



Workers Together

"The servant mission of The Kansas District is to equip, encourage and empower each congregation in its mission and Christ-care ministry."



Volume 15, Issue 1 January 2008

President's Office

Turning the Page on a New Year

by President Keith Kohlmeier

I started writing the heart of this article while I was in a Bible study. No, I wasn't leading it and, yes, I was paying attention. The challenge given during the Bible study was for us to write a paragraph of what it meant to live "by faith" in our world today.



I thought about that Bible study when the time came for me to write this article for the New Year edition. The older I get the more I ponder that simple motion of turning a calendar page. I remember a time when my thoughts were dominated by the things that were drawing me forward.

I find myself now at an age when those same thoughts are also joined by those things that have preceded the calendar date. God has a way of putting these things into context.

In the context of the coming year, and in the context of the years that we have lived, I believe that many of you can relate to the following paragraph that I wrote during that Bible study.

"Claimed by God in my childhood, He has nurtured me through my youth through believing and caring parents and a believing spouse. He has been patient and present through my wandering. He has been forgiving of my attempts to be independent and constant in grace in my daily pong game (youth, please ask your parents to explain) between two natures. He has embraced me as His beloved when I fall into His forgiving arms at the end of each day, and is always there with His persistent promise about my tomorrow."

Many will mark the turning of the 2007-2008 calendar page only with party hats and New Year resolutions. We have a much more sure reason to turn the page! All things are drawing closer to the time that these things will find their completion in the hope that has been borne into us through waters of baptism and refreshed regularly through the owning of the promise.

We own the promise but we are left in this age, and on this day, that we might be heralds to those who face the new year with only funny party hats and hangovers. We are left that we might be "ABLAZE" with a message that this world desperately needs to hear about its tomorrow.

I do not believe that God has worked these things in my life so that I alone can be secure. How selfish is that? The best way that I can give thanks for all that He has done is to extend the same hope to someone who needs to know that New Year only comes once a year, but New Life is for eternity! Join me in blowing that horn every day, and not just when the ball drops in Time Square!

Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on. 1 Peter 1:3

NEW LIFE



I N S I D E	District Calendar	2
	Calls in Kansas	2
	Planned Giving	3
	LCEF	3
	Education	4-5
	Business Office	6
	Missions & Stewardship	7
	Guinea Prayers	8

District Website/Email

Website: www.kslcms.org

President's Office

Rev. Keith Kohlmeier - kekohl@kslcms.org

Marie Holt - marie@kslcms.org

Mission & Stewardship

Rev. Mark Frith - mtfrith@kslcms.org

Lori Hennessey - lori@kslcms.org

Educational Services

Jim Bradshaw - jbradshaw@kslcms.org

Joyce Tate - joyce@kslcms.org

Business Office

Debbie Crites - debbie@kslcms.org

Tami Lierz - tami@kslcms.org

Lutheran Church Ext. Fund

Larry Crume - lcrume@kslcms.org

Barb McComas - barb@kslcms.org

Planned Giving

Garry Niehoff - servantwo@kslcms.org

Doris Wilson - servantwo@kslcms.org

Caring Ministry

Chaplain Rocky Mease - chaprm@aol.com

District Disaster Response

Chaplain Rocky Mease - chaprm@aol.com

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

- Rev. Scott Lemmerman from Zion, Chanute to Ascension, Kansas City, Mo.

Calls Declined

- Rev. Brent Kuhlman from Trinity, Murdock, Neb. to Bethlehem, Greenleaf

Calling Congregations/Schools

St. John, Aliceville
 St. Peter, Barnes
 St. Luke, Bazine
 Zion, Downs
 Bethlehem, Greenleaf
 St. Paul, Junction City
 St. Paul, Lincoln
 Christ, Manhattan
 Trinity, Mission (Min. of Outreach, DCE)
 Zion, Newton
 Christ, Overland Park (Senior Pastor)
 Trinity, Paola (2 Teachers)
 Trinity, Parsons
 Trinity, Salina (DCE)
 Calvary, Topeka



