

Workers Together



Kansas District of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

Volume 12, Issue 8
September 2006

From the President's Office

Harvest Time in Kansas by President Keith E. Kohlmeier

*With the coming of the fall
Comes the chance for one and all
To share the hope with large and small
That Jesus died for each and all.*

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Targeted District Response

Mark Brewer - disasterresponse@kslcms.org

No, it is not a verse from the new Lutheran Service Book (LSB). It is the verse inside my head as we come to the season of the harvest. It is not so marked in Kansas, but when Marlene and I began our ministry in Iowa, the land of corn and soybeans, this was indeed the season of all or nothing. All of the labor of the year was focused on the next months, when the crops came to maturity and the labor was focused around bringing in the crops that were produced that year.

Many of you, as leaders of our church, understand the significance of this time. It may look buried in the increase of schedules and activity, but the truth is, "This Is Harvest Time." I know we bemoan the inactivity of congregations during the summer months, and at the same time we have apprehensions about the beginning of everything this time of year in a parish schedule. But this is the time for which God has seeded and watered. The seed is His Word, and the water is the opportunities that God's people in the present age of the Ablaze Movement have named "the critical moment." That is, the opportunity to share their story of God's action in loving them in a way that invites others to consider their relationship with the saving message of Jesus Christ.

I pray for you. I really do! Every morning part of my prayer life is that you, as leaders of our church in Kansas - Pastors, Commissioned Workers, Elected Leaders, Volunteers - have an opportunity today to consider a "new step" in accomplishing your role in the harvest task before us. Today, more than ever, "look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest."

(John 4:35)

Consider that with every child that enters your school, early childhood center, or day care, every young one who comes to your Sunday School, all those members you haven't seen over the summer, every guest that enters your door, every phone call that comes into the office, every decision that forms the work program of your local congregation, these are "Harvest Moments."

Harvest in Kansas. It is a great time for us. I join you in the prayer of the church, "Lord, make us an instrument of your harvest, and use each of us in this time in the way that best serves You and Your goal for the kingdom harvest. 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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Deadline: 15th of each month

Calls Accepted

- Carla Jo Brakhage from St. Paul, Coffeyville to First, Fort Smith, Ark.
- Amanda Fogelman from St. Paul, Sioux City, Iowa to Hope, Shawnee, Tch
- Rev. Thomas Johnson from St. Luke, Wheaton to St. Paul, Melrose Park, Ill.
- Sue Kleber from Immanuel, Columbus, Neb. to Holy Cross, Wichita, Tch
- Rev. Rick Marrs from Immanuel, Junction City to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis
- Rev. Paul Tessaro from Memphis, Tenn. to St. Paul, Clay Center
- Jessie Uffman from Concordia, Seward to Linn Lutheran School Association, Tch Placement

Calls Declined

- Rev. Michael Awe from Immanuel, Tilden, Neb. to St. John, Ellinwood
- Robert Bennett from Emma, Mo. to Linn Lutheran School Association, Tch
- Rev. Brian Hetzel from Blue Springs, Mo. to Bethany, Wichita

Calls Pending

- Darius "Bo" Chapman from Trinity, Tyler, Texas to Redeemer, Olathe, DCE
- Rev. Rick Twenhafel from St. Matthew, Nortonville to Alaska Mission for Christ, Director of Ministry

Calling Congregations/Schools

St. Martin, Basehor	Hope, Shawnee (Tch)
Zion, Downs	Hope, Topeka
Grace, El Dorado	Bethany, Wichita
St. John, Ellinwood	Holy Cross, Wichita (DCE)
Bethlehem, Greenleaf	St. Andrew, Wichita
Concordia, Hoisington	
Immanuel, Junction City	
St. Paul, Junction City	
Lord of Life, Leawood (DCM)	
Grace, Lyons	
Christ, Manhattan	
Trinity, McFarland	
Trinity, Mission (2nd Campus)	
Peace, Natoma	
Beautiful Savior, Olathe (DCE)	
Redeemer, Olathe (DCE)	
Christ, Overland Park (DCM)	
Trinity, Parsons	

Worship Service at State Fair

The Lutheran Laymen's League will again sponsor a worship service at the Kansas State Fair on Sept. 10 at 10:00 a.m. at the Farm Bureau Arena. Rev. Daniel Galchutt from St. Paul, Haven is the worship leader. Please join us!

