

Bethesda Makes Business Decision to Leave Evansville

They will be missed!

In 2009, when the Lutheran Mission Action Council was in the process of determining space requirement and the design of the Lutheran Community Outreach Center, Bethesda Lutheran Communities requested that the new building include space for them. They had just reached agreement to partner with Jacob's Village to provide residential support to individuals living at that location and had a desire to increase their support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the Evansville area. To accomplish this they needed office space for their administrative staff. With their request and some financial support the LCOC was designed and built to include the space they required.

Since 2010, Bethesda Lutheran Communities has operated out of the LCOC, empowering it to carry out its vision: To become the cen-



tral point of connection that unites people who have intellectual and developmental disabilities with communities and essential resources that help them live their lives to the fullest extent possible.

Bethesda's Day Program, based at the LCOC, encouraged people to develop their skills, get involved with community events and grow as individuals. At the LCOC, individuals prepared and shared meals, worked on crafts, and participated in exercise programs. Members of Concordia met with this group every first and third Thursday of the month to either sing or work on crafts with them. Community programs provided opportunities to shop, visit parks and participate in

community events and recreational activities.

As you can see, Bethesda has been a very active member of our community, providing exceptional service to people with developmental disabilities. However, late this year a business decision was made by their corporate office to leave the Evansville area. While they were please with the excellent work that was being accomplished here, it was very difficult for them to manage the operation in Evansville from Watertown, Wisconsin and cost concerns were also factors that precipitated this decision. Therefore, at the end of August this year Bethesda ceased operations in Evansville. They have been good friends and neighbors and will be missed! LMAC is currently seeking other LCMS service organizations that might be able to use this office space to aid in their mission efforts.

Calendar of Events

- January 14th -
Pastor Knea's
Installation at
Trinity Darmstadt
- January 21st -
Apologetics
Seminar at
Concordia,
Evansville
- January 23rd - Men's
Bible Study begins
at Newburgh
Campus
- February 25th -
LMAC
Semiannual
Meeting at LCOC

Exciting News for LCMS High-School Young Men and Women

The LCMS provides many opportunities to help High School Men and Women while making decisions on their future vocation. Here are two we should all know about:

Christ Academy, 2-week summer conference hosted by Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, will be held June 18-July 1, 2017. Registration is now open. This program is designed for *high-school men* interested in theology, worship and of course who are considering becoming pastors. Students will study the four main areas of theology: Exegetical (biblical interpretation), Systematic (a systematic presentation of our Christian faith in the contemporary world), Historical (how the Church throughout the ages has confessed the faith) and Practical (the application of theology to life). Additionally, service projects and presentations from the Concordia Universities across the country as well as social outings are offered. Contact: Rev. Matthew Wietfeldt, Christ Academy Director 800.481.2155, or e-mail ChristAcademy@ctsfw.edu Read more at: <http://admission.ctsfw.edu/future-students/pastoral/visit-ctsfw/christ-academy-high-school/>

In 2014 Jonathan Paul and Jonathan Kieser attended Christ Academy High School at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne. Both were very complementary about their experience. (An article in a previous *Concord* about this conference sparked interest in others to investigate similar programs.)

Vocatio is a fun opportunity for high school students, both young men and women, entering grades nine through 12 to participate in Bible study, worship, and discussion about vocation. This five-day retreat on Concordia Seminary's St. Louis campus encourages participants to

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Clergy Corner

Name: Rev. David Wiist

Church: Concordia Evangelical Lutheran Church, Evansville, IN.

Length of Time at Present Church: 12 years

Other Locations Served in Full-Time Capacity::

St. John's, Effingham, IL

Shepherd of the Hills, Onalaska, WI

Why I became an LCMS Pastor: I began considering the ministry, in large part, because of Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ and Pastor Henry Loppnaw. Although I had plenty of fears and wasn't really sure if I was up to the challenge of eight years of college or such a public occupation, I couldn't imagine doing anything other than pursuing a course that would provide me with the best theological training and an opportunity to share what I learned. In short, I became a pastor because I love God's Word.

Family and other personal information I would like to share: Amy and I are blessed with four children, ranging in age from six to sixteen. We consider it a great privilege to home school our children. We love small congregations and have found a home at Concordia where we are blessed to be able to gather together with people of all ages. Evansville is my hometown, and it is an honor to be back home and serving many of the same people that were influential in my life.



Rev. David Wiist

LMAC to Sponsor 500th Anniversary of the Reformation Speaker Series



In an effort to generate enthusiasm for the celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, LMAC will sponsor a speaker series throughout 2017. The plan is to have some of the more well known and respected leaders in our synod visit Evansville to provide presentations in their area of expertise as it pertains to the Reformation. The first guest speaker will present some time after Easter at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Watch for more details about these events in your church bulletins and announcements at your church services as they are finalized. Please plan to come and support this effort and learn why we celebrate this event each year, and especially this year at its 500th anniversary.

Exciting News (cont.)

find God's calling for their lives through studying theology, learning from Seminary professors, and engaging in thoughtful conversation. Throughout the week, Vocatio participants engage in servant and social events and a Concordia University System college fair. Vocatio will be held June 24-29, 2017. Registration opens Jan. 1, 2017 and closes June 1, 2017. For more information call 800-822-9545 or email admissions@csl.edu. Read more at: <http://www.csl.edu/admissions/visit-us/vocatio>

Anna Wiegand and Matthew Cinelli attended Vocatio in St. Louis in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Anna stated, "Vocatio was a great experience. We learned a lot about different vocations in the church and did a lot of fun Bible studies together. It is a great learning experience and it was so much fun! When I look back I have nothing but good memories from that trip."

About his Vocatio experience Matthew stated, "It was great. We worked in small groups to prepare a church service. I gave the sermon, exciting!"

(Portions of this article reprinted from sited websites.)

CONTACTS & SUPPORT

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

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

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