

Pastor Brent Smith, Mission Development Counselor with Mission Central

The Rev. Dr. Brent Smith started serving Nov. 1, 2016 as mission development counselor at Mission Central (www.missioncentral.us). In this role, Smith serves alongside “Old Missionary Gary” Thies. Mission Central was launched in 1994 to help support missionaries and mission projects around the world. As mission development counselor, Smith works to inform congregations and their members of the LCMS national and international mission work, while also connecting people with opportunities to support missionaries and projects with prayer, encouragement and voluntary giving. In addition, he advocates for regional mission opportunities spearheaded or coordinated by their respective LCMS districts. “Truly the Lord continues to grow His kingdom through the missionaries and mission projects of the LCMS and its partners nationally and internationally,” Smith said. “It is an honor to come alongside missionary Gary Thies at Mission Central to work together in this multi-generational mission effort to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth. Jesus is the best generosity strategist ever, and I’m humbled to have this opportunity to serve in His mission.”

Brent, Jennie, Zachary, Katelyn, and Sophia are based in Omaha, Neb. — a location that will allow him both to welcome missionaries traveling to Mission Central and deploy nationally at the invitation of individuals and congregations. After growing up on a farm outside Imperial, Nebraska, and working in public accounting, Smith has served in various positions in the church since 1995, when he was sent to work as business manager in Central Asia (1995–97). He later spent six years as an evangelistic missionary in Russia before being called to as executive staff in the role of regional director for the Eurasia region based in Germany (2006–2013). His Doctorate degree focused on strategies for working as Christians in Muslim-majority contexts. Most recently, he served three years based near Washington D.C. in the LCMS Southeastern District as executive director for mission development (2013–2016).



Gary Thies, left, and the Rev. Dr. Brent Smith