



Intercom/E-news

MN NORTH DISTRICT Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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IN THIS ISSUE



Dear Friends in Christ,

"We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 1:2-3

We truly are thankful for the pastors and church workers who are serving in the Minnesota North District of the LCMS. The Minnesota North District is here to help and support the congregations and workers of the District so that the Word of God is preached in truth and purity and to continually challenge all of us to be intentional in our witness and outreach in our communities. "Someone You Know" started this month. Each month, we want to raise the awareness of people we know who do not have an active relationship with Jesus or who do not participate in a local congregation. We will pray for those individuals specifically by name and pray for an opportunity to share the hope that we have in a Savior with those individuals.

I know there are fears in witnessing. I have had some of those same fears as well. But the results of that witness is not up to us. "Faith comes by hearing and hearing through the word of Christ." God promises that His word will not return void. As workers in the church, we encourage our people to be actively involved in Bible Study and personal devotions. We can only share what we have. If our relationship with Jesus is weak or thin, it is more difficult to share Him.

The month of October is "Pastor Appreciation Month" I thank you for our partnership in the Gospel. I want you to know that we lift you up in our prayers and thank God for your labor of love and the steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. If there is anything we can do to assist your service in the local congregation, give us a call. We stand ready to assist you and to walk beside you in your labor.

Thank you for your service,

Rev. Jeffrey A. Lee

Mission and Ministry Facilitator for Missions and Congregational Outreach
Minnesota North District of The LCMS

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Around the District...



Power Week 2019

The Center for United States Missions offered a free conference in Bloomington, MN in September. The conference included several of the Center’s core courses. Rev. Jeff Lee (MN North District Mission and Ministry Facilitator) and Peter Keys (DCO at Zion, Little Falls) both attended the conference on behalf of the MN North District.

MN North District Salary Guidelines

The Finance Committee has prepared the 2020 Salary Guidelines and they have been approved by the Board of Directors. You can find them at our website [HERE](#). The document references the Concordia Plan Services online Compensation Tool. The tool is available to LCMS Churches and Schools and provides ministry specific salary details. It is designed to help you make salary decisions for Called staff members. If you need help navigating this tool, please feel free to call the District Office. When reviewing page two of your report, please concentrate on the table indicating the SYNOD comparisons and use these numbers to review your salaries and set future goals:

Calculation Results for PRINCE OF PEACE LUTH CHURCH			
Church Results	Lower Pay	Average Pay	Higher Pay
Market Range (definition below)	\$59,210	\$69,659	\$80,108
LCMS Range (definition below)	\$47,948	\$56,410	\$64,871
Church Additional Factor 0%	\$47,948	\$56,410	\$64,871

Market Range	Market average pay is calculated using salaries for this pastoral role from other denominations. Where available, local market data is used and adjusted for education and experience. If not, national data is used as a baseline and the factors (e.g., size, geography, education, experience and additional factors) are applied. The lower pay is 15 percent lower than the average, and the higher pay is 15 percent higher than the average.
LCMS Range	The LCMS national average pay for this position is used as a baseline and then the factors (e.g., size, geography, education, experience and additional factors) are applied. The lower pay is 15 percent lower than the average, and the higher pay is 15 percent higher than the average.

LCMS Average Pay Math:	Percentage Adjustment:
LCMS midpoint: \$64,221.50	LCMS range average pay: \$56,410.24
Congregation size factor (80): x .95	Percentage amount: (\$14,000.00)
Geographic factor: x .92	LCMS range after adjustment: \$42,410.24
Education factor: x 1.00	
Experience factor: x 1.005	
LCMS range average pay: \$56,410.24	

Calculation Results for Minnesota North District			
District Results	Lower Pay	Average Pay	Higher Pay
Market Range (definition below)	\$59,854	\$70,416	\$80,978
District Range (definition below)	\$48,599	\$57,175	\$65,751

Dear Friends in Minnesota North District, Linda and I plan to go back to East Africa to serve as LCMS volunteer agricultural missionaries again mid-January through mid-March of 2020. We do not know yet which countries the mission will ask us to serve in.

