



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 3 March 2009

President's Office

"If You Could Google God" by President Keith E. Kohlmeier

OK. Let me offer a few words of explanation. Google is one of the most popular search engines on the internet today. For those of you not familiar with the tool, it is used when someone wants to search for information or ask a question. It is comparable to the old concept of "look that up in your Funk and Wagnall." Now some of you are going to have to explain to the under 30 crowd what a "Funk and Wagnall" is.

I participate in the sermon portion of worship these days from the other side of the pulpit from where I used to stand as the preacher on Sunday morning. It struck me recently that there is a unique meeting of both preparation and need when we reach that portion of worship. We are a church that is blessed by the heritage of following an assigned set of scriptures for our worship service. Pastors faithfully prepare, on a weekly basis, by studying the text in its original language, considering the context of that Word in both the original setting and in the context of their pastoral care of their congregation, and then prayerfully speak a message that God would bring to those gathered there during that service. Note please, it is not "the message" or "a message" or "the Pastor's message," but "HIS message" that we are to bring forth from our study. It is no different for our commissioned workers. Their settings may not be pulpits, but Bible studies, classrooms or Sunday schools.

On the other hand, God gathers people on a weekly basis because He knows the things on their hearts and what is happening in their lives. They may be long time members of the church or someone who has stepped inside of a church for the first time in a long time or even the first time in their lives. They are not there only because they always are, or even because they have to be, but because God has gathered them. He has brought them there because they have been "googling" Him with matters of their lives, both temporal and eternal.

What a privilege we have when we gather together in worship. What a precious moment. We are the people that have googled God all week about our relationship to Him, to other people and to life itself. God gathers us in worship and God prepares the Word for us that day.

As we head into this special time of the church year, many may "try" this setting to google God. I pray that the workers of the church may welcome everyone with gladness and that in the process, we may all hear the response of our good and gracious God to our search for answers to life, both here and eternally.



You will seek me and
find me when you seek
me with all your heart.
Jeremiah 29:13

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District Website/Email

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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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Kansas District LCMS
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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. Dan Metzger, Wichita, to Immanuel, Wichita as Associate Pastor

Calls Pending

- Robert Cooksey from Christ Community, Kirkwood, Mo. to Holy Cross Lutheran School, Wichita, Principal
- Rev. Dan Galchutt from St. Paul, Haven to Calvary, Topeka
- Kari Lettow from Christ, Murray, Utah to Zion Lutheran School, Independence, Principal/Teacher
- Rev. John Sharp from St. Peter, Holyrood/Zion, Claflin to Immanuel, Broadlands, Ill.

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)

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:	Jan. 15, 2009 - Feb. 15, 2009 \$181,820
	Jan. 15, 2008 - Feb. 15, 2008 \$178,058
Year-to-date:	Jan. 15, 2009 - Feb. 15, 2009 \$181,820
	Jan. 15, 2008 - Feb. 15, 2008 \$178,058
To LCMS:	Jan. 15, 2009 - Feb. 15, 2009 \$76,365
	Jan. 15, 2008 - Feb. 15, 2008 \$74,834

District Calendar

March

1-8 National Lutheran Schools Week
 20-22 Lay Leadership Training, District Office

April

9 District Office Closes at 2:00 p.m., Maundy Thursday
 10 District Office Closed, Good Friday
 17-19 Lay Leadership Training, District Office
 24-25 Board of Directors, District Office

Prayers

- The family of Cindy Twillman, DCE at Ascension, Wichita, at the death of her sister Nancy
- Suzanne Ramsey, wife of Rev. Dan Ramsey, Zion, Chanute, health concerns
- Rev. Ken Haskell, retired, Winfield, recovery from surgery
- Rev. George Bruening, Topeka, health concerns
- Steve Bremer, District Office, health concerns
- Joyce Tate, District Office, thanksgiving for successful eye surgery



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

Conversations of Grace Webcast by Rev. Mark Frith

"Then someone came and said, 'Look! The men you put in jail are standing in the temple courts teaching the people.'" Acts 5:25

Pastors, workers and congregations, please reserve Saturday, Oct. 17, 2009, for the 2nd Annual Conversations of Grace Webcast. The day is all about helping congregations and individuals with resources that encourage people to work into everyday conversations the subject and person of Jesus Christ - His grace and mercy centered in His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins.

