



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 16, Issue 2 February 2009

President's Office

"If Pets Could Talk"

by President Keith E. Kohlmeier

"Lord, you have searched me and you know me. You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. Before a word is on my tongue you know it completely, O Lord.... If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast." Psalm 139:1-10

I believe that God in his wisdom made a deliberate choice when he created household pets and chose not to give them voice, at least not the kind that we can respond to in a conversation. Household pets, be they dogs, cats, gerbils, parakeets, etc. are wonderful companions for us. But they are also one of the few creatures of earth that hear, see and observe us in almost all of our behaviors.



My wife has a schnauzer. (I'm going to reserve all other comment for another time.) I believe that if this dog could talk I would be pursuing a gag order. Pets see and know us in the most ordinary settings. They observe us when we're on our best behavior, and when we are not. They hear conversations that we would never reveal to our best and closest confidants. (I would love to know what Marlene and Maggie talk about when I am gone.) And yet, they offer us affection and companionship.

In the upcoming season of introspection, I am moved that our God goes infinitely beyond that relationship. He not only knows the details that pets must keep to themselves, He knows the heart that inspires and produces all of those things. Pets are allowed to view our warts, pimples and dimples, but God knows the inward parts of our lives. And yet, He comes to us in love and affection.

You may be at the most embarrassing point of your life. You may have said, done or contemplated the most horrendous breach of faithful living that you could imagine. You may have fled to the most remote place that we could imagine, either physically or in your emotions. But He is there. He is there with the same message that inspired Him to love you when you first knew Him as your Savior.



As we end the road of the Epiphany season, which encourages us to let the light shine, we come to this season that challenges us to examine that light. We don't like everything we see in ourselves. But it is also a season that points each of us again to the true light within us. And you and I, and your pet, know that it is not you or me. It is the light of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light, at the foot of His cross.

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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:
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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. Vern Oestmann from Trinity, Mission to Bethany, Vacaville, Calif. as Sr. Pastor
- Rev. Randall Weinkauf from Christ, Hilo, Hawaii to Immanuel, Lawrence

Calls Pending

- Rev. Dan Galchutt from St. Paul, Haven to Calvary, Topeka
- Rev. Dan Metzger, Wichita, to Immanuel, Wichita as Associate Pastor

Calling Congregations/Schools

St. Luke, Bazine
 St. Paul, Duluth
 Zion, Independence (Principal/Teacher)
 St. Paul, Lincoln
 Christ, Manhattan
 Trinity, Mission (Min. of Outreach, DCE)
 Faith, Ottawa
 Trinity, Salina (DCE)
 Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove
 Calvary, Topeka
 St. Luke, Wheaton
 Holy Cross, Wichita (Senior Pastor, Principal)
 Risen Savior, Wichita (DCE)

Candidates/Vicars For 2009

Candidates Spring

St. Louis 100
 Ft Wayne 60

Vicars Spring

St. Louis 106
 Ft Wayne 97

For Vicarages:

- ♦ Minimum salary is \$1,400 per month
- ♦ Minimum health insurance is \$6,000 per year
- ♦ Vicarage Fee is \$579

Placement Deadlines:

Spring Placement Deadline for making an Application to the District Office is March 1, 2009.

If you have any questions, please contact Marie in the President's Office at 800-357-4421 ext. 219.

Call Dates:

St. Louis - 4/22/09
 Ft. Wayne - 4/21/09

Vicarage Services:

St. Louis - 4/22/09
 Ft. Wayne - 4/20/09

District Congregation Mission Receipts

Last month: Dec. 16, 2008 - Jan. 15, 2009 \$270,189
 Dec. 16, 2007 - Jan. 15, 2008 \$268,128
 Year-to-date: Jan. 16, 2008 - Jan. 15, 2009 \$1,742,982
 Jan. 16, 2007 - Jan. 15, 2008 \$1,781,001
 To LCMS: Jan. 16, 2008 - Jan. 15, 2009 \$732,052
 Jan. 16, 2007 - Jan. 15, 2008 \$748,020

District Calendar

February

- 9-10 KAIRS Conference, Topeka
 20-21 District Youth Ministry Team Retreat, Risen Savior, Wichita
 20-22 Lay Leadership Training, District Office
 21 Faith and the Home, Module 2, Beautiful Savior, Olathe
 27-28 Pastors Wives Retreat, Salina

March

- 1-8 National Lutheran Schools Week
 7 Youth Ministry Academy, Module 2, Trinity, Salina
 20-22 Lay Leadership Training, District Office