Milestone Ordination Anniversaries

January

Walter Resner 55 years

District Congregation Mission Receipts

Last month:	Nov. 16, 2007 - Dec. 15, 2007	\$137,170
	Nov. 16, 2006 - Dec. 15, 2006	\$150,869
Year-to-date:	Jan. 16, 2007 - Dec. 15, 2007 ...	\$1,512,873
	Jan. 16, 2006 - Dec. 15, 2006 ...	\$1,491,725
To LCMS:	Jan. 16, 2007 - Dec. 15, 2007	\$635,407
	Jan. 16, 2006 - Dec. 15, 2006	\$626,525

The LCMS in a Nutshell

The St. Louis-based Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, founded in 1847, has 2.5 million baptized members in 6,150 congregations served by more than 9,000 pastors. The church, which ranks as one of the 10-largest Christian denominations in the United States, owns and operates the KFUE radio stations, two seminaries, 10 colleges and universities, and the largest Protestant parochial school system in America. The LCMS is in full doctrinal fellowship with 29 other confessional Lutheran churches on six continents, supports more than 650 missionaries in some 85 countries around the globe, and is a founding partner of Lutheran Services in America, one of the country's largest social-service organizations, with total disbursements last year of approximately \$8 billion.

District Calendar

January

1 District Office Closed, New Year's
 4-5 Youth Ministry Team Retreat, Wichita
 13 Adult Education Committee, District Office
 18-20 Lay Leadership Institute, District Office
 21-22 Circuit Counselor Conference, Wichita
 22-23 Pre-Lent Retreat, Wichita
 25-26 Board of Directors, District Office
 29-30 DCE Retreat, Hesston

February

5 Campus Missionaries, District Office
 10 Principals & Early Childhood Directors, District Office
 15-17 Lay Leadership Institute, District Office
 23 Child Ministry Summit, District Office

Prayers

- Congratulations to Rev. Bryan Drebes, Bethany, Overland Park, and Cheryl Riedel at their marriage on Nov. 17
- Rev. Tom Mendenhall, Our Redeemer, Hutchinson, health concerns
- Rev. LeRoy Pralle, Christ the King, Salina, health concerns
- Rev. Arno & Nina Meyer, retired, Topeka, health concerns
- Terry Wiechman, Trinity, Wichita, health concerns
- Rev. John Drush, retired, Hutchinson, health concerns
- Barb McComas, District Office staff, health concerns

Area Chaplains

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

Topeka - For hospital visits in Topeka, contact Rev. George Bruening at 785-273-5769 or 636-627-7315.

Kansas City - Our Saviour Lutheran Church has an apartment available for families who have patients in Kansas City area hospitals (sleeps 4). Families must live outside a 35 mile radius of Kansas City. Contact Donna Bottemuller at 913-236-6228 for more information.

District Directory

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)
 Tami Lierz (200)

LCEF press 3
 Larry Crume (118)
 Barb McComas (100)

Education press 5
 Jim Bradshaw (206)
 Joyce Tate (206)



Mission & Stewardship press 4
 Mark Frith (223)

Lori Hennessey (223)

Planned Giving press 6

Garry Niehoff (101)

Doris Wilson (101)

Directory press 8

Extension by name press 9

Operator press 0

Church Endowment Funds Offer Ministry Opportunities

Many churches have endowment funds that were established to expand the ministry of the congregation. Some of those funds have very little, if any money in them; therefore, not much ministry takes place. Some have just received a bequest but have not defined what the ministry of the church should be.

When a bequest does come in, they realize they have work to do so they can use the money for the Lord's work in a way that would be pleasing to Him. The sky is the limit as to what this ministry might be. The communities we are in have a lot of different needs and we, as the local church, have a diverse ability to serve those

needs. The endowment fund committee will need to spend some time deciding which of the needs your church has the ability to fill. The committee meets and plans the ministry and gets approval from the congregation to do that ministry.

Our church body is involved in a very exciting movement called *Ablaze!* This is a movement to share the Gospel with 100 million people by the year 2017. An endowment fund may be very appropriately used to give us opportunities to share that Gospel. It can be used to enhance our ministry to serve the community and demonstrate we are a



caring church that is interested in providing services that may not be available from other sources.

An endowment fund may fund many initiatives that would give us opportunities to serve the people of our congregation and our community. This may be social programs, volunteer programs or anything that fills a gap in our community, such as making people aware of division of assets or helping them file health claims. It may give us money to set up volunteer groups that make sure that no one eats a meal alone on a major holiday. It may give us money to fill a hole that Meals On Wheels may miss.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund

Larry Crume, Vice President

IRA Options with LCEF

Take control of your retirement future! LCEF provides investment options for both Traditional IRA's as well as Roth IRA's. LCEF's dedicated professional staff will be happy to discuss with you the features of both to help you decide which is better for you.

