



# DISTRICT NEWS

## KANSAS



Concept drawing of the proposed Lutheran seminary in Guinea.

# A seminary for Guinea



“The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore, pray for the Lord of the harvest to send workers into His harvest field.” LUKE 10:2



**Rev. Dan Galchutt**

Assistant to the President, Mission and Stewardship

“We need pastors,” the young man from Africa said to me. I had just asked him what the greatest need was for the church in West Africa.

We often talk about the need for pastors here in America, especially with the significant number of pastors who are retiring over the next few years. This is an important issue we face, and that’s why I thank God for our Synod’s church worker recruitment initiative, *Set Apart to Serve*. (Check it out at [lcms.org/sas](http://lcms.org/sas).)

We have important work to do when it comes to raising up pastors and other church workers for the LCMS.

As the young man from Africa told me, training and pastoral leaders are greatly needed for the church in Africa. He identified this as the *greatest* need in West Africa. So, brothers and sisters in

Christ, do what Jesus says in Luke 10. Pray! Pray that the Lord would send workers into His harvest field, not only here in America, but also in West and Central Africa.

As you probably know, that is an area of the world that we in the Kansas District have been working in for quite a while. It’s actually been 25 years since we began a partnership with the Synod to support mission work in Guinea! We’re going to celebrate this milestone anniversary at our district convention in June.

After 25 years of work in the region, we now have the opportunity to participate in a special project that will help provide and prepare workers for God’s harvest in Guinea. The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guinea (ELCG) is looking to build a seminary.

Here is a short description of the project

See **MESSAGE**, Page 3



Pastors and lay leaders from T.I.G. Ministry congregations (Trinity, Garden City; Immanuel, Lakin; and Grace, Ulysses) work on a group activity during a *Connect to Disciple* workshop at Grace.

## ‘Connecting to Disciple’

The three congregations in the T.I.G. Ministry partnership in western Kansas gathered for a *Connect to Disciple* workshop March 26-27 at Grace Lutheran Church, Ulysses. Participants learned about effective outreach, focusing on how to invite, welcome and receive people in their church.

“Every new activity we do in the future will be analyzed through what we learned this weekend,” said Rev. Michael Hageman, senior pastor in the partnership. “I can’t wait to begin implementing this in the lives of the baptized at our church.”

Rev. Santi Keinbaum, associate pastor in the partnership, also offered high praise, saying, “The *re:Vitality* workshop did an excellent job in making us

think about outreach to the unchurched in a more organized and effective way.”

The workshop, part of the LCMS’s *re:Vitality* program, was conducted by Rev. Dan Galchutt, Kansas District mission executive and certified church consultant. Congregations, schools and organizations interested in trying a *re:Vitality* workshop are encouraged to contact Pastor Galchutt at [dangalchutt@kslcms.org](mailto:dangalchutt@kslcms.org) to learn more. A video and informational brochure are available [lcms.org/witness-outreach](http://lcms.org/witness-outreach). Scroll down to “*Connect to Disciple* workshop.”

The district offers mini-grants to help offset the cost of acquiring materials and hosting a workshop. Visit [kslcms.org/missions/evangelism](http://kslcms.org/missions/evangelism) for an application.

### Final call

## Scholarship applications due June 1

Financial aid is available for students pursuing a degree in church work at an LCMS college or seminary. Scholarships are available from the LCMS Kansas District, LWML Kansas District, Kansas District Lutheran Laymen’s League, and St. John’s Alumni Association. Visit [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org), go to “Stewardship” and select “Grants and Scholarships” for more information and a link to applications.



## Convention news

The 2022 Kansas District Convention will be held June 9-10 at the Hotel Topeka at City Center (formerly the Capitol Plaza Hotel) under the theme “Proclaim, Teach, Share,” based on 1 Peter 2:9-10. Synod guests include:

- ▶ **Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison**, LCMS president, who will preach for the worship service at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 9.
- ▶ **Rev. Benjamin Ball**, LCMS sixth vice-president (Central Region), who will give the Synod report on Friday, June 10.
- ▶ **Rev. Roy Askins**, managing editor of *The Lutheran Witness*, who will address the convention theme as our plenary speaker.

Everyone is welcome to attend sessions and visit the exhibitor area.

For all the details, visit the convention webpage at [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org) (scroll down to find link).

