



Intercom/E-news

MN NORTH DISTRICT Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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Someone you know doesn't go to church anymore.

Someone you know just found out they have cancer.

Someone you know is going through tough times and is feeling depressed.

Someone you know just moved into your neighborhood.

Someone you know claims they are "spiritual, but not religious" and aren't really into churches.

Someone you know isn't a Christian.

We all know someone who either isn't connected to church or doesn't believe in Jesus as their Savior at all. Someone you know needs peace and forgiveness in their life - the peace that we have, right now, through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



So how do we approach them? It seems a little scary! What if they say "no" - what if they chase me off - what if I mess up?

It has been said that only 25% of LCMS congregations intentionally focus their ministry beyond the current membership. Well, starting in October, this is about to change - at least in the Minnesota North District.

Matthew 7:7-8 says *"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened."*

At the beginning of each month, all the churches in the MN North District are going to pray for "Someone You Know" who doesn't go to church or isn't a Christian. We are going to pray for an opportunity to talk with them about Jesus, or invite them to church with us. Not only that, we are going to give you some tips on how to reach out to them. In addition, we are going to give your church a link to a 3 minute video, featuring church leaders within our MN North District, teaching us how to reach out with the Gospel.

After we pray - we are going to look for the opportunity. God will give it to us!

Someone you know needs to hear about Jesus - and God is going to give us the opportunity to tell them the best news of all - that God loves and forgives them!

Let's do this MN North District! Let's see how the Holy Spirit will work as you reach out to "Someone You Know."

In the strong name of Jesus!
Rev. Monte Meyer

Around the District...



New Worker Orientation

The MN North District Office hosted our New Workers on August 7-8, 2019 for a time of fellowship and learning. Thank you to Trinity, New York Mills and Pastor Kirk Douglas for a wonderful evening meal!



Ordination and Installation

Rev. Eli Voigt was Ordained and Installed on Sunday, August 11th at both Redeemer Lutheran Church in Bagley where he serves

as Sole Pastor and Trinity Lutheran Church in Bemidji where he serves as Associate Pastor. Above: Rev. Jerry Goetz, Rev. Dr. Don Fondow (District President), Rev. Eli Voigt, Rev. Dan Domke and Rev. Bruce Blocker. Below: (back row) Rev. Jerry Goetz, Rev. Dan Domke, Rev. Dr. Larry Harvala, Rev. Tom Puffe, Rev. David Walsh, Rev. James Sorenson, Rev. Robert Wentzel, Rev. Don Fondow (District President), Rev. Eli Voigt, Rev. William Moeller, Jr., and Rev. Thomas Batchelder.




One Voice for Public Policy

MINNESOTA DISTRICTS



Rev. Hinz represents the LCMS in issues pertaining to life (abortion and doctor-assisted suicide), marriage, family, sexuality, parental choice in education, and religious freedom.

Rev. Hinz is available as a presenter and resource for congregations and pastors' groups. All are welcome to contact him directly with public policy questions. The July issue of One Voice addresses issues that are likely to be in front of Minnesota Legislators in the 2020 session and provides insight in what is going on with regards to education choice. You can read the July edition and find the most recent updates [HERE](#).

NEWS from Lutheran Student Fellowship in St. Cloud

Lutheran Student Fellowship at St. Cloud State University has one room available at the ministry house beginning this fall. Please contact Barb Hertling at 320-259-1577 or her cell number 320-333-2706 or email her at lsf.scsu@gmail.com if you are interested in learning more! Also please note the **NEW EMAIL ADDRESS** for Barb at LSF.

Christ Serve Ranch to host new Online Learning Community



On July 23, 2019, the Resolution 5-09A was passed by the 67th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). This resolution reaffirmed the historic position of the LCMS regarding God's act of creation in six natural days. In addition, the

resolution instructs pastors to equip and teach members, especially youth, to understand and defend this Biblical witness to God's creative work. The synod provides a number of resources including *Together with All Creatures: Caring for God's Living Earth* (2010) and *All Things Hold Together in Christ: The Intersection of Science and Christian Theology* (2015).

For those interested in exploring further, an online learning community will begin on September 29, 2019, and continue on the last Thursday of each month. Guest hosts will facilitate the conversation as we begin working through these synod resources. Look for more details in the coming weeks.



Dear President Don Fondow,
Greetings!

I want to sincerely thank you and other generous and kind-hearted brethren for the support provided for my continuing education courses this summer.

I attended *CFW Walther Today* with Dr. Cameron MacKenzie; *The Pastor's Devotional Life* with Professor John Pless; and *Issues in Theological*

Anthropology for the Ministry with Rev. Scott Stiegemeyer. The professors are always knowledgeable, positive, friendly and inclusive.

This continuing education all the more motivates me to bring a commitment to Scripture and the confessions as well as a strong commitment to my role as faculty member of the Lutheran Seminary in the Philippines as one that not only teaches and equips the students and the faithful but also reaches and cares for all.

