



# **FAMILY SHIELD**

# *Express*



## **THE VISION**

We are Christians who care about families and the Gospel, transforming lives now and for eternity.

## **THE MISSION**

Family Shield Ministries educates and equips people, through the power of the Gospel, to know Christ, to grow in His Word, and to strengthen individuals and their families.

## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Kay L. Meyer  
Harold Melser  
Rev. Mark Frith  
Coreen Jander  
Rev. Wayne Hamit  
Ruth Houser  
Rev. Alex Schrader  
Curt Wittbracht

## **ADVISORS**

Dr. Mark Cares  
Dr. Dick Hardel  
Rev. Dr. Ron Jones  
Rev. Dr. John Oberdeck  
Rev. David V. Schultz  
Jens Sorenson  
Rev. Roger Sonnenberg

P.O. Box 230015, St. Louis, MO 63123 • [witnesstofamily@gmail.com](mailto:witnesstofamily@gmail.com)

Fall 2019

## *A Message from Kay Meyer*



*Kay L. Meyer*

I am blessed to have many wonderful friends like you that support the ministry with their time, talents and treasures. Thank you!

Many of you know that in March 2018, I was diagnosed with lymphoma cancer. Thankfully it was caught early. I went through chemo treatments and in August 2018 I was told by my doctor that I

was cancer free. We praise the Lord for His healing and for the wonderful doctors, nurses and technicians that used their gifts to serve! I feel wonderful and recently had my first year anniversary test that indicates I am still cancer free. Thank you for your prayers!

However, dealing with the illness helped me realize that it was time to turn the leadership of Family Shield Ministries over to a new, younger leader. The Family Shield Board of Directors and I have been working toward this goal for over a year. The Transition Task Force completed the job description for our new executive director and the Board of Directors recently approved it. Now we are raising the support needed to accomplish our expansion plans for the future. The "Step into the Future" Fund Raising Drive will be announced at the Family Shield 25th Anniversary Celebration. Our funding goal is \$200,000.

Rev. Mark Frith, a Family Shield Board Member and Vice-President of Ministry Support for Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), serving the Central Region, has been working with the Family Shield Board of Directors to revise our vision statement.

After we hire the executive director, I will continue to host the *Family Shield* radio program and podcast as a volunteer. I will also help our new leader get acquainted with internal & external contracted staff, volunteers, donors, and our important outreach ministries.

I thank all of you for your support over the years, and ask that you continue to pray for and financially support Family Shield Ministries as it continues to educate and equip people, through the power of the Gospel, to know Christ, to grow in His Word, and to strengthen individuals and their families!

## *God Created the Family and the Church*

The Lord created the family and the Church as the foundation of society. Would you agree with us that both of these institutions are under attack in today's world? And would you also agree that individuals and their families need the Gospel today more than ever before? It is the Gospel of Christ that transforms lives!

### **Why do today's families need Christ?**

- The family is the first community of faith and has the most powerful influence on the faith of children and teens.
- The United States is the third largest mission field in the world.
- In 2016, 73.7% of people identified as Christians while 18.2% claimed no religious affiliation.
- Seventy percent (70%) of church-going teens stop going to church upon starting college according to *LifeWay Research* in 2017.
- Children born between 1999 and 2015 are more than twice as likely to be atheists than previous generations, according to 2018 Barna research findings.

Individuals and families need to know Christ and grow in the knowledge of God's Word so they can stand firm (Eph. 6:13-14) and use the shield of faith (Eph. 6:16). Although God created the family and the Church, today many people think they can change what God has declared in the Bible. But, they can't! God's Word is the Sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17).

The following statistics give insight into the changes and challenges today's families face:

- Overall, marriage rates in the United States have fallen from 72% in 1960 to just 51% in 2012, according to *The Economist*.
- Today 23 percent of our children live with a single mother. Forty percent (40%) of babies in the United States are being born to unmarried parents, a trend that has risen steadily over the past five decades.
- According to the National Center for Fathering, more than 20 million children live in a home without the physical

*Continued on page 2*

## God Created...Cont'd from page 1

presence of a father. Millions more have dads who are physically present, but emotionally absent.

- The US Census Bureau reports that an estimated 24.7 million children (33%) live absent their biological father.
- Many grandparents are stepping in to raise their grandchildren when the children's parents are not able or willing to do so. The U.S. Census of 2000 found that over 2.4 million grandparents have responsibility for their grandchildren.
- Nearly 700,000 children are abused in the United States annually. Child Protective Services (CPS) protects more than 3 million children.
- Neglect is the most common form of maltreatment. About four out of five abusers are the victims' parents. One in three children entered foster care in 2017 because of parental drug abuse.
- Nearly 21 million Americans struggle with substance addictions. Only one in 10 people with substance addictions receive treatment.
- Abortion has taken the lives of 60,069,971 unborn babies since the Roe vs. Wade decision in 1973.

