



DISTRICT NEWS

INDIANA



“With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”

Mark 4:30-32

As I travel throughout the Indiana District, I see congregations of various sizes and types. We have small, medium and large congregations, and we have urban, suburban and rural congregations. The variety God has given is quite interesting and exciting!



Rev. Daniel May
District President

Today we are thinking about those congregations that all started out as small “mustard seeds” and are now large. When God produces large congregations, it reminds me of the mustard seed miracle! God’s gift of a large congregation carries with it large responsibilities and large opportunities.

Our large Lutheran churches are quite different than the usual “big box” churches that teach a more generic theology. Our large congregations strive to be faithful to our confession as they minister to many people and with significant staff.

Many of our large congregations operate Lutheran day schools and/or offer a variety of ministry opportunities for people of all ages.

Pastors called to serve in large congregations learn to delegate, administer and work at a heavy pace. The intimate relationships that pastors enjoy are more challenging when they

are serving many hundreds of people. Time with staff becomes critical as you encourage and help them — associates, teachers, DCEs, deaconesses, support, lay leaders, etc. — see, understand and share in the work of a large mission field.

A servant mentality is critical for all members of a large staff as everyone celebrates the gifts God has given to each staff member and humbly realizes that you need each other working in harmony to be most effective.

The workload in a large congregation is significant, but the work itself is the same. They gather around Word and Sacrament, preach Law and Gospel and are critical parts of the Church at-large. The joys and blessings of serving a large flock are also great!

We partner together with congregations of all sizes to do together what none of us can do alone. May God bless our large congregations!

Joys and challenges of a larger congregation

By Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne

What are the joys of a larger congregation? Lots of people! What are the challenges of a larger congregation? Lots of people!

Lots of people mean lots of worship opportunities. What joy to have a rich variety of worship services, with the blessing of music ranging from J. S. Bach to Lincoln Brewster. What a challenge to know everybody with whom we share the living Christ!

Lots of people involve lots of “moving parts” in making decisions and taking action. What joy to have a staff of gifted and consecrated professionals! What a challenge to orchestrate their activities, so that both they and our congregation

are equally blessed and gifted laity achieve a synergy where the whole becomes greater than the sum of its parts!

Lots of people call for lots of program offerings. What joy to have a thriving Christian day school blessed with more than 25 percent of its student body coming from unchurched or nominally-churched homes! What a challenge to serve families with vastly different levels of Christian commitment!

Space limits discussion of the joys and challenges of other programs that bring Christ to our neighborhood, those with special needs, our community and world and our own parishioners of all ages.

Sometimes it all seems overwhelming. We dare never forget that “our

sufficiency is from God” (2 Cor. 3:5).

Dr. Tim Keller captures the joys and challenges of different sizes of congregations in an excellent 15-page booklet titled *Leadership and Church Size Dynamics* (you can find it readily on the internet). His basic premise?:

“A church’s functional style, its strengths and weaknesses, and the roles of its lay and staff leaders will change dramatically as its size changes.”

Good insights for reading and discussion!

God be praised for congregations of all sizes where His beloved people faithfully, creatively, courageously and lavishly proclaim His gift of salvation in Jesus Christ!





In thankful celebration, we give praise!

Lutheran schools throughout the **Indiana District** are blessed to have excellent principals, preschool directors and teachers. When one of our colleagues receives recognition, we celebrate as a team, giving thanks and praise to our loving Heavenly Father for their gifts and their ministry.

The Indiana District honors two individuals: **Mark Muehl**, executive director of The Lutheran Schools Partnership in Fort Wayne, and **Sue Hord**, early-childhood director and teacher at Immanuel Preschool in Valparaiso.

Muehl was selected by the Lutheran Education Association's (LEA) Board of Directors to receive LEA's top honor, the 2016 *Christus Magister* award. Since 1965, this most prestigious award has been presented to Lutheran educators who have made significant contributions to Lutheran education.

Muehl previously served as a principal and teacher in Indiana and Illinois schools. He has also led large vacation Bible school programs, seniors' ministry, Bible studies and adult daycare. He is president of the Indiana Non-Public School Association and serves on the Concordia University Chicago Board of Regents.

Muehl earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in education, specializing in religion and mathematics, and a Bachelor of Arts degree in director of Christian education. Both degrees are from Concordia University Chicago.

