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INTERCOM/e-NEWS

MN NORTH DISTRICT— LCMS

Volume 19, Issue 1

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year!!!! What is your prayer for the New Year? Did you make any resolutions? People resolve to get into better shape, so they join a gym. Some people resolve to lose weight, so they start some diet program. Others resolve to stop smoking, stop gambling, stop drinking too much, spend more time with family, smarter at work, or even maybe start a new career. Many times, resolutions are exercises in self-discipline. You pledge that you will do something. Then the next question is – how long can you keep your resolution? Do you have the discipline to make the year?

From a Christian perspective, what is your prayer for the New Year? What will you ask God to do for you in 2022? You can ask for anything. Maybe your resolutions and your prayer will align. Will you pray God to help you lose weight, stop smoking, get into better shape? Maybe you will pray for a different job, more money, a different house. Maybe you will pray for health and healing for yourself or someone near you.

What stands out about Solomon's prayer from 1 Kings chapter 3 is that it was self-less. He prayed to get wisdom to govern God's people according to God's will. To discern from good and evil.

As I consider our current problems in the world – I think a lot of it comes out of selfishness. It is all about me. Years ago, I had a conversation with my neighbor about politics – we were not on the same page. He told me that he supported this party because when they governed, he had more money. All the other issues didn't

make a difference. What matters most to him was based on what impacted his wallet. When I have confronted people over behavior GOD calls a sin and tell them that God is not please – I have heard – “My God wouldn't condemn that.” Even when it is in black and white in the Bible – The Bible seems irrelevant to them. It is all about my feelings of what God is like. It is like we created a god in our image, instead of trying to reflect the image of God as it is revealed in Scripture. There is a rejection of authority, the idea that I am my own boss and so any authority that disagrees with my perception is disregarded. It is like saying; “I am my own god. I will only listen to what I want”.

God was well pleased with Solomon's prayer. He could have asked for money, for many wives, for more power, more kingdoms to rule, but Solomon prayed that God would grant to him the ability to discern good and evil to govern God's people. He was asking for the tools to be able to carry out his Divine task of governing the people of God.

Solomon's prayer was to be a better servant of GOD. What is your prayer for 2022? I pray that it is a God pleasing petition that seeks to serve God in the arena in which He has planted you in. May all that we do be pleasing to Him. To God be the Glory.

In His Service,

Rev Jeffrey A Lee

Mission and Ministry Facilitator
Minnesota North District
Minnesota North District LCEF DVP

“At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, ‘Ask what I shall give you... Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?’ ” I Kings 3:5&9

DISTRICT NEWS



MN NORTH DISTRICT CONVENTION MAY 9-11, 2022 MADDEN'S, BRAINERD

Preparations are underway for the 2022 Minnesota North District Convention. Congregations received the Convention Mailing in October and have begun the process of submitting lay delegate forms and Nominations. Please note the following deadlines:

- March 1, 2022: Deadline to submit Overtures**
- March 9, 2022: Deadline to submit Lay Delegate Form**
- March 15, 2022: Nominations Deadline**

To download forms and stay up-to-date with all Convention related information, visit the Convention website: mnnlcms.org/mnn-district-convention

"I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

John 16:33



Rev. Peter Gueldner was installed as Interim Pastor at Alive! Lutheran Church in Monticello on January 9, 2022. Pictured (left): Rev. Tim Renstrom, Rev. Jake Gillard, Rev. Peter Gueldner, Rev. Tim Lamkin, Rev. Terry Grzybowski and Rev. Micah Schmidt.



Rev. Jeffrey Lytle was installed at St. John, Red Lake Falls and Redeemer, Plummer on December 12, 2021. Pictured (right): Rev. Jim Meyer, Rev. David Laue, Rev. Bruce Blocker, Rev. Dan Domke, Rev. Jeff Lytle, and Rev. Ron Hobbie

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.

SILENT AUCTION BRINGS A LOUD MISSION BANG!

