



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH

Two new workers in the harvest field

The end of April is always an exciting time both for seminary students who are completing their studies and for the many congregations in each district. Because the end of April brings Call Day — the day when calls are formally received by the men most recently approved by our Synod’s seminaries for service in the Office of the Holy Ministry.

On April 25 and April 26, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., and Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, respectively, held their annual call day services. Forty-three candidates from Fort Wayne and 56 candidates from St. Louis received their assignments to parishes, diaconal ministry and missionary work.

It is always a joyous occasion for the whole church of God, and for LCMS congregations particularly. It is especially a time for prayer, praise and encouragement for the Minnesota North



From left, David Walsh; the Rev. Dr. Donald Fondow, Minnesota North District president; and Nicole and Dean Rager.

District in that the Lord has called two young men from Fort Wayne to serve as pastors in our district.

David Walsh has received a call to serve as pastor of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Menahga, and Christ Lutheran Church, Wolf Lake. Dean Rager has received a call to serve as pastor of Nicolai Lutheran Church, Canby, and Zion Lutheran Church, Boyd.

God’s providence of faithful shepherds for the flock serves not only to support and strengthen the congregations which the Shepherd and Overseer of our souls calls these young men to serve, but all of us who walk together as brothers and sisters in Christ — for if the hand rejoices, the whole body rejoices. Let us rejoice together and commend David, Dean and their congregations to God in prayer.

Installation at dual parish

The Rev. Tim Renstrom was installed as pastor of St. John’s, Rush City, on March 26. The installation of a new pastor is a major event in the life of any congregation. However, this is especially significant for St. John’s as well as for the congregation of St. Stephen, Braham, the congregation which Renstrom currently serves. This installation is the capstone of the formation of a dual parish between St. John’s and St. Stephen.

As the formation of such a union is both a cause of many joys, opportunities and challenges, the whole district lifts these congregations and their pastor up for God’s continued blessing in the life of both congregations.



From left, the Revs. Daniel Lewis, Martin Mably, Terry Grzybowski, Dr. Donald Fondow, Leland Bendix; Renstrom and Don Poleg.

A life of creative service

Sometimes, the Lord provides ways for just a few folks to help a great many people with even the simplest of things and a little creative know-how. And sometimes, that creative know-how and kindness spreads a long a way to inspire others to similar acts of service. Helen Hoffman of Springfield, Ill., is pictured here with a handful of the 350 pillowcase dresses she has made for third-world refugee children.

Helen started making these dresses four years ago, and her busy hands are never short on pillowcases. She belongs to a quilters group at the congregation of Trinity, Springfield, Ill., which receives many donated pillowcases for the cause. The group then passes them on to Helen, who sews them all from her home.

But what prompted Helen's energetic service, and inspired the dresses that have clothed so many people, was a conversation with her sister, Bernice Bergseth, a member of Peace Lutheran Church, Finlayson. Bernice had told Helen about the pillowcase dresses that she and another lady from Peace had been making. The idea stuck, and with some online research, Helen was quickly turning out dresses of her own. And now, at 97, Helen is still sewing strong.

It is a fine example of how the love and service Christ calls us to can inspire others to do the same, sometimes even several states away.

Helen is the widow of the late Rev. Herman Hoffman, who served



many parishes throughout Minnesota — Royalton, Geise, Ada, Herman/Hoffman, Dent and Bertha. As he moved into semi-retirement, the Hoffmans moved to serve the congregation of Trinity, Springfield, until his death in 1995.

Circuit confirmation rallies come to close

The fifth and final confirmation rally for 2016-17 was held at Living Savior Lutheran Church, Lakeshore, on April 23.

Youth from St John's, Motley; Zion, Brainerd; Gloria Dei, Pequot Lakes; and Emmanuel, Backus, gathered for a chance to learn about and discuss the Lord's Prayer and how it related to prayer in general and their own prayer life in particular. Once the lesson was complete, the youth enjoyed pizza and soda before gathering around a bonfire for games and fellowship.

The youth all expressed a strong desire for the rallies to continue the following year because they unanimously stated that they appreciated both what they learned and the opportunity to spend time with other Lutherans their age from across the circuit. Even those kids who were going to complete their confirmation courses this year asked if the circuit would form a new set of



rallies for youth who have completed confirmation because they so greatly appreciated the opportunity to learn and interact in unique ways, and very much desire to have future opportunities like this.

Rallies such as these are relatively simple to host, requiring minimal planning and preparation from only a handful

of pastors or dedicated laypeople in a circuit. The success of the previous year demonstrates well the potential benefits such opportunities can give to the youth, while also fostering the level of fellowship between circuit congregations as many members have opportunities to interact with each other that they would not otherwise enjoy.



Workshop equips pastors with chaplaincy skills

Pastors are charged with administering God’s Word of Law and Gospel in a variety of contexts to a variety of people. There is no such thing as a “standard” call in which the job duties are neatly laid out. There is no way of predicting exactly what kind of situations to which a pastor may have to minister.

Some of the most challenging situations are those wherein the pastor is faced with ministering to people who are themselves faced with extreme circumstances not often experienced by most people. Immediate and ongoing pastoral care to people who have undergone a major crisis — such as a significant loss, financial hardship or drastic change in life or who are faced with a recent suicide — is not easy. Nor is it always clear to a pastor how to effectively do his job in those situations.

In order to help better equip pastors and other church workers with skills for addressing such extreme situations, the Minnesota North District hosted a training workshop on April 27 at the district office. The workshop consisted of two modules covering the topics of “Crisis Response” and “Responding to Suicide.”