In support of his nomination, one colleague said, "You will not find a more dedicated servant-leader; Mark

advocates for the unique needs of educators and administration."

Muehl is also the first executive director of The Lutheran Schools Partnership. He works directly with school administrators, lay leadership and pastoral staff to bring services to 18 vastly different schools, providing opportunity for collaboration and support.

Hord was named 2016 LEA Distinguished Lutheran Early Childhood Administrator. She has served Immanuel for more than 23 years.

Hord earned Bachelor and Master of Science degrees in education from Valparaiso University. In 2003, she was honored for helping start Hilltop Neighborhood House, a nonprofit childcare ministry. Hord is also active in the Indiana District Early Childhood Cabinet.

In support of Hord's nomination, her pastor said, "Sue is an exemplary church worker in every way. She works tirelessly to ensure that our preschoolers grow in faith and know the story of Jesus. She administers our preschool with firmness and compassion. She expects excellence in those she oversees, and, even more so of herself. She relates to parents well and is the best evangelist on our entire staff."

One parent wrote, "Under Sue's leadership, she and her staff have written a comprehensive curriculum that meets the needs of all students. As a parent

of two children who have gone through the program, I was very impressed by the teaching philosophy. Mrs. Hord has worked to create Bible lessons that are taught with a series of props that really resonate with young students. Sue has built a program that embraces working together with parents and families as well as connecting them to the church."

A colleague commented, "The fact that Sue relies on her faith to lead her life is apparent. In Sue's interactions with others, you can see daily examples of her loving kindness, forgiveness and acts of grace given by God. She has stepped in many times to help those in need, whether in preschool, kindergarten through eighth grade or with church families. Sue's gentleness and caring manner have appealed to many individuals who seek her out when in need of assistance or guidance. She truly leads by example."

Hord describes herself and her mission as "a redeemed child of God, living a life of ongoing sanctification, radical discipleship and sacrificial service to my family, my church and my community."

With thankful hearts to God and to both Mark and Sue, it is a privilege to offer these words of affirmation.

It is the prayer of the Indiana District that God will continue to bless both of you and your future service to Jesus, our Lord and Savior!

Congratulations to the newly installed!

The Rev. John Stebbins was installed as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, Louisville.

Stebbins, who recently graduated from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, was ordained on June 26 in his home congregation, First, Holyoke, Mass. Participating in the installation service were, from left, (front row) the Revs. Mark Whitsett, Henry Lopnow, Ron Richeson, Stebbins, Charles Fischer, Mark Darnstaedt; (back row) Tom Elbert, John Fraiser and Charles Fausel.



St. Peter Lutheran Church, Huntington, welcomed the Rev. Timothy Lorenz as its new pastor on July 31.

Participants in the installation were, from left, the Revs. Barry Akers, Our Redeemer, Kokomo; Marvin Lorenz (Timothy's father); William Allison, Our Redeemer, Kokomo and circuit visitor; Lorenz; William Lahrman, St. James, Marion; and Daniel Mackey, Grace, Muncie.



The Rev. Dr. Charles (Chad) Foster, center, was installed as the newest member of the St. Peter's, Columbus, clergy staff on July 10. Foster joins the Revs. Mark Teike, left, and Patrick Galligar.

Giving water or wine?

There's an old story that a pastor friend of mine shared about a wealthy king who was good, kind and just to his people. His son, the prince, was getting married and the king wanted this to be the most splendid wedding. Instead of bringing costly gifts for the prince and his bride, the king simply asked that those who were attending the wedding bring a jar of their best wine and they would be poured together into a huge urn. This wine would be the "best of the best" and served to all of the guests.

One of the guests who was invited was rather selfish and greedy and thought of a plan to attend the wedding without bringing a jar of wine. He decided to bring a jar of pure water and pour it into the urn with all of the wine from the other guests. No one would be able to tell that it was just water when it was all mixed together.

On the day of the wedding, each poured his jug of wine into the urn. When it was his turn, the selfish and greedy guest quickly poured in his jar of water and sat down. When all the jars of wine had been emptied into the urn, the king asked that the wine be scooped into chalices for the wedding party and guests, and he made a wonderful toast to the bride and groom. Then he took a sip of the wine and suddenly spit it out. It was pure water! Every guest had thought that if he or she brought water instead of wine, it wouldn't be noticed when mixed with all of the other guests' wine. The king was so furious that he sent all of the guests home!

