# INTERCOM/E-NEWS

**MN NORTH DISTRICT**
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

Volume 15, Issue 5
May 2018


*We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing*. 2 Thessalonians 1:3

I have been in the Minnesota North District for 6 months now and I have some observations:

**We have faithful pastors and parish professionals.** I have met many of our pastors, DCEs, Teachers, etc. and have found that they are faithful to God's Word and desire to make a difference with the Gospel. In addition, they are some of the nicest people I have ever met in one district. We are blessed with some very good pastors and parish professionals. Make sure to let them know and pray for them regularly!

**We have great schools and preschools/early childhood centers.** I have been fairly busy visiting our schools. I have consistently witnessed joy-filled, Christ-centered schools that are bursting with mission opportunities. It's thrilling to see all the opportunities they have to share the Gospel with the students and their families. What a blessing! It is a monstrous mission field! Don't miss the opportunities God is giving you!

**We have congregations filled with people who get along and love their churches.** The congregations I have visited really want to get along. They love the Lord, their church, and each other. They are hungry for the Gospel. They want to make a difference in their communities! This is such a positive trait. Pastors and church leaders - take note!

**We are a district that gets along.** The recent MN North District convention was a joy to attend. No fights, no accusations, just a people who want to be faithful to God's Word - to get the message straight and get the message out. This is such a blessing. Don't take this for granted!

**Our mission opportunities abound.** I know we hear a lot of discouraging statistics and demographic studies. Don't let that get you down. There are more opportunities than ever to bring the Gospel to your community in impactful ways. If you can't see them, or need some help, give Pastor Lee or me a call at the district office, we are here to help find those opportunities. Let's not just survive - let's start to thrive!

Keep your heads up. God is for YOU! His Son, Jesus, has paid for your sins. Today is a NEW day! We are so blessed in the MN North District. Thanks for the opportunity to serve you!

In Christ,
*Rev. Monte Meyer*

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# RECENT INSTALLATIONS

## Rev. Micheal Bitz was installed as pastor at St. John Lutheran Church in Grey Eagle, MN on April 15th.

Pictured are: Rev. Marty Porter, Rev. Dr. Don Fondow (District President and Installer), Rev. Micheal Bitz, Rev. Kevin Zellers, Jr. and Rev. Noah Wehrspann

## Rev. Kent Borglum was installed as pastor at St. John Lutheran Church, Sparta and Trinity Lutheran Church , Havelock on April 22nd.

Pictured are: Lance Knoshal (Chairman of TLC), Rev. Robert Friedrich, Rev. Keith Brustuen, Rev. Kent Borglum, Rev. Steven Frank (Circuit Visitor and Installer) and Marvin Garbe (Chairman of SJLC).

# 2018 SEMINARY CALL DAY

The 2018 Seminary Candidates received calls on April 24th in St. Louis and April 25th in Ft. Wayne. Five of them will be serving in the MN North District! For a complete list of calls please visit the seminary websites: CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS and CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAY SEMENARY, FORT WAYNE.

Pictured are: Hannah Batchelder, Thomas Batchelder (called to St. Paul's, Evergreen) and Rev. Don Fondow (District President).

Pictured are: Sarah Newton (Deaconess called to St. John's, Park Rapids), Joel Newton (called to St. John's, Park Rapids), Rev. Don Fondow (District President), Mark Schwarz (called to Trinity, Carlos), Michael Metzler (called to St. Paul, Hinckley), and Sherri Metzler.

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

## DEFINING IMPACT: A SERVANT'S HEART UNLEASHED TO SERVE

**THE "WOW" FACTOR**

When considering the impact of a person, an activity or event, one typically thinks about the "WOW" factor — an amazing outcome resulting from a person's work, a life-transforming event or experience. A common way to measure impact begins with assigning a dollar value to a program, activity or task.

Independent Sector — a national coalition of non-profit organizations, foundations and corporate giving programs — has calculated the value of a volunteer hour at $24.14. Talk about "WOW" factor-level impact!

But when ministry leaders are asked about the value of a volunteer to a ministry or church, the response isn't about the cost savings. It's about inspiration fueled by the enthusiam of volunteers, the example of Christ's love that the volunteer shows and how precious his or her gifts are to the ministry and the work of the Church.

**THE REAL "WOW" FACTOR!**

The real "WOW" factor of volunteerism? The servant hearts of volunteers! Many volunteers say, "You do not need to thank me. I love to serve and help others. It makes me feel good to know what I am doing is purposeful and adding value to someone's else life." That is the true beauty of a servant's heart — one who gives of himself not for the recognition, the accolades or the giveaways. A servant's heart holds dear the inherent joy that comes with helping others.

May God continue to bless you in your service, and may the joy of service continue to fill your servant's heart.

If you are seeking a meaningful volunteer opportunity and are uncertain of how you would like to serve, contact LCMS Volunteer Connection and we can explore the various opportunities for you to make a difference!

Email us at volunteer@lcms.org or call 888-843-5267 and our Church Information Center will connect you with the appropriate ministry contact person.

# RECENT INSTALLATIONS

## Rev. Del Stohs was installed as pastor at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Vergas on April 8th.

Pictured are: Rev. Del Meyer (Circuit Visitor), Mr. Duane Strand (St. Paul Chairman), Rev. Del Stohs and Rev. Dr. Larry Harvala (Installer).

## Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe was installed as pastor at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Perham on April 29th.

