



# DISTRICT NEWS

## INDIANA

### OUR LIFE TOGETHER IN JESUS CHRIST



**Rev. Daniel May**  
District President

**A**s we begin this new year and move into the season of Epiphany, we rejoice in the life we share in the Body of Christ. It is also the month in which we celebrate

Lutheran Schools

Week, a fitting and appropriate way to honor our relationships with Christ. These relationships, which flow from the baptismal font, last forever!

We nourish these relationships through our ministry to children, youth and adults. In fact, our ministry of education is one of the most powerful ways in which we fulfill the promises we make at the baptismal font. At the baptism of our children, we as parents promise to nourish the faith engendered by the Holy Spirit, and we as the Church promise to partner with parents in nourishing the faith of God's children. What a dynamic partnership!

Of course, there is one more promise made at the baptismal font, only this one is not a promise that we make to God, but one that He makes to us. God's promise to us in Jesus means we are His children, washed in the blood of the lamb.

Here at the LCMS Indiana District, we have taken these promises to heart. Ministry to children, youth, and adults is a serious matter indeed, and a vital

part of the bond of faith and love we share. The Indiana District is committed to a strong, persistent and caring ministry in our Sunday school classrooms as well as in our schools. In these settings, we are fortunate to pray, study, think and have fellowship as the Body of Christ.

As I think about how fortunate we are to be able to study in a Christian setting, I am reminded of the other night when I was at a Lutheran school band concert. Dianne Moellering, the band director, noted that we would begin with prayer. What a privilege we enjoy in our Lutheran schools!

Let us never forget that this privilege of praying in our schools is ours only by the grace of God. My greatest hope is that all of these prayers, along with our faith in Him who is always faithful, will continue and strengthen in the days and years ahead!

Happy new year, and Happy Lutheran Schools Week!

Reverend May



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**"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."**

— 1 Cor. 1:9

# IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE!

## NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK IS JAN. 24-30

**N**ational Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW) provides an excellent opportunity for the nearly 2,300 Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod preschools, elementary schools and high schools throughout the nation to celebrate God's work. It's a time we set aside to thank God for the opportunity to provide an excellent academic program for the children we serve.

Here in the LCMS Indiana District, our schools celebrate National Lutheran Schools Week in a variety of ways ... everything from "crazy hair" and "twin" days to roller skating parties. Some schools even use NLSW as an opportunity to launch service projects in the community — or around the world! No matter how they choose to celebrate, we rejoice with them in this yearly opportunity to proclaim the ways we share Jesus' love with students and families alike.

### How We Celebrate NLSW



#### Trinity Lutheran School Elkhart

"Last year, we rented roller skates for all the students. Classes roller skated in the gym every day. Older classes 'buddied up' with younger classes to help the less experienced skaters. It was so successful that we plan to do it again this year. We also host a talent show. It's great fun!"

*Sandra M. Price, Principal*



#### Holy Cross Lutheran School Fort Wayne

"Some years, our students write thank you notes to the congregation or make bookmarks to put in church bulletins. Sometimes we produce videos of our students to show in worship services. Other years, all grades collaborate to make a huge art display relating to the week's theme in the welcome center. We always decorate the school with streamers, balloons and posters in honor of the special week, reminding us that other schools around the nation are doing the same."

*Kathy Fluegge, Teacher*



#### Immanuel Lutheran School Valparaiso

"Mismatched clothes and crazy hair and hat days are just a few of the ways students and teachers at Immanuel Lutheran School in Valparaiso celebrate NLSW."

*Joshua Bachman, Principal*

**Lutheran South Unity School  
Fort Wayne**

"The Fort Wayne-area Lutheran schools are collaborating to convert at least two 40-foot shipping containers into classrooms and storage space for Joe Boway's schools in Liberia. Many are using NLSW to start gathering donations to make this project a reality."

*Krista F. Nagy, Principal*

**Ascension Lutheran School  
Fort Wayne**

"Ascension Lutheran plans to host a Literacy Night on Thursday, January 28, as part of our NLSW celebrations. Local author Helen Frost will come for a book reading and signing, and classrooms will use lesson plans that week which reflect Helen Frost's work."

