



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH

Camp explores Sunken Cities

What type of evidence would we expect to see in artifacts from Egyptian civilization following 10 devastating plagues and the Israelite exodus?

This is the question that participants were asked to consider as Rev. Ron Hobbie talked about the timing of events described in Exodus during a special trip to the Minneapolis Institute of Art (MIA) hosted by Christ Serve Ranch, a program of Lutheran Island Camp, on Feb. 18.

Hobbie serves as pastor of Zion, Ada; and St. John's, Ada.

Participants were treated to this lecture and an organic lunch from The Wedge Table. After lunch, the group had an opportunity to see some of the evidence described by Hobbie while touring the traveling Sunken Cities exhibit at the MIA.

This exhibit displayed artifacts buried beneath the waves of the Mediterranean Sea when two ancient cities were



Rev. Hobbie (standing) leads the group at the Minneapolis Institute of Art.

flooded 1,200 years ago. The fun and fellowship continued over dinner at Doolittles in Alexandria.

Don't miss the next scheduled event! A geologic tour of Otter-tail County's Ice Age experience has been rescheduled for May 18. This event will

be led by Stacy Lung, who has written a book on this very topic.

There is also a canoe trip on the Mississippi River with Rev. Lynn Machula scheduled for Aug. 10. For more information, send an email to program@christserveranch.org.

Need help in witnessing?

Dr. Thom Rainer of LifeWay Research reports that 82 percent of unchurched people are open to an invitation to attend church. Gallup estimates that there are 135 million unchurched people in the United States. That means 110 million people are open to an

invitation to attend church. Have you invited someone?

Are we called to invite people to our church? Jesus said: "You will be my witnesses." We are called, every one of us, to witness to that hope that we have in Christ Jesus.

Every One His Witness is a program developed by LCMS Witness and Outreach Ministry and is available through Concordia Publishing House. It was designed to help people in the congregation witness their faith to people with whom they already have a relationship.

We talk about sports, cooking, parenting, the weather, investments, the kids

See **WITNESS**, page 2



From left, eighth-graders Benaiah Hinz, Addie Norman, and Charlie Peterson represented Peace Lutheran School, St. Cloud, in robotics tournaments.

District helps schools thrive

The theme for Peace Lutheran School, St. Cloud, comes from Eph. 6:10: “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power.”

This school is blessed with 128 students in kindergarten through eighth grade for this

academic year. The preschool program is going strong with 82 students in six classrooms. The students are working hard to learn, and the teachers work extremely hard to ensure a great education is offered each day.

The school has been learning robotics for six years. This program has grown and improved, and this year was no exception. The middle school robotics team had an outstanding season, earning many first- and second-place awards at tournaments in northern Minnesota. They also made it to the quarterfinals of the state tournament, and received an invitation to a national competition held in Council Bluffs, Iowa, in April.

Part of how such efforts are possible is because of the CROSS Appeal program promoted throughout the

Minnesota North District. Congregations gather funds to help our Lutheran schools. That money is then given to schools like Prince of Peace to help in offering a quality, Christ-centered education.

Gifts to the CROSS Appeal may be given at any time throughout the year. They can go through your congregation or directly to the Minnesota North District. Some congregations choose to hold a CROSS fundraising event or a CROSS Sunday, when a special offering will be taken to support all eight of our district schools.

To learn more about the CROSS Appeal and how it offers you or your congregation an opportunity to support all of our Lutheran schools, contact the district office (218-829-1781 or mnnndist@mnnlcms.org).

Minnesota welcomes ‘Lutheran Hour’ speaker

On March 17, the Minnesota South District of the International Lutheran Laymen’s League (LLL), hosted a Lutheran Hour Rally at Hosanna, Mankato.

People from all over Minnesota gathered to hear a powerful message from the Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, who has served as speaker of “The Lutheran Hour” since October.

The Rev. Dr. Donald Fondow, Minnesota North District president, also participated in the event along with several other clergy from Minnesota.

There was also music from the Hosanna praise band and a massed choir composed of members from Minnesota congregations.

There was a ministry expo where attendees could learn more about Lutheran Hour Ministry resources that might help them in sharing the Gospel.

A reception sponsored by Lutheran Church Extension Fund following the rally.

The event served as the conclusion to the Minnesota South District LLL Convention, held earlier in the day at Our Savior’s, Mankato.



Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler preached the sermon during service March 17.

WITNESS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

and grandkids, vacations and vocations. But how often do we have that conversation that will have an eternal impact?

Rev. Jeffery Lee, district missions facilitator, encourages all of our congregations to use *Every One His Witness*. He is available to lead a Saturday workshop in your congregation. There are also videos that he can show in a setting led by the pastor. Contact the district office if you have questions about using the material or having a workshop (218-829-1781 or mnnndist@mnnlcms.org).

Can you imagine the impact if many of our members were equipped and encouraged to be active witnesses of our hope in Christ?

Trinity youth hold Sweetheart Dinner

The fellowship hall at Trinity, Isle, was recently transformed into a romantic venue for the annual Sweetheart Dinner sponsored by the congregation's Active Christian Teens (A.C.T).