Pictured are: Back row – Rev. Ronald Jobe, Rev. Richard Boehnke, Rev. Michael Giddings, Rev. Dr. Karl Weber, Rev. Adam Harvala, Rev. Del Stohs, Rev. Jacob Wagner, Rev. Mark Triplett and Rev. Don Wagner. Middle row – Rev. Guy Roberts, Rev. John Beck, Rev. Jared Nies, Rev. Scott Muehlberg, and Rev. Gary Rehborg. Front row – Rev. Keith Ratcliffe, Rev. Fred Wippich, Rev. Dr. Don Fondow (Installer), Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe, Rev. Dr. Dale Sattgast, Rev. Del Meyer and Rev. Dr. David Bode

# HOW TO CALM ANXIETY AND STRESS

Presented by Jim Otremba, M.Div, M.S., LICSW

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made know to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Philippians 4:6-7*

## Saturday, June 9, 2018

Concordia Lutheran Church
South Haven, MN

For more information contact Mary Scott at 320-248-8878

# PARISH NURSES

There are a number of upcoming opportunities for parish nurses and those interested in becoming parish nurses:

Every year the LCMS along with Concordia University, Wisconsin, sponsors a parish nursing conference. This year's conference, Steadfast Servants: Working Together for Christ, is scheduled for May 23-24, 2018. You can find registration information HERE. Let me know if you are interested in attending. I will be traveling on Monday and Friday.

There are a number of ways to complete the Parish Nurse course. The FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING CLASS will be held in St. Cloud on April 16-20, 2018. Click HERE for registration and scholarship information. Also, the CHIRSTIAN CAREGIVING 4 day intensive course will be offered at Concordia University, Wisconsin on June 4-7, 2018. Registration information can be downloaded HERE. Check with your licensor to see if these courses are eligible for continuing education credit.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Mary Scott
320-351-6804 | 1025msc@mainstreetcom.com

"Adopt-a Chap" is a new opportunity for congregations to directly connect with / "adopt" our Synod's Armed Forces chaplains, active and reserve, and Veteran's Hospital chaplains too! It is a program that links congregations with chaplains to promote mutual support and growth. It is a means through which we learn and support each other in military ministry. After a congregation is "matched" with a chaplain by the Ministry of the Armed Forces staff, the congregation and chaplain establish a relationship through regular communication with one another. Congregations will regularly keep the chaplain and his family in prayer and learn about his specialized ministry in the military and VA context. Since he is effectively bringing the Gospel to young adult "millennials," the congregation might also benefit from the wisdom of his experience. The process begins by a congregation contacting the MAF office (314-996-1337; Nancy.rowley@lcms.org) and indicating a desire to "adopt -a-chap." One member of the staff will select/match a chaplain with the congregation providing contact information. There may be many other opportunities to support and learn from each other in creative ways. No financial commitment or aid is needed or expected. This is the Church working together, encouraging and supporting one another in mission to our men and women in our nation's Armed Forces and Veteran's Hospitals.

**2018 LWML Minnesota North District 28th Biennial Convention**

June 18-20, 2018
Sanford Center, Bemidji, MN
Hosted by Park I Region
"Forever Written in His Hands"

*See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands.* (Isaiah 49:16a NKJV)

## Call To Convention

The voting body of the convention is comprised of two delegates from each congregation, each zone president, voting members of the LWML MN North Board of Directors and past district presidents who reside in MN North.

Each delegate shall have an alternate to the convention. The names of certified delegates (along with their delegate credential forms) and alternates shall be in the hands of the convention registrar at least four weeks before the convention (May 15).

## Convention Resources

Delegate credentials forms can be found in the spring packets distributed to societies at the spring rallies. The convention registration forms and housing information are attached to the end of the newsletter and can be found on the District website: **lwmlmnn.org**.

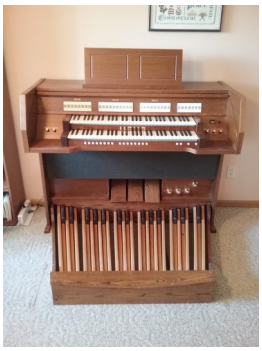
# GENESIS VIRTUAL ACADEMY

**A MINISTRY OF MAYER LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL, MAYER, MN**

**Summer School Highlights**

- Students can start at anytime
- We create pacing guides to help students complete by Fall
- Transcripts sent to the school upon completion
- Parents and a 'liaison' chosen by your school can follow progress
- Semester, Full Year or Partial Courses
- Credit Recovery Courses: covering only the material you determine needed to complete course
- Our teachers are licensed and experienced in teaching online

**VISIT THE WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION**



# ORGAN AVAILABLE

This beautiful full-sized organ is looking for a new home. For more information, please contact the District Office at (218)829-1781.

# CTSFW

CONCORDIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

**Concordia Theological Seminary**
**ATTN: Continuing Education**
**6600 North Clinton Street**
**Fort Wayne, IN 46825**

## St. Cloud, Minnesota — June 25–27, 2018

### Dr. Jeffrey Pulse

Dr. Pulse joined the Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW), Fort Wayne, faculty in 2007. He serves as associate professor of Exegetical Theology, director of Certification and Placement and director of Continuing Education.

Following graduation from Concordia Teachers College (now Concordia University Nebraska) in Seward, Nebraska, with a B.S. in Elementary Education (1980), he attended CTSFW, completing his M.Div. in 1984 and later completing his S.T.M. from CTSFW in 1990. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Durham, England in 2017, in the area of Old Testament, specifically, Concepts of the Afterlife in the Old Testament and Second Temple Judaism.

His 22 years in the parish were served in St. John's Lutheran Church, Burt, Iowa, and Peace Lutheran Church, Bremerton, Washington.

Pulse is the author of *A Year In the Old Testament* (Concordia Publishing House, 2012) and *The Children (Not the Adults!) of God* (WinePress, 2002).

### The Book of Job

Job had always been of great interest to the faithful Christian. Does this book contain the answer to our suffering? Do we receive a picture of how things work in the heavenly realms? We will look into Job with an emphasis on the ancient Hebrew understanding of their relationship with God and how this is carried out. An examination of the various themes, such as God vs. Satan; understanding suffering in the life of the child of God; death and resurrection; etc. will take place in the context of the use of Job in the parish setting.

**Location**
Prince of Peace Lutheran School
(Main Campus)
4770 County Rd. 120 N.
St. Cloud, MN 56303

**Coordinator**
Rev. Blake A. Rickbeil
Phone: 218.924.4051
Email: n0wsh@juno.com

**Reading**

Zuck, Roy, ed. *Sitting With Job: Selected Studies on the Book of Job*. Wipf and Stock, Eugene, Oregon. 1992.

## Fergus Falls, Minnesota — July 30–August 1, 2018

### Dr. Adam Francisco

Dr. Adam Francisco is associate professor of History and Political Thought at Concordia University in Irvine, California, and adjunct professor in the Doctoral Program at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He earned his Ph.D. in Historical Theology and Christian-Muslim Relations at the University of Oxford. He has written and spoken predominately on the topic of Islam and a variety of themes in Christian apologetics.

### Apologetics for the 21st Century

Scripture enjoins us to always be prepared to make a defense when non-Christians ask us why we believe what we believe and, sometimes, why they, too, should consider Christian belief. This course is an introduction to this particular aspect of the apologetic task. It covers the historical Christian apologetic tradition, assesses the various methods employed by apologists and especially focuses on the various charges made against and challenges posed to Christian belief today.

**Coordinator**
Rev. Noah Rogness
Phone: 218.736.4869
Email: pastorrogness@trinityff.org

**Location**
Trinity Lutheran Church
1150 W. Cavour
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

**Readings**

www.ctsfw.net/media/pdfs/montgomerychristianapologetics.pdf

www.globaljournalct.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/Montgomery-Budapest-essay.pdf

Korey Maas & Adam Francisco, eds., *Making the Case for Christianity: Responding to Modern Objections* (St. Louis: Concordia Publishing House, 2014)

**For more information about Continuing Education opportunities and/or registration, you may call Kara Mertz at 260.452.2103, email CE@ctsfw.edu or visit www.ctsfw.edu/CE.**

**Reaching Rural America** *for Christ*
A newsletter of LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission

**Click HERE to download the Newsletter**

### Redefining the Graying Church: The Mission Field of Older Adults

The rural and small-town churches in America are poised to become the spiritual renewal center for older adult ministries. How's that for a challenging goal and opportunity for each of us in the years ahead? Jeremiah 29:11 says it so well: "For I know the plans I have for you … plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope."

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission supports and encourages rural and small-town congregations in engaging their communities and growing together in Christ through Word and Sacrament. Learn more about RSTM at lcms.org/rstm or by calling 888-463-5127. "Like" us on our Facebook page at facebook.com/lcmsrstm

### 2018 National RSTM Conference Nov. 8–10 in Kansas City, Mo., at the Hilton Kansas City Airport

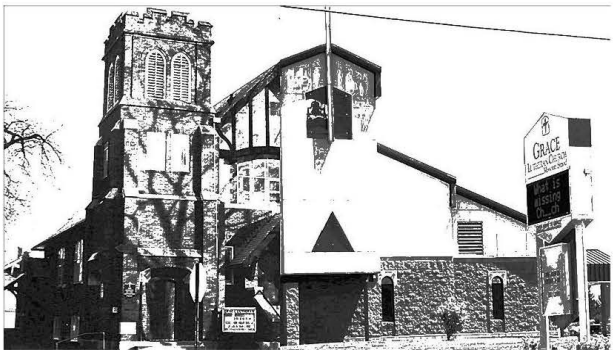
LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission hopes you'll join us by registering now and reserving your spot! And did you know you can earn Continuing Education credits by attending the 2018 National RSTM Conference?

Keynote speakers will include:

Rev. Timothy Koch, pastor of Concordia Lutheran Church in Cresbard, S.D., and Immanuel Lutheran in Wecota, S.D.;

- Rev. Dr. Robert H. Bennett of Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Ind.;
- Rev. Tom Schlund, pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Algona, Iowa; and
- Chaplain Craig Muehler, director of the LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces.

The conference will address blessings and challenges facing rural and small town congregations today. Congregations will be encouraged in becoming healthy churches, eager to bear witness for Christ and able to show mercy to those in need in communities and develop a robust life together with fellow members. This conference is meant for anyone living, serving or interested in rural or small-town areas, with topics and resources specifically suited for this unique mission field. More information and online registration are available at lcms.org/rstm/conference.



Grace Lutheran Church

4010 West 9th Avenue

Hibbing, MN 55746

## 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

**Saturday, June 30, 2018 – Sunday, July 1, 2018**

**Activities Start at 12:55 p.m., Saturday, June 30**

The day's events to include:

Fellowship Time

Special Music

Introduction of Former Pastors or Special Guests

Ringing of the Church Bell – 100 Times – 3:30 p.m.

