



INTERCOM / E-NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Volume 18, Issue 12

Recently I was reading an article where the writer posited these questions: *“Why is that when you walk through a mall you may laugh and talk out loud but when you walk in a museum you whisper and are more serious? Why is it that the latest piece of technology may inspire oohs and aahs and a chatter of excited conversation but a well-cared for antique instills silent admiration?”*

Perhaps it is because we have an innate respect for that which has withstood the test of time. We value that which seems to last. Why? Because we live as temporal beings in a temporal world. We see everything around us as fragile, fading, and finite. Everything ends.

The oldest living person in the world currently is 118 years old. Quite amazing. However, even more amazing is how long people in the Old Testament times lived. Seven and eight hundred years old was not uncommon. Methuselah lived to be 969 years old. But you know what happened? Even Methuselah’s life came to an end, and today you won’t even find a remnant of his body.

Looking at Jesus, however, we see something different. He is not temporal. Even though He died, He was raised from the dead and lives **FOREVER**. The angel proclaims that **“His kingdom will have no end.”**

It’s so easy to look at Jesus like everything else in this world. We may be tempted to mark His life with its beginning at conception and its end

at death, or possibly resurrection, or maybe even His ascension. But Jesus ascended into heaven, where He rules today. His kingdom **NEVER ENDS**.

Today we continue the struggle to prolong life and to make us look good while we get older. In the end, however, we know we will fail. Our life on this earth will end. But the Child born in Bethlehem and laid in a manger has changed that end to our lives. He was not a normal child. He has the name, **“Son of the Most High.”** As such He not only amazed those who wanted to see miracles and confounded those who wanted to hear wisdom; He turned time inside out.

For God’s children, Jesus made the end of life on earth the beginning of eternal life in heaven. He made the consequences of sin, our death, the doorway to eternal life. Who else but the Son of the Most High could do all this? No one! This is Jesus, our Savior, He is the Christ our Lord and King, Emmanuel – God with us **FOREVER!**

“He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David; and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end” (Luke 1:32,33).

A blessed Advent, Christmas, and New Year to you!

President Don Fondow

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God with Us



The Rev. Robert Zagore, executive director of the LCMS Office of National Mission, preaches during the Prayer Service for Life on Nov. 30 at the LCMS International Center in St. Louis. The bulletin from the service is available free for congregational use. (LCMS/Frank Kohn) [DOWNLOAD THE BULLETIN >>](#)



The Minnesota North District has a partnership with Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), the world's largest Religious Liberty law firm. ADF understands that churches and Christian Schools are on the front lines of the battle and face a challenging legal landscape that threatens their ability to serve and carry out their mission. ADF established the Church & Ministry Alliance in 2017

to support the increasing legal needs of churches and ministries across the United States.

Membership in the ADF Church & Ministry Alliance helps churches and Christian schools prepare for coming legal threats by ensuring they have access to both legal resources and representation without financial risk. There are 4 key benefits to membership:

- **Document Review process ensuring you have the highest religious liberty protections in place.**
- **Attorney Consultation available when faced with religious liberty questions.**
- **Membership portal where you have access to numerous Legal Resources.**
- **Legal Representation when appropriate and necessary without additional cost.**

How to Join:

Congregation will join the [Church Alliance](#). Please use Promo Code **MNN2020** for a 20% discount off membership.

Christian schools will join the [Ministry Alliance](#). Please use Promo Code **MNNMA20** for a 20% discount off membership.

Membership with the ADF Church & Ministry Alliance not only prepares and serves the legal needs of your ministry, but it also builds an alliance and helps other churches and ministries encountering legal issues within their communities. Membership makes a difference for the religious freedom for all churches and ministries!

ALASKA MISSION FOR CHRIST NEEDS YOU!

We are looking for volunteers with a servant heart to work at a 74-year old log cabin Christian Camp outside of Fairbanks. Skilled and non-skilled laborers are welcome. Volunteers are welcome any time between May 15-June 12, 2022. Covid vaccinations will be required. (Please note: The vaccination requirements are only applicable to this particular team.)

