

In this issue...

- 2- District News
- 3- Parish Nurse Conference and Synod Updates
- 4- LCMS Gathering District Event
- 5- Disaster Response Training
- 6- RSTM
- 7- LCEF, Concordia Seminary
- 8- Missionary Minutes
- 10- Call Update
- 11- In Our Prayers



INTERCOM/e-NEWS

MN NORTH DISTRICT— LCMS

Volume 19, Issue 3

Recently, I ran across an article entitled *“All Kinds of Bad Behavior Is on the Rise.”* The writer pointed out that reckless driving is increasing, altercations on airplanes has exploded, the murder rate is surging in cities, drug overdoses are increasing, Americans are drinking more, nurses say patients are getting more abusive, teachers are dealing with a growing number of disruptive students, depression, suicide, and loneliness are on the rise. Over the past several years, and over a wide range of different behaviors, Americans have been acting in fewer pro-social and relational ways and in more antisocial and self-destructive ways. Add to this what is happening in countries around the globe and in our own lives.

So, what’s going on?

Jesus tells us: **“In the world you will have tribulation”** (John 16:33).

Jesus knew the hardships and trying times that would appear in the world and in our lives. He knew that there would be wars and rumors of wars. Sickness, sadness, disasters, and death. Pain and pandemics.

He knew of the stresses and burdens that would come. He knew of the sleepless nights that we would go through. He knew of the heartaches and sorrows. Jesus knew all things we would endure in this sin impacted world.

But Jesus doesn’t just tell us about our troubles. Nor does He leave us alone to deal with them. He doesn’t abandon us. Instead, He speaks one small sentence that offers a level of comfort that is anything but small: **“But take heart; I have overcome the world.”**

Take heart, Jesus has defeated the world. Take heart, Jesus has won the battle. Take heart, Jesus has complete control over the world. He’s got the whole world in His hands including you and me. Even in life’s darkest moments...when we feel abandoned and afraid, and don’t know what to do, Jesus is there to save us from Satan, sin, death, and ourselves. Even when life’s outcome seems bleak, we can take heart because Jesus has overcome the world.

“He lives to silence all our fears; He lives to wipe away our tears; He lives to calm our

troubled hearts; He lives all blessings to impart” The victory is His and thanks be to God who has given us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In this world, we **will** have trouble. We can count on it. But in this world, we can rejoice. Our Savior, Jesus, reigns over us and all. In this life, we can rejoice. Our Jesus is eagerly waiting to bring us home where there will be no more sighing, crying, or dying. **“I have told you these things, so 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).

*Forth in the peace of Christ we go;
Christ to the world with joy we bring;
Christ in our minds, Christ on our lips,
Christ in our hearts, the world’s true king.*

LSB 920 v. 1

May the peace of the Lord fill your hearts and your minds as you serve Him!

President Fondow

“I have told you these things, so 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).

DISTRICT NEWS



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

Registration for the 24th Convention of the Minnesota North District is underway. Delegates, Emeriti, Exhibitors and Guests received an email with Registration Information on March 10th. To request a link to the Registration site, please contact the District Office. Rostered workers who are unable to attend can download the Absentee Form at the [CONVENTION WEBSITE](#).

To reserve the lodging/meals package attendees should visit the Madden's [LODGING WEBSITE](#). Early arrival is available, but if you wish to stay for only part of the Convention, call Madden's directly at 218-829-2811.

The Convention Workbook will be available to print on April 10, 2022. A link will be shared via email.

To 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



by Mr. Robin Johnson:

Fourteen men from Zion attended the event allowing us to field two teams handpicked by our "General Manager" Pastor Guy.

The "Whipper Snappers" were the younger, more athletic team from the

Zion lineup. The "Wise Guys" team was made up of Zion's elder, more experienced, wiser and better looking half of the lineup.

After devotions by Pastor Jay Weideman from Immanuel, we grazed on hot dogs, roast beef, chili and chips and stepped up to the darters box. The dessert table was visited throughout the night which may have had some effect on our concentration too.