Prayers

- The family of Rev. Harlan Hartner, retired, at his death on Jan. 20.
- Rev. Bert and Renae Tegtmeier, Messiah, Emporia, at the death of Renae's parents, De Vere and Verna Riekenberg.
- Rev. Richard Bruenger, retired, recovery from heart surgery
- Rev. George Bruening, Topeka, 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
 Steve Bremer (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

2009 Kansas District Convention



When: June 4-6

Where: Capitol Plaza Hotel and Convention Center, Topeka

Theme: “Encourage, Raise UP and Motivate One Another in Christ”

Acts of the Apostles

Keynote Speaker: Dr. Robert Newton, President of the California-Nevada-Hawaii District

Registration: Online, beginning March 15 - Deadline is May 11

Information for Convention Delegates

Registration

Convention registration is ONLINE this year beginning March 15. You may access it on the district website at www.kslcms.org/ks_convention. An Excuse Form for synodically rostered ministers will also be available on the website. Registration tables will be located outside the main convention room and will be open Thursday morning, June 4 at 8:00 a.m. Deadline for registration is May 11, 2009.

Workbooks

A CD with the contents of the Convention Workbook will be mailed to all delegates by April 1. A printed copy **will not** be provided for you. This year laptops will be permitted on the Convention floor so you can view the workbook from the CD. However, internet service and electrical connections **will not** be available.

If you desire a paper copy of the workbook, please print a copy from the CD and bring it with you to the convention. If you are unable to attend the convention, please pass on all materials to the alternate.

Hotel

A block of rooms has been reserved at the Capitol Plaza Hotel under Kansas District Lutherans. Our group rate is \$91.00. This rate does not include taxes. You are responsible for making your own hotel reservations. You may call the hotel directly at 1-800-579-7937.

Hotel guest rooms may not be available until later in the day on Thursday, June 4. Check in time is 3:00 p.m. and check out is 12:00 p.m. Early room availability on the day of arrival is not guaranteed, but the hotel will gladly store baggage until rooms are available. Deadline for hotel registration is May 11, 2009.

Questions

If you have any questions please call the President's Office at 1-800-357-4421 ext. 219.

www.kslcms.org/ks_convention

Pastors' Wives Retreat

When: Feb. 27-28

Where: Christ the King, Salina

Theme: “Wholly Holy” based on Hebrews 12:1-3

“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith ...”

Cost: \$35 (includes double occupancy motel room, breakfast & lunch on Saturday, snacks and materials)

Deadline: Monday, Feb. 9 - \$10 late fee after this date

Our theme focuses on health and wellness. At the center and heart of the Wholeness Wheel is the faithful confidence that, in baptism, God graciously gives us a new life in Jesus Christ and welcomes us into the community of the body of Christ. Health and wellness focuses both on the individual as a new creation and on the individual's relationship within the community of faith. Our guest speaker will be District Chaplain Rev. Rocky Mease. His discussion will focus on spiritual and emotional well-being and he will give tools to faithfully meet life's challenges and opportunities, “running with perseverance the race that is set before us.”

Workers Together Mailing Change

In an effort to cut costs and be better stewards, beginning April 1 we will no longer mail printed copies of Workers Together to each congregation, school, pastor or individual. As in the past, the monthly Updated Web Pages email will include the link to the current edition of Workers Together. Current and past editions of Workers Together can be downloaded from our district website on the Publications page. If you are unable to access Workers Together from the website, we will still mail you a printed copy. Please call Lori at 800-357-4421 ext. 223 if you need a printed copy.

Matching Gift for Deaf Ministry

We have a donor in Kansas who has given a generous gift to deaf ministry. Please prayerfully consider the opportunity this gift may provide for sharing the Gospel with deaf people in your communities. Checks (payable to Kansas District LCMS) may be sent to: Kansas District LCMS, 1000 SW 10th Ave, Topeka, KS 66604. Please include a signed note designating the money is to be used for the deaf ministry matching gift.

IRA Products Offering You Saving Options

LCEF offers you IRA savings options in planning for your future.

Why consider a Traditional IRA?

