

# PSD School Ministries

## Connections



January 18, 2017

*"A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit. All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast." Proverbs 15:13,15*

*"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."  
Proverbs 17:22*

In spite of serious situations, and in spite of sometimes bleak circumstances, I firmly believe we need another good dose of Solomon's wise counsel. Honestly now, how's your sense of humor? Are you exuding joy in your classroom? In the school office? Out on curb duty or on the basketball court? Are the times in which we live beginning to weigh on you--your attitude, **your face**, your outlook? Solomon talks straight, too. He (under the Holy Spirit's direction) says that three things will occur in the lives of those who have lost their capacity to enjoy life: 1) a broken spirit, 2) a lack of inner healing, 3) dried-up bones. Yuck!

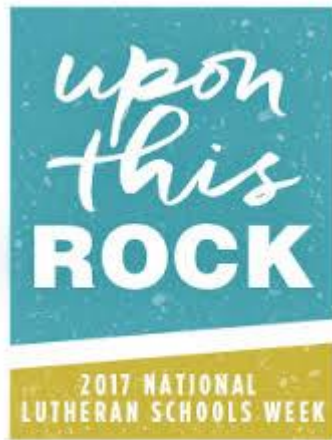
Have you begun to shrivel into a bitter, impatient, critical Christian? Is your

family starting to resemble employees at the local mortuary? The Lord points to a better way--the way of joyful, faith-filled winsomeness. "A joyful heart" is what we need...and if ever we needed it, it is now!

Next week we celebrate **National Lutheran Schools Week**! How, can you and your fellow teachers and administrators share a truly *joyful heart*, the kind that Solomon refers to, and the one that Jesus, our Savior, points us to? As the Nike slogan goes..."Just Do it!" For the sake of the Gospel, let your joy be made known!

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*National Lutheran Schools Week is Next Week!*



**Next week is the week!  
January 22-28, 2017**

Find everything you need on the LCMS Resource Website:

<http://www.lcms.org/lutheranschoolsweek>

[Click here](#) for the **Presidential Proclamation** from **LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison**. Please use this at church, in chapel, or wherever you see fit during your week!

Join the **National Lutheran Schools Week Sing Along** on **Thursday, January 26, from 11:00-11:30 am (central)!**

Don't miss this opportunity to join with students in Lutheran schools across the U.S. and beyond in an online sing along of the 2017 National Lutheran

Schools Week hymn, "Christ is our Rock." LCMS School Ministry will be streaming this event live on [their Facebook page](#) for schools to tune into (or watch later).

**#NLSW17:** The #NLSW17 hashtag will be used on the LCMS School Ministry social media pages to connect schools together online. Also, there are a few contests and competitions which will take place online during the NLSW week and this will be the hashtag used to coordinate the challenges.

**We pray you have a wonderful week celebrating your Lutheran school! Please share with us how your school is celebrating through your photos and stories. We will share these with Synod, on social media, and in Connections next week. Thank you!**

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### *Hearts for Jesus Update*



#### **Corazones Para Guatemala**

Administrators:

If you ordered items to share the Hearts for Jesus mission project with your students, they have arrived! Crosses, dolls and bookmarks are being mailed out this week. Please watch for them.

Please continue to support this district-wide project through the remainder of the school year! The current contributions total is **\$3,691.84**. Praise Jesus!

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## *Around the PSD*

Rachel visited some of our Las Vegas schools last week. Below is a photo from chapel at **Lamb of God**.



Below is teacher **Marsha Wittig** with students at **Lamb of God**.



Rachel with the leadership team at **Faith Community Lutheran Church, Academy and Preschool.**



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### *2017 PSD Early Childhood Director/Pastor Conference*

The 2017 PSD **Early Childhood Director/Pastor Conference** will be held on **Tuesday, January 31, 2017**, at **Christ Lutheran Church and School in Costa Mesa, CA**. The theme is ***Connections in Christ - Church and Preschool***, based on Ephesians 4:16. During this one-day event, we are encouraging Early Childhood Directors and their Pastors to attend together to *intentionally strengthen* this vital relationship between preschool families and the congregation. For more detailed information and registration information, click [here](#). **Please register by this Friday, January 20**. ECE Directors, be sure to bring your pastor with you!