Attending these classes provided opportunities for me to grow, learn, and meet new fellow vineyard workers of the Lord.

Thank you so much!

Rev. James Cerdenola

Daniel Janssen Memorial Service

A memorial service for Danny Janssen will be held on Saturday, September 14, 2019 at the Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery in Odessa, MN.

Danny was a 1954 graduate of Concordia Junior College, St. Paul. A grad of CRF he served as a Lutheran School Teacher in Chicago and later entered a successful career as a musician in Hollywood. Danny made generous funds available to construct the Drama and Arts Bldg at Concordia University, St. Paul.

Classmates and friends are invited to join the celebration of Eternal Life for Danny at a 12:00 Noon Memorial Service at the Odessa Trinity Lutheran Cemetery. Call 218-929-0447 for for any questions.

Memorials are requested for the support of the work of the Lutheran Heritage Foundation, Macomb, MI.

Around the District...

National Youth Gathering MNN District Event



More than 400 youth and adults from the MN North District gathered at Concordia, St. Paul for the Lumberjack Experience on Monday, July 15th. They enjoyed great food, fellowship and fun!



Congratulations and God's Blessings!

Rev. Kevin and Dauline Richter were joined in marriage on Sunday, May 26, 2019.

The Dent Days Parade

Rev. Dan Abrahams greets the crowd while riding in style!





A Message from the MN North District Life Coordinator

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN



RESPONDING WITH TRUTH AND COMPASSION TO THE TRANSGENDER TREND

Join us on **Sunday, August 18th** for an educational and encouraging presentation

Are you wondering how to respond to the transgender trend? Transgender ideas are changing the way we understand ourselves and each other, giving rise to laws that disadvantage women and girls in sports, school curricula that is anti-scientific, and irreversible medical procedures that harm young people. Join us for a one-hour presentation from **Emily Zinos** of **Ask Me First MN** and **Beth Stelzer** of **Save Women's Sports** that will embolden you to share the truth about our unchangeable identity as men and women.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019 | 6PM

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

1420 Nevada Ave. Benson, MN 56215

Hosted by Pastor Jason Wolter, LCMS Life Coordinator for the MN-North District

Our 1-hour presentation will include:

- An overview of how transgender ideas are affecting women's sports, public schools, and child health
- Positive and constructive ways to respond from both a secular and a faith-based perspective
- Printed copies of the Minnesota Parent Resource Guide, a valuable tool that addresses the transgender issue in our culture and in our public schools

REGISTER HERE:

<http://engage.mfc.org/AMFBenson>

Brought to you by:

St. Mark's Lutheran Church



Emily Zinos is the Project Coordinator for *Ask Me First MN*, an initiative from Minnesota Family Council that educates citizens on the consequences of the transgender trend. Emily has published articles in *First Things* and *Public Discourse*, and contributed to the development of the *Parent Resource Guide*, which prepares Minnesota parents to constructively engage with their child's public school. Married with seven children, Emily brings a mother's perspective to the work she does to uphold the truth and dignity of every person. Emily can be reached at askmefirstmn@gmail.com.

Beth Stelzer is an amateur powerlifter and the Founder of *Save Women's Sports*, an organization that seeks to preserve biology-based eligibility standards for participation in female sports. Beth is concerned that transgender activism is putting the future of women's sports in jeopardy, and works to encourage women to speak up before their daughters' athletic opportunities are lost. Watch Beth share her story in Washington, DC at the *Heritage Foundation* and read more about her courageous work on *Feminist Current*. Contact Beth at info@savewomenssports.com.

DOXOLOGY

Cultivating Generosity: A DOXOLOGY Seminar

The Rev. Dr. John W. Kleinig & The Rev. Dr. Scott Bruzek

October 3, 2019 — Shepherd of the Grove Lutheran Church, Maple Grove, MN



The Rev. Dr. John W. Kleinig, Professor Emeritus at Luther Campus, Adelaide, Australia is renowned the world over as a scholar, pastor, and an engaging and inspiring Bible teacher. His many published works include two Bible Commentaries in the Concordia Commentary Series, Leviticus (2003) and Hebrews (2017). His acclaimed book *Grace Upon Grace* (2008), equips people for confident, joy-filled Christian living.



The Rev. Dr. Scott Bruzek is the Senior Pastor of St. John Lutheran Church, Wheaton, Illinois. He has received advanced degrees from Cambridge University and Princeton Seminary in systematic theology, with doctoral work on the Lord's Supper. His interests lie in pastoral care, the incarnational life, teaching, and missions.

Generosity Doesn't Happen by Accident

It happens just like everything else in the Christian life. Jesus gives us his gifts, pulling us into his merciful orbit while pushing us out into the world to do some good.

Congregations and pastors find some of these things – praying, coming to Church on Sunday, or being merciful – much easier to talk about than others.

Unfortunately, tithing and almsgiving often fall to the very bottom of that list, which causes no end of trouble in the life of the Church and its witness to the world.

