



# DISTRICT NEWS

## MINNESOTA NORTH

### Cold day keeps artists inside

The temperatures dipped well below zero, but that did not stop a hardy group of artists from enjoying a cozy afternoon of painting in front of the fire at Lutheran Island Camp.

The Jan. 19 event gave participants an opportunity to consider what it means to create as they painted “Winter Morning” with the help of instructor Megan Behrens from Art Bar 39 in Alexandria.

The cold temperatures prevented the group from taking a planned sleigh ride to see up close God’s creative work in the winter landscape, but even in the bitter cold, God’s provision for creation was evident in the sun seen shining through the frigid windows.

The warmth of the fire provided everyone with a comfortable atmosphere so that, as creative image-bearers, the creative activity could be enjoyed.

You are invited to join others at Lutheran Island Camp on April 20 for lunch and an exploration of God’s creative activity in the landscape of Otter Tail County. For more information, call 218-583-2905.



Rev. Christopher Davis, left, is pictured with Rev. Dr. Don Fondow.

### Pastor receives scouting award

In the northern, serene town of Dorset (population 22), where the eagles nest and the fishing is great, a small historic stone church, First English Lutheran, sits. Rev. Christopher Davis, pastor of First English and scoutmaster (Troop 56 of Nevis), was presented with the Lamb Award by Rev. Dr. Don Fondow, Minnesota North District president, and Loren Meinke, Board of Directors member for the National Lutheran Association on Scouting.

Charles Deutschmann, First English elder, presented Pastor Davis a certificate on be-

half of the congregation. The Lamb Award was designed to express appreciation for outstanding leadership and significant contributions by an adult to the spiritual, social and physical lives of young people.

Pastor Davis, who has served First English since 2003, has given generously of his time so that young people in the community may have richer lives.

The award consists of a medallion with a lamb and cross on it, symbolizing Christ as the Lamb of God. On the reverse side is John 21:15, which reads: “Feed My Lambs.”

# Mercy for foster children



## Service project allows Kroschel youth to help others

The youth group from St. John's Lutheran Church, Kroschel, took a break from their Sunday School lessons on Epiphany to help other children in need.

Each quarter the group hosts a family fun night to raise funds for service projects. The proceeds from their most recent fun night went to benefit "To-

gether We Rise," which works with local and state foster care agencies to provide foster children with a duffel bag that they can call their own instead of having their belongings transferred in garbage bags.

Each of the bags was custom decorated by the St. John's youth with words and pictures that offer hope.

Each bag contains a toiletries kit, fleece blanket, a fun item and space for them to carry their belongings if they are required to move about within the system.

This tradition of using this time to serve others was

continued at an event in late February. The youth group is looking forward to helping more people as they share and show the love of God!



## Alive welcomes nearby youth for Christmas

On Dec. 9, Alive Youth — the youth group of Alive Lutheran Church, Monticello — hosted a Christmas gathering. They chose to not celebrate alone and invited confirmation and high school youth from LCMS congregations within 20 miles of Alive. Twenty youth from four congregations celebrated — Alive; Lord of Glory and Emmanuel, Elk River; and Faith, Zimmermann.

Good food, conversation, getting to know one another and playing a few games were the main activities.

It was a wonderful way to celebrate Christmas. The youth made some new friends and hope that this event will spur on future gatherings with other nearby congregations.



Food items were gathered for the local food shelf — 103 pounds of needed items were donated.

Funds for food and festivities were provided by a Thrivent Action Grant. Chantelle Kiphuth helped apply for the

grant.

It is significant when our young people are reminded that there are others their age who share their beliefs and love to gather together to share the joy we have in Christ.

# Bethlehem, Frazee, welcomes new pastor

On Jan. 6, Rev. Ed Borchardt was installed as the new pastor of Bethlehem, Frazee. A celebration welcoming Borchardt and his family was held following the service.

Rev. Dr. Don Fondow, Minnesota North District president, delivered the message and performed the installation. Rev. Del Meyer led the liturgy and Revs. Del Stohs and Bruce Blocker read the lessons.

Before coming to Frazee, Borchardt served Trinity, Evansville, for more than 20 years. He arrived in Frazee with his wife, Mary-Lynn, and their daughter, Rachel.

He is focusing on carrying on the wonderful mission and ministry that Revs. Bill Aufdenkamp, John Beck and Ron Jobe established.

Borchardt rejoices that the members of Bethlehem are deeply committed to share the Good News of Jesus Christ. He feels truly blessed to have been called back to serve Bethlehem, the place he began his ministry more than 32 years ago.



From left, (front row) Revs. Ed Borchardt, Dr. Don Fondow; (middle row) Guy Roberts, Scott Muehlberg, Gary Rehborg, Richard Boehnke, Dr. Karl Weber, Dr. Mark Buchhop; (back row) Bruce Noennig, Meyer, Matthew Meyer, Blocker, Dan Abrahams, Andrew Ratcliff and Stohs.

## Peace members march **FOR LIFE**

Peace Lutheran Church, Finlayson, marched with other like-minded individuals on Jan. 22 at the State Capitol in St. Paul.

March for Life is organized by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life and held each year on the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision which effectively legalized abortion in the United States.

They marched to speak for those whose lives are often not valued in our country, including unborn children in their mother's wombs. Prayer was also offered, that those who regret their own actions in this regard would know the forgiveness and peace of Jesus.

Peace members wish to challenge more Minnesota North LCMS congregations and members to join them for the march next year as one way in which those for life can speak on this very important issue.



## Send news

Please send submissions to [the.lutheran.witness@mnnlcms.org](mailto:the.lutheran.witness@mnnlcms.org). You may also mail your submissions to Peace Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 60, Finlayson, MN 55735, attn. Rev. Philip Hoppe.



## Quilts for veterans

Members of Our Redeemer, Moorhead, make quilts each year as a way to serve others who have need. They make 25 to 30 Christmas quilts for Veterans Administration (VA) patients at the facility in Fargo, N.D., every year. These quilts are given to patients during their Christmas party. Pictured, Sonja Beltz of Our Redeemer gives the quilts to Russ Stabler of the VA.

# COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# FASTING

### Who receives this Sacrament worthily?

"Fasting and bodily preparation are certainly fine outward training. But that person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.' But anyone who does not believe these words or doubts them is unworthy and unprepared, for the words 'for you' require all hearts to believe."

*(The Sacrament of the Altar, Luther's Small Catechism, © 1986 CPH)*

Fasting is "certainly fine outward training." Lutherans can fast, but it does not earn you any favors with God or make you more pleasing in His eyes. Christ did all the work of salvation and He declared all foods clean. We do not need to abstain from certain foods or at certain times to please God. Christ alone pleases God.

Why should you fast? You fast for your faith. Fasting is saying "no" to food and "no" to yourself and that is good practice for your faith. As Paul says to Titus:

"For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say 'No' to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age." — **Titus 2:11-12 NIV**

Believing in Christ entails saying "no" to yourself, your sinful desires, your ungodly passions. Fasting says "no" in a small and simple way.

Fasting will make you hungry. One historic practice of Christians is not to eat on Sunday morning before receiving the Lord's Supper. You will be hungry in church and think about food. The first food you eat on the Lord's Day will be the Lord's Supper. In it you will receive the only food on earth that will keep you alive forever — the living and risen body and blood of Jesus Christ under the bread and wine. Your hunger and denial will prepare you to receive the Lord's Supper in faith. Remember though what Luther says. It is not the fasting that makes you worthy. Faith alone in Christ's Words (that this is His body and blood "given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins") enables you to receive the Lord's Supper for your benefit.

Fasting is training, practice and discipline. It is saying "no" to yourself and disciplining your body and mind to receive Christ's gifts. Why not try a little fasting this Lent before the Feast of the Resurrection?

**Rev. Bruce Timm**  
Arrowhead Region Pastoral Counselor



**The 2019 Prayer Service**, written by Rev. Allen D. Anderson, past Rocky Mountain District President, is centered around the acronym for "CARES" and based on Ps. 94:17-19:

"If the LORD had not been my help, my soul would soon have lived in the land of silence. When I thought, 'My foot slips,' your steadfast love, O LORD, held me up. When the cares of my heart are many, your consolations cheer my soul."

The 2019 LWML Prayer Service downloads are available at [lwml.org/prayer-service](http://lwml.org/prayer-service). If you are unable to download the service, please contact the LWML office at [lwml@lwml.org](mailto:lwml@lwml.org) or 1-800-252-5965 to obtain a paper copy.

## 'Follow my lead'

Instead of zone rallies, "Follow My Lead" celebrations will be held in Park regions I and II and Arrowhead Region I this spring. The Assembly of Leaders team (who were trained in November in St. Louis) are excited to share new ideas with the women of Minnesota North. (Arrowhead II and Lakeland I and II will hold their leadership training events in the fall.)

The dates for the workshop are: Staples, April 27; Esko, May 4; and Crookston, May 11. Registration will begin at 9 a.m. at all locations. The fee is \$10 and will cover the mileage costs for presenters.

## Sharing our abundance

Check out the district mission grants at [lwmlmnn.org/missiongrants.html](http://lwmlmnn.org/missiongrants.html) and the national grants at [lwml.org/mission-grants](http://lwml.org/mission-grants). We have chosen to support these grants with our mite box offerings. Please consider how you can help get these grants funded. Sharing the love of Jesus and what He has done for us is so important to each of us as a Lutheran Woman in Mission. The national mission goal deadline is March 31.



## We have new logo!

At the Oct. 9 Board of Directors meeting, the board voted upon a new logo for our district, based on the new LWML guidelines.

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