To learn more, contact Jan Bruick, Servant Event Coordinator: 402-641-9691 or janbruick@alaskamissionforchrist.org.

TRAVEL TO GERMANY OPPORTUNITY

Next summer, Pastor Jason Wolter (St. Mark's, Benson) will be hosting a theologically-themed trip to Germany. The itinerary includes trips to Luther's monastery in Erfurt, Eisenach, Wittenberg and Wartburg Castle. There will also be a visit to the Buchenwald concentration camp and a day in either Munich or Berlin. The Oberammergau Passion Play (*which has been presented once every 10 years since 1634*) is also included. The cost (*before any discounts*) is \$4,350. For more information, contact Rev. Wolter (jwolter78@hotmail.com) or go to: www.purposefuljourneys.org.

LUTHERAN MISSION ASSOCIATION

Lutheran Mission Association is an organization which began in International Falls, MN in 2001. The purpose of the group is to assist in the spreading of the Gospel in Haiti. Rev. Eliona Bernard is the District President of the North District of Haiti and head of Haiti's Lutheran (ELCH) Seminary. He is also President of ELCH's Synod, which is in altar and pulpit fellowship with LCMS. Through him, LMA has helped with schools and churches in Haiti and a few folks of LMA go to Cap Haitien every year. Recently, an ELCH church and school in DonDon was damaged by a small earthquake, and it needs to be rebuilt with a more earthquake resistant foundation at a cost of \$140,000.

You can find out more about LMA at their website lmamn.org or call the president of LMA, Mrs. Lori Salvhus, at 218-261-0937 or the treasurer, Mrs. Lil Spilde at 218-760-6129.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MN NORTH DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN

Dear sojourners in Christ, throughout this Advent season we are reminded that this place is not our home... and that we're just passing through this fallen and wicked world. We're *also* reminded that we're living in the End Times that the Scriptures warned were coming. They began at our Lord's Ascension... and will continue until He returns in glory and in judgment. And that's what we continually pray for: not just during the season of Advent, but all year long! Our Lord's first Advent reassures us that He *will* come again, just as He promised. But, in the meantime, we must endure all kinds of trials and tribulations, as evil of every kind continues to corrupt and afflict our world.

womb, the more people start to realize how horrific abortion is.

Currently, the main issue before the courts is about the pain that pre-born children feel. The laws enacted by various states have said that, if an pre-born child can feel pain, you can't kill them. One of the dirty little secrets that Planned Parenthood (et al) doesn't want people to know: is that- when children are being dismembered in the 2nd and 3rd Trimesters- they can feel it. That's why, when pre-natal surgery is done on pre-born children, the child receives a form of anesthesia: to minimize the pain that they feel (*just as is done when any other human being undergoes surgery*).

for those who didn't want to become pregnant. Maybe people will start being more responsible with their sexual decisions; or maybe the states will make adoption easier. But, more than anything, less children will be killed. And that is a very good thing!

Of course, the best news of all- that we celebrate every year at this time of the year- is that our God chose to take on human flesh and become one of those pre-born children. As we confess in our creeds, Christ Jesus was incarnate (*God-in-flesh*) even while He was in the womb. He was, *even then*, true man (*along with already being true God*); which means that all people are fully human in the womb. After all, He was like us in every way, except without sin. We also can take joy in remembering that the first person to rejoice at the coming of God's promised Messiah... was *another* pre-born child: the little one who would grow up to be John the Baptist.

“Christ Jesus was incarnate (*God-in-flesh*) even while He was in the womb. He was, *even then*, true man (*along with already being true God*); which means that all people are fully human in the womb.”

