



NEW DCE

DCE Grace Wolfgram has begun her work as our called Director of Christian Education. Her email is:

Immanuel.dcewolfgram@gmail.com. She grew up in Bismarck. Oh, and her birthday is this month [see the birthdays list]. Take the time to meet and greet her. Her photo is on the Youth Page [back of the calendar].

It's a Party!

Wednesday, **Sep 6th at 6 pm** (until about 6:30)
Children who have never been to Sunday School before [and their parents] have been invited to attend a party at Immanuel, where they:

- Meet their Sunday School teacher, Mrs. Amundson
- Visit their SS classroom
- Get a gift from the church
- Have a treat & sing a song



Confirmation Classes



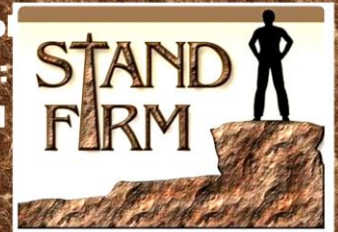
Meet from 6:50-8:15 during most of the school year. This involves 6th-8th graders from Grace Lutheran Church and Immanuel. Please continue to pray for our confirmation students and teachers (DCE Wolfgram & Pastor Worral).

Acts 4 is a Wednesday evening children's program for kids from kindergarten to 5th grade. It includes a Bible lesson, games, crafts, and other activities. It runs from 7-8 pm on the same nights as confirmation meets [excluding Sep 20th, Dec 13th & 20th]. For more information, please contact Amy Hirsch at 701-866-1668 or amyhirsch1979@gmail.com.



Rally Day- September 10, 2023

- **2023-24 Sunday School Theme:**
- **Special Opening for all at 9:30 am in Celebration Center**



- **Theme Verse:** Stand Firm! ...Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain." 1 Corinthians 15:58

Please join us for Rally

Sunday! Opening begins in the Celebration Center at **9:30 am on September 10th**. Second graders receive Bibles, courtesy of LWML Immanuel unit. Students will meet with their teachers from 9:45 to 10:45 each Sunday.

Confirmation Class of 2023

(9th graders) and parents will be meeting with Pastor Worral on Sundays at 12:30 pm, from Sep 10th thru Oct 22nd. Confirmation Sunday is slated for 2nd service on Oct 29, 2023.

There will be a voters

meeting on Sunday, September 10th at **9:45 am, to handle regular business.** All members ages 18 and above are invited to attend.

Adult Choir begins Monday, Sep. 11th from 7-8:15 pm. Weekly choir rehearsals are all about fun, fellowship, and praising God! Everyone is welcome to join! Contact Katie Rolf for more info: kathryn.rolf@gmail.com or 651-336-1012.

Student Welcome Cookout Potluck, followed by SPECIAL Voters Meeting
Sun, Sep 17th; 12:15 pm



Elders are grilling meat. Members bring a dish to pass. College students are our guests and will be introduced. All members ages 18 and older are highly encouraged to attend the **Special Voters Meeting, where Immanuel will CALL AN ASSOCIATE/CAMPUS PASTOR.** Come to the office in advance of the meeting to check out information on the pastors on the call list.

Pastor's Post

The following article was recently written by Pastor Chris Waldvogel at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church here in Fargo. It is reprinted here with his permission:

Upcoming Trial in Finland once again challenges freedom of religious expression

An upcoming trial in the Helsinki Court of Appeals will once again challenge freedoms concerning religion expression in Finland. The trial began Aug. 22nd.

In 2021, Finland's prosecutor general cited a 2004 pamphlet as "hate speech." In the pamphlet, The Rev. Dr. Juhana Pohjola, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Mission Diocese of Finland, and Dr. Päivi Räsänen, Finnish member of parliament, "expressed their deeply held, historically Christian beliefs on male-female marriage and human sexuality, emphasizing God's good creation and the inherent dignity of all people," according to a statement from the Lutheran International Council reaffirming a 2021 letter denouncing religious persecution in Finland.

In 2022, the Helsinki District Court unanimously acquitted the men of the charges, ruling that "it is not for the court to interpret Biblical concepts." The prosecutors appealed the acquittal, and a second trial will once again seek to convict Pohjola and Räsänen of hate speech.

"This represents nothing less than a yearslong relentless attack against free speech, religious expression, personal moral integrity, and limited government's proper sphere of jurisdiction as articulated in the Constitution of Finland, the European Convention on Human Rights (articles 9, 10), and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (articles 18, 19)," said a new statement signed by LCMS President Rev. Dr.

Matthew Harrison; LCMS Director of Church Relations Rev. Dr. Jonathan E. Shaw; and International Lutheran Council General Secretary Rev. Dr. Timothy C. J. Quill.

"We reaffirm the comprehensive June 25, 2021, International Lutheran Council statement: 'A Protest and Call for Free Religious Speech in Finland: An International Lutheran Condemnation of the Unjust Criminal Prosecution of the Rev. Dr. Pohjola and Dr. Räsänen, and a Call for All People of Good Will to Support the Freedom of Religious Expression in Finland,' signed by 48 ecclesial leaders and 45 church bodies and associations, but representing the moral commitments of hundreds of millions worldwide," the new letter read. "We call on all people of good will to condemn this unconscionable prosecution, to take a stand for freedom of speech and freedom of religion for all, and to pray for Bishop Pohjola and Dr. Räsänen and their acquittal. When we compromise on freedom for just one or two, we ultimately place freedom at risk for all."

The statement acknowledged the difference of the left- and right hand-kingdoms while also considering its overreach concerning religious freedoms: "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21)," the new statement said. "In this short sentence, Christ Jesus teaches His followers to honor and obey two different authorities, each in its proper sphere. Give to Caesar (government) what is rightfully his: honor and obedience regarding external matters such as taxes, laws that protect the body and punish evil, and earthly justice. And give to God what is rightfully His: honor and obedience regarding internal matters such as baptism into Christ, a clean conscience through forgiveness, speech that praises God and witnesses to others, love that shows mercy, and hope that looks to God. But where the government trespasses into God's sphere of internals, 'We must obey God rather than men,' (Acts 5:29; see also Augsburg Confession XVI, XXVIII)."