Pictured is a Silent Auction check for more than one thousand dollars raised by the Trinity Lutheran Church Women of Virginia, MN. Pastor Brad Felix, Trinity's pastor, says "he has a difficult time to slow down the strong mission efforts of these faithful women." Missionary Bernie Lutz, long time mission advocate and messenger, pictured here, received the One Thousand Dollar plus check from the TLCW. Bernie said, "It has been a great joy to help provide the many mission gifts to the needy people all over this world!" Once a year, COVID or NOT, the TLW plan the Silent Auction and the members of the congregation respond generously! The mission project has a history of fifteen years now and over \$20,000 has been raised for Mission work. Projects such as laptops, bicycles, motorcycles, seminary education scholarships have been undertaken by these strong, bold and mission-spirited women. Before sending the check on to its intended mission, 10 percent of the total is taken out to support the MNN District LWML mite box project.





A MESSAGE FROM THE MN NORTH DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN

Friends in Christ, I'm using this month's column to share with you the details for the Minnesota March for Life, which will take place at the State Capitol on Jan. 22, 2022. Having attended it myself, I can tell you that it is quite an experience! There isn't as much "marching" as there would be if you went to the March in Washington DC; but there are lots of other, Pro-Life people around with whom to share your enthusiasm. It's especially encouraging to see so many young people involved in the Pro-Life movement, as evidenced by all the Christian schools in the state that bring bus-loads of kids down to the Capitol for the march.

With much gratefulness to God, I'm proud to say that Concordia University (St. Paul)

continues to host a pre-march chapel service. The chapel service will be at 10:30am, in the Graebner Memorial Chapel. Two years ago, the MN-North District was very well-represented at the chapel service... and I hope it will be again!

The MN March for Life, itself, will begin at Noon on Jan. 22nd at the State Capitol. The event will consist of silent prayers, singing and sharing fellowship with others, who are eager to proclaim the sanctity of life. It will also include a brief program, in which a number of Minnesota politicians and personalities will share their stories, encouragement and hope for the future of the Pro-Life movement.

If you have not attended this event before, I heartily encourage you to consider making

the trip! It's not quite the same as the March for Life in Washington DC; but it is powerful and uplifting, nonetheless! And don't forget to stop by CSP, first: for refreshment and encouragement from God's Word!

God bless you all, as you- *in your own ways*- fight for the lives of those whom the world considers "disposable". Every life bears the fingerprints of God; He made us all in His own image! And, at every stage of its existence, each life is precious to God and has been redeemed by His Son! Therefore, let us continue to help people to see how precious and valuable they- *and all people*- are!

LIFE SUNDAY 2022: "GOD CHOSE YOU"

"God Chose You" is Lutherans For Life's theme for Sanctity of Human Life Sunday, which is set for **January 23, 2022**. Your congregation can observe Sanctity of Human Life Sunday on that date or at any time during the year.

Our Life Sunday 2022 theme is based on John 15:16 – **"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit."** (ESV)

Use our Life Sunday resources 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.

AVAILABLE FOR 2022: BULLETIN INSERTS • BIBLE STUDY • CHILDREN'S MESSAGE • WORSHIP SERVICE • SERMONS • LIFE SUNDAY 2022 FLYER

Note: Our Life Sunday 2022 bulletin insert is available to order through Concordia Publishing House (CPH). The Life Sunday 2022 bulletin insert is also available to download [HERE](#) for use with PowerPoint and as an email attachment. All other Life Sunday 2022 resources are available as downloads below and are not available through CPH unless otherwise indicated.



January 22, 1973, marked a dark day in our country's history. On that day nearly 50 years ago, the Supreme Court handed down its infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion nationwide.

Since that tragic January day, it's estimated that over 63 million unborn children have been killed by abortion.

Every January, people of faith around the country commemorate the Sanctity of Human Life Sunday. This year, that Sunday is on January 23. Visit The Church Alliance [blog](#) post for resources.

God gives His church pastors and church workers for the sake of the Gospel. Pastors proclaim Christ and administer the Sacraments, means through which people receive Christ's saving work. Church workers assist the pastoral office in service to the Word, witnessing to Christ daily in various roles. Christ's church will continue until He returns, and that church will continue to need workers.

