



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."

Everyone is Looking for Jesus

by Rev. Rocky Mease

I have noticed a trend in evening television which I think reflects an increased interest in things spiritual in our culture. Shows like Ghost Whisperer, Medium, The Mentalist, 11th hour, Numbers, Heroes and Lost – all either deal directly with what our culture would describe as “the spiritual” or they are indirectly seeking spiritual things or they are trying to explain the unexplainable.

If you walk through a book store you will see an entire section set aside for “Spirituality.” People are hungering and thirsting to understand the world in which they live and to learn about any possible world beyond where they live.

In Mark 1:29-39, Simon came looking for Jesus and told him, “Everyone is looking for you.” That got me wondering if that is true today as well.

I think we sometimes go looking for Jesus – but not always the Jesus revealed in the Bible. I think the Jesus we sometimes seek more closely resembles the “spirituality” sought by the world. We want a Jesus who makes loved ones who are sick to be healed. We want a Jesus who will make us rich. We want an easy Jesus, who doesn’t require anything of us. We want a Jesus who will entertain us.

We are encouraged to have “Conversations of Grace” with those around us. But I don’t think that is what most of us want at all. I think the Conversations of Grace that we seek are not those we speak, but those we hear. We want to come to church and hear that our sins are forgiven. We want to come to church and hear Conversations of Grace spoken to us. Few of us want to speak Conversations of Grace to others.

I think we are looking for some program to make our having Conversations of Grace easy. I don’t think, however, Conversations of Grace are ever easy.

Look at the example of Jesus in Mark 1:29-39. For one entire day Jesus had been having Conversations of Grace. He had been healing people and casting out demons. Very early the next morning, Jesus went to a deserted place to pray. I think this reveals for us an important aspect of Jesus’ humanity. Ministry, even for Jesus, was exhausting. Many times the scriptures record that Jesus went to a quiet place for prayer. The night before Jesus’ crucifixion, he went to Gethsemane for prayer. Certainly the Conversation of Grace Jesus had from the cross – his final words – were words not easily spoken. He would cry out, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” No easy Conversations of Grace for Jesus.

Yet, he offers those Conversations of Grace to us without cost and with no expectation. He says clearly to all of us that every one of our sins are forgiven. He promises us – with no doubt – that eternal life is ours. His Conversations of Grace with us are comforting, but also inspiring.

Now having a Conversation of Grace isn’t rocket science. You don’t have to be a Seminary Theologian to do this. You need two things. You need to have a genuine concern for others and you need to know that God loves you and others. And remember, the words you speak will not be nearly as important as the actions you take.

I do believe that everyone really is looking for Jesus. They may not know His name. They may think what they need exists in some vague form of spirituality. But this world – with all its sin, with all its need, with all its pain – needs the God who can forgive sin, meet all our needs and ease all our pain. Now is the time. Walk beside someone and share a Conversation of Grace.

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District Website/Email

Website: www.kslcms.org

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Caring Ministry

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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:
Workers Together Editor
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

- Cory Emily from Bethany, Overland Park to Mt. Olive, Des Moines, Iowa, Principal
- Rev. Richard Langness to Grace, Larned
- Rachel Micheel from Concordia, Seward to Trinity Lutheran School, Atchison, Teacher (Placement)
- Melanie Vaughn from Concordia, Seward to Trinity, Salina, DCE (Placement)
- Ben Vineyard from Mt. Calvary, Holdrege, Neb. to Trinity, Mission, DCE

Calls Pending

- Rev. Andrew Wehling from Grace, Liberal to Zion, Hastings, Neb.

Calling Congregations/Schools

St. Luke, Bazine
Faith, Derby (Teacher)
St. Paul, Duluth
Zion, Independence (2 Teachers)
St. Paul, Lincoln
Christ, Manhattan
Faith, Ottawa
Bethany, Overland Park (Principal, Teacher)
Grace/Trinity, Wichita
Holy Cross, Wichita (Senior Pastor, Principal)
Risen Savior, Wichita (DCE)

Candidate Placements

St. John, Aliceville - Vicar Luke Brown, STL
St. Paul, Haven - Russell D. Bonine, FTW
Immanuel, Linn - Vicar Richard Rikli, STL
Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove - J. Phillip Augustine, FTW

Vicar Assignments

Ascension, Wichita - Justin Sponaugle, STL
St. Paul, Lincoln - Timothy Frank, FTW
Trinity, Mission - Scott Eberlein, STL