*Mary Eifert, Principal*

**Suburban Bethlehem  
Lutheran School  
Fort Wayne**

"Students in grades two through eight serve at the Fort Wayne Community Harvest Food Bank, and our kindergarten and first-grade students sing at nursing homes. We also sponsor service projects, invite special chapel speakers and ask students to offer opening and ending-day prayers that week."

*Patty Macke, Admissions Counselor*

**Our Shepherd Lutheran School  
Avon**

"A student appreciation breakfast, parent appreciation coffee, service events and heart-healthy activities, along with a penny war to benefit Lutherwood Home for Children, will all be part of our NLSW celebrations at Our Shepherd Lutheran School this year."

*Jeffrey D. Huntington, Principal*

**Woodburn Lutheran School  
Woodburn**

"At Woodburn Lutheran School, we'll celebrate NLSW 2016 with [themed] dress-up days all week, along with a faculty vs. seventh/eighth-grade basketball game and pep rallies for each grade level. We also typically plan a fun assembly each year. (Last year, we featured a Christian magician.)"

*David Van Spankeren, Principal*

Please join us in praying for the Lutheran schools, the children who attend them and the administrators and teachers during this special week!



**NLSW  
2015**

**CLOCKWISE FROM FAR LEFT:**

A young boy from Trinity Lutheran School in Elkart learns how to rollerskate in festive disco attire.

Three students from Holy Cross Lutheran School in Fort Wayne dress up as campers for one of the week's theme days.

Faculty and staff at Immanuel Lutheran School in Valparaiso join in on the fun on crazy hat day.



## MISSION MOMENTS

How a mission team to Kenya continues to bless widows and orphans through Point of Grace Lutheran Church and School

**"Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world."**

— James 1:27

**W**anna know how I know God exists? Because I saw Him today. I saw Him in the heart of all my fellow mission team members and in the hearts of those who so graciously have provided us with food and shelter during our stay. I saw Him in the smiles of the most precious children who were touched by the simplest gift of a soccer ball today. I felt Him in the hearts and prayers of friends and family back home who continue to lift us all up in spirit and in mind ... and I heard Him in the beautiful voices of the same children who have so much faith but ask for so little. In many ways, they truly are more fortunate than we are ... I look forward to continuing that lesson tomorrow. God bless! We thank you all, especially our friends and family helping our loved ones back home, for your support!

These are the words of Heather Pankop, part of a mission team from Emanuel Lutheran Church, New Haven, and Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Westfield, in a Facebook post describing their trip to Point of Grace Lutheran Church and School in rural Kenya in east Africa. The school — eight hours west of Nairobi and just south of the equator — also houses more than 200 orphans sponsored through the 4KenyasKids child sponsorship program.

It's all part of the ministry of Rev. Dennis Meeker, who graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, and his wife, Deaconess Lorna Meeker, a pastor's daughter from Kenya. Ministering in Lorna's homeland, the couple invited a team from Emanuel Lutheran Church to join them in the joys of serving Christ in Kenya.

Since that first invitation in 2009, Emanuel members, under the leadership of Rev. David Stecker and Shirley and Tom Deetz, have returned every two years to come alongside the Meekers in

ministry. This year, they were joined by members of Lord of Life.

Working under the motto "With God All Things Are Possible," the team recently spent 16 days in Kenya, ministering to more than 500 children who attend Point of Grace School, which Emanuel members helped build. More than half of the students are orphans who live in dorms on campus, many of them sponsored by the mission team members and friends. These children and their communities now have hope because Emanuel's members and friends have answered the call from God to help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to children struggling with AIDS, abuse and neglect.

Learn more about the team's recent 16-day mission trip to Kenya by visiting [emanuelkenya2015.blogspot.com](http://emanuelkenya2015.blogspot.com), a blog written by Carla Stecker, David Stecker's wife. You'll find pictures and stories capturing the team's daily activities. To learn more about how you can make a difference in the lives of Kenyan orphans, visit [4KenyasKids.org](http://4KenyasKids.org).