We appreciated all the comments received from the first webcast last November, encouraging us to make some helpful changes to the format. Well, you have a group of people working on that right now. I am so pleased with the enthusiasm of this Kansas Outreach Team.

Significant differences or changes this year will be a shorter conference, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; an emphasis on group interaction; a better balanced program through the simulcast; time to apply what was learned. It is quite likely that one of our District congregations will produce the video up-link, as opposed to one of our Concordias.

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.

Whether you attended last year or not, we believe this year's Conversations of Grace Webcast will be a help to you as an Ambassador for Christ and an Ambassador for your congregation.

Can you help? Will your congregation consider being a host-site this year? Please contact Lori at lori@kslcms.org or 800-357-4421 ext. 223 with your interest and questions. For information and monthly updates, go to www.kslcms.org/cog. We were thankful to have nine sites last year. Critical for being a site: having high-speed internet accessibility. Keep in mind that last year a number of our host sites used the webcast event as an opportunity to launch into the high-speed internet world. Why should you consider such a thing? The District Outreach Team meets monthly over the internet, saving time and lots of money.

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.

Support Missionaries Jack & Cathy Carlos

Jack & Cathy Carlos have accepted the call to become missionaries in Guinea, utilizing basic health care education to open the door to sharing the Gospel with Maninka people in the Siguiri area. LCMS World Mission requires them to raise enough money to support their mission work for two years - about \$300,000.

To help Jack & Cathy raise the needed funds, the Kansas District Board of Directors is asking every congregation to gather a special offering to be brought to the District Convention and dedicated for Jack & Cathy's service to our Lord on our behalf in the Guinea mission field.

Packets were mailed to each congregation with materials to use for this special offering, including:

- ◆ a bulletin insert
- ◆ a newsletter article
- ◆ letters from teammates Tim Norton and Andrea Herman
- ◆ Carlos family winter newsletter
- ◆ Carlos family Prayer Card

These materials are available on our District website, Guinea Partnership page, click on Convention Offering.

A DVD is also available, with two video presentations by Jack & Cathy - a short two-minute piece and a longer eight-minute piece. Contact Lori at lori@kslcms.org or 800-357-4421 ext. 223 if you would like the DVD.

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.

Marketing Services for Lutheran Schools

Our schools have a wonderful story to tell to current and prospective students and their families. Would you like assistance in developing impactful, professionally done, marketing materials for your Lutheran school? LCEF has partnered with Divine Marketing Solutions to bring an exciting and very effective method for you to send a consistent, professional and unified message about your Lutheran school and/or preschool.



LCEF recognized a need to help our schools compete, to present an image, to develop a campaign that shares the unique story of Lutheran education while stressing quality and building confidence. Coming soon will be LCEF's answer to that need. LCEF has also partnered with Divine Marketing Solutions in the creation and development of four "Branding" themes that you can select to give your school a complete

professional identity. While it is not totally ready for general distribution, four special branding plans can be previewed and evaluated by going to www.lcefmarketing.com.

While all things on this website are not yet complete, you are invited to preview and comment on the materials provided. Right now we are in the testing stage, but plans are to introduce materials to a wider audience in

Divine Marketing Solutions can help you develop a comprehensive Marketing Plan that will answer such questions as:

- ◆ Do we have a product that people really want and can afford?
- ◆ What is the image/perception of our school in the community?
- ◆ What are our strengths and weaknesses?

LCEF Ministry Services for Churches and Schools

LCEF provides many ministry services designed to serve your ministry and help it grow.

- ◆ **Architectural Advisory Committee** - a team of professional Lutheran architects and liturgical artists who advise on architectural design, planning, construction and preservation of facilities for LCMS ministries.
- ◆ **Demographic Services** - offers your congregation or organization up-to-date population data and resources to help you understand and reach the households in your surrounding community.
- ◆ **Capital Funding Services (CFS)** - helps LCMS congregations and agencies raise funds for capital expansion or debt retirement. We bring you scripture-based fundraising services to assist with the expenses of new construction, renovations, program expansion and more.