"This Jesus
God raised up,
and of that all
of us are
witnesses."
Acts 2:32, NRSV

District Congregation Mission Receipts

Last month:	Mar. 16, 2009 - Apr. 15, 2009	\$149,326
	Mar. 16, 2008 - Apr. 15, 2008	\$184,764
Year-to-date:	Jan. 16, 2009 - Apr. 15, 2009	\$445,085
	Jan. 16, 2008 - Apr. 15, 2008	\$467,411
To LCMS:	Jan. 16, 2009 - Apr. 15, 2009	\$186,936
	Jan. 16, 2008 - Apr. 15, 2008	\$196,313

District Calendar

May

- 4-5 Timothy Gathering, Herington
- 15-17 Lay Leadership Training, District Office
- 17 Lay Leadership Graduation, Topeka
- 25 District Office Closed, Memorial Day

June

- 4-6 District Convention, Topeka

Prayers

- Rev. Ed Mease, St. Paul, Leavenworth, and family at the death of his mother, Ruth
- Rev. Tom Harries, Hope, Shawnee, and family at the death of his mother, Lillie
- The family of Rev. Eugene Eckhardt, retired Kansas pastor and founder of Christ, Topeka, at his death on Easter morning in Champaign, Ill.
- Ken Jorns, Board of Directors, recovery from heart surgery
- Terry Wiechman, Wichita, upcoming knee replacement
- Jewell Behrhorst, wife of retired pastor Rev. Wallace Behrhorst, Winfield, recovery from hip replacement
- Rev. Fred Darkow, retired, Winfield, health concerns
- 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

Unlock the Doors and Proclaim the Good News! by Rev. Mark T. Frith

“Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ.” Acts 5:42

So goes it with the disciples after Easter, the Ascension of our Lord and Pentecost. We are deep into the Easter season now. Do you remember on that first week of Easter when the disciples locked themselves behind doors for fear of the Jerusalem police force? Yet the culmination of our Lord’s work on earth meant the Holy Spirit’s empowerment of the disciples of Jesus to proclaim the death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus for the forgiveness of sins. Doors were unlocked upon the proclamation of the Gospel. Doors were open to a new way of life.

Today people still lock themselves behind all kinds of doors. People worry about what other people think. People cower underneath a canvas of “niceness.” People still lock themselves behind doors of doubt. Some

shroud themselves with layers of needs for proof before trust. We all understand why people do so. We, ourselves, take shelter in the vane of our own, simple understandings. However, the gift of the Gospel, the strength of the proclaimed Word of Lord, the effects of the death and resurrection of Jesus break through all of those barriers. St. Paul reminds us that nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:38-39

Pastors, workers and congregations, please mark Saturday, October 17, on your calendars. That day has been set aside for the second annual Conversations of Grace Webcast. Take the opportunity to help your congregational leaders take bold steps in leading congregational members in conversations of God’s grace.

Conference participants will learn more about Plowing, preparing your congregation and community for outreach, and Planting, sharing Christ with others. The webcast will include:

- ◆ question/answer sessions with presenters
- ◆ time to network with other congregations
- ◆ time to plan with members of your own congregation.

Beyond that, check out the many outreach resources available to your congregation on our website at www.kslcms.org/cog under Resources.

CAN YOU HELP? Will your congregation consider being a host site this year? Please call Lori at the District Office, 800-357-4421 ext. 223, with your interest and questions. High-speed internet accessibility is critical for being a site.

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

Stories from the Heart by Rev. Fred Darrow

Introduction: From his many years as a Pastor/Evangelist, Rev. Darrow has wonderful stories from the heart to share. Below is the first of many to come from his own experiences and those of youth involved in Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ (O AFC).

On the way to the Kansas District evangelism meeting, I arrived early so I decided to have a bite to eat and relax at Hardees. When I arrived, I saw a Mexican American college student working there so I asked her if I could give her something. She was curious and said, “Yes,” so I pulled out my little John 3:16 witnessing card and took her through it. She confessed she believed Jesus died for her sins and if she died she would go to heaven. I then asked her if she was bilingual and could speak Spanish. Then I pulled out my last Spanish John 3:16 and asked her, “If I give this to you, will you share it with your Spanish speaking friends?” She said yes, so I

gave her an English and a Spanish card and she left.

While finishing my breakfast and reading my Bible, she came back to my table and said, “I need more cards.” I could only give her English cards because I was out of the Spanish, but

I could tell by her actions that she appreciated my witness and was ready to share with others. I also realized our Spanish

speaking friends really appreciate it when you put it in their language.

If you would like to witness with the John 3:16 tract, please contact me at 620-221-4765.



Marvin Kohlmeier,
Mission Awareness Coordinator
Email: marvink@carsoncomm.com
Home phone: 785-284-3591
Cell phone: 785-547-6096

What do You Want, Lord?

