



Mission & Ministry in the Middle of the Coronavirus Pandemic

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in the Middle of the
Coronavirus Pandemic

Southeastern District Webcast
March 30, 2020 10:00 AM

“You are the light of the world.”

Jesus



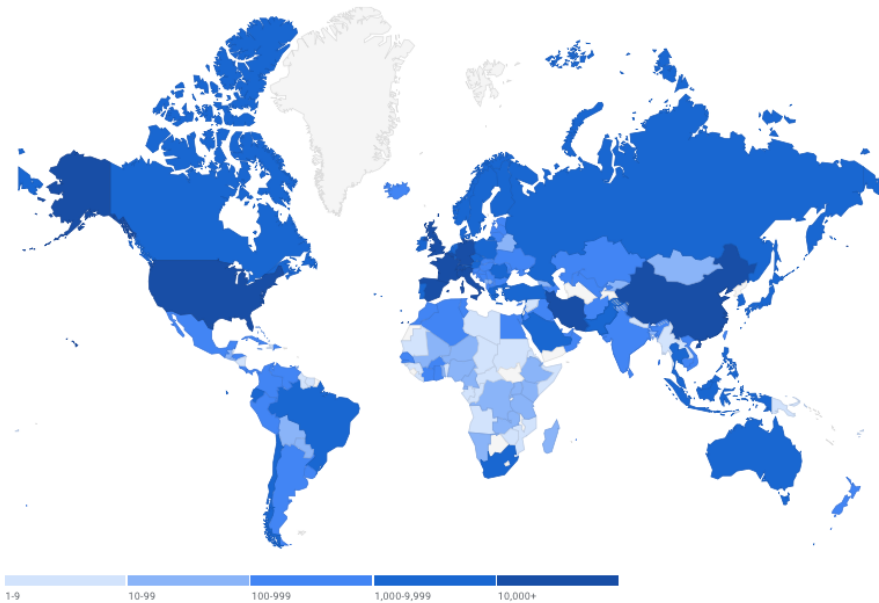


Webcast Agenda

- Updating participants on mission and ministry happening across the SED
- Highlight guidance from District President's March 26th letter
- Developing Temporary Systems to Engage the World with the Gospel
- Resources
- A Word from the Lord

Coronavirus (COVID-19) map

Updated less than 3 hours ago



Global Pandemic

Infected	677,622
Recovered	141,698
Deaths	31,750

United States

Infected	124,697
Recovered	3,231
Deaths	2,227

As of 03-29-2020 9:25 AM



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- As of Friday, 03 27 2020 – Updated Sunday, 03 29 2020
 - 2 pastors who have been tested for coronavirus
 - 1 pastor believes he had coronavirus but was not tested
 - 1 pastor's wife is showing symptoms so the entire family is quarantined

At this time we do not have actual information about members of our churches that are infected or waiting for testing



“In 1527, as the Black Death shook the very foundations of society, Martin Luther wrote a letter entitled [Whether One May Flee From a Deadly Plague](#). In it, he states, “I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence.” He goes on to emphasize the duty to care for the neighbor, the responsibility of government to protect and provide services to its citizens, a caution about recklessness, and the importance of science, medicine, and common sense.”

Questions we asked the Circuit Visitors

- How are your circuit's pastors and congregations responding and reacting to the Coronavirus guidance and restrictions?
- How many of the churches in your circuit had worship per usual this last weekend? Cancelled? Transitioned to on-line services?
- To your knowledge is there anyone in your circuit that has been infected? Or are self-quarantined?
- What concerns you the most at this time?