- ◆ **Laborers For Christ** - Christian men and women who do physical labor for Christ, working for congregations and other church-related organizations of the LCMS to build churches, schools, parish halls, retirement homes, camp facilities, etc.
- ◆ **NAILS** - The student component of Laborers For Christ, connects willing college and seminary students with LCMS congregations wanting to host student Laborers.
- ◆ **Consecrated Stewards** - reach the maximum number of people in the most spiritual setting with minimal organization. This is based on the need of the giver to give, not the need of the church to receive and is not tied to the church budget. Annual commitments usually increase 15% - 35%.
- ◆ **Strategic Ministry Planning (SMP)** - A fully participatory planning process that asks God to reveal His

LCEF Interest Rates

March 2009



Steward Account Rates:

Congregational Certificates

Demand	1.375%
Steward Account	2.375%

Individual Accounts

Less than \$1,000	0.750%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	0.875%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	1.250%
\$10,000 and over	2.375%

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	3.025%	3.059%
\$10,000	3.150%	3.187%
\$100,000	3.275%	3.315%

the months ahead. LCEF asks that you do not log in at this time, but just preview the materials and plan ahead.

Built Around and For the Church



Calling and Plan for the congregation through a faith-based, mission-focused, comprehensive program.

- ◆ **LCEF Ministry Services' One- and Two-Day Workshops** - Facilitated workshops to help congregations mobilize members for mission - grow your leaders and volunteers or give your entire congregation a more mission-focused outlook.

For more information, please contact Tami Lierz at tami@kslcm.org or 800-357-4421 ext. 200. You can also call the St. Louis office at 800-843-5233 or visit the website at www.LCEF.org.

Long-Term CD Rates

Change in FDIC laws may catch you off guard. On December 31, 2009, FDIC will reduce the insured amount from \$250,000 down to \$100,000 on long-term CDs unless Congress extends the limit.

It doesn't make any difference if the law was \$250,000 when you locked in, it reduces to \$100,000 on the above date.

The trap may be this. You put in \$100,000 that grows with interest. Because of the growth it will be over \$100,000 and that portion is not covered.

Please be aware this does not affect IRA's. They will remain insured for \$250,000.

For more information on this change go to the websites for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (www.fdic.gov) or the National Credit Union Administration (www.ncua.gov).



Business Office

Debbie Crites, Business Manager

Pre-Retirement Workshop

Concordia Plan Services and the Kansas District will be hosting a two day Pre-Retirement Workshop for all professional workers and their spouses to help them understand the process of planning for retirement. This workshop will be held on Thursday and Friday, July 16 & 17 at the District Office in Topeka. Sessions will include budgeting and finance, retirement income, envisioning your retirement lifestyle, health and wellness, where to live and what to do with your time in retirement. Since retirement decisions affect the family, this workshop is designed for couples to attend together.

Concordia Plan Services representative Paul Snyder will be leading this workshop and will also schedule ½ hour individual sessions with you and your spouse to discuss any additional retirement questions that you might have.

Cost to attend is \$120 per couple which includes one night's lodging and all your meals. To register for the workshop, please contact Debbie Crites at 785-357-4441 ext. 204 or by email to debbie@kslcms.org. Space is limited, so contact me today.

For Business Office Resources, visit
www.kslcms.org/ks_departments/business_office/index.htm

Do You Need To File Form 5578?

Does your church operate a preschool? An elementary school? If you answered yes to either question, then you are required to submit Form 5578 to the IRS each year. Filing the certificate of racial nondiscrimination is one of the most commonly ignored federal reporting requirements. Churches that operate, supervise or control a private school (including a preschool) must submit Form 5578 each year with the IRS. You may obtain a Form 5578 by calling the IRS forms number (1-800-829-3676) or by downloading a copy from the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

Have You Filed Your Non-Profit Annual Report?

Kansas law requires all non-profit organizations that are incorporated with the Secretary of State to file an annual report. The form requires basic information along with a \$40.00 annual fee. The deadline for filing the report is the sixth month and fifteenth day following the end of the organization's fiscal year, I.E. fiscal year-end of Dec. 31 would have a filing due date of June 15. Failure to file on a timely basis will result in delinquent status and loss of good standing with the Secretary of State and could eventually jeopardize your corporation's certificate of incorporation.

If you are unsure of your organization's filing due date, its current filing status, or your business entity ID number, you can check it at the Secretary of State's website www.kssos.org. Under "Quick Links" select "Search Business Entity Information." Search for the organization by either business entity number or by name.