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## *PSD Early Childhood Equipping Conferences 2017*

### **"RECEIVE"**

The Early Childhood Cabinet is pleased to offer an outstanding professional growth opportunity for our early childhood educators throughout the District. Join us for a day of worship, learning, fellowship and fun as we learn from **Sharron Krull**, passionate early childhood educator and founder of **PlayPower**.

The conference dates are **Saturday, March 4**, at **Christ's Greenfield, Gilbert, AZ**, and **Saturday, March 11**, at **Christ, Brea, CA**.

[Click here](#) for the link to the conference registration page and mark your calendars now!

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### *Save the Date!*

**Administrators Conference -- Tuesday-Thursday, July 25-27, 2017**  
**Temecula Creek Inn, Temecula, CA**

More information to come! Make sure you have the dates reserved for this important gathering!

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### *Training in Crisis Care for Schools: Register by Friday!*

Suicides, shootings, car accidents, and sudden deaths are just some of the types of crises that hit our Lutheran schools today. The problem that our schools face is a lack of resources to call upon to help their faculty, staff, and students cope with the tragedies when they occur. The Orange County Department of Education, for example, is equipped to meet this need with the development and resourcing of Crisis Response Teams. Our own PSD can also benefit from a similar model, but one that allows crisis responders to freely share the grace of God with those who are hurting. Therefore, the School Ministries office of the PSD is supporting the development and implementation of regionally based crisis response teams--teams which are filled with teachers, administrators, DCEs, pastors, and lay people who would be willing to go, at a moment's notice, to one of our schools in the district to give crisis care support to the faculty, staff, and students of that institution.

Training for crisis responders will occur at **Light of Christ Lutheran Church, Irvine, CA**, on **February 9-11** from **8:30am - 4:30pm**. The cost is \$230 per person. The cost covers the trainer, material, and food. After you have completed the training, you will be certified in both Individual and Group CISM (Crisis Intervention Stress Management). [Click here](#) to register for the training. You will pay \$200 for the training directly to the trainer via his website, and then an additional check of \$30, which will cover food, will be sent directly to Light of Christ Lutheran Church (18182 Culver Drive, Irvine, California 92612). Please write the check to "Light of Christ Lutheran Church c/o Jim Gwaltney. **Please register by this Friday, January 20th.**

For further information regarding the training or to learn how CISM can be used in your ministry context, please contact Rev. Jim Gwaltney at 949-786-3326 or [pastorjim@locirvine.com](mailto:pastorjim@locirvine.com).

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### *RightNow Media*

We would like to suggest two Bible Studies for you to consider this week:

**For middle school/high school students - *Made to Make A Difference*** by Max and Jenna Lucado. This study gives Biblical insight into how God has uniquely created students with certain passions, talents, and interests to impact the world for Christ. This is a four session study with each session between 20-25 minutes and includes free handouts to print out for each session.

**Parenting - *Homes of Honor*** by Gary Smalley. This study takes parents through nine sessions where they will discover their parenting type, their child's personality type, how to give loving support, how to set limits, 10 ways to motivate their child, and more. There is a workbook and a DVD to accompany (if desired) that is available for an additional purchase.

Take a look at these and the over 10,000 other studies available to you through your RightNow Media account. We would love to hear how you are utilizing these studies with your students and families!

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## Tec21

Tec21 is now registering for their 2017/18 workshops. Scholarships are available through LCEF! Please [click here](#) for the scholarship application. Scholarship applications are due March 20. The PSD is hosting workshops at **Zion, Anaheim, CA; Christ, La Mesa, CA; and Christ, Phoenix, AZ.** Registration is open January 3 through March 31. [Click here](#) for more details and to register.