We are happy to have Mrs. Gwen Zagore join us for the first time as an agricultural volunteer. She has a degree in natural resources and is the wife Rev. Robert Zagore who is head of LCMS National Missions.

Dr. Ralph von Qualen who served in northern Ghana with LCMS World Missions full time prior to 1994 and has served with Linda and me as a volunteer in Liberia and Sierra Leone is returning to serve as an agricultural volunteer this winter also. Ralph will teach with us during our first month in East Africa and Gwen plans to join us after that.

We need to do fundraising to raise support for this ministry and are asking congregations to invite us to speak about the upcoming service.

Travel and expenses will be funded under the same LCMS project #61007 “Agricultural Consultancy for East Africa” that has funded the agricultural work since 2010. With thankfulness for your past help,



we again ask for your strong support for this project, both financially and with your prayers.

Checks should be made out to LCMS and designated to project # 61007 Agricultural Consultancy in East Africa. Please send to: Mission Central, 40718 Highway E 16, Mapleton, Iowa 51034-7105

Please pray for the Lord’s protection and guidance as our ag team carries out its work and ask that we may be a blessing to the people we are serving.

In Jesus Christ our Lord,
Delano and Linda Meyer

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 11 - 14, 2019

*** Note the NEW dates!**

Hosted by: Emmanuel, Backus

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

Celebrating our Senior Saints by Julie Igo

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Duluth honored its members 80 years of age and older by “Celebrating Our Senior Saints” on September 22, 2019. Six months of planning and preparations were abundantly blessed by the LORD. A booklet containing interviews of 25 “Senior Saints,” corsages/ boutonnières and flowers, banner, and decorated cupcakes complemented a special worship service and luncheon. Originally a project of the LWML, the celebration grew to involve many members of Mt. Olive. A Thrivent grant was applied for and received to offset expenses.

Pastor Robert Franck participated in early planning. From the readings on September 22nd, he selected Proverbs 4:10-13 for the sermon text and worship theme and welcomed ideas from committee members.

In April congregation members were encouraged to sign-up to visit and interview one or more seniors over the course of three months. An instruction sheet with seven suggested questions was provided, but all were encouraged to ask and note seniors’ responses to: How can we pray for you? Volunteers signed up to be interviewers very willingly, and within a few weeks all name slots were filled. Both interviewers and seniors reported heartily enjoying their time spent together. By early August, 25 written interviews were ready to be compiled, typed as needed, edited, and proofed for the “Senior Saints” booklet. Seniors’ favorite Bible verses rounded out its pages. The booklet was printed in large font on 11”x17” paper, folded and stapled, so everyone could more easily enjoy reading it. With considerable anticipation, the completed booklet was distributed to all families in attendance at worship on September 22nd.

About a month in advance, “Senior Saints” received personal invitations with details about the day of celebration. They were

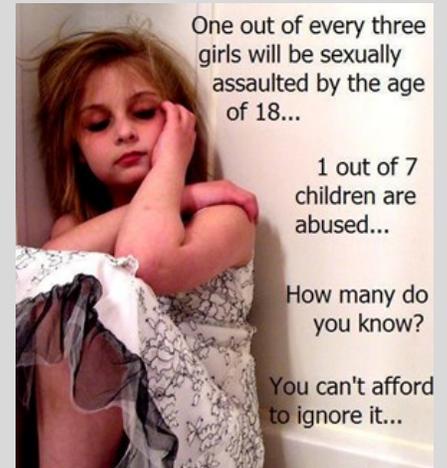
encouraged to attend, even if not usually able to. Rides and any accommodations that might facilitate their attendance were offered. Two extra invitations were enclosed to share with family members.



On the morning of September 22nd, “Senior Saints” were warmly greeted and presented with corsages or boutonnières in the narthex. Smiles instantly revealed their joy. Pastor Franck welcomed and introduced each senior present before the service began. Hymns like “How Firm a Foundation,” “O God, Our Help in Ages Past,” and “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” followed the day’s theme. Pastor Franck’s sermon, “Learning from Senior Saints,” described how they had been blessed by the wisdom of God in Christ Jesus and worldly wisdom acquired over 80 years of more of life. Prayers of the church included the names and requests of every senior as recorded in the interview booklet.