The Wise Guys didn't come out of their hitting slump until the 6th inning of the 1st game loss to Immanuel. We were able to get a win in Game #2 with a walk-off hit by Pat Cronin to drive in Ken Frank in the bottom of the 7th. In Game #3 Dave Christen drilled the board 10 times but after finally landing on the "home run" spot his dart fell out. It was a heartbreaking loss to the Zion Whipper Snappers.

Speaking of the Whipper Snappers, their 1-2 record matched the Wise Guys, but they left more runners on base throughout the night. Grant Briard led the team with solid hitting and high paid slugger Zane Roberts is still looking for his first home run in this short season.

Zion will have a chance to end their season on a high note when they travel to Our Redeemer in Moorhead on April 11. And that's the way it was.



KIDS IN THE KITCHEN

The Kids at Trinity-Sauk Rapids served the congregation breakfast in March. It was called KIDS IN THE KITCHEN. Food was prepared and served by willing "kids" with joyful hearts, with a bit of parental supervision. It was a great success, earning over \$1,000 for scholarships for Lutheran Island Camp. *"Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children."* Proverbs 17:6



MISSION AND TRAVEL OPPORTUNITIES

Want to take a mission trip to Puerto Rico?

Our Minnesota North District has, over the last five years, committed to partner with the mission work in Puerto Rico. There is currently a group of people (from two churches in our LCMS District) planning to make a one-week mission trip there on February 18-26, 2023. You are invited to join them. The team will offer help/assistance with light construction and clean-up (from earthquake and hurricane damages). Total cost of the trip is estimated to be in the area of \$1,500 per person (including housing, meals, and airfare). You can either do your own fundraising or join with the fundraising efforts of those already in the group. The mission team is limited to a total of 16 people. 11 people are currently committed to go. Openings are based on a first come, first serve basis. If you would like more info or would like to commit to going, please contact Rev. Jerry Bernecker at janejerry3@gmail.com or call him at 715-651-3267.

Holy Land Tour

Beloved in the Lord Jesus, you are invited to join me (on my 24th tour), a native of Israel, born in Nazareth on a Journey to the Holy Land—Israel for an experience of a lifetime. **We will depart from Chicago on August 15 and return on August 27, 2022**...walk where Jesus walked...where every page of the Bible is seen in its original context alive...cruise the Sea of Galilee...climb the Mount of Olives and view the Old City of Jerusalem...visit Tabgha, scene of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes...the Mount of Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount and where Jesus chose His Twelve Apostles...walk the Via Dolorosa (Road of Suffering) to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher...stroll in the Garden of Gethsemane...visit Bethlehem...the Church of the Nativity and much more.

What to expect: During this 13-day tour, you will experience the sounds, smells and sights of two civilizations the old and the new. You will stand at the cross roads of history and feel the vibrant influence of how this land shapes all other lands.

We will do more than just visit sights. We will go off the beaten path and have personal and daily devotions. The Bible will be our map and guide. Experience the Holy Land—a place like no other. Please join me on this blessed adventure.

The price is \$4,000.00 or \$4,300.00 p/p includes: air fare from Chicago or Minneapolis to Tel Aviv and back to Minneapolis and or Chicago, hotel accommodations (for double occupancy) tips, entry fees and all meals.

For further information contact:

Pastor Nabil Nour
46448 263rd St.
Hartford, SD 57033
605-526-3571 (O)
605-201-6998 (Cell)
preachermanfootwasher@gmail.com



Engaging Truth
Evangelical Life Ministries

HOUSTON CHRISTIAN TALK RADIO

Broadcasting relevant winsome Christ-centered programs.

Evangelical Life Ministries (ELM) believes the Christian Church has a powerful soul saving and rescuing message, and the media market-place should be used as a forum for bringing this message to others.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)

MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT STUDENT AID GRANTS - APPLY BY MAY 15TH

Aid is available to students preparing for full-time church work at any of our Synodical schools. Applications must be received by **May 15 EACH YEAR**. The grants do not renew automatically, students should apply each year. Application forms may be obtained from your Financial Aid Office or downloaded at the [CUS Website](#).

