



INTERCOM / E-NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Volume 18, Issue 1

“Dear friends, I urge you, as aliens and strangers in the world, to abstain from sinful desires, which war against your soul. Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.”

1 Peter 2:11-12 (NIV)

Dear Friends in Christ,

On Wednesday, January 6, 2021, our nation’s Capitol was breached by protestors. As of today, 5 are listed as dead as a result. Google removed Parler from its server and Apple was considering the same because they said it promoted violence. Amazon that provides the servers for Parler was going to shut down their use of the servers. The President of the United States was indefinitely suspended from Tweeting on Twitter and Facebook and other social media were moving to do the same thing. Thousands of conservative voices were silenced on social media. The House of Representatives is going to vote on January 13 on articles of impeachment against the President for inciting insurrection. Inauguration of Joseph Biden is January 20, 2021. The Senate wouldn’t even take up impeachment till after President Trump leaves office. Any politician who questioned the validity of the 2020 election was targeted to be cancelled.

Welcome to 2021. You thought 2020 was a nightmare ... As Bachman-Turner Overdrive sang – “you ain’t seen nothing yet!” Civil unrest and division of a nation is heating up. Some of our leaders are pouring gas on the fire. Big Tech media is showing us the danger of allowing too much power to rest in too few hands. Amid all of this, we should be asking that great old Lutheran question, “What does this mean?”

God tells us in 1 Peter 2:12 that the Christian should live such “good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong,

they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.” Believe me – we are not living in a Christian America anymore. We are living in a pagan society that looks at gender as indistinguishable and interchangeable. Marriage is whatever you want to call it. It is up to each person to fashion a god in their own image that they want to worship. It is “cool” or “woke” to believe in nothing. What God says no to in Holy Writ, to that they say yes. The sacred writings are viewed as mythology and outdated, outmoded rubrics of ancients that have little bearing on the here and now.

So, what does that mean for you and me? I keep looking at 1 Peter 2:12, “Live such good lives...” Live a life of witness. This sinful society will still accuse you of doing wrong, but, keep doing good anyway. Make people scratch their heads and wonder what moves you to do so many nice things even though the world may treat you like trash. Jesus says turn the other cheek. I must admit, I have a tough time doing that. My sinful flesh wants an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. If they hit me, I want to hit back. If they insult me, I want to crush their spirit with some great negative zinger.

Jesus came into this sinful world to save us from the condemnation of our sins. Even though He deserved far better, He humbly allowed Himself to be bruised for our iniquities and by His stripes we are healed. Jesus didn’t come to this world to drive out the Romans from the promised land, He came to make us citizens of heaven. This worlds governments will disappoint us. There will be unrest, division, mistrust,

In this issue...

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DISTRICT NEWS

Christmas Eve Worship During a Pandemic?

Small churches are coming up with big ideas! Trinity Lutheran Church in Carlos welcomed 52 cars to a special outdoor Christmas Eve Service complete with lit Christmas trees, a manger, a special soloist, dashboard candles (battery powered) and fireworks. The “Be the Light” theme had cars pulling over on the street to see what the fuss was about. Read more [HERE](#).

Churches around the District are really thinking outside the box by using FM transmitters so people can participate from their cars; building heated preaching posts so they can continue parking lot Services; and livestreaming Worship, weekly devotions and “Coffee with the Pastor”. Many are looking forward to the meeting in person the new friends they have made through online connections when things finally start getting back to normal.

How are your congregations finding new and amazing ways to share the Gospel amid the COVID-19 pandemic? We want to hear about your creativity and share it with the District... who knows who you may inspire. Send your photos, success stories and ideas to us at mnndist@mnnlcms.org.



Minnesota STATE BIBLE BOWL

The COVID-19 Virus has been challenging for all of us. Covid may have been making it difficult for youth to get together for Bible Bowl practice. Due to the uncertainty of the COVID '19 Virus and out of concern for everyone's safety and well-being, we are reluctantly cancelling the 2021 Bible Bowl. The date for the 2022 Bible Bowl, and a new topic, will be set and announced within the next couple of months. Any questions or concerns about Bible Bowl may be addressed to either Rev. Rudy Maurer (rudymaurer@aol.com or 507-278-3635) or Rev. Steve Breitbarth (s.breitbarth@mchsi.com or 218-929-1110).



BRING IT HOME *Life of Christ*

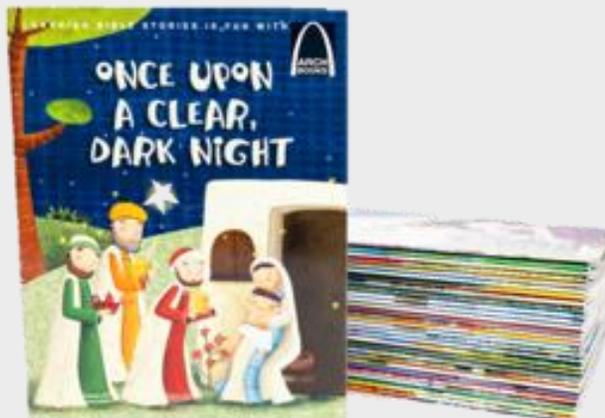
Bring it Home - The Life of Christ is a 30 day Devotional that follows the life of Jesus Christ from Bethlehem to the resurrection.