- ◆ It is an easy and effective way to prepare for retirement.
- ◆ You accumulate earnings that are completely tax-deferred until redeemed. At that time, you may be taxed at a lower rate because your total income is lower.
- ◆ You may receive an income tax deduction if you meet certain IRS requirements.
- ◆ You are not required to make the same contribution each year. You may choose not to contribute. You determine when and how you invest within IRS limits.
- ◆ You are in control. Unlike some retirement plans that require you to work a certain number of years before the funds are yours, an IRA is 100% yours from the beginning. You may take the money out any time. Most withdrawals before age 59½ are currently subject to a 10% IRS penalty.

Why consider a Roth IRA?

- ◆ Your investment grows tax-free.
- ◆ Distributions are tax free after five years and one of the following events occurs:
 - Purchase of a first home during that individual's lifetime (\$10,000 maximum).
 - Taxpayer reaches age 59½.

- Disability.
 - Death.
 - ◆ Minimum distributions are not required at age 70½.
 - ◆ Increased contribution limits.
 - ◆ Catch up for age 50+.
 - ◆ Tax credits.
 - ◆ Should it be beneficial for you to do so, you may convert your Traditional IRAs into Roth IRAs.
- Why consider a Coverdell ESA?
- ◆ Distributions are tax-free for qualified elementary, secondary or higher education costs.
 - ◆ Covered expenses include tuition, computer equipment, room and board, etc. (Religious school expenses qualify.)
 - ◆ Contributions allowed beyond age 18 for certain special needs children.
 - ◆ Coverdell ESA contributions do not affect eligibility for other IRAs.

Health Savings Account (HSA)

HSA Benefits & Features

- ◆ Competitive rates with LCEF's HSA, the FlexPlus Certificate.
- ◆ Contributions are tax-deductible; earnings grow tax-free.
- ◆ Redemptions are tax-free for qualified medical expenses.
- ◆ Balance carries over from year-to-year (no "use it or lose it" worries).
- ◆ Your HSA dollars at LCEF work for you and the Church at the same time!

LCEF Interest Rates

February 2009



Steward Account Rates:

Congregational Certificates

Demand	1.500%
Steward Account	2.500%

Individual Accounts

Less than \$1,000	0.875%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	1.000%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	1.375%
\$10,000 and over	2.500%

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	3.400%	3.444%
\$10,000	3.525%	3.572%
\$100,000	3.650%	3.700%

Human Care Ministry

Rev. Rocky Mease, Chaplain

Recharge with Grace Place Retreats this Summer

Grace Place Lutheran Retreats is hosting affordable, mini-sabbaticals for church workers and their spouses this summer. Each retreat is an opportunity to learn healthy, biblically based strategies to enhance both ministry and personal life.

Since 1999, nearly 2,000 Lutheran church workers and spouses have taken part in almost 100 Grace Place retreats. Dr. John Eckrich, a physician and life-long Lutheran, started the Recognized Service Organization after

years of treating church workers and their families and seeing how ministry struggles led to health problems.

Retreats include educational sessions, recreation and ample time for Scripture and reflection. Couples pay only a fraction of the actual retreat cost; retreat fees run from \$175 to \$345 per couple, depending on the location.

Retreats include those for:

- ◆ Pastors and spouses, July 6-10, Aspen, Colo.

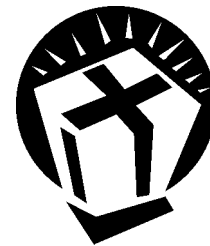
- ◆ Educators and spouses, July 13-17, Aspen, Colo.

- ◆ Educators and spouses, July 20-24, Trego, Wis. (Thrivent member discount)

- ◆ Pastors, educators and spouses, July 27-31, Trego, Wis. (Thrivent member discount)

To learn more, call 314-842-3077 or visit www.graceplaceretreats.org.

Expressing the Philanthropic Spirit



We see this philanthropic spirit clearly each time we witness the desire of a child determined to give a gift to a parent or teacher. That determination will always find the perfect way to express itself. And regardless of the form it takes, the value of the gift is beyond measure.

Many often lament the fact that as we age, our child-like characteristics seem to fade. Thankfully, however, the philanthropic spirit that seems to reside somewhere in the heart of everyone does not dissipate with age.

Americans continually set new records for charitable support. Our neighborhoods and cities thrive in part because of a pervading generosity. Indeed, the work of your church and many other Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod charities depends on private individual expressions of support that come our way in countless forms.

Each year hundreds respond. For many, the response includes a generous gift of time and energy through volunteerism. Of course, many find material ways to express their support through gifts to our annual fund efforts and capital campaigns, as well as other specific opportunities to offer financial partnership in these efforts.