The Immanuel Image is edited by Parish Administrative Assistant, Louise M. Tegtmeier. Parish Workers Circle of Immanuel LWML assembles the newsletter, usually on the last Thursday of each month. Distribution to members & friends is sent monthly via USPS. Subscription changes: Immanuel Lutheran Church, 1258 Broadway, Fargo, ND 58102-2637; 701-293-7979; Immanuel.fargo@gmail.com. Website: www.immanuelfargo.org

NOTE: The church office will be CLOSED on
Sep 4th for Labor Day.



Youth Group Bonfire & Hayride

For youth in grades 6-12 (& friends)

Sunday, September 24th - 6:00-8:00pm

*Devotion *Bonfire *Hayride *Snacks *Games

There is no cost for this event. Please bring a snack to share and your own camping chair. S'mores and beverages will be provided.

Event is at Trinity Lutheran Church,
100 2nd Ave W, Sabin MN

To request prayers for the PRAYER CHAIN,

contact one of the coordinators: Clarice Michel (Claricemichel39@gmail.com; 701-237-9759) or Sandi Gardner-Leikas (701-237-9661; srendrag76@gmail.com). You may also wish to join the prayer chain. Contact Clarice or Sandi to volunteer. Note: Prayer Chain items do NOT go on the Prayer Page of the Immanuel News unless directed to do so.



Family Serving Groups

Ed Bean, FSG Coordinator, has stated the September group is **Tri** (Trittin-Zinke) [this group will also serve the student welcome meal to serve on September 17th]; the October group is **Aas** (Aasland-Bubach), and the November group is **Bum** (Bumgarner-Downs). Thank you for volunteering once or twice per year to assist with serving coffee time and the occasional congregational dinner.

Grace Lutheran School is hiring after school childcare workers. Flexible weekday hours between 3 and 6:15 pm. Starting wage is \$14/hour. Hires must pass a background check and submit fingerprints. This is an excellent job for high school or college students looking for a little bit of weekday work. Applications can be emailed to amy.hirsch@glsfargo.org; 701-232-7747.

Jesus loves the People of Maui!

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." John 16:33

Perhaps you saw the disheartening news. Ninety-nine (99) people are confirmed dead in the Lahaina fire with only 25% of the area searched.



What message do we bring to those so much in need of care and love?

You have a God who is Emmanuel, (God with us)! He is with you and for you! We are the body of Christ, walking, loving, living, and sharing with

those in need.

Pray for the leaders and members of Emmanuel Lutheran, Kahului, Maui. They function as God's hands and feet to the people of Maui. They are Christ's ambassadors and bear the presence of the Savior. Pray for their strength and care as they walk beside many in great need, assisting them, and pointing them towards Hope, found only in Jesus.

What is happening?

- The people of Emmanuel are providing immediate response, sharing needed goods and services, and assisting school families who are housing displaced people.
- Two staff from Lutheran Church Charities are deployed to Maui. They will help to organize a response effort able to be sustained by Emmanuel and supported by the CNH and the greater LCMS.
- Infusions of relief dollars from your CNH Disaster Fund, LCMS Disaster Relief, local congregations, individual donors, Orphan Grain Train, and LCEF are enabling a growing response.
- We hope to deploy crisis counseling personnel to assist in ministering to survivors and caretakers, sponsored by LCMS Disaster Relief and the CNH.

Your partnership:

- **Pray** for those so horrifically affected, those mourning, and strength for caregivers.
- **Encourage** those you may know on Maui with texts, cards, and emails. Let them know you are remembering them and praying for them.
- **Share** a gift to support relief work and recovery.

LCMS Disaster Response
CNH District Disaster Relief Fund
Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Maui (indicate for disaster relief)

God's Firm Foundation (GFF)

Paul writes of his ministry to the Christians in Philippi (Philippians 4) that he can do all things through Christ who strengthens him (v. 13) and, furthermore, God will provide for every need in riches in glory (v. 19). God's Firm Foundation is a testament to God's provision of strength to his church at Immanuel. God has provided physically for the needs of the campaign through sure and steady support. In Philippians 4, Paul also thanks the churches that have supported his ministry, the gift itself less important than the fruitfulness it provided. As Immanuel stands on the cusp of construction, we anticipate the fruitfulness of this gift of a new space. Please prayerfully consider a gift toward this project that all who use it may draw strength from Him who provides for every need in riches in glory.

GFF Executive Summary

Total # of People Given 89

Total Promise Cards Received 50

Total Money Pledged (Cards) \$ 446,500

2022 Money Received \$ 212,788.55

2023 Money Received \$ 460,908.99

Total Money Received \$ 673,697.54

Total with additional memorial, plate, etc.

\$675,567.00

*Anonymous Gift \$200,000 Received mid-Aug 2023

*Donors have been contacted - Thank you

Implementation Committee:

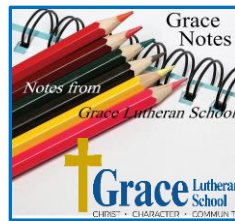
- Chair - Josh Gornowicz
- Adam Amundson
- Jeremy Rolf – Bd. of Finance
- Josh Baneck – Bd. of Trustees

Project Development:

- Upcoming Discussions with Contractors - Project is a go, Cash in hand has met the trigger point - Congregational established.
- Timeline set up
- Discussion with Sunday School Super.
- Discussion with quilters
- Schedule of events to prepare for the April 2024 start (projected date) Note: Easter is March 31, 2024.

Thank you.

Mitch & Lorinda Semanko, co-chairs



Grace, mercy, and peace from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

As Grace Lutheran School enters its 76th school year, we graciously ask for your prayers that the mission and ministry of the school would be a blessing for our students and families, our faculty and staff, and the Association.

Our theme this year is based on John 15:5: *"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."* We are connected to Christ, and He alone is the source of our spiritual fruitfulness and growth.

This school year, our 101(!!!) students are overseen by 10 faculty, including one new teacher, Ms. Jessica Stephens. Ms. Stephens ran an excellent summer childcare experience for us at Camp Grace, and we are pleased that she's agreed to join the Grace family as a teacher. She will primarily work with the lower grades in a variety of subjects.