### Join hands with us as we proclaim the saving Gospel message of Christ!

At FMS, we are working hard to help and strengthen families as they deal with the challenges of today's society. We invite you to join hands with us as we proclaim the Gospel (John 3:16; Eph. 2:8-9, Romans 1:16), reach those who do not know Christ, and make disciples in the home, church, and our communities.

## Have you seen what LutheranFCU has to offer?

- ✓ Checking/Savings
  - ✓ Auto Loans
  - ✓ Mortgage Loans
  - ✓ Credit Cards
  - ✓ Ministry of the Month
  - ✓ Payment Processing
  - ✓ Auto research services
  - ✓ Financial Education Center
  - ✓ Congregation/District Checking and Savings
- And much more!

**LECU LUTHERAN**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION  
LutheranFCU. Good for You. Good for the Church.  
LutheranFCU.org  
314.394.2790

## Focus on a Family Shield Board Member—Mark Frith

Rev. Mark Frith is Vice President, Ministry Support for Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), serving the Central Region. Helping Christians discover their passion and purpose is a great joy for Mark.



Mark's experience in ministry includes being on staff with the LCMS Kansas District as Mission and Stewardship Executive, at Lutheran Hour Ministries as Program Director for the Outreach Initiative, and 17 years as parish pastor with two congregations. He has served on the Board of Directors for Storying Discipleship Ministries, and Transforming Campus Ministries.

Mark is married to Leigh. They are blessed to be the parents of their adult children, Aaron and Hannah. With a heart for those who don't yet know Jesus, Mark and Leigh work their own neighborhoods through missional community activity and Bible Storying.

*And that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work (2 Timothy 3:15-17).*

Lutheran Women in Mission

## Christian Resources For All Women



### LWML RESOURCES FOR:

- Inspiration & Education
- Service & Outreach
- Fellowship & Mentoring
- Mission Giving & More

Find these resources and more at: 1-800-252-5965 [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org)



## Ministries and Services

### The Radio Program and Podcast

**T**he Family Shield radio program is aired on more than 50 stations throughout the United States and heard by more than 800,000 people each week. Kay Meyer, the founder, president, and host, has interviewed more than 1,200 Christian experts over the past 25 years. The new podcast helps us reach younger listeners through the Internet. The host and our guests proclaim the Gospel in a kind, caring way to all who listen. Research by Barna Group documented that 10-15% of all Christian radio listeners are unchurched. This makes our radio ministry an excellent opportunity for outreach.

The radio program is heard in places the church can't go...into the homes of those who are not Christians, and into prisons where prisoners listen and write us asking for help. It is heard by those driving along busy expressways and remote country roads, by parents dealing with rebellious teenagers, children and youth addicted to drugs and alcohol, and by those who know nothing about God but want to know Him.

Radio and podcast topics include: family life, parenting, marriage, spiritual growth, life issues, apologetics, and learning to witness.

Listeners recently commented:

- "Family Shield is a beacon of hope. It helps me learn to apply the law and Gospel to my everyday life."
- "I'm hooked on Family Shield. The topics are always relevant. Thank you for caring about me and my family!"

Learn more and sign up to receive our weekly podcast at [www.familyshieldministries.com](http://www.familyshieldministries.com).

### The Family Shield Counter Cult Ministry (CCM)

**T**he CCM is our oldest ministry and continues to grow. We have expanded the ministry through three private Facebook pages that help us connect to thousands of doubting and ex-Jehovah's Witnesses, and doubting and ex-Mormons. What a wonderful opportunity to share God's love with them and connect with friends and family members trying to learn how to witness to them!

### The Family Shield (FSM) Response Center

**T**he FSM Response Center and Follow Up Services answers telephone calls, emails, Facebook, Twitter and Internet messages, and personal requests from more than 7,000 people each year who ask for help, prayers, referrals to congregations and other resources. Over 325 of those who contact us each year are unchurched or do not yet know Christ. During the past 25 years we have served more than 150,000 people!