In fact there are many ways that you can make a gift. The most common is by simply writing a check or giving cash. Many of these same individuals and families plan

today for a gift that comes in the form of a bequest articulated in the last will and testament.

But there are a number of other ways that you can provide support to the Lord's work. Often the way that a gift is made can have dramatic impact on helping to meet the long and short-term objectives of a donor.

Almost every gift to a qualified charitable organization comes with certain tax benefits, thanks to our government's ongoing encouragement of the private support of charities. However, in many situations it is possible to receive more than just a charitable income tax deduction. Indeed, certain ways of giving make it possible to bypass capital gains taxes on appreciated assets, significantly reduce estate taxes and even establish a whole new source of income for yourself and your family.

The Kansas District Planned Giving Counselor has been trained to help match your gift with your objectives. You will be provided with confidential information that will ensure your gift – whether cash, insurance, stock, property or a gift in trust – is timed to meet your objectives and deliver maximum value. Please call Garry Niehoff at 785-357-4441, ext. 101 for more information.

Business Office

Debbie Crites, Business Manager

IRS Mileage Rates

Beginning Jan. 1, 2009, the standard mileage rate will be 55 cents per mile (3.5 cent decrease from the current rate of 58.5 cents) and charitable standard rate remains unchanged at 14 cents per mile; and medical and moving rate will be 24 cents/mile (3 cent decrease from the current rate of 27 cents).

2008 Resources Available

Do you need help with W-2 and 1099 preparation? The updated 2008 Congregational Treasurer's Manual is now available online and will guide you through the process. 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. If you are not able to access it on the website and would like us to send you a copy, contact the Business Office at 800-357-4421 ext. 200 or tami@kslcms.org. Cost of a CD of the 2008 Treasurer's Manual is \$6.00.

Remittance Vouchers

A remittance voucher should be completed with any check sent by your congregation to the District Office – mission commitment, convention assessment, Lutheran Witness, Guinea mission support, conferences... You can write one check, even if the funds are split among several accounts, as long as you complete a remittance voucher showing the amounts for each account. Remittance vouchers can be downloaded from www.kslcms.org, Publications tab, under Business Office. For carbon copy remittance vouchers, contact Tami Lierz at 800-357-4421 ext. 200 or tami@kslcms.org.

Congregation Statistical Reports

Congregational Statistical Reports for 2008 were mailed by Synod to every congregations in January. **Please remember to make a copy of the completed form and mail it to the District Office.** Forms are due back by February 28. The 2010 Synodical Convention assessments will be based on the communicant membership from the 2008 statistical reports.

Faith and the Home

The second in a series of four *Faith and the Home* family ministry training workshops will be conducted at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Olathe on Saturday, February 21, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Marriage Ministry will be the featured topic and will be presented by Pastor Jeff Meyers (Christ, Overland Park) and Pastor Charlie Adams (Trinity, Salina). Pastor Meyers will focus on marriage preparation practices in the parish while Pastor Adams will highlight congregational strategies for marriage enrichment.

Individual workshop registration has been set at \$25 per event. This includes all instruction costs and a lunch. Contact the Kansas District Office, Educational Services at 1-800-357-4421 ext. 206 to register. Deadline to register is February 13.

Linn Lutheran School *Ablaze* by Principal Neal Kurtz

Linn Lutheran School Association is now well into its 41st year. During these years, the school has effectively provided quality academic instruction in a Christ-centered atmosphere, sharing the love of Jesus with its students, their families and the community. Linn Lutheran School is primarily supported by two association congregations: St. John, Palmer and Zion, Linn. Students also come from Bethlehem, Greenleaf; Immanuel, Linn; and the general Linn-Palmer area.

In the fall of 2008, two new students started school at Linn Lutheran. These two students came all the way from South Africa, one in fifth grade and the other in seventh. But why come to America or to Kansas or to Linn Lutheran?

The van der Merwe family is very grateful to God for the opportunity to move to America due to the unstable political situation in South Africa. It is extremely difficult for whites to find meaningful employment there, since whites are in the minority. Mr. van der Merwe came to Kansas with a silage crew. While here, he decided that

Youth Ministry Academy

Trinity Lutheran Church in Salina will serve as the host site on Saturday, March 7, for the second Youth Ministry Academy training workshop for adults serving in youth ministry.

This workshop will focus on nurturing youth ministry.

◆ Who are we? - What is our Lutheran identity?

◆ How do I grow? - Personal spiritual development as an adult leader with youth.

◆ How do we grow together? - How to teach the Bible and support young people along their faith journey.

