

PSD School Ministries Connections



August 30, 2017

Walking the Walk

"If we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another..."
1 John 1:7 (read also verses 5-10)

Believe it or not, something as simple as how you walk into school in the morning can set the tone of the entire day! When you walk on campus, into your office or into your classroom, people pay attention! If you brush by a coworker, student or a parent without saying a good morning, people notice. If you snap at someone first thing, people will avoid you for the rest of the day. If you seem preoccupied or upset, the "stay away from him/her" message will spread to your staff even before you reach your desk! If you hastily enter a room without glancing around, acknowledging those present and smiling, people get the message that you don't have time for them or that what is going on is unimportant and unappreciated.

Take a couple of moments in the early morning to say a prayer for the day and for those with whom you will come in contact. Have morning devotions and prayer time. Take time to breath in God's goodness in the freshness of each new day. On your drive into school, listen to a song that inspires or motivates you for service, and then thank God for the people He has placed into your life. Before you enter your school ministry, gather yourself. Walk in with a smile and stop to chat with teachers, a student or parents. It will get your day off on the right foot. *Walk in the Light! Walk the walk!*

Hurricane Harvey Update

Dear Partners in Christ's Mission of Love,

Please be in prayer for our sister schools and ministries in the Texas District today and in the next few days, weeks, and months as they deal with the fall-out of Hurricane Harvey. I would ask specifically that today, in your chapel time this week, and "wherever two or three are gathered", that you hold up our co-workers in God's Kingdom in Houston in prayer.

We have set up a disaster relief fund here at the District Office, and if you choose to gather special gifts of love and mercy this week or over the course of the next few weeks, please send them to the District Office, earmarked for "Hurricane Harvey Relief". 100% of these monies will go to the Texas District and Lutheran School Association in Houston to help those in need. We will send a list of participating schools with the gift.

Below are several pictures of Lutheran South Academy in Houston, one of our sister schools in the Texas District. The pictures attached come from Head of School, Sheila Psencik.

In addition,



this message comes from Gregg Pinick, CEO, Lutheran Education Association of Houston:

"We covet the prayers as we battle the fallout from Hurricane Harvey here in Houston. Lutheran South Academy has taken a big hit. Head of School Sheila Psencik's email to the school families is below."

Dear LSA Family -

First and foremost, my prayer is that you and your family are safe after last night's unprecedented rainfall. I want to give you an update on the status of LSA after a long night of torrential rains. Unfortunately, Turkey Creek exceeded it's banks and has flooded LSA

and the surrounding neighborhood. I have attached 3 pictures to give you an idea of what we may be dealing with. As a result, we will be canceling school and all

activities through Friday of this week as we wait for the water to recede and start the clean-up. Once the floodwaters subside, we will have a much better indication of what we are dealing with and how the cleanup will proceed. We are also working on a plan to continue education as the clean up continues.

Many of you have already asked how you can help, which is just one of the many reasons that I love our LSA family. Honestly, there is not much we can do right now other than pray that the rain stops and the water recedes. As soon as it is safe to physically get to school, we can assess the damage and proceed with a game plan. Our insurance company and a professional restoration company have already been contacted and are on standby as well. As soon as we are able to start clean-up this week, I will send out a call for volunteers to help with the recovery effort. While this is not something I would wish on anyone, this is a great opportunity for our community to come together and make a difference!

If your home has been flooded, please let me know so that we can be praying for you and so that we can compile a list of school staff and families in need. God's Blessings to each of you as this storm continues, be safe!

*In Christ,
Mrs. Sheila Psencik
LSA Head of School*



Thank you so much for your prayers and partnership in the Gospel. Lord, have mercy!



Educator of the Year 2017--the Deadline is Tomorrow!