Photos on opposite page feature children receiving pillows and bags full of supplies. The team discovered the children did not have pillows, so they bought 300 to the city of Kisumu, Kenya. For more images from the trip, visit [emanuelkenya2015.blogspot.com](http://emanuelkenya2015.blogspot.com).

## 4KENYASKIDS CHILD SPONSORSHIP

Many children in rural Kenya are unable to pursue an education. No one in these communities has the ability to provide tuition fees and school supplies. 4KenyasKids is working to change that. This child sponsorship program provides hope for children struggling in a world torn apart by AIDS, abuse and neglect. Through 4KenyasKids, these children's dreams of an education are coming true.

Sponsors exchange letters and pictures with a child. A monthly gift of \$50 ensures that this child receives all the necessary supplies to stay in school. 4KenyasKids can email you a packet with information about a child on the waiting list. Your gifts will have a direct and lasting impact on a child in desperate need. To learn more, visit [4KenyasKids.org](http://4KenyasKids.org).



IMAGE FROM 4KENYASKIDS.ORG

## January Prayer List

### Week of Jan. 4

- > New England District
- > Circuit 9
- > Ascension, Fort Wayne
- > Concordia, Fort Wayne
- > Gloria Dei, Fort Wayne
- > St. Peter, Fort Wayne
- > Prince of Peace, Grabill
- > Emanuel, New Haven
- > Mission: Asian ESL, Carmel
- > RSO: Lutheran Ministries Media, FW

### Week of Jan. 11

- > New Jersey District
- > Circuit 11
- > Trinity, Culver
- > Trinity, Goodland
- > Grace, Lafayette
- > St. James, Lafayette
- > St. James, Logansport
- > Our Savior, Monticello
- > Mission: Siberian and Burmese Mission Soc., St. Paul's, Fort Wayne
- > RSO: Lutheran School Partnership, FW

### Week of Jan. 18

- > North Dakota District
- > Circuit 21
- > St. John, Evanston
- > Our Saviour, Evansville
- > Our Redeemer, Evansville
- > Trinity, Henderson
- > Peace, Owensboro
- > Emmanuel, Tell City
- > Mission: Project Timothy, St. Paul's, FW
- > RSO: Lutheran Social Services, FW

### Week of Dec. 28

- > North Wisconsin District
- > Circuit 5
- > Our Redeemer, South Bend
- > St. Paul, South Bend
- > Redeemer, Warsaw
- > St. Paul, Woodland
- > Prince of Peace, Goshen
- > St. Peter's, Warsaw
- > Mission: Hispanic Mission Society, Immanuel, Avilla
- > RSO: Lutheran Special Ed Ministries

# University Lutheran celebrates 70 years, prepares for future growth

**C**ongratulations to University Lutheran Church, West Lafayette, on 70-plus years of ministry on the campus of Purdue University! The congregation commemorated the last 70 years of ministry by preparing for future growth, hosting a groundbreaking ceremony on Sunday, Nov. 8 for a new building addition.

Organized in 1945 by the Central District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod as the campus ministry at Purdue University, University Lutheran has been serving students and the Purdue community under the leadership of the Revs. E.P. Weber, R.F. Rehmer, Lynn Podoll, Jim Barton

and Justin Herman, and thanks to the continued support of the Indiana District.

God has placed University Lutheran and its ministry programs in the heart of student neighborhoods, close to Purdue's campus. In recent years, it has become clear that the original building, dedicated in 1951, was in need of upgrades. The new addition will increase visibility, accessibility and usability. Construction is slated to begin this spring.

Officiating at the groundbreaking ceremony was Herman, with opening remarks by Susan Linson, co-chair of the building committee, and Rev.

Geoffrey Robinson, outreach executive of the Indiana District.

More than 130 alumni, students, and friends joined the congregation for this momentous occasion. Special guests included Podoll, who served the congregation from 1976 to 1985, Rev. Joseph Cho, who led the Korean Church of God's Love at University Lutheran in the 1990s, and Peggy (Rehmer) Haeger, daughter of R.F. Rehmer, who served as pastor for 30 years (1958 to 1988).