The cost is \$25 for the day (this includes all instruction costs and a lunch). Contact the Kansas District Office, Educational Services at 1-800-357-4421 ext. 206 to register. Deadline to register is February 27.

Kansas was where he wanted to raise his children.

Tim and Trudy Ohlde, ranchers near Palmer and members of the Linn Lutheran School family, hired Mr. van der Merwe to work on their ranch. They also recommended Linn Lutheran to the van der Merwe family who chose to attend because they were looking for a school with high academic standards, good discipline and a Christ-centered atmosphere. Mrs. Van der Merwe states that the freedom of not living in fear is priceless and something we as Americans should not take for granted.

Toward the end of the Christmas break, the van Wyk family, also from South Africa, followed a similar path to our community. They have joined our Linn Lutheran family with a girl in sixth grade, a boy in fourth and a girl in first grade. The van Wyks have been impressed with the quality of materials available and the ability to order almost anything one could want and have it arrive at your home in a matter of days. They are comforted by the law enforcement and feelings of safety living in this area. *continued*

Education Calendar

Feb. 8	Principals & Early Childhood Directors, District Office
Feb. 9-10	KAIRS Conference (Principals), Ramada Inn, Topeka
Feb. 20-21	District Youth Ministry Team Retreat, Risen Savior, Wichita
Feb. 21	Faith & the Home (Family Ministry – Module 2), Beautiful Savior, Olathe
Mar. 1-8	National Lutheran Schools Week
Mar. 7	Youth Ministry Academy – Module 2, Trinity, Salina
Mar. 12-14	LEA-LEAD Conference, Atlanta
Mar. 12-15	Council of Lutheran Youth Fellowship Reps, St. Louis

Singles Spring Retreat

The Adult Singles Ministry Spring Retreat will be held in Wichita, April 18-19. The theme of the retreat is, "Get Out of the Van." Pastor Scott Goltl (Ascension, Wichita) will serve as host for tours of the Islamic Center and Buddhist Temple and lead discussion as participants reflect on the Christian faith in response to these spiritual faith systems.

Cost for this two-day event will range from \$56 (commuter) to \$139 (single occupancy), and includes motel, meals and program. Look for registration and motel information in the March *Workers Together*. Contact Staci Timm at stacitimm@juno.com if you have any questions.

Linn Lutheran, cont.

Having these five students in our classrooms has been a blessing, giving our students, teachers and families some new perspectives on cultural differences in other parts of our world. It has also given all of us opportunities to share the love of Jesus, realizing that His love and grace goes far beyond our churches, classrooms, communities and country.

Reaching Out with the Gospel by Rev. Mark Frith

At our recent Pre-Lent Retreat, Dr. Tom Trapp encouraged pastors to continue to preach the Gospel and trust that the Word and sacraments will do the LORD's important bidding of converting and regenerating faith and service in the hearts and lives of His people. Gimmicks and tactics of human ingenuity are nothing but the way of the Law.

Such words are important encouragement for all of us and for our District-wide efforts to reach the lost. Our Outreach Team has been working hard to provide tools and informational sessions that might be of encouragement to our congregations and ministries. From Divine Service we receive the gifts of the Word of our Lord and seek to carry such a blessed Word and message out and into our communities. Monthly internet sessions are being hosted for conversation and encouragement. Please consult: www.kslcms.org/cog or www.conversationsofgrace.org for dates, times and resources.



The Kansas Outreach Team is *Ablaze* in producing special SWAT (Specific Witness and Training) teams that will consult with local evangelism teams. These teams should be considered as partners for your ministry should you desire their involvement. They will help you by giving you some ideas and tools for taking the Gospel message out to the streets where the people in your community live, move and make their being. In turn, your evangelism team will be encouraged to work with your congregation in preparing to receive new-comers with warm hospitality, especially those who may not initially appreciate what makes for a community of saints such as yours. In a day and age when faith and church is trivialized, let's work at loving new people so that they might gain the instant perspective that just as Christ first loved us, we will first love them...before they ever consider loving our assemblies.

Visit the Kansas District website at www.kslcms.org

Mission Commitments

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. For budget purposes, we would appreciate receiving your commitment as soon as possible.

Ash Wednesday

The Board of Directors designated 2009 Ash Wednesday offerings to be divided equally between the Scholarship and Education Loan Repayment Funds. A newsletter article, bulletin blurbs and a bulletin insert are available on the district website - www.kslcms.org, click on the Publications tab and scroll down to Mission & Stewardship Resources.