One of those great evils is the practice of murdering children before (*or while*) they are born. But a light of hope has now begun to shine in our great darkness. The Supreme Court is hearing a case that may-in effect- overturn Roe v. Wade. Although it wouldn't end all abortions (*it would only take it out of the federal realm and give the power to legislate it back to the states*), it's a great start. The more that science is able tell us about children, as they develop in the

So, hopefully, these laws will be allowed to stand. If the Supreme Court rules in favor of those states, then it will be possible for abortions to be outlawed (or severely limited) in any state that chooses to do so. Please continue to pray that that would happen! The more that pre-born children are recognized as the human beings that they are... the more *unthinkable* it becomes: that killing them should be a possible option

Clearly God loves all the little ones that He has created in His own image. Therefore, may our country renounce the evil beliefs and practices that would destroy His precious children... and get back to doing what any just and righteous nation would do: cherish life at all stages and enact laws to protect every one of those human lives. Keep praying, my brothers and sisters! God hears- and is moved by- the pleas of His people!



Y4LIFE in
WASHINGTON D.C.
 Jan. 20-22, 2022

FREE Lutheran youth
 conference at March for Life!

Click [HERE](#) to register.



HOW CAN THE CHURCH STAY FAITHFUL
IN THE MIDST OF A TURBULENT CULTURE?

The Rock in Shifting Sands

JAN. 10-12, 2022



Join us to discuss this and more at the
Making Disciples for Life 2022 Conference.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Minnesota STATE BIBLE BOWL 2022

2022 YOUTH BIBLE BOWL | APRIL 2, 2022 at CSP
| REGISTER BY MARCH 20th

WHY DO IT? It is one great way for youth to study the Word of God on their own and in groups.

BIBLE BOWL: Competition of teams (3 or 4 players) in verbal quiz format. Also an individual, written competition.

TOPIC: "Luke" (The English Standard Version will be used. 2016 text)

WHO: 7th through 12th graders from churches throughout Minnesota North and South Districts. Form teams in your

church:-no limit of (4) person teams per church; limit of three (3) person teams per church.

COST: \$40.00 Per team.

REGISTRATION: Send \$40.00 per team, with names of each participant to: Rev. Rudy Maurer, St. John Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 37 Good Thunder, Minnesota 56037-0037 Checks may be made payable to "MN State Bible Bowl."

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

Rev. Steve Breitbarth - Contact for MN North District can be reached at
s.breitbarth@mchsi.com

Have you ever wondered what the shepherds experienced in the hours, days, and weeks following their viewing of the Christ, the infant King! Were their lives transformed? Did they go back to their simple jobs and live simple lives after that night? How did they explain to their wives and families and locals what had happened? My guess is that no matter what the response was shortly after that event, they probably kept telling it to all who would listen. Their lives were changed, and they were excited to spread the good news!

We have the exact same message to share that the shepherds had that night. We, too, face a world that is skeptical (if not downright hostile) to the message of the Savior! We have the same challenge in that many will not believe us. But, like the simple shepherds, our lives should be transformed by the message of the angels: "For unto you this day is born a Savior, who is Christ, the Lord." We, too, should be out "glorifying and praising God for all we have seen and heard."

The school children are making a special effort to tell the story of the birth of Christ at the Christmas Service that will be presented at the Chapel at the Geneva Christian Center on Sunday, December 19th, at 7:00 p.m.

Merry Christmas from the faculty, staff, and students of Zion Lutheran School!





The International Lutheran Laymen's League (Int'l LLL) is a dedicated group of supporters and volunteers who are active in ministry domestically and around the world. The ministry of the organization is currently expressed through a wide range of Christ-centered outreach efforts under the name of Lutheran Hour Ministries (LHM).

Come join Petal Pushers® in decorating the 2022 Dream. Believe. Achieve Rose Parade Floats. Petal Pushers®, a group of over 5,000 volunteers, have been decorating floats for over 30 years to help bring to life the floats you see every New Year's Day.

The Lutheran Hour Ministries Float has been a continuous parade participant for this our 71st year. Our goal is to "Sow seeds and let the Holy Spirit take it from there". Our float this year is entitled Jesus Teaches.

