



Workers Together



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

Volume 15, Issue 8 September 2008

President's Office

Records of Grace

by President Keith E. Kohlmeier

"The organizational meeting to form the new district was attended by the pastors, teachers and representatives of the congregations. It was held at Leavenworth, Kansas on September 25, 1888. Although it was called the Kansas District, the District embraced Colorado, Oklahoma and New Mexico..."

Last month I admitted that after this summer I have been waxing historical in many things. I need to do that again this month because of a special observance that will be largely unnoticed by many, and yet is such a pivotal foundation for the work that we do together in this place and at this time. If you do the math, you will discover that this month we are celebrating 120 years of work together as a group of congregations and ministries, and the men, women, children and workers of those places.

Sometimes I wonder why we don't celebrate historical events with the relish that we used to. Of the many reasons, I suppose that the pace of change today has an immediate bearing upon that. We are so busy trying to get ready for tomorrow that we are lost in the moment of today. In the process, I fear that we have lost sight of a great truth. We are called as tomorrow people to relish and live in the moment, but always to allow those moments to be informed by yesterday.

The best evidence of that truth is being played out as I continue to celebrate the missional nature of our Kansas congregations and members. They are consistent with the observation and commission of Pastor F. J. Biltz, President of the Western District, which included the Kansas area before 1888, when he addressed that first convention with the blessing by which Rebekah's father dismissed her from his home. "Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them." (Genesis 24:60 - And of course they used King James then!)

He went on to say, "The Kansas District is itself a product of missionary work and...shall make missionary labor its chief field of endeavor." Today we continue to echo the response of that first convention by saying, "Amen." We say it by our involvement in reaching out in our local community, our work together in populations of this great state, and our support and work throughout the world. We do so in our labors, in our financial support, in our prayer life - all under the banner of the same gifted grace by which those first 30 congregations came together. We are commended with words written for the 100th anniversary by Rev. Eugene Pennekamp (referred to later in this edition by our recently appointed co-archivist, Mr. Dean Landman), when he wrote, "So small was their beginning, in eighteen eighty-eight. The harvest fields were waiting, across this prairie state. 'Go, heralds of My Gospel!' our forbears heard Christ's call. 'Gather and baptize people! Disciples make them all.'"

May God's mission continue to inspire us, may our history of grace inform and empower us, and may tomorrow encourage us with the truth that today is the day for us to be about this work!

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Website: www.kslcms.org

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Chaplain Rocky Mease - chaprm@aol.com

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Church Missouri Synod for
congregations, schools, professional
church workers and lay leaders.
If you have any news items to
share with congregations in our
district, please direct them to:
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Fax: 785-357-5071
Email: lori@kslcms.org
Deadline: 15th of each month

Calls Accepted

- Ryan Legler from Faith, Owasso, Okla. to Ascension, Wichita, DCE

Calls Pending

- Rev. Jeff Kunze from Immanuel, St. Charles, Mo. to Christ, Overland Park

Calling Congregations/Schools

St. Luke, Bazine
Immanuel, Lawrence (Senior Pastor)
St. Paul, Lincoln
Christ, Manhattan
Trinity, Mission (Min. of Outreach, DCE)
Faith, Ottawa
Christ, Overland Park (Senior Pastor)
Trinity, Salina (DCE)
Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove
Calvary, Topeka
Faith, Topeka (Senior Pastor)
Ascension, Wichita (DCE)
Holy Cross, Wichita (Principal)

Milestone Ordination Anniversaries

July

Jeff Crane 40 years

August

Alan Estby	10 years	Bob Roberts	35 years
Mark Wenzelburger	10 years	Dean Von Stroh	40 years
Dan Wehmeier	15 years	Arlin Holtz	60 years
Dennis Mason	25 years		

September

Earl Zimmerman 55 years
Paul Krause 65 years

2009 Kansas District Convention

When: June 4-6, 2009

Where: Capital Plaza Hotel in Topeka

Essayist: Rev. Dr. Robert Newton, President of the LCMS California-Nevada-Hawaii District, former seminary professor at Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and former missionary to the Philippines.