Financial Aid Available

Do you know of any student(s) pursuing a career in professional church work at one of the LCMS colleges or seminaries? Financial aid is available for these students from the Kansas District, LLL, LWML and St. John College Alumni. Scholarship information was sent to all congregations in December. Scholarship applications, instructions, and financial aid contact information are available on the district website - www.kslcms.org, click on the Publications tab and scroll down to Mission & Stewardship Resources.

If you have any questions, please contact Lori Hennessey at 800-357-4421 ext. 223 or lori@kslcms.org. The deadline for the Kansas District is June 1.

Web Learning Sessions

Currently we are hosting monthly web-learning sessions that encourage and inform our church workers on outreach tools that might be helpful for their congregations. Our Kansas Outreach Team is planning to make these available for laity, too, most likely to take place once a month, but in the evening hours. Please consult: www.conversationsofgrace.org or www.kslcms.org/cog for dates and times.

In order to participate in these sessions, you will need a high-speed internet connection. You can simply listen to these special sessions using the web link made available to you from either of the two websites noted above. If you want to interact with the learning session group, you will need a computer microphone system (USB headset - relatively inexpensive to purchase). Each month we will be lifting up a specific evangelism tool and showing you how it works. Email us at lori@kslcms.org if you have questions about this fabulous learning community.

Spanish/Bilingual VBS

The Spanish division of Concordia Publishing House announces its 2009 Spanish/Bilingual Vacation Bible School, "Un viaje en miniatura: Descubriendo la grandeza de Dios" (A Tiny Adventure: Discovering the Greatness of God).

The 2009 Spanish Vacation Bible School program uses an outdoor theme to lead children to examine the big and small things found in God's world. Children will learn that though mankind is too small to save itself, Jesus is big enough to meet all needs.

"The program is the only comprehensive Spanish/Bilingual Vacation Bible School available," comments Florencia Fau-Pieske, marketing manager of CPH multilingual resources. "Un viaje en miniatura is not a translation; it is written by Hispanics for Hispanics."

To order, go to www.cph.org or call 1-800-325-3040.

Guinea Prayers

Andrea Herman's Prayer Requests

- ✠ a peaceful transition of power in Guinea
- ✠ His provision of a Christian President for Guinea who is attempting to lead the country in ways that glorify God and help his countrymen
- ✠ God's divine provision and demonstration of His love for those who do not know Him
- ✠ God's continued blessing on her language studies and ability to understand and communicate in Maninka and Bambara
- ✠ the 14 seekers in Mali village - that God would give them boldness to share what they are learning about Jesus with their families, friends and neighbors
- ✠ reconciliation between Christians - that the power of forgiveness would be made known
- ✠ good balance in life and work, and restful sleep
- ✠ healing from the eczema which is once again ailing her hands and limiting their use

Heiney Family Prayer Requests

- ✠ for the kids - Joel as he continues in pharmacy school; Jonathan as he prays for direction in his life; Katie as she decides where to attend college next year; and Andrea who is finishing out her freshman year in high school.
- ✠ for Evangelist Alfred Salloe, that his family can be reunited and that God will strengthen them all together as a family and use them in ministry.
- ✠ for our seminarians far from home and for their studies at the seminary in Togo, that God will use this time for them to grow in the Word.

Heiney Requests, cont.

- ✠ for the country of Guinea that has transitioned into a new government, that God will use those now in charge to help make life better for the people of Guinea.
- ✠ for the churches in Conakry, that God will provide places of worship in this predominantly Muslim area.
- ✠ for Tim and Beth Heiney as they begin to make the move early this year to Bamako in Mali - that God will provide a house and that He will give guidance in future ministry.

Carlos Family Prayer Requests

- ✠ Thanksgiving for God's guidance in identifying a French language school for Jack and Cathy in Albertville, France and a Christian boarding school in Kandern, Germany for Hannah to spend her senior year
- ✠ That many churches will want to hear about the work God has planned for the Carlos' in Guinea and will partner with them in mission so that support can be raised
- ✠ For Jack and Cathy's home-based French language study - that they can get a bit of a head start on learning the language
- ✠ For Raymond as he continues his EMT studies and decides what he will do the next academic year when he is the only Carlos stateside
- ✠ Guidance as they plan to sell their house, find homes for their dog and cat, and make all other necessary preparations for leaving the country
- ✠ For peace and stability in Guinea as they transition to new government leadership



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