeds.

A simple will is actually quite reasonable in cost. Nearly everyone can afford the simple will and you will sleep better knowing that your affairs are in order.

## Educational Services

### Spring Singles Retreat

The Spring Singles Retreat is March 5-7 at the Clubhouse Inn & Suites in Topeka. The topic is "Do You Know I Care That You Are Single?" Vicar Robert Tiner from Calvary, Topeka is the presenter. For more information and registration forms, contact either Staci Timm at 785-823-6727 or stacitimm@juno.com or Joyce Tate at 785-357-4441 ext. 206 or joyce@kslcms.org.

### Upcoming Events

- ◆ February 2-3, Principals Conference and KAIRS Annual Meeting, Topeka Holiday Inn
- ◆ February 12, Family Life Committee
- ◆ March 7-13, National Lutheran Schools Week
- ◆ March 26-28, Family Life Academy

# Lutheran Church Extension Fund

## Larry Crume, Vice President

### LCEF News

Having recently participated in LCEF's Strategic Ministry Planning (SMP), the leadership and members of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Lawrence have begun implementing strategies that were outlined as a part of the ministry planning process. The outcome of the SMP is to discover God's calling and plan for members and the congregation. In so doing, a foundation is developed for making good decisions and prioritizing "first floor" ministry objectives. Built on God's calling, priorities help organize all other decisions and help "second floor" decisions to be made quickly and confidently. For more information about Strategic Ministry Planning, call 1-800-843-5233 or visit the LCEF Web site at [www.lcef.org/Services/Strategic\\_Ministry/default.cfm](http://www.lcef.org/Services/Strategic_Ministry/default.cfm).

### National Youth Gathering News

If your youth are planning to attend the 2004 National Youth Gathering, please consider the benefits of opening a StewardAccount® with LCEF. Not only will you earn interest on your fundraising dollars, but you will have access to your account while on the road to pay for housing, transportation, meals and more! What's more, your investment will help to provide resources for LCMS congregations and schools that borrow from LCEF.

An LCEF Congregation StewardAccount offers your Youth Group:

- ◆ Competitive interest rates on your invested dollars (2.250% in February 2004)
- ◆ Check writing access to your account (minimum \$250 per check)
- ◆ Optional Visa Check Card access to their funds with no minimum amount per transaction (ideal for paying group meals, hotel, travel and entertainment expenses)
- ◆ Simplified record keeping through monthly statements of all transactions
- ◆ Simplified payment of Gathering registration fees through automatic debit
- ◆ LCEF will also be present at the Gathering to offer on-site authorized cash withdrawals from LCEF accounts and Traveler's Check cashing services.

For more information on opening an account, call Larry Crume at the Kansas District Office at 785-357-4441 (800-357-4421) ext. 205 or call 1-800-843-5233 and speak to an LCEF Information Representative.

**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.**



### Lutheran Church Extension Fund Interest Rates - February 2004

#### 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% |

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

|   |        |
|---|--------|
| Monthly, quarterly or annual adjustable | 5.250% |
| 5 Year fixed                            | 5.500% |
| 10 Year fixed                           | 6.000% |

#### Congregation Endowment

##### (60-Month Fixed or Floating)

| Min. Investment | Rate   | APY    |
|-----------------|--------|--------|
| \$1,000         | 3.250% | 3.290% |
| \$10,000        | 3.375% | 3.418% |
| \$100,000       | 3.500% | 3.546% |

### LCEF Loan Types

LCEF Provides the following loan types to support your ministry!

| LOANTYPE       | PURPOSE   | MAXIMUM TERM  |
|----------------|---|---|
| Term           | New Building<br>Building Addition<br>Remodeling<br>Refinance            | 20 years Standard Term                                  |
| Construction   | Working capital for construction costs                                  | 3 years on interest accrual, then converts to term loan |
| Jump Start     | Seed money to support new ministry<br>Expansion of an existing ministry |   |
| Soft Cost      | Working capital for pre-construction costs                              |   |
| Unsecured      | Repairs and maintenance<br>Remodeling<br>Refurbishing                   | 15 years  |
| Line of Credit | Cash flow deficiency<br>Shortfall in operating budget<br>Seasonal need  | 5 years   |

## Deaconess Program

“Oops! I broke it!”

