



Celebrating 100 years of God's blessings
as we continue to
serve, connect, and grow.

Moving in Mission

THE ENGLISH DISTRICT OF THE LUTHERAN CHURCH-MISSOURI SYNOD
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The Gift

It was in April that the project began. My first grade teacher gave each of us a clay pot. Our first job was to paint and decorate the outside of the clay pot with flowers. Next we wrote, "I love you, Mom" and whatever else we could think of because this was the beginning of our Mother's Day present. We put soil in the pot, planted a seed and watered the soil with the promise of a flower in bloom on the weekend of Mother's Day. On the Friday before Mother's Day all the clay pots had a beautiful blooming flower. It was with high anticipation that soon I would be walking home with my gift for my mom!

As I started my walk home a debate began. Could I wait (I have never been good at that) to give my gift to my mom on Sunday or should I give it to her as soon as I walked in the door of my house? Back and forth the debate continued. Today or Sunday? Sunday or today? As I turned onto my block it was settled. I would wait until Sunday! Final answer!

I turned the handle on the back door, ran into the house, found my mom, lifted the present up to her, and said, "Happy Mother's Day, Mom!!!"

THE GIFT!

"While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

At the right time "the Word became flesh and dwelt among us." The Father knew the right time but it is fun to imagine the Father having the same debate. I have this great gift for my creation. I made them with my own hands. I have seen their suffering for many years. Should I give my gift today or wait for a better time?

THE GIFT!

It reminds me of my favorite Christmas hymn,

"Cold December Flies Away"

Cold December flies away,
At the rose-red splendor;
April's crowning glory breaks,
While the whole world wonders;
At the holy unseen power,
Of the tree which bears the flower.
On the blessed tree,
Blooms the reddest flower;
On the tree blooms the rose,
Here in love's own garden,
Full and strong in glory.

THE GIFT!

The Father loves to give! "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." We could call the Father's love to give, "the heartbeat of God." At Christmas time we celebrate THE GIFT of the Father, Christ Jesus our Savior and Lord. We also enter into the joy of giving. We desire to know the heartbeat of God's love to give. This Moving in Mission newsletter gives you the opportunity to enter into God's mission with your gifts. Thank you for the opportunity to share this newsletter with you and your support of the English District over the years.

**Merry Christmas and a Christ
blessed New Year!** David Thiele

Ephphatha Deaf Ministry—*Chicago, Illinois*

Imagine you were born not being able to hear:

- All the skills a hearing person learns during their early developmental years are underdeveloped for you.
- You will join a unique community with its own culture.
- You will live near or below the poverty line (80% of deaf people live in poverty).

Ephphatha Lutheran Church serves the African-American community on the south side of Chicago. This ministry needs your support.

- The church building is in need of repair. The roof leaks and there are some mold issues in the basement. The building needs \$10,000-\$20,000 in repair.
- 100 people giving \$100 will raise \$10,000 for building repairs.
- A \$500 gift will buy Sunday school material for a year.
- A \$1000 gift will support the cost of ministry for one week.

Please consider making a gift to the English District designated to support Ephphatha Lutheran Church.

Ablaze Lutheran Mission—*St. Louis, Missouri*

Mission developer Rev. Dr. Bob Roegner is reaching people with the good news of Jesus Christ in Riverview Missouri. The Riverview community in northeast St. Louis is an aging and changing community.

- The schools in this community are no longer accredited by the state.
- Many people live in poverty.
- A significant portion of the community is unemployed.
- It is an area with a high crime rate.



Pastor Roegner is walking the streets of this community, meeting with people, and inviting them to join him in reading the Bible. This past year six people have been baptized into the Christian faith and two home Bible study groups have formed. Pastor Roegner is looking to rent a storefront to begin worship and expand this ministry.

- A \$35 gift will pay for one day's rent.
- A \$255 gift will pay for one week's rent.
- A \$1000 gift will pay for one month's rent.

