



DISTRICT NEWS

INDIANA

New Year Brings New Beginnings — for Our Nation, Our Schools and Ourselves!



Rev. Daniel May
District President

As we begin this New Year and move into the season of Epiphany, we rejoice in the life we share in the Body of Christ. Even as the Christmas decorations are

coming down, let us not forget that God's gift to us, wrapped in swaddling cloths, is indeed our hope, our light and our salvation. Many of us are already using and wearing many of our Christmas gifts. In a much more significant way, however, we are walking in the light of God's grace and wearing that grace in our lives. In short, the New Year is the perfect opportunity to become a New You!

This New You is the forgiven and redeemed person God has made you to be. The Apostle Paul writes:

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

2 Cor. 5:17 NIV

God nourishes the New You through His Holy Word and the blessings of His Holy Sacraments. As we begin 2017, let us remember that every day is new for us. It is with the joy and confidence of the psalmist that we approach each new day and year:

“He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God.”

Ps. 40:3 NIV



The New Year also brings us an opportunity to begin anew as the people of God. Walking in the newness of life flows from our Baptismal faith, which leads us on and binds us to one another in faith and in love. We teach this truth to young and old alike in our families, churches and schools. In fact, this month we celebrate the blessings of our Lutheran schools during National Lutheran Schools Week. By God's grace we enjoy Lutheran preschools, elementary schools, high schools, universities and seminaries.

As we celebrate this special week and thank God for all the faithful teachers who provide instruction and guidance for our students, we also celebrate the other educational arms of the church for instruction, including our Sunday schools, vacation Bible schools and our

own homes. In all of these settings, we share the message of the Holy Gospel, which brings us to a new epiphany each day as we step out with a confident faith.

Finally, this is a New Year for our nation, with the inauguration of a new president and vice president, along with a host of other national and state leaders. They are in our prayers as they make this new beginning in their professional and personal lives. May God lead and guide them according to His Holy will.

In our homes, our schools and our nation, may we all experience a blessed Epiphany as we begin this New Year!

Rev. Daniel P. May

The Witness of the Cross

By Rev. Robert Schneider, Our Saviour Lutheran Church, Evansville



"A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more." Matt. 2:18

As I travel north on I-69 from Evansville, I see a well-kept field next to the highway covered with neat rows of white crosses. These crosses bear witness to the lives of children who have lost their lives sometime between conception and birth. Their lives were cut short because, for one reason or another, they were considered a burden. They are sacrifices to human ignorance and selfishness.

The words from St. Matthew's Gospel speak of another child who was considered a burden. King Herod was burdened in his heart and mind regarding the birth of another King. Fearing for his throne, Herod sought to protect his place of power by abusing that same power. He condemned to death the boys in Bethlehem who were two years old and younger. No white crosses honor the memory of their lives. Only the witness of God's Word reminds us of the deep sadness felt by the families who grieved this great

loss. These children were sacrificed to Herod's ignorance and selfishness.

This year, we will inaugurate our newly elected president. What leadership will he give regarding the issue of life? Will the witness of the crosses and the witness of God's Word be reflected in his leadership? Or will the witness of the Church be curtailed by legislation forcing compliance to political compromise? Such answers remain to be seen, but we must remember there is One whose witness cannot be silenced or ignored, our Savior Jesus Christ. His life, too, was marked by a cross. He also died at an age we would consider too young. Family and friends grieved His death, but thankfully that's not where His story ends. We can all receive comfort in His resurrection.

The death and resurrection of Jesus is also our source of joy and confidence. For Jesus' death on the cross remains the enduring witness to God's eternal

grace and mercy. Painted red with the blood of Jesus, this cross speaks of forgiveness of sins, life and salvation for those who struggle under the weight of sin's guilt. Looking upon this cross, we are humbled to see the cost of redeeming all who are given life in this world, both the child in the womb and all who are born into this world. Looking into the empty tomb of Jesus, we rejoice that death is not our master because we have the Lord of Life at our side in His Word and Sacrament.

