



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH

Fishing event is also witnessing opportunity

On July 20, the men of St. John's, Wadena, held an outing of fishing on pontoon boats.

The morning began on Little Pine Lake in Perham. After boats were launched, Rev. Stephen Meltzer, St. John's pastor, led a shoreline devotion and prayer, followed by several hours of fishing fun. The morning concluded with a shore lunch and continued fellowship. A fish story or two may well have been shared.

All men and their sons were invited to participate at no charge. Some brought their own boats, and everyone had a place to sit.

Special emphasis was placed on seeking to invite unchurched friends to join the men on this trip. They always hope to use this opportunity to share God's love in a non-threatening, friendly environment. They hope while fishing, the Holy Spirit may also catch some in His nets as the hope of Jesus is shared in conversation.



The men of St. John's, Wadena, enjoy lunch and fellowship together after a day of fishing.



40 years in Garrison

On May 19, a celebratory service was held for the 40th anniversary of Shepherd of the Lake, Garrison. From left, Rev. Jon Rusnak, former Shepherd pastor, now serving Pilgrim, Wauwatosa, Wis.; Rev. Thomas Petersen, Shepherd of the Lake pastor; Rev. Dr. Don Fondow, Minnesota North District president; and Rev. Terry Grzybowski, former Shepherd pastor, now serving Emmanuel, Elk River.

Circuit looks forward



Pastors and laypeople from Kettle River Circuit congregations met on July 7 to talk about how they can work together to ensure that the Gospel is readily available in Word and Sacrament to those in their congregations as well as others in the communities of their circuit.

A reason for the meeting was the good news that two congregations located in circuit boundaries have reapplied for LCMS membership. Immanuel, Giese, and Trinity, Sandstone, along with their pastor, Rev. Richard Langhorst, hope to be received back into Synod membership in the coming months.

Circuit members were reminded that the Body of Christ is a reality that extends far beyond the walls of each congregation. They were reminded that they should be rejoicing together in times of blessing and mourning, and helping each other in times of struggle. They spoke about the practical ways in which they might be able to help one another in the future.

Creation conference is Oct. 18-19

Christ Serve Ranch is excited to host the second Creation Conference at Lutheran Island Camp, to be held Oct. 18-19.

The featured speaker will be Joel Tay of Creation Ministries International. While a Christian from a young age, Tay had many nagging doubts about the Bible and what he had been taught about evolution. He wondered about how those two things could possibly mesh together.

Now Tay has master's degrees in theology and divinity — specializing in systematic theology. He is well equipped to speak on science and the problems with evolutionary theory. His science training encompasses

evolutionary biology and genetics.

Tay also served in street-evangelism ministries, such as Campus Crusade and Operation 513, which is based in Singapore. The questions he received during this time reinforced his belief that Christians need to be equipped with biblically sound, creation-based answers to not only protect their families, but to also reach the lost.

Attendees will be surprised to hear just how much support there is for taking the Bible's account of history at face value. Don't miss this opportunity.

Find out more at about all the activities going on at Christ Serve Ranch by visiting christserveranch.org.



A boy explores the beauty of God's creation at Christ Serve Ranch, a program of Lutheran Island Camp.



Youth learn about a 'Real. Present. God.'

Zion, Pine City, sent five youth and four chaperones to the LCMS Youth Gathering, held July 11-15 in Minneapolis. They enjoyed the large-group Bible studies and sessions on various topics, including a very helpful session on trust given by Dr. Micah Parker, founder of TrustGuy Ministries. They also got to see many Christian comedians and musicians perform. Finally, they got to receive the Lord's gifts in Divine Service and hear the Word of the Lord from Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, LCMS president, on the Gathering's final day.

Considering pastoral, deaconess ministry?

The **Prayerfully Consider Visit** invites men and women of all ages to explore the pastoral and diaconal training happening at **Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Ind.**, and gives a time for contemplation on the vocations of pastor and deaconess. The event will be held Oct. 10-12.

For more information and to register, visit ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events/prayerfully-consider-visit.

Contemplate is an event for college-age or older potential students, providing an opportunity to learn more about life in the **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis**, community and the preparation that leads to service as a pastor, missionary, chaplain or deaconess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

A campus tour takes place on Thursday afternoon, followed by a welcome reception and dinner with current students.

The event will be held Oct. 3-5. For more information and to register, visit csl.edu/admissions/visit/contemplate.



Family grows in Little Falls

On July 21, Zion, Little Falls, joyfully received four adults into communicant membership. These individuals had completed a 12-week study of basic Bible teachings and Luther's Small Catechism. Zion looks forward to receiving all the Lord will do as these new members receive Christ's gifts with them as members. It is always a reason to rejoice when more people are gathered in His Church.

