



Pacific Southwest District School Ministries E-Connect

"...speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work." -Ephesians 4:15-16

January 11, 2012

"A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit. All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast." Proverbs 15:13, 15

"A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." Proverbs 17:22

In spite of serious situations, and in spite of sometimes bleak circumstances, I firmly believe we need another good dose of Solomon's wise counsel. Honestly now, how's your sense of humor? Are the times in which we live beginning to weigh on you--your attitude, your face, your outlook? Solomon talks straight, too. He (under the Holy Spirit's direction) says that three things will occur in the lives of those who have lost their capacity to enjoy life: 1) a broken spirit, 2) a lack of inner healing, 3) dried-up bones.

Have you begun to shrivel into a bitter, impatient, critical Christian? Is your family starting to resemble employees at the local mortuary? The Lord points to a better way--the way of joyful, faith-filled winsomeness. "A joyful heart" is what we need...and if ever we needed it, it is now!

ADMISSIONS DIRECTORS' CONFERENCE FEBRUARY 6-7, 2012!

Our second annual **Admissions Directors' Conference** is just around the corner! The Planning Committee is excited for you to attend and receive all of the information that will be shared by our experts! On Day One, **Ryder Smith of Tripepi Smith and Associates** will share a presentation on Social Media and its effectiveness in marketing. In the afternoon, Ryder will work with each school in attendance creating a marketing plan that is specific to the school and the community it markets to. In addition, Ryder will give each school in attendance a gift certificate to receive a marketing evaluation of your school's website. This will include a

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report of suggested updates and a conference call with Ryder and his marketing experts at Tripepi Smith. This is over a \$1000 value that you will receive for only \$500!!

Chip Espinoza, CEO of **Genext Consulting**, will be the presenter for Day Two. He will share about intergenerational relationships and how they effect a wide variety of relationships both within our schools and in our marketing decisions.

In addition, we will have **Pastor Chris Singer** lead us in worship and devotion on our theme of "To Win as Many as Possible" based on 1 Corinthians 9:19-23.

All this and great food, fellowship, and the Orange Lutheran High School Jazz Band! Don't wait!! Register Today - [click here for registration information!](#)

NEW PICTURES ON THE HOME PAGE!

Check out our website (www.pswcic.org) to see five new photos on our home page. Please continue to submit pictures to us throughout the year--we love to show them in our photo albums on the website! Check back in a few days for updated albums as well!

SUPREME COURT RULES ON THE HOSANNA-TABOR CASE

This morning, the Supreme Court ruled on this ground-breaking case. Following the ruling, Douglass Laycock, who argued the case for Hosanna-Tabor Lutheran Church, said, "This is a huge win for religious liberty". To read the full article, follow this link: http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/courts-law/supreme-court-says-judges-cannot-get-involved-in-church-employee-discrimination-dispute/2012/01/11/gIQA7EGqqP_story.html

LUTHERAN SCHOOL PORTAL 2012

Here's a message from LCMS National School Ministry:

The Lutheran School Portal has been serving our schools for many years! We are excited to announce a major update to the Portal that will allow us to grow and serve our schools for years to come! The Portal has undergone a re-write. This work allows us to add new features, improve performance, and interact with one

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Quick Links

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another in new ways. It is our prayer that your interaction with the Portal will provide new resources for your teaching as well as share the great things that are happening in your school with others. Some new features of the Lutheran School Portal 2012:

- Social Networking - Interact with your colleagues, build groups, connect with friends and more! Link to your Facebook and Twitter accounts
- Real time access to resources
- Update your LEIF - learn about position vacancies here and abroad
- Share curriculum materials, see what others are doing - explore curriculum documentation
- Mailings
- Website Links
- Announcements
- Premium Services and More!

The new address for the Lutheran School Portal is www.luthed.org. The old address www.lsportal.net will continue to work. The programmers have been busy and the Lutheran School Portal 2012 will be open soon! If you are not currently a Portal member and are interested in joining the Lutheran School Portal, send an email to membership@lsportal.net. Prices are based on school enrollment and start at \$70 per year. [Click here](#) for the downloadable enrollment form.

REGISTER TO ATTEND THE OCCUE TECH FEST 2012

If you haven't yet registered to attend Orange County CUE's annual tech fest, then make sure you do! The **OCCUE Tech Fest 2012** will take place at **Mater Dei High School in Santa Ana, CA**, on **Saturday, January 21, 2012**. The keynote speaker will be the esteemed Rushton Hurley of Nextvista.org. If you have never seen Rushton before, then get prepared for a treat!

Registration for this event is a bargain, and if three teachers from a school register, ***an administrator can attend for free!*** New this year: Tech Fest will also be offering an Administrator strand!

Sign up today at <http://occuetechfest.blogspot.com/>. The sessions and schedule are posted on this website.