LCEF Dedicated Certificates and Fixed and Floating Term Notes can be used for a Traditional or Roth IRA investment. If you already have an IRA account elsewhere, consider transferring it to an LCEF IRA. Also, certain qualified plans like a 401(k) or a 403(b) tax sheltered annuity may be rolled over into an LCEF IRA. A special application form is required to open an IRA or ESA (Education Savings Account). For additional information and an application form, call 1-800-843-5233.

Cemetery Perpetual Care StewardAccount®

The Cemetery Perpetual Care StewardAccount® is an investment specifically for LCMS congregational cemetery funds. This investment is intended for dollars designated for the improvement, maintenance, management, control and long-term operation of a congregation's cemetery. The Cemetery Perpetual Care StewardAccount® offers easy access to the invested funds and pays competitive market rates.

The LCEF Cemetery Perpetual Care StewardAccount® offers congregations the following features: Interest-Bearing Investment, Check-Writing Privileges, VISA ATM/Check Card and Electronic Funds Transfer.

"Million Dollar" Congregation Honored

The Lutheran Church Extension Fund honored St. Paul, Preston, with its prestigious "Million Dollar" Congregation Award on Nov. 16 in Dallas at LCEF's annual conference.

St. Paul was recognized for achieving \$1 million in investments with

LCEF, combined with at least 10 percent investor participation from the congregation.

"This recognition exemplifies the partnership in ministry between this congregation and LCEF," said Larry Crume, Kansas District LCEF Vice

LCEF Interest Rates

January 2008

Steward Account Rates:

Congregational Certificates

Demand	3.125%
Steward Account	4.125%

Individual Accounts

Less than \$1,000	2.375%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	2.500%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	2.875%
\$10,000 and over	4.125%

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

Monthly, quarterly or annual adjustable	6.125%
5 Year fixed	6.625%

Congregation Endowment (60-Month Fixed or Floating):

Min. Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	4.245%	4.313%
\$10,000	4.370%	4.442%
\$100,000	4.495%	4.571%

President. "The members of St. Paul have a clear understanding of the mission of LCEF. Their investments earn interest, but these funds also provide low-cost loans to LCMS churches and schools. It's a win-win situation."

Lutheran School Ablaze Moment

Ahh, Reformation Day! Because of the specialness of this day, we held our chapel on Wednesday. I had been mulling over what to talk to the children about and at the very last minute decided to tell them a story of a young student by the name of Marty (we know him as Martin Luther).

I shared about Marty as a young boy in school and his father's wishes for him. Marty was a very good student who wanted to do well for himself and for his family. He became a well known lawyer and struggled with the vengeful, law-oriented God that he knew. By the time that we got to him living in a monastery, the older children knew we were talking about Martin Luther. They knew about his studies into God's nature and that he one day realized that the words in Ephesians 2: 8-9 were really true. The

children told me how this changed Martin Luther's life and that he began the reformation of the church.

Right after lunch, one of the older boys found me and told me that he really listened to what was said during chapel that morning. Before he left me to go back to class, he turned and said, "Ya know, Mr. Mieger, maybe God will do something really special with my life, too." I told him that I was sure that God would.

I am always amazed (even though I shouldn't be) of how God works in the hearts of our children through the little things in life and the sharing of His Word. I hope that I will be around long enough to see the miracles that God will work in and through this young man.

by Paul Mieger, Principal, Faith, Derby

SPRING SINGLE ADULT MINISTRY RETREAT

The Hampton Inn (11th off K-61) in Hutchinson will be the location for the April 4-6 District Single Adult Ministry Retreat. Rooms are \$89.95/ night (breakfast included). For registration information, please contact chairperson Staci Timm at stacitimm@juno.com.

Upcoming Events for DCEs

Register now for the annual Kansas District DCE Retreat that will be held January 28-29 at Cross Winds Retreat Center in Hesston. For further information, check out the PDF file available at http://www.kslcms.org/ks_registrations/index.htm#dce.