Save the date for "A Celebration of Grace" dinner and auction on **Fri, Nov 10th**. Tickets will go on sale in Oct. If you would like to support the event through a sponsorship or an item/experience donation, please contact Amy Hirsch at amy.hirsch@glsfargo.org. Silent auctions will again be online for all to access, near and far.

Calendar:

September 4th – Labor Day, No School

2023-2024 Faculty and Staff

Mrs. Susan Jahnke – principal, middle school teacher
Mrs. Stacy Knudson – pre-kindergarten teacher
Mrs. Shannon Bakken – pre-kindergarten aide
Mrs. Sarah Altenburg – kindergarten teacher
Ms. Jessica Stephens – multi-grade teacher
Mrs. Connie Tranby – multi-grade aide
Mrs. Carolyn Worrall – first grade
Mrs. Carly Erdmann – second grade
Miss Larissa Brelje – third grade
Mrs. Katie Jensen – fourth grade
Ms. Clare Johnson – middle school
Mrs. Sara Palmer – middle school
Mrs. Shirley Westall – cook
Mrs. Amy Hirsch – office manager
Mrs. Diana Harshberger – secretary
Mr. Lonny Hanson – custodian
Mrs. Cindy Noennig – childcare
Ms. Amy Van Horn – childcare
Miss Joslyn Pierce – childcare
Miss Hillary Hirsch – childcare



Growing Together in Grace Capital Improvement Campaign Update - Sept.

Dear friends in Christ,
The Growing Together in Grace campaign is moving along and we are absolutely amazed with all that God has provided for the benefit of the project thus far.

Dan Krause, Grace alum and consultant at GraceWorks, was here again this month working with the fundraising committee. He has been a blessing for this campaign with his vast knowledge of school growth, fundraising, and other similar campaigns.

As of August 16, \$759,000 of \$1.25 million is committed to Growing Together in Grace. Construction (ordering) will begin when the campaign reaches \$833,000.

Check out the GTIG campaign page at www.gracelutheranschoolfargo.com/growing-together-in-grace, which includes photos and information and a link to our Vanco account to set up a one-time or recurring payment toward the campaign.



"Main Street Living" Media Ministry - September Update

September brings with it the return to school for another year. Though the fallen world has always brought its dangers to our children, it seems that these are increasing more and more with unbiblical ideologies being allowed and even taught in many of our nation's schools. This calls for not only fervent prayer for our children – and their teachers – but also for vigilance and boldness in speaking up for God's created design and will. *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* Romans 12:2

Please continue to share information about our LCMS "Main Street Living" media ministry with others. In addition to being broadcast each Sunday morning, you can view archived programs anytime at www.mainstreetliving.com – then click on the link under the picture identified as "Fargo/Bismarck."

Immanuel Image, September 2023

YEAR-TO-DATE FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS			
7-31-2023			
	BUDGET	2023	2022
* RECEIPTS *			
REGULAR ENVELOPES	\$585,000.00	\$333,238.25	\$312,607.32
PLATE OFFERINGS	\$10,000.00	\$5,382.00	\$6,338.50
SPEC. SERVICES & MISC.	\$20,000.00	\$8,544.74	\$10,888.00
ASSETS RELEASED	\$110,000.00	\$0.00	\$6,200.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$725,000.00	\$347,164.99	\$336,033.82
* EXPENSES *			
MISSIONS	\$123,000.00	\$69,226.47	\$65,862.39
ELDERS	\$29,900.00	\$13,300.63	\$18,534.80
EVANGELISM	\$3,750.00	\$1,918.87	\$1,500.00
STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE	\$8,300.00	\$4,245.14	\$2,295.43
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$58,900.00	\$27,825.05	\$30,069.37
TRUSTEES	\$136,000.00	\$49,223.79	\$50,057.66
ADMINISTRATION	\$304,100.00	\$142,671.56	\$160,950.72
HUMAN CARE	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
CAMPUS MINISTRY	\$76,280.00	\$41,087.20	\$44,799.00
ENDOWMENT	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$742,480.00	\$349,498.71	\$374,069.37
HOME PURPOSES PLUS (MINUS)	(\$17,480.00)	(\$2,333.72)	(\$38,035.55)
YEAR-TO-DATE REC'D			
BOTW-BLDG. MAINT. FUND		\$7,503.64	\$12,936.45
GFF (Basement Remodel)		\$256,957.07	\$0.00
GTIG (Grace Bldg Project)		\$3,400.00	\$0.00
THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS		\$6,712.00	\$4,334.00

Thank you for your needed financial support!
Checks may be sent to "Main Street Living NORTH," 821-5th Ave S, Fargo, ND 58103, or donate by Credit Card or your PayPal account on the website. God's blessing in Christ!

Ken Koehler, MSLN Coordinator

"MSL North" Programs for September 2023:

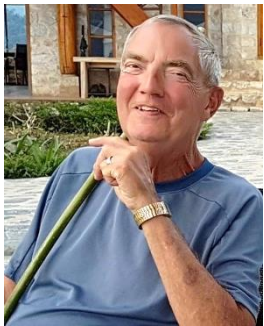
Sep 3rd: Rev. Scott Brown, Ebenezer Lutheran Church, Alexandria, MN, and St. James Lutheran Church, Parkers Prairie, MN, presents the message: "God's Way", based on Matthew 16:21-28. *This Is the Life* program: *"The Sound of Doors Closing" – A man's mid-life crisis and the effect it has on his family.*

Sep 10th: Rev. Sam Pitsch, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Moorhead, MN, presents the message: "A Hard Pill to Swallow" based on Romans 13:1-7. *This Is*

the Life program: "Tina" – Two lonely people – a woman and a child – come together through Jesus.

Sep 17th: Rev. William Aufdenkamp, Christ Lutheran Church, Elbow Lake, MN, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hoffman, MN, presents the message: "Who Do You Think You Are?" based on Romans 14:8. *"This Is the Life" program: "Look to the Mountain" – A hopeless situation becomes more hopeless when a down and out man kidnaps a young girl for ransom money.*

Sep 24th: Rev. Guy Roberts, Zion Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN, presents the message: "Our Life in Song" based on Psalm 27:109. *This Is the Life" program: "Home Free" – A family learns the real meaning of love, and that it comes free.*



Robert F Luinstra

August 24, 1945 – August 8, 2023

Bob Luinstra is resting peacefully in the presence of his Lord.

