



DISTRICT NEWS

KANSAS

Our life together

Dear partners in the Gospel in the LCMS Kansas District,

St. Paul wrote in the opening words of his letter to the Philip-
pians:

“I thank my God ... for your partnership in the gospel.”



Rev. Peter K. Lange
District President

This prayerful exclamation of thanksgiving inspired the theme of our upcoming district convention in June 2018—*Life Together in Mission*.

When Paul speaks here of a partnership, he uses the Greek word *koinonia*, which can also be translated as life together. This *koinonia* — this life together or partnership — is given birth through our common bond in Holy Baptism and is nourished and sustained in Holy Communion, where we share *koinonia* with the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our “faith toward God and in fervent love toward one another.”

Koinonia — our life together — isn’t then a static or inwardly focused fellowship, but it moves out in loving mission to share the incredible gift of God’s saving love with others and to invite others to share in this eternal life together with God.

In this season of Advent, we’re preparing once again to celebrate this extraordinary gift of the Father, who sent His only begotten Son into the world, to be conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary, to be born in Bethlehem and to become a man so that He could become the Substitute for us and our sin. But we also look forward during Advent to the Son’s second coming, when our present earth-bound *koinonia* with Christ through His body and blood will become a face-to-face life together with Him eternally.

As Advent coincides with the end of the calendar year, and as I look back over 2017, I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you and your congrega-

tions for your partnership in the Gospel and for our *Life Together in Mission*. In addition to your prayers, labors and offerings to the Lord for the advancement of the Gospel in your own communities, you and your congregations have joyfully contributed substantial gifts for our life together in the Kansas District, joining as one in God’s mission to do together what we cannot do individually. Thank you for this!

As we look toward the final Advent of Christ, I pray that each of us may continue to thank God for our *Life Together in Mission* and grow in our partnership in the Gospel that God’s kingdom may come to still others.



73RD
LCMS
KANSAS DISTRICT
CONVENTION

TOPEKA

JUNE 7-9, 2018



District welcomes Smith as counselor



Smith, left, is installed by Lange as the district's Mission Development counselor. He most recently served the LCMS Southeastern District as executive director for Mission Development (2013–16).

The Rev. Dr. Brent Smith was installed as Mission Development counselor for the Kansas District by the Rev. Peter Lange, Kansas District president, on Oct. 9 during the 2017 Professional Church Workers Conference in Topeka.

In this position, Smith will travel throughout the Kansas District to raise awareness and generate support for LCMS international mission work, with a strong focus on Guinea and West Africa.

"It's great to have Rev. Smith working with us in the Kansas District to benefit our brothers and sisters in Christ in West Africa," said the Rev. Dan Galchutt, Missions and Stewardship executive. "What a wonderful way to build on the work that the people of the Kansas District have been doing in that area for the last 20 years."

Smith's work is part of a new collaborative

agreement between the Kansas District, Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa, and LCMS Mission Advancement.

Smith has served in various positions in the church since 1995, including six years as an evangelistic missionary in Russia before taking on the role of regional director for the Synod's Eurasia region (2006-13).

Congratulations, and God's blessings



In October, 90 professional church workers in the Kansas District were recognized for milestone anniversaries of their ordination or commissioning. Together, these workers have contributed 2,452 years of service to the Church. Thanks be to God!

LOOKING AHEAD



Convention timeline

The deadline for convention nominations has just passed. What happens next? Here are a few highlights:

January 15

Deadline to submit nomination acceptance form, conflict of interest form and biographical information.

February 1

District president appoints Election, Registration and Credentials committees.

February 15

Deadline for submission of overtures to the district office.

March

Floor committees named; nominations slate announced.

April 1

Convention workbook completed and available online.

April 28

Floor committees meet to prepare for convention.

Visit kslcms.org for the latest news on the convention, to be held June 7-9. Go to the "President's Office" link and choose "2018 District Convention" from the menu.



Rev. Dr. Al Espinosa
Convention
Keynote Speaker



'Mercy in Action'

The Rev. Michael Meyer, LCMS Disaster Response Manager, led Kansas District Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT) leaders in "Mercy in Action" training on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the district office in Topeka. The goal of the training is to prepare congregations and individual members to be better prepared when a disaster strikes and to help them know how to respond within their congregations, and in word and deed, within the greater communities.