Below are the links to the nomination forms for the 2017 PSD Educators of the Year. **The deadline for submitting nominations is tomorrow, Thursday, August 31, 2017. Thanks to many of you who have already submitted nominees.**

Process:

June-August 31: Nomination period

September: Educator of the Year committees meet to determine finalists in each of the four categories

September/October: Evaluations/interviews completed regarding the finalists

Late October/Early November: Committees select winners

Sunday, November 19: Honorees are recognized at LEC in Phoenix, AZ

Nomination Forms:

[Administrator](#)

[ECE Educator](#)

[Elementary Educator](#)

[Jr/Sr High Educator](#)

Thank you for your participation in honoring our outstanding educators in the PSD!

LEC 2017



Have you seen the [LEC Registration website](#)? We hope all educators are taking some time to look through the site to see what's in store! If you haven't yet, please take a look at the STRANDS AND PRESENTERS link on the left side of the home page under INFORMATION. On this page, you will see information on each of the Monday strands. You will also be able to view a short video from the presenters with a sneak peek of what they are preparing to share with you! Take a look -- pick your strand! See you in Phoenix!

LEC Program Update

The Data Manager session #223 and the Benchmark Assessment session #322 have been modified. Please check the updated Strands and Sessions Description Guide on the LEC Registration [website](#). If you have downloaded this for your staff, please let them know the change and direct them to the website for the changes. If your school tests in the Fall with ITBS you have access to Data Manager. These two sessions will be very helpful in understanding how to create reports and use the data available to you from your Fall testing. The Benchmark testing session will identify for you how to continue assessments and testing using the follow-up testing options in Data Manager to continue to assess your students for continuing progress in the second semester. We encourage schools to send at least one person to each of these sessions!

Grantparent Endowment



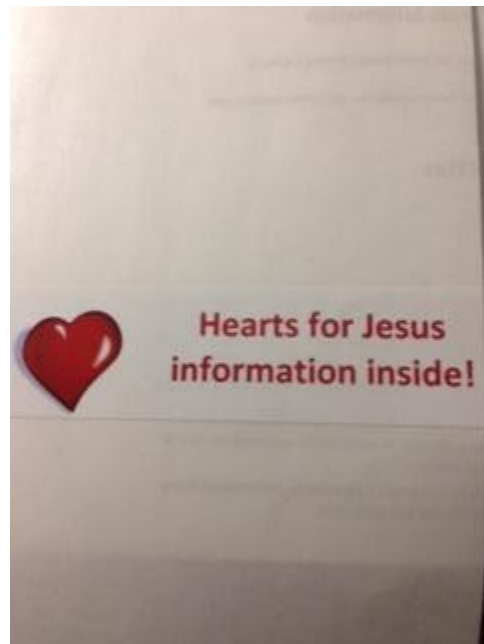
We are deeply humbled and honored to announce that the Grantparent Mission Project is the recipient of a gift from the estate of **Pastor Arnold G. Kuntz**, former Pacific Southwest District-LCMS President. The Grantparent Program, a School Ministries mission project of the Pacific Southwest District-LCMS, provides tuition assistance enabling children to receive an excellent Christian and

academic education in urban communities. Pastor Kuntz was a great supporter of this missional project and as such, he designated a gift and memorial to Grantparent. The endowment has been named the **Pastor Arnold G. Kuntz Memorial Grantparent Endowment**. The endowment is a legacy gift indicating Pastor Kuntz's heart for our Lutheran schools and the vision for seeing our schools full of students with which to share the Good News of Jesus!

Hearts for Jesus Update

Dear Administrators,
Please watch for the *Hearts for Jesus* envelope mailed to each school this week. It describes the Hearts for Jesus mission project for the 2017-2018 school year and includes samples of the project bank and stickers that can be ordered for each student.

Devotions, music, lesson plans, pictures and videos are now available on the LSEM website. Just click on the Psalm 139:14 Hearts for Jesus tab (middle of the page). To order project banks and stickers for each student in your school, please contact LSEM at 248-419-3390 or email your request to LSEM@luthsped.org. Requests should include the name and address of your school, the name of the Hearts for Jesus project coordinator at your school, and the number of students. Please consider designating February or the third quarter for your Hearts for Jesus chapel offering donation.