Because Jesus talked about money more than almost anything else, let's learn to do that too.

Together let's explore generosity that is both ordinary (tithing and alms) and extra-ordinary (capital campaigns) – in a way that is Christological, merciful, practical, thankful, joyful, and hopeful.

The conversation, rooted solidly in key biblical texts, will include evaluation of available stewardship and capital campaign materials but will focus on practical and programmatic implementation in your parish.

Schedule: The seminar begins with 8:30 check-in and 9:00 a.m. morning prayer. The seminar ends at 3:15 p.m. The full event schedule is [here](#).

Cost: \$45, includes registration, teaching materials and lunch

Map: [click here](#)

Register before September 19th, 2019

Church Worker Wellness Resources

DOXOLGY

Doxology's primary purpose is to provide training in advanced pastoral skills while offering ongoing spiritual care opportunities for Lutheran pastors. Learn more at the Doxology [WEBSITE](#).

SHEPHERD'S CANYON RETREAT

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat offers seven carefully designed days of individual, couple, and group Christian counseling for Pastors, Missionaries, Rostered Teachers, Directors of Christian Education, Deaconesses, and their spouses. Learn more by visiting the Shepherd's Canyon [WEBSITE](#).

GRACE PLACE

Grace Place Wellness is a preventive wellness ministry that seeks to positively impact the ministry of Christian congregations by encouraging workers in the church to lead the rich and full lives that Jesus intends for all of His children. Learn more by visiting their website: www.graceplacewellness.org.

NEW AT LCMS.ORG

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) recently introduced a new, weekly series of devotions for church workers. As part of the Synod's ongoing focus on worker wellness, the devotions take a holistic

approach to wellness, incorporating vocational, relational, financial and emotional concerns of workers. Learn more and read the devotions [HERE](#).

CONCORDIA PLAN SERVICES

Concordia Plans offers a multitude of physical, emotional and financial wellness resources. To learn more and get involved visit their worker wellness [WEBSITE](#).



ALOA

EncourAGING & Equipping Congregations for Older Adult Ministry

aloaserves.org

800-930-2562

PO Box 4367, Clearwater, FL 33758

Screen Smart = Brain Power

You and I are making history. Each time we send a text or open and email, we are setting new standards for the use of technology.

In just the past ten years, the time older Americans (age 60+) spend on screens each day has risen by almost half an hour. That seems even more remarkable when we consider that screen time among younger people has remained steady.

Actually, according to the data released in June from the Pew Research Center Fact Tank, those of us in our 60's, 70's and 80's spend more than half of our leisure time in front of screens. While we might not be suffering from screen addiction, finding a healthy balance with technology is important to our aging brain.

GPS-guided driving reduces the number of wrong turns, but brain activity spikes when

we plan a route to a new location.

Using speed dial is quick, but face-to-face communication slows cognitive decline by increasing neural connections.

Watching TV is relaxing, but so is knitting, gardening and playing the piano, which can trigger additional brain activity.

Although we are surrounded by technology, choosing screens is not always the smartest choice. It's tempting to slip into tech-driven or digitally dependent patterns. After all, we've worked hard to afford devices that simplify and enhance daily living. Plus, being tech savvy feels empowering, especially as the aging process contributes to declines in other competences.

We don't need to be experts on the latest advances, but maintaining a healthy balance with technology is smart thinking. And that's real brain power.

CONCORDIA PLAN SERVICES

As you consider options and make your elections for 2020, I wanted to remind you of changes that were made in 2019 to the Concordia Health Plan (CHP) extension for early retirees.

The CHP early retiree extension is available to members who are age 55 or older with five years of continuous membership in the CHP immediately prior to initiating early retirement. The extension is offered for up to 120 months or until age 65, whichever comes first.

Early retirees can choose from three health plan options: continuing on their most recent employer's plan (subject to change annually based on the election of that employer), Healthy Me A or Healthy Me B. Early retirees will be offered an open enrollment period annually to coincide with that of their most recent employer. Rates for early retiree CHP extensions are now based on the ZIP code of the retiree's most recent employer.

I ask that you share this information with any workers who may be considering an early retiree CHP extension in the future.

Thank you, and if you have any questions please contact me at 1-888-927-7526.

Yours sincerely,
Brad Peterson



Back To Church Sunday!

September 15, 2019 is designated “Back To Church Sunday”. I didn’t even know that was a special day on the calendar – but I kind of like the idea. I like the idea of churches intentionally trying to bring people, whose attendance at church has waned over the summer months, or perhaps even longer, to reactivate them.

How can I implement “Back to Church Sunday”? It is one month away. Enlist a team of church leaders to begin praying about and for the inactive members in the church. Identify those individuals and assign leaders to pray specifically for each individual on their list. Pray that the individual will be open to the invitation to become active in the church again. Pray that God would provide an opportunity to witness to the individual.