In the year ahead, our Lord of Life will give us ample opportunity to give witness to His sacrifice for sin. To this end we were marked with the sign of the cross in Holy Baptism. To this end we received His Spirit in Holy Baptism. To this work we are called. God grant we faithfully proclaim Jesus' life, death and resurrection as the comfort of those who weep and the joy of those Jesus saves. This is the witness of the Cross.

Early Learning Education — Your Congregation’s Porch to the Community



Dr. Jon Mielke
Executive Counselor
for Christian Education

If your congregation supports an early learning center — or preschool — you have just built a congregational porch to the community.

Why is this so? Early learning centers may be

your congregation’s first point of contact to many families who may or may not be members of your church. By connecting these families with your congregation, these early learning centers also give families an initial contact with their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Directors and teachers of those early learning centers are marvelous “sowers” of God’s Word. The Holy Spirit works in the hearts and minds of teachers and children every day in 53 free-standing early learning centers and 44 centers that are connected to one of our Lutheran schools. It is such a privilege and pleasure for me to visit and interact with teachers and children in these early learning centers — or congregational “porches” — throughout the school year!

The Indiana District places a high level of importance on early learning education. An established Early Childhood Cabinet comprised of directors from each of the four regions of the Indiana District and Indiana District Congregational Services Assistant (CSA) serve the district in a variety of ways.

Most recently, the Early Childhood Cabinet wrote and made available an early childhood curriculum for 2-year olds. Meeting at Zion, New Palestine, a few times and finishing up the penning of the curriculum via email, the cabinet conducted a Saturday workshop at Zion to make available hard copies of this curriculum and teach directors

and teachers who provide ministry to 2-year-olds in various locations around the district some additional insights about the curriculum. The Indiana District also has curriculum for 3- and 4-year-olds available at in.lcms.org.

In addition to curriculum and other resources, early learning centers are encouraged to obtain “Unlicensed Registry Ministry” status and National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA). All of our 44 early learning centers connected with our Lutheran schools have achieved this NLSA distinction. Eleven free-standing centers have as well.

I thank congregations for their support in providing early learning centers and giving to little children this opportunity to learn about Jesus daily.

I also thank the members of the Early Childhood Cabinet for their diligent work and passion to serve Jesus in their respective classrooms, and for their Christian service to churches.

Current members of the Early Childhood Cabinet are :

Rachel Stults
Faith Preschool,
Bloomington

Angie Singer
Zion,
New Palestine

Cyndy Bishop
Redeemer,
Highland

Kathy Frank
CSA,
Indiana District

Barb Bradtmueller
Peace,
Fort Wayne

Amy Mews
Administrative
Assistant,
Education

Dr. Jon Mielke
Superintendent

Please keep each of these individuals in your prayers as well as the many early learning centers throughout the Indiana District.

As your early learning center celebrates National Lutheran Schools Week in January, please celebrate with them as a congregation.



Staying connected...



George Denholm
St. Peter's, Columbus

different. Working for a church presents very unique challenges. Church workers need a place where they can be with others who understand those challenges. Pastors have “winkels.” Teachers have faculty meetings, conferences and professional-growth requirements.

What about other church workers?

The Indiana District is known in the Synod for supporting and caring for all church workers, including DCEs, DCOs, deaconesses and other “non-

Professional conferences are standard operating procedure for most companies, helping employees stay current on a variety of business practices. Congregations shouldn't be any

pastor, non-teacher” parish workers. Our Indiana District has even employed two part-time Congregation Service Assistants (CSAs), who work with this third group of church workers: Larry Hencye in the north and George Denholm in the south. These CSAs stay in contact with the various workers of the Indiana District, schedule regular “cluster” meetings in several regions of the district and consult with those workers who plan youth events, such as junior high retreats, the Senior High Youth Gathering and the LCMS National Youth Gathering.

