



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH

Helping seek peace in the city

Congregation raises funds for police officers

The members of Grace Lutheran Church, Hibbing, take God's support of the world through vocations very seriously. So seriously that the congregation decided to participate in the Shield 616 project by sponsoring at least one officer.

The goal of Shield 616 is twofold: First, to equip every officer with necessary equipment. Second, to provide a support group for each officer by asking a group of sponsors to pray for the officer and his or her family on a daily basis, while showing other forms of support and encouragement throughout the year. Sponsors receive a magnet with their officer's first name and agency. This allows the sponsor to pray specifically for the agency and its officer.

Thrivent Financial was very supportive of the congregation's desire to sponsor officers and provided funds to pay for food and supplies for a pulled-pork brunch through its Action Team program. The fundraiser, held on Sunday, Dec. 18, helped raise funding for tactical gear for police officers.

Kevin and Debbie Skifstad, parents of the founder of Shield 616, addressed the congregation following worship services. There was a strong response from the congregation, despite the temperature being -27 that morning.



A total of \$3,143 was raised, with \$70 going to the nearby Chisholm Police Department. Enough funding was raised to supply three officers with tactical gear. The congregation of Grace rejoices in the opportunity to afford physical protection and spiritual support to the officers.



Choir to perform three shows

The National Lutheran Choir will present concerts featuring Bach's Cantata 80, Ein feste Burg (A Mighty Fortress) performed with chamber orchestra, along with works by other early Lutheran composers, including Johann Walther, Heinrich Schütz and Michael Praetorius.

The concert schedule is:

- ▶ Friday, March 17, 7 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, Moorhead.
- ▶ Saturday, March 18, 7 p.m. at First Lutheran Church, Duluth.
- ▶ Sunday, March 19, at 4 p.m. at Central Lutheran Church, Minneapolis.

Ticket prices vary by location. Call Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006 or order online at NLCA.com.

Banner effort in Bemidji

A new Christmas banner was made for Trinity Lutheran Church, Bemidji. The design originated from an old Christmas bulletin cover. It was modified to fit a background of 8' by 4.5'.

The banner was truly a congregational effort as there are more than 500 individual snowflakes that make up the angel's gown and each snowflake was cut out by members of the congregation. Some flakes were individually cut and others were laser cut on a machine. Each organization and family unit of the congregation has their name on a snowflake.

Members of Trinity's Altar Circle and other individuals assembled the banner over the course of three days. The banner will hang in the chancel through the season of Epiphany.



Blessing families at Christmas

“Project Elf” has been undertaken by the Ladies’ Guild of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Aurora, for many years at Christmas. Recognizing the need of many families in the community, the ladies join forces with a high school to ensure that more families are blessed with a Christmas dinner.

The ladies start by requesting a gift card from Thrivent Financial to purchase food items for boxes to be distributed to families. Congregation members are then asked to donate funds for purchasing \$25 gift cards. These cards are included with the boxes so that recipients may purchase a main course to go with the food items in each box.

This year, 12 boxes were filled with food items such as stuffing, gelatin, canned vegetables, desserts and many other goods. The ladies lovingly packed each box, praying that the families who will be blessed with these gifts will also have a blessed Christmas. Students from Mesabi East High School picked up the boxes for distribution to families in the immediate area.

Send us your news

If you have any announcements, or if you would like to report on special events or human interest stories from your congregation or organization, please send submissions to the.lutheran.witness@mnnlcms.org.

You may also mail your articles to:
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
P.O. Box 12
603 State 371 NW
Backus, MN 56435
attn.: Rev. Stephen Rutherford



Family grows in Foley

On Sunday, Jan. 8, 14 new members were welcomed at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Foley, during the morning worship services, officiated by the Rev. Dr. Timothy J. Rehwaltd. Ten of the new members are pictured. The congregation rejoices in the blessings of God as the members welcome them into their fellowship and walk together under God's grace and guidance.

INSTALLATIONS

Shepherd finally comes to Alexandria

After a long vacancy, God has answered the prayers of Good Shepherd, Alexandria, by calling the Rev. Tim Schiller to serve as pastor. The congregation welcomes Tim and his wife, Laura, praying that God will lead him and the members of Good Shepherd as they work together to spread His Word.

