



# DISTRICT NEWS

## INDIANA

### The News is SOOOO Good!

*"Then go quickly and tell his disciples: 'He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him.' Now I have told you. So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them. 'Greetings,' he said. They came to him, clasped his feet and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid. Go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me.'" Matt. 28:7-9 (NIV)*



Rev. Daniel May  
District President

**Y**ou will never hear or tell better news than the resurrection of Jesus Christ! When the two Marys went to visit the tomb of Jesus, they anticipated just that — a tomb with Jesus sealed

inside. The news from the angel was so good that they were excited about sharing it with the disciples. They ran with fear and joy to tell what they had heard! The fear and the joy were so profound that they were more than ready to spread the news of the resurrection.

The Bible tells us that when they saw Jesus, they “clasped his feet and worshiped him.” Jesus said, “Do not be afraid. Go and tell...” That’s just what they did — go and tell — and that’s what Christians have been doing ever since. The news of the resurrection of Jesus is soooo good because it is the only news that makes forgiveness a reality, conquers death and opens heaven’s gate.

Have you ever researched the history of our faith taking root in your family? How far back can you trace the resurrection joy you celebrate? Are you a new believer — the first in your family? Or do you come from a long line of believers? When the history of you and your family and our whole generation is recalled, it is my prayer

that we will be numbered with the Marys of that first Easter!

May it be said that we share the “SOOOO Good News” far and wide, beginning in our own homes and communities. The Marys ran to tell — and we can, too — but we also have access to speedy transportation, social media and a host of other modern modes of communication. A short text message, Twitter or Facebook post to a friend or neighbor are just as effective evangelism avenues we can use today! “The News that is SOOOO Good” is at your fingertips. Now let it go!

*Rev. Daniel P. May*  
Reverend May

# LASSIE evangelism



Rev. Geoff Robinson  
Outreach Executive

**H**ow many of you remember watching “Lassie” on television in the 1960s? It was one of my favorite shows as a little boy. Lassie always showed up at the right time

to rescue someone who was in trouble. Just as the dog Lassie was instrumental in saving people needing help, we can use the acronym LASSIE as a witnessing tool to help rescue people who are in spiritual trouble. Developed by the Rev. Mark Wood, director of LCMS Witness & Outreach Ministry, and his team, LASSIE can help you become a person who shows up at just the right time in someone’s life.

In fact, that job is even more important than Lassie’s role. Here’s why. If people don’t believe in Christ Jesus, they are in real trouble. They are spiritually dead and an enemy of the true God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. If they die in this spiritual state, they will be in even worse trouble because they will spend an eternity in Hell.

The Good News is that God doesn’t want this outcome for any person. He sent His Son Jesus Christ to live perfectly under His Law in order to fulfill it for all people. The Law demands that people who sin shall die for their sins. All of us deserve to die eternally because we have all sinned. But God, in His grace, has provided us a way to live eternally in bliss and happiness with Him. That way is through Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ took the sins of all mankind upon Himself and paid the price for those sins once and for all on the Cross of Calvary. All people have been justified by Jesus’ redemptive work. But unless you know this truth and trust in it for yourself, it will do you no good. The way that you trust in Christ is by being called into faith in Christ Jesus by the Holy Spirit.

And that’s where believers come in, because the Holy Spirit calls people through the Gospel message of Christ. If people never hear it, they will never know the truth. LASSIE can help you share this message.

Remember that God is a relational God and we are relational people. The common Christian symbol of the sacrifice that God has made for us, namely the cross, shows us this truth. A cross has a vertical line. This

signifies that God comes down to us. We are individually in relationship with Him. He blesses us through that relationship. A cross also has a horizontal line. This helps us to see that we are in relationship with people. It also helps us to understand that the Good News that God has given to us should be shared by us with others in our relationships.

By taking the time to develop relationships in which we can share God’s Word, we are a blessing to others, even more than Lassie on TV!

- L** **Listen** to the person with whom you are visiting.
- A** **Ask** questions that will encourage discussion.
- S** **Seek** a point of connection.
- S** **Share** what can change people’s hearts: God’s Word.
- I** **Invite** the person to keep the conversation going.
- E** **Encourage** the person to keep thinking about the Gospel message by following up and following through.