In the New Testament, the Kingdom of God is often compared to a feast and being a part of a Christian congregation is similar to being invited to attend. What have you brought to your good, kind, just King for all that He has done for you? Is your jar full of the best you have to offer ... or cheap stuff ... or even pure water? If everyone thinks that everybody else will bring the "good stuff" and their jar of pure water won't be noticed, then there will always be a shortage of what is needed. Every person is important in God's eyes, and the contribution of every person is also important, even in a large congregation! If everybody brings the best they have, then what we will have to offer together will be the very best — and nothing will be watered down.

Our gracious Lord gives us food and clothing, jobs and family, cars and homes. But just as importantly, He also gives us a church where we can come each week to hear God's Word. Here, our sins are forgiven, our faith is strengthened, our Christian walk is encouraged, our questions about life are answered and our souls are fed in the Lord's Supper. Blessings and help are ladled out for you in times of crisis, suffering, tragedy and joy. When in need of a baptism, confirmation, wedding, funeral, counseling, hospital visit or Christian education, your ladle is drawing out the life-giving "wine" of Christ's Church.

What are you personally contributing to the ministry of your congregation? Good wine ... or water? It *does* make a difference. I pray you don't join a large congregation to be "lost" in the numbers. What *you* do will be noticed — one way or another. Let *every one* of us bring to our Heavenly King the best we have to offer!



Ken Schilf
Council of Resources



October Prayer List

Week of October 3

- > New Jersey District
- > Circuit 8
- > Trinity (Decatur Rd.), Fort Wayne
- > Zion, Fort Wayne
- > Aboite, Fort Wayne
- > New Life, Fort Wayne
- > Southwest, Fort Wayne
- > **Mission:** Hispanic Mission Society, Immanuel, Avilla
- > **RSO:** Lutheran Social Services, Fort Wayne

Week of October 10

- > North Wisconsin District
- > Circuit 13
- > Trinity, Indianapolis
- > Zion, New Palestine
- > Holy Cross, Indianapolis
- > Christ, Noblesville
- > Lord of Life, Westfield
- > Epiphany, Westfield
- > **Mission:** Gloria Dei Hispanic Mission, Valparaiso
- > **RSO:** Lutheran Special Ed Ministries, Fort Wayne

Week of October 17

- > Northern Illinois District
- > Circuit 19
- > St. John, Aurora
- > Bethany, Connersville
- > St. Paul, Cross Plains
- > Trinity, Dillsboro
- > St. John, Farmers Retreat
- > **Mission:** African Immigrants, Concordia, Louisville
- > **RSO:** Siberian Lutheran Mission Society

Week of October 24

- > Northwest 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:** Tamil Indian Mission, Calvary, Indianapolis
- > **Other Ministry:** Valparaiso University

Week of October 31

- > Ohio 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:** Burmese, Karen Ministry, New Life, Fort Wayne
- > **RSO:** Wittenburg Village, Crown Point

EVENTS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER

- 1**
Pre-retirement Workshop for Called Workers, *Indiana District Office*
- 2**
Vantage Point Retreat, *Camp Lutherhaven*
- 4**
Vantage Point Retreat, *Camp Lutherhaven*
- 5-7**
re:inspire — Best Practices for Ministry Heartland, *Carmel*
- 13-15**
LEA Convocation
- 16**
Vantage Point Retreat, *Camp Lutherhaven*
- 20**
Vantage Point Retreat, *Camp Lutherhaven*

24-26
Fall Pastors' Conference, *Crowne Plaza Indianapolis Airport*

25-26
Fall DCE Conference

NOVEMBER

2-6
Luther Hostel 2016, *Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne*

3-5
National Rural and Small Town Mission Conference, *Wichita, Kansas*

3-5
Good Shepherd Institute Conference 2016, *Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne*

11-13
Indiana District Youth Gathering, *Columbus, Indiana*

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

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

The deadline for the December issue of The Lutheran Witness is Oct. 10.