After the form is completed, it must be returned to your Financial Aid Officer. They will submit the completed form to the District.

Gifty Kollie, deaconess student at Concordia University Chicago and long time friend of the MN North District, will celebrate her placement as a Deaconess Intern on Saturday, April 2nd at 3:00 pm.

The service will be livestreamed.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)



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 >>](#)



LIFE TOGETHER AS SYNOD 

"What does it mean for you to be part of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod?"

So asks the Rev. Dr. James A. Baneck in the introductory video of a new series, "Life Together as Synod," produced by the LCMS. Baneck, executive director of the LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, goes on to explain that the purpose of the series is to "explore and discover the answer to this question."

"'Life Together' is ... about our mutual commitment to confession, mission and good order," Baneck continues. After providing a definition of the word "Synod," he gives an overview of the LCMS' organization and operation, highlights the various entities and auxiliaries of the Synod, and reviews the many individuals and groups who share in the Synod's work.

[LEARN MORE >>](#)



To Everyone at the Minnesota North District,
I want to thank you for your recent gift to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch. We were overjoyed to be able to Call Deaconess Stephanie Wilde to serve our Fargo campus as Spiritual Life Coordinator. Her ministry has already been a source of grace and faithfulness to our clients and staff. Her success is in no small part a result of the faithful ministry and work your District is living out. Your support and encouragement of her work is a true blessing to us. Thank you for all you do in service to Christ. May the Lord bless you and your continued work.

~ Rev. Rick Jones
Chaplain, VP Spiritual Life

An Update from the Lutheran Mission Association in Haiti

As you likely know, there is a great deal of turmoil in Haiti. Kidnappings have increased, and gangs control many cities. The government is in disarray, trying to sort things out since the assassination of their president last summer.

However, THE CHURCH CONTINUES TO THRIVE AND GROW! Synod President Eliana Bernard (and district president of the North District) says the Lutheran members have faith and continue to look to the Lord for hope. In the past couple of years, two new congregations (one is a "preaching station") have started in the North District, both near the city of Cap Haitien.

Lutheran Mission Association is working on several projects, in addition to sending monthly support to help pay the teachers and pastors. There is a gate and wall being built at the south end of the Lutheran Farm. That became a necessity because of the possibility of "land grabs", where someone hires a dishonest lawyer who arranges for the land to be transferred to another party.

Pastor Eliana hired a man to build the gate and wall, but the man's tools were destroyed in a fire, so he has no way to do his work. We are arranging to replace his tools, and providing some help for his brother. (In Haiti, the family has to bring food to patients in the hospital, another of his issues).

LMA has sent more than \$8500 for continued work on the Gloria Dei School, but that, too has been put on hold. We continue to look for grants for Bibles, uniforms for students, and buildings for new congregations.



A MESSAGE FROM THE MN NORTH DISTRICT LIFE COORDINATOR

Rev. Jason Wolter, Benson, MN

Every year, the season of Lent begins with a Gospel reading about the story of our Lord being tempted by the devil in the desert. Those temptations took place after our Lord had fasted for 40 days. Somewhere along the way, the Church decided that the length of the Lenten season should equal that same number of days that Jesus remained in the wilderness. Now, if you were to add up the days on the calendar, between Ash Wednesday and Easter morning, you'd see that it's more than 40 days. But that's because we don't count Sundays as being part of the Lenten season. That's why we have Sundays "IN" Lent, but not "OF" Lent.

The funny thing is... that Israel *actually* wandered around in the desert for 42 years. That's more of a historical issue than a theological one; but it *does* matter: because that number (42) plays a very prominent role in another kind of "wilderness wandering".

In the Book of Revelation, the length of End Times was described in numbers related to "42". In various places, that time frame was described as 42 months. In other places, the length of time was listed as: "3½" (years)... and 1260 days. Notice that all of those time frames equal 42 months. That's because New Testament Christians were being invited to remember that our time here on earth, as we sojourn through these Last Days, is like that of the wilderness wanderings of ancient Israel: this is not our home; we're on our way to the Promised Land that our Good Shepherd has prepared for us.

