



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH

Discerning 'wisdom and folly'

Speakers tackle myths regarding fatherhood, science

From left: Rev. Paul Harris and Dr. Gary Locklear



"Wisdom and Folly" was the theme of the 31st Lutheran Free Conference held at Redeemer Lutheran Church, St. Cloud, on Oct. 27.

Attendees listened to Rev. Paul Harris as he outlined the folly of the world's view of fathers, and then explained God's wisdom on fatherhood. He reminded them that God has much wisdom to offer men in general and fathers in particular.

Harris is pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Austin, Texas.

Dr. Gary Locklear of Concordia University Wisconsin (CUW) taught the participants how the world and Church approach science differently. Using the wisdom of science and philosophical arguments, Locklear boldly asserted that God created the heavens and the earth.

He said, "The scientific evidence is overwhelmingly in favor of a universe created out of nothing by God."

Locklear is professor and chair of Computer Science, and director of the Information Technology masters program at CUW.

The Minnesota North Confessional Lutherans annually sponsor this conference, which is generally held on the last Saturday in October at Redeemer.

Blessings in Kettle River Circuit:

New church worker to focus on youth ministry

In July, five churches in the Kettle River Circuit began working with each other and **LeAnn Gregoire** to provide additional opportunities for the youth of their congregations.

LeAnn is a member of Trinity, Isle. She graduated last spring from Concordia University Wisconsin with a degree in lay ministry and theology. After graduation, she returned to Isle and married Cody. With Cody employed, LeAnn reached out to see if her training and skills could be used within the congregations closest to where she lived.

After discussion, the five Kettle River Circuit congregations decided to hire her to work 10 to 12 hours a week for the circuit, focusing on providing events and resources for youth.

She has made various trips to congregations to get to know the members, especially the youth. She also has helped to organize information for the upcoming National Youth



LeAnn Gregoire

Gathering to help congregations. And finally, she has also begun to organize monthly circuit youth gatherings.

The circuit hopes that these events will provide further education for its youth, in addition to what they receive at home and through their congregations. It also desires for the events to serve as opportunities for relationships to be formed among the youth who share a common confession of faith.

LeAnn has also started her deaconess training through Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Christ Serve Ranch

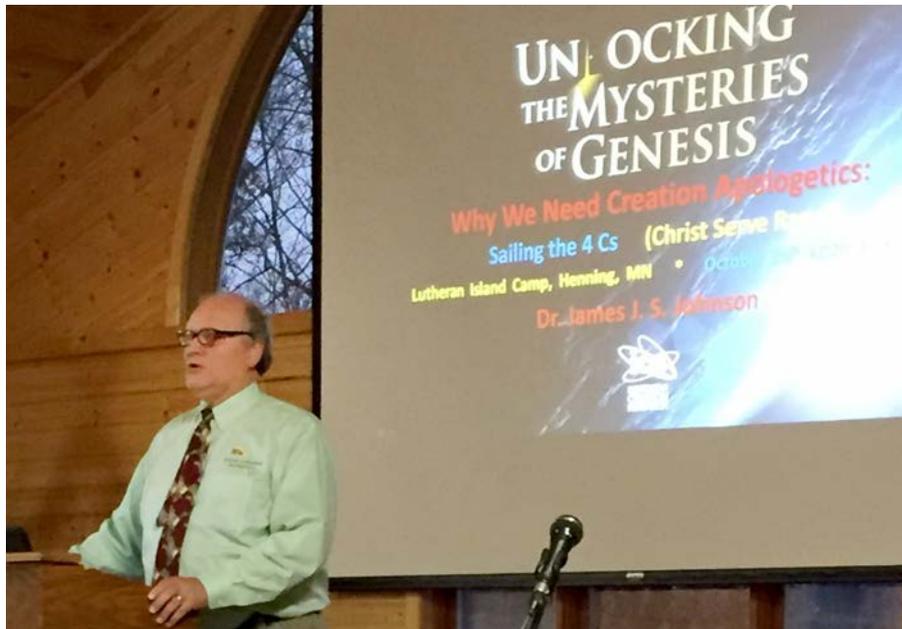
Conference covers biblical creation

Christ Serve Ranch hosted the Uncovering the Truth Creation Conference Oct. 26-27. Participants heard Dr. Jim Johnson and Dr. Jake Hebert speak on biblical creation.