Prepare promotional material and Sunday talks or bulletin inserts about encouraging and inviting and welcoming the inactive members back to Church. Ask members of

the congregation to identify someone who they have a relationship with who is not currently attending Church and to begin praying for them and for the opportunity to invite them to church. Prepare special worship material for that Sunday emphasizing the welcome. In the 3 year lectionary, the readings for September 15 include the Gospel Lesson from Luke 15, the parable of the lost sheep and the Lost coin and the Old Testament Lesson from Ezekiel 34 about the shepherd who seeks out his scattered flock. The Epistle Lesson for this Sunday is from 1 Timothy 1:12-17 and verse 15 says that “This is a faithful saying and worthy of acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief.” Great opportunities to preach on the lost that are found and the Grace and Mercy of our Loving Father who desires all be saved and come to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Take the time to update the church website to make sure that information is current and correct. Create a festive Sunday with banners, posters, and special music. Get the members of the congregation inviting. Emphasize a welcoming atmosphere for worship. These things shouldn’t be set aside for one Sunday a year, it should be ongoing. The Law isn’t going to motivate people back to church and the law will not keep them in church. Each member of the congregation has an opportunity to share the Love of God with people and celebrate the lost that are found.

Hurricane Florence Recovery Continues

There are two upcoming opportunities to serve in both the Jacksonville and New Bern regions of North Carolina.

September 16-20: During the week of September 16-20, Rev. Ed Grant from Calvary Lutheran in Charleston, South Carolina will be leading a rebuilding and rehabilitation effort in Jacksonville. For more information, contact Ryan Radke at the SED office by email at rrad-

ke@se.lcms.org or by calling 1-800-637-5723. To register for this event, click [HERE](#).

November 3-9 and 10-16: During these two weeks in November, join a group of fellow Lutherans traveling from Indiana to New Bern to continue in the recovery effort. For more information, please contact Ryan Radke at the SED office. To register for this event, click [HERE](#).



The theme of the 2020 Pasadena Tournament of Rose Parade is The Power of Hope and the theme of the Lutheran Hour Ministries Float is Anchored in Jesus.

The LHM Float Committee invites children to participate in our annual float coloring contest. Please complete all information on the coloring contest entry form. We regret that we cannot judge entries with incomplete information or return your beautiful colored entry forms.

Download the coloring page and get more information here: <https://cdn.givecloud.co/s/files/1/0000/0038/files/epson213-1.pdf>.

StewardCAST

A monthly e-newsletter of LCMS Stewardship Ministry
[lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship)

To Tithe or Not To Tithe?

For generations, church stewardship programs have focused on the concept of the tithe. The tithe has been used at various times as a guide, as a target and, unfortunately, as a tool for manipulation and guilt.

Defenders of the tithe point to its roots in Scripture. Others feel that the word “tithe” has been horribly damaged by misuse over the years and talk about setting the word aside. So, which is it? Is “tithe” a helpful word in stewardship or is it a hindrance and a roadblock?

Download StewardCAST

Visit [lcms.org/stewardship](https://www.lcms.org/stewardship) to learn more about LCMS Stewardship Ministry.



Best Practices
IDEA ACADEMY

This is a blog that shares what churches, schools, and ministries are doing that have been helpful, edifying, and good within their contexts. It includes details and thoughts that might give you ideas on what you can try on your own.

Our goal is to provide ideas and encouragement so that you can feel empowered to try new things as we all strive to answer the call of the Great Commission of Matthew 28.

[VISIT THE WEBSITE](#)

2019 NATIONAL RURAL & SMALL TOWN MISSION CONFERENCE

**RUNNING WITH ENDURANCE:
EYES FIXED
ON JESUS**

"... let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross ..." HEBREWS 12:1B-2A

LCMS RURAL & SMALL TOWN MISSION NATIONAL CONFERENCE

(registration closes September 15th for 2019, being held Nov. 14-16 in Minneapolis) here: www.lcms.org/rstm/conference

Live workshop/conference (PDF download, PPTs, bulletin insert)

Description: The National RSTM Conference is geared for anyone from all types of rural and small-town settings, providing training and resources aimed at helping rural and small-town congregations assess community needs and search for opportunities to engage their communities through acts of witness and mercy. While there is no "one size fits all" solution, participants will be encouraged as they see new opportunities for engaging their communities and are filled with hope for the future. Fellowship with others who have also been placed in this unique mission field will be invaluable too! Continuing Education credits available through Concordia Theological Seminary.

We've been told there will most likely not be a 2020 RSTM National Conference, so don't miss 2019 and let it be known if you want this valuable resource back!

SEPTEMBER 23 - 27

POWER WEEK

MINNEAPOLIS

SAVE THE DATE!

Church multiplication trainings | September 23 - 27

Save the date for the upcoming Power Week featuring three free core church multiplication training sessions offered by the [Center for United States Missions](#). The following core trainings will be offered: Churches Planting Churches, Certified Trainer Training, and Church Planting Essentials.

Download a poster for your church [here](#).