## OLDER ADULT MINISTRY EVENTS

### Older Adult Symposium

- ▶ May 14, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- ▶ Trinity Lutheran Church, Mission and Shawnee (Mission campus)
- ▶ **Guest speakers:**
  - James Bradshaw, Kansas District education executive
  - Richard Bimler, author of *Joyfully Aging: A Christian’s Guide* (CPH)

### Saints Alive After 55

- ▶ July 18-19
- ▶ Spiritual Life Center, Bel Aire
- ▶ **Keynote speaker:** Mark Schoepp, former executive director of ALOA (Adult Lutherans Organized for Action)
- ▶ **Bible study leader:** Rev. Daniel Myers, associate pastor, Holy Cross, Wichita

 VISIT [kslcms.org/older-adult-ministry](http://kslcms.org/older-adult-ministry) for details

# MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

from John Wolf, who serves as Africa region project manager for LCMS International Mission:

“In 2017, the love for the Gospel has led the ELCG to use a borrowed church building to start a local training center. Now they are preparing to procure land and establish a dedicated facility to allow more Guinean men to complete their pastoral training program in what is now CLET-Guinea (Centre Luthérien d’Études Théologiques).

“The complex is planned to include two main buildings. One will include a classroom, a library (stock and reading room) and a storage closet. The other will include two offices, a meeting room and a refectory. The funds from this project will be used to purchase the area and the industrial equipment for the site, such as cement, steel, concrete, sheet metal, tie wire, spikes, electrification equipment, plumbing equipment, paint, skilled labor and transportation of this equipment to the job site. The ELCG already plans to contribute labor and food, as well as obtain aggregates needed for construction (sand, gravel, stone blocks).”

Your prayers are needed for this project. In addition to prayers, I’m asking you to

consider giving financially to help raise up workers for the harvest field in Guinea. Our West Africa Committee has set a goal to raise \$25,000 for this effort through our annual Kansas District Pentecost Offering. I think we can meet and exceed this goal. If we do, we may well be able to provide the rest of the financing needed to make this project a reality. This will provide a lasting, generational impact on the mission work done in Guinea and the surrounding area in West Africa.

Please join me in praying for workers for God’s harvest field in America and in Guinea. And let’s help the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Guinea build their seminary!

**We pray:** Lord of the harvest, You invite us to ask You to send workers into the harvest field according to Your gracious will. Grant pastors, O Lord, for our congregations in Kansas and for the people of Guinea who are made faithful through the study of Your Word. Give us generous hearts to support the building of the seminary in Guinea. And bless Your servants with bold and winsome speech to proclaim Your excellencies to those near and far, that Your Kingdom be extended and Your name glorified; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.



To contribute to the Guinea seminary project, give to the Pentecost Offering at your church, send a check to the LCMS Kansas District (1000 SW 10th Ave., Topeka, KS, 66604), or donate online at [kslcms.org](http://kslcms.org) (or scan the QR code above with your phone).



Pictured is a potential site of the new Lutheran seminary in Guinea.



## ‘What a Friend We Have in Jesus’

The Kansas District was blessed to have 135 middle school students and adults gathered at the Webster Conference Center in Salina March 25-26 for the inaugural district Middle School Huddle. Dr. Brian Young, director of Creation Instruction Association, presented on the event theme, “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” Students from Concordia University Nebraska led the music. Youth participated in small group discussions and a service project, “Monkey in My Chair,” focused on supporting children battling cancer. A districtwide confirmation retreat is being planned for October 2022.



## Kansas LWML presents mission grant

On March 26 in Herington, Mary Dohl (left), LWML Kansas District secretary, presented an \$8,500 mission grant to Kansas District Business Manager Heather Williams, who accepted the grant on behalf of the district. The grant will be used for a stair lift at the Kansas District Retreat Center. Also on hand were Rev. Alan Stahlecker, Region 2 vice-president, and Sharon Kolanowski, president of the LWML Herington Zone and author of the grant proposal. The grant was one of eight mission grants awarded by the LWML Kansas District for the 2020-22 biennium.

## Share your news with us!



Send photos and stories to:

- ▶ [kbruss@kslcms.org](mailto: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.

## INVEST WITH THOSE WHO SHARE YOUR LUTHERAN FAITH

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