Volunteers of all skill levels and ages are needed. If it is your very first time joining us, or if you're a seasoned veteran, there are dozens of jobs to do! [LEARN MORE >>](#)

Gospel Adventures

Created in partnership with Group Publishing, a trusted leader in innovative children's ministry resources, Gospel Adventures is a free 5-day curriculum. This program is designed to engage students with educational objectives and interactive resources geared towards expanding their perceptions of global ministry. Visit The [Gospel Adventures](#) website to learn more about the program and to register for the next adventure!

Kids Booklets from LHM

These children's booklets (in English and Spanish) are ideal to use for festivals, classrooms, holidays, outreach and more! Give one to a neighbor or friend. Anyone can use these fun and colorful booklets to discuss prayer, how to share their faith, and more – each in a way kids will understand and remember. Full PDF previews are available for each title. [Click on the link](#) to view and download.

Kids Videos

View the **Red Boots for Christmas** video here: <https://vimeo.com/171567554>

For the **Little Shepherd** DVD video, go to: <https://www.amazon.com/Little-Shepherd/dp/B00069U0D2>

SET APART TO SERVE
LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



Faith and Encouragement

Our society is becoming increasingly hostile to the Christian faith, even in rural and small-town settings.

The November issue of Reaching Rural America for Christ, the newsletter from LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission, reminds us to turn to the church — and welcome others into the church — to hear the unchanging Word of God being proclaimed.

This issue also features information on stewardship, including the importance of a congregational budgeting process that aims to put the Word of God in charge of how we do business in the church.

[READ THE NEWSLETTER >>](#)

Webinar: 'Rural Ministry Resources'

January 13, 2022 | 1:00 - 2:00 pm

LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission will host a free webinar titled "Rural Ministry Resources" from 1–2 p.m. Central time on Thursday, Jan. 13, 2021.

The presenter will be the Rev. Todd Kollbaum, who is the director of LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission as well as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Madison, Neb.

[VIEW WEBINAR SCHEDULE](#)

[VIEW WEBINAR ARCHIVES](#)



Are you overwhelmed with educational debt?

Can you help church workers focus on ministry?

Since 2015, MinistryFocus has awarded nearly 200 grants to rostered church workers of the LCMS.

[APPLY OR DONATE HERE >>](#)



As communities across Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky and Illinois continue to assess the devastating loss, the Mid-South District is coordinating donor funds to help with recovery efforts.

To assist with the relief effort, the Mid-South District has established a Disaster Relief Fund. Donations directed to this fund will be used for relief efforts in the tornado-ravaged communities. If you or any member of your congregation would like to contribute to this fund, you may make a gift online or by check payable to the Mid-South District Office / 1675 Wynne Road / Cordova TN 38016. Please note "Disaster Relief Fund" on any gifts sent by check. When donating online, please designate your gift as "restricted" for the Disaster Relief Fund.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)



**BEST PRACTICES
MINISTRY
CONFERENCE
FEB 17-19, 2022**

Hosted by Christ Church Lutheran in Phoenix, AZ, the Best Practices for Ministry Conference registration is still FREE!

[LEARN MORE >>](#)



**HELP
THE VICTIMS
OF DISASTERS**

Disaster Response through Basic LERT Training

Saturdays, January 29 & February 26

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 there is no plan in place? Advance preparation will significantly increase your effectiveness when a disaster occurs.

Responding to a disaster is a vital part of who we are as members of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. Responding to a disaster allows a congregation and its members to confess Christ to their community, region and world in ways they may have never considered before.

In early 2022, two Disaster Response training events are planned in our MN North District. The goal is to prepare congregations and individuals to be better prepared when a disaster strikes and help them know how to respond. The LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) model will be presented. Participants will learn how to develop local teams of trained volunteers to respond when disasters occur.