All you need is your Bible and the new Devotional which you can either download and print on your own, or get a hard copy from your Minnesota North District Congregation. Churches should contact Rev. Monte Meyer (monte.meyer@mnnlcms.org) to request their free hard copies.

If you have young children who are learning to read, there is even an “Arch Book” option. The set of 30 Arch books perfectly complement the daily devotions and can be ordered directly from [CPH](#) for \$45 shipped (regularly

\$90) using the promo code “ARCHSET”.

To learn more, download the Devotional and purchase the Life of Christ—Arch Book Set visit bringithome.church today!



In the midst of uncertain days we can be confident that Jesus is Lord and pastors have a noble task of carrying out the work entrusted to them.

DOXOLOGY seeks to equip pastors and refresh them in their calling all while training in the diagnosis of soul care needs and the application of Law and Gospel in our congregations and communities.

Please consider joining us next year for one of our Classic programs—[in Minnesota July 19-22, 2021](#)—so we can continue to assist pastors to be the best pastors they can be.

The [Classic program](#) is comprised of three retreats: the **Gathering**, the **Encore**, and the **Grand Reunion**. Pastors attend the Gathering for the foundation. At the Encore they are joined by some of their congregation's lay leaders. Finally, at the Grand Reunion, pastors and their wives enjoy opportunities for advanced learning, engaging conversations, and spiritual refreshment.

DOXOLOGY has also partnered with the LCMS Office of National Mission to provide at least 15 **Take Heart respite retreats** in 2021. The linked [four minute video](#) gives a quick overview of **Take Heart! Strength and Confidence for Demanding Days**.

The retreat will provide encouragement, enhance confidence, and will strengthen pastors for ministry during COVID colored days. The respite retreat will feature worship, didactic presentations, conversations with the brothers and personal reflection as well as engagement with new strategies and resources. Some pastors have suggested we call the retreat, "Fill Your Tank!"

Even better news is that you can attend the event FREE of charge thanks to a grant from the LCMS. To make a reservation to attend, go to doxology.us/respire-retreats-for-pastors-take-heart/ There you will find more information and links to register for a specific **Take Heart! retreat**.

24th Convention of the Minnesota North District—LCMS



The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod member congregations are currently considering a referendum to defer the 2022 Synodical Convention for one year in order to give the Districts the opportunity to Convene amid the gathering restrictions required by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Voting credentials were mailed and emailed to congregations on December 28th. Congregations are asked to register and submit their vote on the referendum by February 15th. Member congregations that have not yet received credentials can email Rosters at Rosters.Stats@lcms.org or call (314)996-1366 and staff will assist them.

To learn more about the Referendum including Frequently Asked Questions visit the LCMS website at www.lcms.org/convention

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corruption, fraud, arrogance (this letter is too short to list all of our sins), but in Christ there is peace, hope, love, unity (this letter is too short to list all the benefits of our heavenly citizenship), and we are being built up by a gracious God to live a life, not to or for ourselves, but to Him so that by our good works, people will be drawn to the cross and become citizens of heaven by the grace of God.

Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus the author and perfecter of your faith. Humbly serve Him.

In His Service,

Rev Jeffrey A Lee



Due to concerns about the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic, the 2021 Faith and Film Festival will be held online Jan. 28-29, 2021. We hope to be back on the Concordia Seminary campus Jan. 27-29, 2022. Thank you for your understanding.

Jan. 28-29, 2021

Concordia Seminary's annual Faith and Film Festival is a gathering to screen and ponder

Christian themes in contemporary cinema. Geared toward people interested in film and theology, the festival serves as an opportunity for participants to explore Christian themes in movies and develop eyes to see film in new ways. Participants will view all chosen films on their own in advance of the festival. During the festival, participants will discuss films together during online sessions; hear from theologians, pastors and film critics; and engage in challenging discussions about the ways in which the themes of redemption, reconciliation, mercy, grace and more are embedded in film.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