Drs. Johnson and Hebert answered some of the most common questions about creation while exalting Jesus Christ as both Creator and Savior. They spoke about how the results of scientific research actually mirror the account of creation found in the Bible, and explained how a biblical worldview talks about the existence of dinosaurs. Both men are highly educated researchers affiliated with the Institute for Creation Research.

Christ Serve Ranch is an environmental learning center with programs in science, leadership and environmental stewardship taught from a biblical worldview.

Upcoming Christ Serve Ranch events include:



Dr. Jim Johnson makes his presentation. He is chief academic officer and associate professor of Apologetics for the Institute of Creation Research.

- ▶ The Creativity of the Creator Winter Adventure on Jan. 19, co-hosted with Art Bar 39. Included activities are canvas painting and a winter ecology tour by horse-drawn sleigh.
- ▶ The Ice Age Tour and Lunch on April 20. Being located in an area rich in geological formations and Ice Age

evidence, all are invited for a guided tour of these formations, led by Stacy Lung, author of "Wisconsin's Flood Journey: Creation Geology of Wisconsin and the UP."

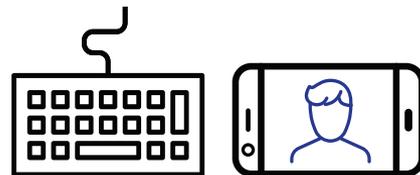
For more information about Christ Serve Ranch and upcoming events and programs, visit christserveranch.org.

New pastor in Grand Rapids



The Rev. William Zeige was installed as pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, on Sept. 23. Pictured are, from left, William, his wife, Sue, and the Rev. Dr. Don Fondow, district president and installer. Zeige has served the Lord for more than 45 years as a parish pastor, which includes service as an interim pastor to help congregations in transition periods. May God bless the people of First Lutheran and the work of Pastor Zeige among them.

Send news



If you have any announcements, special events or human interest stories that you or your organization would like published, please send submissions to the.lutheran.witness@mnnlms.org.

You may also mail your submissions to Peace Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 60, Finlayson, MN 55735, attn. Rev. Philip Hoppe. Please ensure photos sent electronically are high resolution.

District offers support for PARISH NURSES

Five parish nurses, two nurses interested in parish nursing and two pastors met together in fellowship to learn about parish nursing and network at Zion, Sauk Centre, on Sept. 13; and St. Matthew's, Esko, on Oct. 6. This time together was made possible by a Synod grant. Those that attended left with gifts and resources for use in their ministries.

The Rev. Jeffery Lee, Minnesota North District Missions facilitator, led the group in Bible study, titled "Thorns are Blessings," based on 2 Cor. 11:21-12:10.

Mary Scott, RN, shared resources that can be found at the LCMS website (lcms.org/parish-nursing). Discussion focused on what education is required to become a parish nurse and where to obtain this education. Mary and Gen Keranen, RN, also shared many of the resources that they have collected while serving as parish nurses.

Both went on to describe the types of programs and support they have offered their own congregations. They made clear that every congregation has different needs and the nurses work with their pastors to fulfill those needs.

Discussion then centered on the 15 district parish nurses. Ideas were offered on how they can support each other and how important that support is for all of them.

More resources will be placed on the district website, including links to other identified resources. There are also plans to start offering education and meetings on a regular basis at the district office in Brainerd.