Congregations are encouraged to send a group of people to this training for ready application when you get back home.

The two dates and host sites are:

January 29 - First Evangelical Lutheran Church of Grand Rapids

February 26 - Zion Lutheran Church of Detroit Lakes

Both events are on a **Saturday, 8:30am-3:00pm**. 8:30am is check-in, complete registration & pick up materials. The LERT training class begins at 9:00 am. The cost of training is \$20 per person.

Anyone who is interested is welcome to

attend the training session. However, only LCMS members who are 14 years or older will receive certification as LCMS LERT volunteers. You will receive your certificate of participation, volunteer ID card, vest, and T-shirt from LCMS Disaster Response after the training is complete. Your LERT trainers will distribute all the LERT materials during and after the class.

The three main sections of the training are:

1) An introduction to the LCMS Disaster Response program, 2) Congregational Preparedness and 3) Lutheran Early Response Teams.

Note: Basic LERT certification is a prerequisite to LERT chainsaw training which is tentatively scheduled for April 2022 at Lutheran Island Camp.

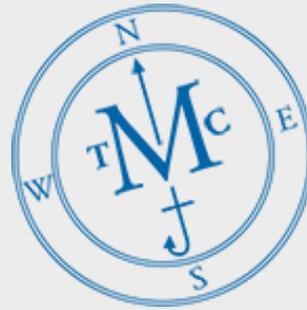
Pre-registration is required and online.

Please register as soon as possible at least 16 days before the event at: www.lcms-lert.org

[Note: 1) Sign up for an account. Part of the one-time registration process is granting permission to use class pictures, reading and acknowledging the liability waiver, and selecting T-shirt size. Note: every volunteer needs their own email address when they register. 2) Look for the District's tab, select Minnesota North District and register for which of training events listed you want to attend.]

Payment: Cost is \$20 per person (includes all materials, refreshments and lunch). Pay at the event. Make checks payable: "Minnesota North District – LERT training"

Any questions, contact: Rev. John Beck, john6beck@gmail.com or (320) 249-4012



MISSION
TRAINING
CENTER

Change? What has changed?

In this crazy covid world, it seems like everything has changed—even our churches. We are sad and frustrated, but what can we do? Dr. Diane Zemke, PhD Leadership Studies, will help you recognize the change in your congregation and give you tools for learning how to not just manage it but grow through it.

The class starts Monday, January 3. [Sign up today!](#)

See all the 2022 Mission Training Center classes at:
<http://www.missiontrainingcenter.com/schedule/>.

You can download the list in PDF.

(Available at the bottom of the schedule page).

MN NORTH DISTRICT CONVENTION

MAY 9-11, 2022 | MADDEN'S, BRAINERD

Congregations recently received a Convention mailing that includes information for submitting/confirming Lay Delegate selections as well as instructions and deadlines for submitting overtures and nominations. These items are also found [ONLINE](#).

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR
from all of us at Lutheran Church Extension Fund

We rejoice in the blessing of our Lord and Savior's birth during this special time of year.
We wish you joy and hope in this new year ahead.



Rev. Jeffrey A. Lee

LCEF District Vice President | Minnesota South
218-829-1781 | Jeff.Lee@lcef.org

 **Lutheran Church Extension Fund**
> where investments build ministry

MISSIONARY MINUTES



PUERTO RICO FORO The team in Puerto Rico continues to share the Gospel with the people of Mayaguez and Ponce. We have continued with our same weekly ministry schedule: Sunday- Divine Service and Bible Study at both congregations. Wednesday - Fellowship night in Mayaguez and study on 1 Corinthians. Friday - Fellowship night in Ponce. Saturday- Campfire and devotion night in Mayaguez. We give thanks that these activities continue to bring people into our churches to hear the Gospel of Jesus! We have open opportunities for you to serve this coming year (2022) in Puerto Rico. Our open projects are a variety of construction projects with the possibility of ESL Camps or a VBS. Check out the link below to see how you would like to serve with us: <https://servenow.lcms.org/opp/construction-team-puerto-rico/> Reach out to Missionary Ashley at Ashley.lehr@lcms.org to start the process today! Contribute to the **FORO**. Read James & Christel Neuendorf's latest newsletter [HERE](#). Follow the teams on Facebook [HERE](#) and [HERE](#) or visit their websites: [Prince of Peace](#) and [Fountain of Life](#).

