



# English District of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

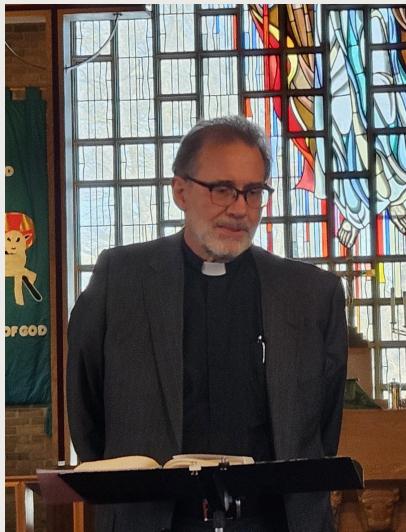
*Living Our Baptized Life in Christ*  
Galatians 2:20

## Servant to Servant

Greetings!

February 6, 2026

### 30 Years in Ministry



The congregation of Good Shepherd Evangelical Lutheran Church, Toledo, OH, recently honored Rev. Bradford Scott upon his retirement. Pastor Scott served Good Shepherd for thirty years. Several pastors joined in the congregational retirement party and festivities honoring this wonderfully faithful under-shepherd of the Lord Jesus Christ.



## Divine Call

### Call Accepted

The Rev. Colton J. LaMay has accepted the Divine Call to serve as Sole Pastor of Gethsemane, Windsor, ON, Canada.

## March for Life 2026 - West Coast



Pastor Jacob Swenson and the congregation of [West Portal Lutheran Church, San Francisco, CA](#), did a wonderful job hosting the Pre-Walk Gathering for this year's West Coast March for Life. They provided a place to fellowship, enjoy coffee and snacks, sing (with Pastor Swenson's wife Faith playing the piano), pray, and receive God's blessing before embarking to the main event. The group totaled about 33 persons. Members of Hope Lutheran Church, Dale City, CA, served by Pastor Daniel Woo, joined the West Portal group at the march.



## Lumen Christi Award Nominations

Mr. Albert Amling, our English District School Ministry Executive, and I are excited to request nominations from our congregations for the 2026 English District Lumen Christi Award!

Our gracious Lord blesses our English District by providing dedicated and talented professional and volunteer leaders/teachers in child, youth, adult, and family ministry areas. These servants of our Lord exercise their God-given gifts in many creative and unique ways to bless those they serve. The

Lumen Christi award is presented to publicly recognize the service of educators, to further promote and encourage all professional and volunteer leaders/teachers who are active members of an English District LCMS congregation.

The 2026 Lumen Christi Award nominations are due by **March 6, 2026**. For more information about these awards, what the general criteria are, and for the nomination forms themselves, click [here](#). Our office looks forward to receiving your nominations.

Blessings,  
Pastor Derek Mathers  
Assistant to the Bishop and Mission Executive

## Ministerial Health Commission



*A Message from the English District Ministerial Health Commission*

Jesus said, “Therefore, do not fear them. For nothing is concealed that will be uncovered or hidden that will not be known.” Matthew 10:26

The news reported last week concerning the arrest of Central Illinois District president Michael Mohr shocked all. The Lord, however, taught His disciples not to be afraid.

If your thoughts related to this news are derailing you in the ministry one week later, you have a confidential place where you can work through these recurring fears.

The members of your Ministerial Health Commission have personally experienced sudden and horrific events. Grown in faith and furthered education equips these individuals to help those encountering tragic experiences in ministry. These fellow brothers and sisters can help you.

Feel free to contact and use this English District resource. Call directly to anyone listed below.