“Senior Saints” were allowed to exit before others at the close of the service and be first in serving lines for lunch. As guests, they were not expected to contribute to the potluck dishes. A sheet cake provided dessert for all and was decorated with the “celebration” graphic. In addition, special cupcakes were prepared for each senior as an extra treat. They expressed sincere gratitude for a day set aside to recognize and honor them as “Senior Saints” and went home feeling loved and valued. Several shut-ins who were unable to attend church that day received a follow-up delivery of flowers, cupcake, booklet, and bulletin. Thanks be to God for our “Senior Saints!”

Congregational Sexual Abuse Policies



Saturday, October 26
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Trinity Lutheran Church
Cohasset, MN

Cost: \$5/person
Or
\$15/congregation

Registration Deadline is
Wednesday, October 23

Many Insurance Companies offer a reduction in premiums if the Congregation has a Sexual Abuse Policy in place.

However merely having a policy without appropriate training really doesn’t give adequate protection.

3 hour workshops are available.

These workshops will:

- Help to identify types of sexual abuse
- Procedures for congregational investigation and proper reporting procedures.
- Items to be included in a policy

Contact Rev. Steve Breitbarth, LMFT, CISM for additional information or to register at: s.breitbarth@mchsi.com



JOY:FULLY LUTHERAN IN DISASTER

Disaster Response—How Prepared is Your Congregation?

Tornadoes, floods, fires. When a disaster or crisis happens, do you have a strategy and plan how to respond? Or will you merely react because no plan is in place? Advance preparation will significantly increase your effectiveness in when a disaster occurs.

LCMS Disaster Response has a tremendous array of resources for congregations and church schools:

- L.E.R.T. – Lutheran Early Response Team – one-day training workshops, ongoing training modules (in development)
- Camp Courage, a 5-day VBS curriculum for congregation to care for children affected in disasters
- Mercy in Action guides and manuals for Pastors, Educators, L.E.R.T. training participants
- Flood and Storm Surge Cleanup

- Two books of essays: “Mercy, Human Care and Disaster Response” and “The Mercy of God in the Cross of Christ”
- “Spiritual Care Companion for Times of Disaster”
- Numerous devotional materials, booklets, Bible Studies
- And more
- Many of these resource materials are free or at minimal cost to congregations

The Minnesota North District wants to assist congregations by increasing in their capacity to demonstrate mercy ministry in Disaster Response.

Your congregation is invited to send representatives to

**Disaster Response
Informational Gathering
Saturday, February 8, 2020
10:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.
Zion Lutheran Church in Brainerd**

Pre-registration is requested. The event will include:

- A presentation – “Responding to a Crisis”
- Round table discussion – sharing what preparations congregations have in place; what would be helpful to your congregation?
- What’s a L.E.R.T. Team? Does your congregation need one? How do you get trained? If you already have a team, what ongoing training would be helpful?
- Display of materials available from LCMS Disaster Response
- Lunch (possibly a minimal cost for participants)

Preliminary plans for 2020 include hosting *at least* two one-day (6-8 hours) L.E.R.T team training days in Duluth and the St. Cloud area. More training opportunities may be added.

MNN District Co-Coordinator for Disaster Response

Rev. Steve Breitbarth
s.breithbarth@mchsi.com
218-254-2702

John Beck
john6beck@gmail.com
320-249-4012

REGISTRATION FORM

DOXOLGY

Doxology’s primary purpose is to provide training in advanced pastoral skills while offering ongoing spiritual care opportunities for Lutheran pastors. Now offering DOXOLOGY III! 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 church professionals 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. 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. Learn more [HERE](#).



A Message from the MN North District Life Coordinator

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN

Have you ever heard of “Life Chain Sunday”? Heck, do you even know what a “Life Chain” is? If

not, I’m not surprised. When I first moved into the District, I asked someone about the local “Life Chain”... and they gave me the kind of look that told me that they didn’t know what I was talking about. Previously, when I served in Nebraska, it seemed like *everyone* knew about “Life Chains”, even if they didn’t always participate in them.