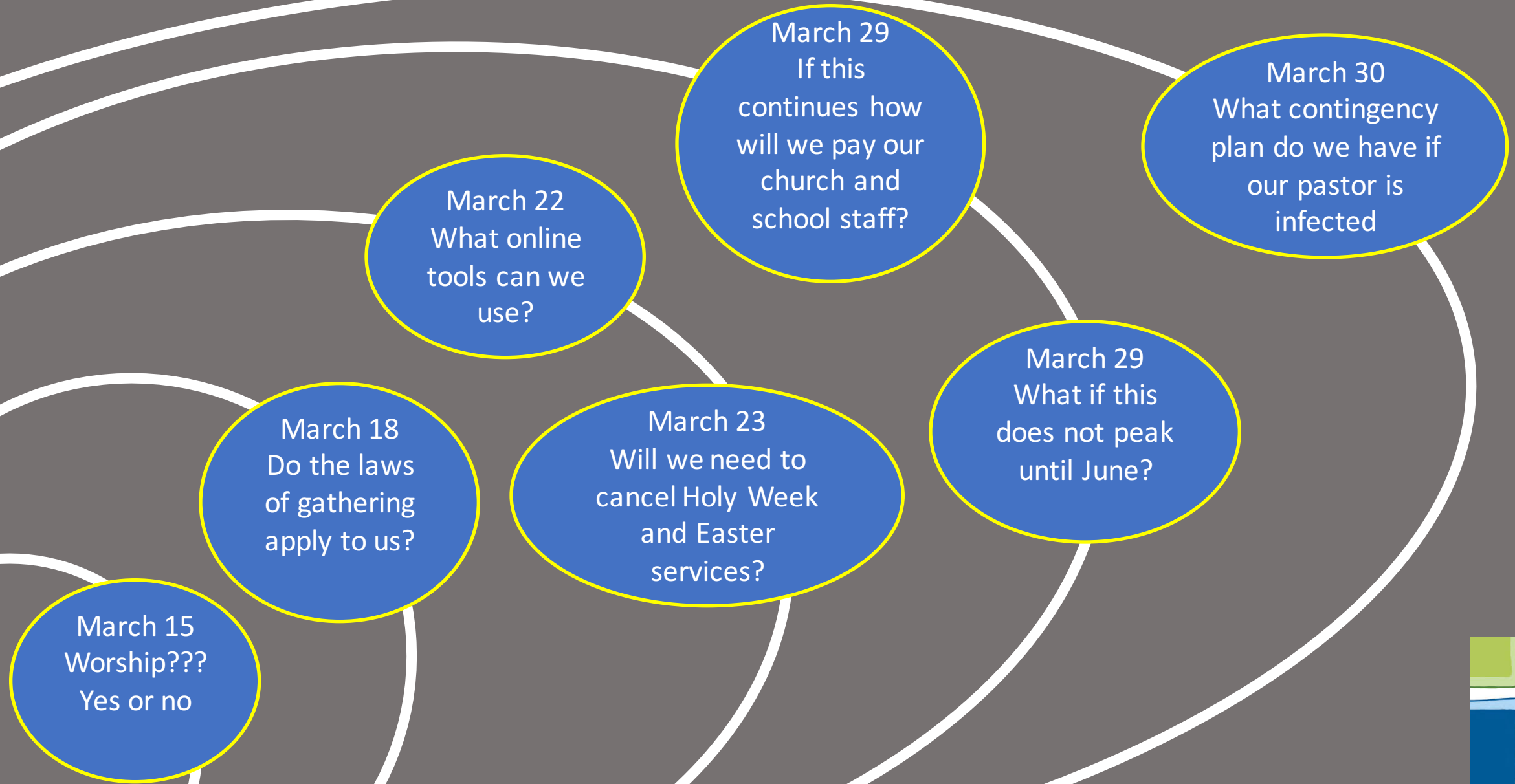


From the Circuit Visitors:

- Congregations are complying with the morphing laws of their state, county, or municipality
- At that time estimate that 90% (probably close to 100% now) of our churches are meeting through phone or video technology.
- Congregations are putting plans into place for Holy Week, and Easter through phone and video technology
- A number of Circuit Visitors reported attendance at many churches exceeded the average Sunday worship attendance