Robert Francis Luinstra was born in Iowa City, Iowa on August 24, 1945, and adopted by Harold and Dawn Luinstra four months later. He grew up in May City, Iowa and later earned degrees from St. Paul's College,

Concordia, Missouri; Concordia Teacher's College, Seward, Nebraska; and a Master of Divinity Degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Springfield, Illinois. On August 20, 1967, he married Donna Renquist of Fort Dodge, Iowa, also a graduate of Concordia Teacher's College.

Following ordination at his home church in May City, Iowa in July of 1971, **Bob served as campus pastor of North Dakota State University and co-Pastor at Immanuel Lutheran in Fargo, ND.** From there he concurrently served two parishes in Iowa: St. Paul Lutheran in Delaware and Our Savior Lutheran in Manchester from 1971 to 1979. He then headed west to take the helm of Mt. Olive Lutheran in Billings, Montana for nine years, followed by Holy Cross Lutheran in Spokane, Washington until 1998. His final parish, and the one he served longest, was Trinity Lutheran Church and School in Bend, Oregon where he presided over considerable growth in facilities, membership, and school enrollment.

During his ministry, Bob held numerous leadership roles including circuit counselor and pastoral counselor for the Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL). He was dedicated to Christian education, serving as chair of the Board of Education of Montana District, leading Ongoing Ambassadors for Christ, and supervising ten vicars (student pastors) over the course of his Ministry. He took great pleasure in greeting students every morning at Trinity School.

Bob was passionate about mission service and was blessed with many opportunities to travel for this purpose. He and Donna had mission trips to Guatemala, Panama, Dominican Republic,

Jamaica, and Grand Cayman.

Bob served the community as well as his congregations. He was active in Lyons Clubs in the various cities he lived in and Habitat for Humanity of Central Oregon. In Spokane, he served on the Board of Directors at Riverview Retirement Community.

An avid sports fan, Bob coached his kids in Little League and for many years played softball. He coached basketball in the Lutheran schools associated with churches he served in Spokane and Bend. He relished watching college basketball, especially the Gonzaga Bulldogs. He was a lifelong outdoor enthusiast, hiking, hunting, kayaking, and fishing in all the best spots in Iowa, Montana, Washington, and Oregon.

Bob is survived by his wife of nearly 56 years, Donna, daughter Amy Luinstra with husband Wim De Groof and children Alexander and Sebastian and son, Michael Luinstra with wife Donna and children Madison and Jace.



**2023 LWML North Dakota District
FALL RETREAT**

Friday, September 15 — Sunday, September 17, 2023
Fireside Inn and Suites, Devil's Lake, ND
 Lodging: \$92.50/night • Retreat Cost \$75

"ANGELS ... TRUTH & MYTHS"
But we see him who for a little while was made lower than the angels, namely Jesus, crowned with glory and honor (Hebrews 2:9).

GUEST SPEAKER: REV. CHRISTOPHER DURHAM
MISSION SPEAKER: CHERYL NELSON

Schedule:

Friday Evening:
 3:00 p.m. Hotel Check-In
 5:00-8:00 Complimentary Dinner
 7:00 Retreat Check-In
 8:00-9:00 Game Time

Saturday:
 9:00 a.m. Opening Worship
 10:00 Bible Study
 11:00 Presentation On Angels
 12:00 Lunch
 1:00 p.m. Presentation On Angels
 2:30 Cheryl Nelson, Mission Speaker
 3:00 Painting Angels
 4:00 Walking Tour
 5:30 Dinner
 Evening Entertainment
 8:30 Vespers And A Sing Along

Sunday Morning:
 Check Out Of Hotel
 11:00 a.m. Church At St. Peters In Devils Lake.

SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2023

**Fireside Inn and Suites,
Devil's Lake, ND**

Be sure to bring the following:

- Your Bible
- Light snack to share Friday evening
- Your Mite offering
- Willingness to hear God's Word taught in its truth and purity.
- Walking shoes if you want to enjoy the Historic Walking tour

Lodging: \$92.50 – Fireside Inn & Suites • 215 Highway 2 East, Devils Lake, ND 58301 Phone: 701.662.6760

- Rooms are priced at \$92.50/night make your reservations by August 30th to guarantee this price!
- Pool and hot tub so bring your swimming suits!
- Each room will fit 2-3 people
- Only 1.5 miles from St. Peters Church
- Continental Breakfast & complimentary dinner on Friday

In-Gathering: The Women's Care Center in Devils Lake

- Baby Blankets. We will be tying these please bring fleece material size 34 x 46 inches.
- Diapers size newborn, 5 & 6
- Bottles
- Newborn onesies
- Diaper Wipes
- Pacifiers
- Newborn socks

Retreat Cost: \$75 – Make check payable to LWML North Dakota District. Fill out registration form and mail to Melissa Sutton.

Council updates

-The regular Voter's Meeting will be at 9:45 on Sept. 10, and a Special Voter's Meeting will be held after the Student Welcome and potluck meal on Sept. 17. Week-after-week voter's meetings is not ideal, but this was determined to be the most attractive option. Council approved this arrangement.

-The God's Firm Foundation capital campaign for remodeling the church basement received another large anonymous gift. Together with other donations, we are now past the trigger point of funds needed before construction can begin. That will start in April 2024, with completion about Labor Day. We encourage continued support of GFF so we can finish the capital campaign, not have to take out a loan, and have a little break before moving on to our next commitment, Growing Together in Grace.

-Two letters will be proposed to our members to be sent from Immanuel (Bd of Elders, Cong. Pres.) to Thrivent Financial to ask them to at least remain neutral on political/social issues that encourage or celebrate sin. The thought is that their recent activities (Celebration of Pride Month) take them clearly into secular mode, and support of our ministry by secular organization, if not changed, should have no place in our congregation. *(Drafts of these letters are available for checkout in the church office.)*

-A motion to have communion at every Divine Service at Immanuel was tabled at the May Voter's Meeting, to be studied and brought back to the voters in Sep. The current plan is to do a Bible study on this topic after Pastor Worral is no longer filling the vacancy at Grace Lutheran Church.



