

RECOGNIZED SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Serving in the Name of Christ

Volume 4, Issue 3 • September 2019



Recognized Service Organizations

To extend its mission outreach, education and social ministry, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod works with independent Recognized Service Organizations (RSOs) that agree to ensure their programs are in harmony with the doctrine and practice of the LCMS.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

September 17–19, 2019

LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Training — Minneapolis

lcmsfoundation.org/gift-planning/training/

September 18, 2019

LCMS Urban & Inner-City Mission Webinar — “Understanding Recognized Service Organizations”

calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-understanding-recognized-service-organizations/

September 26, 2019

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission Webinar — “Church Reflections”

calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-church-reflections/

October 2–4, 2019

2019 LCMS National Disaster Response Conference — “Joy:fully Lutheran in the Midst of Disaster” — St. Louis

calendar.lcms.org/event/2019-lcms-national-disaster-response-conference/

**MORE EVENTS
LISTED ON PAGE 5**

Open Sky Education

**NURTURING CHARACTER THROUGH THE
CHRISTIAN CHARACTER FORMATION PROJECT**



When the Christian Character Formation Project (CCFP) was first envisioned, the creators began with the question: “How did we get our character?” The character education industry has grown over the past few decades as schools and parents seek to address growing concerns stemming from shifts in U.S. culture. Open Sky Education (OSE), a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, had already been recognized for its work in character education. Nevertheless, OSE’s leadership felt something was still missing. While most character formation programs focus on behavior modification or rewards and consequences, Open Sky wanted something deeper, something biblically-based, Gospel-motivated and Christ-focused.

Based on a belief that behavior modification alone is fleeting and that good behavior can easily fall away outside of the context of the classroom, it was critically important to the program creators to build a curriculum that went beyond rewards and consequences providing students with the opportunity to address their greater purpose: to serve God and make Him known. With this focus, the Christian Character Formation Project was born. Currently, the CCFP has been adopted by 32 Lutheran schools and includes several ministries worldwide in Uganda, the Philippines and India.

The CCFP directs students to consider their identity, purpose and how they are to live (actions). The CCFP program emphasizes that character development extends far beyond cultivating “virtues.” Indeed, it focuses on three pillars of the Christian faith (faith, hope and love), described in the Pauline epistles (1 Cor. 13:13). With regard to **Identity**, the Christian materials focus on faith as the foundation for a Christian’s identity (i.e., one’s Christian identity is given by the Holy Spirit working through Baptism and God’s Word). With regard to **Purpose**, the Christian materials address one’s purpose to make God known through servant leadership in light of the biblical hope (i.e., the present certainty of things yet to come is grounded in the words and actions of God in the past). In teaching the seven virtues of the program, which

(Continued on page 2.)



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represent the outward manifestation of love, the Christian materials specifically and intentionally focus the content on a Christian's **Actions** rooted in identity (faith), and purpose (hope).

With this unique process, the CCFP program is inherently intrinsic. Character grows not because an adult is insisting it must, but rather in the life of a Christian, this comes through the power of the Holy Spirit working within the Christian (HEB. 13:20–21). By living virtuous lives, children of God make God known to the world.

Biblical narratives, which form the basis for the CCFP curriculum, illustrate the above process. For example, in the CCFP lesson “David and Goliath,” David is a child of God; that’s his identity. Why did he kill Goliath? The Bible tells us: to glorify God and make Him known. Therefore, his actions in facing Goliath reflect his purpose. Students are guided to ask themselves what similar circumstances they may be facing and then internalize and apply the character lessons within themselves.

Christ Community Lutheran School (CCLS) in St. Louis was the first Lutheran school to implement the CCFP. Jonathan Butterfield, former executive director at CCLS and current principal at Lutheran High School South, reported an overwhelmingly positive experience. “The curriculum has the power to transform our schools as we advance the kingdom of God through our students and their families ... I am convinced that there is nothing more important that we do in our schools than teach kids about their Identity in Christ, their Purpose of making God

known in the world, and how these truths play out in their everyday Actions to advance the Greater Purpose of God’s kingdom.”

The CCFP also includes an online platform where Lutheran teachers and administrators can access the lessons and share ideas. One of the primary goals of the program is to strengthen Lutheran schools by providing a space to have conversations about how to form lasting character in students.

Dr. Jack Preus is the National Director of People Development for Open Sky Education. Jack can be reached at jack.preus@openskyeducation.org.



TO LEARN MORE about the Christian Character Formation Project, visit mycharacterformation.org/Christian.



BETHESDA LUTHERAN COMMUNITIES

Birthday Boxes

Fun family service opportunity idea!

At Bethesda, we enjoy making birthdays special for the adults we support — people with intellectual and developmental disabilities who live in a Bethesda supported home. This year, as Bethesda celebrates its mission of 115 years — enhancing the lives of others through the good news of Jesus Christ, we are determined to help each person we support have the added extras many of us enjoy on our birthdays.

This means we have a lot to do! We support over 1800 people in 13 states! You can be part of showing the love of Jesus by helping us throw a party to celebrate the lives of His people.

SERVANT EVENT: BETHESDA BIRTHDAY BOXES

- ① **COLLECT:** birthday plates, napkins, cups, plasticware, balloons, decorations, a small gift (i.e., a devotion or prayer book, Christian CD, gift card, movie tickets ...), homemade cards, or anything else you think would make a great birthday celebration!