One of the great services our Indiana District provides for these auxiliary workers is a schedule of regular growth conferences. For many years, the Indiana District has sponsored a fall retreat using the two Lutheran outdoor camps in the Indiana District. This retreat usually focuses on spiritual growth and personal refreshment, but

always includes time for fellowship and camaraderie. The Indiana District has also traditionally sponsored a spring conference in a hotel setting. This conference usually focuses on professional growth that spans the diverse ministries in which our “DCE types” serve. The Fall 2016 Retreat provided lots of opportunity to worship in song and to reflect on God's action, even in the worst times of our lives. The Spring 2017 Retreat is still in the planning stage, but will focus on some aspect of leadership.

We encourage all pastors to support their DCEs, DCOs, deaconesses, youth workers, worship leaders or other auxiliary workers not in the classroom or pulpit and invite them to participate in these growth opportunities. All “DCE types” should take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn and be refreshed while enjoying some great times with others who serve as they do.

Here am I, send me!

By Amy Mews, Administrative Assistant, Education

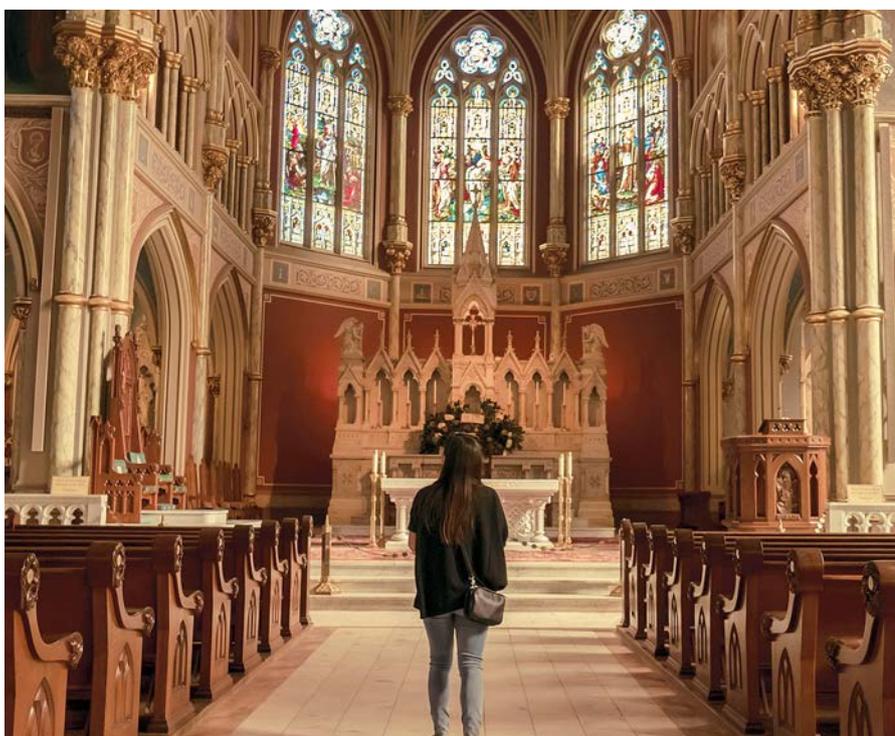
The Lutheran Church has a need for professional church workers to serve in our congregations and schools. Our 10 Concordia universities across the United States share the common goal of developing Christian leaders for the church, community and world. The Indiana District is committed to supporting those who choose to serve as Lutheran pastors, teachers, DCEs and other positions with a new Church Worker Grant.

The new Church Worker Grant is awarded to commissioned and ordained workers during their first three years of service to the church. Note that the grant is not automatic; new workers need to apply for it annually by Dec. 31. To qualify for the grant, applicants need to be a member of an Indiana District congregation for three years prior to starting a course of study at a Concordia university or seminary. Following graduation, applicants must receive and accept a call to serve for an LCMS congregation, school or Recognized Service Organization (RSO).

In 2016, we awarded about \$92,000 to 46 applicants; three DCEs, two deaconesses, one director of Parish Music, 17 pastors and 23 teachers. Sixteen of them received the grant for their first year and have two more years of eligibility. The grants are funded annually by the Indiana District Board of Directors, which determines district resources available for this purpose. It's important to note that the church worker grant program is dependent on the continued support we receive from our congregations and members.