“Daddy, Daddy, Daddy stop! Daddy, Daddy!” The man continued down the aisle, pushing the grocery cart, obviously ignoring the little four year old girl. As he turned the corner and proceeded to the next aisle, you could still hear her persistent cry of, “Daddy, Daddy, wait! No, Daddy, wait!” I am not real sure if it was embarrassment, frustration, irritation or maybe all of the above, but he finally turned and loudly asked, “What do you want?”

It is so easy in church involvement to get wrapped around the axle of things we really believe to be, and in fact probably are, important. We can get wrapped so tight that we forget to ask our risen Lord and Savior, “What do You want?”

Being wrapped around the axle, Daddy was intent on getting out of the goldfish aisle in the Wal-Mart store as quickly as possible. The child’s assumed wish for a goldfish had the little girl wrapped around the axle yelling for her Daddy.

We celebrate Easter as an important period in our faith, but we are

reminded of the ongoing financial challenges many congregations face, along with their members and families. We need to ask our risen Lord and Savior, “What do You want?”

At LCEF, we want to help your congregation concentrate on God’s plan and not become wrapped around the axle by the burden of debt and concern over finances. Very soon congregational presidents will receive a letter offering a 20% discount on the cost of a capital stewardship campaign to reduce congregational debt. We ask that you take a look at this offer. Pray to our Lord and Savior asking, “What do You want?”

The goal of any campaign is to help congregations prioritize their budgets and encourage members to make a bold, faith-based commitment to save their congregation’s precious resources – matters that members can appreciate now more than ever.

Please give this offer of a 20% discount on a capital stewardship campaign your prayerful consideration. If you’re led to believe that this is “what He wants,” give me a call at

LCEF Interest Rates

May 2009



Steward Account Rates:

Congregational Certificates

Demand	1.125%
Steward Account	2.125%

Individual Accounts

Less than \$1,000	0.625%
\$1,000 - less than \$5,000	0.750%
\$5,000 - less than \$10,000	1.125%
\$10,000 and over	2.125%

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	2.735%	2.763%
\$10,000	2.860%	2.891%
\$100,000	2.985%	3.019%

785-249-9114. We will be happy to show you the savings amount that would be specific to your loan.

Oh, the little girl? She lost her shoe in the parking lot.

Human Care Ministry

Rev. Rocky Mease, Chaplain

Greensburg Wrap Up

On March 31, 2009 the South Central Kansas Tornado Recovery Organization (SCKTRO) held its last official meeting. While there is still work to do, all cases have been presented to funders, all volunteer repair jobs have been completed and as of the end of June all volunteer work will be done. SCKTRO is the first long term recovery committee in the nation’s history to coordinate all the work for a single disaster. The economy and efficiency of a single long term recovery committee, I think, accounts for a rather speedy completion of this work.

Peace Lutheran Church in Greensburg has begun construction of their sanctuary. Pastor Lohrke reported to the Zone LWML and LLL

rally held in Greensburg that the congregation has decided to take a step in faith. They cannot grow in their current (temporary) modular chapel. But the chapel (provided by LCMS World Relief and Human Care, Orphan Grain Train and Laborers For Christ) has given them the time to take this step in faith. All five Greensburg congregations have decided to rebuild.

If you go to Greensburg, you will be amazed at the growth of the city. The world’s first “green” John Deere dealership is located on the east end of town. Other “green” projects include the Art Center and the job “Incubator.” The variety of new homes and new types of construction are on display around town. Dillons

has built a new design in grocery stores – adding on to the already constructed Kwik Shop. And of course, there is the World’s Largest Hand Dug Well – one of the eight wonders of Kansas.

Special thanks to all the volunteers and donors who gave time, talents and treasures to this work. Please remember that Camp Restore (in New Orleans) and Camp Biloxi still need your help. When I informed Dave Buss that we were wrapping up in Greensburg, he couldn’t believe that. He believes there are at least 10 more years of volunteer work needed in the Gulf Region. This August will mark their 4th year anniversary. For more information about volunteer work on the Gulf, go to www.camprestore.org.

When to Review Your Will

Many times people ask me how often they need to review their will. I usually recommend a will be reviewed every five years, or anytime they have a life-changing event occur. It should be reviewed when they have children leave home, their children reach legal age, they acquire more property, or their goals for their estate change.

Recently I discovered another time your will needs to be rewritten. Your will becomes null and void if you get a divorce. The law says anything left to your spouse

except life insurance and retirement accounts become null and void upon a divorce.

On the other side of the coin, if you get married and have at least one child, your will you had prior to the marriage becomes null and void. When these types of events occur, rewriting your will is probably the last thing on your mind.