District Congregation Mission Receipts

Last month:	Jul. 16, 2008 - Aug. 15, 2008	.....	\$128,097
	Jul. 16, 2007 - Aug. 15, 2007	.....	\$132,681
Year-to-date:	Jan. 16, 2008 - Aug. 15, 2008	.....	\$975,069
	Jan. 16, 2007 - Aug. 15, 2007	.....	\$978,459
To LCMS:	Jan. 16, 2008 - Aug. 15, 2008	.....	\$409,529
	Jan. 16, 2007 - Aug. 15, 2007	.....	\$410,953

District Calendar

September

1	District Office closed, Labor Day
19-21	Lay Leadership Training, District Office
22-23	Timothy Gathering, District Office
25-26	Principals' Conference, Topeka
27	Youth Ministry Academy, Module 1, Wichita
29	Education Loan Repayment Committee, District Office

October

4	Faith and the Home Workshop, Olathe
12-14	Educators' Conference, Salina
17-19	Lay Leadership Training, District Office
19-21	Pastors' Conference, Great Bend
24-25	Board of Directors, District Office
25	Faith and the Home Workshop, Phillipsburg

Prayers

- Rev. Gene Holtorf, St. John, Palmer, health concerns
- Rev. Glenn Bitter, retired, health concerns
- Terry Wiechman, Trinity, Wichita, health concerns
- Thelma McGee, Laborer's for Christ, health concerns
- Barb McComas, District Office staff, health concerns

Area Chaplains

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

Wichita Hospital Referral

♦ *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.

Kansas City Hospital Referral

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

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

Possessions by Rev. Mark T. Frith

“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had....” Acts 4:32

Those initial days, weeks and months after Pentecost must have been a sight to see. The LORD was believed to be the owner of all they were and all they had. Not that we or our people do not believe the same thing. However, we’d have to admit that we covet possessions seemingly more than those in Acts 4:32. My point is not to drive home the “law” in order to articulate how we sin. You see that readily enough. But rather consider the excitement of mission work that reinforced for those early believers the joy of allowing the LORD to own everything about them.

What did Paul say elsewhere? “If I have food and clothing...I will be content with that.” Prayerfully consider what ministry would be like in your congregation if a good number of people were content, personally, with simply a bit of food and a bit of clothing. What resources might abound for reaching the lost? What could you do? Consider setting aside a few days in September to concentrate on your stewardship instruction for this fall. Teach your people just who and Whose they are.

Yours in Christ!

Conversations of Grace Web Conference

It has almost been two years since the Ablaze Convocation in the fall of 2006. Lay people overwhelmingly expressed their appreciation and request for more conferences with practical information and ideas for their congregations. It has taken a while, but the follow-up event is finally here! *Conversations of Grace* will be held Saturday, Nov. 8, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. This is a web conference, broadcast over the internet to churches in the Kansas and Rocky Mountain Districts, filled with opportunities to worship, participate in live discussions with panel members on the topic of evangelism/outreach, learn from and share

ideas with people from other congregations in your area, and enjoy Christian fellowship.

Rev. Dr. Gerald Kieschnick, LCMS President and Rev. Scott Snow, LCMS Director of Outreach, are featured speakers. All participants will walk away with a vision and plan for outreach to their communities.

The cost is \$15, which includes materials, snacks and lunch. For more information, including host congregations, visit our [Conversations of Grace web page – www.kslcms.org/cog](http://www.kslcms.org/cog). Materials were mailed to all congregations Aug. 22. Mark your calendars and watch for more details coming soon!

Education Loan Repayment Grants

Applications are now being accepted for District Education Loan Repayment Grants. These grants are available to all rostered synodical graduates working in the Kansas District with graduation dates of 1999 to present.

Please contact Lori Hennessey at 800-357-4421 ext. 223 or lori@kslcms.org for more information. Applications are due by Sept. 12.