2011 - 2012 REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD WORKSHOPS

We are excited again to offer regional School Board Workshops led by **Paul Brandt**. These workshops have been well received each year and attendees walk away with great information and tools for their ministry at their schools. Paul Brandt will present two different topics at this year's trainings:

The morning session: The Data-Driven Board: Your School's Key Effectiveness Indicators

The afternoon session: Planning for the Future - The Board's Role

January 28th at Emmaus, Alhambra, CA

February 11th at Ascension, Torrance, CA

February 18th at Grace, Escondido, CA

April 28th at Atonement, Glendale, AZ

Pick a date that works best for your board and make this a priority to attend! [Click here for registration information and more details.](#)

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK MATERIALS NOW AVAILABLE

National Lutheran Schools Week 2012 takes place **March 4-10**. Materials are now available for purchase. The Worship Manual has several useful tools for this important week-long celebration. In this downloadable book you will find the NLSW theme song for this year, a worship service outline, children's sermon, chapel helps, adult Bible study, classroom devotions, faculty and staff devotions, and more--**all of this for \$15!**

Click [here](#) for the 2012 NLSW Resource Manual and 2012 Equipped Poster order form.

Click [here](#) for the order form for two styles of NLSW banners.

If you'd like to purchase the electronic Resource Manual by credit card, go to <http://store.lcms.org> to order.

On the Concordia Publishing House website you will also find balloons, pencils, and other classroom resources available: [click here](#) for the link.

SAVE THE DATE FOR THESE UPCOMING ECE CONFERENCES!

The PSD Early Childhood Cabinet is pleased to announce this year's conference dates. Please **mark your calendars now** for these continuing educational opportunities!

Early Childhood Spring Conferences:

Theme: How Beautiful Are the Feet - Isaiah 52:7

Keynote Speaker: Paul Brandt

Arizona Spring Conference:

Saturday, February 25, 2012, at Atonement, Glendale, AZ. Click [here](#) for the Save the Date.

California Spring Conference:

Saturday, March 24, 2012, at Salem, Orange, CA. Click [here](#) for the Save the Date.

Early Childhood Director's Conference: April 25-27, 2012, at Mary and Joseph Retreat Center in Rancho Palos Verdes, CA. This year's Director's Conference will truly be a spiritual retreat as we explore God's Word - in depth - to seek the strength we need to meet the daily temptations we face.

Registration information will be sent out within two weeks via email and E-Connect. Please watch for it and take special note of the registration deadlines.

FEDERAL EDUCATION SPENDING FOR 2012

Federal education 2012 spending levels for programs affecting students in private schools are now available at:

<http://www.capenet.org/new.html>.

HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL OPENINGS

Hong Kong International School has some current openings as well as a new administrator position for the 2012 - 2013 school year, which is **Director of Educational Technology Services**.

For teaching positions, the following positions are still vacant:

Lower Primary

Counselor

Speech Language Specialist
PE Teacher

Upper Primary
Classroom Teacher

Middle School
French/Spanish Language Teacher
Learning Specialist
Counselor

High School
Counselor
Science Teacher

Please contact Jean Lau with any questions about the positions at jlau@hkis.edu.hk. More information about the positions or job descriptions are posted on the HKIS website: www.hkis.edu.hk.

SHAPED AND FIT TO SERVE

Shaped and Fit to Serve is a new section for E-Connect in 2012. Every other week, we will post fitness tips that we are asking "experts in the field" to share with us. Here's the first:

Five Tips to Include Exercise Into Your Work Day:

1. Take a walk on your lunch break.
2. Whenever possible - take the stairs.
3. Stand up while talking on the phone.
4. While seated, do 15 toes raises and hold for two seconds at the top.
5. While sitting at your desk, tighten your abdominals for a 10 second count. Relax for five seconds and repeat 10 times.

2012 ACCELERATED READER CHALLENGE

The annual AR Challenge is set to begin on **January 30, 2012**. Any elementary LCMS school in the United States that is presently using the Accelerated Reader program may enter the contest. All students must be independent readers.

The purpose of this challenge is to provide an incentive and motivation for our children at Lutheran schools to read more, get smarter and have fun. Reading for this contest can occur anywhere the children are - at home, at school, in the car, etc. All reporting of

points will be done by each school's coordinator via the AR Challenge web site.

Register before January 30 to take part in the AR Challenge by visiting the St. Paul's (Janesville, Wisconsin) website - www.stpaulsjanesville.com. Click on the school tab [2012 National AR Challenge](#).

STATS AT A GLANCE

Thank you to the many schools who have already completed their PSD Stats at a Glance online. It's easy! Please [click here](#) for the link to complete your school's statistics. Once you hit submit, we will receive them! Thank you in advance for your participation. We will begin sending emails and making phone calls next week to schools we have not heard from.

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:

- The family of **Dr. Eshetu Abate**. Dr. Abate, Professor of Theology at Concordia Irvine, passed away on December 28. Dr. Abate was a dear, beloved faculty member at Concordia who will be remembered for his kindness and dedication to Concordia's students and for his unwavering commitment to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

January 15

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Preschool, Lake Arrowhead
Holy Cross Early Childhood Education Center, Cypress
Mt. Calvary Lutheran School and Preschool, Diamond Bar



We are all connected in Christ!