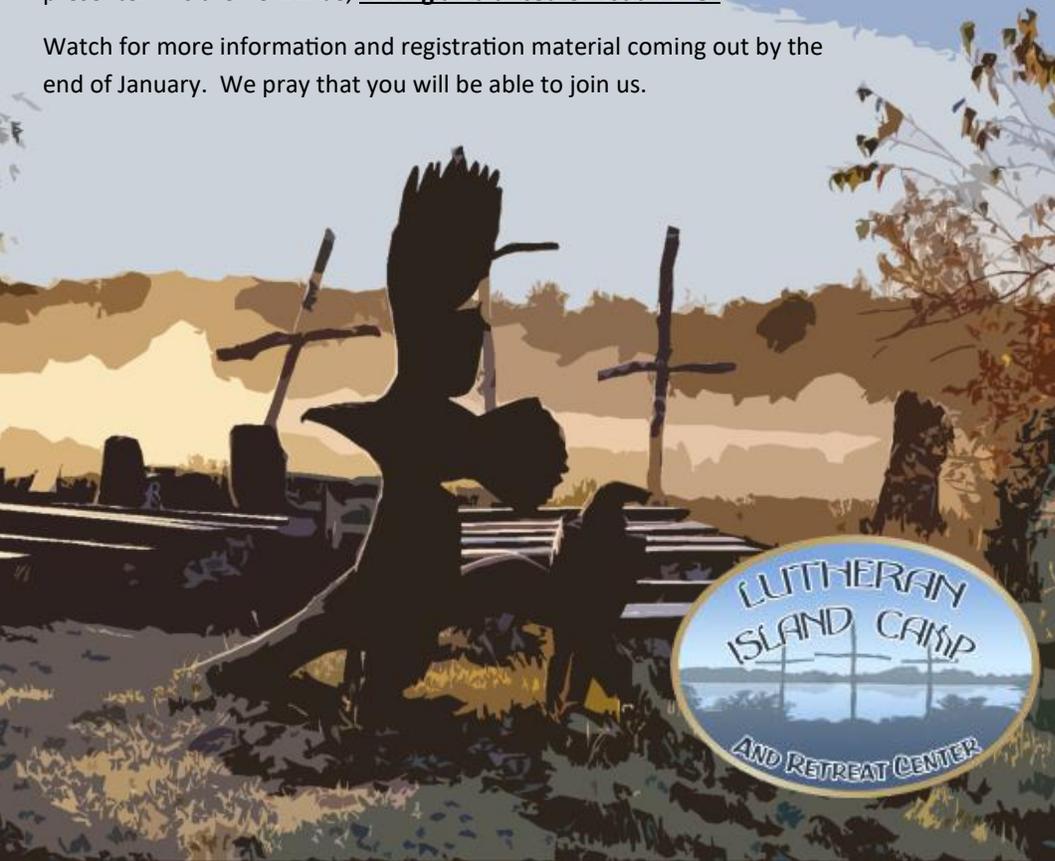
LUTHERAN ISLAND CAMP MEN'S RETREAT | MAY 14-16, 2021

The date for the next Men's Retreat at Lutheran Island Camp has been changed from a weekend in February to the weekend of May 14-16, 2021.

The rationale behind this change is that the spring will offer nicer weather in order to take advantage of outdoor activities that the camp has available both on the Island and at Christ Serve Ranch.

The Rev. Guy Roberts (Pastor at Zion Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes) will be our presenter. His theme will be, "Living a Balanced Christian Life"

Watch for more information and registration material coming out by the end of January. We pray that you will be able to join us.



From Invisible to Indispensable!

"On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable ..." (1 Corinthians 12:22)



www.lutheransforlife.org

Calling All For Life Supporters! LFL is excited to announce a brand new multi-generational online and in-person opportunity: **Life Week 2021: Invisible to Indispensable**. Plan to join us each day from **Saturday, January 23, through Saturday, January 30, 2021**, to learn about, share, and build excitement For Life in your home, church, school, and community!

"**From Invisible to Indispensable!**" is Lutherans For Life's theme for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which is set for **January 24, 2021**. Your congregation can observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on that date or at any time during the year. Our Life Sunday 2021 theme is based on 1 Corinthians 12:22: "**On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable ...**" (ESV).

Use the resources found on our [Life Sunday 2021](#) page to help unpack this theme and what it means for the For Life movement, both nationally and in your congregation and community. Our prayer is that these materials will provide valuable information and encouragement to you, your community, and the life-affirming work you are engaged in.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MN NORTH DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN

The season of Epiphany has begun! It began on Jan. 6th (the day for the Festival of Epiphany) and serves as the bridge between Christmas and Lent. Epiphany is one of the three oldest of all Christian festivals (the others being Christmas and Easter). It celebrates the revelation that Jesus is both God and man, as the hymn declares: "God in flesh made manifest". In fact, that's what the word Epiphany means: it is a Greek word that means, "manifestation".

This amazing revelation, that God has taken humanity into Himself and chosen to dwell among us as one of us, is one of the main things that we celebrate during this season. We also rejoice that God has revealed Himself as the Savior of all nations- including the Gentiles (as evidenced by the inclusion of the Wise Men in the Epiphany season stories). But, at its heart, Epiphany is about the Incarnation: that God and man are one in Jesus Christ.