If you know college students who are intending to become full-time church workers, please let us know. We would love to remind them to apply for the grant once they are placed into church work. Please visit the Indiana District website at in.lcms.org for more information and to download the application form. Just type "New Church Worker Grants" in the search field. Thank you!

*"Hark the voice of Jesus calling, Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting...Here am I, Send me, send me!"*



January Prayer List

Week of Jan. 2

- > Southern District
- > Circuit 10
- > Peace, *Berne*
- > Immanuel, *Decatur*
- > St. John Bingen, *Decatur*
- > St. Paul Preble, *Decatur*
- > St. Peter, *Decatur*
- > Zion, *Decatur*
- > Zion Friedheim, *Decatur*
- > **Mission:** African American Asst. First Timothy, Messiah, *Indianapolis*
- > **RSO:** Lutheran Foundation, *Fort Wayne*

Week of Jan. 9

- > Southern Illinois District
- > Circuit 15
- > St. Paul, *Indianapolis*
- > St. Peter, *Indianapolis*
- > First Timothy, *Indianapolis*
- > Mount Olive, *Greenwood*
- > Christ the King, *Mooreville*
- > **Mission:** Global/Local Foreign Missions, Concordia, *Fort Wayne*
- > **RSO:** Lutheran Life Villages, *Fort Wayne and Kendallville*

Week of Jan. 16

- > Texas District
- > Circuit 21
- > St. John, *Evanston*
- > Our Saviour, *Evansville*
- > Our Redeemer, *Evansville*
- > Trinity, *Henderson*
- > Peace, *Owensboro*
- > Emmanuel, *Tell City*
- > **Mission:** Global/Local Immigrant Ministry, Concordia, *Fort Wayne*
- > **RSO:** Lutheran Military Veterans and Families, *Fort Wayne*

Week of Jan. 23

- > Wyoming District
- > Circuit 2
- > St. John, *Gary*
- > St. Philip, *Gary*
- > St. Michael, *Hebron*
- > Trinity, *Hobart*
- > Trinity Memorial, *Merrillville*
- > **Mission:** Global/Local Inner City Ministry, Concordia, *Fort Wayne*
- > **RSO:** Lutheran Ministries Media, *Fort Wayne*

EVENTS & CELEBRATIONS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please add these important dates to your personal calendar as we begin a new year!

JANUARY

4-6
LCMS Campus Ministry Conference,
College Park, Md.

16
Lenten Preaching Workshop, *Concordia
Theological Seminary*

17-18
Symposium on Exegetical Theology —
"The Spirit of Reformation Exegesis Today,"
Concordia Theological Seminary

18-20
Symposium on the Lutheran Confessions
— "The 500th Anniversary of the
Reformation Continuing the Celebration,"
Concordia Theological Seminary

22-28
National Lutheran Schools Week —
"Upon This Rock"

27-29
LCMS Life Conference, *Arlington, Va.*

FEBRUARY

10-12
"Katie Retreat" for pastors' wives,
Inn at DePauw, Greencastle

MARCH

16-19
LCMS Teen Leadership training, *St. Louis, MO*

17-19
Confirmation Retreat,
Concordia Theological Seminary

January Prayer List

(continued from page 5)

Week of Jan. 30

- > Atlantic District
- > Circuit 10
- > Emmanuel Soest, *Fort Wayne*
- > St. John, *Monroeville*
- > Bethlehem, *Ossian*
- > New Hope, *Ossian*
- > Faith, *Roanoke*
- > Prince of Peace, *Hartford City*
- > **Mission:** Gypsies Ministry, Holy
Cross, *Fort Wayne*
- > **RSO:** The Lutheran School
Partnership, *Fort Wayne*

Share Your News!

Do you have exciting news you'd like to see published in the Indiana District *Lutheran Witness*? We'd love to share your news and see photos of what's happening in our district! Be sure to send in your submissions, especially if you enjoy writing or taking photos at church events.

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

Your stories and photos are welcomed and most appreciated.