Parents/grandparents, pastors, professional church workers, Sunday school teachers and others in your congregation help influence children to consider serving the church in these sacred and joyful vocations. Set Apart to Serve (SAS) is an initiative of the LCMS to recruit church workers. Since church work is rooted in Baptism and a lifetime of hearing the Word, SAS encourages young people to consider church work vocations primarily through their continued and faithful involvement with their congregation.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)



2022 Teen Leadership Training

YouthLead, formerly Lutheran Youth Fellowship, annual leadership training will take place March 17-20, 2022, in St. Louis, Mo. This annual training event is led by our teen Executive Team and gives teens the tools they need to mature in their faith, become leaders in their congregations, and reach out to their peers with the love of Christ. We invite any high school youth who is an active member of an LCMS to join us.

The Minnesota North District has a limited number of scholarships available for interested youth. Contact Rev. Monte Meyer (monte.meyer@mnlcms.org) for more info!

[Download YouthLead Training flyer](#)

[LEARN MORE AND REGISTER HERE](#)



National Lutheran Schools Week provides more than 1,800 preschools, elementary schools and high schools with the public opportunity to proclaim and celebrate God's work among us in schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

We thank God for the opportunity to provide excellent academic preparation for the children we serve. We are most grateful for the opportunity to share Jesus' amazing love with children and their families.

National Lutheran Schools Week gives us an opportunity to proclaim these great blessings within the communities we serve.

Our schools are amazing incubators for faithful witness of God's love for us through Christ by teachers and students alike.

[DOWNLOAD RESOURCES >>](#)



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

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

[APPLY OR DONATE HERE >>](#)

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 >>](#)

LAW ENFORCEMENT/EMERGENCY RESPONSE CHAPLAINCY

We are living in some very challenging times. Stress levels are high and at times tempers are short. People who serve to protect our freedoms (law enforcement) at times are being faced with challenges beyond our imagination. As clergy in the community, we can do many things to provide the Love of Jesus in helping LE personnel through these difficult situations. Rev. Steve Breitbarth is a MN Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist for over 32 years, a LCMS ecclesiastical Endorsed Emergency Services & Disaster Response Chaplain and also a certified Instructor for Police Chaplains for over 20 years. For more information about Law Enforcement and/or Emergency Response Chaplaincy contact Rev. Steve Breitbarth s.breitbarth@mchsi.com or 218-929-1110.



**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 in 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.

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 important and online. Please register as soon as possible 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) Click on the "Districts" tab, then click on "Minnesota North District" and select which event 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



Strong Faith, Fervent Love, Walking together

The December 2021 issue of Reaching Rural America for Christ, the newsletter from LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission, reminds us we are called to walk and work together in a God-pleasing way to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

[READ THE NEWSLETTER>>](#)

Webinars

Hosted by LCMS Urban & Inner-City Mission, the Rev. Dr. Geoff Robinson will present a free webinar on "Recovering Our First Love for Evangelism" from 1-2 p.m. Central time on Wednesday, Jan. 19, 2022.

In this webinar, Robinson will discuss how intentional evangelism in most LCMS congregations has declined greatly. Evangelism action and instruction — as evidenced by an examination of statistics, sermons preached, and former pastoral instruction manuals — show that the LCMS must reclaim her first love for evangelism.

Robinson calls us to rejoice in the privilege of sharing the love of Christ with our neighbors, family and friends.

[REGISTER >>](#)

[VIEW WEBINAR SCHEDULE](#)

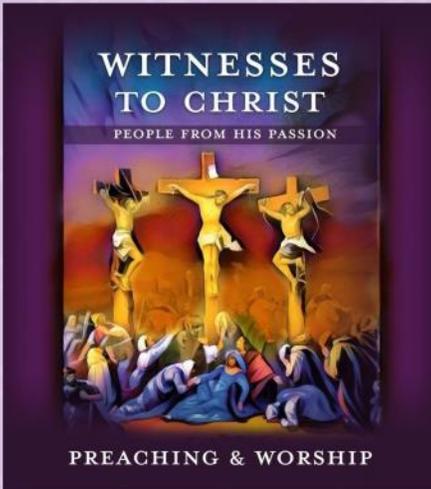
[VIEW WEBINAR ARCHIVES](#)



Concordia St. Paul's Center for Biblical Studies Presents

A Lenten Workshop

Augmenting Dr. Reed Lessing's CPH Lenten Kit for 2022



Friday, January 28, 2022

Dr. Reed Lessing | Virtual or In-Person

9am - 2pm (CST) | *\$10

*Workshop participants receive over 200 PowerPoint slides connected to the sermons and Bible studies.