- ② **BOX OR BAG THEM UP:** You can even decorate those if you'd like.

- ③ **CONTACT:** Volunteer.Services@BethesdaLC.org for questions and delivery/mailling details.

- ④ If you have a Bethesda Ministry Consultant in your state, contact them to come and present to your group. They enjoy working with all ages! Check the Bethesda website at BethesdaLC.org or email ReligiousLife@BethesdaLC.org for more information.

- ⑤ Here are a few videos you can view that help tell Bethesda's story:

Alana: youtu.be/2OAFhhZmz5w

Tristan: youtu.be/KDGarBqa2Vk

Chelsea: youtu.be/gPX1MENNJIg

Psalm 139: youtu.be/QFGOwJmnB9Y

Thank you for your consideration, and don't forget to celebrate life!



I praise You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well. —Psalm 139:14

NEWS UPDATE LCMS Domestic Development Grant Program

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Office of National Mission offers domestic development grants to groups engaged in human care ministry. This grant program is being supplemented by funds from the Wiebe Mission Advancement Fund, administered by the LCMS Foundation. Please note that grants are now awarded yearly instead of twice a year. For more information about the domestic development grant program, please contact Deaconess Maryann Hayter at maryann.hayter@lcms.org.

Takeaways from Learn & Lead Retreat



Every first Monday and Tuesday of June we host a Learn & Lead Retreat for Lutheran school and church pastors, principals, administrators, called workers, staff and volunteers from the region, state and across the country. These conferences are focused on various fundraising, marketing and customer service topics. This past June 2019 the Learn & Lead theme was centered on “The Disney Way,” or how to apply what the Walt Disney company does best to fundraising, marketing and customer service for our Lutheran schools and their associated churches. Below are my top 8 takeaways:

- 1 **Who parks your car?** Who is on the front lines with your customers and donors and makes that first/last impression on them?
- 2 **What are your fireworks?** Disneyland added fireworks at the end of each day to give families something to look forward to and stay to the end of the day.
- 3 **Ask people what they think.** You may plan one view, but your customers see other things that matter most to them.
- 4 **Give people a memory.** Emotion and passion always win.

- 5 **Everything speaks.** Everything a customer and donor sees, hears and experiences add to the potential positive and negative results.
- 6 **You can gain** a donor one at a time but can **lose** them hundreds at a time.
- 7 **Pave the pathway.** Instead of putting fences around flowerbeds, Walt Disney paved pathways through the flowerbeds at Disneyland.
- 8 **Who is your Roy?** Walt Disney had his brother Roy as a sounding board and confidant. We all need someone.
- 9 **People will donate** when the emotion received when giving is greater than the comfort received in keeping their money.

Jon Dize, CFRE, is the Advancement Coach and Director of Mission Advancement for The Lutheran Schools Partnership (TheLutheranSchools.org) in Fort Wayne, Ind., and the Administrator of The Lutheran Scholarship Granting Organization of Indiana (LutheranSGO.org).





TITUS 3:4-7

BUT WHEN THE GOODNESS AND LOVING KINDNESS OF GOD our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

2019 LCMS YOUTH GATHERING BIBLES

2019 LCMS Youth Gathering Bibles (14 per case) are now available to purchase for use with your youth group, congregation and/or community through the online Gathering store. Also available are a limited number of communion ware sets, Gathering tees and beanies. Visit lcmsgathering.com/store.



October 10, 2019

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission Webinar — “Moving Beyond Survival: DOXOLOGY and Your Church’s Future”

calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-moving-beyond-survival-doxology-and-your-churchs-future/

October 16, 2019

LCMS Urban & Inner-City Mission Webinar — “Outreach through Lutheran Schools”

calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-outreach-through-lutheran-schools/

November 14–16, 2019

2019 LCMS National Rural & Small Town Mission Conference — “Running With Endurance: Eyes Fixed on Jesus” — Minneapolis

calendar.lcms.org/event/2019-national-rural-small-town-mission-conference/

November 20, 2019

LCMS Urban & Inner-City Mission Webinar — “Campus Ministry’s Vital Role”

calendar.lcms.org/event/webinar-campus-ministrys-vital-role/

January 26–29, 2020

Lutheran Services in America CEO Summit — Atlantic Beach, Fla.

lutheranservices.org/2020CEO

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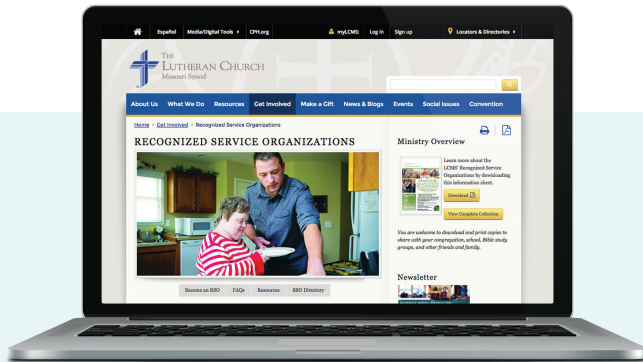
For more information about the LCMS RSO ministry, visit lcms.org/rso.

If you want to subscribe to or no longer wish to receive this newsletter, contact Deaconess Cara Patton at 314-996-1635 or cara.patton@lcms.org.

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Check out our searchable directory and find more RSO news at lcms.org/rso.

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