# New year, new schools, new opportunities



**Dr. Jon Mielke**  
Executive Counselor  
for Christian Education

Many wonderful ministry opportunities for new school starts are happening in various locations throughout the Indiana District. Here, you'll find an update on a new

proposed elementary school in Gary. And be sure to read the article by Joe Mitchell (below) about expanded preschool ministry in Evansville as well.

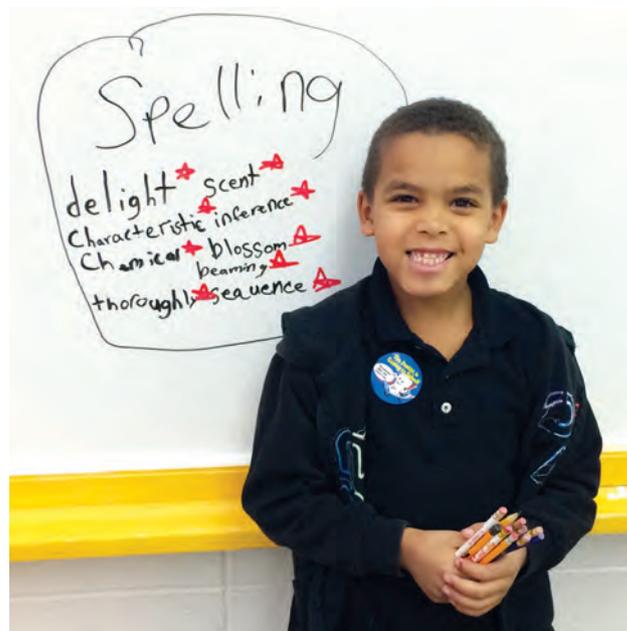
## GARY

LUMIN and the Indiana District continue to partner together to get a Lutheran elementary school started in 2016. Listed below are steps we're taking in the next few months to open a new, start-up school in this community:

- The Indiana District and LUMIN have already filed paper work with the AdvancED and LCMS offices

in Terre Haute and St. Louis for AdvancED/NLSA dual accreditation;

- LUMIN has begun a marketing strategy to advertise and publicize Lutheran-Christian education to the community of northwest Indiana;
- LUMIN and the Indiana District are engaged in the process of securing a master-site property plan, which includes survey and title work where the future site of the new Lutheran school is being considered;
- LUMIN and the Rev. John Albers, consultant, remain in a contractual arrangement to help coordinate activities on site in Gary as we move



through the next several months of further analysis.

We look forward to these new opportunities with much joy and celebration. This is a year our Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

# Feasibility study considers expanded early-childhood ministry

**By Joe Mitchell**, Development Director for Evansville Lutheran School and Chair of the Genesis Study Team

Last May, the Evansville Lutheran School Board of Christian Education, along with LCMS pastors and some parents of preschoolers, began the journey of a Genesis study to discuss and discern expanding the ministry of Lutheran preschools/daycare facilities in the Evansville area. Under the guidance of Stuart Teitz, who serves as a Genesis consultant, we have studied the demographic materials as well as spoken with existing leaders from area preschools/daycare facilities.

Our next challenge is to develop a feasibility study which will address location(s) and type of program that we will pursue — whether it is a preschool program or a full-day program with daycare and preschool. Dr. Jon Mielke will join our Genesis study team and help in the discernment process. While we are not at the point of announcing our final decision about which direction we will take, the process has been both helpful and illuminating. We have not only given new life to the direction of our school, but our association churches have formed a long-range planning committee that has given much support to the potential

expansion of the daycare/preschool ministries. In addition, we have also included pastors from some of our area non-association churches so that we hear more voices on the expansion of LCMS ministry and outreach.

It has been a most exciting time for Evansville Lutheran School. We feel blessed to be in a position look at a future of expanded and growing opportunities to serve God in our little corner of Indiana. Keep us in your prayers as we near a decision on the direction for the school and the ministry to children and their families. May we stay true to our calling to serve in Jesus' name.



# Holy Cross Lutheran School makes education dream a reality

When Tim Sutton drove by Holy Cross Lutheran School in Fort Wayne, he didn't realize what the future held for his daughter, Violet. All he knew was that something told him to stop at Holy Cross that day. But whether it was coincidence or something more, the outcome of that visit would have a lifelong impact as he met people from Holy Cross.

A single dad, Sutton knew he wanted his daughter in a private school but didn't think it was possible.

"The enrollments were closed," he says. "It was halfway through the year. But within a day after I came down here they had her enrolled." This is just one example of how Lutheran schools go the extra mile to make an education possible for families like the Suttons.

Violet's experience in the pre-kindergarten program at Holy Cross was positive, giving her the building blocks she needed for school. But when it was time for kindergarten enrollment, Sutton didn't think he could afford private school. He decided to enroll his daughter in a public school instead, but after a few days he found it wasn't a good fit for Violet.

That was when Shelly Ladwig, Holy Cross preschool director, sprang into action to make sure that Violet could return to school. "She took an active interest and went out of her way," Sutton says. "She asked me, 'How much would you like (Violet) to come to Holy Cross? I think there's something we could do.'"

This is one of the ways that the school cares for its students, by making sure they have access to quality education despite financial obstacles. With the help of the school, the Suttons were able to work out the payments and make Lutheran school a reality for Violet. That was just the beginning of Holy Cross's influence on the Sutton family.

"In kindergarten we would read a passage out of the Bible every night," Sutton says. "(The Bible) came to my house through her." That's when Sutton, who describes himself as "hesitant to accept religion," began to notice some changes not only in Violet, but also in himself.

"It started to slowly change my life," he says. "Small things, like taking care of my body, being prompt on my bills, changing my eating. I was in bad shape

before." Later in the school year, Violet talked about her desire to be baptized, and Tim decided to do the same.

In order to show support for the Suttons, classmates and staff attended the event, celebrating with the family. Janne Ross, admissions counselor at Holy Cross, adds, "It was a real treat. All the younger kids stood and sang. It was priceless. This is what Holy Cross is about."

Sutton adds, "I like the friendships she's developed here. The staff is always close-knit. It's like a family."

It's that close community that makes Holy Cross a special place for the Sutton family. Being part of the Holy Cross community has provided not only a high-quality education for Violet, but something of even greater value as well: the chance to be part of a community that supports families spiritually and relationally. Although the family's introduction to Holy Cross felt coincidental, some might say it was the plan all along.

Even Sutton admits, "It almost seems like it was meant to be."

# What's Your DNA?

*"So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God". (1 Cor. 10:31)*

**“H**ey Don and Mary, where’s the party?” Come to find out I missed it! Even though Don was in a rehab center from a fall he had taken, he and his wife still wanted to celebrate their 67<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Although they couldn’t celebrate at a reception hall, this couple wanted to be around their longtime friends as they marked this special occasion. I missed the celebration, but I was still able to share God’s Word and a prayer with this couple I’ve known for 35 years and who have been an inspiration to my wife and me. You know what? I was blessed by this shut-in visit I had made.



**Ken Schilf**  
Council of Resources

Performing human care in close proximity with Word and Sacrament is one of the six mission points Indiana District President Rev. Dan May listed in his monthly newsletter. In Luke 24: 46-48, Jesus says, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name to all nations, beginning *from Jerusalem.*” (Or should I insert *from the Indiana District?*).

Are you aware that the United States is the third largest mission field in the world? So where should we start? To be a faithful steward of God is to be people who give and share. Love is what motivated God to give us His only Son. Furthermore, Jesus’ life was one of total sacrifice. Since Christ submitted totally to His Father, how much more should we be willing to submit to our Father’s will by sharing His love? In fact, it is this very love that changes our desires from wanting to be served to wanting to serve. God didn’t give us His leftovers. He gave us His best — His Son! That’s what we needed for our salvation.

So what’s your DNA? Is it “Give until it hurts” or “How much does it really hurt to give”?

The more fully we grasp God’s great love that we’ve received, the more motivated we will become to share our treasures with Him who sent our Savior. Our attitude will become one of gratitude. And the deeper our faith and trust grows in the Lord, the greater our response will be in the generous giving of our time and treasures to benefit God’s Kingdom in the district, across the nation and around the world.