Register for the workshop at: csp.edu/center-for-biblical-studies

Purchase the Lenten Kit at: cph.org



Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

30th Annual Parish Nurse and Congregational Health Ministries Conference Concordia University Wisconsin—Mequon, WI May 18-19, 2022

Welcome to our 30th annual conference! This year's gathering is based on Psalm 9:1: "I will give thanks to you, Lord, with all my heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds."

We have learned that life can be full of challenges, but even amidst hardship, the Lord has given many blessings especially to parish nursing and congregational health ministries showing the love of Christ in health and healing.

This annual national gathering of nurses, pastors, lay ministers and others is a true blessing. It helps us all focus on our calling to caring vocations, to share and tell the love of Christ, and to serve Him in all we do.

It includes blessings to gain new knowledge, network with peers, and share resources to help us all develop new programs and ministries in congregational health.

I hope to see you in May 2022 at the 30th annual conference. If you cannot attend, please pray for a successful conference and consider a financial donation.

Your sister in Christ,

Carol Lueders Bolwerk, PhD, RN 262-243-4233

Carol.lueders.bolwerks@cuw.edu

For more information and to register for the conference, click [here](#).



Concordia Seminary
ST. LOUIS

Hymnwriters, translators and **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** students are encouraged to attend the first-ever **Prevallet Hymn Writing Workshop** to be

held Saturday, Feb. 5, on campus. This workshop is an opportunity for participants to learn from Rev. Stephen Starke, an expert in the hymn-writing field, about the mechanics and craft of writing hymn texts.

Starke has written more than 200 hymn texts that have been published through Concordia Publishing House. Nearly 30 of his texts are found in *Lutheran Service Book*, including "We Praise You and Acknowledge You," "Water, Blood, and Spirit Crying" and "The Tree of Life."

For more information, contact Vieker at 314-505-7570 or viek-erj@csl.edu.

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.

Lutheran Church Extension Fund is proud to partner with LCMS Youth Ministry for the upcoming Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. Through this partnership, LCEF will be offering prepaid Visa cards for use throughout the Gathering. In response to the pandemic, LCEF will no longer be providing cash transactions at the LCEF booth but will be distributing the cards and providing card assistance.

How does this work?

1. Your church or youth group will need to have an open or open an LCEF StewardAccount® if they don't already have one.
2. Visit www.lcef.org/yg22 to download the order. Please complete and return back to LCEF.
3. Order forms are due **May 2, 2022**.

You will be able to pick up your group's cards at registration in Houston. Make sure you stop by the LCEF booth in the exhibit hall for some fun giveaways!

If you have any questions regarding the pre-paid cards, call LCEF at **800-843-5233**.



CONNECTED BY CHRIST

A financial partner who shares your Lutheran beliefs

Since 1978, Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) has been the financial partner for The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS). We love our investors and borrowers and understand LCMS ministries like no other. Our mission is to ensure you have the financial resources and related solutions available to fulfill your call for God's glory now and in the future. Contact LCEF to discover the possibilities.

**VISIT LCEF.ORG OR
CALL 800-843-5233 TODAY!**

Webster Gardens Lutheran Church
Webster Groves, Mo.

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

REV. JEFFREY A. LEE
LCEF District Vice President | Minnesota North
218-829-1781 | Jeff.Lee@lcef.org

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. Lutheran Church Extension Fund—Missouri Synod, 10733 Sunset Office Drive, Suite 300, St. Louis, MO 63127-1020. 800-843-5233. lcef.org. NMLS #3444. Illinois Residential Mortgage Licensee (MB.0006057). Loans made or arranged pursuant to a California Law License (6037619). For more information on LCEF's lending license go to lcef.org/state-disclosures/.