March Madness – Leaders Need to be Anticipating the Future Needs



Topics Addressed in the March 25th Newsletter

Mutual Regard
for Congregations
and Church Workers

Decisions regarding
Congregation Gatherings
during the
Coronavirus Pandemic

Communion
and
Coronavirus

Guidelines for Congregations
in a Call Process



Decisions About Worship Gatherings of Any Size

(as of 03 27 2020)



State	Gatherings	Schools	Childcare
Delaware	Public Health Emergency Public to stay at home until May 15	Closed until May 15	State government can designate emergency care sites
Maryland	Public to stay at home	Closed until April 24	All Child Care Providers closed except those serving essential personal
North Carolina	Stay at home and shelter in place	Schools closed to May 15	Care providers urged not to close to provide for essential workers
Pennsylvania	Shelter in place – all gathering prohibited outside of private residences	Schools closed until 2 nd week of April	Waivers for care providers serving essential workers
South Carolina	Preventing public gatherings of 3 or more	Schools closed until April 30	Provision for care for essential workers at licensed centers
Virginia	Gatherings of 10 or more banned	Closed through the academic year	New guidelines for centers to have less than 10 in room. Report new cases immediately
DC	Prohibit on mass gatherings until April 25	Closed until April 24. Using distance learning	Childcare under Disaster Response plan

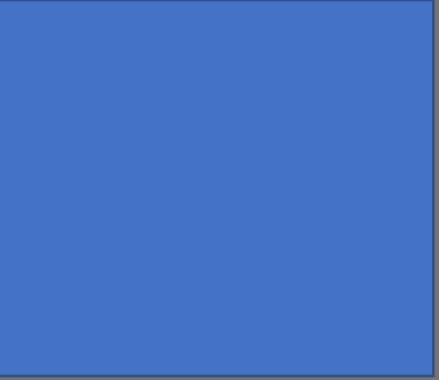


Communion
and
Coronavirus

A Historical
Perspective

Theology and
Practice

Solutions



Communion
and
Coronavirus

A Historical
Perspective

Circuit Riding
Pastors

The Great
Influenza
Epidemic
1918-1919

Communion
Practices of
Various Churches

Lessons of the
Early Christian
Church

Communion
and
Coronavirus

Theology and
Practice

Three Means of
Grace

The Word Spoken
in the
Upper Room

The Word Spoken
to the Thief on
the Cross

The Practice of
Not Communing
Pre-Confirmed

The Practice of
the Early Christian
Church

Communion and Coronavirus

CTCR Guidance

Looking for
Solutions

Fasting from Holy
Communion

Drive-by
communion in
parking lot

10 or less at a
time at church

Family
communion with
words spoken by
pastor on video

Elders consecrate
elements in
house churches



Developing Temporary Systems to Engage the World with the Gospel

Single Point of Delivery
Leads to Addition

Zoom Church

Low Tech
Conference Call
Church



Multiple Point of Delivery
Leads to Multiplication

Small Group/
House Church

Family Church

Examples of Pastoral Care Questions for Each Ministry

- What specific actions will your church need to take if an individual who was in your church at a gathering of under 10 people tests positive within a couple days of being in the church? What if the pastor was one of the ten people present?
- What is our plan to handle pastoral care in situations of hospitalizations when family members, pastors and others are prohibited from visiting patients in the hospital?
- How are funeral homes in our area preparing to handle funerals? How do we handle funerals? Multiple funerals? Pastoral care for family?
- What specific provisions are we making those who do not have or do not know how to use video technology?