Mission Grant Applications

Applications for mission grants are now being accepted from congregations needing financial assistance to expand ministry. The documents must be completed and returned to the District office by Sept. 15 to be considered by the Board of Mission for the fiscal year 2009.

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

Rural/Small Town Ministry Conference

Pastors and lay leaders are invited to participate in *Reaching Rural America For Christ*, a conference that will help us share common ministry experiences and embrace change toward being in mission to our communities. Join us at Mahoney State Park, Ashland, Neb. (25 miles SW of Omaha), Thursday, Nov. 6, 2008 beginning at 1:00 p.m. through Saturday, Nov. 8, at noon. The *Reaching Rural America For Christ* conference will:

- Assist congregations in taking intentional steps to help create a positive missional attitude and initiate outreach actions.
- Celebrate our common heritage.
- Examine the impact of ever-changing culture on rural small town communities.
- Build a network for leadership training and ministry support among the districts.
- Investigate stewardship attitudes to maximize resources.

Participants are limited to the first 150 registrants; deadline is Sept. 30. Cost per participant is \$300, which includes 2 nights lodging, 6 meals, banquet, and all materials. To register, call Saint Paul Institute for Education at 888-463-5127. Download the brochure at www.spile.org.

Fan Into Flame Update

Kansas gifts & commitments total over \$100,000. Nationally, the total is \$33 million, with 18 of 32 LCMS Districts participating so far.

Campus Ministry

We thank the Good Lord for Pastor Clint Stark, of St. John, Topeka, who has agreed to serve as our District campus ministry leader for Washburn University in Topeka. Check the Campus Ministry page on the District website for more information - http://www.kslcms.org/ks_departments/mission_stewardship/campus_ministry.htm.

K.I.D.S. Stamp Program

Attention Principals and Sunday School Leaders! Now that school has begun and a new season of Sunday School is upon us, I encourage all leaders to consider beginning the K.I.D.S. stamp service offered by LCEF. If you are new to the program, your first \$100 in stamps is provided at no cost. If your congregation is already enrolled, it is a good time to renew enthusiasm by



advertising, educating parents, and doing something special to focus on the benefits of participation in the program.

In addition, 20 lesson plans are offered which focus on discipleship, stewardship and financial skills. These are designed for grades K-4 and are available upon request.

For assistance in any aspects of the stamp program, contact Barbara McComas at 785-357-4441, ext. 100 or barb@kslcms.org.

Rostered Church Worker Loans

LCEF is proud to offer, to Commissioned or Ordained Ministers of The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod on active or emeritus status, residential loans to purchase or refinance primary, single-family residences; consolidation loans for education,

credit cards, taxes, medical expenses, auto repairs, etc.; and home equity loans to allow the borrower to use the equity in their home as collateral for a loan. If you have questions on RCW loans, please call 800-843-5233.

LCEF Interest Rates

September 2008



Steward Account Rates:

Congregational Certificates

Demand	1.875%
Steward Account	2.875%

Individual Accounts

Less than \$1,000	1.250%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	1.375%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	1.750%
\$10,000 and over	2.875%

LCEF provides loans for LCMS

Congregations, Schools and Professional Church Workers:

Monthly, quarterly or annual adjustable	5.500%
5 Year fixed	6.000%

Congregation Endowment

(60-Month Fixed or Floating):

Min. Investment	Rate	APY
\$1,000	3.905%	3.963%
\$10,000	4.030%	4.091%
\$100,000	4.155%	4.220%

Planned Giving

Garry Niehoff, Counselor

Retreat Center - Purpose, Building Update, Room Themes/Names

Before I update you on the happenings at the retreat center, I would like to recap the mission and purpose of this ministry of the Kansas District. The purpose of this retreat center is to provide a place for full-time church professionals to:

- ◆ Grow spiritually and strengthen their relationship with the Lord
- ◆ Reconnect and spend quality time with spouse and family
- ◆ Set goals for their ministry
- ◆ Receive counseling on a confidential basis.
- ◆ Refresh after a period of high stress
- ◆ Heal after a difficulty in their ministry or family.