TRINITY, ISLE



▲ Trinity, Isle, held its annual recital for the students of Miriam Mueller, a Trinity member and piano instructor. A variety of selections were performed, with some students also showcasing guitar and vocal talents. From left, (front row) Owen Kapsner, Thaddeus Mueller, Corren Duneman, Abby Peterson, Ethan Peterson, Leah Melby, Jenna Carlson; (back row) Mueller, Libby Dangers, Emma Dangers, Sydney Kapsner, Rachael Horsch, Grace Carlson, Kate Peterson, Josh Peterson, Aria Mueller, Josiah Mueller and Lucas Peterson.

► Trinity also honored its high school graduates with quilts made especially for them by the Trinity quilters. Pictured are Rachael Horsch, Rev. Mark Maulana and Tommy Geist. Missing from the photo is John Kargel, who also received a quilt.



Labor of Love at Peace, Finlayson

Peace Quilters of Peace, Finlayson, finished the latest season with 61 quilts. The quilters meet each Monday morning from Labor Day until Memorial Day to assemble the quilts. They are given to nursing homes, veteran's homes and hospitals, and high school graduates, the homeless and those in the community suffering from illness or hardship. From left, Judy Koski, Ruth Twait, Marian Skaff, Pat Seek, Cheryl Petry, Nancy Liebelt and Barb Moen. Missing from the photo are Carol Pogatchnik and Elaine Steeg.

Share your news



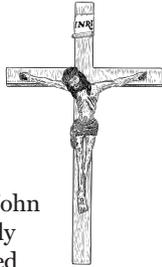
We are always in need of more submissions for the Minnesota North District insert of *The Lutheran Witness*.

Please submit anything of note in your congregation, 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

REJOICE IN THE CROSS



“Sir, we wish to see Jesus” (John 12:21). Then look to His Holy Cross. For just as Moses lifted up the bronze serpent in the wilderness, so Jesus, when He is lifted up from the earth, “will draw all people to Himself” (John 12:32).

During the Pentecost season, and more specifically in September, the Church celebrates a festival commemorating the Holy Cross. It’s likely not very familiar to you. That’s OK. Just so you know, it’s one of the oldest observances in the ancient Church.

The Feast of the Holy Cross has many parallels to Good Friday in its concentration on the Passion of Christ and His death on the Cross. It does contrast the sorrowful somberness of Holy Week with a day that is more enthusiastic in its raising up of the Cross as the means that our Lord has accomplished His triumph over all the enemies of God and His people: Sin, death, the power of the devil and the world.

The body of Jesus Christ upon the Cross is a reminder of the price He paid for your sins. May your daily life follow St. Paul’s words: “But we preach Christ crucified” (1 Cor. 1:23) and “I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified” (1 Cor. 2:2).

Many of our churches used to have a cross with a body (corpus) on it, and some still do. What a beautiful reminder of the love that God has for you, to send His only begotten Son to die this cruel and humiliating death for you. On the Cross you find redemption poured out from His side, the water and the blood, Holy Baptism and the Lord’s Supper.

So dear saints in Christ, rejoice in the Cross, for on the Cross your sins are forgiven.

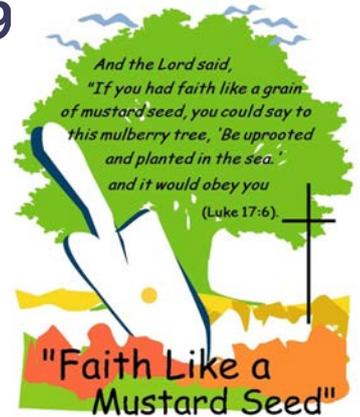
Rev. Donald Klatt
Lakeland Region Pastoral Counselor

LWML Sunday 2019

The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time.

“Faith Like a Mustard Seed” is the theme for LWML Sunday 2019, based on Jesus’ words in Luke 17:6, that faith as small as a mustard seed can move a mulberry tree. We may long for a greater and more heroic faith, but what about the faith we have right now? LWML Sunday 2019 celebrates the power of a daily walk with Jesus to transform lives and multiply disciples. Little faith or great, there are mulberry trees to be moved!

LWML Sunday materials, authored by Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy, are available for download at lwml.org/lwml-sunday.



‘Follow My Lead’

The Leader Development Committee was very happy with the response of those who attended the first three Assembly of Leaders events held in April and May.

The schedule for the next three events is:

- ▶ Lakeland II, Sept. 28
St. John’s, Madison
- ▶ Lakeland I, Oct. 5
Zion, Alexandria
- ▶ Arrowhead II, Oct. 12
Holy Cross, St. Cloud

We look forward to seeing you at one of these events. Come and be empowered, enlightened and entertained with fellowship and fun!



Youth of Our Savior’s, Crookston, made lunch for the May 11 event.



Rev. Matthew Vrudny, pastor of Immanuel, Walker, and LWML district pastoral counselor, led Bible study.