## March Prayer List

### Week of March 7

- > Rocky Mountain District
- > Circuit 12
- > Christ, Anderson
- > Emanuel, Arcadia
- > St. Peter, Huntington
- > Our Shepherd, Kokomo
- > Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Kokomo
- > Zion, Kokomo
- > Mission: Kenya Compassionate Care, Emanuel, New Haven
- > RSO: Camp Lutherhaven, Albion

### Week of March 14

- > SELC District
- > Circuit 23
- > Shepherd of the Hills, Georgetown
- > St. John, Lanesville
- > Concordia, Louisville
- > Redeemer, Louisville
- > Grace, New Albany
- > Epiphany, New Salisbury
- > Risen Lord, Taylorsville
- > Mission: TIM Support, First Timothy/Messiah, Indianapolis
- > RSO: Cedar Lake Lodge, LaGrange, Ky.

### Week of March 21

- > South Dakota District
- > Circuit 2
- > Trinity, Crown Point
- > Faith, DeMotte
- > Faith, Gary
- > Good Shepherd, Gary
- > Our Saviour, Gary
- > St. John, Gary
- > Mission: African American, First Timothy/Messiah, Indianapolis
- > RSO: Cross Connections, Fort Wayne

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



## EVENTS

### TELL US YOUR NEWS!

Do you have exciting news you'd like to see published in the Indiana District *Lutheran Witness* supplement? We love to hear updates, news and see photos from around our district! If so, be sure to send in your submissions, especially if you enjoy writing or taking photos at church events.

### The deadline for the May issue of The Lutheran Witness is March 10.

Your stories and photos are welcomed and most appreciated.  
Please send all submissions to Jan Koenig via email 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 have a minimum resolution of 300 dpi.

### March Prayer List

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

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#### Week of March 28

- > South Wisconsin District
- > Circuit 10
- > Emmanuel (Soest), Fort Wayne
- > St. John (Flatrock), Monroeville
- > Bethlehem (Tocsin), Ossian
- > New Hope, Ossian
- > Faith, Roanoke
- > Prince of Peace, Hartford City
- > Mission: Global/Local Foreign Mission, Concordia, Fort Wayne
- > RSO: Hands of Mercy, Fort Wayne

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### MARCH

**1**  
Deadline for call documents and vicarage applications to be in the district president's office for spring placement

### APRIL

**8-10**  
Spring Confirmation Retreat, CTS, for more information email [Retreats@ctsfw.edu](mailto:Retreats@ctsfw.edu) or call 260-452-2204

**22**

Senior Adult Festival  
*Immanuel, Seymour*

**23**

Senior Adult Festival  
*Holy Cross, Fort Wayne*

**25**

Vicarage Assignments/Candidate Placement services in St. Louis

**26**

Vicarage/Deaconess Internship Assignments, CTS

**27**

Candidate Placement Service, CTS

### MAY

**2-4**

Southern Pastors Conference  
*Camp Lakeview*

**9-11**

Northern Pastors Conference

**19**

Deaconess Placement, CTS

**20**

Graduation, CTS

### JUNE

**24-26**

Indiana District LWML Convention  
*Bloomington*

### JULY

**8-14**

LCMS Convention  
*Milwaukee, Wis.*

**16-20**

LCMS National Youth Gathering  
*New Orleans*

# MARCH BIRTHDAYS

March 1  
Neal Schueler, 90, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne  
Geneva Simpson, 90, St. Paul's, Evansville

March 2  
Paul Jacob, 90, Carmel

March 3  
Elda Albers, 96, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

March 4  
Dorothy Koeneman, 90, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

March 5  
Bob Paulsen, 90, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne  
Walter Somers, 90, Trinity, Darmstadt

March 6  
Flo Kleitz, 94, Our Redeemer, Evansville

March 7  
Helen Bultemeier, 92, St. Paul (Preble), Decatur

March 9  
Hazel Resner, 95, Calvary, Indianapolis

March 11  
Charlotte Kysar, 93, Immanuel, Seymour  
Lois Freese, 90, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne  
Norma Thomas, 90, Immanuel, Seymour