District Calendar

September

- 12-14 National Circuit Counselor Conference
- 15-17 Lay Leadership Training, District Office
- 18-19 Timothy Gathering, District Office
- 26 Education Loan Repayment Committee, Nortonville
- 28-29 Principals' Conference, Topeka

October

- 12-13 **Professional Workers Conference**, Wichita
- 13-14 **Ablaze Convocation**, Wichita
- 20-22 Lay Leadership Training, District Office
- 27-28 Board of Directors, District Office

Prayers

- Rev. Bert Tegtmeier, Messiah, Emporia, at the death of his mother.
- Rev. Richard and Cheryl Zabel, Grace, Wichita, at the death of Cheryl's brother.
- Rev. Gene Holtorf, St. John, Palmer, health concerns.
- Rev. Tom Mendenhall, Our Redeemer, Hutchinson, recovery from heart surgery.
- The family of Rev. Delmer Brack, retired, Andover, at his death in July.

Milestone Ordination Anniversaries

September

Mike May 35 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

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Marie Holt (219)
Business Office press 3
Debbie Crites (204)
LCEF press 3
Larry Crume (205)
Education press 5
Jim Bradshaw (206)
Joyce Tate (206)
Media Library
Beth Eubanks (100)

Mission & Stewardship press 4
Lori Hennessey (223)
Planned Giving press 6
Garry Niehoff (101)
Doris Wilson (101)
Targeted District Response
Mark Brewer (220)
Directory press 8
Extension by name press 9
Operator press 0

World Series, Cooler Nights, and Budget Meetings by President Kohlmeier

As leaders of the church, I know that each of you will experience at least a couple of these over the next month or two. Concerning the latter, I want to again encourage you as officers of your congregation to take the time to sit down with your workers to visit with them concerning their support before any serious “budget” considerations begin. In particular, I would commend to you a booklet available from our church’s Commission on Ministerial Growth and Support entitled “Let’s Talk it Over: 10 Conversations on Supporting Church Workers.” Their email address is cmgs@lcms.org.

As it relates to the financial support of our workers you should have been notified by now that the Board of Directors has decided to increase the base salary of our District Salary Guidelines by 3.40%, the national number of the Consumer Price Index. At the same time, the group recognized that the CPI does not include food or energy. We all know the extra burdens that increases in those areas have put upon us. Some equate those increases as 23-26%.

Congregations have all the more reason to AT LEAST provide for their workers at 100% of our Salary Guidelines. Please first take the time for private conversation with your workers, second be an advocate for Godly support for our workers in the Kansas District. Thank you.

Notice of Call for Nominations

The Kansas District of The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is now seeking nominations for the position of Executive Director for Missions and Stewardship Services. The director will provide leadership to and assist congregations in the administration of missions and ministries. The Executive Director shall be called by the Board of Directors for three years, subject to an annual review. Qualifications: The Executive Director shall be on the ordained roster of Synod and have a minimum of ten years’ experience in professional church work, a major portion of which should include parish work. Letters of nomination are to be received on or before Oct. 15, 2006 and shall be mailed to: Executive Call Committee, Kansas District LCMS, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604.

Abilene Convocation
October 12-14

Business Office Debbie Crites, Business Manager

Concordia Health Plan Deadlines

The fall deadlines for choosing Concordia Health Plan (CHP) coverage options for 2007 have been established. The dates for requesting changes in coverage are as follows:

- ◆ Late August – election forms and information will be mailed to all employers and all forms will be available on the Concordia Plan Services website: www.ConcordiaPlans.org.
- ◆ September 1 through October 6 – employers may elect a different plan coverage option for year 2007.
- ◆ October 16 through November 17 – Annual Open Enrollment – active, full-time workers employed by a CHP-participating organization can enroll themselves or their dependents in the Concordia Health Plan (subject to Annual Open Enrollment guidelines).

Remember that employers enrolled in the CHP may choose to remain with their current health plan option or choose from the other options available. Employers wishing to choose a plan coverage option different from their current one will need to inform Concordia Plans of their decision no later than October 6, 2006. If you are not making a change in coverage, then no action is necessary and the current plan coverage option will continue for 2007. Make your arrangements now for the necessary meetings needed in order to make your decision before the October 6 deadline.