So... what is a “Life Chain”? From their website: “**Annually, on the first Sunday in October, “LIFE CHAIN” invites the churches in each city and town across North America to stand on a designated local sidewalk and pray for 60-90 minutes... In 2018, over 1530 cities and towns held Life Chains.**” In other words, this event gathers together Pro-Life Christians from all denominations, for a (relatively) brief time of witness and prayer.

Having done this before, I can tell you that the time actually flies by pretty fast.

During the “Life Chain” event, Christians gather alongside both sides of a designated (ahead of time) road/street, holding signs and praying. The signs are provided by the “Life Chain” organization. And if you’re not a sign-holding-kind-of-person, it’s still a good idea to hold one because- on the backside of the sign- are Scripture verses, prayers and hymns. So, as you give a silent witness with the *front* of the sign, you can also use the backside of the sign for your own spiritual benefit: to be active in prayers and other supplications.

The “Life Chain” website has a list of the registered “Life Chain” events. Sadly, there are NONE in the MN-North District! All of the Minnesota “Life Chains” are in the MN-South District. Who would like to see that changed?!? If you would like to see a “Life Chain” get started in your community, the place to start is with your pastor... and the

other ministers in your community. If your community has a kind of community ministerial association, your pastor could bring this idea to them and see if any of them would be willing to support it.

If God enables your community to come together for this event, then the next step would be to contact the national “Life Chain” organization and get your event registered. From there it would be a matter of getting posters and promoting the event. Obviously, it’s too late for *this* year (as the first Sunday of October has already passed); but this is the time to start planning for next year! If you want more information, please don’t hesitate to contact me... or you can go directly to their website: <https://lifechain.net>

Like I said, I’ve been a part of these “Life Chains” in the past; and I would love to help you get some started in our District! To God—the Author and Perfecter of our faith, whose Light gives Life to the world- be all honor, glory and praise! Amen!

32nd Annual Minnesota Lutheran Free Conference

(At a free conference the speakers are free, free to speak as individuals, not as representatives of a church body.)

Saturday, October 26, 2019

9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Redeemer Lutheran Church

2719 Third Street North

St. Cloud, Minnesota

Hosted by Minnesota North Confessional Lutherans and Other Friends and Supporters

“Christ’s Hope Amid Cultural Madness & Immorality”

CONFERENCE POSTER

BULLETIN INSERT

CONFERENCE THEME

BULLETIN BLURBS

Cost: \$25/person; \$10/high school or college student (includes coffee, rolls, & lunch). Though this fee is not due until you register at the door, the cooks at Redeemer would like to know if you’re planning to attend & have lunch. So, on or before Monday, October 21st, please contact Redeemer at 320-252-8171, or email: office@redeemerstcloud.org to let them know you’re planning to attend.



Concordia University, St. Paul

April 4th, 2020

**This year’s topic:
The Book of Judges**

To learn more, visit the website:
mnbiblebowl.org

OR

Contact Pastor Breitbarth:
s.breitbarth@mchsi.com



Adult Lutherans Organized for Action

EncourAGING & Equipping
Congregations for Older Adult Ministry

Be a Hero of the Faith; Share your Story

Death is a lively topic. Predictably, this is true especially among older adults. However, few could have imagined what's happening to traditional end-of-life rituals. People are increasingly replacing funerals (where the body is present) and memorial services (where the body is not present) with celebrations of life. Some funeral homes have remodeled parlors to include dance floors, bars and lounges. Green funerals feature a biodegradable coffin or shroud. And now that more than half of American deaths lead to cremation, marketers have gotten busy: Urns can be personalized to resemble golf balls or decorated with university or team logos.