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. DR. DAN & DR. JOAN JASTRAM live in Tokyo where he serves as the Asia Lutheran Resource



Coordinator. Our project of translating Walther's Law and Gospel continues. In the current section, Walther emphasizes the necessary function of both elements in the recognition that "I am a miserable, accursed, damned sinner, who would have to be eternally condemned if Christ had not died for me. But I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, born of the Father in eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil" (2010 ed., p. 366). This is the clear Gospel message your partnership proclaims through your generous prayers and support! Learn more about their work [HERE](#). Become a partner [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. *Would you prayerfully consider making an additional, one-time gift to help share a special Christmas blessing with the children of CCC-K and their families?* Each gift will include a Project 24 t-shirt, socks, cooking oil and chapati flour (to take home to their caregivers during break), as well as a sweet treat. It is our sincere hope to raise \$5010.00. This will cover the cost of providing 334 students each, with a special Christmas package. Child sponsorship is a \$90/month commitment, and as a sponsor you receive an initial packet of information on the child, as well as updates throughout the year on his or her welfare and spiritual engagement. Total Number of Students at the P24 sites: 190 children; Number of Students Sponsored as to date: 136. **Find Project 24 on Facebook [HERE](#). Sponsor a child [HERE](#).**



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. 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 (nursing student at CUW) are also studying in the US with plans to return to Liberia to use their education. Donations for the Kollie's education, Good Shepherd Church and School (specifically designate on the memo line) can be sent to: MN North District, PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401.

DR. JIM AND SUSAN KAISER are excited to extend the partnership between Lutheran Bible Translators and the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY). Jim 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](#).



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Dec 26 - Jan 2, 2022	District Office Closed
January 7, 2022	MN North Principals Meeting, District Office
January 11, 2022	LWML District BOD Meeting, District Office
January 29, 2022	Disaster Response/LERT Training First, Grand Rapids
Jan 31—Feb 1, 2022	Circuit Visitors Conference, LIC
February 7, 2022	Ministerial Health Commission, District Office
Feb 13-14, 2022	MN North District BOD Meeting, District Office
February 26, 2022	Disaster Response/LERT Training Zion, Detroit Lakes
March 9, 2022	Nominations Deadline
March 11, 2022	MN North Principals Meeting, Perham
April 2, 2022	Floor Committee Meetings, District Office
April 2, 2022	2022 Bible Bowl at Concordia, St. Paul
May 9-11, 2022	MN North District Convention, Brainerd
June 6, 2022	MN North District BOD Meeting, District Office
June 20-22, 2022	MNN District LWML Convention, Moorhead
June 27-29, 2022	Continuing Education, Redeemer, St. Cloud Featuring Dr. Weinrich, CTSFW

ANNIVERSARIES AND CELEBRATIONS

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Backus, MN will mark their 100th Anniversary on January 30, 2022 with a special Worship Service. A 100th Anniversary Celebration will be scheduled during the summer months.

SUICIDE PREVENTION: RECOGNIZE, RESPOND, REFER

Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy (First, Grand Rapids), an International Board Certified Christian Counselor by the American Association of Christian Counselors, hosted a three night, three part, evidence based suicide and awareness prevention workshop titled "Recognize, Respond, Refer" in September. The workshop is a wonderful opportunity to complete CEU's for teachers, health professionals, pastors and parish professionals. Each segment was recorded and is available free via the First Lutheran Church Website. [LEARN MORE >>](#)



MN NORTH RESOURCES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The MN North District Convention has been rescheduled to May 9-11, 2022 at Madden's in Brainerd. The recent Convention Mailing included instructions, forms and deadlines. Find them all online [HERE](#).