If you have had a change in your life similar to the ones above, please call my office for a no-cost review. You may call me at 1-800-357-4421 ext. 101.

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 debbie@kslcms.org. Space is limited, so contact Debbie today.

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 items, 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.

Convention Assessments

Assessments for the 2009 Kansas District Convention, June 4-6, were sent out last fall to every congregation. Payment of your assessment must be received by June 1. If you have questions about your congregation's assessment, please contact Tami Lierz at 800-357-4421 ext. 200 or tami@kslcms.org.

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.

For Business Office Resources, visit
[www.kslcms.org/ks_departments/
business_office/index.htm](http://www.kslcms.org/ks_departments/business_office/index.htm)

Congregation Statistical Reports

2008 Congregational Statistical Reports were mailed to all congregations in January. Please remember to make a copy of the completed form and mail it to the District Office. The 2010 Synodical Convention assessments will be set this summer and will be based on the communicant membership from the 2008 statistical reports, so it is imperative that the District has the most current information. Thank you for your help.

Early Childhood Workshop

Come meet and spend the day with early childhood professionals from the Kansas District at the Early Childhood Workshop on Aug. 1st at Beautiful Savior in Olathe. The Bible verse for the conference is Proverbs 3:13-14: "Happy is the man who finds wisdom and understanding for the gain from it is better than gain from silver and profit better than gold."

Sharon MacDonald, the keynote speaker, will give us quick fixes for getting children to help with clean-up

and wait their turn, redirecting behavior and much more.

Breakout sessions include: "A Bag Full of Ideas" by Sharon MacDonald; "Share the Joy of Reading" and "Transforming Children into Spiritual Beings" by Drew Gerdes; and other sessions focusing on infant/toddlers, math and more. Participants have the opportunity to earn 6 clock hours. Registration information will be out soon.

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.

All registrations must be submitted **online**. Once online registration is made, congregations need to print a copy of the invoice and mail it to the District Office along with a congregational check (payable to Kansas District LCMS) for a \$100 deposit per student - no personal checks or cash.

PLEASE NOTE: All forms and final payment are due by June 15th. After this date there will be a late fee of \$25 per student.

Concordia Publishing House has released two youth Bible studies.

◆ **One God, many gods** has been updated and presents the primary differences of world religions alongside the common creed of the Christian faith.

◆ **One Christ, Many Creeds** compares Lutheranism with 15 other Christian doctrines, leading youth to a greater understanding of the teachings of the Lutheran church.

Adult Education "Word of the Month"

A pastor once said, "There's nothing wrong with a fifth-grade understanding of the Bible ... if you're in the fifth grade!"

How true. Unfortunately, there are a lot of adult Christians in our churches whose understandings of God's Word didn't keep up with their bodies through their school days. This is sad. Scripture says it is like adults still drinking mother's milk: "Brothers, I could not address you as spiritual but as worldly - mere infants in Christ. I gave you milk, not solid food, for you were not yet ready for it. Indeed,

you are still not ready. You are still worldly. For since there is jealousy and quarreling among you, are you not worldly? Are you not acting like mere men?" 1 Corinthians 3:1-3

If we adults don't grow in our knowledge of the Word, we'll always struggle against God and against one another as children do. But as we commit ourselves to growing in grace and peace through our study of Scripture and through prayer, we learn to exercise God's life-changing and life-creating grace to our families and the world.

Education Calendar

May 9	Youth Ministry Academy, Salina
May 21-25	LVR Servant Event
June 4-6	District Convention
July 19-24	Youth Summer Camp, LVR
Aug. 1	Early Childhood Workshop, Olathe
Aug. 14-16	Teen Leadership Retreat at Camp Webster in Salina

LVR Servant Event

Join 2008 graduates, college students and other adults at LVR for a servant event, May 21-25.

The cost is \$120 and includes transportation, meals (at LVR - meals out and back are extra), materials, housing and program. Scholarships are available!

For more information, contact DCE Leland Jackson at 620-276-3110 or dceleland@tlcgck.kscoxmail.com.

2010 National Youth Gathering

New information has arrived at www.lcmsgathering.com, including downloadable resources for adult leaders. Check out the site's FAQ section.

◆ 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/group.php?gid=6376465727>.

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

Visit the Kansas District website at www.kslcms.org

Camp Tomah Shinga

Camp Tomah Shinga is now taking registrations for eight weeks of summer camp. The camps run through June and July, with sessions for 1st-3rd graders; 4th-6th graders; Jr. High; and Sr. High. Bekah Freed, a Concordia/Seward student, is this summer's Site Manager. More information, registration forms and directions to camp can be found at www.tomahshinga.com. Weekend groups are also booking the camp for retreats in April, May, August, September and October. For more information, contact Harlan Teske at 785-256-3188.