Please send all
submissions to Jan Koenig at:
jan.koenig@in.lcms.org

or by postal mail to:
**Lutheran Witness Editor
Indiana District LCMS
1145 South Barr St.
Fort Wayne, IN 46802**

Please remember that photos
sent electronically should be in
high resolution, with
a minimum of 300 dpi.

St. Paul has new shepherd



The Rev. Raymond Salemink was installed as the new pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church (Woodland), Mishawaka, on Oct. 9. Participating in the installation were, from left (front row) the Revs. Joel Zipay, Michael Barnes, Salemink, Daniel May (Indiana District president), Galen Drawbaugh; (back row) Karl Brenner, Roger Rohde, Daniel Streufert, Steven Latzke and Gregory Fiechtner.

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES



- JAN. 1**
Mr. and Mrs. Will Doehрман, 62
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Nehrt, 62
St. Peter's, Brownstown
- JAN. 2**
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Hession, 52
St. James, Lafayette
- JAN. 5**
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Rodenbeck,
62, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
- JAN. 6**
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Kovener, 65
Immanuel, Seymour
- JAN. 7**
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Drochner, 60
Calvary, Plymouth
- JAN. 9**
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Miller, 63
Zion, Decatur
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Nieman, 52
Immanuel, Seymour
- JAN. 11**
Mr. and Mrs. Don Hartig, 64
Our Redeemer, Evansville
Mr. and Mrs. Gary Davis, 58
St. John, Indianapolis
- JAN. 12**
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Woodard, 60
Immanuel, Seymour
- JAN. 15**
Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Wheeler, 51
Immanuel, Seymour
- JAN. 16**
Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Hancock, 57
St. John, Lanesville
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hoffman, 57
Zion, Decatur
- JAN. 17**
Mr. and Mrs. John Moore, 57
Immanuel, Seymour
- JAN. 18**
Mr. and Mrs. Francis Zollman, 69
St. John, Lanesville
Mr. and Mrs. Gay Cooley, 53
St. Paul's, Evansville
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Hall, 59
Immanuel, Seymour
- JAN. 21**
Mr. and Mrs. John Watkins, 57
Cornerstone, Carmel
- JAN. 21**
Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Elwood, 50
Our Redeemer, Evansville
Mr. and Mrs. Gwin Kahl, 50
Grace, New Albany
- JAN. 24**
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hiser, 64
St. John, Lanesville
- JAN. 25**
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Christiansen, 68
Calvary, Plymouth
Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zoll, 64
Heritage, Valparaiso
Mr. and Mrs. Don Lantz, 59
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
Mr. and Mrs. Don Schuppert, 59
Grace, New Albany
- JAN. 27**
Mr. and Mrs. Ken Carrier, 58
Epiphany, Westfield
Mr. and Mrs. John Willenbrock, 54
Cornerstone, Carmel
- JAN. 28**
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kalbarer, 67
Trinity, Hobart
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Spurgeon, 66
St. Peter's, Brownstown
- JAN. 29**
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Kukulhan, 68
Zion, Decatur
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Osterman, 51
Zion, Seymour
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Siefker, 51
Immanuel, Seymour
- JAN. 30**
Mr. and Mrs. Phillip DeBolt, 58
St. John Bingen, Decatur
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Minich, 57
Trinity, Hobart
Mr. and Mrs. David Brooks, 52
Immanuel, Seymour
- JAN. 31**
Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Prentice, 64
Immanuel, Avilla
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Griswold Sr.,
59, St. James, Lafayette

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- JAN. 1**
Lorene Thune, 91
Cornerstone, Carmel
- JAN. 2**
Donald Schneider, 91
Immanuel, Seymour
- JAN. 4**
Ruth Nicolet, 94
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne
- JAN. 7**
Pauline Lind, 95
St. John, Lanesville
- JAN. 12**
Dick Schnute, 90
Cornerstone, Carmel
- JAN. 15**
Elmer Linstiver, 92
Grace, New Albany
- JAN. 16**
Iona Wampner, 92
St. John, Indianapolis
Lucille Wessel, 91
Immanuel, Seymour
- JAN. 21**
Lorene Baumgart, 100
St. John, Lanesville
Libby Lantz, 97
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne
Janet Kuehner, 90
Grace, New Albany
- JAN. 23**
Elvira Preuss, 94
Immanuel, Seymour
- JAN. 24**
Katherine August, 95
Zion, Decatur
- JAN. 25**
Doris Froelich, 95
St. Paul's, Evansville
- JAN. 26**
Mildred Schroer, 96
Zion, Seymour.
Robert Hartman, 92
St. Paul's, Evansville