Sixty people were served during two seatings. Meal choices were chicken alfredo or lasagna, prepared by Donna Bryant, mother of A.C.T. member Jenna Bryant. The group's advisor, Laura Horsch, planned the event.



Server Mikayla Anderson takes a meal order from Natalie and Andy Geist.



Hailey Anderson mixes salad prior to the meal.

Blessings in Foley

On March 17, St. Paul's, Foley held a New Member Sunday to officially receive 18 members who had recently joined the congregation. A reception followed the service. The congregation rejoices that these people have been added to its family and looks forward to receiving God's gifts together and supporting one another. To God be the glory for gathering His people around His Son in His Church. May God bless these new members and all who gather at St. Paul's to hear the Good News.



Share your news with us!



We are always in need of more submissions for *The Lutheran Witness* district insert. Why should you send them in? It helps remind us of what God is doing around the Minnesota North District. It is also a way to share ideas for nurturing those God has already gathered into His church and for reaching those still outside of the flock with the Good News about Jesus. It finally reminds each of us that Christ's Church is much larger than just our particular congregation.

We welcome pictures and stories of congregational events, youth events, outreach events, installations, events from your men's or women's group,

servant events, conferences, anniversaries, church renovations or additions, and much more. If you would like an upcoming event publicized, please make sure we have the information at least two months in advance.

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@mnnlcms.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.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

The first part of the Alleluia verse that remains constant during Easter is Rom. 6:9: "We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him."

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

What wonderful news for Christians! First, Christ is raised from the dead. If He wasn't raised from the dead, your faith would be for nothing. Second, He will never die again because death no longer has power or authority over Him. This means that Christ lives eternally, that He will never, ever die again.

Selections for part of the Gradual for Easter are from Psalm 8: "Christ has risen from the dead. God the Father has crowned him with glory and honor, He has given him dominion over the works of his hands; he has put all things under his feet." Psalm 8 brings us hope. It is referenced in Hebrews also. The point here is that everything is put into subjection to man. Human beings have authority over the earth and living things. Jesus, being 100 percent man, also has this power and authority over creation. But Jesus, as 100 percent God, has greater control over the earth and all living things. In this psalm, David is reminding you that all of creation is the work of God's hands.

As Lutheran Christians, you confess that Jesus has authority over your lives and He also has authority over all things. Jesus "will transform your lowly body to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself" (Phil. 3:21).

Thanks be to God that He is the One who is in control. Being in Christ, you have died with Him in your baptism and been raised from death to new life as a child of God. We rejoice in the crucified Christ's victory over sin, death and the devil to give everlasting life to all who trust in Him.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed. Alleluia!

Rev. Donald Klatt
Lakeland Region Pastoral Counselor

Young women selected

The Young Women Committee is pleased to report that it has reviewed the Young Woman Representative (YWR) applications and selected two young women to represent the LWML Minnesota North District at the LWML 38th Biennial Convention June 20-23 in Mobile, Ala. Introducing Miranda Garman and Daylin Paulson:

Hello! My name is **Miranda Garman**, I'm 22 years old and from Sartell. I have a wonderfully supportive family, including my dad and mom, Bob and Chris, and my younger siblings, sister Eden and brother Beau.



I am currently going to college in Moorhead, for my RN-BAN in nursing. I graduated from Sartell High School in 2015.

Growing up in Sartell, I attended (and still do!) Messiah Lutheran Church. I enjoy singing on the praise team, partaking in servant event trips, being a part of youth group and teaching Sunday school and VBS.

Hi, my name is **Daylin Paulson**. I live in Cold Spring and my home congregation is Holy Cross Lutheran Church, St. Cloud.



I am currently going to college for a communications degree, and am also heavily involved in music and theater. When I do have free time, I love being with my family, practicing flute, goofing off with friends or doing just about any outdoor activity.

I am really looking forward to this summer! I feel so honored to be blessed with this opportunity. I can't wait to see what God has planned for me at the LWML convention!

Sharing Christ ... wherever you go



Ruby Prochnow, Lakeland I Regional VP, had the honor to speak at the Gun Bay United Church Women's Fellowship gathering on Feb. 22. Gun Bay is located on the east end of the Cayman Islands, and the Prochnows visit the church when on vacation.

"What a pleasure it was having Ruby join and share with us about the LWML in America," said Aliceann Kirchman of the Women's Fellowship. "It was so nice to be encouraged and to hear what women are doing in other countries."

Ruby also spoke about Lutheran Hour Ministries. Several of the ladies' faces glowed when they heard

"The Lutheran Hour" mentioned and they happily said that they listen to the program. Some said they listen to the devotions every day. What an encouragement for those in the United States who support this ministry.

Ruby brought the fragrance, the pleasant aroma of Christ from the LWML and LCMS to the Cayman Islands. St. Paul speaks of this aroma in 2 Cor. 2:14-16. How sweet it is.

Marilyn Hiltel

LWML District President
president@lwmlmnn.org
320-387-2219