UNMISTAKABLE

BEST PRACTICES FOR MINISTRY HEARTLAND

OCTOBER 9-11, 2019

✠ Cornerstone Lutheran Church

Best Practices for Ministry is a free conference open to all with the goal of helping congregations most effectively use their God-given gifts. Participants pay only for lodging and transportation. Cornerstone Lutheran Church in [Carmel, IN](#), will host the 2019 BPM Heartland. [Click here to learn more and register.](#)



MAIN STREET LIVING is a locally produced Sunday Morning TV program that includes a 30-minute worship service led by participating LCMS pastors from MN, ND and SD Districts, along with a 30 minute remastered program called "This is the Life" from Lutheran Hour Ministries. The program is now broadcast throughout Minnesota with production happening in Fargo, Duluth and the Twin Cities. Bulletin Announcements and program notes are now found in the Main Street Living Newsletter. For the latest edition, click on the logo on the MN North homepage [HERE](#).



The Prayerfully Consider Visit (PCV) is happening on campus from October 10–12. PCV is an opportunity for both college-aged prospects and those already in the work force to contemplate a future vocation as either a pastor or deaconess, and to experience life as a student at CTSFW. Attendees not only explore the campus and engage with current students and faculty, they immerse themselves in the scripturally-based and confessionally-rich classes as well as join the community in the daily worship life at Kramer Chapel.

As a vital part of the decision-making process, spouses and fiancés/fiancées are encouraged to join their partner. All participants—including spouses and fiancés/fiancées—attend PCV for free, which includes room and board on campus.

To view a sample schedule, learn more about the three-day visit, or to register, go to www.ctsfw.edu/PCV. For any additional questions or concerns, contact the Admission Office at Admission@ctsfw.edu or (800) 481-2155.

Registration has opened for the 2020 Symposia Series at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW). The upcoming series will take place January 21–24, 2020. CTSFW faculty and guest theologians lecture at this four-day event, covering topics related to exegetical theology and the Lutheran Confessions.

Cost has changed for this year as we are now only offering registration for the full four days at a single flat fee of \$180. However, as a part of the new pricing we are also opening up early bird registration from now until November 30 for \$150, as well as a reduced price for livestream access. If you are unable to attend in person, you will be able to go online to watch the lectures live for only \$20.

Lunch Tuesday through Thursday is included in the price of early bird and regular registration. Breakfast and dinner will be available for \$7.00 and \$10.00 respectively in the dining hall, save for the night of the reception and banquet. To attend the banquet, you will need to purchase a ticket for an additional \$40 when you register.

Register at www.ctsfw.edu/Symposia. More details about topics, speakers, sessions, plus the schedule will be updated on this page over the coming months. If you are a pastor, you may also consider attending the Lenten Preaching Workshop for \$40 on the Monday of that week, January 20. Register at www.ctsfw.edu/PreachingWorkshop.

For any other questions or concerns, contact Retreats@ctsfw.edu or call (260) 452-2204.



Concordia
Seminary
ST. LOUIS

Concordia Seminary and Taste of the Sem: Is there a young man in your high school youth group who has gifts that would be well served in pastoral ministry? Do you have a high school student who has expressed an interest in the pastoral ministry? If so, please consider encouraging him to check out Concordia Seminary's "Taste of the Sem," being held February 15-17, 2020. During this on-campus event, young men considering the ministry will be connected with a current seminary student to see what life is like at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. To register or to get more information, please check the Concordia Seminary website at <https://www.csl.edu/admissions/visit/taste-of-the-sem/>. If you would like more information, please contact Rev. Dr. Scott Holder in the Admissions Office at 314.505.7225.

JOURNEY THROUGH *the* ARK ENCOUNTER

2 UPCOMING TOUR OPPORTUNITIES!



December 1 - 7, 2019

7 Days and 6 Nights!

Hosted by: Our Redeemer, Cohasset
For more information contact Tim Stroming at
(218) 328-5165

March 7 - 10, 2019

Saturday—Tuesday

Hosted by: Emmanuel, Backus
For more information contact: Pastor Frank Milo
at (218) 820-6978 or frankvmilo@live.com



A newsletter of LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission

REACHING RURAL AMERICA FOR CHRIST

Minneapolis, Here We Come!

The LCMS 2019 National Rural & Small Town Mission Conference will be held Nov. 14–16 in Minneapolis, Minn., at the Doubletree by Hilton Bloomington-Minneapolis South. Registration is open until 9/1, then late registration fees kick in! [Registration](#) is open.

The No-Casserole Illness and How the Church Can Respond

It's a conversation I'll never forget. While visiting with a local pastor one day about the mental health focus of The Lutheran Foundation, he shared something he did one Sunday morning in church.

As people gathered for worship, everyone received a sheet of paper with a list of ten questions related to mental health issues. There were questions like, "Have you ever been depressed?" and "Have you ever been prescribed medication for mental health issues?" Each person was to circle any question that applied to them.

