



DISTRICT NEWS

KANSAS

2019 KANSAS DISTRICT PENTECOST OFFERING



In June 2018, Rev. Tim Heiney, missionary to Guinea (in hat in back row, fourth from right), taught a week-long workshop at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo focused on evangelism and catechetical materials he developed called “The Word Illustrated” (“La Parole Dessinée” in French). Participants received poster-sized sheets that they can use to teach the basics of the Christian faith. (Photo via Rev. Jacob Gaugert on Facebook.)

West Africa, Phase 2



Rev. Dan Galchutt
Assistant to the President, Missions and Stewardship

We hear that phrase — **Phase 2** — from time to time in the church, often in discussions of building projects: “Phase 1 of the building is complete. Now it’s on to Phase 2.”

I recently heard that phrase again from Rev. Gary Schulte, LCMS Office of International Mission area director for West and Central Africa. But when he talked about “Phase 2,” he wasn’t referring to a physical building project. He was talking about our Synod’s overall strategy for mission work in French-speaking West Africa.

Phase 2 is in full swing. And Kansas District congregations have an

important role to play.

In order to understand Phase 2 mission work in West Africa, we need to recognize and thank God for Phase 1 work, which began in the 1990s. The Kansas District got involved in 1997, initially supporting mission work in Guinea. During Phase I, LCMS missionaries, including Tim and Beth Heiney, Tim and Heidi Norton, Jon and Sharon Oetting, Kristen Schmaltz, Jack and Cathy Carlos and Andrea Herman (along with several short-term workers) left the comforts of the United States, pulled up stakes and moved to West Africa. They sacrificed and

prayed. They committed themselves to sharing the Good News of Jesus with people in West Africa.

Over those 20-plus years, the Holy Spirit, according to God’s will and working, brought people to faith in Christ. Some who were brought to faith are now seasoned Lutheran Christians. And some are now ready to serve the Lord as trained church workers.

West Africa desperately needs those shepherds. As God’s Word declares in Rom. 10:14:

“How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how

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INSTALLATIONS



▲ **The Rev. Stephen Wipperman was installed as pastor of Peace, Andover,** on March 17. Participants included (from left) Rev. John Tape, Deacon Ken Wellner, Rev. Rocky Mease, Wipperman, Rev. Nick Cordt, Rev. Tom Harmon, Rev. Peter Lange, Rev. Dan Myers, Rev. Dave Ersland and Rev. Dean Von Stroh.



◀ **Cynthia Jo Hammons was installed as principal of St. Paul Lutheran School, Leavenworth,** by the Rev. Ed Mease on March 17. District Education Executive James Bradshaw (left) offered greetings and a blessing.



Nearly 100 years of quilts

Since 1921, women have gathered at Zion, Offerle, to make quilts — typically 50 to 70 a year — which are then distributed to Lutheran World Relief, Orphan Grain Train and Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. Pictured, from left, are Wilma Lancaster, Sidney Hicks, Nancy Hattrup, Diana Wetzel, Laquita Kenke, Marilyn Kersting, Patsy Fredlake and Linda Stegman.



Concordia ensemble visits Norton

The Concordia University Wind Ensemble, a select 41-member concert band from Concordia University Nebraska, gave a performance at Immanuel, Norton, on March 2. Members of the ensemble include juniors **Matthew Goltl** of Wichita and **Valery Rostek** of Norton.



Mission Central update

By Rev. Dr. Brent Smith

Mission Development Counselor

The global impact from the partnership with the Kansas District continues to grow. As of March 2019, all but four of the career missionaries have secured their funding and pledges for the fiscal year ending June 30. This is a radical shift upward from 2017 support levels.

Overwhelmingly, this support is coming from individuals who take Jesus' mission personally and provide support through one-time, monthly or annual gifts on simple Adoption Agreements. These agreements restrict the gift to the donor's intended designation. At Mission Central, we want people who give to know where it goes!

The mission work in West Africa continues to mature and expand. Missionaries at the French-speaking Lutheran seminary in Dapaong, Togo, teach on campus but also ride into the villages together with the partner church leaders. As new evangelists and church workers have been sent back to their home countries, new churches are planted and additional seminaries are opening.

If the Holy Spirit through His Word is compelling you to personally adopt work in West Africa, here are three projects that would be very blessed to receive your financial support:

- ▶ CLET students
- ▶ Africa Water Well Project
- ▶ MRD (Mission Relationship Development)

You can read more about these projects and contribute online by visiting missioncentral.us (Missions>Projects>Africa).

For more information, contact me at 703-713-2851 or brent.smith@lcms.org.

PHASE 2

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

are they to hear without someone preaching?"

That's what Phase 2 is all about: training and developing pastors who can be leaders for the church in West Africa, including Guinea. Our LCMS missionaries are now walking alongside young churches as they work to train up these shepherds.

Much of that work takes place at the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Togo, which has been producing pastors since 2000 and now serves eight countries. While the CLET in Togo remains the primary site for theological education, the West Africa team has developed new ways to deliver training in other locations (and reduce expenses in the process). During the last year, for example, 10 students completed local entry-level training in Guinea. LCMS missionaries also travel to countries served by the CLET and present short seminars there.

The Kansas District rocks in its mission support for West Africa. It's a wonderful partnership, and we're very blessed by it.