Do you remember the first time that you, as a little child, felt the fear of discipline when you broke something important?

So does Jesus. His atonement fixed our broken relationships. This miracle is at the center of deaconess service. The deaconess brings Christ’s healing to broken relationships. Do you have suffering sheep? Do your sheep need spiritual care? Instruction? Mercy? Then a deaconess would benefit you.

A deaconess addresses the brokenness of sin in several ways. She provides spiritual care to those in need; she teaches the faith so that people can better understand Christ’s atonement; she practices acts of mercy to address temporal needs. A deaconess can serve part-time or full-time. She can serve one parish, a multi-point site, or an entire circuit. Deaconesses can serve in the spiritual care department of an institution, such as a nursing home, hospital, or prison. Deaconess interns are also available for 9-12 month internships.

For more information, please inquire of your district president or the Directors of the Deaconess Program at Concordia Seminary 314-505-7147; Concordia Theological Seminary, or Concordia University B River Forest 708-209-3136.

## Reformation/Germany Tour

Rev. Cliff and Lois Winter of St. Andrew, Wichita are leading a fourteen day reformation pilgrimage to Germany Oct. 20-Nov. 2. Visit sites of Luther, Bach, Handel, and Gutenberg. Attend Reformation Day services in Worms. The trip includes lodging at first class hotels, most meals and private coach and baggage handling. The cost is \$2599/person from Kansas City. Contact Rev. Cliff Winter at 316-942-5811 for more information.

## Institute on the Ministry 2004

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is hosting the Institute on the Ministry 2004 on Thursday, March 11 through Saturday, March 13 on the Seminary Campus. All prospective Seminary students, college age or older, and their guests are invited to attend.

Participants will attend Seminary classes, worship with the Seminary community, tour the campus, meet students and professors, and hear presentations on academic offerings, financial assistance, housing, resident field education, vicarage and the admission process. Wives, fiancées and girlfriends are especially encouraged to attend this event and to participate in the special bus tour of the area on Friday and the Women’s Information Session on Saturday morning.

There is no charge to attend the Institute - all meals and lodging will be provided. To register or receive more information, call the Admissions Office at 800-822-9545 or email [admissions@csl.edu](mailto:admissions@csl.edu). More specific information, including a registration form, is available in the Admissions Office section of the Seminary’s website, [www.csl.edu](http://www.csl.edu).

## Lutheran Student Fellowship

Lutheran Student Fellowship, the LC-MS organization for college students, will hold its annual regional retreat March 5-7, 2004, at Living Water Ranch, a Christian retreat center overlooking Tuttle Creek Lake near Manhattan, Kansas. College students and other young adults from the region are encouraged to attend, whether or not they are involved with a local LSF chapter. The retreat theme will be “Gifted,” based on 1 Corinthians 12:4-6, and the main speaker will be Dr. Mark Blanke, director of the DCE program at Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska. LSF encourages young adults to grow in the areas of leadership, service, and faith. Questions about the retreat may be addressed to Pastor Eric Wood, Kansas District campus missionary and LSF region five pastoral advisor, at 785-539-2604 or [campusmn@flinthills.com](mailto:campusmn@flinthills.com). Registration information is available from LSF region five secretary-treasurer Kelsey Kahle, 2175 28 Road, Kearney, NE 68847 or [sunshine24\\_7@hotmail.com](mailto:sunshine24_7@hotmail.com). Registration, including a fee of \$80, is due February 9, 2004.

## Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications have been sent to all students who applied to the Kansas District last year for scholarships. Do you know of any students pursuing a career in professional church work at one of the LCMS colleges or seminaries? Please have them contact Lori Hennessey at 800-357-4421 ext. 223 or [lori@kslscms.org](mailto:lori@kslscms.org) for more information and applications.

## Share Life Workshop

Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina is sponsoring the Share Life Workshop on Saturday, February 14 from 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. Rev. Gary Rueter is the presenter. Learn how to share the love we have in Jesus in your own personal, unique way.

The cost is \$10 to help cover the noon meal and materials. Call 785-827-3184 for more information and reservations.

## Executive Director for CCCS

Children’s Christian Concern Society has appointed a search committee to hire an Executive Director. Committee members include Eugene Schmidt, Richard Hahn, Marlene Ernsting, Edie Jorns, Alfred Aufdemberge, and Arthur Vogel, chairman. If you are interested and would like more information, please contact Arthur Vogel by phone at 816-810-8942 or by mail through CCCS, 1000 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604.

## Saints Alive After 55

The seventeenth annual Saints Alive After 55 Gathering will be held at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita on July 25-27, 2004. The keynote speaker is Phyllis Wallace, a well-known speaker and moderator on the Lutheran Hour sponsored radio program *Woman to Woman*. Check your church office, bulletin boards and newsletters for further information.

## Mission Team Travels to Guinea

Later this month, Kansas District Missionary Tim Heiney will be leading the first of what we hope will be many trips to visit the mission stations of Guinea, West Africa. Accompanying Missionary Heiney will be President and Marlene Kohlmeier, Rev. Joel Hiesterman, the chairman of the District's Guinea Mission Task Force, and Chuck and Elaina Merriman of Ellinwood. Some of the goals of this trip are to continue to develop a pattern for future trips to the mission field by laypersons and church workers of our Kansas District, to meet with church leaders to strengthen present work, and to meet with our missionaries and LCMS

World Mission Personnel to plan future work. Marlene Kohlmeier, an RN and participant in the Parish Nursing Ministry of Kansas, will be spending significant time with Dr. Kristen Schmaltz, our medical missionary in Guinea. We hope to establish a ministry relationship with Dr. Schmaltz and our district's Parish Nursing Ministries. The group will be in the mission field from February 23 until March 12. Remember them and our ministry in Guinea in your daily prayers. Prayerfully consider if the Lord is inviting you to this first hand exposure to our mission field in one of the next trips.

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## Guinea Prayers

### Prayer requests from the Heineys:

✠ For volunteer Audrey Roglitz who traveled to Guinea on the 12th of January. She will be teaching the Oetting children for 6 months. Pray for easy adjustments.

✠ For Tim as he prepares for another trip to Guinea in February, and for those that will be traveling with him this time. Pray that all will go smoothly, no sicknesses, and protection during travel through the country.

✠ Continue to pray for the Forest church as they are without strong guidance and leadership during this time. Pray that God's Spirit will empower the young leaders and guide them in their teachings.

✠ For the Kuranko area. That area has now started their own market classes which means they should be getting more regular teachings. Pray that the Spirit would move mightily in this area of Guinea.

### Prayer requests from the Oettings:

✠ For Jon's very successful trip to Siguiri. He was able to negotiate a rental agreement for two houses in Siguiri. Work has started to ready the houses for the Oettings planned move to Siguiri in February.

✠ For the new contacts that Jon has made in Siguiri, that God will grant opportunities to develop relationships and share the Gospel. Keep interceding for the Maninka team's ministry in Siguiri.

✠ Praise that Jon was able to find a house for volunteer Audrey Roglitz, right next door to the Oettings located in Siguiri. Ask God to bless the efforts of Jon and Tim Norton to oversee the work of getting this home and school-site ready.

✠ Continue to intercede for Sharon. She is still teaching all three children. The current teacher for Joel and Anna needed to delay her return to Guinea another month to take care of her ailing mother in the States.