A Regional DCE Conference is scheduled for March 27-29 in Overland Park - the inaugural gathering of DCEs from the following Districts: Iowa West, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska and Oklahoma. Registration cost should not exceed \$100 (which will include three meals). The Pear Tree will serve as the local hotel

(\$64/night). The theme is "Partners in the Gospel" based on Philippians 1:5. The keynote presenter is Dr. Jim McConnell, DCE Director at Concordia, Austin. Dr. Steve Arnold (Concordia, St. Paul) will serve as the Spiritual Director. The goals for this gathering include networking, professional growth and spiritual support for DCEs in this region. Program will commence at 3:00 p.m. on Thursday and conclude on Saturday at 11:30 a.m. Registration deadline is February 27. Contact Joyce at 800-357-4421 ext. 206 for further information.

The National Youth Workers Conference

The National Youth Workers Conference will be held July 10-13 at the Westin Hotel in downtown Indianapolis, Ind. The NLYWC strives to provide a comprehensive program that meets the needs and challenges the minds of professionals and volunteers working with junior and senior high youth in the Lutheran congregational setting. To register for this event, call 1-800-248-1930 ext. 1155.

Early Childhood Training

Preschool and Child Care Directors should mark their calendars for two February workshops:

◆ Sunday, February 10, 1:30-5:00 p.m.

Marketing & Funding the Early Childhood Center with LCMS Schools Consultant Bob Rogalski. Location: Kansas District Office, Topeka. Cost: FREE of charge! Register by contacting Joyce at 800-357-4421 ext. 206.

◆ Sunday, February 24, 1:30-5:00 p.m.

Accreditation Training with Terry Schmidt, LCMS Schools Ministry, St. Louis. Location: Kansas District Office, Topeka. Cost: FREE of charge! Register by contacting Joyce at 800-357-4421 ext. 206.

Adult Education Sunday & Survey

The status of adult education in our LCMS congregations is not healthy. A recent statistic indicates that only 11% of all confirmed youth and adults who attend worship are participating in regular Bible study. The new Kansas District Adult Education Committee will identify needs and offer strategies for congregations as they consider Adult Christian Education. An assessment tool and special sermon have been distributed for all congregations of the Kansas District. Every church is encouraged to take the opportunity to complete this survey during worship on a designated Adult Education Sunday between January 6 and February 3. Additional copies of the survey are available for you by contacting Joyce at 800-357-4421 ext. 206.

The results of this survey will be used by your leadership and this committee to further evaluate strategies for nurturing Adult Christian Education in the parish. The Great Commission in Matthew 28 commands us to make disciples, not members. How might we be used by the Holy Spirit to grow disciples of Jesus Christ through Adult Christian Education?

Looking Ahead

Jan. 4-5	District Youth Ministry Team Retreat, Risen Savior, Wichita
Jan. 19	Adult Education Committee, District Office
Jan. 28-29	DCE Retreat, Cross Winds, Hesston
Feb. 10	Principals & Early Childhood Directors, District Office
Feb. 11-12	KAIRS Conference, Ramada Inn, Topeka
Feb. 23	District Child Ministry Summit, District Office
March 3-7	National Lutheran Schools Week
March 27-29	Regional DCE Gathering, Overland Park
April 4-6	Spring Single Adult Ministry Retreat, Hutchinson

Hearts for Jesus Project

Educators have designated their school chapel offerings for the month of February to support Drew and Nicole Bradshaw, LCMS missionaries who recently departed for Macau, China. The Bradshaw's will be in China to teach English at the Concordia English Center in Macau for two years. Drew, a member of Faith, Topeka, and Nicole left on Dec. 17 to begin a two year internship in the Director of Christian Outreach program through Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn. Their internship is being coordinated through LCMS World Mission.

As students, they must raise the associated cost of placing them on the field and the field expense to support them while they are there. Congregations and Schools are invited to make a difference. Any gifts should be designated to LCMS World Mission (earmarked "Macau Bradshaw Support") and should be sent directly to LCMS World Mission, 1333 South Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, Mo. 63122-7295.



District Children's Ministry Think Tank

All Professional and Volunteer Leaders from District churches are invited to participate in a half-day think tank on Saturday, Feb. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the District Office. This think tank is designed to develop strategies and networks in support of children's ministry in the local parish. Discussion will focus on Sunday school, VBS and other ministries targeted at children and their families. This FREE event includes lunch. Please register by contacting Joyce Tate at 800-357-4421 ext. 206 or joyce@kslcms.org.