Group Photo – Proceed to the front of the altar as bell is ringing, take group photo at the last bell ring, before services start.

Church Service – 3:55 p.m.

Anniversary Dinner – 4:55 p.m.

**Sunday, July 1 – Church Service at 9:00 a.m.**

Brunch and fellowship following church services.

**RSVP: Phone – 218-263-5683/E-mail: office@gracehibbing.com**

Main Street Living
BRINGING CHRIST TO THE NORTHLAND

Please send contributions c/o
Mt. Olive Lutheran Church
2012 East Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55812

## LCMS Service of Worship—Every Sunday at 10:00a.m. on KBJR Channel 6, Duluth

**MAIN STREET LIVING NORTHLAND LCMS SERVICE OF WORSHIP for the Duluth region televised by KBJR Channel 6.** "MAIN STREET LIVING NORTHLAND" is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30 minute worship service led by participating pastors of the Minnesota North District of our LCMS, along with a 30 minute children's program called "Kid's Crossing". It is broadcast every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Central time on KBJR Channel 6 NBC and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations, and archived on https://vimeo.com/user82955593

**Sunday May 13, 2018**
Pastor Don Stauty
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church—Virginia
"You Are Not Alone"

**Sunday May 20, 2018**
Pastor Robert Franck
Mount Olive Lutheran Church—Duluth
"What Pentecost Brings"

**Sunday May 27th, 2018**
Pastor David Schoessow
Christ Lutheran Church—Superior
"Was the Father of Jesus the God of Mohammed?"

**Sunday June 3rd, 2018**
Pastor Jeff Walther
St. Matthews Lutheran Church—Esko
"Sabbath Rest Means Restored Hands and Hearts"

**Sunday June 10th, 2018**
Pastor John Bonk
Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church—Two Harbors
"What Is God's Will?"

**Sunday June 17th, 2018**
Pastor John Bonk
Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran Church—Two Harbors
"God's Secret Kingdom"

**Sunday June 24th, 2018**
Pastor Bill Zeige
First Evangelical Lutheran Church—Grand Rapids
"Be Still and Know"

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat offers seven carefully designed days of individual, couple, and group Christian counseling. Our sessions include four couples (singles welcome). Our emphasis is upon Christian professional church workers including, but not limited to Pastors, Missionaries, Rostered Teachers, Directors of Christian Education, Deaconesses, and their spouses. Learn more by visiting the Shepherd's Canyon WEBSITE.

May 28-June 4
July 9-16
August 6-13
September 10-17
October 8-15
November 5-12
December 3-10

DOXOLOGY

Launched in 2008, DOXOLOGY is celebrating its tenth season with three classic program opportunities this summer. Over the past 10 years, nearly 700 pastors have completed the DOXOLOGY Classic program.

The DOXOLOGY continuing education program grew out of parish ministry and continues to be squarely focused on topics that enrich congregations with quality teaching and sensitive, effective pastoral care. Make this the year that you attend a DOX event and grow in your care of souls.

Here are the dates and locations for our Classic programs which begin this summer:

June 25-28 in Illinois
July 9-12 in Indiana
September 17-20 in Wisconsin

For additional information and to register, visit doxology.us.

"MAIN STREET LIVING" is a locally produced TV program that includes a 30 minute worship service led by participating pastors of the North Dakota and Minnesota North Districts of our LCMS, along with a 30 minute children's program called "Kid's Crossing". Programs are broadcast at **9:00am** Central time on the following FOX stations: KVRR Fargo-Moorhead Channel 15.1, KBRR Thief River Falls-Grand Forks Channel 10.1, KJRR Jamestown Channel 7.1, KNRR Pembina Channel 12.1, and cable and satellite systems carrying these stations, and archived on www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com.

This month we introduce Mark Jones, our MSLN Treasurer. Mark and wife Sheryl have been married for 34 years and have two grown daughters, Brianna and Andrea. They enjoy spending time with family, and course spoiling their granddaughters, Gwen and Evie. They attend Grace Lutheran Church in Fargo. Mark is an electronics engineer at John Deere in Fargo.

**One last reminder that the broadcast time for the Fargo-based FOX television stations has now changed from 10:00am to 9:00am.**

Please continue to help spread the word to your extended family and friends! In addition to viewing the TV programs Sunday mornings, please also let them know that they can watch all of the Fargo-based archived programs at any time on line at www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com.

To add your much 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 at: www.mainstreetlivingnorth.com. Thank you and God's blessing in Christ!

## "Main Street Living North" TV Programs for June 2018:

**June 3:** Rev. Chris Waldvogel, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, Fargo, ND, presents today's message: "Thank God it's the Sabbath!" based on Mark 2:23-3:6. Hymns are: *"Come, Thou Almighty King", "Lord, take My Hand and Lead Me", and "Go, My Children, with My Blessing".*

**June 10:** Rev. Karl Weber, St. John's Lutheran Church, Ottertail, MN, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Richville, MN, presents today's message: "Jesus' House Divided Speech!" based on Mark 3:20-35. Hymns are: *"Christ Be My Leader", "All Hail The Power of Jesus Name", and "The People That In darkness Sat".*

**June 17:** Rev. Sean Daenzer, Trinity Lutheran Church, Great Bend, ND, presents today's message: "A Church Full of Hypocrites" based on Luke 15:1-32. Hymns are: *"King of Love My Shepherd Is", A Mighty Fortress is our God", and "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want".*

