

PSD School Ministries Connections



September 6, 2017

"The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy." Psalm 126:3

God has done great things for YOU...so let Him fill you with joy! As you start the school year, do the students you interact with see that JOY on your face? Do they witness the joy you have deep in your heart as you teach them and mentor them?

The Lord longs to fill us with JOY, but we must collaborate with HIM in this process! Do not be like a spoiled child on Christmas Day---hastily tearing open all the presents and then saying, "Is that all?" Every single day is a precious gift from God! He is present not only in the pleasant things but also in the unwanted circumstances. His joy is sufficient for all situations, and He adjusts it according to your need. When things are going your way, His gladness intensifies your delight. When you encounter hard things, the Lord gives you a deep and bold joy that clings to HIM for help. Receiving His JOY requires not only time but also courage.



Hurricane Harvey Update

Please continue to pray for everyone affected, especially our sister schools, churches, and ministries in the Texas District as they deal with the fall-out of Hurricane Harvey. **President Stoterau** gave us this recent update:

*9 LCMS Pastors with severe water damage in their homes, including former Pastor at **St. John's, Orange, Chris Singer***

18 other LCMS church workers

600 LCMS families reported at this time with flooded homes

It is anticipated that many of the flooded areas will remain flooded for weeks which means total loss of their homes.

Crosby, TX Church a total loss
Cypress, TX St. John's - severely damaged

In addition, **Deryl Maxwell**, Assistant Principal at **St. Paul's, Orange, CA**, shared the following (below) with us. His daughter, **Liz** (a St. Paul's, Orange, and Orange Lutheran High School alum), is a teacher at **Pilgrim Lutheran in Houston**. Her fiancé, Kevin Hohnstadt, is Pilgrim's Associate Pastor. Pilgrim has been greatly affected by Harvey.

The Pilgrim community is now facing the daunting task of recovery after the flooding that took place. Their church and school had 3-4 inches of water

throughout the entire lower levels of the campus. While the amount of water doesn't compare to some of the scenes we are seeing out of the Gulf region, we know what damage water can cause, especially black water. The entire preschool has to have all of the carpet torn out as well as they have lost many supplies and materials for, as we know, most of the preschool supplies are low for the children.

Pilgrim's Senior Pastor, Josh Duffy and his young family, were flooded out of their home and have extensive damage.

They are starting to see a flood of physical donations, but they have to now sort what can be used, etc. The financial need now and for the future is going to be great as this recovery process will be quite lengthy.

Liz and Kevin have been thrust into the role of key leaders in this situation and are rising up. It has been heartbreaking and gut wrenching to sit from afar and not be able to physically help, but through prayer and broadcasting the needs we can be His hands.

Here are the Facebook pages for the school and church:

*Church - <https://www.facebook.com/pilgrimhouston/>
School: <https://www.facebook.com/plshouston/>*

Liz and Kevin, along with Pastor Josh Duffy, are very driven in being the "hands and feet of Jesus" with "boots on the ground".

When you go to www.plchouston.org, you immediately see a page to donate. Right now cleaning supplies and money are the big need. Not only are they dealing with the extensive damage to their own facility, they are organizing donations to the community and work parties to those in need.

While heartbreaking, there is encouragement. Encouragement of people reaching out to help others. Encouragement of the response to the need. Encouragement to see His people rising to the challenge.

Pastor Josh Duffy, Pastor Kevin Hohnstadt, and Liz are working to try to bring Hillsong to the Houston area to do a benefit concert. They have had comfort

dogs on site throughout the weekend and through this week as they are seeking creative ways to bring relief to many.

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-LCMS to help those in need. *If you'd like to give to Pilgrim, you can do so through their website or you can earmark your monies sent to the District Office for Pilgrim and we will see to it that they get it. We will send a list of participating schools with the gift.*

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

Welcome New Administrators!