September Devotion on Website

The September devotion is now on our website. It is titled *Truth of Assurance* and written by **Heather Chapman**, Early Childhood Director at **Trinity, Litchfield Park, AZ**. [Click here](#) to read it. Thank you so much, Heather!

Around the PSD



Students, teachers, and mascots alike had a great first day of school at **Hephatha, Anaheim, CA!**



This past Sunday, faculty members were installed at **Redeemer, South Gate, CA**, one of our Grantparent schools in urban Los Angeles. They are ready to welcome back all their students!





The **LEC Committee** met last week to put the final touches on planning the 2017 conference!



Accreditation Clarification

If you are applying or reapplying for NLSA accreditation, you may want to consider sending your accreditation fee in before September 1. The cost remains \$450 until August 31, but **after September 1, the fee increases to \$600**. This decision was

made by the National Accreditation Commission at its annual meeting in St. Louis several weeks ago. We want to be sure all our schools are informed of this price change. **This increase applies to the annual fees regardless if it is your application year or annual reporting years. However, we in the PSD want to help offset this increase by offering all our schools a \$100 decrease in your application year and a \$25 decrease in your annual district fee. (Application fee now \$100 and annual reporting fee now \$50.)**

Please note - these checks should be made payable to NLSA and sent directly to the NLSA office in St. Louis. Please don't send them to the District Office as they won't get to St Louis in time. Thank you!

Concordia Irvine's Ed.D. in Educational Leadership

[Concordia University Irvine](#)'s next cohort start for our **Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership Program** ([Ed.D.](#)) is scheduled for early October 2017. The degree is an applied learning doctorate designed to equip students with a deep understanding of management and leadership skills necessary to transform American education.

The doctoral program is designed for candidates who are interested in leadership positions in K-12 public or private education, professorships in schools of education, and executive administrative positions in liberal arts colleges and universities.

If you are interested in learning more about the Ed.D. program or know of someone who may be of interest, please email Margaret Maggie McMillan, Graduate and Adult Admissions Counselor, at maggie.mcmillion@cui.edu.

We would like to invite you to our upcoming [Information Night](#) on **Tuesday, September 5**, from 6-8pm here on our Irvine campus. We ask that you register [here](#) as space is limited.

School Ministries Art Gallery



Thank you to **Susana Anderson**, teachers and students at **Hephatha Lutheran Preschool** in **Anaheim, CA**, who provided artwork in the month of July, and **Rexanna Blas**, teachers and students from **Grace Lutheran Preschool** in **San Diego, CA**, who provided the artwork for August.



Please consider volunteering to display your students' artwork in the district office for a month. Contact Ellen Pratt at ellen.pratt@psd-lcms.org.

Reformation Information

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY IRVINE PRESENTS: REFORMATION 500 AN EVENING OF WORD AND SONG

Wednesday, November 1, 7:00 pm at Segerstrom Concert Hall

Concordia's choirs, handbells and orchestras join with musicians from area churches and schools in a 500-member music ensemble to lead festive hymns, choruses, and sacred music around the themes of Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, Faith Alone and Christ Alone. Theologians from Christ College will share what it means to be Always Reforming as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Tickets now available to purchase. [You can order tickets here.](#)

FREE RESOURCES TO HELP CELEBRATE THE REFORMATION

The LCMS has new, free materials available to help promote the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation this year in LCMS congregations and their communities. The kit of downloadable resources is expected to be available this month on the [Synod's Reformation-anniversary website](#).

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 by noon on Wednesday of each week. This week we pray for:

- all those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Please continue to pray for our brothers and sisters who live in those areas as well as the men and women who are there to assist them.
- many of our PSD schools that are starting school this week. We pray for a great 2017-18 for all of our educators, students, and families.
- the new students in our Lutheran schools this year. We pray that God's Word is planted by their teachers and that the Holy Spirit works faith in their hearts!

September 3

St. John's Lutheran School, Oxnard, CA

St. Paul's Lutheran School and Early Childhood Development Center,
Orange, CA

St. John's Lutheran Child Development Center, El Segundo, CA

Visit Our Website

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