When everyone finished answering their questions, the ushers collected them. They shuffled the papers and walked to a different part of the church to pass out those same sheets of paper. Each person was now holding someone else's paper (no names were on them.) The pastor then started to read the questions, one by one, and asked people to stand up if the question he read was circled on the sheet they were holding.

When people in the congregation saw the number of people standing up in response to each question, there was an audible gasp

from the congregation. "Everyone thinks they are the only one living with mental health issues," the pastor said. Too often, the stigma is so great in the church that people are afraid to talk about mental illness.

While author Amy Simpson was growing up, her mother had serious psychotic episodes and was later diagnosed with schizophrenia. The family was always active in church. But when it came to her mother's mental health issues, there was silence and shame. "We needed community and loving friendships," she says. "The church is one of the only places left in society where that is readily available — at least in theory." Amy tells her family's story in her book, *Troubled Minds: Mental Illness and the Church's Mission*. Amy says the phrase is not original with her, but she often refers to mental illness as the "no-casserole illness." It's not uncommon for people from church to bring a casserole when a family member is in the hospital, or when there has been a death in the family. But when it's mental illness, people often don't call or visit, or bring casseroles.

However, the National Alliance on Mental

Illness (NAMI) reports that one in five adults will experience a mental illness in any given year. That also means one in five in our churches. Most people don't realize that mental illness is more common than cancer, heart disease and diabetes combined.

The Lutheran Foundation is focused on promoting mental wellness and reducing stigma around mental illness. Starting the conversation and silencing the stigma is one step toward healing. Sometimes those caring conversations happen best across the table ... over a casserole.

Contributed through the LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission monthly newsletter By Rev. Dr. Dennis Goff, director of Ministry Programs for The Lutheran Foundation, Fort Wayne, Ind.

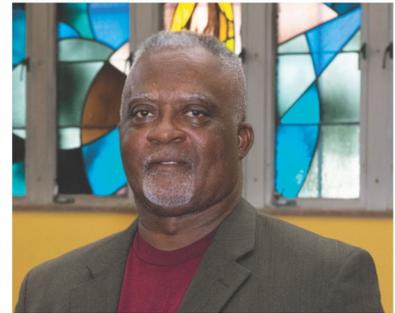




FINANCIALLY STRONG THROUGH OUR INVESTORS

When you invest with Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) funds are made available to equip Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod pastors, churches, schools and organizations to fulfill their call of sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Apply online today!
lcef.org/invest



ARE YOU SAVING ENOUGH TO RETIRE COMFORTABLY?

Lutheran Church Extension Fund's (LCEF) Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) can help.

Traditional IRA

CONTRIBUTIONS MAY BE TAX DEDUCTIBLE.

Roth IRA

CONTRIBUTIONS GROW TAX FREE.

LEARN MORE AT LCEF.ORG/RETIREMENT-ACCOUNT
OR CALL 800-843-5233.



mission minutes



What began as a meeting between the leadership of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Kenya (ELCK) and representatives of LCMS World Relief and Human Care became a dream to build at least 24 boarding facilities for vulnerable children throughout Kenya. Financial donations contributed from caring people around the world are used to construct safe homes for children in need. Each site hosts children from Lutheran families in the region who would may have lost one or both parents, and not otherwise have the chance to attend school. Sites are within walking distance to a primary school (grade K-8) and ELCK congregation. During school breaks, the children return to their extended families and tribes. Below: Students at Lenkishon receive Catechisms. Read more in Britt’s newsletter [HERE](#). Support for Project 24 to date is \$111,434. Visit the Project 24 website [HERE](#). Support for CCC: Kenya date is \$17,166. Visit the CCC Kenya website [HERE](#).



Rev. James NS Kollie serves Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Cotton Tree, Liberia. Please keep the church and

students in your prayers during this time of political unrest in Liberia. This year, our school has done very well than the past in Margibi County in the West African Exams (WAECE), like the USA ACT Exams. We sent 25 students, all passed and are set for graduation on August 9, 2019. Many thanks to you and all our supporters for this great achievement. They are still indebted to the teachers in the amount of \$900.00 to complete the school year, we are asking anyone of our supporters to please help us complete their payment for 2018/2019 school year. Pastor Kollie is pursuing a Doctorate Degree at CTS, Fort Wayne, IN, with hopes of then teaching pastors in Liberia. Jamesetta Kollie, a 2019 CSP grad will be teaching at Pacific Lutheran School in Gardena, CA. Gifty Kollie (deaconess student at CUC) and Diane (in high school at Concordia Academy, Roseville, MN) are also studying in the US with plans to return to Liberia to use their education. Funds collected and disbursed to date for the School: \$129,621; for Pastor Kollie’s education: \$51,670; for Jamesetta’s education: \$9,465; and for Gifty’s education: \$14,276. Donations can be sent to: MN North District, PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401. Please SPECIFICALLY designate your donation.