We see that in the readings for the season, which include the naming of Jesus... His circumcision and dedication in the Temple... and His baptism, at which time the Father testified to the true identity of His Son. Jesus, the son of Mary, is also the Son of God: True Man, in every way except without sin... and True God, eternally one with the Father and the Spirit in substance, divinity and equality.

Although this truth has profound meaning for all kinds of spiritual and doctrinal issues... it also has a very important impact on one very big worldly issue: the abortion debate. The ONLY reason that abortion is legal- anywhere in the world- is because preborn children are not considered "persons". Although that position can be easily refuted by science, logic, reason and even common sense, there is a higher authority to which Christians can turn. We can point to Christ Jesus, Himself... and what God has to say about Him in His Word

As we celebrate our Lord's Epiphany, we are - literally- celebrating His willingness to enter into humanity. And when did He do that? At His conception! The Doctrine of His Incarnation (which is essential to our salvation) states very clearly that His humanity began at the same moment as it does for all of us: at conception! That's when True God took human flesh... and became (also) True Man. And since He had to be like us in every way (except without sin), that's also when we become truly human (persons who are fully alive, loved by God and in need of His grace and salvation).

I will never understand how any Bible-believing Christian can miss out on this very simple truth. Do they not know it? Have they never been told... or been able to make the connection for themselves? Yet they confess it every Sunday (assuming that they are in church) in the Apostles' Creed when they say, "I believe... in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary...". Or, if they confess the Nicene Creed, they say, "I believe... in one Lord Jesus Christ... who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man..."

alive... and- according to God, Himself- fully possessing personhood!

Being fully human, the Son of God was given a human name: Jesus. His Name means, "Yahweh Saves"... or, literally, "Savior". That Name gives hope to every woman- and every family- that is experiencing a crisis (unexpected / unwanted) pregnancy. That's because He has promised to work good in all things for those who love (and trust) in Him. And He has a proven track record of making "bad" things into things that are beautiful blessings. Good Friday is the most obvious example of that. That's who He is... and that's what He came to do. He came to give help, healing and hope to all who are afraid or who are burdened with anxiety or guilt.

So if we're looking to apply our Lord's Epiphany to the temporal matters of this world, we can apply it, both: to those in the womb (who are living, human persons)... and also to those who carry (and/or care for) those little human beings. Jesus not only gives life... He gives hope. And if people will trust Him, they will see for themselves the salvation that He brings into their lives: both spiritual and temporal.

May God's Word be heard and believed, so that His Son's Epiphany can truly enlighten

"JESUS NOT ONLY GIVES LIFE... HE GIVES HOPE. AND IF PEOPLE WILL TRUST HIM, THEY WILL SEE FOR THEMSELVES THE SALVATION THAT HE BRINGS INTO THEIR LIVES: BOTH SPIRITUAL AND TEMPORAL!"

It can't be any clearer! Jesus did not become "man" when He was born; He was incarnate at His conception! That's when He took on human flesh... and became a human being. And the same is true for each and every child that has ever been conceived: they are fully human... fully

us all and rescue us from our sinful ignorance and rebellion. He is the Light of the World that dispels every kind of darkness. May His Light shine throughout our land, so that Life may be held sacred, protected and loved: at every stage of its existence.



Prospective students invited to two online events in February

Two online visitation events are scheduled for February at [Concordia Seminary, St. Louis](#); one for high school men, and another for college-age and second-career prospective students planning to study to become pastors and deaconesses.

Registration is now open for [Taste of the Sem](#) for high school men Feb. 13-15 and [Green & Gold Day](#) for prospective students planning to study to become pastors and deaconesses Feb. 20. The events are typically held in person but have been moved online because of the coronavirus pandemic. Both events are free.

Taste of the Sem provides an opportunity for high school men to spend time studying theology, praying, worshiping, and talking with Seminary students and professors. "Taste of the Sem highlights what it's like for our future seminarians to learn how to serve God's people," said Director of Recruitment Rev. Micah Glenn. "The foundation of this is learning how to become a theologian."

Green & Gold Day offers a two-hour glimpse into what Seminary life is like. "During our time together, our goal is to give each participant essential information coupled with deeper insight into life at the Seminary," said Director of Ministerial Admissions Rev. Bill Wrede. "Along with straightforward information presented, a panel discussion brings to participants a sense of how all of this works from the perspective of current students."

After participants register, a link to join the events will be sent.

The registration deadline is Feb. 5 for Taste of the Sem at csl.edu/taste-of-the-sem/. The registration deadline is Feb. 5 for Green & Gold Day at csl.edu/green-gold-days/.

Additional visitation events scheduled for the 2020-21 academic year include can be found on the Seminary website.

