

Celebrating the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

As reported earlier, in addition to our Joint Reformation Service that will be held at Trinity Evansville on October 29th, the Lutheran Mission Action Council plans to sponsor two additional events this year to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation. Our plan is to have one event that will feature as a guest speaker one of our outstanding leaders in the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod. This event will be held at the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer at a date and time yet to be determined.

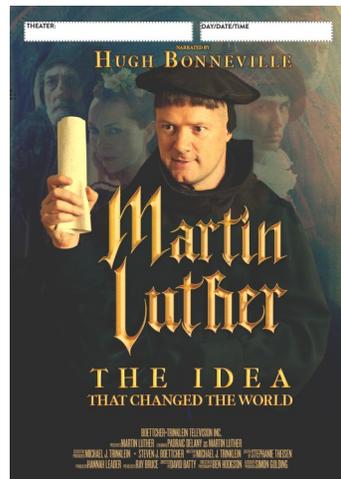
As directed by the LMAC Board of Governors at our semiannual meeting on February 25th, the 2nd event will be a showing of

the new full length feature film "Martin Luther: the Idea That Changed the World."

Funded by a grant from Thrivent Financial, the film brings to life the dramatic moments that shaped Luther and examines the universal questions he wrestled with like "Who am I?" "What is my purpose?" and "How do I get right with God?"

The LCMS has made it possible for any LCMS congregation or organization to host a screening of this film at a movie theater in their community.

LMAC will be working with the congregations in the East and West Evansville Circuits to bring this film to a theater in our area.



Watch for additional information on date, time and location for this screening in your church bulletin. How to purchase tickets will also be provided at that time.

Calendar of Events

- April 15th - Easter Egg Hunt @ Newburgh Campus Redeemer, Evansville
- April 24th - Monday Evening Services Begin @ Newburgh Campus 6:30 PM Redeemer, Evansville
- May 23rd - Marriage Enrichment @ Newburgh Campus Redeemer, Evansville
- May 28th - Memorial Weekend Picnic @ Newburgh Campus Redeemer, Evansville
- May 19th - Last Day of School @ ELS
- August 26th- LMAC Semiannual Meeting @LCOC

Lutheran Mission Action Council Board of Governors' Meeting

LMAC's Board of Governors met for their semiannual meeting on February 26th at the Lutheran Community Outreach Center. The Board of Governors is made up of a Pastor and one lay representative from each of the 14 congregations in the East and West Evansville Circuits of the Indiana District, LCMS. However, any member of our congregations is welcome to attend at any time.

At this meeting the minutes of our August meeting were approved and our financial reports were reviewed and approved. One change to these reports was the inclusion of 2015 year information in addition to 2016 data for comparison purposes. Jim Greenwell provided a financial report on the Lutheran Community Food Pantry. He was quick to point out that with expenditures of just under \$15,500 the pantry was able distribute over \$350,000 worth of food during 2016. What a blessing to our community!

An update on the current status of St. Paul's Chinese ministry was provided by Rev. Tich Luu that let us know of a planned baptism at their next service. Rev David Wiist provided information about WITH Ministries and Camp Connect and the wonderful things going on in

our area with the LCMS Campus Ministry. Jeremy Seger provided details of upcoming outreach events at Redeemer's Newburg Campus, and Terry Lampton updated actions taken to establish two events to celebrate the 500th Anniversary of the reformation.

There were two major actions taken under new business at this meeting. The first was to elect new LMAC officers for 2017. Elected were President: Terry Lampton, Vice President: Shelby Hoffman, Recording Secretary: Terry Patz and Treasurer: James Kahre. The other action was to review and approve the 2017 LMAC budget. This year's budget was much more detailed than past budgets. It included line-item expenditures and contributions for 2016 and projected giving for 2017 in addition to the proposed budget. This budget passed as presented.

The Board then approved a \$500 grant request from St. Paul's Chinese Mission to begin a Monday activity that includes English as a Second Language classes and Chinese Bible Study.

LMAC's next Board of Governors meeting was set for August 26th from 8:30 to 11:00 at the LCOC.

Clergy Corner

Name: Rev. Chad Eckels

Church: St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Evansville, IN.

