

## "500 For 500" Celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation!

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in cooperation with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and Thrivent Financial Foundation has established the Stand With Your Community Grant Program in recognition of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. The grant is to inspire and empowering laity for local witness and mercy outreach as a reflection of Martin Luther's passion to share the Gospel.

The Reverend Matthew Schilling, Associate Pastor at St. Paul's, in coordination with the Lutheran Mission Action Council, has developed a grant proposal "500 for 500" to take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. With the approval from the Evansville East and West Circuit pastors an application was submitted to the LCMS, sponsored by the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, requesting funding to assist us in performing 500 acts of witness/



**REFORMATION  
2017 It's Still All About  
Jesus**

**Look for the meaning of this logo on page 2.**

mercy before we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in 2017. Each congregation will have the

opportunity to develop, implement and report on their programs to achieve the 500 goal. LMAC will share ideas on how to achieve these goals, collect data from each congregation on their accomplishments and provided required reports.

While the application for this grant had to be submitted to the LCMS in December 2015, we will not receive grant award notification until the end of January 2016. Funding received through this grant program will greatly enhance our ability to reach out to our community as we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation. Even if the grant is not received we hope to celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by having all the local LCMS churches join together to do acts of mercy and outreach. Look for more information on how we plan to do this in the next Concord.

## MARRIAGE SUMMIT 2.0 (WAR ON MARRIAGE—NOW WHAT?)

In June of 2015, the United States Supreme Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage, effectively making it the law of the land. This man-made law contradicts God's design for marriage and family, as outlined in the Holy Scriptures which clearly state that marriage is the lifelong union of one man and one woman (Genesis 2:24, Matthew 19:4-6). As Christians we must obey God rather than man (Acts 5:29), but in good Lutheran fashion, we must ask "What does this mean?" How do we honor and protect God's design for marriage and sexuality, when we live in a world that continues to redefine, distort, and desecrate these precious gifts? What are we to do when confronted by those who want the church to perform same-sex weddings or rent out their facilities for same-sex events? How do we speak God's truth in love to those who disagree with our stance on these issues? How do we show compassion and love for those who

are struggling with same-sex attraction or even actively participating in homosexual behavior? Can Christians be homosexual? What about transgenderism? How do we help someone who feels confused in their gender identity? What's next: polygamy, acceptance of intimate relationships between an adult and child? What about between siblings, parents-child? If anything goes, then everything goes. How are we to faithfully proclaim God's truth, care for his people, and defend his design for marriage?

Join us for the Marriage Summit 2.0, on Saturday, January 9, 2016, from 9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Community Outreach Center as we discuss these very important issues. This seminar is hosted by LMAC and led by Pastor Chad Eckels, of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Each pastor has been asked to provide names of their leaders who will be attending so LMAC can make sure that adequate lunch is available.

### Calendar of Events

- January 9th - Marriage Summit at LCOC
- January 9th - Concordia Sem. Kantorei at St. Paul's Evansville
- January 10th - Concordia Sem. Kantorei at Trinity Darmstadt
- February 20th - LMAC Semiannual Meeting at LCOC
- April 9th & 10th - Marriage Retreat in Montgomery, IN
- April 23rd - PG-13 "Parental Guidance Necessary" at St. Paul's, Evansville

## Clergy Corner

**Name:** Daniel Gadbaw

**Church:** Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Tell City, IN

**Length of Time at Present Church:** 3. and 1/2 years

**Other Locations Served in Full-Time Capacity:**

Our Saviour Lutheran - Cheyenne, Wyoming 2 years

Zion Lutheran - Decatur, IN 6 and 1/2 years

**Why I became an LCMS Pastor:** To give back to the Church that raised me in Chicago, IL.

To serve the Lord faithfully as Samuel and Daniel once did.

To use the skills of Biblical interpretation, hermeneutics, and systematics that our Lutheran Church has passed on through the ages that our generation may hear of the Christ and worship Him as our Savior and Lord.

**Family and other personal information I would like to share:** My wife, Elizabeth, and I have 2 boys and have been married for 14 years. James is 4 years old and Seth is 2. We enjoy vacations to Lake Michigan and visiting grandparents in Fort Wayne and in Mountain Home, Arkansas. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lord and His people in southern Indiana. God bless our work in His vineyard.



## 'Life Together' e-news digest to debut in December

The first issue of Life Together — a monthly, digital news digest to be delivered to subscribers via email — is planned to debut Dec. 15. Those who want to receive the free e-newsletter from Synod President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison may subscribe anytime at [lcms.org/lifetogetherdigest](http://lcms.org/lifetogetherdigest).

In Life Together, Harrison promises "something for everyone — pastors, church workers and laity," who "will find useful news and learn about ministries and resources that will help equip us in our life together." Each issue, Harrison says, will feature "a variety of information selected to aid the whole church as we live and work together to proclaim the Gospel and bear Christ's mercy to one another in our congregations, communities and the world."

"It's impossible to communicate all the good things happening in the Synod, but we hope this is another means which will serve to inform the people of the church about what's happening and why," Harrison told *Reporter*. "I'm very proud of the people and pastors of this church body," he added. "I hope as folks are better informed, in an easily accessible manner, they will give thanks for the blessings we have."

To subscribe, visit [lcms.org/lifetogetherdigest](http://lcms.org/lifetogetherdigest), complete the form and when you receive the confirmation email, click the box "Yes, subscribe me to this list." For more information, send an email to [lifetogether@lcms.org](mailto:lifetogether@lcms.org).

Note: Taken from LCMS *Reporter* dated November 20, 2015.

## Official LCMS Reformation 2017 Logo



Above is the official LCMS Reformation 2017 logo that takes many elements from Luther's seal, which is the most easily recognized symbol for Lutheranism. It was common in Luther's day for people to create a seal or coat of arms for their families, and that seal told the world what the family cared about or did for a living. It's no surprise, then, that Luther's seal was all about Jesus!

At the center of Luther's seal, and at the cen-

ter of the Reformation 2017 logo, is a red heart in the middle of a white rose. (The heart and rose together are commonly referred to as Luther's rose.) As Luther explained in one of his writings, "The heart in the middle of white rose shows that faith gives joy, comfort, and peace. It immediately sets [the believer] into the midst of a white, joyful rose, not like the peace and joy the world offers. That is why the rose should be white, not red. White is the color of the spirits and all angels."

At the center of that rose is Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Jesus is the center and Rock of our faith. He has been since He came to Earth in the flesh, and He still is today. The word "still" bears witness to the ever and ongoing relevance of this one, saving truth for sinners. (Note: Taken from [lcms.org](http://lcms.org).)

## CONTACTS & SUPPORT

Have something you would like included in our quarterly LMAC Concord? Please send it to:

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or

Terry Lampton:  
[tklampton@wowway.com](mailto:tklampton@wowway.com)

If you'd like to support the work of LMAC please send your tax exempt donation to:

Lutheran Mission Action Council  
16 East Michigan St., Ste. A  
Evansville, IN 47711

Our website: [lmac-evansville.org](http://lmac-evansville.org)