Rev. James Bowes, Palm Desert, CA - Work: (760) 776-7100 Cell: (951) 535-9372  
Deac. Barbara Hemme, Lockport, IL - Cell: (847) 638-7444  
Rev. Tim Holzerland, West Bloomfield, MI - Cell: (313) 938-2531  
Ms. Marianne Jackson, Parish Nurse, Sarnia, ON - Canadian Cell: (519) 466-5923  
Rev. Greg Michel, Palm Coast, FL - Cell: (309) 269-4295  
Ms. Sue Neff, Parish Nurse retired, Murrieta CA - Cell: (619) 890-8641  
Rev. Justin Schmidt, McMurray, PA - Cell: (217) 979-2473

## News from the Kreys

Greetings from Santiago! The New Year has had a wonderful start, with lots of visitors and friends who have stopped by. Read our January [newsletter](#),



with highlights from our seminary conference. Thank you for your ongoing support and prayers as we continue to serve the church in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In Christ,  
Rev. Ted & Rebecca Krey,  
Esther, Matthias, Natalia, Evangeline &  
Azariah

## Calling a Pastor

Choosing a new shepherd for your congregation is a significant spiritual milestone. If your congregation is considering calling a pastor, the English District has a resource available that outlines the procedure and includes important dates and deadlines. Click [here](#) to find out more.

## 1-1-1 Dollar for Missions



1 Samuel 16:7b tells us, "...For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart."

How does it really look when we put our heart into something? Is doing so not our purest form of self-expression? There are various examples in Scripture where we see Jesus providing commentary on the "state of the heart" from His life and teachings:

- The widow's 2 copper coins for the collection box
- The centurion's "say the word, and my servant will be healed."
- The Syrophoenician woman blessed to receive the table scraps of Grace
- Mary and her lavish spending of nard on the Lord's feet

You might be thinking, "Yes, but what do these examples have to do with giving a mere dollar a week to [Mission 1-1-1](#)?" It is this: it all depends on the "state of the heart" of the giver. When it is the heart that is laid at the feet of the Lord and Savior, all is well. And as always, lest we congratulate ourselves on our faith and faithfulness, the Lord has the final word:  
"...for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure." Philippians 2:13

More Scripture and messages for Mission 1-1-1 are available on the district [website](#).

## Prayer Requests

We commend to God's care Mrs. Janet Stechholz and family upon the death of her brother, Norman Kaminske, who is now in our Lord's nearer presence.

We pray for the family of Stephen Gierak, father of English District staff member Peggy Oke, who was called to his eternal rest.

District daily prayers for February 2026 are located on our [website](#).

Your prayer concerns are important to the English District. If you have a prayer request you would like shared in this newsletter, email the [district office](#).

Oh, magnify the Lord with me,  
and let us exalt his name  
together!

Psalm 34:3

## LCEF

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[lcef.org/tomorrow](http://lcef.org/tomorrow)

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Contact John Hoover, LCEF District Vice President, by [email](#) or phone 314-276-3370 for more information.



## Two Podcasts. One Goal.

Stronger Church Workers and Ministries



### Ministry Moments Podcast

Real conversations about vision, planning and ministry health.

[lcef.org/forward](http://lcef.org/forward)



### Grace Place Podcast

Candid stories and spiritual encouragement for church workers.

[lcef.org/listen](http://lcef.org/listen)



## LCMS Foundation

Contact **Ron Grimm**, English District Gift Planning Counselor, 412-584-7039 or visit [www.LCMSFoundation.org](http://www.LCMSFoundation.org).



## Your Faith Lives On

**Assure your God-given gifts support what you care about most after you're gone.** No matter your age or income, we can help assure that your assets—things like retirement accounts, your home or land—will leave a positive, lasting impact upon the people, ministries and congregation you care about most.

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**LCMSFoundation**

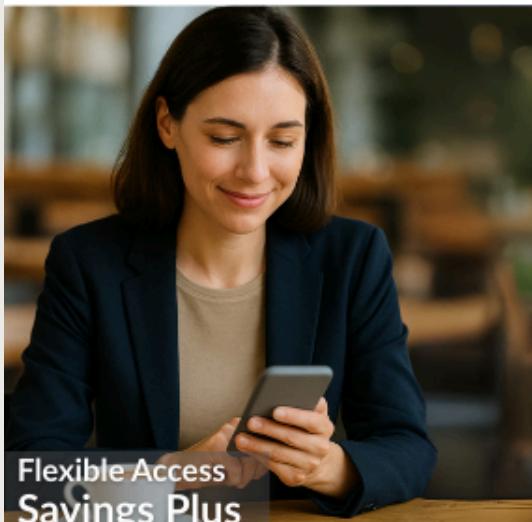
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## Campus Ministry



### All Saints, Slippery Rock, PA

*"Pastor Mroz...came with his service dog because he deals with epilepsy and a hearing problem. He assured the congregation that God would carry on His work regardless of our own frailties."*

Mrs. Augusta Mennell shared an inspiring narrative on campus ministry at [All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center](#). Read the full story [here](#).