The mission is to create a relaxing and peaceful atmosphere where LCMS professional workers can rest and reconnect with God and their family.

Now for the update. The walls are up at the retreat center! The trusses were delivered on August 18 and the crane was there after that. The

building is fast and furious!

Many of the interior colors and themes have been chosen, and the committee is working hard to finalize this phase of construction. Hopefully, we will have samples for you to view at both the Pastors' and Educators' Conferences this fall. We also plan to have pictures of each phase of construction available for you. Look for our table in the display area.



We are still in need of lots of volunteers. If you have any spare time and would like to help swing a hammer, pull wires, paint, or trim and plant trees, please let us know. We have a job for everyone! Please

consider giving one, two or more days for this facility. Call us at the Kansas District Office, 800-357-4421 ext. 101, and tell us when you can work and we will let you know what work is scheduled for that time.

We have extended the contest for naming the center and the different suites. We have two 3-bedroom suites and a great room upstairs, and two meeting rooms and one 3-bedroom suite on the lower level. We would like ideas on what to name these areas in the facility. It is our hope that these names may be more themes of Kansas than Biblical; however, if they could connect the two, it would be great. Once we have chosen the names, we will use that information to identify and decorate the areas. Please contact us at servantwo@kslcms.org if you have any ideas. We are looking forward to everyone's input!

Concordia Health Plan Deadlines

The fall deadlines for choosing Concordia Health Plan (CHP) coverage options for 2009 have been set.

- ◆ Late August – election forms and information were mailed to all employers and all forms will be available on the Concordia Plan Services website: www.ConcordiaPlans.org.
- ◆ Sept. 1 through **Oct. 10** – employers may elect a different plan coverage option for year 2009.
- ◆ Oct. 20 through **Nov. 21** – Annual Open Enrollment – active, full-time workers employed by a CHP-participating organization can enroll themselves and/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 **Oct. 10, 2008**. If you are not making a change in coverage, then no action is necessary and the current plan coverage option will continue for 2009. Make your arrangements now for the necessary meetings needed in order to make your decision before the **Oct. 10** deadline.

2009 Salary Guidelines

The Kansas District Salary Guidelines for 2009 have been finalized and are now available on the District website at www.kslcms.org. If you are unable to download and view this online, contact Debbie Crites, 800-357-4421 ext. 204 or debbie@kslcms.org.

District Convention Assessment

Your congregation's 2009 District Convention assessment will be based on the communicant membership from the 2007 statistical reports.

Convention assessment invoices will be sent to each congregation by the end of September.

Human Care Ministry

Rev. Rocky Mease, Chaplain

Volunteer Opportunities

- ◆ Kansas District Retreat Center in Herington: What a great opportunity to help create a truly sacred space for professional church workers and their families! Laborer's for Christ are managing this job and desperately NEED VOLUNTEERS to help them. Call the District Office at 800-357-4421 ext. 101 and tell us when you can work and we will let you know what work is scheduled for that time and if you need to bring any tools.
- ◆ Greensburg: Volunteers are needed Sept. through Dec. Contact Kathy at 620-388-3860 (Cell), 620-723-3339 (Office) or ldrgreen@live.com. This is a great opportunity to meet people who have traveled to Kansas to help (many of them coming from the Gulf Coast). It is also a chance to experience the award winning Volunteer Village which you helped to create through LCMS World Relief and Human Care and Orphan Grain Train. Come see with your own eyes the ("Green") rebuilding of a Kansas town that has been in our news for over a year now and is the focus of the Planet Green TV documentary series - <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/tv/greensburg/>.

- ◆ Help Rebuild Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Slidell, LA: Good Shepherd was one of our partner churches following Katrina and is just now rebuilding their sanctuary. Contact Pastor Bob Aumann at 985-639-0023.
- ◆ Help Rebuild New Orleans at Camp Restore: Call 888-248-2636 or go to their website - www.camprestore.com. Check out this great youtube video about Restoration Sunday: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8JU3KIN_2I.

