



DISTRICT NEWS

KANSAS

SEEDS BEARING FRUIT

God is “giving growth” to His church throughout West and Central Africa, working through missionaries, church leaders and a growing number of new shepherds, with the help of Kansas District congregations.

I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth.

1 Cor. 3:6-7

With these words, the apostle Paul puts the growth of the church in perspective, giving credit where credit is due. When the church grows, it’s because God wants it to grow.

God’s church in West Africa is growing in many ways, with a new shoot here, some new branches there. Our annual Kansas District Pentecost Offering is one way in which God works through our congregations to support and sustain this effort.

Following is a brief update on recent developments in West Africa. We have many reasons to be thankful! If you’d like to learn more about the work in West and Central Africa or help with the effort, visit our Pentecost Offering



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

page at kslmc.org/pentecost.

Theological education expands with new CLET seminaries

In 2017, the Kansas District moved into “Phase 2” of its mission support for French-speaking West Africa, with a focus on raising up seminary-trained shepherds for African churches. For the past two decades, the center of activity for this work has been the Lutheran Center for Theological Studies (CLET) in Dapaong, Togo, which produced its first ordained pastors in 2002. Students

from many countries — including Guinea, where our West Africa Partnership began — have been trained in Togo.

We’re now seeing the fruits of that labor. The three Guinean students we’ve been following for the past few years — Alexis Kondiano, Foromo Lamah and Moses Théa — have completed their coursework in Togo and are now vicars (see photo below). Thanks be to God!

Another blessing: CLET seminaries are multiplying, with new sites in Guinea and Congo-Brazzaville providing foundational seminary training locally.

Rev. Gary Schulte, LCMS missionary who serves as a theological educator in West and Central Africa, has high hopes for these seminaries.

“I consider the new CLETs to be tremendous successes so far because the churches in Congo and Guinea are

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From left, Alexis Kondiano, his wife and daughter, and Moses Théa attended an ordination in Guinea in March. The two men, along with fellow Guinean Foromo Lamah, have completed their classes at the CLET seminary in Togo and are now serving as vicars.



MESSAGE

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generally strong,” Schulte says.

With the addition of the new CLETs, you can expect to hear more about French-speaking West *and* Central Africa, especially since our LCMS missionary team — Rev. Gary and Steph Schulte and Rev. Jacob Gaugert — will now be headquartered in Brazzaville, Congo. Revs. Schulte and Gaugert will continue to focus on theological education, while Steph, a nurse, will resume her work with Mercy Medical Teams (when it’s safe to do so) and Community Health Evangelism training.

Please keep the Schultes and Rev. Gaugert — and everyone with whom they work — in your prayers as we move out of the pandemic.

Ordination in Guinea

The new CLETs are one example of seeds bearing fruit in West Africa. Another is the ordination of three men in Guinea.

The Kansas District began supporting mission work (i.e., planting and watering) in Guinea in 1997, when missionaries shared the Gospel with refugees from neighboring war-torn countries. Since that time, Lutheran missionaries have been a steady presence in Guinea, preaching, teaching, encouraging and supporting our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In March, we received news from long-time missionaries Rev. Tim and Beth



Heiney about an ordination service in Guéckédou, Guinea. Three new pastors, one of whom was trained at CLET in Togo, were ordained.

“The ordination was amazing ... long, but amazing!” Beth said. “I think we went 4½ hours, but everyone enjoyed the time together.”

God is growing and strengthening His church in French-speaking West Africa!

Please keep the new shepherds and vicars from Guinea, the Heineys and the young churches in your prayers.

▲ LCMS missionaries Rev. Gary and Steph Schulte in Brazzaville, Congo, their new headquarters. After spending many months in the United States during the pandemic, the Schultes are looking forward to resuming their work in Africa.

◀ Edward Korfeh of Sierra Leone, Jacob Millimouno of Guinea and Moses Boiyoe from Liberia were ordained in Guéckédou, Guinea, on Feb. 27. Missionary Beth Heiney reports that this was the first ordination in the new church building there.