Main Street Living continues to reach out with televised worship services in the Twin Cities, Fargo and Sioux Falls markets. Visit mainstreetliving.com



MSL Northland is reaching out to a large audience in the Duluth Market every week. Visit mslnorthland.com



As Lutheran Christians, we have a dual citizenship in two kingdoms: 1) spiritual and 2) earthly. As we embrace our neighbors with acts of witness and mercy, we recognize the authority of the governments and rulers that have been set in place. Yet this balance can be tricky. [LEARN MORE >>](#)



The MN North District has partnered with ADF to provide resources for congregations navigating the current cultural climate. Learn how the Church Alliance can benefit your congregation [HERE](#). Use code **MNN20** for 20% off for Churches or **MNNMA20** for 20% off for Schools.



CALL UPDATE

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT—LCMS

CALLS ACCEPTED

RED LAKE FALLS/PLUMMER, St. John/Redeemer— Called Rev. Jeffrey Lytle, Red Lake Falls, MN accepted the Call. Installed on 12/12/2021.

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

AKELEY, St. John - Called Rev. Alan Eppen, Edgeley, ND.

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

ALEXANDRIA, Good Shepherd (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. James Walburg)

BARNESVILLE, St. John's (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Gary Rehborg) - Called Rev. Richard Merrill, Charter Oak, IA. He declined the Call.

CAMPBELL/HERMAN, St. Paul/Bethlehem

ESKO, St. Matthews (Associate)

GARRISON, Shepherd of the Lake (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Tom Petersen)- Called Rev. Noah Burgdorf, St. Charles, MO.

HERMANTOWN, Peace in Christ (Associate)

LITTLE FALLS, Zion

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

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

VIRGINIA/AURORA, Gloria Dei/Redeemer

WHEATON/MONSON, St. John/Immanuel (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. George Sagissor, III) - Called Rev. Daniel Gifford, Falls City, NE.

OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe (Perham), received a Call to Peace Lutheran Church, Flagstaff, AZ.

Rev. Jared Nies (Corliss), received a Call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lapeer, MI. He accepted the Call.

Rev. David Mommens (Melrose), received a Call to St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Central City, NE. He declined the Call.

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: Pastors are leaders and spiritual caregivers and often programs focus well on one or the other. DOXOLOGY has the entire field in mind when we seek to help pastors be the best they can be. Consider joining us in 2022 for [one of our Classic Series programs](#) which provides you with three separate retreats of in-depth refreshment and learning, over the period of one year.

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 counseling for church professionals and their spouses shepherdcanyonretreat.org

IN OUR PRAYERS

Rev. Andrew & Angie Ratcliffe (St. Paul's, Perham), at the birth of a daughter, Emmy Roberta, on December 13, 2021.

The family of Rev. Gary Thur (em. Clark County, WI), who passed away on November 30, 2021.

Rev. Glen Kleppe (Zion, Pine City), and family at the passing of his mother in September.

Mrs. Gwen Koopman, wife of Rev. Henry Koopman (em. Waite Park, MN), dealing with COPD.

Tim Koopman, son of Rev. Henry Koopman (em. Waite Park), recovering after surgery.

Jillian Edge, wife of Rev. David Edge (Rice), recovering after back surgery.

Rev. Robin & Mrs Cheryl Fish (Immanuel, Verndale), recovering after COVID.

Rev. Paul Koehler (St. John, Motley), recovering after COVID.

Judy Beck, wife of Rev. John Beck (Trinity, Sauk Rapids), recovering after hip surgery.

Rev. Dan Wagner (em. St. Cloud), dealing with health issues.

Elizabeth Schmidt, wife of Rev. Micah Schmidt (Living Branch, North Branch), recovering after back surgery.