INSTALLATIONS



Benjamin Venteicher (left) was installed as Director of Christian Education at Messiah Lutheran Church, Hays, on Sunday, Oct. 15, by the Rev. Rocco Mallardi, Messiah pastor. Also pictured at right is James Bradshaw, Kansas District Education executive.



The Rev. Matthew Durance was installed as pastor of Bethlehem, Greenleaf, on Oct. 14. Participants in the service included, from left, the Revs. Rick Rikli, Peter Lange (district president), Paul Tessaro, Durance, Jacob Sherry, Aaron Fenker, Rodney Fritz and Phillip Meyer.

CELEBRATIONS



Members of Redeemer, Olathe, took a Luther Faith Walk on Oct. 8 in celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The walk took them to various parts of the church to chat with Martin Luther, Katharina (von Bora) Luther, John Tetzel (Patrick McCartney, pictured above), a German travel agent and Nara's Music Shop, where participants could sing along with some of Luther's most-loved hymns. Participants also enjoyed delicacies from the German Sweet Shoppe.



On Sept. 17, Norma Wolff Jacob, pictured here with the Rev. Ken Nettling, celebrated her 90th birthday and 70 years of ministry at Grace, Kansas City, where nearly 150 former students and friends gathered to celebrate with her. Jacob was sent to Grace in 1947 as a substitute teacher for one year from Concordia Teachers College, Seward, Neb. (now Concordia University), and she never left!

SAVE THE DATE

LWML Retreat

The LWML of Holy Cross, Wichita, will hold a Women's Retreat from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 20, 2018. Holy Cross is located at 600 N. Greenwich. Tickets are \$20. Doors open at 8:30 a.m. and lunch will be provided.

The guest speaker will be Karen Lippert, director of Women's Ministry at Divine Redeemer, Hartland, Wis.

Registration forms will be available at holycrosslutheran.net/opportunities-to-serve/lwml/lwmlretreat.

Share your stories with us

Send stories and photos to:

- kbruss@kslcms.org
- 785-357-5071 (fax)
- Lutheran Witness Editor
LCMS Kansas District, 1000 S.W. 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604

Deadline for the **January** issue is **Nov. 15**.

Photos should be in high-resolution with a minimum 300 dpi.



For 2018, Lutheran Hour Ministries is excited to announce that the southeast Asian nation of Cambodia is the destination of its seventh annual international Online Mission Trip. The “trip” to Cambodia will be available to Lutheran schools beginning Jan. 22-26, 2018 — during National Lutheran Schools Week.

This experience is perfect for many different audiences. You can use the Online Mission Trip content yourself and share it with other groups such as friends, family, home schools, people in your church, and anyone else.

After successfully introducing the Online Mission Trip concept in 2012 with a virtual trip to Paraguay, LHM has offered students the opportunity to learn about its work sharing the Gospel with the people of Thailand, Kenya, Guatemala, Latvia, and Madagascar. Last year an estimated 50,000 students from about 500 schools participated.

Make plans now to journey with LHM to a country with unique culture, fascinating history, amazing wildlife and exciting ways to share Jesus. More details, including registration information, is available at lhm.org/onlinemissiontrips.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

Dear Kansas District members, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is a financial partner that shares your Lutheran values — without forfeiting great interest rates. When you help your child save for the future through LCEF’s Young Investors (Y.I.) Club, those dollars can also help someone else learn about Jesus.

Through the dollars invested by thousands of individuals (like you), congregations, schools, organizations

and businesses, LCEF assists The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) with low-cost loans and ministry support services that help leaders continue to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ to their community, our country and beyond.

Blessings,
Jeff Maltz
jeffrey.maltz@lcef.org
 785-230-4112

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Lutheran Church Extension Fund
 > where investments build ministry

It’s Still All About Jesus

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Marion, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hillsboro, celebrated the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the 100th anniversary of the LLL and the 75th anniversary of the LWML with a float in the Old Settlers Day Parade in Marion and the Marion County Fair in Hillsboro. Luther’s teaching of the crucified Christ still holds true today: we are saved by grace alone through faith alone as revealed by Holy Scripture alone! The Rev. John and Sarah Werner and their children, Ben, Sam, Kate, James and Luke; Harlow and Edith Warneke (the oldest members of Marion); Levi and Teisha Carpenter; and Damien Thouvenell handed out freezes and candy to the crowd while Matt Meyerhoff pulled the float.

