



BACKGROUND: The **National Lutheran School Funding Academy** has been designed to help address the fiscal and operational needs of Lutheran Schools. The program began as Bill Cochran – LCMS Director of Schools observed not only the current fiscal needs of our schools but also the need to provide in-service training for the leaders of our schools in this area. The Academy is designed to assist the leadership team address critical issues. Administrators (principals & directors), Business Managers/Treasurers, Pastors, and Board of Ed Chairpersons, or Congregational Presidents are encouraged to attend.

THE ACADEMY INCLUDES SIX MAJOR SECTIONS:

The Fiscal Leader – This section addresses changes that have taken place in the field of education as well as the changes impacting the role of the administrator. Special attention is given to the role of the administrator as a fiscal leader.

Fiscal Assessment – This section provides a variety of resources to assist in the documentation of current financial status as well as resources that assist in projection and planning. Frank discussions take place regarding the budgeting process and options that can be used in reporting and directing fiscal responsibilities.

Strategic Planning – Current fiscal needs make the planning process even more important. This section provides an overview of the planning process and underscores the relationship between a strategic plan and the school's business plan.

Seats and Students – Changes in enrollment demographics, the need to present our schools in a positive manner to parents of potential students and the true cost of the empty chair is addressed.

Gift Development – Sources of income beyond tuition and fees are increasingly important for our schools. This Gift development primer provides participants with the background necessary to understand the complexities of the gift development process, annual fund programs and the benefits of a foundation or endowment.

Stewardship – Stewardship education is an important part of any school ministry. The process of engaging parents in the stewardship education process is addressed.

This list of presentations – coupled with devotional time and time for small group discussions – provide the core of the National Lutheran School Funding Academy.

A Funding Academy is being hosted by your district on October 1-3, 2009! Read more...



The **Mid-South** and the **Southern District** will be hosting a **National Lutheran School Funding Academy** on **October 1-3, 2009** at **Grace Celebration Lutheran Church – Cordova, TN** (Memphis Area). The church is located at **8601 Trinity Road in Cordova (38018)**. The Academy will begin at 9 a.m. on Thursday and finish by noon on Saturday. Lodging will be available at either the **Drury Inn** (Interstate 40 at Sycamore View Rd. in Memphis) or the **Comfort Suites** (Interstate 40 at Germantown Rd. in Cordova). Please make your own reservation with either hotel (**Comfort Suites** by no later than August 30 – **extended through September 16** and the **Drury Inn** by no later than September 15) to ensure that you receive the special rate. You may call the Drury Inn at 901-373-8200 (nightly rate is \$72.99 + tax) or the Comfort Suites at 1-901-213-3600 (nightly rate is \$79.99 + tax) to make your own reservation. You will need to specify if you would like one king or two double beds. Please be advised that the Comfort Suites has a policy that any rooms cancelled after the cut off date will be subject to payment of one room night. When making reservations, our group name is **“Lutheran Funding Academy.”**

We ask that you make plans to attend and it is strongly recommended that you bring a team of two or more persons to the Academy. Having a team means there is support and accountability when you return home to your own ministry setting. A number of the districts have hosted a Funding Academy and there will be some follow-up support being offered in 2009-2010.

Why should my school participate?

It’s all about the children. It is all about the opportunity to share the love of Jesus in our classrooms and in our community. It’s all about Him!

There are so many challenging tasks before school administrators today. Studies point us to the importance of curricular updates. Scheduling issues are on-going and addressing staffing needs has become a daily task. Why one more workshop; one more event?

Bill Cochran, Director of Schools for the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, gathered a special task force to explore the issues related to school funding. He is keenly aware of the reality that unless there is a strong fiscal foundation for a school, the forum for teacher/student interaction is limited. Unless there is a clear plan for the fiscal operation of a school, it will not reach its potential and children will not be able to hear the sweet message of Jesus’ love in their classrooms.

The funding task force explored all areas of school funding. With focused energy, they have developed the National Lutheran School Funding Academy (NLSFA) curriculum. The Academy is an intense, three-day workshop which will empower the participants to understand the current methods of school funding, compare their model to that used by others and expand their knowledge to improve and enhance their local operation.