To keep His people from becoming discouraged along their way to that blessed destination, God has given them something to encourage and strengthen them: Himself! Whether it was in the Old Testament Tabernacle... or the modern buildings that we use for worship today... God's presence (and presents!) is what enables us to have joy... and peace... and hope... and life... even when our journeys are dark, dangerous and desperate. To be near God... is to be near the very source of Light and Light.

So how did we get here: to a time and place where so many people no longer place value on human lives (whether it's their own lives or the lives of others)? Simply put: it's because so few people are dwelling in the presence of the Lord. If He is the source- and center- of all life: then those who are separated from Him... are also cut-off from life. They neither receive it from Him... nor do they seek to share it (or value it) with others.

We are people of the Incarnation. God loved us so much... that He took on human flesh (and all our trials and temptations) so that He could be truly one with us. That's what we celebrate at Christmas-time ("God is with us")... and it's what we celebrate 40 days after Easter, when our ascending Lord declared, "Surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." As Christians, this is the joyful promise that gives us the courage, confidence and comfort we need to keep going throughout these last days of our wilderness wandering.

But, for those whose unbelief has cut them

off from God, there is only darkness and death. They have no real reasons to be hopeful or joyful. They try to fill the empty darkness with all kinds of temporal (and temporary) things; but, in the end, nothing works. And, therefore, their perception of life becomes faulty and skewed.

How can we expect them to put their hope in God's promise, "to work good in all things for those who love Him", if they don't even know Him? Why are we surprised that people, who don't believe in eternity, aren't able to see past the temporary struggles of life to a better and more joyful day to come?

Dear friends in Christ, it is a refrain that you've heard before... but it's no less true (and certainly worth hearing again): before people's minds change, their hearts have to change first. Therefore, the best way to get people to understand- and agree with- our pro-life efforts... is to share the Gospel with them. When they know our all-loving and all-powerful God, they will be changed by His presence.

They will see the beauty of all people, because they will know how beautiful their Creator made them. They will be gracious towards others, because of the grace shown to them by their Redeemer. And they will live sanctified lives, because of the faith worked in them by their Sanctifier. May we continue to endeavor to make that message known to those who don't yet know it, so that they'll not only join us now (in our pro-life efforts), but also in the Promised-Land-to-come!

CONTEMPLATE

Learn more about life in the Concordia Seminary community and the preparation that leads to service as a pastor, missionary, chaplain or deaconess in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS).

MAY 3-4, 2022

LCMS Youth Gathering Congregations should sign up for the MN North District Event at Minute Maid Park on Tuesday, July 12, 2022. Registration includes dinner, entertainment, activities and the MN North District t-shirt!

[REGISTER HERE>>](#)





Concordia
Seminary
ST. LOUIS

Students, staff, faculty and friends are invited to join in the **St. Baldrick's for St. Patrick's Day Celebration** from 4-6:30 p.m. March 17 in the Pederson Field House on the campus of **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis**. This is the Seminary's 11th annual **St. Baldrick's Foundation** head-shaving fundraiser to support childhood cancer research.

Funds from the Seminary's event support the **Thumbs Up Fund To Honor Brett Haubrich**. This year's goal is to raise \$10,000. Those wanting to contribute to the cause can visit the Seminary's St. Baldrick's Foundation **fundraising page**.

High school students interested in attending **Concordia Seminary, St. Louis** are invited to **Vocatio** June 25-July 2 on campus. This free, weeklong retreat, following the Seminary's academic theme for the year, "Your Word is a lamp to my feet" (Ps. 119:105), provides prospective students the opportunity to explore God's calling and direction as they experience Seminary life.

"*Vocatio* is an incredible experience for the young people of our church to explore the possibilities of a church work career, experience Seminary life and be around likeminded peers who share their faith," said **Rev. Micah Glenn**, director of recruitment. "I'm looking forward to another great retreat this summer and excited to see some familiar faces and meet some new ones as well!"

The deadline to register is May 27. Learn more or sign up at csl.edu/vocatio.

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.