**June 24:** Rev. Guy Roberts, Zion Lutheran Church, Detroit Lakes, MN, presents today's message: "He is God, We are not." based on the Book of Job. Hymns are: *"Angels From the Realms of Glory", "Abide with Me", and "Jesus Christ is Risen Today".*

Graduation PARTY

GIFTY KOLLIE

Graduating from
Mayer Lutheran High School
on Sunday, May 27th at 2:00pm

Help us celebrate Gifty's Graduation
with an Open House Party on
May 27th from 4:00-8:00pm

St. Mark Fellowship Center
211 Adams Ave. S., New Germany

Gifty Kollie is the niece of Pastor James Kollie of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Cotton Tree, Liberia. Cards and gifts can be sent:

c/o Dennis McManus
8054 County Rd. 32
New Germany, MN 55367

# The Kaleidoscope Fund

## WHAT IS THE KALEIDOSCOPE FUND?

**The Kaleidoscope Fund is a granting program designed to help support eligible Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod ministries as they make known the love of Christ.**

These grants help strengthen congregations, Lutheran schools, church workers and the communities they impact.

### WHO CAN APPLY FOR GRANTS?

- LCMS congregations (including their K-12 schools and childcare centers)
- LCEF member districts
- Offices of the Synod

### WHAT ARE THE GRANT AMOUNTS?

Funds will be granted in amounts between $25,000 to $250,000.

### WHAT ARE QUALIFIED GRANT PURPOSES?

- Ministry Outreach and Expansion
- Education (K-12 Lutheran Schools)
- Church Worker Wellness

The deadline to submit your grant proposal summary is June 15, 2018. Visit **lcef.org/kaleidoscope** to learn more.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund
› where investments build ministry

10733 Sunset Office Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63127-1020 | **800-843-5233 | lcef.org**

# MISSIONARY AND

The MN North District continues to partner with Rev. James NS Kollie and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Cotton Tree, Liberia. For the past month or so, Pastor Kollie has been visiting family and preaching in Minnesota. Good Shepherd is currently in need of funds to provide teacher salaries. In the picture, the Good Shepherd congregation is gathered for worship on Mother's Day. Funds collected and disbursed for Good Shepherd School: $113,027; for Pastor Kollie's education: $49,950; for Jamesetta's education: $7,776; and for Gifty's education: $12,176. Support should be earmarked specifically and send to: Minnesota North District, PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401

At a recent meeting of LCMS Puerto Rico Mission Partners (of which the Minnesota North District is one), held on April 15-16, 2018 in Puerto Rico some exciting things happened. On Sunday morning, April 15, 2018, a new pastor was installed at Iglesia Luterana Principe de Paz (Prince of Peace Lutheran Church) in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico. Gustavo Maita is a recent seminary graduate from one of our sister denominations. After his installation, he confirmed a new member who made connection with the congregation when she was asked to help with distribution of hurricane relief supplies. Sunday afternoon, the mission partners attending the meeting went to Ponce, Puerto Rico for a service at Fuente de Vida (Fountain of Life Lutheran Church). At that service, a new member was confirmed who had made connection with the church after attending a Bible Study at the big mall in Ponce.

On Monday, reports were heard about how the LCMS Disaster Response funds were being used and how they could be used in the future. Presently, there are two workers in Mayaguez and one in Ponce who are assisting with distribution of necessary supplies. On the average 100 bags of food and other necessary items are distributed to people in need in various areas in and around Mayaguez and Ponce. When the bags are distributed, members of the team lead the group in worship. In the future, plans are being made to assist people who still need their rooves fixed. To assist in the Disaster Response, the house next door to Prince of Peace in Mayaguez was purchased. In the neighborhood it is known as the "Amparo House" because a family by the name of "Amparo" had lived there for many years. The name "Amparo" means "refuge." The house is now being called Casa de Amparo y Respuesta a Desastre (CARD) or "House of Refuge and Disaster Response." And, just as a reminder that everything is not all okay again, now, as participants of the partner meeting were preparing to fly back to the states, the whole island lost all power for a few days. That was at the time when the Minnesota Twins were playing in Puerto Rico.

Plans are being made to hold the next Puerto Rico Mission Partner Meeting at the Minnesota North District Office in September, 2018.

Rebecca Wagner, LCMS Missionary serving as International Ministry Coordinator at the University of Minnesota and University Lutheran Chapel in Minneapolis. To read Rebecca's newsletter click HERE and for a recent photo essay HERE. For Rebecca's LCMS Prayer & Giving Information go to: www.lcms.org/wagner.

Project 24 Boarding Facilities provide a Christ-centered, loving, caring and safe environment for vulnerable children. Together with the North Dakota District—LCMS, the MN North District—LCMS continues to support the Project 24 boarding facility located at Lenkinshon, Kenya. The facility was dedicated last year and currently houses 25 children. Project 24 is strictly a building program. Christ's Care for Children: Kenya is a child sponsorship program that matches a sponsor with a child in a Project 24 facility. Sponsors can learn their child's name, see their picture, pray for them, write to them and receive letters from them. Project 24 funds collected and disbursed are $110,240. Visit the Project 24 website HERE. Christ's Care for Children: Kenya funds collected and disbursed are $16,186. Visit the CCC Kenya site HERE.

Support for any of these missionaries can be sent to: Minnesota North District—LCMS, PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN—earmarked for the specific mission or missionary.