Caring Ministry Grants

Has your congregation ever considered a Caring Ministry idea, but just didn't have the money to get things started? The Board of Caring Ministry offers grants (up to \$5,000) to help congregations begin new caring ministries. All you need to do is mail a simple one-page description of your caring ministry idea **before Oct. 15**. Here are some ideas:

- ◆ Start a Parish Nurse Program - help to get a Parish Nurse trained and equipped.

Grants *continued*

- ◆ Start a Food Pantry - use funds to do some remodeling and provide storage areas.
- ◆ Help a Neighbor - use funds to buy paint and supplies to help a church neighbor who needs their home repaired.
- ◆ Create a Disaster Response Tool Chest - buy tools that will help a group from your congregation respond to a disaster.

Disaster Coordinator

This person's main job will be to train Lutheran (LCMS and ELCA) congregations how they can create Disaster Response Teams that can be trained and equipped to respond to local and national disasters. Congregations will also learn how they can be better equipped to recover from a disaster in their own community as well as help members in their disaster preparation.

As of this writing, the job has been offered but I haven't received notification that it has been accepted.

Youth Ministry Academy Training

The Kansas District Youth Ministry Academy is a process for further equipping adults for ministry with young people. The Academy is intended to take youth ministry training and development to a new level by providing an ongoing process to develop and equip congregations in this ministry. The Academy is unique in providing training for individuals and congregational teams. Instruction will take place over three one-day modules on either a Saturday or Sunday. Each cycle will consist of learning events in the fall, winter and spring.

The first module will be held on Saturday, Sept. 27, at Ascension Lutheran Church in Wichita. The

topic for Module One is *Building Youth Ministry* and will feature the following:

- ◆ Understanding the development of youth.
- ◆ Teaching adults acceptance, love and respect for youth.
- ◆ Creating a safe place for youth.
- ◆ Discussing what works and what doesn't and how to do everything legally and safely.

Each module will cost \$25 per person, which includes instruction costs and lunch. To register, contact Educational Services at 800-357-4421 ext. 206. More information is available at www.kslcms.org. Registrations are due three weeks ahead of each event through the District Office.

District Singles Ministry Fall Retreat

Friday, Oct. 3 to Sunday, Oct. 5

Camp Webster, Salina

For details, contact Staci Timm at stacitimm@juno.com.

District Family Ministry Training

The Kansas District *Faith and the Home* workshops are a series of four one-day training events to equip individuals and teams from congregations for family ministry. The District has in the past coordinated a training academy with guest speakers for congregational training teams wanting to grow in the area of family ministry. *Faith and the Home* is intended to make training and development more user friendly by providing a series of individual workshops that can be completed on a selected basis or in its entirety (four workshops) to develop and equip congregations for family ministry.

Instruction will take place in a one-day format (either Saturday or Sunday) in four learning events scheduled in the fall and spring over a two-year period. Each workshop will be located in both western and eastern Kansas locations and tailored to small town/rural and city/suburban settings.

The first workshop will focus on the biblical foundation for family ministry with the practical application of faith milestones. This workshop will be offered in two locations:

- ◆ Saturday, Oct. 4 at Beautiful Savior, Olathe
- ◆ Saturday, Oct. 25 at First, Phillipsburg.

Individual workshop registration has been set at \$25 per person per event. This includes all instruction costs and a lunch. Some books might be available for an additional cost at the workshop. Any lodging and travel necessary will be in addition to this cost. Contact Educational Services at 800-357-4421 ext. 206 or go to www.kslcms.org/ks_flm for registration information. The \$25 fee is due when the individual registers for each workshop through the District Office. Individuals may pay the entire \$100 for the series of four workshops in advance.

Mark Your Calendars - Upcoming Youth Events

◆ Junior High Youth Retreat,

Nov. 7-8 at Rexford. Contact DCE Leland Jackson, Trinity, Garden City at dceleland@tlcgck.kscoxmail.com.