Rev. Keith Weise (Good Shepherd, Sauk Rapids), recovering after knee surgery.

Marci Keyes, wife of DCO Peter Keyes (Zion, Little Falls), undergoing breast cancer treatment.

Rev. Carl Berner (em. Vesta, MN), diagnosed with cancer.

Rev. David Franzmeier (em. Cambridge), dealing with health issues.

Rev. Larry Harvala (em. Osage), dealing with health issues.

Mrs. Sharon Hendrickson, wife of Rev. Ray Hendrickson (em. Nashwauk), recovering after a broken leg.

Rev. Roger Krebs (em. Parkers Prairie), recovering at home.

Rev. Bruce Blocker (Immanuel, McIntosh), recovering after back surgery.

Rev. Martin Langemo (em. Princeton), recovering after a fall.

George Miller, 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.

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

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

Rev. Fred Kutter (em. Albany), dealing with diabetes related 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), undergoing cancer treatment.

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 (em. 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.

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.

MN North District Seminary Students:

Paul Anderson, Cambridge, studying at CSL

Jordan DeBoer, Crookston, studying at CTSFW

Josef Muench, Duluth, STM student at CTSFW

Erik Saunders, Grand Marais, studying at CTSFW

Michael Thomas, Parkers Prairie, studying at CLTS, St. Catharines, Ont.

Carl Seim, Elk River, SMP student at CSL

Bruce Maul, Vergas, SMP student at CSL

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

Pre-seminary student Jacob Franck, son of Rev. Rob & Gayle Franck, completed basic training for the Army Reserves.

LT Geoffrey Gronewold, Active Duty Chaplain, US Army, Fort Leonard Wood, MO

Captain Vincent Bain, Active Duty Chaplain, US Army, Massachusetts

Lt. Aaron Bell, son-in-law of Pastor Tom and Mary Brinkley, 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, US Army

Lt. Michaela Biegner-Wentz, granddaughter of Rev. Paul and Joan Biegner, Naval Air Station, Whidbey Island, WA

Dennis Gerold, husband of DCO Abby Dawkins Gerold, US Air Force

1st Lt. Micah Uhrinak, son of Rev. Les & Susan Uhrinak, Crosslake, US Air Force

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

Tanner Wagner, son of Rev. Don & Jolene Wagner, National Guard

Private Chris Peske, son of Rev. Mark and Sharon Peske, US Army, Ft. Benning, GA

Private Matt Peske, son of Rev. Mark and Sharon Peske, US Army, Ft. Benning, GA

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.

JANUARY PRAYER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Chaplain Geoffrey Gronewold, Waynesville, MO	4 Rev. John Bakou, St. Cloud, MN	5 Rev. Michael Breach, Wheaton, MN	6 Rev. Edward Clemens, Sartell, MN	7 Rev. Mitchell Krog, Henning, MN	8
9	10 Rev. Jim Meyer, Thief River Falls, MN	11 Rev. Karl Yahr, Hackensack, MN	12 St. John's & Zion, Ada - Rev. Ron Hobbie	13 St. John, Aitkin - Rev. David Becker	14 Immanuel, Iron Hub - Rev. Dean Stolz	15
16	17 St. John, Akeley - Rev. Harvey Kietzman	18 Immanuel, Albany - Rev. David Steege, VP	19 Ebenezer, Leaf Valley - Rev. Scott Brown	20 Good Shepherd, Alexandria - Rev. Jim Walburg, VP	21 Zion, Alexandria - Rev. Paul Dare & Rev. Matt Lorenz	22
23	24 Trinity, Appleton - Rev. John Ramsbacher	25 Redeemer, Aurora - Rev. Don Stauty	26 Sonrise, Avon - Rev. Jeffrey Manthe	27 Good Shepherd, Babbitt - Rev. Zachariah Burgdorf	28 Emmanuel, Backus - Rev. Travis Lauterbach	29
30	31 Redeemer, Bagley - Rev. Eli Voigt					

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