Saints Alive After 55

The 21st gathering of the Saints Alive After 55 will be July 26-28 at the Spiritual Life Center in Wichita.

Theme: "Hearts Afire" based on 2 Timothy 1:6-7

Guest Presenter: Rich Bimler

Bible Study Leader: Rev. Jeff Crane

Insight Sessions:

- ♦ Spiritual Healing - Ralph Hatcher, M.D.
- ♦ Surviving Retirement - Garry Niehoff
- ♦ It Only Takes a Spark - Carol Manke

Entertainment: Boeing Jazz Band

Closing Worship Preacher: Rev. Mark Wenzelburger

Program, meals, lodging and accessibility for disabled persons will all be provided at the Spiritual Life Center. Registration forms will be available at your church after May 1st or contact Marlene Lorenz at 316-542-3768.



Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ Celebrates 40th Anniversary

Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ (O AFC) will celebrate its 40th anniversary in June of 2010 with its annual Summer Training and an alumni reunion. A recognized service organization of the LCMS, O AFC has touched the lives of over 36,000 youth and adults who have learned to share Jesus in a simple way during its 40 year history. Many have become pastors, teachers, DCEs and committed lay members of our local congregations because of their experiences in O AFC. O AFC alumni are encouraged to register on the Alumni page at www.oafc.org/alumni.html. Alumni interested in helping to plan the 2010 reunion may contact O AFC staff member Dan Barz and alumnae Tammy Granner Mackie at alumni@oafc.org or call Dan at 269-429-7521.

O AFC is an "ongoing" witnessing movement for youth and adults of the LCMS. The O AFC ministry can be planted anywhere in the United States. Local Groups meet monthly, with the focus of learning to more effectively share the Gospel of Jesus Christ's life, death, and resurrection as the one way to heaven. To learn more about O AFC, visit their website at www.oafc.org.

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 is also 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. 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. 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.

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. Deadline for hotel reservations is **May 11, 2009**.

Questions

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

Convention Offering

At the convention, delegates will vote on a resolution to renew our Guinea Partnership with LCMS World Mission through 2012. One of our roles in this valuable partnership is to provide funds to support missionaries. Therefore, at their meeting in January, the Kansas District Board of Directors deemed it fitting that we, the congregations and members of the Kansas District, offer our support to new Guinea missionaries Jack and Cathy Caños through a special offering to be gathered at each congregation and brought to the District Convention and dedicated for Jack and Cathy's service to our Lord on our behalf. Jack & Cathy's mission is to utilize basic health care education to open the door to sharing the Gospel with Maninka people in the Siguiri area.

Tentative Convention Schedule

The tentative June Kansas District Convention schedule now appears at www.kslcms.org/ks_convention.

Guinea Prayers

Norton Family Prayer Requests

- ✚ Thanksgiving for our safe return to Guinea
- ✚ That our e-mail situation would soon be restored
- ✚ For our church here, its growth, vision, and unity of the believers

Andrea Herman Prayer Requests

Join her in praising God for:

- ✚ how He is providing harvesters to love and serve the Maninka, that they may know their Savior
- ✚ His grace and peace in the midst of a very busy month
- ✚ the beginning of reconciliation between 2 estranged believers in our fellowship
- ✚ restoring my health, and may the healthiness continue

Join her in asking God for:

- ✚ the meeting with our Regional & Area Directors to soon be rescheduled (a flight cancellation prevented our planned meeting this month)
- ✚ safe travels during my month of speaking engagements
- ✚ good health and a strong voice for presentations

Andrea Herman Prayer Requests, cont.

- ✚ a time of much rest and refreshment with family and friends
- ✚ reconciliation between Mariam and her husband, that she would soon return home
- ✚ His will to be done in the life of my friend Brian who was recently diagnosed with cancer

Carlos Family Prayer Requests

- ✚ Thanksgiving for our busy speaking schedule and for safe travel
- ✚ Many prayer and financial supporters so we can leave this Fall for school in France and Germany
- ✚ Raymond as he prepares to attend UW-River Falls
- ✚ Healing for Hannah's back
- ✚ A new home for our dog, Lily
- ✚ Our family as we make arrangements to leave the country (garage sale, packing, visas, etc.)
- ✚ Our fellow missionaries: The Norton & Heiney families in Guinea and Andrea Herman on furlough



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

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

Go INTO ALL THE WORLD...
BAPTIZING
...IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER,
AND OF THE SON,
AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.