Missionaries Dr. Jim and Susan Kaiser are part of a partnership between Lutheran Bible Translators and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church. They ask for prayers for the 15 students in the Bible translation program. Susan is a former member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Willmar. Learn more [HERE](#).



Support for any of these missionaries can be sent to: Minnesota North District—LCMS, PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401 — earmarked for the [specific mission or missionary](#).



Rev. Dr. Daniel (son of sainted pastor Rev. Robert and Mrs. Phyllis Jastram) and Dr. Joan Jastram serve as missionaries in northern Asia. Pastor Jastram serves as a manager for theological education in Asia, based in Tokyo, Japan. He assists the regional director in mission planning as well as developing, coordinating, and supporting theological educational activities; makes periodic visits to seminaries in the region; and supervises theological educators throughout Asia. Read the Jastram’s newsletter [HERE](#).

We continue to keep our partners in mission in Puerto Rico in our prayers. Missionaries [James and Christel](#) at Ponce share that they are in the process of opening a new mercy center and the church there now has a [WEBSITE](#). Also, the first of two 2019 MN North District Mission Teams traveled to Puerto Rico in July. They participated in worship, helped lead VBS at a local youth camp and worked on roof repairs in Mayaguez. You can view a recap video of their experiences [HERE](#). A second MN North mission team will travel to Puerto Rico this fall. To learn more about this opportunity, contact Rev. Jeff Lee at jeffery.lee@mnnlcms.org.



Calendar of Events - 2019

August 16, 2019	Alzheimer's Workshop, District Office (Hosted by the Parish Nurses)
August 22, 2019	MN North Teachers Conference, Prince of Peace, St. Cloud
August 26-27, 2019	Circuit Visitors Conference, District Office
September 2, 2019	Labor Day—District Office Closed
September 8-10, 2019	Fall Pastors Conference, Lutheran Island Camp
September 22-23, 2019	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
September 26-28, 2019	Church Worker Wives Retreat, Lutheran Island Camp
September 28, 2019	LWML "Follow My Lead" Event, St. John's, Madison
October 5, 2019	LWML "Follow My Lead" Event, Zion, Alexandria
October 7, 2019	Ministerial Health Commission Meeting, District Office
October 8, 2019	LWML MN North District Board Meeting, District Office
October 12, 2019	LWML "Follow My Lead" Event, Holy Cross, St. Cloud
October 12, 2019	MN North Schools Spelling Bee
October 10-14, 2019	Puerto Rico FORO in Orlando, FL
November 14-16, 2019	Rural & Small Town Ministry Conference, Minneapolis
November 18-22, 2019	LCEF Leadership Conference, Houston, TX
December 1-2, 2019	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
January 27-28, 2020	Circuit Visitors Conference, Lutheran Island Camp
May 11-13, 2020	MN State Pastors Conference, Madden's in Brainerd

Churches Celebrating Anniversaries

August 17-18, 2019	100th Anniversary — St. John's, Akeley
August 18, 2019	100th Anniversary — Redeemer, Plummer
September 8, 2019	100th Anniversary — Zion, Ada

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

In Our Prayers

Rev. Jacob and Elizabeth Wagner (St. John, Vergas) at the birth of a son, Asher Benjamin, on August 3, 2019.

Rev. Chris and Michele Lieske (Alive!, Monticello) at the birth of a daughter, Sophia Rose, on August 8, 2019.

Rev. Jeff Ross (St. John, Garfield) at the passing of his grandmother. The Family of Richard Cloeter, former member of the MN North District Board of Directors, who passed away on August 12th.

Rev. Scott Muehlberg (St. John, Height of Land), undergoing treatment.

Rev. John Bonk (Shepherd of the Lake, Two Harbors), recovering after bypass surgery.

George Miller, dealing with severe back pain.

Rev. Jim Meyer (cand. Thief River Falls), undergoing tests.

Mrs. Beverly Meyer, recovering from a broken ankle.

Rev. Mark Johnson (em. Baxter), hospitalized in Brainerd.

Mrs. Delores Kading, dealing with skin cancer.

Mrs. LaVon Priebe, recovering after receiving a pacemaker.

Rev. David & Jenny Schoessow (Christ, Superior, WI), both dealing with health issues.

Nancy Grzybowski, wife of Rev. Terry Grzybowski (Emmanuel, Elk River), recovering after a heart attack.

Rev. Dean Stolz, (Zion, Crosby and Immanuel, Iron Hub), dealing with back issues.

Rev. Norm Hanan, dealing with health issues.

Mrs. Phyllis Jastram, who underwent surgery.

Rev. Ron Tibbets (em. Aitkin), who is recuperating.

Rev. David Milz (St. John, Kimball), dealing with heart issues.

Rev. Larry Cain (em., Cromwell), recovering after back surgery.

Rev. Victor Dorn, (em., St. Cloud), dealing with health issues.

Mrs. Jolene Wagner (St. Paul's Lutheran School, Perham), dealing with a blood disorder.

Mrs. Sandy Lewis (mother of Rev. Daniel Lewis (Joy, Cambridge) who is dealing with a serious health issue.

