



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH



Trinity youth serves for Valentine's Day

The Trinity, Isle, youth group sponsored their annual "Sweetheart Dinner" in February. The youth helped with a variety of chores, including checking guests in, supervising the coat check and serving meals. Pictured is one of the youth, Aria Mueller, with, from left, Linda and Gene Brunk and Harold and Maxine Harms.



St. John's, Grey Eagle, has 100-plus *Lutheran Worship* hymnals (blue) and an organist book to give away. Contact Rev. Michael Bitz at 320-429-1684.



'Bring it home' in a big way

In 2018, through the Minnesota North District Convention, members of our congregations were encouraged to read the great stories of the Bible. As a result, a family devotional series called "Bring it Home — Reading the Great Stories of the Bible" was introduced. Thousands of copies of Bible story books and devotionals were used within the district and also among several other LCMS districts.

Since then, the Minnesota North District has released two other family devotional materials: "Bring it Home and HighLight it" and "Bring it Home — the Life of Christ."

All of these materials will be reprinted and available for those attending the district convention May 9-11 in Brainerd. The materials, from Concordia Publishing House, will be available for steep discounts at convention and throughout the summer. A fourth release in the "Bring it Home" series, "Bring it Home — What Does This Mean," is based on Luther's Small Catechism.

For more information on how to receive these family-based devotionals or to purchase these books at a discount, visit mnnlcms.org, go to the "Churches and Schools" tab and select "Bring it Home" from the drop-down menu.



BIBLE BOWL returns after one-year hiatus

For more than a decade, Immanuel Lutheran School, Walker, has hosted the Minnesota Bible Bowl, and the 2022 event, held in March was extra special since the 2021 bowl schools participated in the event: Zion, Alexandria; Our Savior's, Crookston; St. Paul Falls; and Immanuel, Walker. Students in grades 4-8 were challenged in their biblical knowledge of questions. Throughout the competition, the judges helped to keep the students motivated with information on various questions and answers. Janna Kietzman, Immanuel principal, said, "We can meet together around God's Word and in Christian fellowship once again after a one-year hiatus."



Christ's love in quilts

The Quilters Guild of St. John's, Vergas, has been very busy on Monday afternoons, making quilts for local and international mission work. This past February, the ladies donated 54 quilts to Orphan Grain Train for distribution to those in need worldwide. Pictured is the Quilters Guild with all of the quilts they donated.



Sota North District Lutheran School was canceled. Five Lutheran schools, Perham; St. John, Thief River Falls, and others, participated in a knowledge contest during six rounds. The children relaxed and shared background information. A representative stated: "We are so thankful that the pandemic year."



Members treated to Finnish pancakes

Learning about our Lord can also bring about times of service and fun. The Trinity, Isle, confirmation class had a bit of both as they held its annual Finnish pancake meal. