



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH

‘Nothing to fear’

 Rev. Paul Dare preaches to the saints of Zion, Alexandria.



Most of the articles we publish in the district insert are reports about what’s going on in our congregations. This article is about a much more common event — a pastor preaching a sermon. It happens at least weekly in each of our congregations.

Jan DeJong, a member of Zion Alexandria, was so thankful for the word that her pastor, Rev. Paul Dare, preached in July that she submitted the sermon to the district.

She wrote: “Pastor Dare preached a sermon I felt was very special.” He “spoke on the moral clarity that comes from God’s Word — and courage.” He applied the words of Scripture to the topics on the minds of many who gathered at Zion that day — COVID-19 and race relations.

In the sermon, Dare directed people to search the Scriptures to know how to think about all things, even what they hear or read about in the media.

He left his people with the good news that when their courage or moral clarity was lacking, such weakness was dealt with by Jesus, both through His Word and His work.

Dare proclaimed, “Where does ... courage come from? You know the answer. It always goes back to Jesus. In Jesus, [in] your baptism, where He took you in His arms of grace. All the forgiveness of your sins poured out on you that He won on the cross. All of your sins were charged to Jesus on the cross. Every shameful word and deed and cowardly moment. The wrath of God against your sin has been paid. We have life in Jesus and, hear this, peace with God. Peace with Him. With Jesus we have nothing to fear.”

Thanks be to God that one of the most common events of our district each week is also one of the chief means — along with the Sacrament of the Altar — by which God brings truth and comfort to His people.

District members are now LCMS pastors

Our feature article last month introduced you to the men who just finished seminary and are now in the Minnesota North District serving their first calls.

But the flow goes both ways. Men from Minnesota North District congregations were also recently sent out after their seminary training to congregations around the Synod.

Rev. Gino Marchetti II, a member of Emmanuel, Elk River, is serving as pastor of St. Peter’s, Warsaw, Ind., where he served as a fieldworker while a student at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), Ind.



St. Peter’s is a small congregation with about 25 members. Marchetti will serve while pursuing a Ph.D. in theological studies at CTSFW. He particularly enjoyed New Testament and early church-history courses and looks forward to teaching his congregation about the Gospels of Matthew and John, as well as on the doctrine of the Mystical Union. The latter is his current Ph.D. topic.

His pastor in Elk River was Rev. Terry Grzybowski, who along with the congregation played a large role in teaching Gino the Catechism and Lutheran ethos through their piety and practices. Gino is an adult convert to Lutheranism.

Rev. Josh Mork, a member of Our Redeemer, Moorhead, was called to First Lutheran Church, Papillon, Neb. While at Our Redeemer, Josh was greatly encouraged by the congregation. He served on Sunday mornings, including leading Bible studies, and participated with many service groups. He was invited to go on hospital and nursing home visits and participated in funeral planning.



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DISTRICT NEWS

INSTALLATIONS

Rev. Scott Brown was ordained and installed as pastor of Ebenezer, Leaf Valley, and St. James, South Effington, on July 5. Pictured are, from left, Revs. Kirk Lee, Monte Meyer, Don Wilke, James Walburg, Scott Brown, Mark Schwarz, William Moeller Sr. and Jeff Ross. Missing from the photo is Rev. Michael Metzler.



Rev. Timothy Magill was ordained and installed as pastor of St. John's, Villard, and Trinity, Grove Lake, on July 18. Pictured are, from left (front row) Revs. Timothy Magill, Donald Fondow; (second row) Tim Schiller, Scott Brown; (third row) William Moeller, Donald Wilke; (fourth row) Dennis Angland, Roger Lange, Bruce Frederickson and Jeff Ross.



Rev. Nathaniel Biberdorf was installed as pastor of Zion, Brown's Valley. Pictured are, from left, Revs. Arthur Eichhorn, (Nathanael's fieldwork pastor in St. Louis), Larry Harvala, Richard Biberdorf, Nathanael Biberdorf, Larry Johnson and James Wilshusen.

Have a seat, and enjoy the view

Brad Benson, left, and David Storrs, members of First Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids, are pictured with the new bench at the Lutheran Island Camp basketball court. Brad applied for a Thrivent Financial Action Team grant, and the \$250 seed money was used to purchase steel tubing and treated planks. Note especially the three stenciled cross images in honor of our savior Jesus.



Blessings at Trinity, Isle



Miriam Mueller, music director at Trinity and a private piano instructor, recently led her students' annual recital. Senior Emma Dangers chose the theme, "Anything But Country," which was reflected in the individual pieces. Emma played piano and performed a harp solo. Miriam reflected with emotion about her special 12 years of teaching Emma and presented her with a book of Lorie Line music and a bouquet of flowers. Pictured, from left (front row) Leah Melby, Emma Dangers, Jenna Carlson, Sydney Kapsner; (back row) Abby Peterson, Lucas Peterson, Ethan Peterson, Kate Peterson, Miriam Mueller, Aria Mueller, Cadence Mueller, Thaddeus Mueller and Josiah Mueller.