We welcome these new administrators into the Pacific Southwest District (some were already in the PSD or even serving at their school, but we still want to welcome them into new positions!):

New Principals

Dr. Steve Christopher, Mt. Calvary, Diamond Bar, CA

Megan Larson, Atonement, Glendale, AZ (Principal and Preschool Director)

David Ingwersen, Grace, Lancaster, CA

Diana Bartholomew, Faith Community, Las Vegas, NV

Lisa Straight, Shepherd of the Desert, Scottsdale, AZ

Catherine Barker, Good Shepherd, Simi Valley, CA

Paul Camargo, Principal, and Meg Rehrer, Assistant Principal, Venice Lutheran, Venice, CA

Pastor Lewis Busch, Zion, Victorville, CA

New Early Childhood Directors

Karla McDivitt, TLC, Casa Grande, AZ

Josie Meade, St. John's, El Segundo, CA

Beckie Ellis, Apostles, Peoria, AZ

Jodi Caldwell, Mt. Olive, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
Kristen Arnecke, Good Shepherd, Tehachapi, CA

Please let us know if we missed anyone. God's richest blessings to these new leaders in the PSD!

Around the PSD



It was a great opening day at **Christ Lutheran School, La Mesa, CA**, for teachers and students alike!



Students at **Children of Our Savior Lutheran Preschool, Westchester, CA**, enjoyed learning new things on the first day of school.



Rachel visited several Arizona schools last week:

Wonderful time at **Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran, Scottsdale, AZ.**





A Gethsemane Lutheran, Tempe, AZ, welcome!





LEC 2017 – Made for More!

As you have been looking through the LEC Registration website of information, have you had questions? Well, we anticipated several and have a FAQ page to help answer your most pressing questions! Be sure to take a look at the New Location FAQs link on the left side of the home page!

[LEC Registration website](#)



Bus Charter to LEC

Last Spring, we informed you of the possibility to charter a bus or two for an LEC road trip! We need to finalize and have a firm confirmation if you will indeed be using this service as well as the number of teachers you will have on the bus. If we fill the bus with 50 - 55 people, the cost per person will be \$65 - \$70. The bus company needs final reservations by the end of this month. Please email your CONFIRMED reservation to kim.violette@psd-lcms.org **no later than September 25th** . Thank you!

Consultancy Model Opportunity

The Consultancy Leadership Model is a recent School Ministries initiative that has already helped several of our schools! If this is new to you, the Consultancy Leadership Model uses protocols employed by a variety of national organizations called the Consultancy Model. The objective of the Consultancy is to provide a forum for a school administrator to receive counsel on a key strategic question facing his or her school. If you would like to request a Consultancy, please submit your strategic question, challenge, issue or concern on [this Google form](#). Thank you so much for your participation in this new initiative! -Rachel Klitzing

School Directory Information

Hopefully you read the notice about our need to collect detailed School Directory information this year. We do apologize, but because of this server issue we need 100% participation from our schools to repopulate this data. We have tried to make this as easy for each school as possible. Next week you will receive an email with instructions and an attached Excel workbook. If you have data in Excel, our hope is you will be able to cut and paste the information into the correct columns. Thank you in advance for working on this and submitting it by the requested deadline!

Free Professional Development Opportunity in San Diego

[Click here](#) for information about a conference in San Diego on Monday, October 16--**Going Blended: And Getting Results! Weston Kieschnick**, who was our outstanding presenter at the Administrators Conference in July, is one of the presenters.

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.](#)

Rachel's Birthday, but One Special School Gets the Present!

This year, our **District-wide Service Day** falls on Rachel's birthday, **November 15**. If you share with us what service project or projects your school will be doing on that specific day, Rachel may come and participate as one of your volunteers! Please email kim.violette@psd-lcms.org no later than October 15th with the specific project your school will be doing on that day. We will put all the emails we receive into a hat and draw out one special school!

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, including the ministry at Pilgrim Lutheran in Houston. 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.
- several PSD schools that are starting school this week. We pray for a great 2017-18 for all of our educators, students, and families.
- school starting at Lutheran schools in China (2), Hong Kong (45) and Taiwan (2) operated by the Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod and the China Evangelical Lutheran Church. Pray for the Gospel to be proclaimed on these campuses throughout the coming school year.

September

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Salem Lutheran School and Preschool, Orange, CA
Grace Lutheran School and Preschool, Escondido, CA
Community Lutheran Preschool, Escondido, CA

Visit Our Website

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