Please consider making a gift to the English District designated for Ablaze Lutheran Mission.

New Mission Start—*Tonto Basin, Arizona*

Tonto Basin is a community two hours to the northeast of Phoenix, Arizona. Twenty people gather for worship each week at the community center. Pastor Steve DeSanto from Shepherd of the Pines Lutheran Church in Payson, Arizona holds worship services on Sunday afternoons for the people of this new mission.

Pastor DeSanto and the members of this mission congregation are hoping to apply for a vcar enrolled in a mission planting program from one of our LCMS seminaries. This mission start needs \$30,000 to supplement the cost of a Vicar for one year. The vicar will help the congregation learn how to serve its community as they connect with people who do not know the saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- A gift of \$600 will pay for the cost of a Vicar for one week.
- A gift of \$2500 will pay for the cost of a Vicar for one month.

Please consider making a gift to the English District designated for the new mission start of Tonto Basin.

Members of the mission participating in "Singspiration", an evening of Christian music.



Campus Ministry

The English District has campus ministries at:

- Slippery Rock University—All Saints Lutheran Church, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania
- Michigan State University—Martin Luther Chapel, East Lansing, Michigan
- The University of Arizona—The Arizona Lutheran Campus Mission Society, Tucson, Arizona
- San Francisco State University—West Portal Lutheran Church, San Francisco, California

These four campus ministries reach out to thousands of students each year. They work with international students from around the world and students from across the United States and Canada. Through outreach to international students there is the opportunity to share the saving gospel of Jesus Christ. Many students from around the world are baptized each year. These students become ambassadors of the Gospel when they return to work and live within their own country.

Students from across the United States and Canada are given opportunities to grow in their faith as they are prepared as future leaders in their careers and in their congregations. Over the last five years six people have decided to enter into pastoral ministry and are enrolled at our LCMS seminaries.

- A gift of \$200 helps support one day of campus ministry.
- A gift of \$1400 helps support one week of campus ministry.
- A gift of \$6000 helps support one month of campus ministry.

Please consider making a gift to the English District designated for campus ministry.



Mission Church Planters

The most effective way to reach unchurched people with the saving gospel of Jesus Christ is to start a new church.

Mission planters possess special and unique gifts for this task. The LCMS is providing special training for mission planters. Before someone can enter into training they are assessed. The potential planter and his wife meet with other planters and psychologists and work through different scenarios to determine if they have the gifts for starting a new church. After they are approved they receive special training at our seminaries for church planting.

The English District has four mission planters who have gone through this process. Christ the Shepherd Lutheran Church in Alpharetta, Georgia and the English District are reviewing potential church plant candidates for a new start in Atlanta.

Please consider making a gift of:

- \$50 a month for one year.
- \$100 a month for one year.
- \$500 a month for one year.
- \$1000 a month for one year.

Please consider making a gift to the English District designated for Mission Church Planters.

Student Scholarships

The students who attend our Concordia Universities and Seminaries are serving LCMS congregations as Deaconesses, Directors of Christian Education, Teachers, Directors of Outreach, and Pastors. These dedicated church workers graduate with student loan debt averaging between \$10,000 and \$40,000.

Most first-year graduates will receive a salary package of \$24,000 to \$40,000. Pastors usually receive a higher salary package but also have the cost of four additional years of education at the seminary in addition to student loans. These church workers rarely talk about their financial struggles as they serve the church. Every dollar the English District can grant to students from our English District congregations is a dollar less they will need to borrow.

Please consider adopting a student:

- Consider a gift of \$1 a day for one year.
- Consider a gift of \$2 a day for one year.
- Consider a gift of \$5 a day for one year.
- Consider a gift of \$10 a day for one year.

Please consider making a gift to the English District designated for student scholarships.

Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology (EIIT)

By 2050 the majority of the population of the United States and Canada will be 50% non-Caucasian. Today the LCMS is 96% Caucasian. The LCMS needs pastors who are Hispanic, Asian, African, and from all the nations immigrating into the United States and Canada.

The Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology allows men who have immigrated from around the world to attend our LCMS seminaries through online courses and weeklong seminars on the campuses of the seminaries. New immigrants to the United States and Canada are usually working 40 hours a week to support their family and developing ministry with fellow immigrants. It is not possible for them to enter into a four-year seminary program. EIIT courses teach the doctrine and theology of the LCMS. After three years of courses these men are eligible for a call to the congregation at which they served as a vicar and will be ordained as pastors of the LCMS.

Each course in the EIIT program costs \$1500 plus books. Please consider supporting an EIIT student.

- I will give \$100, 1/15th the cost of a course.
- I will give \$500, 1/3rd the cost of a course.
- I will give \$1000, for 2/3rd the cost of the course.
- I will give \$1500, the cost for one course.

Please consider making a gift to the English District designated for EIIT students.

English District Lutheran High Schools

Do you remember your high school years? For some of you there are the fond memories of sports, band, drama, and maybe algebra as well. It was also a time in our life when we were greatly influenced by our peers and the direction for our life was shaped.

It is the same for young people today! The difference is our society is changing in significant ways. The faith and the values of Christianity is no longer the norm. The internet and social media today offer young people new opportunities but also new challenges. Our Lutheran high schools provide academic excellence wrapped in Biblical truths and our Lutheran theology.

The English District has three Lutheran high schools: Valley Lutheran High School in Phoenix, Arizona, Redeemer Lutheran High School in Oakmont, Pennsylvania, and The New Luther High School in Chicago, Illinois.

Redeemer just started its first academic year. The New Luther High School began two years ago. Valley Lutheran High School is celebrating their 30th anniversary. The cost of offering a Lutheran high school education is significant. Our High Schools would struggle to stay open without outside donations. There are needs for updated textbooks, resource books, new equipment, and student scholarships.



continued →

English District Lutheran High Schools . . . cont'd

Please consider supporting our English District high schools with a gift:

- A \$50 gift will buy new books for the library.
- A \$100 gift will buy 2 classroom textbooks.
- A \$500 gift will purchase a classroom projector.
- A \$1,000 gift will purchase 2 iPads.
- A \$4,725 gift will provide 1 student a scholarship at Redeemer Lutheran High School.
- A \$5,000 gift will provide 1 student a scholarship at The New Luther High School.
- A \$8,500 gift will provide 1 student a scholarship at Valley Lutheran High School.

Please consider making a gift to the English District designated for Lutheran High School Education.

Each month the Moving in Mission Newsletter will try to feature a best practice from the congregations of the District. As you read how the children at Hales Corners are connecting with older adults ask yourself how could we do something like this?

Steeple View Intergenerational Ministry

Over the past eight years, we have developed an intergenerational ministry with Steeple View (SV) Retirement Community next door to our church and school. We have a calendar of events (holidays, special events, monthly chapel) that we do with our neighbors as well as make birthday cards which our Pre-Kindergarten four-year-old children deliver to the door with a song! Some of our SV friends come over each week to read to the children.



“For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.” Isaiah 9:6

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Contribution Form

Name _____

Address _____ Email Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

I would like to expand the mission work of the English District and share the saving message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by sharing my blessings with a gift for:

Ephphatha Lutheran Deaf Ministry

- _____ 100 people giving \$100 will raise \$10,000 for building repairs
- _____ A \$500 gift will buy Sunday School material for a year
- _____ A \$1,000 gift will support the cost of ministry for one week
- _____ Other

Ablaze Lutheran Mission

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New Mission Start - Tonto Basin

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Campus Ministry

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Mission Planters

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Student Scholarships

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Ethnic Immigrant Institute of Theology

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- _____ Other

Lutheran High Schools

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



“So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.”

Luke 2:4-7