LEARN MORE

We’ve only scratched the surface here. If you’d like a firsthand account of the work in Francophone West and Central Africa, we highly recommend the video presentation by Rev. Gary and Steph Schulte. Go to thelc.ms/schulte-video-francophone-africa.

For more information about the district Pentecost offering, visit kslcms.org/pentecost.

BLESSINGS AT LINN LUTHERAN SCHOOL



The new addition at Linn Lutheran School, being constructed to the west of the existing building, is expected to be ready for the 2021-22 school year.

By Dan Thalmann
St. John, Palmer

Work continues on a building addition at Linn Lutheran School in Linn. Enrollment projections for the school show significant growth over the next few years to some of the highest total enrollments in decades. These projections led supporters of the school to consider the need for a building expansion. A fourth elementary teacher was added this school year to break each class into two grades.

The addition will include two classrooms on the main level, restrooms and

a full basement that will be used for much-needed storage space.

The “Building for Eternity” fundraising campaign for the building addition had a goal of \$160,000. Even though the fundraising effort was delayed a few months because of the coronavirus pandemic, the goal was quickly surpassed, going well above \$200,000. The project is expected to be complete in June.

The Linn Lutheran School Association is an association of Zion Lutheran Church, Linn, and St. John Lutheran Church, Palmer. The school includes grades 1-8 and offers preschool classes for 3- and 4-year-olds.



Updated district convention mailing coming in May

The Kansas District will send congregations and workers an updated convention mailing that includes a revised nomination procedure, new deadlines and (for congregations) a status sheet confirming what has already been submitted. The mailing is scheduled to be sent in early May.

A similar mailing was sent to congregations last year in May. The information has been updated in light of the one-year delay of the district convention, which was prompted by a Synodwide vote to delay the LCMS convention by a year. The Kansas District convention will now be held June 9-10, 2022.

Among the updates:

- ▶ The nominations period is now open until Nov. 30, 2021. Previously submitted nominations will be honored. If you'd like to make changes or additions, see the updated Call for Nominations.
- ▶ Floor committee weekend will be held April 1-2, 2022.
- ▶ With the added time for preparation, the district hopes to have a full list of delegate names — voting and advisory — by Nov. 30, 2021. Forms for delegate submission will be included in the May mailing and will be available on the convention webpage.

For the latest convention news, visit kslcms.org/convention. If you have questions, please send them to KSDconvention@gmail.com.



Installation in Lawrence

The Rev. Sean Kilgo was installed as pastor of Redeemer, Lawrence, on March 21. From left, (front row) Revs. Devin Kerns, Justin Panzer, Sean Kilgo, Ben Micheel, Jacob Heine, Jon Bruss; (back row) Joshua Woelmer, Dan Galchutt, Brian Stark and Ben Ockree.

LLL/LHM announces state fair plans

The Kansas District of the LLL/LHM will have a booth and a worship service at the 2021 Kansas State Fair, which will be held Sept. 10–19 in Hutchinson.



The booth will be located in the southwest section of the Meadowlark Building. The worship service will be held at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Sept. 12, at the Bretz and Young Arena. Rev. Tom Harmon and the choir from Risen Savior, Wichita, will lead the service.

A variety of Christian material will be available at the booth for fair visitors. The material includes Bibles, *Portals of Prayer, My Devotions*, LHM material, Christian-themed gifts for children and more. Contact Mike Tonn at 316-640-3918 or Tonn.mike@yahoo.com if you and/or your congregation can help provide religious material or serve as a booth volunteer.

Thank you and blessings to everyone who helps provide a LLL/LHM presence at the fair.

In other LLL news: Information about financial aid for full-time students enrolled in one of our Synod's colleges, universities or seminaries and pursuing a career in church work can be found at lhm-ks.org/lll_ks_student_aid.htm.

The application deadline is June 1.



Share your news with us!



Send photos and stories to:

▶ kbruss@kslcms.org

▶ 1000 SW 10th Ave.,
Topeka, KS 66604

The deadline for the **August** issue is **June 15**.

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



Saint Mark Lutheran School
Kāne'ohe, Hawaii



Dr. David Gaudi with
LCEF District Vice
President Bill Swift.



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