MISSIONARY MINUTES

PUERTO RICO FORO The team in Puerto Rico continues to share the Gospel with the people of Mayaguez and Ponce. Members of the mission team share: *“We thank you all for your prayers and support over this last year. It certainly has been another year of many challenges but yet many blessings for us a team and as a church.”* Prince of Peace celebrated the confirmation of Sandra (pictured here) on Christmas Eve! Please keep her in your prayers. 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](#).



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. Online resources allow the translation of 1 & 2 Corinthians continues, even while the Kaiser’s are



in the US due to conflict in Ethiopia. Learn more [HERE](#).

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. Rev. Jastram

shares: *“This last month included our second LCMS Sacramental Service provided for our LCMS expats in Okinawa. We had twenty-one individuals who gathered, with potluck and catechetical study following. We were especially thankful that Joan was able accompany me on this visit to interact with the women of the group.”* Learn more about their work [HERE](#). Become a partner [HERE](#).

LCMS AGRICULTURAL MISSION CONSULTANTS are using their gifts to share the message of the Gospel in East Africa. Delano and Linda Meyer, members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Herman, MN, are returning to Africa this month to continue their work. Please keep their team in your prayers.



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. **Here, P-24 children and**

staff receive special Christmas Cards and Gifts from sponsors and students in the US. 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 P-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. **The school is bursting at the seams with students. Funds for teacher salaries continue to be a need.** 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. Be sure to specifically designate your donations for the church, school, or Pastor Kollie’s education on the memo line of your check.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 21, 2022	National March for Life, Washington DC
January 29, 2022	Disaster Response/LERT Training First, Grand Rapids
Jan 31—Feb 1, 2022	Circuit Visitors Conference, LIC
February 4, 2022	Main Street Living North Recording Date Immanuel, Fargo
February 7, 2022	Ministerial Health Commission, District Office
Feb 13-14, 2022	MN North District BOD Meeting, District Office
Feb 13-15, 2022	PALS Meeting, Baxter
February 26, 2022	Disaster Response/LERT Training Zion, Detroit Lakes
March 1, 2022	Convention Overtures Deadline
March 9, 2022	Convention 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
April 9, 2022	LLL/LHM Meeting: "Better Together" St. John, Perham (Corliss)
May 8, 2022	MN North District BOD Meeting, Madden's
May 9-11, 2022	MN North District Convention, Brainerd
June 6, 2022	MN North District BOD Meeting, District Office
June 20-22, 2022	MN 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.



MN NORTH RESOURCES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The MN North District Convention has been rescheduled to May 9-11, 2022 at Madden's in Brainerd. Please be sure to send your Lay Delegate form to the District Office on or before March 9, 2022. Visit the Convention Website [HERE](#).



Head over to your member portal at concordiaplans.org/myaccount to see all the wellness solutions that'll help make your physical and financial health a whole lot better! Because you may not have a **clue** which health and financial wellness solution is right for you, you can use the [Health Connector](#) and [Financial Navigator](#) to help you figure it out.



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. He declined the Call.
ALBANY, Immanuel (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. David Steege)
ALEXANDRIA, Good Shepherd (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. James Walburg)
BARNESVILLE, St. John's (Vacancy/Interim Pastor—Rev. Gary Rehborg) - Calling a Seminary Graduate
BRAHAM/RUSH CITY, St. Stephens/St. John - Calling a Seminary Graduate
CAMPBELL/HERMAN, St. Paul/Bethlehem - Calling a Seminary Graduate
ESKO, St. Matthews (Associate)
FINLAYSON/BRUNO, Peace/St. Paul (Vacancy Pastor— Rev. Don Polege) - Calling a Seminary Graduate
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
MONTICELLO, Alive! (Vacancy/Interim Pastor—Rev. Peter Gueldner)
PEQUOT LAKES, Gloria Dei (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Mark Johnson & Rev. Monte Meyer)
PERHAM(CORLISS), St. John (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Del Stohs)
RICE, Shepherd of the Pines (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. David Strohschein)
SUPERIOR, Christ (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Gerald Bernecker)
TWIN VALLEY, Trinity (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Dr. Larry Harvala)
VIRGINIA/AURORA, Gloria Dei/Redeemer—Calling a Seminary Graduate
WHEATON/MONSON, St. John/Immanuel (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. George Sagissor, III)

OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

Rev. Andrew Ratcliffe (Perham), received a Call to Peace Lutheran Church, Flagstaff, AZ. He declined the Call.
Rev. Steve Benson (Brainerd), received a Call to Shepherd of the Grove Lutheran Church, Maple Grove, MN. He declined the Call.
Rev. Matt Kohl (Cloquet), received Calls to Trinity Lutheran Church and School, Springfield, IL and St. John Lutheran Church in Defiance, OH.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHANGES

CHURCH WORKER WELLNESS

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. Jesus understood the need for a “quiet place,” and rest. This is a holy, safe place where any Church worker in the vineyard can find information that will lead to transformation.

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 a [REPSPIRE RETREAT](#) or [CLASSIC PROGRAM](#).

GRACE PLACE WELLNESS: Grace Place Wellness Ministries (GPWM) has been a leader in church worker wellness education for over two decades, and has served thousands of LCMS church workers, leaders, and their families. Our mission is to nurture vitality and joy in ministry by inspiring and equipping church workers to lead healthy lives. Grace Place and LCEF are pleased to announce the acquisition of Grace Place Wellness Ministries by LCEF, effective January 1, 2022. www.graceplacewellness.org

SHEPHERD'S CANYON RETREAT:

Shepherd's Canyon Retreat offers seven carefully designed days of counseling for church professionals and their spouses shepherdscanyonretreat.org

IN OUR PRAYERS

Rev. Dennis McManus (em. New Germany) and family at the passing of his mother on January 11, 2022.

The family of Roy Olson, member of Immanuel, Parkers Prairie and brother-in-law of Rev. Del Meyer (em. New York Mills) who passed away on January 10, 2022.

The family of Rogene Rogers, wife of sainted pastor Rev. Dr. Michael Rogers), who passed away on November 23, 2021 in Kalispell, MT.

Marv Kading (District Board of Directors), receiving specialized care at Mayo Clinic.

Zechariah Aleman, foster child of Rev. Rob (Mt. Olive, Duluth) and Gayle Franck, recovering after a difficult surgery.

Mrs. Mertice Brueske (em. Alexandria), recovering after hospitalization.

Rev. Dane (em. Garfield) and Carolyn Compton, recovering after COVID.

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.

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.

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:

Abigail Franck, daughter of Rev. Rob & Gayle Franck, attending Army Basic Training.

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 Delano and Linda Meyer serving a short term agricultural mission in East Africa.

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 St. John's Barnesville - Rev. Gary Rehborg, VP	2 Emmanuel, Barnum - Rev. Brad Vogt	3 Bethlehem, Baudette - Rev. William Moeller, Jr.	4 Prince of Peace, Baxter - Rev. Gregg Coop	5
6	7 Grace, Becker - Rev. David Johnson	8 Trinity, Bellingham - Rev. Nathaniel Brown	9 Trinity, Bemidji - Rev. Robert Wentzel	10 St. Mark, Benson - Rev. Jason Wolter	11 St. Paul, Bertha - Rev. Blake Rickbeil	12
13	14 Holy Trinity, Blackduck - Rev. James Sorensen	15 Mt. Olive, Bovey - Rev. Jeffrey Kyler	16 Zion, Boyd - Rev. Dean Rager	17 St. Stephen, Braham - Rev. Tim Renstrom	18 Zion, Brainerd - Rev. Steve Benson	19
20	21 Grace, Breckenridge - Rev. Ross Fritz	22 Zion, Browns Valley - Rev. Nathanael Biberdorf	23 Beautiful Savior, Callaway - Rev. Matthew Meyer	24 Joy, Cambridge - Rev. Daniel Lewis	25 St. Paul, Campbell - vacancy pastor	26
27	28 Nicolai, Canby - Rev. Dean Rager					

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