- JAN. 27**
Doris Cottingham, 94
St. James, Lafayette
- JAN. 29**
Arthur Rump, 93
St. John, Indianapolis
- JAN. 30**
Geneva Stuckwisch, 98
Zion, Seymour
- Ralph Imler, 90
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
- JAN. 31**
Robert Barnes, 94
Heritage, Valparaiso
Walter Kukulhan, 92
Zion, Decatur

Lutheran School Teacher Earns Lifetime Achievement Award

"It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant." Matt. 20:26

By Timothy Walz, St. John Lutheran School, Kendallville



The teachers, staff, parents, students and St. John, Kendallville, congregation members give thanks to God for our fifth-grade teacher and fellow servant at St. John Lutheran School, Vernie Scheiber.

On Oct. 26, Vernie received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the *Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly*. This award is given annually to outstanding educators in the greater Fort Wayne area. It would be difficult to find a more worthy recipient of this award.

Vernie started his teaching ministry at Zion Lutheran School in St. Charles, Mo. After 12 years at Zion, he accepted

a Divine Call to St. John as teacher and principal and has served faithfully for 30 years. In addition to his ministry in the classroom and school, Vernie has provided valuable leadership to St. John Lutheran Church. He has also served the church at-large in leadership positions with the Indiana District, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, the Indiana Non-Public Education Association, National Lutheran School Accreditation and more. And he continues to be a witness to our community through his involvement in various groups, including his current position as president of our local Lion's Club. His knowledge and wisdom are invaluable to those he serves.

Those who know Vernie know that his faithful service has never been motivated by any desire to become "great among you." This humble servant would be the last one to seek any kind of recognition for his service. Instead, he is motivated by his love for God and his overwhelming desire for his students to know Jesus as their Savior. In addition, he wants all of his students to succeed. He even takes

time to teach kids the game of kickball at recess, seizing the moment to teach many other valuable lessons through that favorite recess game.

Vernie would also be the first to tell you that he is only one of many outstanding servant leaders within our Lutheran schools. Our teachers and administrators see their work as a calling and not just a job. Vernie is a fine example of many Lutheran educators who share the love of Christ, the precious Gospel message, forgiveness and service to the students and families in our schools. In doing so, Vernie and his fellow teachers have the privilege to become messengers of Christ for these families.

We give thanks to God for who Vernie is and all he does for St. John and the community. We also give thanks to God for all those who serve in Lutheran schools throughout our district and Synod. Vernie's would say that he isn't deserving of such an honor, but we rejoice with this good and faithful servant God has placed in our midst. Congratulations Mr. Scheiber!

Teachers conference set for Fort Wayne

About one month before the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, hundreds of educators from across the Indiana District will gather at Concordia Lutheran High School in Fort Wayne for the annual Teachers Conference. Slated for Sept. 28–29, the conference promises to deliver a myriad of opportunities for professional development through high-profile speakers, practical breakout sessions and plenty of fellowship with like-minded educators.

Choosing Concordia Lutheran High School was a strategic decision designed to save the district some of the high costs associated with holding conferences in hotels and conference

centers. The savings will keep the event affordable for schools and offer the opportunity to invite highly regarded speakers give presentations.

The theme of the conference will be "It's *Still* All About Jesus," which is the same theme used by the LCMS in preparation Reformation anniversary. Our Lutheran schools are all about Jesus!

And all of our teachers are committed to one Spirit and one purpose — to encourage and help our students to know about the salvation they have through Jesus Christ! The 2017 Teachers Conference will help strengthen this mission of our Lutheran schools.



**REFORMATION
2017 It's *Still* All About
Jesus**