**Please pray that these changes will support, equip and expand University Lutheran's ministry for many generations to come.**

**LEFT:** Members, students and friends of University Lutheran participate in a groundbreaking ceremony.



**RIGHT:** Pastors and wives celebrate University Lutheran's 70 years of ministry.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JANUARY

**1**

New Year's Day — Happy 2016!  
District Office Closed

**19-22**

Symposia, *CTS Fort Wayne*

**24-30**

National Lutheran Schools Week  
"Life Together in Christ"

### FEBRUARY

**5-7**

Katie Retreat for Pastors' Wives  
*Inn of DePauw, Greencastle*

### MARCH

**1**

Deadline for call documents and vicarage applications to be in the district president's office for spring placement

### APRIL

**25**

Vicarage assignments/candidate placement services, *Concordia Seminary, St. Louis*

**26**

Vicarage/ceaconess internship assignments, *CTS*

**27**

Candidate placement service, *CTS*

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**

JAN. 1  
Norma Kieser, 95, Immanuel, Seymour  
Lorene Thune, 90, Carmel

JAN. 2  
Donald Schneider, 90, Immanuel, Seymour

JAN. 3  
**Irene Krause, 101, Trinity, Hobart**

JAN. 4  
Ruth Nicolet, 93, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

JAN. 7  
Pauline Lind, 94, St. John, Lanesville

JAN. 14  
John Osborn Jr., 90, Concordia, Louisville

JAN. 15  
Louie Matzat, 93, St. Peter, North Judson  
Donald Schwier, 93, Zion, New Palestine

JAN. 16  
Lucille Wessel, 90, Immanuel, Seymour

JAN. 18  
Ruth Mutton, 93, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne  
Delores Kissling, 92, Faith, Bloomington

JAN. 20  
Margaret Keyser, 90, Mount Calvary, Fort Wayne

JAN. 21  
Lorene Baumgart, 99, St. John, Lanesville  
Libby Lantz, 96, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

JAN. 23  
Elvira Preuss, 93, Immanuel, Seymour

JAN. 25  
Doris Froelich, 94, St. Paul's, Evansville

JAN. 26  
Mildred Schroer, 95, Zion, Seymour  
Robert Hartman, 91, St. Paul's, Evansville

JAN. 27  
Doris Cottingham, 93, St. James, Lafayette

JAN. 30  
Geneva Stuckwisch, 97, Zion, Seymour

JAN. 31  
Robert Barnes, 93, Heritage, Valparaiso

**Belated Birthdays**

NOV. 12  
**Nelda Dome, 102, Emmanuel, Tell City**

DEC. 8  
Helen Vandre Schakel, 93 Grace, Muncie

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In the December issue, Anna Cockerham (St. John, Vincennes) was listed as turning 90 on Dec. 26. Her correct birth date is Nov. 26.

**JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

JAN. 1  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Weick, 63  
St. Paul's, Fort Wayne  
Mr. and Mrs. Will Doehrman, 61  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Nehrt, 61  
St. Peter's, Brownstown

JAN. 2  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hession, 51  
St. James, Lafayette

JAN. 3  
Mr. and Mrs. Vern Holzhauser, 58  
Faith, DeMotte

JAN. 5  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rodenbeck, 61  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

JAN. 6  
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Kovener, 64  
Immanuel, Seymour

JAN. 7  
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Drochner, 60  
Calvary, Plymouth

JAN. 8  
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Owens, 50, Faith, Louisville

JAN. 9  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nieman, 51  
Immanuel, Seymour

JAN. 11  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Hartig, 63  
Our Redeemer, Evansville  
Mr. and Mrs. Terrence Lennington, 53  
St. Paul's, Fort Wayne

JAN. 12  
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Woodard, 59  
Immanuel, Seymour

JAN. 15  
Mr. and Mrs. John Leisge, 61, Faith, DeMotte  
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Wheeler, 50  
Immanuel, Seymour

JAN. 16  
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Hancock, 56  
St. John, Lanesville

JAN. 17  
Mr. and Mrs. John Moore, 56  
Immanuel, Seymour  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Price, 53  
Concordia, Louisville

