



# DISTRICT NEWS

## KANSAS

WE ARE  
CRUCIFIED  
WITH CHRIST  
RAISED  
WITH CHRIST  
LIVING  
IN CHRIST



**JOY:FULLY  
LUTHERAN**  
1 THESS 5:16-24



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
JOYFULLYLUTHERAN.ORG

## Why I am 'JOY:FULLY LUTHERAN'

The theme of the 67th Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod this summer is “Joy:fully Lutheran.” No matter what adversities we face, each of us is blessed by God with so many reasons to be “Joy:fully Lutheran,” despite any circumstances that might conspire to diminish that joy.

My own reasons for being “Joy:fully Lutheran” include the Lord’s blessings of life, health, family, wife, children, friends, education, work, home and so much more. But even if many of these causes for joy were taken away — as they were with Job — the fundamental reason for being “Joy:fully Lutheran” would remain.

I am “Joy:fully Lutheran” because God’s Son, Jesus Christ, came to this earth as a flesh-and-blood man — my brother in the human race — to suffer and die for the full payment of all my sins, and then rise from death and the grave to destroy forever the power of sin, death and Satan.

There is nothing left for me to do, as far as my salvation or my righteousness before God are concerned. Jesus has done it all



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

for me. It is finished!

He experienced the same real temptation to sin that I do. Yet, though I daily succumb to that temptation and so suffer not only guilt and temporal consequences for my sin, but also merit eternal damnation and separation from my Creator, Jesus has paid for all my sins by His death. His blood, shed on the cross, covers my sin so that God doesn’t see it or judge me because of it. By Jesus’ blood I am saved from death.

But more than that, having died for my sins, Jesus also rose from the dead because He Himself is Life (John 11:25), and it

**“His defeat of death and the grave, by His resurrection, is also my victory over death and the grave.”**

was impossible for death to hold Him in its power. And just as Jesus’ death paid the price of sin for all people, so also He rose from the dead as the firstfruits of all who believe in Him (1 Cor. 15:20).

That means that His defeat of death and the grave, by His resurrection, is also my victory over death and

the grave. Though my temporal sojourn through this world will one day cease, death will not have the final word over me! I will rise again from the grave on the Last Day, when Christ returns for me and all who believe in Him. I will rise never to die again, but to be with Jesus — and the

See MESSAGE, Page 3

# Long-term faithful workers

By Alfred Aufdemberge  
Lincoln

Identical 87-year-old twin brothers Willis Becker and Kenneth Becker of rural Sylvan Grove have recorded the services at Bethlehem Lutheran Church for more than 60 years.

The twins served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean conflict, on board 1943-era steam-powered patrol ships. After the 1953 armistice, the twins returned to the family farm and Willis started recording Bethlehem services on reel-to-reel tape. Technology advanced to 8-track and then cassette tapes, which the women of the congregation helped distribute.

Now the church is set up to record to a CD. Kenneth dubs some 15 copies weekly (five simultaneously), and the brothers personally distribute many of the copies to area nursing homes. Copies are also mailed to distant parishioners, and services are accessible via a podcast app.

“You can’t find anyone nicer than these two,” said Bethlehem secretary Shirley Small, who was born and raised in Sylvan Grove. “They’re fantastic.”



Willis Becker (left) and Kenneth Becker joyfully serve the Lord at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sylvan Grove.

## STILL STANDING STRONG PEACE, GREENSBURG



Peace Lutheran Church  
Greensburg, 2019

In 2007, Peace Lutheran Church, Greensburg, lost its building to a devastating tornado, but with the help of God, the congregation was able to rebuild. Peace member Bill Proctor recently reflected on Peace’s history of blessings in a story in the *Kiowa County Signal*, published on Feb. 27. Following is a brief excerpt (lightly edited).

On May 7, 2007, a massive E-5 tornado with wind speeds from 150 to 200 m.p.h. tore almost a mile-wide swath across the community of 1,500. It destroyed 95 percent of everything in its path. More than 1,300 homes were flattened and nine people lost their lives.

We read in Ps. 34:17:

“The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears them; He delivers them from all their troubles.”

With only the Peace concrete slab



Peace Lutheran Church in Greensburg after the May 7, 2007 tornado.

remaining, a tent was leased, which was short-lived due to daily winds. Orphan Grain Train (OGT) representative John White called to tell of a drinking water transport enroute from Norfolk, Neb. I was to arrange for (drinking) water to fill the 5,000-gallon tanker for public use by Greensburg.

A few Peace church pews, the altar cross and a leaded glass plaque with a descending dove were salvaged from the Peace church site. Everything else was destroyed.

Responding to our needs for a worship center, OGT provided a mobile chapel for our use during rebuilding. My wife and I were honored to represent Peace’s appreciation at the OGT convention in Norfolk. It was such an enlightening experience to actually feel the warmth of the Holy Spirit with all the disaster planning aid we found there.

Their vision is encompassed in the words of 2 Cor. 1:3-4:

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.”

(To read the full story, titled “A Little Peace Lutheran History,” visit [kiowacountysignal.com](http://kiowacountysignal.com).)



## Help Wanted at the state fair



The Kansas District Lutheran Laymen's League/Lutheran Hour Ministries (LLL/LHM) has had a booth at the Kansas State Fair since 1986. The group is now gearing up for the 2019 Kansas State Fair — Sept. 6–15 in Hutchinson.

The LLL/LHM booth, located in the southwest section of the Meadowlark Building, will provide visitors with a variety of Christian material, including Bibles, *Portals of Prayer*, *My Devotions*, LHM brochures, religious-themed gifts, children's gifts and more.

Contact Mike Tonn at 620-465-3435 or [Tonn.mike@yahoo.com](mailto:Tonn.mike@yahoo.com) if you and/or your congregation can help by providing religious material or serving as a booth volunteer.

Thank you and blessings to everyone who helps provide an LLL/LHM presence at the Kansas State Fair.



## Share Your News

Send photos and announcements to:

- > [kbruss@kslcmcs.org](mailto:kbruss@kslcmcs.org)
- > Lutheran Witness Editor  
LCMS Kansas District  
1000 SW 10th Ave.  
Topeka, KS 66604

The deadline for the **September** issue is **July 15**.

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



# 1.375%\*

Based on a minimum balance of \$25



## Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

## Family Emergency StewardAccount®

You can feel good partnering with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) because your investment not only earns a competitive interest rate, but helps support The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) mission to carry the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the world.

The Family Emergency StewardAccount helps you prepare for those moments when you need funds not allocated in your monthly budget.

Contact us today at  
800-843-5233 | [lcef.org](http://lcef.org)

\*Rates as of May 2019. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit [lcef.org](http://lcef.org) for details.

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. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. The Family Emergency StewardAccount is known as the Family StewardAccount in the state of Ohio.