



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH

WELCOME NEW PASTORS!

Every year, Call Day at our seminaries — Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Ind. — is a memorable event. Those who are willing to serve as pastors in our congregations and have nearly finished their seminary formation find out where the Lord of the church has called them to serve. Students, usually in their second year, are also assigned congregations to serve a one-year vicarage.

Call Day is full of anticipation and a good measure of nerves. Of particular interest to our readers is that five of the seminarians have received calls to serve in our district. We are pleased to introduce to you these men who will serve perhaps your congregation, your circuit, or at the very least, your district.

Tim Magill (CTSFW)
Pastor, St. Johns,
Villard, and
Trinity, Grove Lake



Tim was born in Orange, Calif. Before attending seminary, he lived in Lakewood, Colo., which is in the southwest Denver metro area. Before making the choice to attend seminary, he worked as a computer programmer and project manager. He received post-secondary education at several places, including New Mexico Military Institute in Roswell, N.M., where he earned an Associate in Arts degree, and the University of Phoenix in San Jose, Calif, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in business technology.

He has been married to Mary for almost 23 years. They have a tuxedo cat named Vikar. He enjoys relaxing with music and games.

While at CTSFW, Tim enjoyed many different disciplines of study, especially church history, liturgics, dogmatics and practical ministry courses.

Tim's only real connection to Minnesota otherwise is that his mother-in-law was born and raised in Baudette. This move to Minnesota will be the 17th move for Tim and Mary since they have been married. He looks forward to teaching in particular about how each congregation fits into the larger history of the church.

Scott Brown (CSL)
Pastor, Ebenezer,
Alexandria, and
St. James, Parkers
Prairie



Scott was born in Chicago, but was raised in St. Paul. Before going to seminary, he lived for 14 years in Morton, Ill., a small town near Peoria.

Scott attended Concordia University, St. Paul, in the late 80s and early 90s. While at CSP, he met his wife, Tammy, a Lutheran school teacher, and they have three grown boys. Jared teaches music and New Testament at a Lutheran high school in suburban Detroit. Hayden just finished his first year at CSL. Micah will be a senior at Concordia University Chicago next year.

Before going to seminary, Scott served as a director of Christian education for 24 years, including six years at Lord of Glory, Elk River. Because of this service, they have a lot of family and friends in Minnesota. They also have been July Family Week campers at Lutheran Island Camp for over 20 years. They are glad to be returning to Minnesota.

Scott enjoyed the whole seminary experience. This will be his first time working his way through the lectionary as a pastor. He looks forward especially to preaching during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter.

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PASTORS

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He enjoys home improvement projects and working outside. Both he and his wife enjoy music. They met in choir and still sing together whenever they can. They also like exploring state parks and are learning more about fishing.

Joshua Reber (CTSFW)

Pastor, Trinity,
Clear Lake,
and Faith,
St. Cloud



Joshua was born and raised in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex and graduated from Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP).

God has blessed Joshua with a wonderful wife, Maggie, who he met in college. Maggie is from Hutchinson, and Joshua's parents also attended CSP. His mother taught at a Lutheran school in the Twin Cities after she graduated. Joshua also served his vicarage in Howard Lake.

At seminary, he loved history classes and the classes on the four Gospels. He loves history because it helps us understand where we are in our current context. The four Gospels were favorites because each gives a different perspective on the salvific life, death and resurrection of Jesus. He looks

forward to preaching and teaching on the four Gospels. He said he could teach on Matthew, Mark, Luke and John for the next 50 years and still discover new things.

He also enjoys playing basketball and guitar.

Nathanael Biberdorf (CSL) Pastor, Zion, Browns Valley



This will not be Nathanael's first time in Minnesota. His grandmother has a house on Lake Ida near Detroit Lakes, and he spent many summers there to be with family. He also has a cousin who works as a nurse in the Twin Cities.

Biberdorf was born in Rolla, N.D., and was raised in California for a number of years. He spent most of his time growing up in Carrington, N.D., where his parents still live. Immediately before going to seminary, he was living in Modesto, Calif., with his grandfather.

He did his undergraduate work at Brandman University in Modesto before attending seminary. He enjoyed his classes on preaching and the history of the church, especially the early church.

He loves the book of Isaiah and its rich imagery and Gospel message. He taught on Revelation during his vicarage and enjoyed it thoroughly. He looks forward to teaching and preaching on

Revelation in the future. He also has a growing love and understanding for stewardship and its importance in all that we do as Christians.

He enjoys watching movies, reading, playing tennis and golf, walking and hiking, watching baseball and cheering on the San Francisco Giants.

Jay Weideman (CTSFW)

Pastor, Faith
and Immanuel,
Fergus Falls



While Jay does not have many connections to Minnesota, he is a fan of the Minnesota Vikings. He was born and raised in Anamosa, Iowa. He did his undergraduate work at Concordia University, Nebraska, graduating with a bachelor's degree in theology.

He is engaged to Anna Poganski, from Auburn, Calif. They were scheduled to be wed on Aug. 1.

He enjoyed his classes on the Old Testament, Lutheran Confessions and historical theology. He looks forward to preaching and teaching about how to read the Scriptures, the Old Testament, the Lutheran Confessions, Martin Luther and the Reformation era and American Christianity/Lutheranism.

He enjoys sports, reading about theology and presidential history, nature, birding and going on car rides through scenic country with his fiancée.

Share your news with us!

We love to feature a variety of our congregational events. All that is needed is a brief description and a couple of photos. Please submit anything of note in your congregation to be published in our newsletter.