Length of Time at Present Church: 14 years

Other Locations Served in Full-Time Capacity::

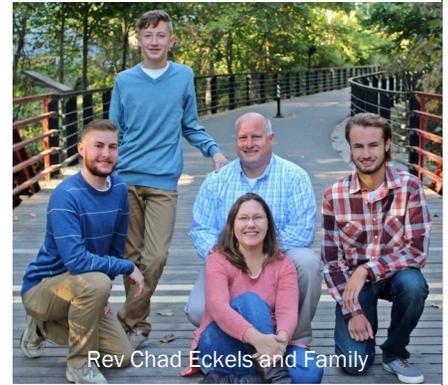
St. John's Lutheran Church, Oberlin, KS (1998-2003)

Why I became an LCMS Pastor: In high school I was active in our church youth group which was connected to Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ. With the encouragement of Rev. Walter Wangerin, Sr., who was serving as our vacancy pastor, I began to feel God's call to serve in the Pastoral Ministry. I had a specific desire to work with high school youth, as well as help and encourage families. Over my nearly 20 years of ministry, I have been blessed to be able to do both.

Family and other personal information I would like to share: "Where are you from?" I get asked that question a lot. Unfortunately, there isn't an easy answer. Growing up, my mother and step-father moved around, so before the age of 15, I had lived in Michigan, Virginia, Panama City-Florida (2 different times), and Nebraska (2 different times and locations). Prior to my sophomore year of high school, I moved to Rocky Ford, Colorado to live with my father and step-mother. I consider Colorado to be my "hometown," since I still have family there. However, having lived here for 14 years, I consider Evansville my "home."

I attended Concordia University in Seward, Nebraska, graduating in 1994 with a Bachelor of Arts after completing the Pre-Seminary Program with a major in Commercial and Studio Art. I received my Masters of Divinity from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis in 1998. I served my first congregation in Oberlin, Kansas (in the upper northwest corner) until 2003. I have been at St. Paul's Lutheran Church since March of 2003, first as an associate pastor, then as the senior pastor. In 2016, I completed an intensive 2 year online program and received a Masters of Science in Family Life from Concordia University-Nebraska.

My wife Patty and I have been married 24 years. She grew up in south St. Louis, as well as Concordia, Missouri. Patty graduated from Concordia University-Nebraska with a Lutheran Teacher's Degree in 1994 and has been the 4th grade teacher at Evansville Lutheran School since 2007. We have three wonderful boys: a 20 year old who is a sophomore at Concordia University-Wisconsin, studying to become a Lutheran High School teacher; an 18 year old who will graduate high school this May and will begin pursuing an engineering degree this fall; and a 15 year old freshman at Harrison High School.



Rev Chad Eckels and Family

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's (LCMS) Life Ministry upholds the sanctity of human life at all stages

Through numerous domestic and international programs, LCMS Life Ministry supports and encourages life "in the image of God," through life-affirming programming, advocacy and teaching. The ministry coordinates the Synod's presence at many pro-life events, including the National March for Life, held in Washington, D.C., and the Walk for Life West Coast, held in San Francisco, each January. LCMS Life Ministry carries the banner that life is sacred and that all people matter to God.

In Luke 10:27, God calls on His people to love their neighbors. Yet in the business of life, we are tempted to define "neighbor" only as spouse, children, family, church members — people in our daily routines. Yet the parable of the Good Samaritan, which continues in Luke 10, urges us to consider the term more broadly. Our neighbors are not only the people who are easy to love; they also are the poor, the powerless, the weak and the forgotten. And as the church, we find these neighbors along the path and show mercy to them in both body and soul.

The Synod established LCMS Life and Health Ministries, part of the Office of National Mission, to do just that — to serve our neighbors, near and far.

It might be surprising to learn that Life and Health Ministries — two separate categories that function as one complete ministry — rely heavily on volunteers and the collaboration of church workers across the globe. Yet the ministry's extensive reach is proof that God has the power to multiply the labors of His people.

Life Ministry Life Ministry seeks to be a guiding voice for the LCMS on life issues, for influence both in the church and the culture at-large. Although the current major "life issues" are abortion and end-of life

choices, Life Ministry also encompasses issues of marriage, family, sexuality, infertility, bioethics in health care and more.

The main goal of Life Ministry is to uphold the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. We produce a number of resources and publications — such as the Notes for Life newsletter, the ultrasound curriculum, frequent symposiums and conferences, and Life Sunday resources — to educate LCMS members on life issues.

We also are involved in life marches on the East and West Coasts, the LCMS Youth Gathering and pregnancy resource centers in Russia and Malaysia. Health Ministry

Health Ministry serves the church through resources for serving neighbors with disabilities and the parish-nursing program. Most parish nurses work alongside the pastor in a congregation to provide care for the physical well-being of parishioners. Yet parishioners aren't the only ones in need of spiritual and physical wellness, and Health Ministry recognizes this need and works with other LCMS ministries to provide opportunities for church worker health and respite care.

We pray that God would give us eyes to see our neighbors, ears to hear their groaning and dedication to celebrate their lives as a reflection of the image of God Himself. (Bart Day, Interim Director LCMS Health and Life Ministries) Reprinted from the LCMS Website.