◆ Kansas District Youth Gathering,

Nov. 21-23 at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Topeka.

Theme: "Living Stones"

Speaker: Pastor Greg Manning

Guest Musician: Peder Eide

Contact: KDYG Chair DCE Henry Blickhahn, Our Redeemer, Hutchinson at dce@orlhutch.org.

Education Legacy Fund

The Education Legacy Fund is a means to provide further growth and assistance to workers, congregations and schools, helping leaders to become more skilled in teaching the faith. The Kansas District Board of Education (BOE) offers congregations, schools and workers the

opportunity to apply for grants for workshops and classes which advance Christian education.

We encourage people to think how they may grow and to consider how we may help.

The BOE will administer these grants by acknowledging requests, reviewing them at quarterly meetings, and granting approval/denial dependent upon scope of request, potential impact at the local level and availability of funds. Already this year, \$1,500 has been disbursed!

You may make a request to the Board of Education through Jim Bradshaw's office at the Kansas District Office, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604. All requests will be reviewed, and replies will be made for each request.



Visit the Kansas District website at www.kslcms.org

Preschools Receive Accreditation

On behalf of the Kansas District National Lutheran Schools Accreditation (NLSA) Commission, we wish to congratulate Lord of Life Preschool in Leawood and the Trinity (West) Preschool in Mission for being approved for accreditation by the NLSA's National Accreditation Commission. These centers will soon receive their certificates, which state the following: "In recognition of a

quality program of Christian education as evidenced by its thorough self-study and acknowledged by the visiting committee, this accreditation is hereby granted from the first day of September 2008 until the last day of August 2015." Congratulations to Preschool Directors Susan Jones (Leawood), Jennifer Keller (Mission), and their respective staffs and board members for a job well done!

Worship Service at the State Fair

If you plan on being at the Kansas State Fair on Sunday, Sept. 7, be sure to attend the Lutheran Church Service at 10:00 a.m. at the ATT Arena (former Farm Bureau Arena), sponsored by the Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League. Pastor Mark Eichler, Kansas District LLL Pastoral Advisor and pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Emporia, will be leading the worship service. Don Froelich, choir director at Faith, will be leading a combined choir in singing, "Just as I Am," LSB #570 and "A Mighty Fortress," LSB #657. Anyone desiring to be part of the choir is asked to be at the arena at 9:30 a.m. for a practice. The service will also be interpreted for the deaf. For more information, contact Pastor Mark Eichler at 620-342-3590 or faithlu@birch.net.

Spanish Bible and Catechism

The Holy Bible and Luther's Small Catechism, translated into Spanish and published in a single volume, is now available from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF), a recognized service organization of the LCMS. Pastors, missionaries and lay people may order a copy (or multiple copies, if there is a need in your congregation or area) by calling 800-554-0723 or by visiting the LHF website at www.LHFmissions.org.

LHF, a mission organization dedicated to translating and publishing Lutheran literature around the world, distributes most of its publications free of charge to the churches and individuals who need them.

Educators' Conference

Oct. 12-14 in Salina

"Drink from the Living Water"

Speaker: Pastor Bill Yonker

Registration is now open!

Regular: Aug. 16 to Sept. 15 – \$120

Late: Sept. 16 and beyond – \$125

Pastors' Conference

The Fall Pastors' Conference will explore the theology of service while nurturing the bond we share as pastors of the Kansas District.

Under the theme "Together in Service," we will hear three plenary presentations by Dr. Arthur A. Just and join in three opportunities for "table talk." The title of Dr. Just's presentation is "The Liturgy of Life – Biblical and Theological Perspectives on Service." The goal of the round table discussions will be to interact with the plenary presentations, get better acquainted with fellow pastors and discuss ministry issues with those who are in similar situations.

The conference in Great Bend will begin Sunday evening, Oct. 19 with a time of Gemütlichkeit and conclude by noon on Tuesday, Oct. 21. The host congregation (and location) for the Divine Service will be Concordia Lutheran Church in Hoisington.

Online registration is now available at www.kslcms.org/pwcw.