These shifts around bereavement traditions are designed to celebrate a person's life on earth. **As one older adult says, "We can't control how we die or when we die, but we can say how we want people to remember us."**

Hearing those words, I naturally think of ALOA's **Faith Stories™** initiative. Led by teacher Nick Weiss and his students at Prince of Peace, Carrollton, Texas, Faith Stories™ has expanded in the past two years from an ALOA field test to become a ministry in that congregation. **Older adults simply sit in front of a video camera and talk about their journey with Jesus. High school students edit the video and give the edited version to the participant.**

We pray that Faith Stories™ will be embraced in congregations throughout the country. Sponsoring a Faith Story™ workshop or encouraging people to share how God has been active in their lives can be a meaningful project for any church group. Take a video with a cell phone or simply use pencil and paper. Multiple suggestions, resources and a Faith Story™ excerpt are on ALOA's website.

Every journey with Jesus is personal and different, but all Faith Stories™ explain "what Jesus means to me." Some Faith Stories™ overflow with anecdotes of when God was uniquely present during a time of trial or trouble; others share favorite Bible stories, talk about people who shared the Gospel or explain why certain Scripture passages are especially meaningful.

None of us needs to hire a celebration-of-life planner or spend hours selecting a cremains dispersal site. **To leave a truly significant legacy, think about sharing your Faith Story™. Then get started.** After all, God is so busy, He's still writing your story. And isn't praising Him through our Faith Story™ a great way to celebrate life?

Mary Mary Simon

ALOA Board of Directors

Learn more and watch the videos [HERE](#).



*Praise be to the
God and Father
of our Lord Jesus
Christ, the Father
of compassion
and the God of all
comfort, who
comforts us in all*

*our troubles, so that we can comfort those in
any trouble with the comfort we ourselves
have received from God. 2 Corinthians 1:17*

Life in this world is tough! I am very thankful that I am able to teach in a Lutheran school where I can share and show the love of Jesus. Several of the students at Crown Christian School have already been through some tragic events in their young lives. Children have witnessed marital challenges at home, a parent dealing with chronic pain, and also the aspect of even losing a parent. This list could go on further with the struggles I have seen children go through. As their teacher, I am able to openly pray with these students, share God's Word, as well as proclaim to them the comfort of Christ's amazing sacrifice. I can give God thanks and praise with these kids when God's many blessings happen here on earth. Instructing reading, math, science, and social studies are all important to learn, but nothing compares to teaching about what Jesus has done for us.

Crown Christian School is thankful for your prayers and donations through the CROSS appeal. These gifts enable the MN North Lutheran Schools to share the GOOD NEWS of Jesus. Your contributions are making a huge impact on our students and their families!

This year at Crown Christian School we have been blessed with 65 children in preschool through eighth grade. The past CROSS donations have been used to purchase additional chrome books and also two LCD projectors for the classrooms. Our teachers are grateful to have the opportunity to use and teach with this technology. Thank you once again for your prayers and support! You can visit our school's website at www.crownchristianschool.com



**Luther Hostel: Creation and the New Creation
November 6–8**

This annual seminary retreat is for both laity and church workers, to learn and gather for worship and fellowship on the campus of CTSFW. Lectures this year will focus on Creation and the New Creation: A Consideration of God's People in Genesis and Revelation.

Cost: \$200, includes meals

Register: www.ctsfw.edu/LutherHostel

**Good Shepherd Institute
A Living Tradition and Something New
November 10–12**

This year's conference will focus on the living tradition of the Church's song through several milestones (the 400th anniversary of Heinrich Schütz's Psalms of David, the 300th anniversary of Isaac Watt's collection of psalm paraphrases, and the 100th anniversary of the birth of Jaroslav Vajda), plus how hymnody informs our present and guides our future. Special music will be presented throughout the conference.

Cost: \$130 for first registration and \$90 for every additional ticket from the same congregation or family; \$75 for Monday-only registration, plus \$40 for a banquet ticket. Lunch is included while breakfast and dinner can be purchased at the dining hall for \$7.00 and \$10.00 respectively; Luther Hostel attendees eligible for a 50% discount.

Register: www.ctsfw.edu/GSI

**Advent Preaching Workshop
November 12, 1:30–8:30 p.m.**

Sermons for the three midweek services in Advent will examine each of the articles of the Apostles' Creed through the lens of the central themes of the season.

Cost: \$40, includes dinner

Registration: www.ctsfw.edu/PreachingWorkshop

**Continuing Education: Elberta, AL
November 20–22**

Dr. David Scaer will teach this continuing education course on "Preaching Matthew." This detailed study on the First Gospel as instruction manual for the early Church will cover a multitude of topics, from Baptism to the Eucharist to the life of Jesus.

Cost: \$150 for pastors/professional church workers; \$100 for retired pastors/laypeople

Registration: www.ctsfw.edu/ctsfw-events/continuing-education/elberta-alabama/



Concordia
Seminary
ST. LOUIS

New Advent/Christmas Sermon Series available for download
"Come, Lord Jesus" emphasizes daily devotions

The 2019 Advent/Christmas Sermon Series, published by Concordia Seminary Press of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is now available for [download](#).

"[Come, Lord Jesus: An Advent/Christmas Sermon Series](#)" is written by [Dr. W. Mart Thompson](#), associate professor of Practical Theology and director of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program at Concordia Seminary.

"The tradition of Advent devotions provides an excellent avenue into teaching the use of God's Word and prayer as a daily practice," Thompson said. "The focus of this sermon series is the generous sowing of the seed of God's Word on the hearts of people."

"Come, Lord Jesus" offers sermons for Advent and Christmas suitable for midweek or Sunday services, as well as worship helps and resources for a program of household daily devotions. Included is a reproducible daily devotion outline that congregations can make available to individuals and families.

The [downloadable PDF](#) includes full sermons for the four weeks of Advent and Christmas, as well as worship resources, which can be used for both midweek and Sunday services.

This sermon series is available for \$14.95 in the Seminary's [online store](#). A sample can be viewed [here](#). Listen to an interview with Dr. Thompson about the series [here](#).



The theme of the 2020 Pasadena Tournament of Roses 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.

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



A newsletter of LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission

REACHING RURAL AMERICA FOR CHRIST

Moving Beyond Survival: DOXOLOGY and Your Church's Future

Boom and bust has been the cycle of farmers for generations, as well as businesses in small towns that depend on farm customers. But lately it's been mostly "bust" and very little "boom." Plummeting commodity prices, rising expenses and international trade wars have all taken their toll on those who live and work in America's heartland. Combine that with the advent of factory farms and vanishing family farms, add in plunging birth rates and the exodus of rural youth, and that leaves the average congregation on the ropes numerically and financially. A whole lot of churches in rural and small-town America are in survival mode these days.

Have your members begun to look backward instead of forward? Have you adopted a survival mentality? Is there a lot of nostalgia for past "glory days" when you had a flourishing children's Sunday School and far fewer vacant pews than you see at worship these days? Is there a growing and nagging sense of shame that somehow you've failed the pioneer generations who founded your congregation?

DOXOLOGY would like to be the catalyst to help your church members take a fresh look at what can be a pretty deflating picture and

find the possibilities hidden behind the challenges.

Besides our classic program for pastors, lay leaders and clergy couples, the break-out session in Minneapolis (at the RSTM National conference) will give you a fuller picture of what we have to offer you. In broad strokes, here's what we have to offer your congregation:

1. We're no miracle workers; there's no magic wand or button you can push to make all your problems go away. There's only this promise of our Lord Jesus: "I will build my church."
2. We need to explore what Jesus' promise means in your specific location: What does Jesus mean by "church?" More importantly, how does He build His church?
3. What is a pastor? How can you as God's people join together to enhance your pastor's ministry in mission to an increasingly paganized culture?
4. Which invisible people groups have moved into your community since the days of the founding of your congregation? Where do they live and

work? How can you get to know them (and speak to them, if they converse in another language)?

5. What are the resources the Lord has given uniquely to you in this generation to reach out anew with His changeless Word?
6. Which aspects of our Lutheran theology connect well to a world in spiritual free-fall?
7. Which points of connection have you been given in your daily lives with those who do not know the Lord Jesus and His church?
8. How can you partner with sister congregations in your vicinity to better address the work the Lord has given you to do in our generation?
9. What can you do to encourage fellow members to live more deliberately as the family of God, lifting each other's burdens and multiplying personal joys?