You are now able to file your annual report online. Under "Featured Links" click on "File Annual Reports Online." Enter your business entity ID number and complete the questions on the screen. The online transaction charge is \$2.00 and payment of the filing fee and transaction charge can be made with any major credit card or by electronic check. Filing is immediate and the filed copy is available for you to print for your records.

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 Feb. 28. The 2010 Synodical Convention assessments will be based on the communicant membership from the 2008 statistical reports.

2009 KAIRS Lutheran Teacher of the Year

Stella O'Brien is a beloved kindergarten teacher at Zion Lutheran School in Independence. She began teaching at Zion in 1998, but her teaching career began in 1988.

On Monday, Feb. 9, Stella was recognized by the Kansas Association of Independent and Religious Schools (KAIRS) as the Lutheran Teacher of the Year. As an innovative teacher, she includes a cooking project in every unit, maintains a class greenhouse and her students even have a worm farm. She looks for potential in every student.

Principal Dawn Oldenettel, who nominated Stella, says the following about her giftedness: "The greatest strength of Mrs. O'Brien is her ability to connect with our students and model Jesus in all that she does. She is, by nature and by determination, an encourager and additionally serves as a mentor for new teachers."

Stella earned an AA in Education from Labette Community College in 1986 and a BS in Education from Pittsburg State University in 1992. She was given an early childhood endorsement from Independence Community College in 1997.

Hope Lutheran School *Ablaze* by Principal Rick Hanebutt

Each year, National Lutheran Schools' Week (NLSW) is celebrated the first full week of March. It is set aside to celebrate the love of God demonstrated through Lutheran Schools. The theme of this year's NLSW is "Securing Each Child's Future – For Eternity." Hope Lutheran School, like all Lutheran Schools, provides a Christian setting for our students to hear God's comforting words of salvation each and every day. Hope is also committed to sharing that word to the surrounding community and across the ocean.

Hope Lutheran School has added the position of Admission Counselor to our staff to carry out the marketing program of our school. The position began the first of February and has already brought positive results for the school and the church. In the first two weeks of February, a new student enrolled and the family has expressed an interest in church. Four new families have enrolled for next school year, and four more families are considering. As we develop this position, the possibility of reaching families in our community will continue to grow. Part of our commitment to this position was for the principal and the new counselor to attend the National Admissions Counselors Conference.

Hope has become a partner with an organization named KoAm. KoAm is an organization that places Korean children in American schools. KoAm will place one child per grade in grades four through eight. Each exchange student will stay with a host family during the school year. Hope School has two families that have volunteered to host Korean children. By participating in this program, a school has the opportunity to share the love of Christ with as many as five Korean children and their families. We look forward to serving our Lord and reaching out to our church families, our community families and our families across the ocean.

Senior High Youth Summer Camp

The 2009 Kansas District Sr. High Summer Camp is July 19-24 at LVR. Youth in the classes of 2009-2013 are eligible to attend. The theme verse is Psalm 46:10 - "Be still and know that I am God."

The cost is \$355, which covers transportation, camp fees, meals at camp and spiritual life programming (travel day meals not included).

For more information about the retreat, including a brochure, youth forms and online registration, go to www.kslcms.org/lvr/index.

Education Calendar

Mar. 1-8	National Lutheran Schools Week
Mar. 12-14	LEA-LEAD Conference, Atlanta
Mar. 12-15	Council of Lutheran Youth Fellowship Reps, St. Louis
Apr. 16-18	National DCE Conference, Dallas
Apr. 18-19	Singles Spring Retreat, Wichita

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 how they might share their faith with others of different religions.

Cost for this two-day event is \$56 (commuter), \$77 (4/room), \$98 (2/room) and \$139 (1/room). This includes motel, program and lunch and dinner on Saturday. The deadline for registration is March 27. For more information or to register, contact:

- ◆ your church office
- ◆ Staci Timm at stacitimm@juno.com or 785-823-6727
- ◆ the District Office at 785-357-4441 ext. 206 or joyce@kslcms.org
- ◆ or go to www.kslcms.org/singles.

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

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. If you have no access to the internet, contact the District Office at 1-800-357-4421 ext. 219 and we will mail you a packet.