Salary Guidelines Now Available

The Kansas District Salary Guidelines for 2007 have been finalized and are now available on the District website at www.kslcms.org. You can access them by clicking on the “Publications” tab. If you are unable to download and view this online, call or email Debbie Crites, 800-357-4421 ext. 204 or debbie@kslcms.org.

Pre-Retirement Workshop Planned

We have had overwhelmingly positive responses from workers that have participated in Concordia Plans Pre-Retirement Workshops. The Kansas District will host a third workshop on November 2-3 in Wichita. Sections will include budgeting and finance, retirement income, envisioning your retirement lifestyle, health concerns, where to live and what to do with your time in retirement. Since retirement decisions affect not only you as the church workers, but your family too, this workshop is designed for couples to attend together.

Concordia Plan Services representatives Eustolio Gomez and Paul Snyder will be leading this workshop and will schedule ½ hour individual sessions with you and your spouse to discuss any additional retirement questions that you might have. Cost to attend is \$105 per couple which includes one night’s lodging and three meals. To register for the workshop, please contact Debbie Crites at 800-357-4421 ext. 204 or debbie@kslcms.org.

Caring Ministry Reverend Rocky Mease, District Chaplain

One Year Later - Our Targeted District Response For Victims of Hurricane Katrina

It is hard to believe that one year has passed since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast Region and the three congregations with whom we have been in partnership in Slidell, Louisiana. Because we don't hear about recovery efforts very much on the news, many have assumed the recovery must be nearing completion. Nothing could be further from the truth. The truth is we are nearing the beginning!

My last trip to Slidell was July 20-28. I was there to help support 22 youth and 10 adults from the Kansas City area who traveled to Slidell to lead VBS programs at Lamb of God and Bethany Lutheran Churches. (Good Shepherd's children attended at Lamb of God since they have no access to their temporary facility during the week.) We had nearly 140 children participate in our five very full days of Camp Noah (a VBS program designed for children who have gone through a disaster).

About half of the children who attended Camp Noah knew someone who had died during the hurricane. All of them reported losses related to the storm. About half of the children were currently living in FEMA trailers. Some of the children reported sleeping in the trailer bath tubs or outside because of the crowded conditions. Many of the children continued to be traumatized from being caught in the storm. One girl told how the soldiers who rescued them from their roof had to shoot their dogs because there was no room for the dogs in the boat.

Many of the adults I spoke with this trip also seemed more despondent than on previous trips. Most have assumed that they and their community would have been further along in recovery as they approach this anniversary. Many seem to be losing hope.

Paul's words to the Romans in Chapter 15, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit," seem most appropriate. We know the God of hope and as partners in this Targeted District Response we have the opportunity to remind Katrina's victims of it.



In the next few months Lutheran Disaster Response will have 40 additional beds (not cots) in a dorm (not tents) at Peace Lutheran Church (ELCA) in Slidell. By the first of the year LDR and Laborers for Christ will have two new volunteer camps (also serving Slidell) in East New Orleans which will have 500 additional beds. These will also be in enclosed structures. We will keep you updated as these additional beds take shape. Construction and Case Managers have been hired and rebuilding is beginning to occur!

The bottom line is they are expecting more volunteers this year than last. If you have already been to Slidell – find someone who hasn't gone, and invite them to go back with you. If you haven't been yet – there will be many opportunities to go in the next couple of years.

We need:

- ◆ Skilled builders (Roofers, painters, carpenters, plumbers, electricians, etc.)
- ◆ Teachable helpers for these builders
- ◆ People willing to gut homes (this is primarily in East New Orleans)
- ◆ People willing to cook, clean, run errands or do office work around camp
- ◆ RNs (as camp nurse or to work at a clinic in Mississippi)
- ◆ Snow Birds willing to spend the winter (RV parking is available)
- ◆ Long term volunteers (we have an RV available for those willing to stay longer than 3 weeks)

If you are interested in volunteering or desire speakers for any sized groups, contact:

- ◆ Mark Brewer
Volunteer Coordinator
800-357-4421 ext. 220 (may be forwarded to Faith, Topeka)
disasterresponse@kslcms.org
- ◆ Rev. Rocky Mease
District Chaplain
316-993-0746
chaprm@aol.com

Missions & Stewardship

Education Loan Repayment

Applications are now being accepted for the Kansas District Education Loan Repayment Grants. These grants are available to all rostered synodical graduates working in the Kansas District with graduation dates of 1997 or later.

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 8.

Mission Grant Applications

Applications for mission aid grants are now being taken from congregations needing financial assistance. The documents must be completed and returned to the District office by September 22 to be considered by the Board of Missions for the fiscal year 2007.

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

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Larry Crume, Vice President

Teaching Stewardship to Our Youth

Christian Stewardship is one area in the Church on which we might well focus some additional attention. President Kieschnick's latest article in the LCMS Reporter discussed this topic in detail. We can begin the process of a "Stewardship Renaissance" by enlisting the help of our youth. That's right; the children of our congregations will be our Christian leaders some day, and that is why it is so important to teach them stewardship at an early age.

The K.I.D.S. (Kids Into Discipleship and Stewardship) Savings Stamp Program provides just that opportunity. Children enjoy saving their coins in the K.I.D.S. stamp plan, putting aside their extra money for a savings account that will help build churches and schools. This simple example shows kids that they can share and be a part of helping others. They may not recognize placing stamps in a K.I.D.S. stamp folder as being good stewards of their coins, but doing this on a regular basis will become a habit - a habit that will stay with them into adulthood.



It's our responsibility to be enthusiastic to our children and grandchildren in the way we teach stewardship to them. This will be an exciting trend that will spread to many generations beginning with our youth. Why not begin this simple stewardship lesson in your church or school? Contact Larry Crume at 800-357-4421 ext. 205 or lcrume@kslcms.org for more information.

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 - August 2006

Steward Account Rates:

Congregational Certificates

Demand	3.000%
Steward Account	3.625%

Individual Accounts

Less than \$1,000	2.125%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	2.250%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	2.625%
\$10,000 and over	3.500%



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

Monthly, quarterly or annual adjustable	5.875%
5 Year fixed	6.375%

Congregation Endowment (60-Month Fixed or Floating):

Min. Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	4.540%	4.618%
\$10,000	4.665%	4.747%
\$100,000	4.790%	4.877%

Electronic Offering and Tuition Payments

Electronic offering and tuition payments are available and they are free to LCMS Congregations and schools. This service is provided by the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and is called *Joyful Response*. Electronic payments are automatically transferred on the requested dates at no charge.

The cost for setup and administering the program is paid for by LCEF. If you are interested, contact Larry Crume at 800-357-4421 ext. 205 or lcrume@kslcms.org.

Planned Giving

Garry Niehoff, Counselor

Part IV – Charitable Remainder Trust

Each year it is the generous spirit of friends that makes our work possible. This generosity is evident in countless ways, including gifts of financial support. And while giving may seem a straightforward discussion, there are many ways that friends choose to make a gift. Some careful planning will ensure that your objectives are met. This is Part IV in a series of five parts that will provide an overview of some of the most common ways to make a gift and the benefits of each.

The Charitable Remainder Trust is perhaps the most versatile charitable giving tool. With the CRT it is possible to bypass capital gains tax on the sale of highly appreci-

ated assets, generate an increase in income, receive an attractive charitable income tax deduction and fulfill your philanthropic objectives.

The CRT is a legal trust that can be constructed to produce a predictable annuity payment each year or take advantage of investment growth opportunities with income payments based on a growing trust principal.

For more information on how a Charitable Remainder Trust might multiply the impact of specific assets and help you realize the sum of your objectives for family and for charity, please call our office at 1-800-357-4421 ext. 101.

Educational Services

Jim Bradshaw, Executive

Early Childhood Ministries

As the summer of 2006 begins winding down and fall ministries get launched, the Educational Services department of the Kansas District also examines new ways to encourage schools and congregations to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

One way that this outreach is being accomplished is through our early childhood ministries – over fifty centers now exist in the District with two new starts this fall! This month, I would like to challenge our early childhood centers to consider improvement through the new National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) process for early childhood centers. At the June District Convention, delegates passed a resolution encouraging our Lutheran preschools and dayschools to consider initiating steps towards NLSA accreditation. I have asked the director of the Kansas District's first NLSA accredited free-standing early childhood center, Deb Killingsworth, at Redeemer, Olathe, to share a few of her thoughts on the benefits of this process.

“As director of Redeemer Lutheran Preschool in Olathe for the past 20 years, I have been extremely proud of our program, the progress we have made and the terrific staff we have. Yet, we didn't have the validity I wanted that confirmed we had an outstanding Christian program. National Lutheran School Accreditation provided that opportunity for us.