Josiah David Mueller received the rite of confirmation. His chosen Bible verse was Rom. 12:21, "Do not be overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good." He is pictured with Rev. Mark Maunula, Trinity pastor, and LeAnn Gregoire, Trinity member and Kettle River Circuit youth worker who helped in Josiah's instruction. He is the son of Dave and Miriam Mueller.



Fire and brimstone, or just heat?

Marv Garbe, chairman of St John's-Sparta Township, Montevideo, sent in this picture of the altar candles on July 5 at Trinity-Havelock Township, Montevideo at 8:30 a.m. He joked, "You can't say that Rev. Kent Borglum does not give fire-and-brimstone sermons." Rev Borglum serves both St John's and Trinity. The church was warm since there is no air conditioning, and the wax candles gave way. And yet, the people gathered to hear the Word preached from Borglum despite the heat.

PASTORS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Josh and his wife, Samantha, are looking forward to living and serving in Papillon, a suburb of Omaha. The people they have spoken to have been warm and friendly and have made them feel quite welcome. The church has a preschool and Josh believes it is going to be fun to work with all the children.

Rev. Jordan Voges

a member of Gloria Dei, Pequot Lakes, was called to Good Shepherd, Warwick, N.Y. Voges says that while the ways by which God directed him to consider pastoral ministry were varied, his home congregation, his pastor, Rev. Frank Millo, and his family and friends provided ample encouragement all along the way.



Good Shepherd began in the 1960s as a group of Christians from upstate New York meeting in a three-car garage. Jordan and his wife, Alyson, have found that the same bold Spirit who stirred the hearts of the congregation's founders those years ago and brought them together around the Father's gifts continues doing so today.

The congregation's character has been evident in the kindness, hopefulness and eagerness they have demonstrated to Jordan and Alyson. Jordan cannot help but be excited to see how Christ will work through this community in the years ahead.

Send news 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.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Separated

In the dead of winter, 1812, Napoleon's French army retreated from Russia. Only 10,000 out of 600,000 soldiers survived because during those nights, the men would huddle close to one another around fires, but those on the outer fringes froze to death.

In John 15:5, Jesus calls us to stay close to Him, saying:

"I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

Only in close fellowship of Word and Sacrament with Jesus do we have the warmth of His grace to protect us from cold unbelief and spiritual death. He also warms us with the blessing of our sisters in the faith and the entire community of the Lord's church! Death caused by being separated from God is a true spiritual danger facing us during these months. If we become deceived by misinformation and overcome by fear, we can be scared away from gathering where the Lord has promised to give out His gifts.

The truth in Christian doctrine makes our faith firm against any spiritual threat. We seek a true and balanced perspective about all the world's dangers that threaten our physical life. We ask our Lord to make our trust in Him stronger than our fears, and to make us value His eternal blessings even more than His temporal blessings. Then we will not be frozen with fear, but rather burn brightly with the fire of God's eternal love.

The courage of the early believers encouraged many others as they all faced the dangers of their days. Their hope was sustained in this way:

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. — Acts.2:42

This is also our faith!

Pastor Matthew Vrudny
Park Region Pastoral Counselor

Remember the LWML!

During this unconventional and fearful time of disrupted lives, many are missing their LWML group or zone activities. It is important for us to remember that there are still mite goals to be met.



The district has adopted a goal of \$140,500 for 2020-22. With the current uncertainty, our hope remains in Christ our anchor. One certainty is our work must continue — there is no shelter in place for the command "Go and tell," given us by Jesus.

Societies and groups are encouraged to seek means of continuing to gather

and submit mites monthly. Please continue to mail your mites and remittance form to the financial secretary. Unconventional times call for unconventional actions. Who knows — the unconventional

may work so well it becomes conventional.

Even though the convention was not held in June, offerings are still needed. The special convention offering financial remittance form is available at lwmlmnn.org/resources.html. Scroll down to "Financial Secretary – Helps and Resources."

Celebrate LWML Sunday

The theme for LWML Sunday 2020 is based on Jesus' words to the chief priests and Pharisees found in Matt. 21:43, "The kingdom of God will be ... given to a people producing its fruits."

As people of the kingdom of God, we are graciously nurtured as He generously gives us everything we need to produce fruit for the kingdom during the fruit-bearing season of our lives. In response to God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit through Word and Sacrament, Kingdom People (in the LWML) Produce Kingdom Fruit for the season of our whole life on this earth.

More information can be found at lwml.org/lwml-sunday.



Kingdom people produce
KINGDOM FRUIT

"The kingdom of God will be ... given to a people producing its fruits" (Matthew 21:43).



Check out our web site

Have you viewed the LWML district website lately? There are many updates to the district convention page, including our new officers. There's also a link to a video report by national LWML President Debbie Larson. How many of our district women can you spot in the report? There's also a video report from the Young Woman Representatives. Visit lwmlmnn.org/districtconven.html.