✠ Pray for Ishmael, a Maninka believer that has returned to his home country of Sierra Leone. He and his family have begun the hard work of rebuilding their home, which was destroyed during the war. Ishmael has started witnessing and reaching out to other Maninka people living in Sierra Leone.

✠ Amid all the traveling and preparing for the move to Siguiri that we will be "able to endure everything with joy... and share the light." (Colossians 1:11b-12)

### Prayer requests from the Nortons:

✠ Thanks to God for the 25 or so participants in the Bible study that they've started in a village outside of Siguiri. Ask that the Holy Spirit would work faith in all hearts.

✠ Thank God for the many good contacts they've been able to make in Siguiri and join them in praying for many chances to share His truth.

✠ Thank God that the presidential elections went off peacefully.

✠ Pray that the communications dilemma may soon be rectified.

### Prayer requests from Dr. Schmaltz:

✠ Plans for the visiting team with Tim Heiney are well in progress. We have felt blessed by all the work God is doing in our area. May we find a way to show them all the work, projects and needs as well as get transportation around to all. I am proud of the efforts taken by my forest missionary colleagues.

✠ Ministry to the Kourankos is fully in place. Blessings are being seen and efforts are being taken to develop this.

Please pray for the evangelists and the work being done to spread His word to this resistant Muslims group.

✠ Pray for guidance and wisdom for all during the council meeting to be held this month in Gueckedou. May the plans made meet with God's plans for these forest regions.

✠ May God give healing to the many sick people as He wills: Felix at the Togo seminary for Guinea, Robert's dad-leader from Ouende studying in Togo, Bebe Yasseh's daughter, children of members, all the sick at the hospital.

✠ Blessings for the focus on forest medical work and willing members to be involved in a village teaching project. May the teaching and medical work be an encouragement and help for those who are involved and a blessing to many who ask for hearing the healing gospel message.

✠ Christmas in the forest, and in my home at last, for me a blessing.

## Business Office Debbie Crites, Business Manager

### Treasurer's Manual Available Now

The updated 2003 Congregational Treasurer's Manual is now available. In order to keep the cost of the manual down, you will not automatically receive a copy. The 2003 manual will soon be available on the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod website by going to [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org) and clicking under the link “Resources.” You are able to view or print the manual from this site. If you would like us to send you a copy, call the business office at 785-357-4441 ext. 200 or email to [brenda@kslcms.org](mailto:brenda@kslcms.org). The cost of this year's manual is only \$6.75.

### Taxes and Ministers 2003

Taxes and Ministers 2003 is available on the LCMS website. This is a valuable resource for ordained and commissioned ministers and covers such topics as: The IRS's definition of minister; Employment status; W-2 or 1099; Housing and Parsonage allowances; Reporting income and expenses; Paying federal and state taxes; Social Security taxes and Tax-favored savings plans. Log on to [www.lcms.org](http://www.lcms.org) and click on Resources for Congregations.

### 2004 Congregational Commitments

If you have not done so already, please send in your congregation's 2004 Commitment Pledge to Synod and District. This information is a great help to us in budget planning for this year. You can send it in a variety of ways:

1. Email to [lori@kslcms.org](mailto:lori@kslcms.org)
2. Fax to 785-357-5071
3. Call Lori at 800-357-4421 ext. 223
4. Mail to Kansas District LCMS, 1000 SW 10<sup>th</sup> Ave,  
Topeka, KS 66604

Please send your pledge in as soon as possible. Thank you!

### IRS 2004 Mileage Rate

The Internal Revenue Service has released the new standard mileage rates that go into effect January 1, 2004: business mileage - 37.5 cents per mile (up from 36 cents per mile in 2003); charitable mileage - 14 cents per mile (no change); moving/medical mileage - 14 cents per mile (up from 12 cents in 2003).

### Lutheran Witness

Lutheran Witness subscriptions are due now. If you have not done so, please remit your payment at this time to avoid cancellation or missing any issues.



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