Marvin Kohlmeier,

Mission Awareness Coordinator

Email: marvink@carsoncomm.com

Home phone: 785-284-3591

Cell phone: 785-547-6096

120 Years & Counting

September 25th of this year marks the 120th Anniversary of the Kansas District. A group of ministers, teachers and lay representatives of congregations from Colorado and Kansas met in Leavenworth to lay the groundwork for a new district. What a vision these people had! Kansas was barely 20 years old and Colorado would not become a state until the next year. The hearts of these individuals were certainly ABLAZE! They weren't satisfied to be just the 30 congregations that formed the District, because at this first meeting they created the District's Church Extension Fund. It was also noted in the early documents that education was a close second to worship in those founder's priorities. The school house was often the first building to be occupied.

Most of the information for this article comes from the "History of the Kansas District, 1888-1938," by J.W. Werling, and "A Century of Grace, 1888-1988," edited by Rev. Roger M. Goetz. Yours truly, as well as every other person in Kansas, has to rely on documents prepared by these early Kansas Christians. That is why it is so important for each congregation to capture its faith story. Future generations of each church need to know how the Spirit led certain individuals to take the bold step forward to start a new congregation. Even if the charter members are no longer living, there may be someone who remembers the stories of their parents or grandparents who were the charter members.

One little story before we continue. Rev. Eugene Pennekamp of Girard is the grandson of the first District President, Rev. F. Pennekamp of Topeka. Rev. Eugene has regularly attended the Saints Alive After 55 gatherings. He's not going to run a 100 yard dash in the Olympics, but what a delightful gentleman. He praises God with the wonderful songs that he writes.

Let's use the 120th anniversary of the Kansas District to make sure that the faith story of each congregation is preserved. We encourage each congregation to appoint a Historian/Archivist to track the important actions of the congregation and to capture the stories of those older members.

by Dean Landman, Co-Archivist/Historian

Guinea Prayers

Norton Family

- ✠ Thanksgiving that God called MG.K out of darkness into his marvelous light, and has given him sonship, forgiveness, rebirth, and everlasting life through the waters of baptism.
- ✠ Thanksgiving for the work of Vicar Robert Milimouno and the beginning of self-government in the local church.
- ✠ Thanksgiving for "S.S.," the school teacher who translated two devotional tracts, and continued prayers that God's Word would penetrate his heart.
- ✠ Pray for the young believers & new leaders, that they would effectively be able to carry out the tasks God has given them.
- ✠ Pray for safety as we travel in the months ahead.

Andrea Herman

Ask God for:

- ✠ Mrs. S to read through the whole children's Bible and hear the story of Jesus again and regain full use of her right arm
- ✠ protection for MK and her new son, that no one would try to harm them; re-creation of MK's marriage
- ✠ mercy on the people of Guinea; this is the "hungry season" and food and fuel prices are extremely high
- ✠ wisdom and direction in the preparations and move to Mali for six months
- ✠ God's Holy Spirit to open hearts to believe the Truth and receive His love

Thank God for:

- ✠ His protection of Mrs. S in her accident, that her injuries weren't more severe
- ✠ MK's safe delivery of a baby boy, Ibrahim (Abraham)
- ✠ meeting a Peace Corps volunteer in the area
- ✠ a good month of language learning

Heiney Family

- ✠ for Pastor Julien and the leadership of the Guinea church, for unity and focus on Jesus
- ✠ for our four vicars as they train to be leaders in Guinea, for pure motives in all they do and for a heart for God's people
- ✠ for James Mara, our leader to the Kuranko Muslims. He has healed up well, praise God. Pray for the ministry as it begins to expand and move into the Faranah area. Pray God's protection for people seeking to learn about Him.
- ✠ for the rapidly expanding work in Conakry, especially as we move out. Pray for the leaders there and that the National Church will do well in caring for these baby churches.
- ✠ for Katie Heiney, still having trouble with the foot she broke two years ago. Pray God will lead them to a solution for healing.



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