*Your continued prayers and support make these ministries possible!*



**Calvin Neeman**  
Investment Advisor Representative

1003 N. Main  
Columbia, IL 62236

(618) 281-3444  
[www.triadaadvisors.com](http://www.triadaadvisors.com)

## Fading and Ex-Jehovah's Witnesses Need Our Help and Prayers

By Kay Meyer

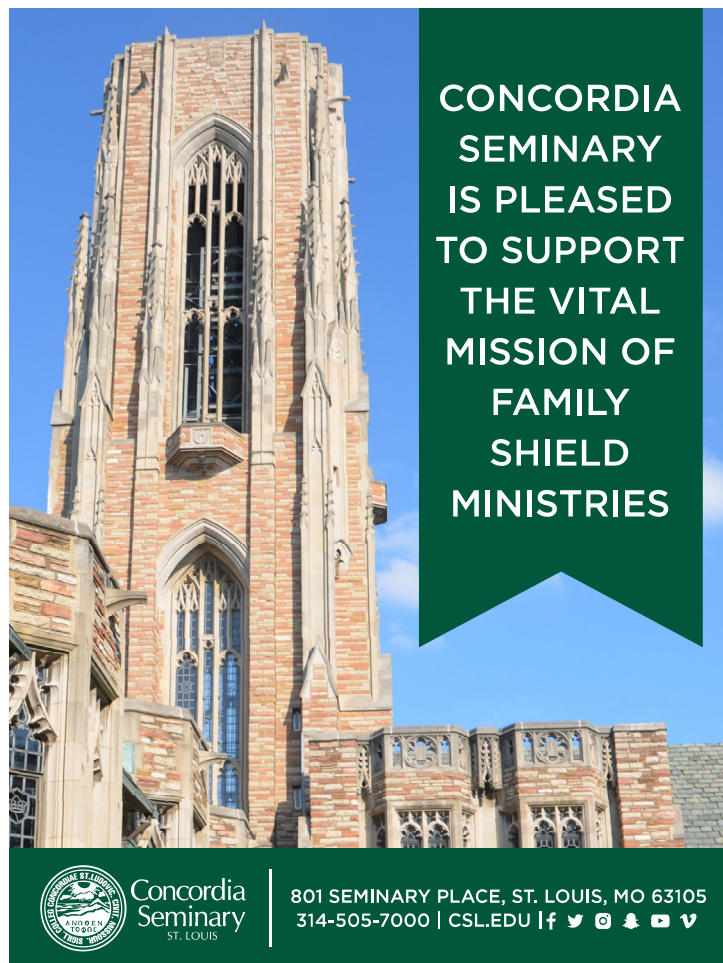
**I** recently returned from speaking at the "Witnesses Now for Jesus" Midwest Convention which was coordinated by Charles Smith, a former Jehovah's Witness. I spoke on "Proclaiming the Dual Nature of Christ to Jehovah's Witnesses." A copy of my book, *Mission Field on Our Doorstep: Jehovah's Witnesses*, and complimentary tracts were given to all participants.

What a blessing it was to meet so many ex-Jehovah's Witnesses that are now Christians! And to meet Christians who are striving to witness to friends and families that are involved with Jehovah's Witnesses. I also met many apologetic Christian leaders helping those who are leaving. And I met numerous people who want to leave. Carol was one of them. When I asked if she was an ex-Jehovah's Witness she said, 'No, I'm fading.' This means she is not active anymore.

Carol went on to tell me that her brother and sister-in-law had just asked her to leave their home where she had been living. They know she is going to leave the Watchtower Society and they will no longer help her. This is part of the Watchtower Society's disfellowshipping practices. She is dealing with a lot of anxiety and fear. We shared the Gospel and prayed with her.

When I asked where she was living now, she told me that a Christian woman who attends a Bible study near her home heard about her situation and offered her a bedroom in her home.

Jehovah's Witnesses that leave the Watchtower Society need people to offer help and support in many and varied ways. They need God's help and they need our prayers. Please keep Carol and others who leave in your prayers. If you'd like to be more involved in helping with this ministry please reach out to us for more information.





## 25th Anniversary "Step Into The Future" Sponsors

**We extend a huge Thank You to the following sponsors for their support of Family Shield Ministries!**

### Event Sponsors

**Harold and Amy Melser**

### Platinum Sponsors

**Tjaden and Kay Meyer**

### Gold Sponsors

**Rev. & Mrs. Mark Frith**



### Silver Sponsors

**Mr. & Mrs. Dan Leeman  
Lutheran Hour Ministries  
St. Mark Lutheran Church, Steeleville, IL**



**Concordia  
Seminary**  
ST. LOUIS



**SpencerFane™**



### Topaz Sponsors



Whatever your season in life,  
whatever your joys or struggles,  
**Christ is for you.**  
Hear the Gospel message daily on KFUO Radio.

Search **KFUO** wherever you get your **podcasts**

**KFUO.org** worldwide

**AM 850** in St. Louis

Sacred Music & Prayer

Worship Services

Bible Studies

Lutheran Confessions

Practical Talk

## Please Support Family Shield Ministries

Family Shield Ministries shares the saving Gospel message, reaches individuals and families for Christ, and serves families within and outside of the Church. Our evangelism and equipping services have never been more important than they are today.