March 12  
Jean Timmons, 90, Our Redeemer, Evansville

March 14  
Robert Rose, 93, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne  
Rev. Marvin Rastl, 92, St. Paul's, Fort Wayne

March 16  
Harold Kysar, 95, Immanuel, Seymour  
John Kohlmeyer, 93, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne  
Lavon Graft, 92, Immanuel, Avilla

March 17  
Mildred Bringwald, 99, St. John, Vincennes

March 22  
Marcie Kohlmeyer, 93, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne  
Wilma Kracht, 91, Zion, New Palestine

March 25  
Don Bruick, 94, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

March 26  
Frank Kelly, 90, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

March 27  
Gilbert Kahre, 94, Trinity, Darmstadt  
Ellis Clayton, 90, St. Paul's, Evansville  
Margaret Rice, 90, St. John (Bingen), Decatur

March 31  
Verna Droege, 98, Grace, New Albany  
Helen Graf, 94, Immanuel, Seymour  
Verna Roesener, 92, Zion, New Palestine

JAN. 8  
Marie Bright, 92, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

JAN. 9  
Richard Etzler, 90, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

JAN. 14  
Betty Reinking, 92, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

JAN. 22  
Eugene Dettmer, 91, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

JAN. 29  
Ann Johnston, 95, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

FEB. 5  
Winifred Fritz, 94, Emmaus, Fort Wayne

FEB. 18  
Clara Adair, 97, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

FEB. 22  
**Mildred Hallow, 101, St. Peter's, Brownstown**

FEB. 23  
Virginia Hart, 93, St. James, Lafayette

FEB. 25  
Susan Ringer, 91, St. Peter's, Brownstown

FEB. 28  
Madaline Eggold, 92, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

## Belated Birthdays

JAN. 3  
Leona Haenftling, 93, Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

# MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

MARCh 2  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fischer, 53  
Grace, New Albany

March 5  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Moeller, 50  
St. John, Indianapolis

March 6  
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Traub, 51  
Immanuel, Seymour

March 7  
Mr. and Mrs. James McCoy, 56, Grace, Muncie  
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Herman, 52  
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne  
Mr. and Mrs. John Allman, 50  
Immanuel, Seymour

MARCH 9  
Mr. and Mrs. Loren Grabner, 59  
St. John, Monroeville  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob LaLonde, 59  
Heritage, Valparaiso

MARCH 11  
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Rentsch, 55  
Zion, New Palestine

MARCH 12  
Mr. and Mrs. Van DePriest, 62  
St. Paul's, Evansville

MARCH 13  
Mr. and Mrs. Tom Kanning, 51  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

MARCH 14  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sheets, 63  
St. John, Indianapolis

MARCH 16  
Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Smith, 65, Zion, Wabash  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold (Art) Messer, 59  
Calvary, Indianapolis

MARCH 21  
Mr. and Mrs. Heinz Bokel, 57  
Emmaus, Fort Wayne

MARCH 25  
Mr. and Mrs. Duane Brown, 55  
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne  
Mr. and Mrs. Harold Weitgenant, 55  
St. Peter, North Judson

MARCH 29  
Mr. and Mrs. Gene Emily, 52  
Immanuel, Seymour  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis Mensendiek, 52  
St. John's, White Creek

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Robertson, 52  
Zion, New Palestine

MARCH 30  
Mr. and Mrs. Allen Felt, 64  
St. John, Monroeville  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Runge, 53  
Immanuel, Seymour

## Belated Anniversaries

JAN. 2  
Mr. and Mrs. Herb Stiltz, 63  
St. John's, White Creek

JAN. 5  
Mr. and Mrs. Charles French, 57

Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

JAN. 8  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve Melcher, 50  
Bethlehem, Fort Wayne

JAN. 31  
Mr. and Mrs. Wallace Prentice, 63  
Immanuel, Avilla

FEB. 1  
Mr. and Mrs. C. Kent Kanning, 58  
Emmaus, Fort Wayne

FEB. 3  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Millman, 54  
St. Peter's, Brownstown