Youth provide vital community service

The youth group and Sunday school students of Trinity Lutheran Church, Isle, were recently joined by adults to clean ditches. Pictured are, from left (front row) Leila Gallion, Abbie Gallion, Abigail Peterson, Aria Mueller, Josiah Mueller, Ethan Peterson, Lucas Peterson, Tracy Peterson; (back row) Mike Dangers, Libby Dangers, Carly Gallion, Dave Mueller (youth group advisor), Josh Peterson, Cole Dangers, Ethan Horsch, Zach Horsch, Laura Horsch (Sunday School superintendent) and Caitlyn Peterson. This is an ongoing effort as part of the Minnesota Adopt a Highway program. Trinity youth have been participating in this program for several years and encourage adult congregation members to join them.



Blessings in Morris

The Rev. Reed Stockman was installed as pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, Morris, on Sept. 30. Pictured are, from left, the Revs. Dr. Don Fondow (district president and installer), Jack Baumgarn, Stockman, Jason Wolter and Thaine Kister. Stockman has been serving the Lord as a pastor for 32 years, including congregations in Kansas and Iowa. May God bless his work at Zion, Morris.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

GOD BECAME MAN

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ... In him was life, and the life was the light of men." — John 1:1, 4



Advent and Christmastide are the seasons in which we remember that God burst into the darkness of our sin and death with His life; with the Light of His Son, Jesus Christ.

I can remember reading a sermon in which the preacher said that we should find our greatest comfort in this fact — God became a man. He didn't become a bird or flower. He didn't become a lion or a whale. He became a man.

If you want to know your value (and the value of every human being), ponder the incarnation. The Son of God took on human flesh because humans are different (and greater) than any other creature. It was humans alone whom God intimately created, forming Adam from the dirt and building Eve from Adam's rib. Only into man's nostrils did God Himself breathe the breath of life. Man alone was made in the image of God and to him alone did God give dominion. Man alone could communicate with God and with one another. Finally, it was man alone whom God invited into the creative process. Adam and Eve were made to become one flesh, to be fruitful and multiply. Humans alone can create a creature that has a soul and is desired by God to be His own.

The Son of God became a man. That alone ought to instill in us the highest regard for human life. However, Jesus did more than become a man. He gave His life for man. He paid the price to redeem us from sin and death with His holy and precious blood. Human life is doubly valued by God. Not only did He create humans in His image, but He also became fully human to buy us humans back from the debt of sin.

As we ponder once again the mystery that God became flesh and dwelt among us, may He comfort us with the great value He placed upon us, and may He strengthen us to regard all human life in light of Christ's incarnation and crucifixion.

Rev. Bruce Timm
Arrowhead Region Pastoral Counselor



Trinity quilters

The quilters from Trinity, Long Prairie, made 100 quilts for adults as well as many quilts for babies. The quilts will be distributed to Lutheran World Relief and various other locations, including nursing and veterans' homes, and to disaster victims and others. Also, Trinity members who are high school graduates and babies baptized at Trinity also receive a quilt. From left, (seated) Peggy Kartuem, Florence Bundy, Linda Ritter, Dede Kindig, Jeanette Alsleben; (standing) Janna Florke, Bea Stahn, Barb Logas, Shirley Haberkorn, Elaine Kingston and Marilyn Freie.

Blessed to be 90!

Following the Divine Service on July 15, the Redeemer Ladies' Guild, Aurora, hosted a small reception to honor three of its long-time members for their 90th birthdays in 2018. More than 50 were in attendance, including Redeemer members and several from the ladies' families.



Everyone enjoyed a delicious cake and a short program. The congregation feels so blessed to have these faithful ladies among them — especially for many, many years — and prays God's blessing on them always. From left, Margaret Scott, Eileen Moritz and Eunice Walker.

LWML convention

Save June 20–23 and attend the LWML 38th Biennial Convention in Mobile, Ala. The theme is "In Praise to the LORD!" The Scripture verse is: "Sing to the LORD, all the earth! Tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations" (1 Chron. 16:23–24a).

Marilyn Hittel

LWML District President

president@lwmlmnn.org
320-387-2219