For more information, contact Recruitment and Admissions at admit@csl.edu or 800-822-9545. Individual visits also can be scheduled. Learn more at csl.edu/visit.

About Concordia Seminary

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis provides Gospel-centered graduate-level theological education for pastors, missionaries, deaconesses, scholars and other leaders in the name of [The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod \(LCMS\)](#). To learn more, visit csl.edu.



2021 NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

The 2021 National Lutheran Schools Week (NLSW) celebrations will soon be upon us and we are excited to celebrate along with you and your schools! If there was ever a year to celebrate Lutheran education and the work of the amazing educators who serve, the 2020-2021 school year is certainly it. We are looking forward to seeing the ways that both you and the schools in your district celebrate Lutheran education!

National Lutheran Schools Week

Theme: "Sent to Serve"

Verse: Matthew 20:28 ESV

Dates: January 24 – 30, 2021

Resources: <http://www.luthed.org/national-lutheran-schools-week/>

A number of great ideas have already been shared on the LuthEd Facebook Group regarding how schools will be celebrating the week, and a few new and unique ones are listed below. Be sure to point your administrators and teachers to both the resources on LuthEd.org as well as the [LuthEd Facebook Group](#) to help them with their final planning!

- New Dress Up Days (Essential Worker, "Zoom Meeting", etc.)
- Virtual Visits with a Concordia University
- Mail Thank You Notes to Pastors, Church Workers, etc.
- Martin Luther, Jesus, Pastor/Principal/Teacher Drawing Contests
- Make and Deliver (Socially-Distanced) Something (Hot Chocolate, Card, etc.) to Your Neighbor

Due to the continuing impact of COVID-19 on our Lutheran schools and also on our ability to meet and travel from the LCMS International Center, we do not have any specific events scheduled during the week of NLSW. However, we would encourage you to share the daily chapels from the LCMS international center ([LCMS Facebook](#) and [KFUO Radio](#)) even though we will not have choirs or other NLSW-specific events this year.

Especially this year, we know that our schools throughout the country will be celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week at different times and on different dates. However, we encourage both you and your schools to follow, like and tag the LCMS School Ministry social media accounts and use the "#NLSW21" and "#LuthEd" hashtags for anything related to the 2021 National Lutheran Schools Week celebrations throughout the year!

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LCMSschools>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/lcmsschools>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/lcms.school.ministry/>



SAVE FOR YOUR RETIREMENT

WITH LUTHERAN CHURCH EXTENSION FUND

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) offers various types of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA).

Visit lcef.org/investments-rates to view our latest rates.

When you invest with LCEF, you'll not only enjoy the financial benefits of an IRA, you help support the mission of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod to share the Gospel.

Ready to join 60,000 LCEF investors who share your Lutheran values?

CALL 800-843-5233 OR VISIT LCEF.ORG/IRA TODAY.

LCEF is a nonprofit religious organization; therefore, LCEF investments are not FDIC-insured bank deposit accounts. This is not an offer to sell investments, nor a solicitation to buy. LCEF will offer and sell its securities only in states where authorized. The offer is made solely by LCEF's Offering Circular. Investors should carefully read the Offering Circular, which more fully describes associated risks. Neither LCEF nor its representatives give legal, accounting or tax advice. Consult your tax advisor as to the applicability of this information to your own situation. UMB Bank n.a. serves as the custodian for the LCEF IRA/HSA programs. Balance restrictions apply. Rates subject to change. Visit lcef.org for details.

Faith in Times of Transition

This issue of *Reaching Rural America for Christ*, the newsletter from LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission, reminds us that God guides us, even through times of transition and change.

This issue also highlights how those involved with LCMS Life Ministry speak up and care for human life.

[Read January 2021 newsletter >>](#)

Webinar

“Parish Nursing in Rural and Small Towns” — [1 to 2 p.m. Central time, Thursday, Feb. 18](#). Presenter: Deaconess Tiffany Manor, director of LCMS Life Ministry.

“The Mission Field Outside Your Door” — [1 to 2 p.m. Central time, Thursday, March 4](#). Presenters: Rev. Max Phillips, CEO, and Wanda Pritzel, director of development, of Perry Lutheran Homes.

“Compassion Fatigue and Burnout” — [1 to 2 p.m. Central time, Thursday, April 15](#). Presenter: Rev. Dr. Rick Marrs, director of the Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Residential Alternate Route (RAR) programs and associate professor of Practical Theology at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

[View webinar schedule, archives >>](#)



HOUSEHOLDS OF FAITH

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

A MN North District LLL/LHM Spring Virtual Event:

Saturday, March 13, 2021
Zion, Alexandria

Livestream available with speakers on the topic “Households of Faith”. More information and schedule of speakers coming soon!