Rev. Gary Schulte
West and Central Africa area director

This work is made possible, in part, with the help of Kansas District congregations, who have generously and faithfully supported God's work in West Africa through the annual Pentecost Offering and other gifts.

In Phase 2, we're building — building on the foundation of the missionaries who have served in that part of the world for decades, and building on the foundation of Jesus Christ. Through this work, we become "fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows

into a holy temple in the Lord" (Eph. 2:19-21).

I encourage you all to prayerfully consider supporting God's mission in West Africa with a contribution to the upcoming Kansas District Pentecost

Offering in June, which is our major fundraiser for international missions. Every gift helps!

You can also help with prayers. Pray for all the mission work going on in West Africa, including the Phase 1 work that



continues with the Heineys in Guinea and new Christians striving to share the Good News of Jesus with their neighbors. Pray for the safety and well-being of our missionaries, students and their families. Pray for the Mercy Medical Teams. And pray that the Lord of the harvest would continue to bless this effort and send out laborers into His harvest field!

To learn more online, visit the following:

- ▶ Kansas District West Africa page: kslcms.org (Missions>West Africa)
- ▶ LCMS International Mission page: lcms.org (How We Serve>International)
- ▶ LCMS Office of International Mission: international.lcms.org.

You can also follow our missionaries on social media (for example, LCMS West Africa on Facebook).

News from the field: Baptized into Christ!

From Rev. Micah Wildauer, missionary to Togo:

Missionary Ryan [McDermott] and I were pleased to participate in a recent baptismal event at Djepiéni on Dec. 29.

Djepiéni is a preaching station at the moment, started by the evangelism efforts of Rev. Désiré Tadé many years ago. He has recently revived these efforts with a Togolese student, Jean-Jacques Nabe. The student has often been using his bicycle to get out there to catechize the people.

This service represents their first Baptism and confirmation. Here are the specifics: 65 children were baptized. 48 youth and adults were baptized and confirmed. Praise be to God!

You can find more stories like this one on the LCMS West Africa Facebook page.



The Rev. Ryan McDermott, LCMS missionary to West Africa, baptizes a young boy at Djepiéni, Togo, on Dec. 29.

TO GIVE A GIFT FOR WEST AFRICA MISSIONS

Donate to the Kansas District Pentecost Offering at your church (if participating)

OR

Send a check with "Pentecost Offering" in the memo line to: LCMS Kansas District, 1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS 66604

OR

Donate online to the "CLET Students" project on the Mission Central website: missioncentral.us.

Financial aid available for church work students

The Kansas District Lutheran Layman's League is pleased to offer financial assistance to Kansas District students who are attending LCMS colleges/universities and seminaries to prepare for careers in full-time church work.

To start the application process, visit lhm-ks.org and choose "Student Aid" from the menu.

On the Student Aid page, you'll find the two forms you need: an application for financial aid as well as a "Notice of Acceptance of Enrollment" form. Both forms need to be submitted by June 1. Note that the enrollment acceptance form must be sent to a financial aid officer at the school at which the student has been accepted;



be sure to allow sufficient time for the form to be processed before the deadline.

Several other organizations, including the LCMS Kansas District, Kansas District LWML and St. John's Alumni Association, also offer financial aid to Kansas District students.

The deadline for these applications, as with LLL, is June 1.



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 **August** issue is **June 15**.

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



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

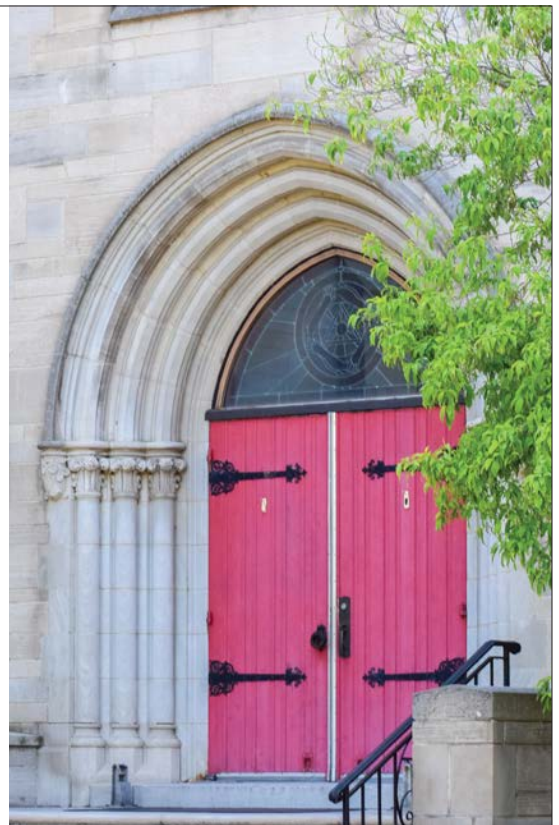
> where investments build ministry

REPAIR AND REFRESH

Whether you are making critical repairs or upgrading to enhance your building's appearance, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) can help.

The LCEF Church Improvement Loan provides congregations up to \$150,000 for projects to make necessary repairs, deferred maintenance or energy-efficiency gains.

Visit lcef.org/church-improvement to discover how LCEF can help your church.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund-Missouri Synod (NMLS# 3444). Illinois Residential Mortgage Licensee (MB.00006057). The National office is located at: 10733 Sunset Office Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63127-1020. Phone number: 800-843-5233. Website: lcef.org.