CSP CENTER FOR BIBLICAL STUDIES

The Book of Jonah Bible Seminar
On a Tough Mission for a Tender God



March 19, 2022 | 9am-3pm | \$15 | in-person or online
Dr. Reed Lessing | Concordia University, St. Paul
register at csp.edu/center-for-biblical-studies



LISN

LCMS Information Support
Network for Congregations

The deadline for submitting 2021 Congregational Statistics and Lay Leader Reports has been extended to March 31, 2022. Congregations received reminders to complete this process by EMAIL ONLY on or around January 18th. Use the credentials to log in to your portal at <https://lc.lcms.org/>.

Please be sure to complete this report in a timely manner. Current Congregational Statistics and Lay Leader email addresses are important for the MN North District to ensure proper representation at the upcoming 2023 Synodical Convention. Moving forward, District and Synod communications will be handled almost exclusively via email and other digital means.

Looking Forward to What is to Come

The January issue of *Reaching Rural America for Christ*, the newsletter from LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission, reminds us to rejoice in what God has done for us and in the work He has called us to accomplish. This month's newsletter also features information on a recent webinar, which discussed ways to partner with other congregations and organizations to carry out the church's mission.

[READ THE NEWSLETTER>>](#)

Webinars

"Disaster Response in RSTM" — [1 to 2 p.m. Central time, Thursday, April 21](#).

Presenter: The Rev. Michael Meyer, director of LCMS Disaster Training.

[VIEW WEBINAR SCHEDULE](#)

[VIEW WEBINAR ARCHIVES](#)

When you donate to LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission, you support and encourage rural and small-town congregations in engaging their communities and growing together in Christ through Word and Sacrament.





Call Day 2022

Tuesday, April 26

Be part of the excitement of Call Day!
Join us on campus or online at csl.edu/callday

ACTSFW Call Day 2022



Wednesday, April 27, 2022

Join us on campus or online at callday.ctsfw.edu



Greetings from Prince of Peace Lutheran School and Preschool in St. Cloud, Minnesota. We are blessed to be in a supportive district in the Minnesota North. The funds that are collected and distributed through the CROSS Appeal are a blessing to us. The funds are used to support our growing ministry.

Prince of Peace will be completing a three-year adventure of obtaining our Accreditation renewal. The Accreditation process is an opportunity to take an in-depth look at the procedures, processes, and policies that our school has in place. We tend to be very attached to the way that we do things, but Accreditation gives us the chance to look critically at what is working and what we can continue to improve upon.

We began to put our self-study together during the 2019-2020 school year. Our original visiting team date was in April 2020. We were delayed during the 2020-2021 school year due to the uncertainty of Covid restrictions. Prince of Peace will now be hosting our visiting team from Sunday, March 13 – Wednesday, March 16, 2022. We are excited to be at this point in the process and pray for God’s richest blessings upon our visiting team and their time at our school.

Thank you for your continued financial support, and especially for your prayers.

Learning for Life ~ Centered on Christ,

Mrs. Anne Neilitz
Principal



2022 KALEIDOSCOPE FUND

Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) is proud to announce the 2022 Kaleidoscope Fund grant process will open January 15 with a proposal submission deadline of June 1.

For 2022 grants, eligibility is limited to LCMS K-8 elementary schools. Schools that are RSOs are not eligible.

Visit lcef.org/kaleidoscope to learn more and to submit your proposal.



MISSIONARY MINUTES

PUERTO RICO FORO The team in Puerto Rico continues to share the Gospel with the people of Mayaguez and Ponce. Pastor Adam Lehman has re-started our monthly Theological Workshops that are open to the community. This month we learned about "The Son of God," article three of the Augsburg Confession. We had a great turnout and enjoyed lunch together after! 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](#).



REV. DR. BERNIE LUTZ serves as a representative of Lutheran Heritage Foundation. LHF translates, publishes, distributes and introduces books that are Bible-based, Christ-centered and Reformation-driven. Learn more [HERE](#).