NLSA helped us thoroughly examine every facet of our program and helped us target key areas for improvement. It further helped us organize and set up a plan of action so we can continue to improve all key areas for maintaining a solid program. It has also strengthened our connection with the church.

Although this program is voluntary, I would encourage every early childhood center to prayerfully consider this process.”

If your center wishes to receive a NLSA consultation or your congregation is interested in starting an early childhood ministry, please contact Jim Bradshaw, Executive Director for Educational Services, at 800-357-4421 ext. 206.

Family Ministry Basics Workshops

Family Ministry Basics is a one-day workshop designed to equip leaders to integrate family ministry practices into their local congregations. The cost (\$10/person) will cover lunch and some materials.

Workshops will be held at the following locations:

- ◆ Saturday, September 30 at Bethany, Overland Park
- ◆ Saturday, October 7 at Trinity, Salina
- ◆ Saturday, October 21 at Zion, Independence

Questions? Contact Educational Services at 800-357-4421 ext. 206.

Children's Ministry Network Expands

At the recent Kansas District - LCMS Convention in Topeka, pastoral and lay delegates were invited to list the names of congregational leaders who serve in various aspects of children's ministry in their parish and return that list to the Educational Services department. Pam Gieseke, Assistant Director of Children's Ministry at Bethany Lutheran Church in Overland Park, has agreed to volunteer her services as the first Child Ministry Associate for the District. She and I are teaming to identify a network, promote children's ministry practices within the District, and provide resources for Sunday School, midweek and other child-focused ministries.

The first step in building the network is to seek additional information from you and/or others who facilitate children's ministry practices in your parish. Please email or phone Joyce Tate (joyce@kslcms.org or 800-357-4421 ext. 206) with the following information:

- ◆ Name of Children's Ministry Leader
- ◆ Name of church/town
- ◆ A preferred email address and/or mailing address
- ◆ How this person serves in Children's Ministry at your church.

Adding names to the network increases opportunities for the sharing of resources. Thanks for your assistance!

Rexford Rally for Jr. High Youth

A dream is about to be born for western Kansas! There is a District Junior High Youth Event at Shepherd's Staff Retreat Center in Rexford, November 3-4, from 7 p.m. Friday to 7 p.m. Saturday.

Mark your calendars for this opportunity. There will be music, keynote speaker DCE Drew Achong, workshops, a Concordia Youth Ministry Team and, of course, fun!

The cost is \$50 and includes lodging and all meals on Saturday. Contact: Pastor Warren Prochnow at Holy Cross, Scott City, 620-872-2294 or pastor@hclscottcity.org OR DCE Leland Jackson at Trinity, Garden City, 620-276-3110.

LYF Representatives Needed

Calling all sophomores in high school! It is now time to prayerfully consider your service to the Kansas District as one of four Lutheran Youth Fellowship (LYF) representatives. All four LYF reps will be asked to attend two District Youth Committee meetings and two of the four will receive a paid trip to the annual Council of LYF Representatives (CLYFR) on March 15-18 in St. Louis.

Completed applications should be returned to: Kansas District LCMS, Attn: Educational Services, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604. The deadline to receive applications is November 15.

2007 National Youth Gathering

The theme for the 2007 National LCMS Youth Gathering is CHOSEN, taken from 1 Peter 2:9 – “The most important choice in a Christian’s life is not one we make, but the one God made when He chose us to be His people.” Orlando, Florida will be the host city for the 10th triennial Gathering to be held July 28-Aug. 1, 2007.

Registration materials for CHOSEN were sent in August. Go to the National LCMS Youth Gathering website, www.lcmsgathering.com, to find out the latest updates. For details from the Kansas District, go to www.kslcms.org/nyg.

Please don’t hesitate to contact any of your District Coordinators:

- ◆ Terry Wiechman, 316-685-1571, pastor@tlcwichita.org
- ◆ Barb Wiechman, 316-838-0944, barb@salc.kscoxmail.com
- ◆ Vicki Lessman, 316-684-1367, vlessman@cox.net

Kansas District Youth Gathering
November 17-19 in Topeka
“visualize Him”
www.kslcms.org/kdyg

Lutheran Service Book Workshops

Workshops will be held throughout the District this fall to introduce Lutheran Service Book. Each workshop will be from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and is designed for everybody and anybody who is involved in worship planning and worship leading in your congregation. Whether you have decided to purchase the hymnal or not, I encourage you to attend one of the workshops. The cost is \$20 and a copy of the pew addition (worth \$18.50) for each participant is included. Online registration is now open at: <http://lsb.cph.org>.