Your stories and photos are welcomed and most appreciated. Please send all submissions to Jan Koenig at jan.koenig@in.lcms.org or mail to:

**Lutheran Witness Editor
LCMS Indiana District
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.

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

- OCTOBER 1**
Ann Wickizier, 98
St. Peter, North Judson
Annabelle Matson, 93
Immanuel, Avilla
- OCTOBER 2**
Lillian Schlensker, 92
Trinity, Darmstadt
Eloise Elam, 94, St. Paul's, Evansville
- OCTOBER 4**
Mardella Gerbers, 91
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
- OCTOBER 5**
Juanita Schaber, 92
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
- OCTOBER 6**
Lyman Smith, 92, Zion, Wabash
- OCTOBER 8**
Mary Bear, 93, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
- OCTOBER 9**
Margaret Harmeyer, 96
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
Charles Freudenberg, 91
Our Redeemer, Evansville
- OCTOBER 10**
Harold Kleeman, 90, Zion, Garrett
Gerald Kleeman, 90, Zion, Garrett

- OCTOBER 11**
Dorothy Meyer, 93
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne
Ervin Stuckwisch, 90
Immanuel, Seymour
- OCTOBER 12**
Mae Ellen Schneider, 91
Immanuel, Seymour
Lucile Stoppenhagen, 91
Zion, Friedheim
- OCTOBER 14**
Harold Dodge, 99, St. James, Reynolds
- OCTOBER 15**
Edna Hallow, 95, Immanuel, Seymour
Edna Kaufman, 93
Immanuel, Seymour
Donald Foth, 91, St. James, Lafayette
- OCTOBER 16**
Leola Reinoehl, 90, Zion, Garrett
Donald W. Rothkopf, 91
Calvary, Indianapolis
- OCTOBER 18**
Bernita Amm, 95
St. Peter, North Judson
Fred Graft, 90, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
- OCTOBER 19**
Bob Woempner, 94
Calvary, Indianapolis

- Bernice Rodenbeck, 91
St. Paul's, Fort Wayne
Ludella Conrad, 90, Zion, Friedheim
- OCTOBER 21**
Cal Schultz, 96
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne
Dick Wick, 93, Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
- OCTOBER 22**
Ruth Malich, 94
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
- OCTOBER 23**
Hilda Bennett, 100
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne
Lillian Long, 94, St. James, Lafayette
- OCTOBER 24**
Lois Frede, 90, Emmanuel, Fort Wayne
- OCTOBER 27**
Marie Keith, 98
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne
- OCTOBER 28**
Louise Brown, 96
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
Helen Schleibaum, 93
Immanuel, Seymour
Kenneth Lang, 91
Trinity Memorial, Merrillville
Dorothy Mills, 90
Our Redeemer, Evansville

- OCTOBER 29**
Helen Niebrugge, 99, Trinity, Dillsboro
Lillie Girton, 93, St. John, Indianapolis
Bill Goeglein, 91
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
- OCTOBER 30**
Blanche Madsen, 94
St. Peter, North Judson
Joan Hoffman, 90, Zion, Decatur

Belated Birthdays

- JULY 11**
Jean Morris, 91, Immanuel, Seymour
- JULY 30**
Helen Wehmiller, 91
Immanuel, Seymour
- SEPTEMBER 3**
Rosemary Wesselman, 91
St. John, Indianapolis
- SEPTEMBER 16**
Dewey Kirkpatrick, 91
Redeemer, Seymour
Mildred Kontak, 91
St. John, Indianapolis
- SEPTEMBER 21**
Doris Graessle, 96
Redeemer, Seymour
- SEPTEMBER 30**
Charlie Walker, 96
Our Redeemer, Evansville

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER 1

Mr. and Mrs. James Hilt, 50
St. John, Indianapolis
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Niedenthal, 50
St. John, Indianapolis

OCTOBER 2

Mr. and Mrs. Dallas Kreinhagen, 61
St. John's, White Creek
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Giles, 51
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Wentz, 51
Immanuel, Seymour

OCTOBER 3

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Arney, 61
St. Matthew's, Delphi
Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Fred, 51
Calvary, Indianapolis

OCTOBER 4

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hegerfeld, 64
St. John, Monroeville
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Hill, 52, Good
Shepherd, Franklin

OCTOBER 5

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Distler, 62
Concordia, Greenwood

OCTOBER 6

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Shireman, 60
Grace, New Albany
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Crouse, 53
St. James, Lafayette

OCTOBER 7

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Caruso, 56
St. John, Indianapolis.
Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Gallmeyer, 54
St. Paul (Preble), Decatur