-The Associate/Campus Pastor Call Committee members were selected by the Board of Elders. Members are **Russell** Bubach (chairman), Clarice Michel, Aaron Simmons, Charlie Hickman, and Larry Bakken. Ex-officio members are Steve Larson, Pastor Worral, Mitch Semanko, Jim Walla.

-We are looking into preparation of a cookbook as part of our the 75th anniversary of Immanuel Lutheran Church in 2025. This a result of a suggestion and offer to lead the effort by a member.



LWML Update

Shorter days, cooler nights, beautiful golden fields of grain being harvested – all these things point us to the changing seasons God has given us to enjoy.

Fall is upon us, and with it, a renewed surge of energy as we pick up the pace of events happening within the church and our LWML. Our LWML calendar of events has been planned out by our LWML Board. We begin with our **Unit meeting on Tuesday, September 19th at 6 pm. Please join us for a "Tasting Bee,"** a fun sharing of a favorite food (salad, bread, casserole, appetizer, etc.) Bring that selected food, and the recipe, and we will put them all together into a little cookbook for each of you, after we enjoy sampling them all!

We will also have a short business meeting, including election of officers (Pres. and Secy.) and a sharing of highlights from the LWML National Convention, held in June in Milwaukee, by Bonnie Kittelson, Louise Tegtmeier, and Patty Walla, attendees from Immanuel. Chancel Circle is in charge of serving and clean-up.

There are more events coming soon, so mark your calendars and join your fellow 'sisters in Christ' in fun, fellowship, learning and serving with new and familiar faces. Here is a list of upcoming events:

Fri-Sun, Sep 15th-17th – LWML ND Dist. Fall Retreat @ Fireside Inn and Suites, Devil's Lake, ND. This is an annual event to connect with other women from across the state for games, Bible

Study, mission speaker, entertainment, sing along, and this year, a presentation on 'Angels...Truths and Myths.' More information, along with registration form can be found in The Messenger newsletter on the purple LWML table in the Welcome Hall.

Sat, Sep 30th – Eastern Zone Fall Rally @ First American Luth. Church in Mayville, registration at 8:45 am. We can line up car-pooling as it gets closer. Pastor Dare will be coming to give a talk on "Wokeism." There will also be a Bible Study by Pastor Kramp, our Zone Counselor, business meeting and election of officers, and fellowship with women throughout our Zone.

Sun, Oct 1st – LWML Sunday/Mighty Mites Sunday – ushering and scripture reading by LWML members, installation of all LWML Officers and Circle Chairs. Coffee-time treats provided and served by LWML (5 doz. bars/cookies per Circle, to the kitchen no later than 7:40 am to be plated and ready. Please have bars cut.) Serving: Daisy Circle

Sun, Oct 15th – LWML Board Meeting @ 12:15 – planning for Nov Unit Project Mtg, & Dec events. The **Fall Quarterly magazine** has arrived and is located **on the LWML table** in the Welcome Hall! *"Missionaries are not only the ones who cross the sea...They are the ones who see the cross."* So, open your eyes and hearts, look around you, and be Lutheran Women in Mission!

In Christ's Service, Patty Walla, LWML President

WITTENBERG NEEDS A NEW ORGAN YOU CAN HELP!

Wittenberg's current organ is falling further into disrepair and needs to be replaced. Working with Allen Organ Co., our goal is to replace our current pipe organ with a digital organ, which will significantly reduce our current overall maintenance costs.

We aim to raise \$100,000 by the Fall of 2024 for our new organ, hoping to dedicate it at our 60th anniversary celebration!

You can partner with us by donating an organ key!

All gifts donated by January 31, 2024 will be matched **dollar for dollar** by the North Dakota District, up to \$50,000.

<p>70 White keys: \$100-\$500 ea. 50 Black keys: \$501-\$1000 ea. 25 Pedal keys: \$1001+ ea.</p>	<p>Gifts designated "Wittenberg Organ" may be sent to: ND District LCMS Box 9029 Fargo ND 58106-9029</p>
--	---

For updates, more information, and to help us reach this goal, please visit:

WWW.WITTENBERGCHAPEL.COM/ORGAN

From the Board for Human Care

Welcome College Students! As a part of the student welcome, we will be providing gift bags to all students in attendance on Sep 17th potluck meal. Thank you to Thrivent Choice Dollars for the funds to create these bags and the **Rachel** Bible Class for providing home-baked goodies for this.

During Oct, we sponsor our fall **Personal Care Drive** for the Emergency Food Pantry. There will be a display posted with a list of most-needed items the first Sunday in Oct. We will also have a week of volunteering at the Food Pantry to end our month. Be on the lookout for a sign-up list later this month.

Do you know about the Alms Ministry? The Alms Ministry provides personal, useful, and private support to people in need within our congregation and community. If you or someone you know who needs assistance, please reach out to a member of the Board for Human Care or one of our pastors.

RADIATE Faith

An Evangelism Workshop on
Sharing Faith both at HOME
and in your COMMUNITY

SATURDAY 9.23.23
9AM-4PM

Trinity Lutheran Church
in New York Mills, MN
424 E Gilman Street

FREE Event • Lunch Provided

Learn More & Register to Attend
midsouthdistrictlcms.regfox.com/evan23

Presented by the Mid-South District—LCMS

This special day of evangelism focus will combine two workshops into one:

- **EACH 1, REACH 1** will cover evangelism basics, with practical ideas on discussing and sharing the Lutheran faith within your community. This portion of the workshop will be presented by LCMS Mid-South District President Rev. Dr. Roger Paavola.
- **GENERATION to GENERATION** will focus on helping families (in all of their shapes, sizes and make-up) thrive for the sake of the Gospel in order to keep and pass on the faith in Jesus Christ to the next generations. Rev. Mark Bushuikovich, Associate Pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church & Academy in Nashville, TN, will lead this portion of the workshop.

Both **Each 1, Reach 1** and **Generation to Generation** are strong initiatives of the LCMS Mid-South District. To learn more about these programs, visit the Mid-South District website @ mid-southlcms.org.

The Radiate Faith evangelism workshop is being hosted by Trinity Lutheran in New York Mills for all surrounding Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) congregations.

REGISTER TO ATTEND AT

<https://midsouthdistrictlcms.regfox.com/evan23>

If you have questions about the event or would like to know about hotel accommodations in the area, please contact the church at 218.385.2450. You may also contact Trinity's pastor, Rev. Kirk Douglas, pastorkirk@nymtrinity.org.