Rev. Paul Dare's (Zion, Alexandria) father, diagnosed with cancer.

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

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

Rev. Gunard Heikkila (em., New York Mills), who is dealing with health issues.

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

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.

David Rickbeil (brother of Rev. Blake Rickbeil, St. Paul, Bertha), who has been missing for several months.

MN North District Seminary Students:

LeAnn Gregoire, Isle, Deaconess student at CTSFW

Gino Marchetti II, Elk River, student at CTSFW

Joshua Mork, Moorhead, on vicarage in Pierce, NE

Josef Muench, Duluth, on vicarage in Capistrano Beach, CA

Stafford Thompson, Brainerd, on vicarage in Howard Lake, MN

Stephanie Wilde, Parkers Prairie, Deaconess student on internship in Puerto Rico

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

Rev. Noah Rogness, serving a Special Assignment in Washington DC, US Army Reserve

LT Geoffrey Gronewold, Active Duty Chaplain, US Army—North Carolina

Chaplain Captain Vincent Bain—Active Duty Chaplain, Fort Campbell, KY

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

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

Rev. Steve Breitbarth (em., Hibbing), LCMS endorsed Emergency Response Chaplain and Disaster Response Chaplain

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

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

Ens. Michaela Biegner, granddaughter of Rev. Paul (em. Brainerd) and Joan Biegner, Pensacola, FL Flight School

Ensign Emily Geddes, granddaughter of Virginia Anson—US Navy

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

Timothy Milo, son of Rev. Frank & Sue Milo, —MN National Guard

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

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)

Missionaries Dr. Jim and Susan Kaiser, serving with Lutheran Bible Translators in Ethiopia.



Call Update

MN NORTH DISTRICT Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

CALLS ACCEPTED

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

BACKUS, Emmanuel (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Frank Milo) Called Rev. Michael Diener, Holt's Summit, MO.



**BELLINGHAM/
CORRELL/ODESSA**,
Trinity/Grace/Trinity

**BROWNS VALLEY/
CLAIRE CITY, SD**,
Zion/Zion (Vacancy
Pastor—Rev. Larry
Johnson)

FAIR HAVEN,
Concordia (Vacancy
Pastor—Rev. Peter
Preus) Called Rev.
David Buchs, Wheaton,
IL.

FISHER/EUCLID,
Trinity/St. Paul
(Vacancy Pastor—Rev.
Dr. Larry Harvala)

Called Rev. Doug Thompson, Sierra Leone, West Africa.

GRANITE FALLS, St. Paul (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Don Polege) Called Sam Beltz, Oskaloosa, IA.

MOORHEAD, Our Redeemer (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. George Krueger & Rev. Adam Harvala) Called Rev. Jonathan Vollrath, Eyota, MN. He declined the Call.

PEQUOT LAKES, Gloria Dei (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Mark Johnson) Called Rev. Paul Rieger, Faribault, MN.

SILVER BAY, Faith (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Dean Rudloff)

ST. CLOUD, Holy Cross (Senior Pastor) Called Rev. Steven Schultz, Fargo, ND. He declined the Call.

VILLARD/GROVE LAKE, St. John/Trinity (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Bruce Fredrickson)

WOOD LAKE, St. Luke's (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Jack Baumgarn)



MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—LCMS SEPTEMBER 2019 PRAYER CALENDAR

“PARTNERS IN MISSION AND PRAYER WITH...”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2 Rev. Craig Palach - Faith, Fergus Falls	3 Rev. Mark Peske - Our Redeemer, Cohasset	4 Rev. Thomas Petersen - Shepherd of the Lake, Garrison	5 Rev. Marty Porter - Zion, Sauk Centre	6 Rev. Thomas Puffe - St. John, Thief River Falls/Zion, Warren	7
8	9 Rev. Jacob Quast - St. Paul, International Falls	10 Rev. Dean Rager - Nicolai, Canby/Zion, Boyd	11 Rev. John Ramsbacher - Trinity, Appleton	12 Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe - St. Paul's, Perham	13 Rev. Dr. Tim Rehwaldt - St. Paul, Foley/St. John, Popple Creek	14
15	16 Rev. Joshua Reinke - Our Savior, McGregor/St. John, Wright	17 Rev. Tim Renstrom - St. Stephen, Braham/St. John, Rush City	18 Rev. Kevin Richter - Peace in Christ, Hermantown	19 Rev. Blake Rickbeil - St. Paul, Bertha	20 Rev. Guy Roberts - Zion, Detroit Lakes	21
22	23 Rev. Jeffrey Ross - St. John, Garfield	24 Rev. George Sagissor - Trinity, Clear Lake	25 Rev. Kirk Schield - Christ, Superior	26 Rev. Timothy Schiller - Good Shepherd, Alexandria	27 Rev. Micah Schmidt - Living Branch, North Branch	28
29	30 Rev. David Schoessow - Christ, Superior					

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