



DISTRICT NEWS

KANSAS



Encourage one another in Christ

During November, the Sunday Scripture readings appointed in the Church direct our attention to the End Times and the return of Christ for judgment. One of the main themes of these Scripture readings is encouragement — encouragement to continue running with endurance the race that is set before us (Heb. 12:1) as we eagerly wait for the reappearing of Christ (Titus 2:13).



Rev. Peter K. Lange
District President

The Bible — especially the New Testament — has much to say about encouragement, but encouragement for Christians is much different (and richer!) than the ordinary, secular sense of the word.

The primary word for encouragement in the New Testament is the Greek verb *parakalein* (or its noun form *paraklēsis*), from which comes the word *Paraclete* — that name for the Holy Spirit sometimes translated as Helper, as in John 14-16. This family of Greek words is used more than 130 times in the New Testament and has a rather wide range of meanings, including urge, exhort and comfort. But in 23 of those instances, the ESV translates these terms with the words “encourage” or “encouragement.”

This word appears in two passages in the Sunday readings appointed for this November: the Gospel for All Saints’ Sunday on Nov. 4 and the Epistle for the 26th Sunday after Pentecost on Nov. 18. In the All Saints’ Gospel from Matthew 5, we read in verse 4:

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be **comforted**.”

And in the Epistle from Hebrews 10 on

Nov. 18, we read in 24-25:

“Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but **encouraging** one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.”

The highlighted words (“comforted” and “encouraging”) are different in English, but they come from the same verb in Greek: *parakalein*. We can see how their meanings are somewhat interchangeable, even in these two verses.

In whatever way the term is translated, one of the key points to keep in mind about *parakalein* is that the word in the New Testament denotes much more than secular psychological or emotional encouragement. Rather, it’s strongly tied to Jesus Christ and His life, death and resurrection for our sins. This we see, for example, in passages such as Phil. 2:1 (“If there is any encouragement **in Christ**, if there is any comfort from love...”) and 2 Thess. 3:12 (“Now such persons we command and encourage **in the Lord Jesus Christ**...”).

Notice the presence of Christ in these verses. Encouragement in the New Testament “stands between” Christ’s saving work for us and His coming again. The Christian encouragement that we have today, in the face of trials, is founded on Christ’s victory over sin, death and Satan on the cross. And this encouragement looks forward to the day when our joy will be complete and there will be no more suffering or tears, sorrow or death.

May God grant you such encouragement during these last weeks of the Church year and always.

TAKE ACTION!

TRIENNIIUM CHECKLIST

“Encourage” appears frequently in the 28 resolutions passed at the 2018 Kansas District Convention. Following is a quick round-up of the actions (“resolves”) that congregations are being encouraged to pursue during this triennium.



From *Witness Resolutions*

- Support mission work in Kansas through the Eugene Schmidt Memorial Mission Fund (18-01-01)
- Participate in the annual Reformation Offering (18-01-01)
- Use *Every One His Witness* and *re:Vitality* resources (18-01-02)
- For small, struggling, and/or isolated congregations: Discuss options and resources with the Assistant to the President for Missions and Stewardship (18-01-04)
- Develop long-term funding strategies in the interests of future generations of believers (18-01-06)

From *Mercy Resolutions*

- Celebrate Life Sunday (18-02-01)
- Use the Board of Caring Ministry and the Worker Care Team to support the well-being of church workers and

their families (18-02-02)

- Make greater use of the Retreat Center in Herington (18-02-03)
- Prayerfully consider supporting the Kansas District Scholarship and Educational Loan Repayment funds through the Ash Wednesday Offering (18-02-04)
- Consider adding a line item to the annual budget for support of the Scholarship and Educational Loan Repayment funds (18-02-04)
- Consider other ways to help workers reduce their debt burden (18-02-04)
- Provide Christ-centered, compassionate care to those with a mental illness or disorder (18-02-05)

From *Life Together Resolutions*

- Provide at least one weekend per year, or the equivalent thereof, for the purpose of strengthening church worker marriages and households (18-03-01)
- Encourage workers to use their annual vacation and days off for rejuvenation and rest (18-03-01)
- Pray for the well-being of workers and their families, that they may more effectively serve their Lord and His church (18-03-01)
- Encourage circuit visitors in the work of visitation, invite them for regular (triennial) visits, and welcome them as partners in the Gospel (18-03-02)

- Train, equip, and encourage families and individuals in the use of home-based catechesis methodologies using God’s Word and *Luther’s Small Catechism* (18-03-04)
- Prioritize stewardship education in the next triennium (18-03-06)
- Use LCEF financial services and their stewardship resources, including Consecrated Stewards (18-03-06)
- Use stewardship education resources provided by the Synod and District (18-03-06)
- Employ available market-based compensation resources, including the Kansas District salary recommendations, to establish appropriate compensation for church workers (18-03-07)
- Participate in the Church’s Plan for employees (18-03-08)

From *Convention Resolutions*

- Emphasize vocation, the Table of Duties, and cheerful and generous giving in stewardship education in the next triennium (18-04-06)
- Provide non-Lutheran workers with information about and training in the doctrines of the LCMS as well as support, including funding, to achieve rostered status (18-04-07)
- Pray for the proposed Concordia Academy: A Lutheran Liberal Arts Education in Wichita, and if led by the Holy Spirit, support it financially (18-04-08)

Resolutions in action:

Rev. David Muench, LMFT, GracePoint Institute for Relational Health, led a marriage retreat (Res. 18-03-01) at the Kansas District Retreat Center (Res. 18-02-03) Sept. 21-22.