Although the modules have been spe-

cifically developed for chaplains who are involved in emergency services, the district ensured that the workshop would be open to anyone who wished to improve their skills in these areas of ministry and counseling. Nine church work professionals from both the Minnesota North and South districts took part in this opportunity, including pastors, chaplains and DCEs.

The modules focused on several important topics such as techniques for helping people cope with these

situations, indicators to help caregivers recognize and approach people who are in need of different sorts of immediate and ongoing response, and reacting to the various stages of response to crises people typically undergo.

The Rev. Steve Breitbarth leads a chaplaincy workshop.

The workshop was led by the Rev. Steve Breitbarth, an experienced pastor and chaplain. He served as

pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, Christholm, for 35 years (1980-2015). He has also been a licensed marriage and family therapist for more than 27 years.

Breitbarth is also an LCMS ecclesiastically endorsed emergency services and disaster response chaplain. He has served as a chaplain for emergency services for more than 15 years and received more than 1,000 hours of training. He is a member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains (ICPC), from which he has attained the prestigious Diplomat level. Breitbarth is also a certified instructor for ICPC courses.

For those who are interested in receiving further training, or who are interested in formal chaplaincy training, the ICPC will hold a training seminar Oct. 24-26 at the Department of Public Safety in Duluth. For more information about the seminar and registration, visit icpc4cops.org/regions/training-seminars.html.

Seminary offers class on Job

Continuing education is a great way to refresh and renew for both pastors and laypeople. Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., will offer one such opportunity for continuing education at Christ Lutheran Church, Rochester, June 12-14. The Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, pastor of St. Michael, Fort Wayne, and former professor of Exegetical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will lead a seminar on Job.

Martin Luther asserted that “Job is magnificent and sublime as no book of Scripture.” Others have called Job the Shakespeare of the Bible. Yet the early Christian scholar Jerome perhaps put it best when he called the book of Job an eel, since the more one tries to contain it, the slipperier it becomes! The purpose of this seminar is to help pastors and laity learn how to apply Job to their lives so that the book becomes less like an eel and more like a loving companion through life’s dark valleys. Bible study and insights will abound.

For course information or to register, visit ctsfw.edu/ce or call 260-452-2103.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Not once, or twice

“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”
Is. 6:3

This is the verse for Trinity Sunday. I am sure, however, that most of you use this verse on a regular basis and might not even realize it. It is also one of the verses in the liturgy of the *Sanctus*. You sing or speak it right after the Proper Preface and before the Lord's Prayer on Communion Sundays.

In the Hebrew culture, repeating something was to put a greater emphasis or importance on someone. “Lord of Lords,” “King of Kings,” but here you have a repetition of three: “Holy, holy, holy.” This repetition proclaims God to be extremely, completely and absolutely holy. This reiteration also brings to mind the three persons of the Holy Trinity, the Sunday that this verse is used.

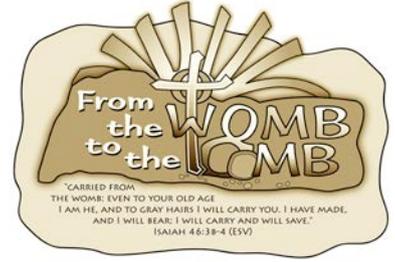
One of the early church fathers, Ambrose, says, “They say it, not once, lest you should believe that there is but one; not twice, lest you should exclude the Spirit; they say not holies, lest you should imagine that there is plurality, but they repeat three times and say the same word, that even in a hymn you may understand the distinction of Persons in the Trinity, and the oneness of the Godhead and while they say this they proclaim God” (from *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers* 2 10:151).

I didn't even get to the second part of the verse. God grant you grace to trust in the work of the Godhead; Father, Son and Holy Spirit for “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts.”

Rev. Donald Klatt
Lakeland Region Pastoral Counselor

2017 LWML Retreat Aug. 11-13 at Lutheran Island Camp, Henning

- ▶ **The Rev. Matthew Vrudny**, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Walker, will lead Bible study.
- ▶ **Virginia Flo**, regional director of Lutherans For Life, will share a presentation on “Living Faithfully in a Culture of Death.”
- ▶ The Saturday evening entertainment will be provided by **Messiah's Minnesota Minutemen**, which uses drama to share the Gospel to the world.



Directions to camp and more retreat information can be found at lwmlmnn.org; go to the “Events” tab and select “District Retreat” from the drop-down menu.

Name _____
Address _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Housing preference:

- Cabin
 Retreat Center

The registration deadline is Aug. 1

There is an additional \$10 fee for late registration. No refunds after Aug. 7. Make check payable to: **LWML MN North District**

Send registration to:
Lori Salvhus
102 Thorpe W.
Ada, MN 56510

√ Check	Before Aug. 1	After Aug. 1
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Sunday	\$120	\$130
<input type="checkbox"/> Friday-Saturday	\$70	\$80
<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday Only	\$50	\$60

Special Offers: Bring a “Retreat First Timer” and you both receive 25 percent off the registration price. Women between the ages of 12 and 18 receive a 25-percent discount.

Are you a Young Women
A “First-Timer” check here

Person bringing you _____

Kettle River gathers for rally



The Kettle River Zone spring rally was held at Saint Peter, Moose Lake, on April 27.

Geneva Paulson, left, was the guest speaker. Her topic, “Rescuing Randy,” focused on how she and her husband rescued their son from a cult.

At right is Carol Ann Sander, a member of Trinity, Isle, and Kettle River Zone president.



Marilyn Hittel
LWML District President
6850 Golden Spike Road
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
president@lwmlmnn.org
320-387-2219