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 in high resolution.



Congratulations Emma

Emma Dangers, daughter of Mike and Sara Dangers and a member of Trinity, Isle, has been home-schooled and received her high school diploma and an Associate in Arts degree from Anoka-Ramsey Community College in June. She has been a valued contributor to Trinity as an accomplished pianist and harpist.

She has also been active with the youth group, including helping with Higher Things conventions, among other projects. Her community activities include harp concerts at area nursing homes as well as playing for visitations and funerals.

She will attend Concordia University, Nebraska (CUNE), this fall, pursuing a double major in music therapy and psychology. In addition to a \$17,000 per year Regent's Scholarship awarded for academic achievement and ACT/SAT test scores, she auditioned with her harp and received a \$5,000 music scholarship for each of her four years at CUNE.



Emma has shared her musical gifts with her congregation, Trinity, Isle.

Getting ready for your return



The camp also took some time to complete many projects that are difficult to complete in the busyness of a typical summer. A new woodshed was built to keep firewood dry for the coming



winter months. Old sandboxes have been replaced. Some flowerbeds were cleaned up to give them a new appearance. A new wood sculpture of eagles was received. New lighting by the cross on the bluff was installed. The Education Retreat Center and cabins have received a fresh coat of paint.

So while the present has been challenging in many ways, Lutheran Island Camp refuses to just be stuck in an uncertain present, but rather is making lots of improvements that will serve people in Christ's name when returning to more regular activities is approved.

They are doing everything they can to be able to say, "We are ready to welcome you back!"



Workers build a new woodshed at the camp.

Lutheran Island Camp gets spruced up

Although Lutheran Island Camp had to suspend the traditional youth camps this summer, there were still opportunities to live out the mission on the Island.

A number of families joined camp staff to enjoy the beauty of God's magnificent creation through activities like campfires, kayaking, swimming and hiking.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Are you surprised?

As I write this, we are just beginning to come out of a season we could not have imagined. For the first time in my life, church was canceled for eight weeks by government decree in Minnesota. We were just emerging from the fear of sickness and death when a new evil arose. After a black man died at the hands of a white police officer, violent protests caused millions of dollars in damages in major cities in the United States and a new fear arose.

As baptized Christians, we should not have been surprised by sickness, death and evil. We act as if we have forgotten God's Word or as if we don't really believe it.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned. — **Rom. 5:12**

They have all turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is none who does good, not even one. — **Ps. 14:3**

We should not be surprised by death, by a cancer diagnosis, by a traffic accident or by a worldwide pandemic. We should not be surprised when a nine-week-old baby or a 90-year-old person dies. God told us this would happen as the result of sin.

We should not be surprised by evil. Apart from faith in Jesus Christ — faith worked by the Holy Spirit — every human heart is only evil all the time. Sin turns us in ourselves. You might be shocked at the evil in

the world, until the bright mirror of God's Law reveals what your own heart feels, what your mind thinks and what your hands or mouth have done.

We should not be surprised, but we should also not be afraid, nor should we despair. This world and everything in it is heading for destruction under the curse of our sin, but because of Christ's death on the cross, your sins are forgiven. By faith the Spirit dwells in you and strengthens you daily to live like God's child. When Christ returns, sin and evil will be locked away in hell with the devil and all who do not believe in Jesus. You will be raised without sin to live on the new earth where evil has no place. As one of our seminary professors says, "I'm looking forward to heaven, but it's not the end of the world."

We know exactly what life will be like in August, when this article goes to print. People will be sick and dying. Evil will be rampant. But we know something more than what we see and feel. We know that Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, has won our forgiveness and thereby defeated death. He rose from the dead and reigns eternally. Soon, He will return. Evil will be locked away. We will be raised without sin. The good work He has begun in us will be brought to completion.

Don't be surprised at death or evil. Christ has you, and by faith you have Him.

Rev. Bruce Timm • Arrowhead Region Pastoral Counselor



Convention news

The following officers were elected via mail-in ballots:

- ▶ Kathy Brandt, President
- ▶ Mary Scott, Corresponding Secretary
- ▶ Kathy Steinmetz, Treasurer
- ▶ Marcia Wittenburg, Park I Regional VP
- ▶ Carole Borchers, Lakeland I Regional VP
- ▶ Rev. Reed Stockman, Lakeland Pastoral Counselor

A new mission grant goal of \$140,500 was set by the LWML Minnesota North District voters in June. The delegates selected the following mission grants to be funded for the 2020-22 biennium:

- ▶ Orphan Grain Train, \$9,000
- ▶ Lutheran Island Camp and Christ Serve Ranch, \$10,000
- ▶ Scholarships for Men Preparing for Ordination, \$8,000
- ▶ C.R.O.S.S. Appeal, \$18,000
- ▶ Scholarships for Full-Time Church Work Students, \$32,000
- ▶ Financial Assistance for Food and Clothing Co-op CTS, Fort Wayne, Ind., \$10,000
- ▶ At Just the Right Time—Mission Central, \$10,000
- ▶ Main Street Living North TV Program, \$5,000
- ▶ DOXOLOGY Pastoral Care and Well-being, \$15,000
- ▶ Project 24—Christ's Care for Children: Kenya, \$10,800
- ▶ LSF Haiti Jacmel Lutheran Home and Center of Refuge Orphanage, \$10,000
- ▶ Connecting People in an Inclusive Christian Housing Community, \$2,700 (partially funded)