FEB. 8  
Mr. and Mrs. Monteal Lepper, 52  
Immanuel, Avilla

FEB. 10  
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Love, 57  
St. James, Lafayette

FEB. 13  
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Strietelmeier, 56  
St. John's, White Creek

FEB. 14  
Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Grate, 57  
Immanuel, Avilla

FEB. 20  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Clark, 56  
St. James, Lafayette

FEB. 27  
Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Allen, 53  
St. James, Lafayette

# Welcome, Pastor Krupski!

*Gift planning counselor Joins LCMS Foundation*

**O**n Aug. 1, the Rev. Philip Krupski began service in the Indiana District as a gift planning counselor for the LCMS Foundation.



What is gift planning, you might ask? Good question. While all gifts are planned, “gift planning” is a focus on helping faithful Christians within the LCMS to thoughtfully put a plan together, managing all the gifts

from the Lord accumulated throughout a lifetime.

Each plan is focused on the joint goals of caring for family and generously supporting the Lord’s ministry, the passion for which the Lord has placed upon our hearts since baptism. Developing this kind of plan is one of the most significant stewardship activities a Christian can complete. Unfortunately, many people are uncomfortable in putting this kind of plan together, intimidated by

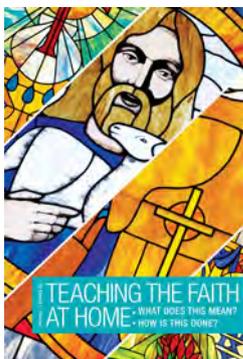
contemplating their own mortality. However, in light of eternal life connected to Christ’s resurrection, we can set that fear aside.

With the help of a gift planning counselor, we can navigate through the joyful journey of putting all the pieces together so that a great peace settles, knowing that we are fulfilling God’s will for us.

**If you would like to explore gift planning further, contact Krupski at 317-840-3202 or philip.krupski@lfnd.org. Good stewardship is a key to making sure that generations after us know Jesus as our Savior.**

## Keeping kids connected to church

**C**ongregations commonly struggle with the question, “How do we keep kids and families connected to the church after the children complete confirmation?” In *Teaching the Faith at Home: What Does This Mean? How Is This Done?*, author Dr. David Rueter asserts that the key to keeping families connected to the church is catechesis grounded in the home.



*Teaching the Faith at Home* provides a historical account of catechism instruction. Rueter will take you step by step through the chief parts of the catechism, giving practical suggestions on how families can teach the faith at home.

### **Praise for *Teaching the Faith at Home***

“*Teaching the Faith at Home* will effectively equip and encourage church workers and parents alike as they work hand-in-hand to ‘train up a child’ (Prov. 22:6). In this excellent resource, which is both engaging and practical, author David L. Rueter provides an eye-opening approach to confirmation instruction—a philosophy of ministry

that may be fundamental to building and maintaining a viable ‘catechesis culture’ in the church and its families today!”

**Deb Burma, youth ministry leader and author**

“This is an excellent, reader-friendly book, championing the cause of lifelong learning and lifespan catechesis. Rueter recognizes the responsibility of the whole

church for raising disciples. He makes the case that catechesis is something church and family do together. Anyone concerned about teaching the faith to children, youth, and adults through the entire span of life will find plenty to chew on.”

**Rev. Dr. Terry Dittmer, senior director, LCMS Youth Ministry**

“Dr. Rueter has combined his experience as an educator in the congregation and university with thorough research and insight to produce a text that explains catechetical instruction and equips the reader to realize its benefits. The history, doctrine, wisdom, and practical means of providing catechetical instruction contained in *Teaching the Faith at Home* make it a greatly needed resource for Christianity.”

**Michael Eschelbach, professor of Theology, Concordia University Irvine, Calif.**

*Teaching the Faith at Home* is available for purchase at [cph.org](http://cph.org). For more information, visit [cph.org/teachingthefaith](http://cph.org/teachingthefaith) or contact Lindsey Martie, CPH Public Relations, at 314-268-1303 or [Lindsey.Martie@cph.org](mailto:Lindsey.Martie@cph.org).



*Blessed Easter to all in the Indiana District*