



# DISTRICT NEWS

## KANSAS

# GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PEOPLE!

**D**uring these weeks of Advent, we prepare to celebrate the Father's gift of His only begotten Son — sent in human flesh to God's created earth — to redeem creation from the ruinous consequences of sin. Christmas is about the incarnation, the “enfleshment” of God Himself, as a gift to His creation, so that God Himself could suffer in the flesh (1 Peter 4:1) as the only sufficient ransom for the captivity of this creation to sin, death and the devil.

The incarnation of God as a gift to the world is so central to the Christian faith that it is celebrated across cultures all around the world as a core aspect of God's revelation to us.

In October, my wife and I were blessed to visit South Africa. Stepping off the plane was like stepping into a different world in so many ways. Water swirled a different direction as it drained from the sink. We drove among elephants and lions, rhinos and giraffes in the heat of springtime while following weather reports from back home of cool, cloudy and rainy fall days. And we were very interested to hear how common it is, on the southern tip of the African continent, to head to the beach



**Rev. Peter K. Lange**  
District President

between Christmas and New Year's services to seek the cool refreshment of water during one of the hottest and sunniest months of the year!

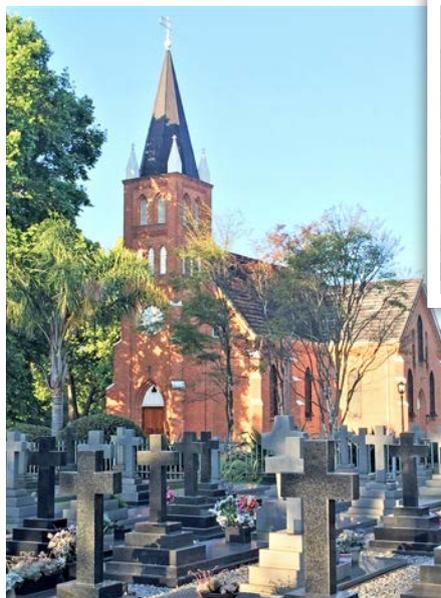
But when we attended local Lutheran church services, we were back on familiar ground.

Whether Christians celebrate the incarnation in Pretoria or St. Petersburg, and no matter the seasonal and cultural differences between Durbin and Dublin, the reason we celebrate is the same: that God sent His Son into this world, in the flesh, to redeem this world and to save us from everlasting death.

And the blessings of the incarnation didn't end with Jesus' earthly sojourn, even as they don't end with the 12 days of Christmas. Rather, Jesus remains the incarnate One who ascended to heaven and sits at the Father's right hand still today, with the same human nature that He assumed when He was conceived by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary.

This is the incarnate One with whose body and blood we are blessed to commune, in Holy Communion, for the forgiveness of sins. And this is the incarnate One with whose body we are mystically joined in the communion of saints because — whether celebrating Christmas in South Africa or Scott City, Kan. — “we are members of His body” (Eph. 5:30).

May God grant you His peace as you celebrate the incarnation this season!



- ▲ Worshipers gather at Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, Arcadia, Pretoria, where the service included familiar words from *Lutheran Service Book* along with African spirituals. This congregation is associated with the Free Evangelical Lutheran Synod in South Africa (FELSISA).
- ◀ Evangelical Lutheran Church, a FELSISA congregation in Wittenberg, South Africa.



DCE Tyler Tollefson, Lord of Life, Leawood, presents "Every Parent, Every Leader" during the Kansas District Educators Conference Oct. 16 in Salina.

New resources coming soon

# Teaching the faith in the home

The Kansas District Adult Education Committee will make several resources available in early 2019 with the culmination of the Teaching the Faith in the Home project. Church workers and leaders will be able to access the following videos through links on the district website.

## **"A Heart of Teaching the Faith: Church, School, and Home"**

Presenter: Dr. Dave Rueter, Pacific Southwest District

As workers called to serve Christ's kingdom and teach the faith to each emerging generation, we have a vital interest in making sure that we serve with both care and wisdom. Having a heart for teaching the faith in our churches, schools and especially at home requires

an understanding of the influence each sphere truly has and how to leverage the natural connections that God has created in each. Based on his doctoral research and subsequent book, Dr. Rueter discusses what it means to catechize our young people and how the church, school and home all play a vital role.

## **"Every Parent, Every Leader!"**

Presenter: Tyler Tollefson, DCE Lord of Life, Leawood

Imagine what would happen in the life of a child when a parent saw that what he or she did at home was connecting to their child's faith life? What would happen if we as church workers and leaders ensured that every church event and learning activity was connected to what happens next in the child's faith life?

Tollefson identifies strategies to equip every parent to be more engaged and more of a faith leader in their home.