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## TLC Grant Opportunity

The application window for an educational grant on behalf of the **Trinity Lutheran Church Educational Endowment Fund (Reseda, CA)** is now open. This grant has been established as a gift to the Church for the continuing of excellent Lutheran education in the Pacific Southwest District. This is a competitive grant based on the strength of the application. It is open to all schools, K-12. [Please click here](#) for additional information, which includes a link to the simple Google form application. **The deadline is February 1st.** Recipients will be announced in February with the grants awarded immediately.

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## *Gradelink: A New LCMS Premium Service Provider*



**Gradelink** is a school management system designed for Lutheran schools who need a comprehensive, yet easy-to-use student information system. Their mission is to be the educator's hero by simplifying school administration.

**LCMS members enjoy 30% off setup fees and 30% off our core services for the first 3 months. Visit [gradelink.com/lcms](http://gradelink.com/lcms) to claim your discount.**

### **Gradelink Student Information System (SIS)**

The SIS is the core platform needed to run a school. It includes centralized

student records, custom report cards, transcripts, attendance, lesson plans, parent portal, parent app, behavior tracking, mass email, announcement boards, tuition and lunch billing, and advanced reporting.

*Setup:* \$70

*Monthly:* \$81.20 (for a school with 100 students)

### **Online Admissions with EnrollMe**

EnrollMe modernizes the admissions experience for new and returning families by allowing them to register online using a PC or mobile device. EnrollMe forms are customizable and returning families receive pre-filled forms, making it easier for them to confirm re-enrollment. Admissions directors can print contracts, see what contact info has been updated and move applicants through the admissions process with a click of a button. Admission directors will never do data entry again, allowing them more time to focus on the people that matter and less time on paperwork.

*Setup:* \$174 + \$14/custom fields

*Monthly:* \$0.17 per active student

### **Text and Voice Alerts**

Emergency text and voice message blasting is the most effective way to inform parents of inclement weather and other emergencies. Voice blasting allows you to record your voice, making your communication more personal.

*Setup:* Free

*Monthly:* \$0.25 per active student - 30 days free

### **Gradelink Payments**

The easiest way to collect registration, tuition and lunch fees. Parents can pay via direct deposit from their credit card or bank account (ACH) and funds are deposited directly into the school's bank account. Automatic email reminders can be sent before and after a payment is due. Schools can also use Payments for online stores, in-person card swipers and online donation forms. Thanks to our partnership with PaySimple, we offer special rates just for Gradelink subscribers.

*Setup:* Free

*Monthly (per school):* \$34.95 + transaction fees

*LCMS Gradelink Point of Contact:*

Steven Lockwood  
Education Consultant  
(800) 742-3083 x106  
steve@gradelink.com

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### *Prayer Requests*

Each week, prayers of thanksgiving and prayers for teachers, administrators, support staff, pastors, students, and families of the Lutheran schools, early childhood centers, and churches of the Pacific Southwest District are listed. To include names on the list, please send information to [anna.preus@psd-lcms.org](mailto:anna.preus@psd-lcms.org) by noon on Wednesday of each week. This week we pray for:

- a wonderful **National Lutheran Schools Week** for all of our schools! Thank you for all that you do! We are blessed to be able to share Christ's love with our students and their families!
- the **Lucas family**. Congratulations to **Aaron and Mariah Lucas** at the birth of their first child, Adeline, born yesterday. Aaron just began as the

**PSD Director of Communication and Technical Support. Rev. Glenn and Donna Lucas**, pastor and principal, respectively, at **Abiding Savior, Lake Forest, CA**, are proud grandparents.

- **Lutheran Schools in Asia**: 85 schools comprise **Lutheran Education Australia**, with a history dating back to the mid-nineteenth century. Give thanks for the ministry of these schools as they begin a new school year in late January.

#### **January 22**

Mountain View Lutheran School and Preschool, Las Vegas, NV  
Little Lambs Preschool Ministry, Boulder City, NV  
Redeemer Lutheran School and Preschool, Las Vegas, NV

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[Visit Our Website](#)

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