# MISSION MINUTES

***Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)***

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

My family and I want to thank you for all that you have done for us these past couple years. Through the grace of God and your support we have been able to accomplish so much as we shared Jesus around the city of Lima. It has been a great blessing to work in this mission field and with all of you walking beside us, but we would like to announce that Eddie has received and accepted a Divine Call to serve at Messiah Lutheran Church in Emporia, KS starting in July.

This Call was a surprise to receive and at the same time it was obviously a gift from God and an answer to so many prayers. As you are all aware Melissa has been dealing with some health issues that have made it a challenge for her on a daily basis. We had been praying to God about what He would have us do to serve in His kingdom to share Jesus. Whether he would have us continue serving in the international mission field or return to the states to serve in that mission field. When this opportunity arose, by God's grace, and as we prayed and discussed we knew that this was what was right for our family. We have been blessed by our time in Perú, but with Melissa's recent health concerns we feel it best to be stateside and closer to our families to better support her. I feel this is the best way to serve my calling as a husband and father in addition to being a Pastor and Missionary.

This has been the hardest decision we have had to make since we love the people in Lima, Peru, and will miss all of them dearly, but we feel that the Lord has called us in this new direction of service in His kingdom. We also trust that He will provide for the mission in Lima as He always has. This work we do as missionaries is God's work and in that confidence the mission in Perú will continue to thrive.

As Paul writes to the Romans, "How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:14-15) We implore you to prayerfully consider supporting other missionaries. There are men and women sharing Jesus all around the world and they need the prayers and support that you have given to us. Please contact Gary Theis by phone (712-882-1029) or e-mail at gary.theis@lcms.org to find out how you can continue to support missionaries as they share Jesus around the world.

In Christ,

Eddie, Melissa, Lexi and Joe Hosch

Rev. Dr. Daniel (son of sainted pastor—Rev. Robert Jastram and Mrs. Phyllis Jastram) and Dr. Joan Jastram serve as career missionaries through the LCMS in northern Asia, based in Tokyo, Japan. In this role, Rev. Jastram helps develop and implement a strategic mission plan for this area.

The Jastrams' prayer requests include:

- Pray for Dan in his supervisory role for theological education in Asia.
- Pray for a smooth transition of our regional office and missionary families moving from Hong Kong to Taiwan.
- We are thankful for the visitors this month, first from a fellow missionary and daughter from Sri Lanka and also a group of lively Minnesota women touring Japan. We enjoy reconnecting with fellow Lutherans!

For more on the Jastrams and their mission check out their latest NEWSLETTER. To see the LCMS Prayer and Giving Information, Click HERE.

LAMP
Taking the light of Christ to the ends of the earth

Lori & Leon Dawkins and Dave & Shawn Schneeberger, Volunteer Missionaries to Shamattawa, Manitoba report: "We were able to go into each classroom and visit with the kids, sing songs, handout [cross necklaces and bracelets]. Pastor Dennis was able to talk to the students about prayer and how and when to pray. We were able to distribute knitted toques and scarves (made with love by the knitters at our home church, Trinity Lutheran in Fergus Falls, MN), as well as donated gloves, mittens and cold weather gear that Pastor-Pilot Dennis brought."

# Calendar of Events - 2018

| | |
|---|---|
| May 22-24, 2018 | Parish Nurses Conference, Concordia University, WI |
| May 28, 2018 | Memorial Day—District Office Closed |
| June 4, 2018 | MN North District Board of Directors Meeting at the District Office |
| June 9, 2018 | Mental Health Conference at Concordia Lutheran Church, Fairhaven |
| June 18-20, 2018 | LWML Minnesota North District Convention at the Sanford Center, Bemidji, MN |
| June 25, 2018 | Ministerial Health Commission—Meeting at the District Office |
| June 30-July 1, 2018 | 100th Anniversary Celebration at Grace Lutheran Church, Hibbing |
| July 4, 2018 | Independence Day—District Office Closed |
| July 10, 2018 | LWML MN North District Board Meeting at the District Office |
| July 15, 2018 | 100th Anniversary at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Elk River |
| August 4, 2018 | Lutheran Island Camp Quilt Auction |
| August 19, 2018 | 125th Anniversary Celebration at Zion Lutheran Church, North Germany |
| August 8-9, 2018 | New Workers Orientation |
| August 9, 2018 | Retired Workers Luncheon |
| August 27-28, 2018 | Circuit Visitors Conference at the District Office |
| September 3, 2018 | Labor Day—District Office Closed |
| September 9-11, 2018 | Fall Pastors' Conference, Lutheran Island Camp |
| September 16, 2018 | 100th Anniversary Trinity Lutheran Church, Appleton |
| September 20-21 | Puerto Rico Foro at the District Office |
| September 23-24, 2018 | MN North District Board of Directors Meeting at the District office |
| October 9, 2018 | LWML MN North District Board of Directors Meeting at the District Office |
| October 26-27, 2018 | Creation Science Seminar at Lutheran Island Camp |
| November 8-10, 2018 | National Rural and Small Town Mission Conference—Kansas City, MO |
| November 22-23, 2018 | Thanksgiving Holiday—District Office Closed |
| Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 2018 | Doxology Stewardship Workshop—Holy Cross, St. Cloud |

## Churches Celebrating Anniversaries

| | |
|---|---|
| June 30-July 1, 2018 | 100th Anniversary — Grace, Hibbing |
| July 15, 2018 | 100th Anniversary — Emmanuel, Elk River |
| August 19, 2018 | 125th Anniversary — Zion, North Germany |
| September 16, 2018 | 100th Anniversary — Trinity, Appleton |
| August 17-18, 2019 | 100th Anniversary — St. John's, Akeley |

Contact the District Office if your congregation will be celebrating an Anniversary.