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:
MN North District—LCMS, PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401**

REV. DR. DAN & DR. JOAN JASTRAM live in Tokyo where he serves as the Asia Lutheran Resource Coordinator. They ask for your prayers of



thanksgiving for progress in Lutheran Resource translation work: basic translation of Walther's Law and Gospel completed with a newly composed introduction in Japanese; beginning the new translation project of Walther's Church and Ministry. Learn more about their work [HERE](#). Become a partner [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 continues to thrive with more students than they have room 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.

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, recently traveled to Africa to teach. Learn more about their trip [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. On February 24th, we celebrated the opening of our eighth Project 24 site in western Kenya. The Archbishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya officiated the dedication with each bishop of each diocese, the Project 24 site managers, LCMS missionaries, and other members in attendance. This new site will house 25 students selected by the Lutheran parishes within the community. 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: 130. Read the newsletter [HERE](#). Find P-24 on Facebook [HERE](#). Sponsor a child [HERE](#).



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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)
April 15 & 18, 2022	District Office Closed—EASTER
May 8, 2022	MN North District BOD Meeting, Madden's
May 9-11, 2022	MN North District Convention, Brainerd
May 30, 2022	District Office Closed—MEMORIAL DAY
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
July 4, 2022	District Office Closed—INDEPENDENCE DAY
August 10-11, 2022	New Worker Orientation, District Office
August 11, 2022	Retired Workers Luncheon
August 16, 2022	MN North District Teachers Conference
August 29-30, 2022	Circuit Visitors Conference, District Office

ANNIVERSARIES AND CELEBRATIONS

Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Backus, MN will continue to celebrate it's 100th Anniversary with a Special Service on August 6, 2022 at 3:00 pm. Rev. David Becker will be the guest preacher.

Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Duluth, MN will celebrate their 100th Anniversary on September 25, 2022.

CLASSIFIEDS

Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Duluth has about 15 blue choir robes they would like to give to a church that would like them. We also have at least 50 or more children's hymnals as well. Please contact Gayle Franck at 218 724-1969 if you are interested.

St. John's Lutheran Church, Grey Eagle, MN has 100+ Lutheran Worship hymnals (blue) and an organist book they are no longer using. Contact Micheal Bitz for more information on this free resource. 320-429-1684



MN NORTH RESOURCES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

In anticipation of Angie Ringstrom's retirement in July, Albert Boldt has joined the MN North District Office Staff. Please keep him in your prayers as he is trained in on all things financial for our District. If you are in the Baxter area, be sure to stop in and introduce yourself!



Whether it's traveling, volunteering in your community, spending time with family you'll need savings to be able to enjoy it and make sure your everyday living expenses are covered. How do you know how much to save or where to save your money? This St. Patrick's Day, join Financial Educator Laura Scheer for a webinar, "Saving for Retirement," March 17, at 10 a.m. or 4 p.m. CT. [LEARN MORE >>](#)



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

CALLING CONGREGATIONS

AKELEY, St. John

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

ALEXANDRIA, Good Shepherd (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. James Walburg) Called Rev. Jonathan Jahnke, Fort Dodge, IA.

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

ESKO, St. Matthews (Vacancy Pastor - Rev. John Pasche)

FINLAYSON/BRUNO, Peace/St. Paul (Vacancy Pastor— Rev. Don Polege) - Calling a Seminary Graduate

GARRISON, Shepherd of the Lake (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Tom Petersen)- Calling a Seminary Graduate

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) Calling a Seminary Graduate.

RICE, Shepherd of the Pines (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. David Strohschein)

SUPERIOR, Christ (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Gerald Bernecker) Called Rev. Peter Adlesen, Glencoe, MN. He declined the Call.

TWIN VALLEY, Trinity (Vacancy Pastor—Rev. Dr. Larry Harvala) Calling a Seminary Graduate.

VIRGINIA/AURORA, Gloria Dei/Redeemer—Calling a Seminary Graduate

WHEATON/MONSON, St. John/Immanuel (Vacancy Pastor— Rev. George Sagissor)

OTHER CALLS AND CHANGES

Rev. David Laue (East Grand Forks) received Calls to St. John Lutheran Church , Almond, WI and St. John/Bethlehem Lutheran Churches, Edgar/Milan, WI. He declined both Calls.

