



# DISTRICT NEWS

## MINNESOTA NORTH

### District members **MARCH FOR LIFE**

A group of Minnesota North pastors and laypeople, including several youth, attended the Minnesota March for Life on Jan. 22. They made the trip to the Capitol steps in St. Paul to make a statement that all life should be valued and protected. They joined together with many from the Minnesota South District, not to mention many other Christians and like-minded individuals. They sang, prayed and listened to speakers address the life issues that are being discussed in the legislatures of our state and country.

U.S. Rep. Pete Stauber spoke about his experience of having a child with down syndrome, and of the love that child daily brings to his life, noting that many choose to abort such babies before they ever leave the womb. He said his experience with his child has inspired him not only to believe in the value of life but, in his work as a congressman, to promote legislation that preserves it.



Some of the state March for Life participants pose for a picture right before heading out to the event.

He also urged those listening — as an ongoing expression of their valuing of all human life — to be active in supporting any work that helps care for young mothers and the children they courageously bring into the world.

Many gathered before the march at Graebner Memorial Chapel on the campus of Concordia, St. Paul, for a time of prayer, discussion and a service. Virginia Flo, regional director of Minnesota Lutherans For Life, spoke about the

importance of this cause. She gave out signs to those going to march that said “God loves life” on one side and had the Luther Rose symbol on the other side.

The March for Life is organized by Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life. It is held each year on Jan. 22, the anniversary of the *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortions in our country. Those gathered were reminded that in Minnesota alone, 10,000 babies are aborted each year.

### **Serving in Guatemala**

On Jan. 9, 17 members of the Rum River Circuit departed Minnesota for an eight-day mission trip to La Unión, Guatemala. This trip was conducted through the Central American Lutheran Mission Society (CALMS) and was the first circuit trip to La Unión. The hope is that this

See **MISSIONS**, page 3



The love of Jesus is shared with those of La Unión.

# Lord of Glory shares Christmas with community

On Dec. 7, the LWML of Lord of Glory, Elk River, partnered with the congregation to host its first Breakfast in Bethlehem. Well over 100 people from the community attended the event, many with no church home.

Along with breakfast, the interactive event gives adults and children the opportunity to experience the true meaning of Christmas and help celebrate the birth of the Christ child.

Activities included a walk

through a Nativity gallery with over 40 nativity sets from congregation members, ornament making, a “kazoo revue” where children learned to play familiar Christmas hymns, a Bethlehem boutique where children and adults could shop for inexpensive gifts, a bake sale, a coloring contest and shepherds telling the story of Christ’s birth.

Attendees and volunteers had a great time. They are already talking about holding the event for a second time on Dec. 5, 2020.



Lord of Glory, Elk River, members share the joy of our Lord’s birth with several young people.



## Organist workshop to be held in Barnum

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Barnum, will host an organist workshop from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on April 18.

This workshop is a one-day version of the workshops held annually at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW). The workshop is open to all interested in learning more about leading the singing of liturgy and hymns during a Lutheran service.

The presenter will be Kantor Richard Resch, who has led this workshop for over 35 years at CSTFW. Kantor Resch will present on topics, give lectures and demonstrations, and invite organists to play and receive coaching from him.

For more information or to register, call 218-565-1893 or email [jrvbav@hotmail.com](mailto:jrvbav@hotmail.com). The cost is \$20 per person and **those interested are asked to register by March 15.**

This event will be helpful for anyone who plays organ, keyboard or piano in our congregations.

## 115 blessed years in Parkers Prairie

Immanuel, Parkers Prairie, celebrated her 115th anniversary on Jan. 26. Special music at the service included band students joining with the organ for the hymns, the Sunday school choir singing and a violin solo during the offering. The Gospel reading of Jesus calling the first disciples from Matthew 4 reminded us that Jesus calls and gathers disciples locally. As He called the disciples at Capernaum long ago, so He has called and gathered people to Immanuel in Parkers Prairie over the past 115 years.