Four-by-Four Update

The Board of Outreach has a smaller number of participants this fall (Sep, Oct, Nov) for the 4x4 gatherings. *This is a busy season, after all.* Be looking for the new Sign-up period in December for the Jan, Feb, and March groupings.

The Lutheran Witness



It is time to renew subscriptions to *The Lutheran Witness*. It is the official magazine of our denomination, the international Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. In addition to synod and general church news, it has a ND District supplement, and many informative articles. Order your copy or renew your subscription by completing the form below and returning it to the church office, or by calling the PAA (293-7979) **no later than September 18th**. Please also inform the PAA if you wish to cease your current subscription.

FYI: You may also add an online subscription for \$4.99 per year; however, the ND supplement is not available except in the paper version. The cost of each annual subscription is \$26.00, if ordered through Immanuel. Please bring payment to the office, either in cash or a check made out to Immanuel Lutheran Church. *New members in 2023 will receive a complimentary subscription for 2024.*

Please place your order by September 18th

The Lutheran Witness Subscription Order - 2024

Name:

Street:

City/State/Zip:

☐ Check attached/enclosed (\$26.00)

memorials & gifts	
From (date)	Honor/MEMORY
Terry/Dolly Meyer (7-24)	DARLENE MICKELSON; BOB SULLIVAN
Bob Stahlecker	KAY LEVERSON
Diane Heagle	KAY LEVERSON
Clint/Pat Podoll	KAY LEVERSON; WILMA FLAKOLL, MIKE VASICEK, KARLEEN KRAUSE
Mary Hallgren	KAY LEVERSON
Lisa Vasichuk (7-31)	KAY LEVERSON
VelRae Burkholder	KAY LEVERSON
Curt/Pam Sommer	KAY LEVERSON
Ed/Carolyn Bean	KAY LEVERSON; WILMA FLAKOLL
Chuck/Joan Miller	KAY LEVERSON
Diane Reese	KAY LEVERSON
Ed/Karen Woyen	KAY LEVERSON
Nyla Nolte	KAY LEVERSON
Wayne/Elaine Hankel	KAY LEVERSON
Ann Ludwig	KAY LEVERSON
Tom/Vickie Steckler	KAY LEVERSON
Ruth Coughlin	KAY LEVERSON
Jack/Linda Olson	KAY LEVERSON
Terry/Dolly Meyer (8-6)	DARLENE MICKELSON
Delores Berndt	KAY LEVERSON
Richard/Norma Frohberg	KAY LEVERSON
Don/Donnie Erstad	KAY LEVERSON
Virginia Lepage	KAY LEVERSON
Diane Lueck	KAY LEVERSON
Donna Miller	KAY LEVERSON
Bruce Leverson	KAY LEVERSON
Steve/Cindy Strege	KAY LEVERSON
Kathleen Mallinger	KAY LEVERSON
MB Saufferer	KAY LEVERSON
Paul/Deanna Mayland	KAY LEVERSON
Marilyn Jenson	KAY LEVERSON
Duane Thorsteinson	KAY LEVERSON
Julie Olek	KAY LEVERSON
Patrick/Dawn Cronin	KAY LEVERSON
Steve Hartman	KAY LEVERSON
Chester Leverson	KAY LEVERSON
Richard/Claire Wilson	KAY LEVERSON
Denver/Irene Sayler	KAY LEVERSON
Margaret Fitzgerald	KAY LEVERSON
Clarice Michel	KAY LEVERSON
Bonnie Kuehn	TOM KUEHN
Tim Flakoll	WILMA FLAKOLL
Diane Lueck	WILMA FLAKOLL
Bob Stachlecker	JERRY WALSH
Clint/Pat Podoll	Pastor Schulz family


September Worship Assistants				
Sep 3	8 am	Elder: Paul Ill (Mike R) Acolyte: Kinley K Usher Team: Semanko Greeter: M/L Semanko Video: Kay Tegtmeier	11 am	E: Paul Ill A: Scarlett H UT: Rolf G: Louise Tegtmeier
Sep 10	8 am	E: Jeff Sornsin A: Claire C UT: Rachow G: C/P Sommer V: Samuel Boateng	11 am	E: Jeff Sornsin A: Perrin B UT: Sather G: Jack Bumgarner
Sep 17	8 am	E: Mike R (AaronS) A: Wyatt S UT: Montana G: B/J Jacobson V: Kay Tegtmeier	11 am	E: Mike Rachow A: Elsie T UT: Lindgren G: Diane Heagle/Karen Hintz
Sep 24	8 am	E: Aaron Simmons A: Bella S UT: Stahlecker G: Clarice Michel V: Jack Bumgarner	11 am	E: Aaron Simmons A: Elsa S UT: Tegtmeier G: P/J Moltzan



2Sep – Brit & Keri Stevens (23rd)
 3Sep – Ryan & Andrea Engebretson (23rd)
 5Sep – Jessica Erickson & [Adam Buskirk] (2nd)
 6Sep – Connie & [Randy] Grondahl (26th)
 8Sep – Josh & Taylor Baneck (5th); Roger & Judy Kading (16th)
 13Sep – Kellen & Alex Bubach (10th)
 14Sep – Tom & Karla Dahl (38th)
 24Sep – Brett & Ashley McDonald (7th)
 25Sep – Dave & [Cathy] Manzey (40th)
 26Sep – Wayne & Megan Oberg (3rd); Aaron & ReNae Simmons (25th)
 28Sep – Troy & Amanda Dilger (10th)

memorials & gifts <i>continued</i>	
From (date)	Honor/MEMORY
Greg & Theresa Saylor (8-14)	KAY LEVERSON
Parish Workers Circle	KAY LEVERSON
Audrey Ley & Nancy Lasch	KAY LEVERSON
Vi Aasland	JERRY WALSH
Chuck/Joan Miller	JERRY WALSH
Lois Brantner (8-21)	KAY LEVERSON
Steve/Trista Grothe	KAY LEVERSON
Tim/Brenda Preuss (8-28)	MARILYN HANSON
Vi Aasland	MARILYN HANSON
Mary Hallgren	MARILYN HANSON
Bob Stahlecker	MARILYN HANSON
Curt/Pam Sommer	MARILYN HANSON
Tim Flakoll	WILMA FLAKOLL
Jim/Patty Walla	WILMA FLAKOLL; KAY LEVERSON





Lutheran Family Service



Dr. Mark Vande Braak, Ph.D., FT, MT-BC
Thanatologist/Music Therapist

Understanding the Grief Process
St. Andrew Lutheran Church, West Fargo
 Saturday, October 14, 2023
 9:00-12:00

Zion Lutheran Church, Bismarck
 Sunday, October 15, 2023
 1:00-4:00 pm

Dr. Mark has 30+ years of mental health experience in Thanatology (death and loss). He will share his vast experience in helping individuals, families, and communities in the face of tragedy from accidents, shootings, natural disaster, and suicide.