## In Our Prayers

The family of Mrs. Willa Jean Prothe, wife of Orval Prothe (former District Office Manager and Treasurer), who recently passed away.

Rev. Paul Dare's (Holy Cross, St. Cloud) father, diagnosed with Cancer.

Rev. John Bumgardner (St. John, Red Lake Falls), who has undergone treatment for cancer.

Mrs. Laurie Bach (wife of DCE Gary Bach, New York Mills), diagnosed with cancer.

Rev. Dean Bell (em., Hendrum), undergoing medical treatment for a fractured vertebrae.

Rev. Victor Dorn (em., St. Cloud), recovering after back surgery.

The mother of Rev. Dennis McManus, facing a number of health issues.

Rev. Fred Kutter (Immanuel, Albany), recovering from foot surgery

Mrs. Jan Meyer (wife of Rev. Del Meyer, em. New York Mills), recovering after surgery.

Rev. Jack Baumgarn (em., Hawick), who is experiencing medical issues.

Mrs. Martha Buchholz (wife of sainted pastor Rev. Henry Buchholz), Richville, who is having health issues.

Rev. Larry Cain (em., Cromwell), who is suffering with health issues and pain.

Rev. Gunard Heikkila (em., New York Mills), who recently had surgery.

Bonnie Felix (wife of Rev. Bradley Felix, Trinity Lutheran Church, Virginia & Grace, Chisholm), undergoing cancer treatment.

Mary Langemo Hughes (daughter of Rev. Martin & Carol Langemo, Princeton), who is suffering from hyperacusis.

The mother of Rev. Micah Schmidt (Living Branch, North Branch) who is ill.

Mrs. Melissa Martini-Tischer, wife of Rev. Steven Tischer (Zion, Princeton), diagnosed with sarcoidosis.

Mrs. Phyllis Volkert (wife of Rev. Robert Volkert, em., Palisade), suffering with spine issues.

Elaine Wagner (mother of Rev. Don Wagner, Trinity-Deer Creek), undergoing cancer treatment.

Those serving in the military & chaplaincy and part of our District family:

Chaplain Captain Vincent Bain—Military Chaplain LCMS, Fort Campbell, KY

Chaplain Lt. Aaron Bell, former Associate Pastor at Holy Cross-St. Cloud and son-in-law of Pastor Tom and Mary Brinkley (St. Matthew, Esko) – Active Duty Chaplain—US Navy Camp Pendleton

Joshua Bonk, son of Rev. John Bonk and Linda Bonk —US Army

Rev. Steve Breitbarth (em., Hibbing), police & fire chaplain

MSgt Jonathan Fondow, son of Pres. Don & Connie Fondow, Park Rapids—US Army

Ensign Emily Geddes, granddaughter of Virginia Ansorge—US Navy

Dennis Gerold, husband of DCO Abby Dawkins Gerold, US Air Force

Timothy Milo, son of Rev. Frank & Sue Milo, Gloria Dei, Pequot Lakes—MN National Guard

Chaplain LCDR John Thomson – Active Duty Chaplain—US Navy Guam

1st Lt. Micah Uhrinak, son of Rev. Les & Susan Uhrinak, Crosslake—Air Force

Sgt. Nathaniel Vrudny, son of Rev. Matthew & Bonnie Vrudny, Walker, with the Army Reserve Engineering unit in Mankato.

Tanner Wagner, son of Rev. Don & Jolene Wagner, Trinity, Deer Creek, National Guard

Julie Grzybowski, daugher of Rev. Terry & Nancy Grzybowski, serving a two year Peace Corp Commitment in Ethiopia.

Missionaries Rev. Eddie & Melissa Hosch as they return from serving in Lima, Peru. (former pastor at Gethsemane, Snellman)

Missionaries Rev. Dr. Daniel and Dr. Joan Jastram serving as career missionaries through the LCMS in northern Asia, based in Tokyo, Japan. (son of sainted pastor—Rev. Robert Jastram and Mrs. Phyllis Jastram)

Missionary Rebecca Wagner, LCMS Missionary serving as International Ministry Coordinator at the University of Minnesota and University Lutheran Chapel.

## StewardCAST

**CLICK HERE TO DOWNLOAD THE NEWSLETTER**

In the May 2018 issue of StewardCAST, LCMS Stewardship Ministry discusses the need for stewardship education to include the forgiving rest offered by the Lord Jesus. Stewardship that solely focuses on what the steward decides to do and to give is not teaching stewardship in its entirety. When the rest granted by the Lord is taught and embraced, stewardship becomes a labor of love. God's love for us. Our love for Him.

# Call Update

**MN NORTH DISTRICT**
Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

## CALLS ACCEPTED

**CARLOS,** Trinity—Seminary Candidate Mark Schwarz, St. Louis, MO, accepted the call. Ordination 5/20/18. Installation 7/1/18.

**EVERGREEN,** St. Paul—Seminary Candidate Thomas Batchelder, Ft. Wayne, IN. Ordination and Installation on 7/8/18.

**HINCKLEY,** St. Paul—Seminary Candidate Michael Metzler, St. Louis, MO. Ordination and Installation on 6/24/18.

**PARK RAPIDS,** St. John's—(Associate Pastor) Seminary Candidate Joel Newton, St. Louis, MO.

**McINTOSH,** Immanuel—(Sole Pastor) Rev. Bruce Blocker accepted the call. Installation 6/3/18.

## CALLING CONGREGATIONS

**ALEXANDRIA**, Zion (Sr. Pastor) – Called Rev. Paul Mumme, Plainfield, IL, declined the Call.

**BROWNS VALLEY/CLAIRE CITY, SD**, Zion/Zion (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Larry Johnson) Called Rev. Steven Stoll, Hinton, IA, declined the Call.