City	Date	Host Congregation
Garden City	Sept. 16	Trinity
Wichita	Sept. 30	Holy Cross
Hays	Oct. 7	Messiah
Chanute	Oct. 21	Zion
Shawnee	Oct. 28	Hope
Topeka	Nov. 11	St. John

Items Available

Used Communion Tray with Cover (holds 50 individual cups), Ciborium and Chalice - silver and gray in color. Great for a new mission congregation! For more information, please contact Rev. Timothy Henning of Peace, Greensburg at 620-723-2300 or oursaviorspeace@cox.net. Thank you!

Prayers/Newsletters from Guinea

Updated prayer requests and newsletters from our missionaries in Guinea are available on the District website at http://kslcms.org/ks_guinea/index.htm.

Principals’ Conference

When: September 28-29

Where: Clubhouse Inn & Suites, Topeka

Registration: \$30 (includes meals but not lodging)

Contact: Joyce at 800-357-7721 ext. 206 or joyce@kslcms.org

Deaf Witness Workshop

The Kansas District Deaf Ministry Task Force is hosting a Witness Workshop on October 28 at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Wheaton. This workshop begins with registration at 9:30 a.m. and ends with social time at 7:30 p.m. Pastor Richard Moody from Holy Cross Deaf Church in St. Louis will be the guest presenter.

Registration is \$20 per person and includes a t-shirt, lunch and dinner. Registration forms are available on the District website at: http://kslcms.org/ks_registrations/deaf_workshop_0806.pdf.

Contact Faith, Emporia at 620-342-3590 if you have any questions.



*Professional Church
Workers Conference*
October 12-14

LCMS Calls Missionaries

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod’s Board for Mission Services has issued calls or appointments to 28 missionaries. The missionaries have been called or appointed to a total of 15 countries or geographical areas, mostly in Asia, as part of a “Balanced Focus Plan” that outlines LCMS World Mission’s global mission strategy.

The “Balanced Focus Plan” strategy calls for special emphases in different world areas, adopted with an eye toward existing opportunities for mission work: providing education in Asia, offering human care in Africa, training and equipping partner churches in Latin America, and “reconnecting people to their Christian heritage” in Eurasia.

Its domestic counterpart calls for starting ethnic ministries and revitalizing existing ministries in the Northeast, starting urban ministries and revitalizing existing ministries in the Great Lakes region, and training new missionaries through distance education in the western United States.

All seven emphases “are intended to help us effectively carry out our purpose: LCMS World Mission, in collaboration with its North American and worldwide partners, will share the Good News of Jesus with 100 million unreached or uncommitted people by the 500th anniversary of the Reformation in 2017,” according to Dr. Robert Roegner, Executive Director of LCMS World Mission.

In other words, “LCMS World Mission’s purpose and strategies relate directly to the *Ablaze!* outreach initiative.”
(from ILC News, Vol. XVII, No. 3)

ABLAZE CONVOCATION

October 12-14 Hyatt, Wichita

Who should attend?
**Lay Persons and
Professional Church Workers**

Why should I attend?
**For a mission to take place on the scale of
ABLAZE, a major commitment from the whole
people of God is needed - and this includes you!**

This event will help professional church workers and congregation leaders discover how they can better share the saving message of Jesus with the people around them - in their schools, communities and beyond. *The goal is to have at least 10 professional church workers and lay persons from each congregation attending.*

Workshops on Thursday and Friday morning are for professional church workers. Workshops on Friday afternoon and Saturday's Open Space Technology session are for both professional church workers and lay persons.

Bring your passion for your church and your responsibility for making it better. On Saturday, be ready to be an active participant, sharing thoughts and ideas in small groups according to your interests and ministry passions.

Registration materials were mailed in late August. For more details, visit the district website at: www.kslcms.org/pcwc_ablaze. The cost is \$110 for professional church workers, \$70 for emeriti and \$70 for lay persons which includes most meals, but not lodging. A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hyatt/Century II, 316-293-1234, under "Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod." The room block **will be released after Sept. 12**, so make your reservations soon. The Convocation registration deadline is September 27.



Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Kansas District
1000 SW 10th Avenue
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