Following the service, members and guests gathered for fellowship and shared their favorite memories. Everyone also enjoyed a potluck meal.

Fourteen pastors have served at Immanuel, including Rev. Kirk Lee, its current pastor who has served Immanuel for 30 years, and Rev. Mark Schwarz who serves at Immanuel and



Trinity, Carlos. Immanuel was also blessed to have 15 vicars and two DCE interns over the years.

Immanuel has emphasized children’s and youth ministry, music, mid-week Bible studies, LWML, library ministry, missions and outreach. She has been a strong supporter of Lutheran Island Camp and provided camperships for hundreds of her children to attend camp. Several members have gone into full-time church work, and three members are currently preparing for church work at our Concordia schools.

## Sign up for Bible bowl

The Minnesota State Bible Bowl will be held on April 4 at Concordia University, St. Paul.

The event is actually two competitions in one for LCMS members in grades 7-12. There is a fast-paced, double-elimina-

tion team contest, and players will also gather in the auditorium for an individual competition. This is a 50-question, multiple choice test. This year’s topic is the book of Judges.

For more information, visit [mnbiblebowl.org](http://mnbiblebowl.org) or contact Steven Breitbarth at [s.breitbarth@mchsi.com](mailto:s.breitbarth@mchsi.com). The cost is \$40 per team.

# READY TO ROUGH IT?

A Wilderness Living & Outdoor Survival Skills event will be held June 21–26 at Christ Serve Ranch in Henning. More information about registering can be found at [christserveranch.org](http://christserveranch.org).

This class is for the young adult who wants to learn how to become more self-reliant, safe and comfortable in the outdoors.

The class will be taught by Ray Reitze Jr. of Earthways, LLC. Ray is a Master Maine Guide, outdoor instructor and noted naturalist. Ray has conducted workshops for L.L. Bean, the Maine and New Hampshire Audubon Society and the Wilhelm Reich Museum. Students will learn in-depth skills that will allow them to be more relaxed and comfortable in the woods.

Students will learn how to make emergency and more permanent shelter, including debris huts and bough and bark huts. Different types of tents and emergency (modern material) shelters will be demonstrated and constructed.

Students will also learn where and how to obtain drinkable water, and how to make fire with a bow drill, a hand drill and flint/steel. They will learn to identify some common edible and medicinal plants. Students will learn what material makes usable cordage (rope) and how to turn the raw material into a working product. They will be taught basic compass and orienteering skills. Students will learn how to read weather patterns and directions.

Students also will learn basic knots that are useful in setting up and maintaining a working camp. They will be instructed in the use of knives and axes. Students will learn to identify local animals by their tracks and markings. The habitat and environment where game is found will also be covered.

## St. John's honors organist

The members of St. John's, rural Ada, honored long time organist Lori Salvhus on her retirement. Lori has played during church services for over 34 years.

The congregation presented her with flowers and a gift, and served cake in her honor on Jan. 5.



## MISSIONS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

trip will lay the foundation for further mission trips in coming years.

The group focused on building relationships through a vision and health clinic, facilitating Sunday school classes and helping to teach English to school children.

The presence of a short-term team often draws the attention of people in the community the team is visiting. This allows long-term missionaries in

that community to interact with those people, whom they otherwise may never have had the opportunity to meet.

A special opportunity for the group was to attend the inauguration of La Unión's new mayor. The group also had the privilege of making several home visits and praying with families, giving them handmade gifts made by youth from the sending congregations.

We pray that God would continue to bless the ongoing mission work being done in La Unión and the rest of Central America through CALMS.

## Share your news with our district



We love to feature a wide variety of events occurring in all of our congregations of the Minnesota North District in this portion of the Lutheran Witness. The only way we can do that is if you, the reader, submit events and other interesting items going on in your congregations and communities.

All that is needed is a brief description of the event and a couple of photos.

Please submit anything of note in your congregation, including announcements, special events or human interest stories that you or your organization would like published.