Developing Temporary Systems for Effective Mission and Ministry

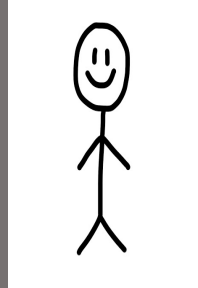
Single Point
Pastoral Care
Delivery Systems



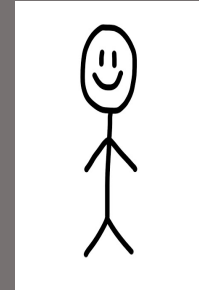
You could have a church where one pastor cares for all the peopleor

Developing Temporary Systems for Effective Mission and Ministry

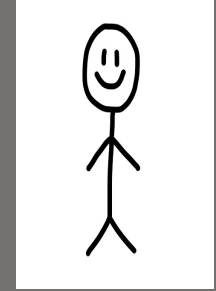
Single Point
Pastoral Care
Delivery Systems



Elder caring for
12 people

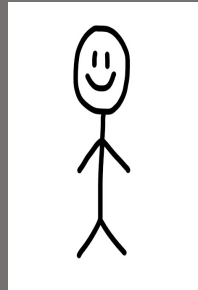


Elder caring for
12 people

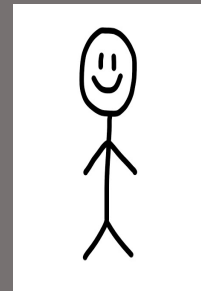


Elder caring for
12 people

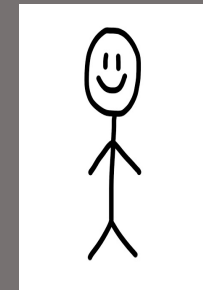
Multipoint
Pastoral Care
Delivery Systems



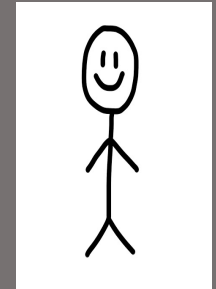
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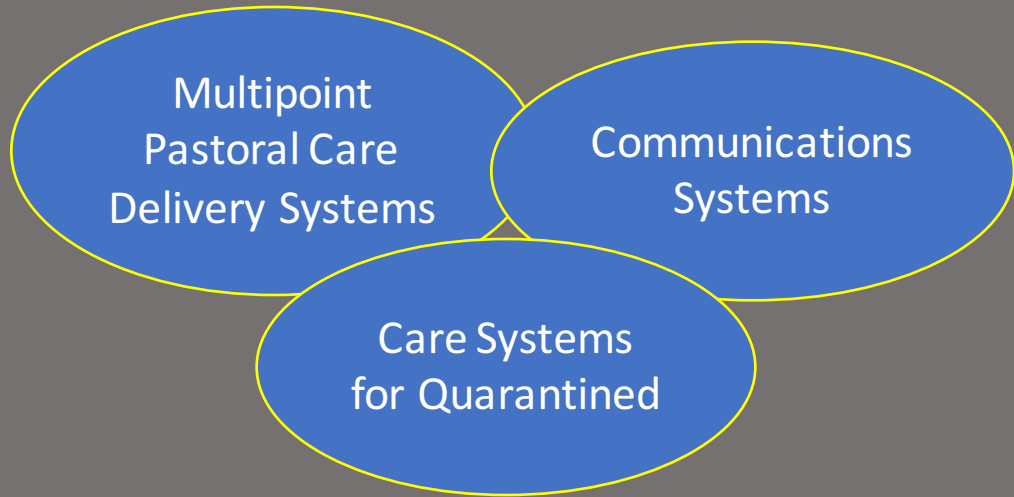


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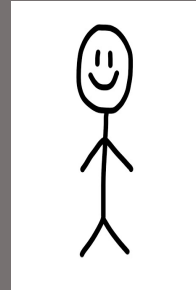
Elder caring for
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Developing Temporary Systems for Effective Mission and Ministry

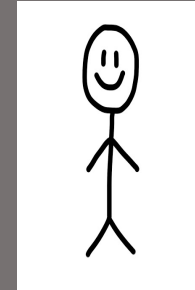


How might the development of lay ministers to work over small groups enable:

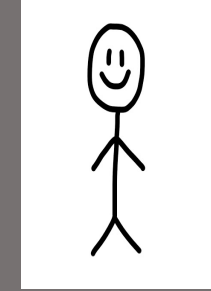
- Contingency Plans
- A better communication system
- Provide care for those quarantined
- Provide care in the community
- Lead to church multiplication



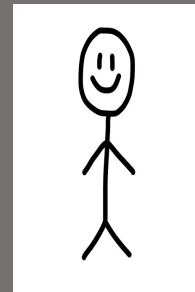
Elder caring for 12 people



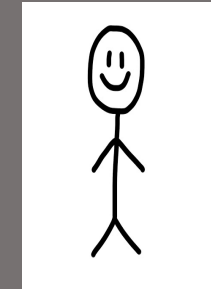
Elder caring for 12 people



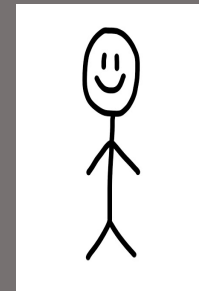
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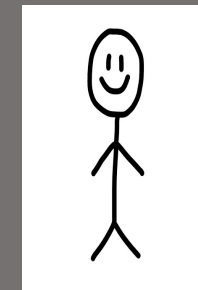
Elder caring for 12 people



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Elder caring for 12 people

Resources



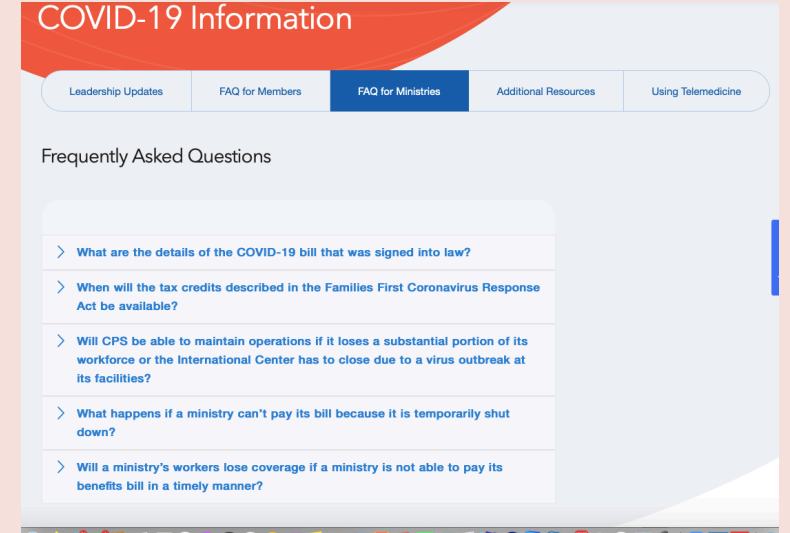
The Financial Challenge

Our congregations are financially challenged due to the coronavirus, cancellation of worship services, the closing of schools, and the concern for LCMS congregants who may be unemployed or in a financially challenged.

Questions range from:

- What are on-line giving resources
- How do we take care of our called church and school workers? How do we care for our contracted workers?
- Gathering information from the new legislations that can assist our ministries
- Information from LCEF for congregations
- Information from Concordia Plan Services

A Message from Jim Sanft, President and CEO Concordia Plan Services



March 25th, 2020
Update on
Newly Passed
Legislation

- One big provision is the availability of Small Business Administration loans. There will be loans available—and nonprofits are included in the current language—to cover payroll, benefit and other expenses. The currently proposed loan amount is for 8 weeks of qualifying expenses, up to \$10,000,000. Most important of all, loan payments can be forgiven if the proceeds are used for payroll and other related expenses. This is a great incentive to keep people employed and covered (employees need their benefits now more than ever), at least for the next few months!



Resources

- Concordia Plan Services
www.concordiaplans.org
- Lutheran Church Extension Fund
www.lcef.org
- The Southeastern District Office
www.se.lcms.org

A Word from the Lord