Schiller was installed on Jan. 8. Participating were, from left (front row) the Revs. Dennis England, David Hinz, Dr. Donald Fondow (district president and installer), Schiller, William Moeller, Del Stohs, Dane Compton, Bob Brueske; (back row) Kirk Lee, Jeff Lee, Ed Borchardt, Philip Beyersdorf, James Walburg, Roger Krebs and Terry Finnern.



Cloose installed in Mora

The Rev. Tony Cloose was installed at Zion Lutheran Church, Mora, on Jan. 8. Participating in the service were, from left (front row) the Revs. Cloose; (middle row) Robin Collins, Glen Kleppe, David Franzmeier, Don Polege, Philip Hoppe; (back row) Del Meyer, Tim Renstrom, Paul Cloeter (district vice-president and installer), Jacob Dandy, Bradley Vogt, Marc Freiberg Sr. and James Goleau.



Petersen installed in Garrison

The Rev. Thomas E. Petersen was installed as the new pastor of Shepherd of the Lake, Garrison, on Dec. 4. Petersen had been serving as vacancy pastor since June. He had retired from his pastorate at St. Paul, Stevens Point, Wis., after serving for nine years. He has served as pastor since 1983 at parishes in Stoughton, Wis., Bonduel and Cecil, Wis., Bloomer, Wis., and Lengby.

Petersen graduated from Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Mankato State University, Bethany Lutheran Seminary in Mankato, and received colloquy through Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, in 1987.

Petersen has been married to his wife, Jo, since 1978, and they have three children and six grandchildren, who live in Wisconsin and Minnesota.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

God's promise to you

The Gradual for the Transfiguration of Our Lord is Ps. 117:1-2a; 96:8:

"Praise the LORD, all nations! Extol him, all peoples! For great is his steadfast love toward us, and the faithfulness of the LORD endures forever. Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts!"

Ash Wednesday, which falls on March 1 this year, starts the Lenten season. Before Lent, we celebrate the Transfiguration of our Lord — another time during the Epiphany season when Jesus gives you a glimpse of who He truly is. Here in the shortest of the psalms you have a wonderful prophecy.

As you know, not all nations are Israelites and not all people are Jews. But this small psalm is issuing a decree to everyone. And what are you to do? You are to praise the Lord for the blessings He has given to you. For in His steadfast love and faithfulness He keeps His promise to you!

What is the promise He gives to you? Jesus died to pay the debt of all mankind. You are justified by the shed blood of Christ. All your sins are forgiven in Christ. The work of reconciling you to God is finished!



Thanks be to God for all the good things He has done. The truly good things — of giving you faith, forgiveness of your sins, everlasting life and salvation.

Rev. Donald Klatt
Lakeland Region Pastoral Counselor

Our mite giving

Reminder: The fiscal year for the LWML ends on March 31. All societies are encouraged to mail their mite contributions to the LWML Minnesota North District by March 15 so that funds can be processed in a timely manner and forwarded to LWML for the 2015-17 \$2-million mission goal.

Donations postmarked after March 31 will go toward the next biennium's goal. As of January 31, the amount of \$247,559 was needed to reach this biennium's goal. The Lord our God is mighty and He can do mighty deeds!



Studying for full-time church work?

The LWML Minnesota North District has **scholarships available** for students planning a career in full-time church work. These scholarships are awarded on a yearly basis. The application may be downloaded at lwmlmnn.org.

Full-time church work includes, but is not limited to, men preparing for ordination, deaconess, director of Christian education, director of Christian outreach and Lutheran teacher.



To be eligible for a scholarship, a student must be enrolled in an LCMS university or seminary and studying for full-time church work, live in the Minnesota North District and be a member of an LCMS congregation.

For more information, contact Elizabeth McTighe, Scholarships chairman, at scholarships@lwmlmnn.org. Applications must be received by May 15. Recipients will be notified by late July.

Challenge met!

The LWML Board of Directors met in St. Louis Jan. 25-28. One of the highlights was a Mite Challenge. If \$2,500 was raised during the meeting for the 2015-17 mission goal, the Rev. Robert Roegner, LWML senior pastoral counselor, pledged to shave off his beard. When \$8,300 was raised, the beard and mustache came off.

If \$10,000 is raised by March 31, Roegner will remain smooth-faced until the convention in Albuquerque, N.M., in June. If you or your group want to help meet the \$10,000 challenge, be sure to indicate your intent when sending money to Financial Secretary Corles Rainer. Financial remittance forms can be found on the Resources page of our district web site, lwmlmnn.org.



Marilyn Hitel

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