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

## COUNSELOR'S CORNER

# We are declared righteous

**LOOKING TO JESUS, THE FOUNDER AND PERFECTER OF OUR FAITH, WHO FOR THE JOY THAT WAS SET BEFORE HIM ENDURED THE CROSS, DESPISING THE SHAME, AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF THE THRONE OF GOD. — Heb. 12:2**

Dear saints in Christ, we are once again in the season of Lent — when we focus on Christ's journey to the cross to pay the penalty for our sins.

In my parish, in every service during Lent we sing "On My Heart Imprint Your Image" (*LSB* #422). The hymn is only one verse, but the message is quite powerful:

On my heart imprint Your image, Blessed Jesus,  
King of grace,

That life's riches, cares and pleasures Never  
may Your work erase;

Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for  
me,

Is my life, my hope's foundation, And my glory  
and salvation!

Volume 1 of *Lutheran Service Book Companion to the Hymns* states that "this hymn is a comforting prayer, recalling God's promise that nothing can separate us from His love in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:38-39). It also 'centers itself on Christ and His crucifixion to save sinners.'"

This is a comforting message and is the central solution to all of the devil's charges against you. You are declared righteous because the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world has conquered sin, death and the power of the devil for you.

A fellow pastor was also having his congregation sing this hymn, and one of his members mentioned that she loved it because it was the sum of the Gospel. I have my members sing this hymn hoping that they will one day have it memorized. During the times in their lives when they are struggling or have doubts, they can be reassured of their salvation in Christ.

Have a blessed Lententide.

**Rev. Donald Klatt**  
Lakeland Region Pastoral Counselor

## Mites can do 'mitey' things

It's hard to believe that the collecting of mites for the 2018-20 biennium ends soon — March 31. Make sure that your society's mite offerings have been submitted to Peggy Pasche, financial secretary, by that date.

Our district goal this biennium is



\$139,000. Visit [lwmlmnn.org/missiongrants.html](http://lwmlmnn.org/missiongrants.html) for forms and addresses. Continue to be generous with your mite offerings so that all of our mission grants can be funded.

Pray for our grant recipients — that God's Word can be shared with many.

## Scholarship information

Are you or someone you know preparing for full-time church work in the LCMS? If so, you need to be aware of the LWML Minnesota North scholarships that available for the 2020-21 school year.

The list of qualifications can be



found at [lwmlmnn.org/resources](http://lwmlmnn.org/resources). The application deadline is May 15.

There are currently 10 young men and women from our district preparing for church work who are receiving scholarships. Please keep these students in your prayers.

## Plan to attend convention

Plans are underway for the LWML Minnesota North District Convention, to be held June 22-24 at the Timberlake Lodge and Event Center in Grand Rapids.

The theme is "Drawn to the Cross" based on Joshua 1:9b:

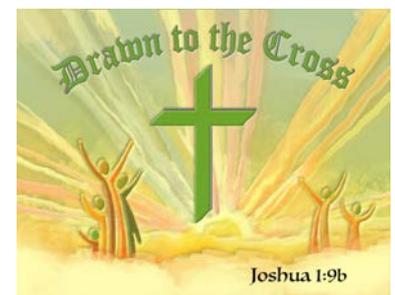
Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

The keynote speaker will be Rev. Dr. Brent Smith, mission development counselor at Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa. The Bible study leader will be Rev. Donald Klatt,



**Brent Smith**

Holloway, Minn., district LWML pastoral counselor and pastor of



Trinity, Holloway; Immanuel, Appleton; and Immanuel, Holloway.

Entertainment will be provided by "Sisters in Song," and you may also enjoy "Tea-N-Quilts."

The convention will include breakout sessions, worship, servant activities, Mites in Action speakers, the selection of mission grant recipients and establishing the mite goal for the 2020-22 biennium.

For more information, visit [lwmlmnn.org/districtconven.html](http://lwmlmnn.org/districtconven.html).