### The Family Shield "Step Into the Future" Fundraising Drive

Join us in praying for individuals and families that we reach and equip for Christ! Ask the Lord to touch the hearts of new supporters and current supporters as we raise \$200,000 through the "Step into the Future" Fundraising Drive.

Your gift to Family Shield Ministries allows us to continue and expand our outreach to families, the unsaved, and those trapped in cults, as well as our national radio program and podcast. Thank you! Your support allows us to share the Gospel and tell millions of people who might not know Christ about the Savior.

Please consider a one-time gift, a monthly gift, a special "Step Into the Future" pledge for one, two or three years, or give a planned gift. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also" (Matthew 6:21).

### Direct Thrivent Choice Dollars to support Family Shield Ministries

Thrivent Financial members can designate their Thrivent Choice Dollars to support Family Shield Ministries. Go to [www.thrivent.com/thriventchoose](http://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoose) or call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and one of their employees can help you. Remember, you choose, but Thrivent gives the gift!

### Support FSM Via an IRA Charitable Distribution

A significant way to support Family Shield Ministries (FSM) may be a transfer of funds from your IRA. While funds may be authorized for transfer at any time by a donor, it is particularly beneficial if you are 70 ½ or older. Instead of taking the Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA, which is taxable as ordinary income, if you are at least 70 ½ years old, you may transfer funds as a contribution to the work of FSM which is not taxable.

### Give an Estate Gift through Generations Legacy

How will you make sure the Gospel is heard and understood by your children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren? One way you can do this is to put Family Shield Ministries, Inc. into your will, trust, or estate.

Someday you and I will be with the Lord in heaven. Not because you or I did good works to earn heaven, but because of our faith in Christ. But our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren will still be on earth. Your Generations Legacy gift will allow us to continue to proclaim the Gospel message of Christ to the next generation. Prayerfully consider supporting Family Shield Ministries through its Generations Legacy Program.

All individuals and families who inform us that they have done this are part of the Family Shield Ministries Generations Legacy Program. If you would like more information, contact Teresa Nelson, St. Louis Area Gift Planning Counselor with The LCMS Foundation at 314-351-6529 or Teresa.Nelson@ifnd.org; or contact Family Shield Ministries at 314-772-6070 or [witnesstofamily@gmail.com](mailto:witnesstofamily@gmail.com).



**YES! I want to support  
Family Shield Ministries!**



I want to help Family Shield Ministries accomplish its mission to reach and equip individuals and families for Christ!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a gift of \_\_\_\_\$2000 \_\_\_\_\$1000 \_\_\_\_\$500 \_\_\_\_\$250 \_\_\_\_\$100  
\_\_\_\_\$50 \_\_\_\_\$10 or \$\_\_\_\_\_.

In addition to the enclosed gift, I/we will pledge a gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ monthly  
or \$\_\_\_\_\_ per year.

#### If Giving By Credit Card:

\_\_ Visa \_\_ Master Card Amount to be charged: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CSV Code \_\_\_\_\_ \*  
\* Security Code from back of card -- Required for Authorization.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

(Required for Authorization)

You may also donate via PayPal at [www.familyshieldministries.com](http://www.familyshieldministries.com).  
(You do not need to have a PayPal account.)  
Click the Donate button on the home page.

**Family Shield Ministries is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.**  
**Contributions are deductible as allowed by law.**

**FAMILY SHIELD MINISTRIES**  
**P.O. Box 230015**  
**St. Louis, MO 63123**

## Communicating with FSM

Family Shield has many tools for outreach and communication besides this newsletter. We encourage you to connect with us via the following:

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyShieldMinistries> or  
<https://www.facebook.com/kay.meyer.372>

**Website:** [www.familyshieldministries.com](http://www.familyshieldministries.com)

**Twitter:** <https://twitter.com/fsmkmeyer>

**Email:** [witnesstofamily@gmail.com](mailto:witnesstofamily@gmail.com)

**Telephone:** Response Center: 1-877-250-8416 | Office: 314-772-6070



**Family Shield Ministries, Inc.**  
**P.O. Box 230015**  
**St. Louis, MO 63123**  
[www.familyshieldministries.com](http://www.familyshieldministries.com)

**Return  
Service Requested**

Non Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
St. Louis, MO  
Permit No. 927



**Lutheran Church Extension Fund**  
> where investments build ministry

## **FINANCIALLY STRONG** THROUGH OUR INVESTORS

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF), funds are made available to equip Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastors, churches, schools and organizations to fulfill their call of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Apply today!  
[\*\*lcef.org/invest\*\*](http://lcef.org/invest)



LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. StewardAccount products are not available to investors in South Carolina. The State of Washington has adopted a regulatory position that currently prohibits residents of Washington State from opening a new investment unless they are already an LCEF investor. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit [lcef.org](http://lcef.org) for details. The primary owner on the account must be 18 years or older.