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 - Note Changes!

A CD with the contents of the Convention Workbook will be mailed to all delegates by May 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.

Workbooks - cont.

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

Pre-Lent Retreat Observations

It was an unusual way to begin a retreat. Dr. Thomas Trapp, professor at Concordia University, St. Paul, Minn., explained that it was important to have a good sense of the context for Jesus' "I am" sayings in St. John's Gospel. Therefore, he was going to read the Gospel to us in one setting.

There were some raised eyebrows! Nevertheless, it was clear after the reading that the pastors gathered for the Pre-Lent Retreat had heard John's Gospel with new appreciation. It helped create lively discussion as Dr. Trapp shared his insights during the following sessions. Again and again, he reminded us that the only power to change lives is the power of the Gospel.

While the pastors, vicars and district staff appreciated Dr. Trapp's insights, they also appreciated the opportunities to gather with colleagues, observing Canonical Hours in the beautiful chapel at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita.

This year, Circuit Counselors led our devotions. For many of us, this is a highlight of the Pre-Lent Retreats. It was suggested that retired pastors might lead these devotions next year.

Add the opportunities for conversation and recreation with colleagues, and the Pre-Lent Retreat becomes not only an opportunity for retreat, but an opportunity for renewal. And, yes, we came home with outlines for a Lenten series on Jesus' "I am" sayings. *by Rev. Lyle Stuehrenberg*

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, call Lori at 800-357-4421 ext. 223 and we will mail you a printed copy each month.

2010 National Youth Gathering News

New information is coming to www.lcmsgathering.com in mid-March, including downloadable resources for adult leaders. Check out the site's FAQ section.

◆ Applications are available online for Community Life Builders who need to be at least 25 years old by the time of the Gathering - application process ends March 18.

◆ Later this summer, online applications will be available for the Young Adult Volunteer Corps who must be between 19 and 25 by the time of the Gathering.

◆ Are you on Facebook? Join the group "The 2010 National LCMS Youth Gathering" - <http://www.facebook.com/groups.php?ref=sb#/group.php?gid=6376465727>

◆ Registration materials will be available online in late summer and online registration begins this fall.

Guinea Prayers

Andrea Herman's Prayer Requests

Please praise God for:

✠ safe and uneventful travel to Conakry

✠ good health

✠ friends in Siguiiri

✠ time to be with the Heineys

✠ her financial and prayer supporters

Please ask for:

✠ the security situation in Guinea, that those endowed with power would not abuse it

✠ good closure on her time in the Malian village

✠ her furlough schedule to get solidified soon

✠ her preparations for furlough: presentations, etc. would get done well ahead of schedule

✠ God's Spirit to continue to open hearts among the Maninka

✠ a smooth return to Guinea for the Norton family in March

Heiney Family Prayer Requests

✠ Please pray for God to Guide and lead them in His will. It is clear that some changes in their life and ministry are going to take place soon. Some new factors are coming into play that they had not foreseen a short time ago. They really need God to be clear for them on this.

✠ Pray for the new ministry in Conakry. It is growing much faster than anticipated, but is being choked by the inability to find places to worship. They are unable to even worship in members houses as Muslims own everything and

threaten to kick out the families when they hear Christians are gathering there. Pray for a new plan - to rent space as self-supporting neighborhood schools.

✠ Pray for the four Vicars as they get nearer to ordination. They not only have to deal with the demands of a very tough vicarage program, they all have responsibilities for their own congregations as well as responsibilities at the regional and also national levels, writing projects, doing reports, and trying to learn computers, Keyboards, English (their project request and reports must be done in English even though they speak French), and, on top of it all, they need to get enough farming in to feed their families. It is, quite frankly, taken together, impossible to do anything well, and no one would ask anyone to do this in the US.

Carlos Family Prayer Requests

✠ Thanksgiving that all details are coming together for Jack and Cathy's French school and Hannah's senior year of high school at Black Forest Academy

✠ That people's hearts may be touched during the many visits and presentations that Jack and Cathy have set up in the next two months and that they will want to be an active part in God's mission to the Maninka

✠ For Raymond as he continues his EMT studies but also makes plans for next year when he will remain in the U.S. while Jack, Cathy and Hannah are away in France and Germany.



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