LCMS Children's Ministry Conference

Your Children's Ministry leaders are invited to the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's first National Children's Ministry Conference, July 11-13, 2008 in Schaumburg, Illinois.

The theme for the conference is **CHRIST+CHILDREN+COMMUNITY**. The conference program is designed to engage the imagination, refresh enthusiasm, give practical advice and sharpen ministry skills that can be used in children's ministries "back home."

The conference includes nationally known speakers in areas of children's ministry and a wide variety of workshops which will provide every participant with practical, tested ideas

and techniques for developing effective ministries with children from early childhood through fifth grade levels.

This conference is targeted at Professional and Volunteer Teachers, Directors of Children's Ministry, Directors of Christian Education, Early Childhood Program Directors and Teachers, Directors of Family Ministry, Sunday School Superintendents, pastors, those serving in Sunday School, VBS, Summer Camps, School Age Care Ministries, Church Nurseries and others. Conference information and registration are available on line at www.lcms.org/NCMC.

Coffee With A Purpose

Congregations can now serve a new "coffee with a purpose" that will do more than please sippers between church services. *Café Sola* also will help people in need worldwide in body and soul.

LCMS World Relief and Human Care and Concordia Publishing House have teamed up to introduce the new coffee to raise funds to care for the world's most needy people. Nearly 20 percent of the *Café Sola* purchase price will go directly to projects that reach out to people suffering from famine, disease, poverty and disasters, caring for both physical and spiritual needs in the name of Christ.

The *Café Sola* name highlights the coffee's spiritual and global fund-raising purpose. "Sola" means "alone" in Latin and was used in the great Reformation cry, "Grace alone! Faith alone! Scripture alone! Christ alone! Glory to God alone!" "Café" loosely translates in several languages as "coffee" or a place where coffee is served.

Café Sola is sold in cartons of 12 eight-ounce bags for \$52.99 a carton, in regular and decaffeinated varieties. To order, call CPH at 800-325-3040 or visit www.cph.org/cafesola.

CCCS Seeking Director

The Children's Christian Concern Society (CCCS), an RSO of the LCMS, seeks to fill the position of Executive Director. This person reports to the Board of Directors and must be committed to the mission of the CCCS: "Sharing the love of Jesus with children around the world through Christian education." This position requires a self-starter with management and organizational ability and a willingness to work with volunteers. Experience in business management, skill in writing and public speaking, and willingness to travel domestically and internationally in underdeveloped environments is required. For a complete job description, visit www.ccskids.org or call 620-564-2422. Send resumes to Marlene Ernsting, Search Committee Chairman, 173 SE 100 Ave., Ellinwood, KS 67526 or ernsting1934@embarqmail.com.

Resources Available for Treasurers

The updated 2007 Congregational Treasurer's Manual and Taxes for Ministers guide are both now available on The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod website. Go to www.lcms.org and click under the link "Resources" for Congregations. You are able to view or print the manuals from this site. Links to both resources are also on the District website at www.kslcms.org under the Publications tab. Congregations will not automatically receive a copy of the updated Treasurer's Manual. If you are not able to access it on the website and would like us to send you a copy, call the business office at 800-357-4421 ext. 200 or email tami@kslcms.org. Cost of a CD of the 2007 Treasurer's Manual is \$6.00.

Lutheran Witness

Lutheran Witness statements were sent out in November to all congregations for 2007-08 Lutheran Witness subscriptions. Payment is due by January 6, 2008. Changes (additions, cancellations) can be made at any time using the forms provided with the statement. If you have any questions, please contact Tami at 800-357-4421 ext. 200 or tami@kslcms.org.

2008 IRS Mileage Rates

The IRS recently announced mileage rates for 2008. Beginning January 1, 2008, the standard business mileage rate will be 50.5 cents per mile - a 2 cent increase from 2007. The charitable rate remains unchanged at 14 cents per mile; and medical and moving expense rate will be 19 cents per mile - a 1 cent decrease from 2007.

Remittance Vouchers & Statements

To help us credit your remittances properly, please remember to use a remittance voucher with **every** check you send to the Kansas District office. Make checks payable to: Kansas District LCMS.