Free Will Offering

1Sep – Gene
DeLorme;
Heidi

Wiedeman

2Sep –

Kahlan

Casebeer (8)

3Sep – Liz

Danielson

4Sep – Trevor Dettling

5Sep – Tara Kreklau, David Manzey; Jack Olson

7Sep – Carl DeBoer

8Sep – Kate Bickle; Johnny Erdmann

9Sep – Brett McDonald; Betty Thomas; Elsie

Trandem

10Sep – Ross Bickle; Randy Roesler; [Chuck]

Wendlick

11Sep – Bruce Severson

12Sep – David Beam; Grace Sather

13Sep – Gabrielle Engebretson; Mike Nelson

14Sep – Virginia Lepage (84)

15Sep – Carolyn DeLorme; Logan Kittelson

16 Sep – Claire Carr; Milan Gornowicz; Violet

Johnson (2)

17Sep – Ellie Caldwell (7)

18Sep – Brenda Preuss; Jeff Speidel; Matt Steiner

19Sep – [Carissa] Kittelson; Sara McNett

21Sep – Ashley Nickel

22Sep – Jim Walla

23Sep – Brent Aasland

24Sep – Alex Kosel

25Sep – Karen Olson

26Sep – Lowell Halstenson; Elaine Hankel (82)

27Sep – Jon Stirling

28Sep – Stacia Croucher; [Casandra] Maassel

29Sep – [Justine Swanson – *mom of Mary K.*] (99)

30Sep – Janet Asche; Levi Schulz; Mitch Semanko;

[Courtney] Walsh



however, many of those people only know you from what is on the surface. Often it is hard expressing yourself in your second language as you are still learning, making it easier to stay on the surface in those relationships. My goal this summer was to dig deeper and make more meaningful connections with the church members, especially while I was the only missionary stationed in Mayaguez. With the Maita family on home service in the United States, I took on more congregational responsibility at Iglesia Luterana, Principe de Paz, along with continuing in the roles that I occupy daily. I coordinated meals, led crafts and printed Bible study materials for our

Wednesday fellowship nights. I oversaw the opening and closing of the church on Sundays. Along with a variety of smaller tasks. The new tasks for the summer



provided a wonderful opportunity to build stronger relationships with the church members. I was the contact person and the coordinator between the congregation members and the visiting missionary pastors from Ponce. On a few occasions this summer, I was also able to have Spanish-speaking coffee dates with a member of the congregation in Mayagüez, who happens to be a Spanish teacher. This was a perfect opportunity to get to know her better and get more practice speaking Spanish. I pray that we can continue these. I was also able to have lunch with other members of our churches throughout the summer. I am very thankful for my missionary colleagues who are with me in Puerto Rico and the ways I can stay connected with those who live far away. I am also thankful for the opportunity to be lonely this summer to grow and build relationships with others in my community. We are truly never alone. God is always with us. In times where that is hard to see, I remember what came at the end of the Great Commission “*And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age*” (Matthew 28:20b)

You can support my work by giving online to www.lcms.org/lehr or A check can be made payable to the LCMS with Ashley Lehr in the memo to: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod P.O. Box 66861 St. Louis, MO 63166-6861 Mission Central Adopt me as your missionary by visiting missioncentral.us/Lehr/ A check can be made out to Mission Central with “A10899-69467” in the memo and sent to: Mission Central 40718 HWY E16 Mapleton, IA 51034



News from LCMS Missionary Ashley Lehr and what God is doing in Puerto Rico.

Summer in Puerto Rico

The missionary field can sometimes be a lonely place. You are surrounded by so many people;

Immanuel Image, September 2023



**NEWS FROM
BECKY
BARTELT**
*...Serving the
Lord in
Taiwan/Asia*

At the beginning of August, I spent ten days in Taipei at the Taipei International Choral Festival.



This was my first time in Taipei. The festival consisted of a festival choir, conducting workshops, choral competitions and concerts. Every evening there was a concert featuring a choir from Taiwan and an international choir.

The festival choir, in which I participated, consisted of singers and music-lovers from all over Taiwan, several from Hong Kong, a few Taiwan-American dual citizens, a German exchange student and me. We rehearsed Mendelssohn's oratorio *Elijah* for nine days and then performed it in German with the Taipei Youth Orchestra at the National Concert Hall. It was a great experience.

Not only did I get to meet and chat with a lot of people, but I got to experience choral rehearsals in the Chinese language under the direction of the Taipei Philharmonic Chamber choir conductor for about 2/3 of the time. Then a guest Hungarian conductor led the rest of the rehearsals and put the finishing touches on for the concert. I'll be honest. I only understood about one out of every 8-10 words of the Chinese rehearsal, but I did understand her modeling and was able to follow along with some help from the singer next to me.

I did learn that while students learn to read music using a numeric solfege system, at some point they begin to read music using the fixed do system. In this system the notes we would call C,D,E,F,G..., they would call do, re, mi, fa, so. It would be for an American like reading music by singing the letter names instead of using solfege syllables based on the key of the piece. It seems like the choir tended to jump into warm-ups without much physical preparation (stretching, breathing exercises, getting the body active, etc.), though the vocal coach for the

second soprano sectional rehearsals did more physical preparation. I pray that the experience and the people I met will help me in future musical endeavors in Taiwan. The international choir competition was very interesting to watch. There were choirs from Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Indonesia. Most choirs seemed to do one piece with some kind of extremely well-choreographed movement. The Hong Kong choir won the competition with choirs from Indonesia coming in second and third.