OCTOBER 10

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dodge, 77
St. James, Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Wohlschlegel, 64
Faith, Louisville
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Handschy, 58
Calvary, Indianapolis
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Braukhoff, 52
St. Paul's, Evansville

OCTOBER 11

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Diederich, 64
Zion, Garrett
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Weihe, 52
Immanuel, Seymour

OCTOBER 12

Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Bruick, 60
St. Paul's, Fort Wayne
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Myers, 59
St. John, Indianapolis
Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wheeler, 58
Zion, New Palestine

OCTOBER 13

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Conrad, 60
Trinity (Decatur Rd.), Fort Wayne

OCTOBER 14

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Ruemler, 61
St. James, Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Ross Maschino, 56
Immanuel, Seymour

OCTOBER 15

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Wallace, 61
St. Peter, North Judson
Mr. and Mrs. Rex Hatfield, 56
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Korff, 56
Trinity, Darmstadt

OCTOBER 16

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Bosse, 62
Our Redeemer, Evansville
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Springer, 51
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

OCTOBER 17

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Niederbaumer, 52, Immanuel, Seymour
Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Peters, 52
St. John's, White Creek

OCTOBER 18

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Teulker, 63
St. Peter's, Brownstown
Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Christopher, 57
Emanuel, Dudleytown

OCTOBER 19

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Elmer, 59
St. Peter's, Brownstown
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Murphy, 53
St. Paul's, Fort Wayne

OCTOBER 20

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Goebel, 54
Grace, New Albany

OCTOBER 21

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Rowe, 55
Concordia, Louisville
Mr. and Mrs. Farrell Sullivan, 55
Immanuel, Seymour
Mr. and Mrs. Carl Nicol, 54
Zion, New Peseien

OCTOBER 22

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Morgan, 67
St. Paul's, Evansville
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Schaber, 67
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Stilger, 67
Shepherd of the Hills, Georgetown
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Walton, 66
St. Matthew's, Delphi
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Polley, 61
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne
Mr. and Mrs. Roger Stafford, 50
Immanuel, Avilla

OCTOBER 23

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Hoffman, 61
St. John, Monroeville
Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Conrad, 56
Trinity (Decatur Rd.), Fort Wayne
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Blank, 51
St. John, Lanesville

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Cunningham, 51
Emanuel, Dudleytown
Mr. and Mrs. Larry Graves, 51
Immanuel, Avilla
Mr. and Mrs. George Stout, 51
St. Paul's, Fort Wayne

OCTOBER 24

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Miller, 63
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne
Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Conrad, 57
St. John, Lanesville
Mr. and Mrs. Ron Bultemeier, 51
Zion, Friedheim

OCTOBER 25

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bieberich, 65
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne
Mr. and Mrs. David Baxter, Jr., 53
Redeemer, Seymour
Mr. and Mrs. William Ferguson, 52
Redeemer, Seymour

OCTOBER 26

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Kehlbeck, 64
Calvary, Indianapolis
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Meyer, 58
St. John's, White Creek

OCTOBER 28

Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Heid, 66
Calvary, Indianapolis
Mr. and Mrs. David Wade, 55
Holy Cross, Fort Wayne

OCTOBER 29

Mr. and Mrs. James Paul, 61
Zion, Wabash
Mr. and Mrs. Ernst Roehm, 60
Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

Belated Anniversaries

JULY 2

Mr. and Mrs. William Marsh, 50
Immanuel, Seymour

JULY 3

Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Sierp, 68
Immanuel, Seymour
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Emily, 50
Immanuel, Seymour

JULY 15

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Terkhorn, 66
Immanuel, Seymour

JULY 24

Mr. and Mrs. Rabel Newkirk, 61
Immanuel, Seymour

JULY 28

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Christopher, 53
Immanuel, Seymour

AUGUST 1

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald "Puck" Blevins, 62, Redeemer, Seymour

AUGUST 2

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kahre, 65
Our Redeemer, Evansville

AUGUST 9

Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Rebber, 63
Redeemer, Seymour

AUGUST 14

Mr. and Mrs. John Wittenbraker, 62
Our Redeemer, Evansville
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wiist, 50
Our Redeemer, Evansville

AUGUST 16

Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Acton, 58
Redeemer, Seymour

AUGUST 19

Mr. and Mrs. Lou Wittmer, 60
Our Redeemer, Evansville
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Wessel, 54
Redeemer, Seymour