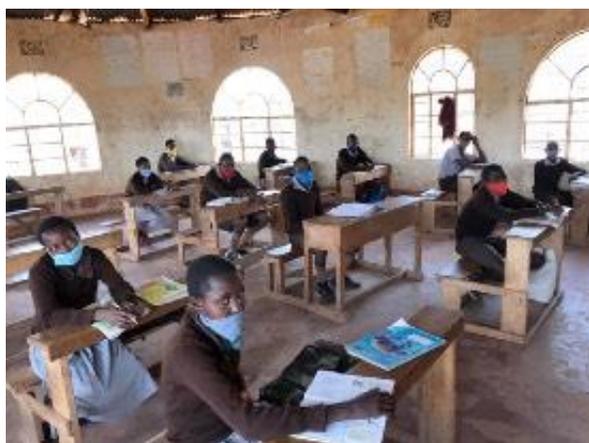
MISSIONARY MINUTES

DAN & JOAN JASTRAM Pastor Jastram is the Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator: Making Lutheran resources of theology and worship available in all of Asia. He shares: "We consider Walther's Law and Gospel one of the most vital Lutheran theological texts needed for sound doctrine and practice of pastoral ministry and training in the present and future Lutheran churches and seminaries of Japan. Your support enables us to direct this important translation project so that it becomes a reality. Thank you!" Learn more about their work [HERE](#). Become a partner [HERE](#).



PUERTO RICO FORO The team in Puerto Rico shares: *This year we as a mission team and both congregations had the opportunity to purchase and prepare a small gift of appreciation for our firemen, paramedics, and police officers in Ponce and Mayaguez. The last Sunday before Christmas, Fuente de Vida hosts a Christmas meal after service. This year was no different (except for the gloves, masks, and social distancing). After several months of moving locations, having online services, having short services with no fellowship after, to now moving back to our church building, these fellowship times are very meaningful. We praise God that the life together of Fuente de Vida is coming back to where we left it almost a whole year ago.* Contribute to the [FORO](#). Prince of Peace, Mayaguez facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ilpdp/>. Follow James and Cristel Neuendorf [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

Dr. Jim and Susan Kaiser are excited to extend the partnership between Lutheran Bible Translators and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). In the early 1980's, Susan helped establish a literacy program for the Loko people of Sierra Leone. Together with Jim they helped to translate the New Testament for the Kono people of Sierra Leone, and later the New Testament for the Chaldean people of Iraq. Jim now consults with six different translation projects and Susan provides care to other missionaries. Susan is a former member of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Willmar. Learn more [HERE](#).



PROJECT 24 & CHRIST'S CARE FOR CHILDREN - KENYA Project 24 Kenya started between the LCMS Office of International Mission and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya. It provides boarding facilities so vulnerable children have the opportunity to successfully complete primary or secondary school. The Project 24 team has modeled unity and teamwork in making sure that the children have remained safe and healthy at their homes. With the reopening of schools, the site managers have also joyfully received the grade 4 and 8 students back at all of the sites. Students at the Lenkishon site are pictured here. They are happy to be back at school and with their Project 24 families. Total Number of Students at the P24 sites: 190 children; Number of Students Sponsored as to date: 107. **Find Project 24 on Facebook** [HERE](#). Find the P24 Newsletter [HERE](#). Sponsor a child [HERE](#). District support for Project 24 to date is \$112,034. Support for CCC: Kenya to date is \$17,366.

GOOD SHEPHERD CHURCH AND SCHOOL, COTTON TREE LIBERIA The MN North District continues to partner with Good Shepherd in sharing the Gospel with the people of Liberia. Pictured is the Baccalaureate Service held on January 10th. 54 Students will graduate on January 16th! The church and school continue to need help with teacher salaries and updates to the generator that provides electricity. Congregations and individuals are encouraged to pray about how they might be able to help the ministry in Cotton Tree. Pastor Kollie 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 working towards a Master's Degree. 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. Donations (specifically designate on the memo line) can be sent to: MN North District, PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401.



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.



CALL UPDATE

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod

CALLS ACCEPTED

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

ALBANY, Immanuel (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. David Steege)

BARNESVILLE, St. John's (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Gary Rehborg) - Called Rev. Patrick Lovejoy, Port Angeles, WA

BELLINGHAM/CORRELL/ODESSA, Trinity/Grace/Trinity - Calling Seminary Candidate

CLOQUET (Munger), Hope (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Walter Lehenbauer) - Calling Seminary Candidate

CROWN, Zion (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Jake Gillard) - Called Rev. Matthew Meyer, Callaway, MN

EDEN VALLEY, St. Paul (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Jack Baumgarn)

ELY/BABBITT, First/Good Shepherd (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Ray Hendrickson)

GRAND RAPIDS, First (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Steve Breitbarth)

HENNING, St. Paul (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Ron Jobe)

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

RED LAKE FALLS/PLUMMER, St. John/Redeemer (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Dan Domke)

ST. CLOUD, Holy Cross (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. David Strohschein) - Called Rev. Mark Gilson, Muskegon, MI.