There are many facets to a well funded school. During these three days participants will have the opportunity to explore a wide array of practical topics that will chart the direction for their schools for years to come!

THE NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL FUNDING ACADEMY

Dates: October 1-3, 2009

Location: **Grace Celebration Lutheran Church – Cordova, TN** (Memphis area)
8601 Trinity Road in Cordova (38018)

Time: Three days are planned; beginning at 9 a.m. on Thursday and finishing by noon on Saturday.

What is included in registration? Presenters, presentation materials, and meals/refreshments.

Housing: Participant are to make their own hotel reservation and payment for lodging. Hotel options are being offered at the at the **Drury Inn** in Memphis or the **Comfort Inn** in Germantown. Please make your own reservation with either hotel (**Comfort Suites** by no later than August 30 – **extended through September 16** and the **Drury Inn** by no later than September 15) to ensure that you receive the special rate. You may call the Drury Inn at 901-373-8200 (nightly rate is \$72.99 + tax) or the Comfort Suites at 1-901-213-3600 (nightly rate is \$79.99 + tax) to make your own reservation. You will need to specify if you would like one king or two double beds. Please be advised that the Comfort Suites has a policy that any rooms cancelled after the cut off date will be subject to payment of one room night. When making reservations, our group name is “**Lutheran Funding Academy.**”

Registration Cost: The cost for the Academy is:
\$175.00 for the first participant and **\$125.00** for each additional participant connected with that school. The registration deadline is September 10, 2009.

Requirements: Participants will be asked to gather fiscal data and to submit it prior to the workshop.

Who is invited to the Academy? The target audience is the High School Administrators, Elementary Principals, Preschool Directors, Board Chairpersons/Congregation President, Business Administrators/Treasurers, Executive Directors, and pastors will greatly benefit from the academy.

Our Partners: The National Lutheran School Funding Academy has been developed by the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod –District and Congregational Services – School Ministry

The Memphis NLSFA Presentation Team:

Paul Brandt – PSW District School Consultant & New Horizons Ministry Consulting – Phoenix, AZ

Perry Bresemann – Associate Director of Schools/National Director of Technology for Lutheran Schools - Frankenmuth, MI

Joel Koerschen – CNH District (LCMS) – Executive Director for Education – Livermore, CA

Joel Wahlers - Principal – St. John Lutheran, Napa, California

Dave Sommermeyer – Retired executive director at LHS Association – Houston via Skype

For further information, contact:

Mid-South District: Mr. Jim Sorgatz

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901-373-1343

What people are saying about the Funding Academy:

“The Funding Academy was a huge inspiration to me. The examples given to use in marketing the school, moving people to endowment giving, and setting a strategic plan for the school were all fantastic. I very much look forward to implementing a number of these suggestions at St. Paul. I feel like you have given a spark to ignite each of us in our schools.”

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“This was one of the most informative and complete workshops/conferences I have attended. The presenters were all excellent.”

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“Thank you very much for the highly useful Funding Academy. I am glad my School Board Chairman attended. We will both go to the next board meeting with a desire and a method to develop a strategic plan for the next 3-5 years. We were discussing today different strategies for approaching some of our needs and using increasing tuition to fund them. The plans and ideas given at this Academy will help us communicate to the board, staff, families, and congregation in a more organized manner.”

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“Thanks for a great few days of information at the Funding Academy at Egg Harbor. From a pastor’s perspective, it was great to be in a room of Lutheran Educators excited about continuing the mission of Lutheran schools.”

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“What I enjoyed most was how the core purpose of bringing people to Jesus was always reinforced through devotions as well as through the sessions. While this conference was about finances, the emphasis of the Gospel was always present, and was not hidden.”

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“Thank you so much for your time and effort in the Funding Academy. I have never learned more at a conference! As a new principal I have really needed to pick up simply what to do. This conference really gave me guidance and confidence that I am doing some of the right things. I thought the order of the presenters was PERFECT. They really flowed and played off each other and added on to each other.”

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The Funding Academy provides nearly 20 hours of presentation time. The Academy is an intensive training experience. We ask for your support and asking God’s blessings on this venture as together we strive to strengthen the ministries of Lutheran schools. Academy registration deadline is September 10, 2009.