AUGUST 22

Mr. and Mrs. Mell Welborn, 52
Our Redeemer, Evansville

AUGUST 28

Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Kloeker, 56
Redeemer, Seymour
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Schmielau, 51
Redeemer, Seymour

AUGUST 30

Mr. and Mrs. Don Martinson, 57
Our Redeemer, Evansville

SEPTEMBER 2

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Eckelman, 55
St. James, Lafayette

SEPTEMBER 5

Mr. and Mrs. Buth Ruddick, 51
Redeemer, Seymour

SEPTEMBER 8

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Mattos, 55
St. James, Reynolds
Mr. and Mrs. Montie Prince, 53
Redeemer, Seymour

SEPTEMBER 13

Mr. and Mrs. William Toborg, 63
Redeemer, Seymour

SEPTEMBER 15

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Meyer, 60
St. James, Lafayette

SEPTEMBER 19

Mr. and Mrs. Stefan Anderson, 57
Grace, Muncie

SEPTEMBER 20

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Phillips, 52
Our Redeemer, Evansville

SEPTEMBER 25

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Sterrett, 51
St. James, Lafayette

SEPTEMBER 26

Mr. and Mrs. William Steele, 52
St. James, Lafayette

Christian education is **alive and well!**

The Indiana District has a rich history of mission work and Christian instruction afforded to children and young adults through Lutheran schools, DCE ministry and Bible studies made possible through Sunday schools as well as junior and senior youth ministry.

With great excitement, I take this opportunity to share with you some of the mission work that congregations with schools around the Indiana District are doing together.



Dr. Jon Mielke
Executive Counselor
for Christian Education

EVANSVILLE CIRCUIT

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Messiah Lutheran Church and St. Paul Lutheran Church are currently engaged in a Genesis study. The purpose of the study is to

gather information for potential need and location of future early childhood centers in the Evansville area.

Stu Tietz, LCMS-assigned consultant, is working with pastors and members of these congregations to develop a case statement, determine dates for on-site visits for focus groups and provide guidance as we progress through the Genesis study. The group has met several times during the past winter and spring and will continue to meet this fall. The Indiana District also lends guidance and support through the Education office.

TRINITY, DARMSTADT

Trinity Lutheran Church is also engaged in a Genesis study to explore the possibility of starting a preschool program.

Tietz is serving as their Genesis consultant as well. The education office of the Indiana District is also providing help and encouragement to Trinity.

ASCENSION, GARY

It is with humble hearts that the Indiana District and Lutheran Urban Mission Initiative Inc. (LUMIN) have made the decision to postpone the opening of Ascension Lutheran School for the 2016-17 academic year

We are extremely grateful for the progress made through the efforts of many organizations and individuals to bring us this far.

We have made a lot of progress. Ascension is an established school that has been recognized by the Indiana Department of Education as an Indiana Choice school. We have a principal working hard with LUMIN to prepare curriculum and facilities.

In addition, we will continue to meet people and engage the community. The only thing lacking is enough *students* to make it feasible to open at this time.

Despite this setback, we are excited and pleased to announce that our work has only just begun. Our commitment to Ascension has not wavered! With the donations received and the willing efforts of so many, we have continued with remodeling and equipping the facilities into the classrooms necessary to foster an excellent learning environment for the children of the Gary area.

We will continue to “make our face known” in the community and build relationships that we pray will bring

children (and their parents) to a learning community filled with God’s message of grace, mercy and love.

Please join us in continuing to prepare for the potential opening of Ascension Lutheran School, Gary, in the fall of 2017. Your prayers and financial support are much appreciated.

CHRIST, BROWNSBURG; MESSIAH, INDIANAPOLIS; AND OUR SHEPHERD, AVON

Back in the winter of 2016, pastors and leaders from these three congregations met with me to discuss the possibility of working together to provide Christian education to multiple age groups, infants through young adults.

Pastors, principals, early-childhood directors and lay leaders highlighted the strengths of their ministries, possible future plans that could enhance their respective ministries and how to better use their facilities to serve families and children.

As we move forward together, it will be exciting to see what the Lord has planned for these congregations in Christian education.



The Indiana District does indeed place a huge emphasis on ways to continue the proclamation of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Christian education through Lutheran congregations with schools is just a way.

May God continue to bless the ministry of these congregations and those that serve in these congregations and schools!