Share Your News!

Send photos and announcements to:

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

The deadline for the **January** issue is **Nov. 15**.

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

2018 Principals Conference



Kansas District school leaders attended the 2018 Kansas District Principals Conference Sept. 13-14 in Topeka. From left, Chris Francik, Rev. Bob Grimm, Whitney Holle, Rev. Daniel Ross, Janea Trapp, Lisa Brookover, Rev. Rocky Mease, Becky Hillman, Rev. Ed Mease, Michael Glowinski, Karen Boettcher, Rev. Jon Bruss, Rev. Mark Schotte, Pam Robinson, Rev. Jacob Sherry, Julia Voss, Cheryl Voss, Eric Pralle, Nancy Jankowski, David Rindt, Sharon Friese, David Beikmann, Amy Schultz and Jane Limback.

SAVE THE DATE

Life Conference

We believe, teach and confess that we have been created in the image of God, redeemed by the blood of Christ Jesus and called by the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the earth. But how do we continue to proclaim the Good News regarding our lives in a world that continues to be hostile to life itself?

Please plan on attending the first District Life Conference from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 12, at St. John's, 901 SW Fillmore St. in Topeka. The theme will follow the 2019 LCMS Life Conference in Washington, D.C. and will feature speakers from the Kansas District, including Rev. Matthew Durance, Kansas District life coordinator, who will speak on "Apologetics for the Beginning and End of Life."

This event is free. A lunch will be provided by the Women's League of St. John's, with a free-will offering. Please register by Nov. 30. Contact Rev. Durance at 785-747-2407 or pr.matthew.durance@gmail.com.

Womens Retreat

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, 600 N. Greenwich in Wichita, is the site for a Womens Retreat, to be held on Saturday, Jan. 26.

Doors open at 8:30 a.m. for registration and breakfast; the retreat begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 2:30 p.m. Lunch will be provided.

The theme is "Where Love Abides" (based on John 15:5) and the presenter will be Donna Pyle of Artesian Ministries (artesianministries.org).

The cost is \$20. Registration is available at HolyCrossLutheran.net/LWMLretreat.



Donna Pyle

YOUTH GATHERING DATES



National Youth Gathering

July 11-15, 2019 | Minneapolis
Online registration now open
lcmsgathering.org

Kansas District Youth Gathering

Nov. 16-18 | Hutchinson
Late registration in effect Nov. 1
kslcms.org/education-youth/kdyg

Thankful to help!

Nearly 500 volunteers from LCMS congregations in Topeka raised more than \$22,000 and packed more than 100,000 meals for starving children throughout the world at a Feed My Starving Children MobilePack last March. From left, Wayne Peterson, Doug Helmke and Rev. Jake Wampfler of Faith Lutheran Church.



Thank you!

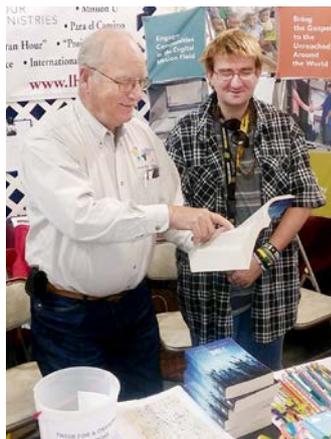
The Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League once again provided a Christian presence at the Kansas State Fair, offering materials at its booth and holding worship on Sept. 9.

The Kansas State Fair LLL/LHM Booth Committee extends prayers of thanks to the volunteers who shared their faith and commitment as they worked at the booth. They were able to provide materials to children and adults and engage in many conversations.

A special thank you to the LWML and many congregations across the Kansas District that donated *Portals of Prayer*, Bibles, Sunday school material, *My Devotions* and more. And praise and thanks to our Lord and Savior for providing these opportunities to share our faith for the 33rd year at the Kansas State Fair.



A crowd gathers for worship at the Kansas State Fair on Sept. 9. Rev. Peter Lange, Kansas District president, preached at the service and the choir from Our Redeemer, Hutchinson, provided music.



From left, Gary Neuschafer (Trinity, Salina) and Mark Stites (Our Redeemer, Hutchinson) look at material available at the booth.



Sharon Cross (Trinity, Salina) talks with visitors.

The steeple seen from the inside of Benediction Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wis.. Photo courtesy of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod/Erik M. Lunsford.

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