Contributed through the LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission monthly newsletter by the Rev. Dr. Harold Senkbeil, executive director for Spiritual Care, DOXOLOGY

Don't forget that Rural & Small Town Mission provides free monthly webinars on topics important to congregations in town and country settings. Up next is "**Dealing with Addictions in Rural/Small-Town Areas**" on Nov. 21. Find past webinars in our archives.

RSTM is also rolling out a new type of event, **Welcoming Workshop**, that we think you and your congregation are going to love and benefit from. These day-long events will help congregations become more welcoming places that provide God's Word to both current members and guests. Expect practical resources on Welcoming Buildings, Welcoming Publications and Welcoming People.

For more information about our events or to see the rest of our calendar, visit lcms.org/rstm or contact our office at 888-463-5127 or rstm@lcms.org.



Previous Scholarship Winner:
Joshua Marlatt
Trinity Lutheran Church
Waconia, Minn.

\$1,000 LCEF SCHOLARSHIPS

for LCMS high school seniors & college students

LCEFCENTRAL.ORG/SCHOLARSHIPS



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

mission minutes



Students and leaders from each of the Project 24 sites travel and gather together twice a year for the Catechetical Conference. During this 2-3 day event the students enjoy fellowship, recite passages from the bible, sing, act out stories from the bible and have competitions. This August everyone traveled to the southwestern side of Kenya, just outside of Kisii, where Project 24/Rongo was the host location. 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 \$17,366. Visit the CCC Kenya website [HERE](#).



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. James NS Kollie serves Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and School in Cotton Tree, Liberia. Tailors are working on new school uniforms above... Thank you for the donations. Pastor Kollie (4th from left, front row below) is pursuing a Doctorate Degree at CTS, Fort Wayne, IN, with hopes of then teaching pastors in Liberia. Jamesetta Kollie, a 2019 CSP grad is serving a 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: \$131,092; for Pastor Kollie's education: \$51,670; for Jamesetta's education: \$9,733; and for Gifty's education: \$14,643. Donations can be sent to: MN North District, PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401. Please SPECIFICALLY designate your donation.



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](#).

The team in Puerto Rico continues to evolve to meet the needs of this challenging mission field. The mission partners (below) gathered at the Florida-Georgia District Office in Orlando last week for the Puerto Rico FORO. The team heard reports from the field workers, discussed opportunities, worshipped and prayed together and spent time in fellowship. Missionaries Rev. [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](#). A MN North mission team will travel to Puerto Rico in November. Follow James and Christel's [Facebook Page](#) to keep up with all the exciting things happening in Puerto Rico.

Calendar of Events - 2019

October 26, 2019	Workshop—Sexual Misconduct Policies, Trinity, Virginia
October 29, 2019	32nd Annual Minnesota Lutheran Free Conference, Redeemer, St. Cloud
October 28, 2019	CPS Open Enrollment Begins
October 28, 2019	Ministerial Health Commission Meeting, District Office
November 14-16, 2019	Rural & Small Town Ministry Conference, Minneapolis
November 18-22, 2019	LCEF Leadership Conference, Houston, TX
November 28-29, 2019	MN North District Office Closed for Thanksgiving
December 8-9, 2019	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
Dec 24-Jan 1, 2020	MN North District Office Closed for Christmas
January 27-28, 2020	Circuit Visitors Conference, Lutheran Island Camp
February 4, 2020	Pre-Retirement Workshop, District Office
February 8, 2020	Disaster Response Informational Gathering, Zion, Brainerd
February 9-10, 2020	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
April 4, 2019	State Bible Bowl, Concordia St. Paul
May 3-4, 2020	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
May 11-13, 2020	MN State Pastors Conference, Madden's in Brainerd

Churches Celebrating Anniversaries

January 26, 2020	150 years	St. John's Lutheran Church, Weber
October 11, 2020	100 years	Trinity, Isle

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

In Our Prayers

The Family of Sandy Lewis, mother of Rev. Daniel Lewis (Joy, Cambridge) who passed away on Sept. 18, 2019.