SEBEKA/NIMROD/N. GERMANY TWP, Grace/Nimrod/Zion (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Dr. Larry Harvala) - Calling Seminary Candidate

SNELLMAN/HEIGHT OF LAND, Gethsemane/St. John

SUPERIOR, Christ (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Gerald Bernacker)

OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

- Rev. Chris Lieske received a Call to Faith, Lincoln, IL.. He declined the Call.
- Rev. Matthew Kohl received a Call to St. John, La Porte, IN.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHANGES

CHURCH WORKER WELLNESS RESOURCES

In Our District:

CHURCH WORKER CARE

COORDINATOR: Rev. Paul Cloeter is available to provide a listening ear, sound advice and professional referrals. He can be reached at (320) 333-6319 or paul.cloeter@mnnlcms.org

HEALTHY CHURCH WORKERS:

HealthyChurchWorkers.com exists to help ministers and their spouses to live the abundant life Jesus promised in John 10:10.

From the Synod:

CHURCH WORKER WELLNESS

ONLINE: Whether you are a church worker or spouse — or someone who loves those who are called to serve — the LCMS prays that these resources are helpful. Learn more [HERE](#).

Recognized Service Organizations:

DOXOLOGY: DOXOLOGY offers an innovative program of advanced study retreats to strengthen pastors for the task of faithfully shepherding the souls entrusted to their care. Doxology.us

GRACE PLACE WELLNESS: Grace Place Wellness is a preventive wellness ministry that seeks to positively impact the ministry of Christian congregations. www.graceplacewellness.org

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. There are openings in both the July and August retreats. shepherds canyonretreat.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 25-26, 2021	Circuit Visitors Conference, Online
February 14-15, 2021	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
March 13, 2021	MN North LLL/LHM Spring Livestream Event, Zion, Alexandria
March 13, 2021	Floor Committee Meetings at the District Office (Pending)
April 11, 2021	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, Madden's (Pending)
April 12-14, 2021	MN North District Convention—Madden's, Brainerd (Pending)
April 17, 2021	MN State Bible Bowl, Concordia University, St. Paul
April 20, 2021	LWML Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
June 7, 2021	MN North District Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
July 13, 2021	LWML Board of Directors Meeting, District Office
August 11-12, 2021	New Worker Orientation, District Office



MN NORTH RESOURCES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The 2020 Congregational Treasurers Manual has been sent to all the District Congregations. It can also be downloaded [HERE](#). District Salary Guidelines for 2021 are available [HERE](#). The MN North District website also connects you with District and Synod resources to answer your questions on a number of topics. Stop by our home page: www.mnnlcms.org



Travel and gathering restrictions continue to keep us from in person meetings and seminars, making a retirement workshop impossible in early 2021. In the meantime, you will find many resources for retirement planning on the Concordia Plans website: <https://www.concordiaplans.org/members/my-financial-benefits/getting-ready-to-retire>



Looking for schedules and broadcast times for Main Street Living and MS� Northland? Their news and schedules are posted on their websites. Click the links on our homepage: www.mnnlcms.org



Pastor Fred Hinz serves as Public Policy Advocate for both Minnesota North and South Districts of the LCMS. As such, he represents the LCMS in matters pertaining to life issues (abortion and doctor-assisted Suicide), issues related to marriage, family, and sexuality, and issues related to religious freedom, including parental choice in education. Learn more and get involved at:

<http://www.mnsdistrict.org/public-policy>

IN OUR PRAYERS

The Family of Rev. Timothy Magill (St. John, Villard & Trinity, Grove Lake), who passed away on December 26, 2020.

Marv Kading (MN North District Board of Directors), dealing with health issues.

Rev. David Cloeter (em. Ottertail, MN), recovering after a fall and surgery.

Rev. Marvin Blaske (em. Milaca), dealing with shingles.

George Miller, recovering after cataract surgery and dealing with severe back pain.

Jamesetta Kollie, daughter of Rev. James Kollie (Good Shepherd, Cotton Tree, Liberia), dealing with serious health issues.

Rev. Bob Brueske (em. Alexandria), recovering after surgery.

Katie Hannasch, daughter of Rev. Steve Meltzer (St. John, Wadena), undergoing cancer treatment.

Rev. Robin Collins (Trinity, Staples), recovering after a stroke.

Follow Pastor Collin's recovery journey on [CaringBridge](#).

Mrs. Joan Buchhop, wife of Rev. Dr. Mark Buchhop (em. Detroit Lakes), dealing with health issues.

Rev. Michael Breach (St. John, Wheaton), dealing with health issues.

Rev. Jack Baumgarn (em. New London), recovering after back surgery.

Rev. Roy Hasbargen (em. St. Cloud), dealing with health issues.