JAN. 18  
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Zollman, 68  
St. John, Lanesville  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hall, 58  
Immanuel, Seymour  
Mr. and Mrs. Gay Cooley, 52  
St. Paul's, Evansville

JAN. 20  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Ludwig, 53, Grace, Muncie

JAN. 23  
Mr. and Mrs. William Miller, 62  
Immanuel, Seymour

JAN. 24  
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hiser, 63  
St. John, Lanesville

JAN. 25  
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Christiansen, 68  
Calvary, Plymouth  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zoll, 62  
Heritage, Valparaiso  
Mr. and Mrs. Don Lantz, 58  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne  
Mr. and Mrs. William McDowell, 58  
Zion, New Palestine

JAN. 26  
Mr. and Mrs. Russ Himmelein, 64  
Mount Calvary, Fort Wayne

JAN. 27  
Mr. and Mrs. John Willenbrock, 53, Carmel

JAN. 28  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kalberer, 66  
Trinity, Hobart  
Mr. and Mrs. Louie Matzat, 66  
St. Peter, North Judson  
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Spurgeon, 65  
St. Peter's, Brownstown

JAN. 29  
Mr. and Mrs. Norm Atz, 67  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne  
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Osterman, 50  
Zion, Seymour  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Pierz Jr., 50  
Faith, DeMotte  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Siefker, 50  
Immanuel, Seymour

JAN. 30  
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip DeBolt, 57  
St. John (Bingen), Decatur  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Minick, 56, Trinity, Hobart  
Mr. and Mrs. David Brooks, 51  
Immanuel, Seymour

JAN. 31  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Griswold Sr., 58  
St. James, Lafayette

**Belated Anniversaries**

NOV. 24  
Mr. and Mrs. Jack Huebschman, 55  
Emmanuel, Tell City

## Ring, Ring goes the bell



thinkstock

**A**t my Lutheran school in suburban Chicago, the principal would dutifully ring the bell for all of us to come into the building and enter our classrooms. I spent nine years there and then went on to study at Luther North High School in Chicago. What formative years those were for me! And what a privilege it was to be able to attend these two Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod schools. Because of God’s servants, I was nurtured daily in His Word.

All this was made possible by my single-parent mother and the Lutheran church we attended, along with grace of

God. Besides my mother’s tithe, many other people unknown to me made it possible for me to attend these schools. Yes, that meant fewer luxuries for my family, such as no family car or TV set until my teenage years.

You see, my mother gave her first fruits to the Lord. Yet as Phil. 4:10 says, *“And my God will meet all your needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”* And indeed He did. Maybe God didn’t give us all our wants and desires, but He certainly met our needs. Not only does God truly know what is best for us, but He also provides all that is best for us.

Our Lutheran school system is the

largest Protestant system in the nation — more than 2,300 schools! These schools continue to thrive because of the generous support from people like you, people who continue to offer sacrificial giving. In 2 Cor. 9:11, God’s Word tells us that *“You will be made rich in every way so you can be generous on every occasion and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”*



**Ken Schilf**  
Council of Resources

## LWML INDIANA DISTRICT MISSION GRANT PROPOSALS DUE!

Do you know of a ministry with an Indiana connection in need of funding to help reach out with the love of Christ? If so, now is a great time to forward the LWML Indiana District Mission Grant Application to this outreach. When you do, it’s important to note a few changes in our proposal. For our next biennium, we are offering two categories of grants: small (\$5,000 and less) and large (\$5,001 to \$10,000), which will be on separate ballots. **The deadline for proposals is Jan. 15, so be sure to act now!** You can access the grant application at [lwmlindiana.org](http://lwmlindiana.org) under the “Forms and Applications” tab on the left.



**Questions? Email Becky Thibodeau at [bthibs@att.net](mailto:bthibs@att.net).**

### SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US

The deadline for the **February** issue of The Lutheran Witness is **Jan. 10**.

Your stories and photos are most appreciated. Please send them to Jan Koenig at:

**[jan.koenig@in.lcms.org](mailto:jan.koenig@in.lcms.org)**

or by postal mail to:

**Lutheran Witness Editor  
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Please remember that photos sent electronically should be in jpeg format with a minimum 300 dpi.