**CHISHOLM**, Grace (Vacancy Pastor – Rev. Brad Felix)

**ELBOW LAKE/HOFFMAN**, Christ/Zion (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Bill Aufdenkamp)

**FRAZEE**, Bethlehem (Interim Pastor Rev. John Beck)

**GRAND MARAIS**, Life in Christ (Vacancy Pastor – Rev. Daniel Preus)

**GRAND RAPIDS,** First (Vacancy Pastor – Rev. William Zeige)

**LEAF VALLEY/S. EFFINGTON**, Ebenezer/St. James – Called Rev. David Tilney, Cloquet, MN, declined the Call.

**MILACA**, St. Paul

**MOORHEAD**, Our Redeemer (Interim Pastor—Rev. Gary Rehborg)

**MORRIS**, Zion (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Jack Baumgarn) - Called Rev. Kevin Olson, declined the Call.

**PEQUOT LAKES**, Gloria Dei (Rev. Frank Milo Retiring 5/18)

**SILVER BAY**, Faith (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Dean Rudloff) - Called Rev. Kyle Verage, Crandon, WI, declined the Call.

## OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

Rev. Goeffrey Gronewold (Associate Pastor, Zion, Alexandria) to Military Chaplaincy. Installation on 5/20/18.

## COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHANGES

**ST. CLOUD,** Prince of Peace Lutheran School, (Principal/Administrator) Mrs. Anne Neilitz of St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Prior Lake has accepted the call.

**PARK RAPIDS,** St. John's—(Deconess) Seminary Candidate Sarah Newton, St. Louis, MO.

**ALEXANDRIA,** Zion Lutheran School—Called Teacher Candidate Martha Fritz who accepted the call.

**SABIN,** Trinity—(DCE) Called Heather McCormick, Topeka, KS.

# Minnesota North District - LCMS

## Prayer Calendar

## June 2018

"Partners in Mission and in Prayer with…"

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | | | **1** Rev. Guy Roberts & Rev. Bruce Noennig – Zion, Detroit Lakes | **2** |
| **3** | **4** Rev. Joel Brutlag, VP – Redeemer, Duluth | **5** Rev. Robert Franck – Mt. Olive, Duluth | **6** Rev. David Laue – First, East Grand Forks | **7** Rev. Justin Hesterman – Immaunel, Eagle Bend | **8** Rev. Bryan Hopfensperger – St. Paul, Eden Valley | **9** |
| **10** | **11** Rev. Bill Aufdenkamp, VP – Christ, Elbow Lake | **12** Rev. Terry Grzybowski – Emmanuel, Elk River | **13** Rev. Marty Mably – Lord of Glory, Elk River | **14** Rev. Jonathan Varns – First, Ely | **15** Rev. Jeff Walther & Rev. Tom Brinkley – St. Matthews, Esko | **16** |
| **17** | **18** Rev. Michael Nielsen – St. Paul, Euclid | **19** Rev. Ed Borchardt – Trinity, Evansville | **20** Rev. Craig Palach – Faith, Fergus Falls | **21** Rev. Noel Herr – Immanuel, Fergus Falls (Friberg) | **22** Rev. Ed Borchardt, VP – St. John, Fergus Falls (Elizabeth) | **23** |
| **24** | **25** Rev. Noel Herr – St. Paul, Fergus Falls (E. Friberg) | **26** Rev. John Christensen & Rev. Noah Rogness – Trinity, Fergus Falls | **27** Rev. Philip Hoppe – St. Paul, Finlayson (Bruno) | **28** Rev. Michael Nielsen – Trinity, Fisher | **29** Rev. Dr. Timothy Rehwaldt – St. Paul, Foley | **30** |

***Contact us:*** Mail: PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401-0604
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Rev. Dr. Don Fondow, District President — don.fondow@mnnlcms.org
Bev Olsen, Admin. Ass't — bev.olsen@mnnlcms.org

Mission & Ministry Facilitators:
Rev. Jeffrey Lee [MaCO] — jeffrey.lee@mnnlcms.org
Rev. Monte Meyer [PLaN] — monte.meyer@mnnlcms.org
Diana Ruopp, Admin. Ass't — diana.ruopp@mnnlcms.org

George Miller, LCEF/Office Manager — george.miller@mnnlcms.org
Bookkeeper - Angie Ringstrom — angie.ringstrom@mnnlcms.org
LCEF — lcef@mnnlcms.org

Church Worker Care Coordinator: Vacant

Congregational Care Counselor:
Rev. Dr. Larry Harvala — congregationalcare@mnnlcms.org
Lutheran Witness Editor — the.lutheran.witness@mnnlcms.org
Rev. Stephen Rutherford (218/947-4182)

Gift Planning Counselor:
Mr. David Priebe — david.priebe@mnnlcms.org

District Secretary:
Rev. Martin Mably, Elk River — pastormarty@lordofglorylutheran.org

District Treasurer:
Mr. Mike Uran — treasurer@mnnlcms.org

Committee on Constitutions & District Memberships:
Rev. Ron Carnicom, Chairman (218/675-6532) constitution@mnnlcms.org