Rev. Fred Kutter (em. Albany), recovering after surgery.

Rev. Norm Hanan (em. Annandale), dealing with health issues.

Rev. Larry Cain (em. Cromwell) dealing with health issues.

John Kutter, Brother of Rev. Fred Kutter (em., Albany), continuing to deal with health issues.

Mrs. Mary Weber, wife of Rev. Dr. Karl Weber (St. John, Ottertail & St. Paul, Richville), diagnosed with cancer.

Rev. Dean Stolz (Zion, Crosby & Immanuel, Iron Hub) dealing with health issues.

Rev. Jim and Mrs. Bev Meyer (Thief River Falls), dealing with health issues.

Jenny Schoessow, wife of Rev. David Schoessow (Christ, Superior, WI), who is dealing with health issues.

Rev. David Milz (St. John, Kimball), dealing with heart issues.

Rev. Victor Dorn, (em., St. Cloud), dealing with health issues.

Rev. Paul Dare's (Zion, Alexandria) father, diagnosed with cancer.

The mother of Rev. Dennis McManus (em. New Germany), facing a number of health issues.

Mrs. Martha Buchholz (wife of sainted pastor Rev. Henry Buchholz), Richville, who is having health issues.

Mary Langemo Hughes, daughter of Rev. Martin Langemo (em. Princeton), who is suffering from hyperacusis.

Mrs. Melissa Martini-Tischer, wife of Rev. Steven Tischer (Zion, Princeton), diagnosed with sarcoidosis.

Rev. Robert and Mrs. Phyllis Volkert (em., Palisade), both dealing with health issues.

David Rickbeil, brother of Rev. Blake Rickbeil (St. Paul, Bertha), who has been missing for several months.

MN North District Seminary Students:

Jordan DeBoer, Crookston, studying at CTSFW

LeAnn Gregoire, Isle, Deaconess student at CTSFW

Josef Muench, Duluth, studying at CTSFW

Erik Saunders, Grand Marais, studying at CTSFW

Carl Seim, Elk River, SMP student at CSL

Berett Steffen, Spicer, studying at CTSFW

Stafford Thompson, Brainerd, studying at CTSFW

Stephanie Wilde, Parkers Prairie, Deaconess student on internship in Puerto Rico

Those serving in the military & chaplaincy and part of our District family:

LT Geoffrey Gronewold, Active Duty Chaplain, US Army, North Carolina

Captain Vincent Bain, Active Duty Chaplain, Fort Campbell, KY

Lt. Aaron Bell, son-in-law of Pastor Tom and Mary Brinkley (St. Matthews, Esko), Active Duty Chaplain, US Navy Camp Pendleton

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

MSG Jonathan Fondow, son of Pres. Don & Connie Fondow, Park Rapids, US Army

1st Lt Michaela Biegner-Wentz, granddaughter of Rev. Paul (em. Brainerd) and Joan Biegner, Virginia Beach, VA

Ensign Emily Geddes, 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

Staff Sgt Nathaniel Vrudny, son of Rev. Matthew & Bonnie Vrudny, Walker, with the Army Reserve Engineering unit at Ft. Snelling, MN.

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.

FEBRUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Jersey District - Rev. Dr. Anthony Steinbronn, DP	2 North Dakota District - Rev. Arie Bertsch, DP	3 North Wisconsin District - Rev. Dwayne Lueck, DP	4 Northern Illinois District - Rev. Dr. Allan Buss, DP	5 Northwest District - Rev. Dr. Paul Linnemann, DP	6
7	8 Ohio District - Rev. Dr. Kevin Wilson, DP	9 Oklahoma District - Rev. Barrie Henke, DP	10 Pacific Southwest District - Rev. Dr. Mike Gibson, DP	11 Rocky Mountain District - Rev. Roger Schlechte, DP	12 SELC District - Rev. Wally Vinovskis, DP	13
14	15 South Dakota District - Rev. Scott Sailer, DP	16 South Wisconsin District - Rev. Dr. John Wille, DP	17 Southeastern District - Rev. Dr. John Denninger, DP	18 Southern District - Rev. Eric Johnson, DP	19 Southern Illinois District - Rev. Timothy Scharr, DP	20
21	22 Texas District - Rev. Michael Newman, DP	23 Wyoming District - Rev. John Hill, DP	24 Rev. Dan Abrahams - Immanuel, Dent & St. John, Dora Twp	25 Rev. Paul Anderson - St. John, Weber	26 Rev. Dennis Angland - Zion, N. Effington	27
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Diana Ruopp, Admin. Ass't

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Rev. Monte Meyer [PLaN]

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District Treasurer:

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Congregational Care Counselor:

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Committee on Constitutions & District Memberships:

Rev. Ron Carnicom, Chairman (218/675-6532) constitution@mnnlcms.org



Minnesota North District
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Missouri Synod

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