After completing the voucher form, send one copy along with your check to the District office and keep one copy for your records. This will help you to reconcile your records to the year-to-date statements that are sent to you each month after the 15th. Please carefully look over the statement for accuracy and contact Tami Lierz at 800-357-4421 ext. 200 or tami@kslcms.org as soon as possible if you have any questions or concerns.

Fiscal Year to Close

The District will close its 2007 fiscal year on **Tuesday, January 15, 2008**. Any receipt received after that date will be credited to the fiscal year 2008. In order to meet the standards for a not-for-profit corporation audit, we cannot credit any 2007 mission gift received after the close of our fiscal year, so please work to meet this deadline. If you are sending any 2008 gift prior to January 15th, please clearly indicate that the gift is for 2008 so that we may credit it correctly for your congregation.

**Charitable Contributions**

Charitable contributions for 2007 must be received before the first worship service in 2008 in order to claim the deduction. A contribution received after that date is counted as a contribution for 2008 for income tax purposes even if the check was written in 2007. However, checks that are written, mailed and postmarked in 2007 will still be deductible.

Campus Ministry**Moment** by Rev. Cliff Winter

Our KU Campus Missionary Alan Estby reported last month that he was overseeing the personal Bible studies of 4 students, one of them Chinese. Will and Pat Main, directors of our LIGHT House ministries at Haskell Indian Nations University, tell of the school president asking for their prayers and of a student exclaiming, "I didn't know it was okay to be both a Christian and an Indian." At K-State, District Campus Mission Team member Liz Beikman expected 30 international students, mostly Czechs, and 35 members of host families at their Christmas party! Also, Campus Missionary King Crawford is into his third year of service to K-State students.

Equipping to Share Seminars

Lutheran Hour Ministries "Equipping to Share" seminars are designed to strengthen and encourage believers to share their faith in a natural way when opportunities arise in daily life. Plan to attend one of the following seminars!

- ◆ Bethany Lutheran Church and School in Wichita at 1000 W. 26th St. S., from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 2. Registration is \$10.00/person and includes a light lunch. Please call the Bethany office at 316-265-7415 or contact Darlene Nuse at 316-650-2281 on or before Wednesday, Jan. 16 to register.
- ◆ Hope Lutheran Church in Shawnee at Shawnee Mission Pkwy & Quivira, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 1. Registration is free. Please call 913-631-6940 or contact Pastor Tom Harries at harries@hopelutheran.org before Feb. 22 to register.

LCMS World Mission Tour**Russia, Latvia & Lithuania - April 22 to May 2, 2008**

See our mission work, visit our missionaries and meet fellow Lutherans from these lands. For information, a day-by-day itinerary and a registration form for the tour, please send an email to mission.info@lcms.org or call 800-433-3954.

Mission & Stewardship

Rev. Mark T. Frith, Assistant to the President

Giving What We Have *by Rev. Mark T. Frith*

"I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!" Acts 3:6

So it happened just as Peter said in Acts 3. The man got up and walked. The event would serve as the overture for St. Peter's second sermon in the book we know as Acts. And it would provide for another splendid opportunity to evangelize the crowd gathered on that day. An important consideration for you church workers this month, coming off the highly materialized gift-giving spree at Christmas, is appreciating for yourselves what you really have to give. St. Peter wasn't about to peddle silver, nor should we.

Silver and gold have we none, but what we do have...we can freely give. The heavenly Father has seen to it that we have Jesus. By the Holy Spirit's power, people have been known to rise up when Jesus is given to them. Most of us as church workers are most comfortable in delivering Jesus in between the time of the prelude and postlude of worship; between the opening bell clamor of school and closing bell chaos back home. I know that those were the times that were always easiest for me. I still like it...because it's done at my convenience, seemingly. It's like punching a time clock - clock into the grind, clock out for my time.

The need for Jesus and His saving may not always call out to us like a crippled beggar, though that still happens, too. Nevertheless, we have a need to give Jesus and His love to others. That's who we and what we are as Christians by God's grace. This is what Christians do. The *Ablaze!* Movement within the LCMS is many things to many of us. The least it ought be for us all is the constant reminder that others do need Jesus and there can be no better use of our time and who we are than to help them see Him.

