Mosaic Mission Network

Mosaic Mission Network began as a single church plant of Peace Lutheran Church to share the Gospel with Liberian families. The network’s mission has grown with support from the Texas District to raise up and deploy leaders to develop faith communities with both urban and African immigrant families in the DFW metroplex.

How is Mosaic doing this? Their key initiative ASAP, After School Achievement Program, is an apartment outreach initiative partnering with low-income apartment communities to provide children with after-school programming. In January 2020, ASAP was connecting with approximately 20-30 school-aged children and their families on a weekly basis.

A Small Congregation with a Big Heart

Peace Lutheran Church of Garland was and is still a conservative and traditional congregation. It has always had a growing membership. In Dallas suburbia, A typical middle-class congregation and had promises of things ahead of it, but things changed around the neighborhood. Garland is no longer a suburban community; it has become part of the first-rung urban communities with all the diversity, poverty, and wealth combined.

The community around Peace is now Hispanic, African American, and Caucasian. Peace, a congregation of Caucasian and middle-class members, has become an island congregation surrounded by a diversity that the founders of the congregation may not have imagined when it started in the middle of the 20th century.

The congregation considered closing a few years ago, but not so fast. It was time to begin to imagine the way ministry can be in Garland and to go back and reflect on what it used to be. The Lord blessed Peace with the diversity of African American, Hispanic, and Pakistani communities. Now, this multi-congregational congregation is growing and flourishing.

Ministry Snapshot

To reach. To disciple. To care.

LETTER FROM REV. MICHAEL NEWMAN, PRESIDENT OF THE TEXAS DISTRICT

One hundred thirty-five years ago, just two years before he died, Dr. C.F.W. Walther, a central founder of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, asked this question:

“Can you imagine that the loving, kind, gracious, and merciful God has done nothing to make us certain that we have the forgiveness of our sins and that in yonder world we shall enter the mansions of eternal peace and rest?”

In his evening lectures to pastoral students that became the book, “The Proper Distinction Between Law and Gospel,” Walther was asking if God’s efforts toward us ended at the cross and resurrection. Did God stop there?

Walther says, No! “After Christ had finished his great work, after God the Father had raised Him from the dead and therewith pronounced Him, our Surety and Substitute, free from all guilt, and had justified and absolved us all in Him, Christ commanded His disciples: ‘Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel,’ that is, the joyous message of the finished redemption, ‘to every creature,’ Mark 16:15, adding these words: ‘...I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’” Matthew 28:20. With these words Christ testified that the joyous message which He was committing to His disciples is to echo throughout this terrestrial globe until the last day.” (179-180, emphasis added).

We are given the privilege of sharing the means of grace—God’s continued outreach arm of salvation—with all people. That is what we do together in the Texas District.

Our prayer is that God will send 500 new servant-leaders to bring the Good News of Jesus into 500 new Texas communities over the next decade.

COVID-19 has not slowed that momentum. By God’s grace, the coronavirus has accelerated mission opportunities and impact. One new congregation went from reaching 30 people each week to reaching 1000 people weekly because of new online connections. More people—frustrated, tired, helpless and hurting—have hearts ready to receive the gift of Jesus Christ, our eternal Savior, Refuge and Strength.

You, the congregations of the Texas District, are joining together to plant new churches, to send evangelists into new contexts and cultures, and to partner in mission to reach beyond your local community. Nearly 400 congregations strong, the Texas District is seeing the joyous message of Jesus Christ crucified and risen echo throughout Texas and beyond.

Please continue to pray for our mission partnership. Please continue to join in planting new ministries. And please be generous in your financial partnership so that we may rejoice together in the gracious work of our dear Savior.