Pictured at left is the huge organ in the concert hall. A woman who sat next to me and helped me figure out where we were in the music when I was confused had the English name of Misty. I am praying for the Holy Spirit to work in her, even as she prays to the goddess whom she believes gave her her husband.

Interestingly, the picture that got the most attention on Facebook was this one. I am trying chicken foot for the first time. My friends insisted it is delicious and a treat to be savored. I thought it tasted like chicken and struggled not to drop it with my chopsticks and still eat what is to be eaten off the bones. We went to a local restaurant and also had a red bean pancake for dessert. It was surprisingly sweet and delicious.



Becky Bartelt, 5F-2 #167 Gongyuan St., East District, Chiayi City, Taiwan 600044
PLEASE GIVE THANKS FOR...

- a wonderful time of learning and making music in Taipei
- a growing number of missionaries on the field in Chiayi with various responsibilities.

Lutherans for Life Annual Dessert Banquet

- Sunday, October 1st at 3:00 pm here at Immanuel.
- Guest speaker will be Kim Laube.
- Theme: "Satan is a Liar! Death is NOT the Answer"
- For more information, or to register, please email: FMLFLBanquet@outlook.com or call Amy Walker at 218-979-0953.



Kim Laube, BA, Deputy Director
Lutheran Family Services

Ms. Laube directs a multi-state pregnancy counseling & adoption agency in the Midwest. Kim has been involved in advocating for life in both her

current role and former role as Executive Director of Iowans For Life, by being a voice in the public square. She has influenced public policy and the education of congregations regarding both abortion and physician-assisted suicide.

ND District LCMS Message in a Pew

August 2023

THANK YOU!

Matthew 14:30 – "But when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, 'Lord, save me.'" The world really is a scary place, with natural disasters, disease, terrorism and a hundred other things. But where do we place our hope, our trust, our vision? Where do we look for aid and comfort? When Peter's eyes were on the Lord, he had confidence. When he turned to look at his problems and took his eyes off the Lord, he fell apart. Sometimes God's call to support the work of His church with our offerings makes us nervous. But put your eyes back on your Lord, trust Him, follow His Word and all really will be well.

This stewardship bulletin blurb really spoke to me. How often do we take our eyes off of Jesus and let the worries of the world overtake us? Where will the money for a new refrigerator in the parsonage come from? The church furnace isn't working? How will payroll be covered this month?

In your congregation, the answer is you! For the ND District, the answer is ... you!! Most congregations set aside a portion of the offering plate gifts to go to missions. It may be a percentage of giving, a set amount, or an amount designated by the giver. Those gifts are sent into the District Office and make up the Congregational Mission Giving number on the top of the following page. So, **THANK YOU** to our congregation members!! You are appreciated! Since many of our expenses are monthly, just like your congregation and home, it helps when your gifts arrive monthly. Let's all remember to keep our eyes on the Lord, and trust Him for all that we need.

Congregations' Status

St. Peter-Belfield: vacancy (Rev. Anthony Ahrendt).
Redeemer-Grassy Butte: vacancy (Rev. Mike Wolters).
Crosspointe-Fargo: vacancy (Rev. Chris Waldvogel).
Peace-Garrison; St. Matthew-Max: vacancy (Rev. Nathan Schieber).
Immanuel-Fargo: DCE Grace Wolfgram will be installed on August 27.
Grace-Fargo: has extended a call to Rev. Sean Danzer, LCMS International Center, St. Louis.

Pres. Arie Bertsch

Pastors & DCE's

Rev. Matthew Tooman, First English -Fairmount, Immanuel-Wahpeton is considering a call to Holy Trinity-Logan, UT.
 Rev. Matthew Thompson, Holy Cross-Bismarck, St. John-McClusky has returned a call to St. Michael-Reese, MI.
 Rev. Zelwyn Heide, St. Peter-Hannover, Zion-New Salem returned a call to Concordia-Forsyth, Mt. Calvary-Colstrip, Trinity-Hysham, MT.
 Rev. Michael Suelzle, St. Peter-Devils Lake, Grace-Lakota, St. Andrew-Niagara returned a call to Bethlehem-Greenleaf, KS.

NORTH DAKOTA DISTRICT LCMS

Financial Information

July 2023

INCOME:

Congregational Mission Giving	\$85,530.83
Less Synodical Pledge (35%)	(\$28,774.81)
Net Congregational Mission Giving	\$56,756.02
Other Unrestricted Gifts	4,048.41
1-1-1 Mission Giving	2,099.93
Current gifts/fees for missions	19,293.83
Available Income	\$82,198.19

EXPENSES:

Local Missions and Committee Activities: (Includes Wittenberg Chapel, Deaf Ministry, Youth)	\$14,849.39
Congregational Support/Operating Expenses (Includes General Operations, District President, Business Manager, Board of Directors)	46,258.94
International/Local Missions	
Christ's Care for Children – Kenya (\$10,000)	0.00
Chile Mission (\$20,000)	0.00
Chile Mission— Special Events	0.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat (\$5,000)	0.00
(These missions were voted on by the District Convention. They will be paid quarterly as funds are available)	
Current Expenses	\$61,108.33
NET OPERATING INCOME FOR JULY	\$21,089.86
Past Funds Given used for Current Expenses	\$2,400.00
Year To Date NET INCOME/LOSS	(\$5,188.94)

As expected, July was a good income month and overall giving is at our average for the halfway point of the fiscal year. Deferred synod assessments are included in the Current Gifts/Fees and synod convention expenses are included in the Congregation Support expenses. More of that to come in August, but I am still expecting those numbers to be within budget.

Gifts from individuals and congregations designated for our convention resolution missions are sent at the end of each fiscal quarter. YTD designated gifts for these missions as of July 31, 2023:

Christ's Care for Children – Kenya	\$1,224.18
Chile Partnership	\$1,391.00
Shepherd's Hill Retreat	\$2,302.85

Please contact Tami Ulland at lcms.nd.busman@gmail.com or call 701-360-1469 if you have more questions.

You can now use your credit/debit card to donate directly to the District. Click on the Joyful Response button on nodaklcms.org to pick where you would like your donation directed.

[This page reserved for cover.]