Pastors, Teachers, DCEs, join with me in encouraging our fellow members and friends to prepare ourselves for freely giving of what we have and who we are. We have a number of resources that you can tap into for some help, if that is needed. See the links on this page. Pray for our District's *Ablaze!* Regional Outreach Conferences this year. Help more of your members to become comfortable in conversing with people who do not have a church home.

Pastors Teaching Faith Talk

Now is such a great time to be a member of the LCMS. Striving for doctrinal integrity and confessional faithfulness has long been a hallmark of the church that envelops us. However, how do we preach it and teach it so that more of our congregational members can espouse it outside of the Sunday sacred hours? Pastors, if it hasn't been your practice, I encourage you to take 10 or 15 minutes on Sunday mornings (after service or Bible Class) to demonstrate to your congregants how you would engage a neighbor in Faith Talk. Show them how, for those that are too scared to give a reason for the faith that is in them. You just might be surprised at how helpful this will be to your congregation.



Ablaze! Regional Outreach Events

The Kansas District Vice Presidents and Circuit Counselors are working to develop Regional Outreach Events for 2008. These dates will hopefully be scheduled by the end of January. Watch the District website for information and links for registrations and resources. We are appreciative to the Indiana District and Rocky Mountain District for sharing resource ideas that have made for very successful Outreach Events in their Districts.

Ash Wednesday Materials

A newsletter article, bulletin blurbs and a bulletin insert can be found on the district website:

www.kslcms.org,

click on the Publications tab, scroll down to Mission & Stewardship Resources.

Mission Commitments

Mission Commitment forms for 2008 were sent to all congregations in September. We ask that you prayerfully consider your support of District and Synod. You can submit your commitment any of the following ways: 1) send the **green** copy to Lori Hennessey, 1000 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604; 2) call Lori at 800-357-4421 ext. 223; 3) email Lori at lori@kslcms.org. We would prefer to have the green copy, signed by the Pastor and Congregational President, for our records. For budget purposes, we would appreciate receiving your commitment as soon as possible.

Ablaze! DVDs

If you haven't had the opportunity to view the previously released *Ablaze!* DVDs, you can order copies from St. Louis. Such titles are: *Igniting a Vision*, released in 2003; *Crossing the Jordan*, released in 2005; *Church Planting Through Leadership Development*, released in 2006. You can order by calling 1-800-254-9495 or by sending an email message to mission.orders@lcms.org.

Sharing the Faith

Do you want to see and hear what other fellow Lutherans are doing to converse with friends and neighbors for the sake of Christ? Go to www.lcms.org/ablaze:

- ◆ scroll down to "Ablaze! Stories" or click "Ablaze! Stories" on the left menu
- ◆ scroll down to "Sharing The Faith Video Vignettes" and watch the video segments.

Guinea Prayers

Prayer Requests from the Norton family

✠ Join us in thanking and praising God for the new birth in the waters of baptism of “K.B.” on Dec. 2. Pray that God would sustain him in his faith and give him courage to use the many gifts the LORD has given him.

✠ Thanksgiving and praise for the commencement of our radio evangelism program. The public radio station gives 30 minutes of broadcast time free of charge to Protestant and Catholic churches (Protestants on Saturday, Catholics on Sunday). We are using the time to teach the same evangelistic Bible studies we do in villages, only by radio.

✠ Pray for evangelist Sacko Koulibaly who has applied to a Bible school in Mali. While we are excited by opportunities for further training, his leaving will leave a leadership void in the young church.

✠ Pray for “A.S.” - a believer who was baptized in early 2006 but has fallen into sin and refuses to repent. This has caused a lot of heartache and trouble, but we pray that God can also turn him back in repentance.



Prayer Requests from the Heiney family

✠ Thanksgiving to God for the ordination into the ministry of Julien Kotembedounou. Keep this man covered in your prayers as he takes this step into service.

✠ For our other seminarians and vicars - pray that God would keep their hearts pure and that they will enter into a deeper relationship and commitment to their Lord.

✠ Thanksgiving for the safe trip to Bamako. Pray for the decision on where we can best serve.

✠ For the church in Conakry as they get back on their feet after the death of Pastor Augustine. Pray that God provides good leadership!



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

KANSAS DISTRICT
1000 SW 10th Ave
Topeka KS 66604-1104

Non-profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
Paid
Permit No. 16
Topeka KS