## In Our Churches

### St. John's, Pembroke, ON

Members of [St. John's Lutheran Church](#) recently held a potluck lunch in honor of Pastor Stephen Alles's retirement. They had a German theme for the festivities, and no shortage of food!



## In Our Schools

### West Portal, San Francisco, CA

Students at [\*\*West Portal Lutheran School\*\*](#) celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week by embracing the "Joyful Noise" theme. Students in kindergarten through third grade performed a dance routine, seventh graders completed a group challenge, and eighth graders taught the younger students about being joyful in service and making a joyful noise in the community!



## Called to LEAD

[\*\*Called to LEAD\*\*](#) is a unique program that blends the best of leadership development and mentoring with launching a new ministry opportunity. Called to LEAD is taking applications for its second cohort. If you have individuals who will benefit, please encourage them to apply.



The [application](#) deadline is February 27. The cohort begins May 1.

## YouthLead 2026



We are excited to announce that the LCMS Youth Ministry will be hosting an impactful [YouthLead 2026](#) training event in St. Louis from March 19-22, 2026. This is an incredible opportunity for our high school youth to develop their spiritual leadership skills and connect with Lutheran peers from around the region. [Registration](#) for this event is \$425.00 per person and includes food, lodging, and materials (transportation to St. Louis is not included). The conference sells out each year. Do not wait; inquire or sign up today.

To reinforce the English District's commitment to fostering the next generation of Christian leaders, the District is proud to offer \$250 per youth participant. Moreover, we understand the importance of safety and support, which is why we will provide two dedicated DCEs to serve as chaperones throughout the event. For any questions, to learn more, or to register, please reach out to DCE Rod Lane via [email](#) or by calling (402-499-0807) or to [Pastor Derek Mathers](#) at the district office. We encourage you to take advantage of this enriching experience.

## Luther Summer Music



Youth musicians from across the country are headed to St. Olaf College this year for the 2026 Lutheran Summer Music Academy & Festival (LSM). Students in grades 8-12 will be immersed in a supportive community that nurtures their musical growth and invites them to share their musical gifts in

performance and in worship. The Standard Enrollment deadline is March 1, and spots are filling fast. Do you know young musicians who would thrive at LSM? [Nominate](#) them today or remind them to submit a free [application](#) by March 1.

## LWML Valentine's Day Brunch

Members of the LWML English District Greater Detroit Zone will be hosting a Valentine's Day brunch with a Bible study led by Bishop Miskus at [Ascension of Christ Lutheran Church](#).



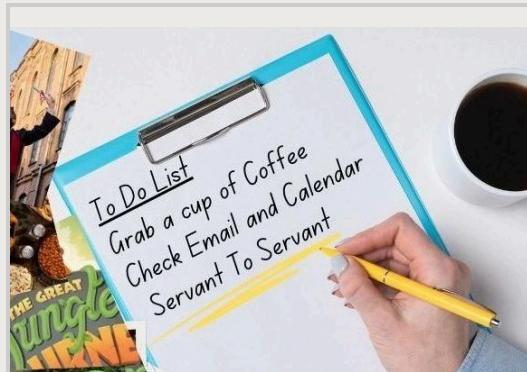
Email [Janet Stechholz](#) or call 734-464-2810 to reserve your seat by Monday, February 9th.



Please share the information from Servant to Servant with members of your congregation.

- All are invited to subscribe to this weekly publication.
- Forward the newsletter to members of your church.
- They can subscribe by clicking on the "Sign up for our emails" link at the bottom.

*Thanks for spreading the word!*



Please share the unique ministries of your school or congregation with the rest of the English District. Send pictures and stories for consideration to [linthicum@englishdistrict.org](mailto:linthicum@englishdistrict.org) by Wednesday at 12:00 noon ET.

We want to see how YOUR congregation or school is showing the love of God to those in your community and around the world.



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