## **"Teaching the Faith at Home: Why?"**

Presenters: Rev. Dan Galchutt, Kansas District

Rev. Philip Hoppe, livingplanted.com

Revs. Galchutt and Hoppe focus on why intentionally living the Christian life at home is so important, noting that parents are given this responsibility by God. Parents should embrace this work personally in their households, recognizing that the Word of God in general and the Gospel specifically is the only power to sustain faith in the middle of a culture that often challenges or dismisses such faith.

### **Possible uses of these presentations include:**

- Educational training with congregational boards, committees and leadership teams
- Individual instruction in the home
- Catechesis and adult Bible class
- Pastoral interactions with members (pre-marriage, baptism and new member classes)
- Parent education
- Parent and youth confirmation (including post-confirmation)

Look for more information in the district newsletter, *Workers Together*, prior to the release of each video.

## Blessings at **TRINITY**

On Oct. 7, DCE Elizabeth Stephens was installed as Youth Family minister at Trinity, Mission and Shawnee. From left, Rev. Phil Cook, associate pastor; Rhonda Synovec, Family Life Ministry director; Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz, senior pastor; Stephens; and James Bradshaw, Kansas District education executive.



## Share Your News!

Send photos and announcements to:

- kbruss@kslcms.org
- Lutheran Witness Editor  
LCMS Kansas District  
1000 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66604

The deadline for the **February** issue is **Dec. 15**.

Photos should be in high-resolution (minimum 300 dpi).

## Risen Savior dedicates building



Risen Savior, Wichita, celebrated the completion of Phase 3 of its building project on Oct. 7.

“We dedicate this building and all that is in and around it as a tool for Your Kingdom, and we offer up ourselves as willing servants of Your love and grace. Let all that is thought, said, and done here begin, continue, and end in You for the glory and honor of Your holy name. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

BLESSING OF PHASE 3, RISEN SAVIOR DEDICATION SERVICE

## ‘Undespicable’



The annual **Kansas District Junior High rallies** drew 98 participants to Williamsburg (above) and 58 to Rexford (below) Oct. 12-13. The theme was “Undespicable Me,” based on Rom. 7:24-25.



## MILESTONES



**Rev. Roger Goetz** was recognized at a retirement celebration at St. John’s, Topeka, on Oct. 22. Earlier this year, the congregation also celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination.

Goetz served at St. John’s for 38 years, initially as an assistant pastor and director of music (i.e., kantor), then as an associate pastor. In addition to his many contributions to the music program at St. John’s, Goetz also served the Kansas District as chair of the Worship Committee (1985-94), archivist (1985-89), and editor of *A Century of Grace: Centennial History of the Kansas District, 1888-1988*.

## 125 years of grace in Netawaka



Rev. Mike Van Velzer, left, and Rev. Dr. Mark Schulz helped **Immanuel, Netawaka**, celebrate 125 years of grace on Oct. 14. (The day was also the 95th anniversary of the dedication of a new church building in 1923.)

Members were joined by family, former members, a former pastor and son, family of former pastors, community friends and neighbors at an early morning worship service of praise and thanksgiving. Rev. Schulz, senior pastor of Trinity, Mission, and district fourth vice-president, preached a sermon on the meaning of “Immanuel — God with Us” in the past and in the future.

The celebration weekend also included an evening concert and reception on Oct. 13.

## DISTRICT PROJECT

# Financial aid for future church workers



By Carroll Hackbart

Kansas LLL/LHM Treasurer

Eighteen LCMS Kansas District students preparing for full-time church work are sharing more than \$32,000 of financial aid for the 2018-19 school year, provided by the Kansas LLL/LHM District Project.

Seven of these students are preparing to become pastors, nine are preparing to become teachers, one is preparing to become a director of Christian Education (DCE) and one is studying to become an early childhood educator (ECE).

The students are attending Concordia University, Nebraska (11), Concordia University Wisconsin (1), Concordia

University Chicago (1), Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (4) and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind (1).

Most of the District Project funds were raised by about 20 churches holding pancake feeds, soup suppers, door offerings and other events. We encourage more Kansas congregations and/or members to get involved and help us provide more financial aid to our students studying for full-time church work. The need is great!

Home congregations of financial aid recipients include: Trinity, Atchison (2); Risen Savior, Basehor; Bethlehem, Bremen; St. Paul's, Clay Center; Peace, Greensburg; St. Paul's, Haven; Beautiful Savior, Olathe (3); Bethany, Overland Park (4); Trinity, Salina; Mount Calvary, Wamego; Holy Cross, Wichita; and Ascension, Wichita.



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Rates as of October 2018. Limited-time offer. Lutheran Church Extension Fund National Office: 10733 Sunset Office Drive, Suite 300 St. Louis, MO 63127-1020. Phone number: 800-843-5233. Website: lcef.org. LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod (NMLS# 3444).



Photo Caption: Students play on the playground with their teacher at Our Savior Lutheran Preschool in St. Charles, Mo. Our Savior is renovating their Early Childhood Center with an LCEF loan.