The Family of Mrs. Ida Sass, widow of the late Rev. Frank Sass, who passed away at Good Shepherd Lutheran Community in Sauk Rapids on Sept. 27, 2019.

Mrs. Karen Puffe, recovering after gall bladder surgery.

Rev. Dean Stolz (Zion, Crosby & Immanuel, Iron Hub) dealing with back issues and his son, diagnosed with cancer.

John Kutter, brother of Rev. Fred Kutter (Immanuel, Albany), beginning rehab after bypass surgery.

Rev. Fred Kutter (Immanuel, Albany), dealing with continued health issues.

Rev. Roger Krebs (Zion, North Effington), recovering after pacemaker surgery.

Gary Bach (DCE at Trinity, New York Mills), undergoing cancer treatment.

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

Mrs. Delores Kading, dealing with skin cancer.

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

Rev. Norm Hanan, dealing with health issues.

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.

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 recovering after surgery.

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, student at CSL

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 Ansgore—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

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

BACKUS, Emmanuel - Rev. Travis Lauterbach, Mesquite, NV accepted the Call.

FAIR HAVEN, Concordia - Rev. David Buchs, Wheaton, IL accepted the Call. Installation on October 19th at 3:00 pm.

FISHER/EUCLID, Trinity/St. Paul - Rev. Doug Thompson, Sierra Leone, West Africa accepted the Call.

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

BELLINGHAM/CORRELL/ODESSA, Trinity/Grace/Trinity—Called Rev. Paul Weisenborn, Bunceton, MO.

BROWNS VALLEY/CLAIRE CITY, SD, Zion/Zion (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Larry Johnson) Called Rev. Paul Weisenborn, Bunceton, MO.

GRANITE FALLS, St. Paul (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Don Polege) Called Rev. Jonathan Varns, Ely, MN.

MOORHEAD, Our Redeemer (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. George Krueger & Rev. Adam Harvala)

PEQUOT LAKES, Gloria Dei (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Mark Johnson)

SILVER BAY, Faith (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Dean Rudloff) Called Rev. Thomas Christopher, Alexandria, SD

ST. CLOUD, Holy Cross (Senior Pastor)

VILLARD/GROVE LAKE, St. John/Trinity (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Bruce Fredrickson) Called Rev. Kyle Whaley, Polson, MT. He declined the Call.

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

OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

Rev. Kevin Richter to Trinity, Ironwood, MI. He declined the Call.

Rev. Marty Mably to St. Paul, Carroll, IA. He declined the Call.

Rev. Thomas Eaves to St. Peter, Hampshire, IL.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHANGES

DCE Ruth Woltmann has received a Call to Faith Lutheran Church, Branson, MO. She declined the Call.



MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—LCMS NOVEMBER 2019 PRAYER CALENDAR

“PARTNERS IN MISSION AND PRAYER WITH...”

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Rev. Robert Wentzel - Trinity, Bemidji	2
3	4 Rev. Jason Wolter - St. Mark, Benson	5 Rev. Timothy Yearyea - Grace, Hibbing	6 Rev. William Zeige - First, Grand Rapids	7 Rev. Kevin Zellers, Jr. - St. Peter's, Swanville	8 Rev. Vincent Bain - Military Chaplain, Fort Campbell, KY	9
10	11 Rev. Aaron Bell - Military Chaplain, Camp Pend- leton, CA	12 Rev. Geoffrey Gronewold - Military Chaplain, North Carolina	13 Rev. John Thomson - Military Chaplain, Guam	14 Rev. Edward Clemens - Sartell	15 Rev. Jacob Gillard - Faith Community, Zimmerman and CALMS	16
17	18 Rev. Noel Herr - Brooten	19 Rev. Mitchell Krog - Henning	20 Rev. Robert Lund - Mankato	21 Rev. Jim Meyer - Thief River Falls	22 Rev. Noah Rogness - Military Special Assign- ment, Washington DC	23
24	25 Rev. Orville Aho - Emeritus, Baxter	26 Rev. Dennis Angland - Emeritus, Alexandria	27 Rev. Jack Baumgarn - Emeritus, New London	28	29 Thanksgiving Break District Office Closed	30

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