2020 Budget Summary

Total annual budget: $6,446,681

Helping congregations with call process, school ministry, & other ministry matters 20.4%
**In Memoriam**

- Ms. Katherine H. Bolland (1922-2019), St. Paul, Bishop (Zion, Dallas)
- Dr. LeRoy Tatschula (1905-2019), Houston
- Mrs. Barbara J. Seelking (1936-2019), Christ, Hillsboro
- Mrs. Bobette Stegai (1944-2019), St. John, Mansfield
- Mr. Dennis H. Boldt (1942-2019), Christ the King, Waxahachie
- Rev. Charles Froehlich (1927-2019), St. John, Wharton
- Rev. J. Jeffrey Baxter (1953-2019), Trinity, Rosenberg
- Rev. Fred W. Neumann (1939-2019), St. Paul, Austin
- Rev. Herbert C. Graf (1929-2019), St. Mark, Clovis
- Rev. David W. Ebs (1932-2019), Concordia, San Antonio
- Rev. Thomas A. Sorensen (1928-2019), Holy Cross, Dallas
- Rev. Ronald H. Lawrenz (1926-2019), Madisonville
- Rev. Alfred G. Scholz (1927-2019), Gloria Dei, Houston
- Rev. Robert C. Greene (1938-2019), Zion, Wallburg
- Rev. Henry P. Stoepplerwerth (1932-2019), Trinity-Klein, Spring
- Rev. Dr. Ray F. Martens (1933-2019), Redeemer, Austin
- Rev. Erwin A. Metz, Sr. (1925-2019), Resurrection, Spring
- Rev. Herbert N. Elfert (1935-2019), Zion, Pasadena

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**Update from the Office of School Ministry**

We were blessed to share Jesus with 17,234 students every school day in our 129 Lutheran schools and early childhood centers in the Texas District, with 2,519 educators. We are preparing frontline missionaries, as our students are equipped with the Word by caring, loving teachers. This school year we have seen the startup of two new early childhood programs. In August 2019, St. Paul Christian Academy, Dallas opened their doors and in January 2020, Ascension Lutheran Church in Cleburne began the Next Generation Preschool. We have also been blessed with expansion of our high school programs at Memorial Lutheran School, Houston; Trinity Lutheran School, San Angelo and Faith Lutheran High School, Wanda. God continues to bless the sharing of His word through baptisms during our schools chapel services and our students community outreach projects.

—Dr. Bill Hinz, Director of School Ministry, Texas District

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**Multiplying the Harvest Table**

Mark and Laura Pulliam and their toddler son, Flint, resemble many families of a new generation of young people. Statistics show that this new generation is turning away from the church. But Mark and Laura broke the mold of the unchurched millennial demographic by instead of pulling away from the church, they are planting one. Mark is a LCMS pastor and Laura is a DCE. They’ve teamed up with a cluster of Houston area congregations to reach the growing community around Northwest Houston’s Grand Parkway known as the Harvest Partnership.

The Harvest Partnership, a new name since May 2019, began in 2016 when Christ the King, Pastor Al Doering, and Lamb of God, Pastor Mark Brunette, partnered together to plant a church—the Dwelling with Pastor Seth Kunze. Since then this Harvest Partnership with a common prayer “to multiply the harvest table” has grown into the Houston area to include church planters such as the Pulliums, Vicar Trey Sansom, and Vicar David Wray as well as other leaders.

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**Doing Life Together—Lutheran Student Center**

“The Student Center is a place where—it when those high school students come to the university—they have a place to belong. They have a group of fellow believers who are here to encourage them, hold them accountable— to encourage them to stay faithful. Through Bible Studies, through sharing life together, they can grow into leaders in the church.”

—Pastor Jeff Jenkins

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**Snapshot from Church Extension Fund (CEF) Ministry Focused. Financially Responsible.**

While the Lord has richly blessed CEF since 1888, our seasoned history doesn’t diminish our enthusiasm to serve joyfully. Year after year, the Lord places opportunities before us and, with His guidance, ministry impact continues. We closed the fiscal year with $127,429,498 in outstanding loans with 123 borrowers, celebrating the partnership with 11,058 investors who are entrusting $153,957,912 with us. Having just surpassed $200 million in assets, we continue to focus on prudent financial oversight while remaining ready to respond to the unique needs of our ministry partners. Looking forward, we are implementing an updated investment strategy which holds the line on risk while increasing the possibility of return—all for the benefit of advancing Kingdom work and all possible through God’s abundant generosity in providing faith-filled partners, those investing, borrowing and praying everyday!—Becca Jones, Executive Director, Texas District Church Extension Fund