Rev. Steve Benson (Brainerd) received a Call to Trinity, Centralia, IL.. He declined the Call.

COMMISSIONED MINISTER CHANGES

ALEXANDRIA, Zion Lutheran Church and School Called Principal Andrew Strickland, Green Bay, WI. He accepted the Call.

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. 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 , the LCMS prays that these resources are helpful. Learn more [HERE](#).

Recognized Service Organizations:

DOXOLOGY: Pastors are leaders and spiritual caregivers. 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 [RESPITE 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. 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. Michael Breach (St. John, Wheaton), dealing with medical issues.

Marv Kading (District Board of Directors), recovering after surgery.

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.

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

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

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

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.

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

Rev. Fred Kutter (em. Albany), 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), 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:

Jordan DeBoer, Crookston, studying at CTSFW

Josef Muench, Duluth, STM student at CTSFW

Erik Saunders, Grand Marais, studying at CTSFW

Rev. Carl Seim, Elk River, continuing his studies 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 and 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.

APRIL PRAYER CALENDAR

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Emmanuel, Elk River - Rev. Terry Grzybowski	2
3	4 Lord of Glory, Elk River - Rev. Marty Mably	5 First, Ely - Rev. Zachariah Burgdorf	6 St. Matthews, Esko - Rev. Tom Brinkley	7 St. Paul, Euclid - Rev. Doug Thompson	8 Trinity, Millerville - Rev. Roger Lange, VP	9
10	11 Faith, Fergus Falls - Rev. Jay Weideman	12 Immanuel, Friberg - Rev. Jay Weideman	13 St. John, Elizabeth - Rev. Craig Palach, VP	14 Trinity, Fergus Falls - Rev. Chris Lieske	15 Peace, Finlayson - Rev. Don Polege, VP	16
17	18 St. Paul, Bruno - Rev. Don Polege, VP	19 Trinity, Fisher - Rev. Doug Thompson	20 St. Paul, Foley - Rev. Dr. T.J. Rehwaldt	21 Bethany, Ramey - vacant	22 Lord of the Lakes, Forest Lake - Rev. Craig Bertram	23
24	25 Bethlehem, Frazee - Rev. Ed Borhardt	26 St. John, Height of Land - Rev. Bill Knaack	27 St. Paul, Evergreen - Rev. Thomas Batchelder	28 St. John, Garfield - Rev. Jeff Ross	29 Shepherd of the Lake, Garrison - Rev. Tom Petersen, VP	30

CONTACT US

Rev. Don Fondow, District President
Diana Ruopp, Admin. Ass't

don.fondow@mnnlcms.org
diana.ruopp@mnnlcms.org

Lutheran Witness Editor

Rev. Philip Hoppe (320) 233-6138
the.lutheran.witness@mnnlcms.org

Mission & Ministry Facilitators:

Rev. Jeffrey Lee [MaCO]
Rev. Monte Meyer [PLaN]

jeffrey.lee@mnnlcms.org
monte.meyer@mnnlcms.org

Gift Planning Counselor:

Mr. David Priebe
david.priebe@mnnlcms.org

Bookkeeper - Angie Ringstrom
LCEF VP - Rev. Jeff Lee

angie.ringstrom@mnnlcms.org
jeff.lee@lcef.org

District Secretary:

Rev. Marty Mably, Elk River
pastormarty@lordofglorylutheran.org

Church Worker Care Coordinator:

Rev. Paul Cloeter
paul.cloeter@mnnlcms.org

District Treasurer:

Mr. Mike Uran
treasurer@mnnlcms.org

Congregational Care Counselor:

Rev. George Sagissor, III
congregationalcare@mnnlcms.org

District Archivist

Rev. John Beck
john6beck@gmail.com

Committee on Constitutions & District Memberships:

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



Minnesota North District
THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

Mail: PO Box 604, Brainerd, MN 56401-0604

Phone: 218/829-1781 800/482-5022

e-mail: mnndist@mnnlcms.org

Fax: 218/829-0037

website: www.mnnlcms.org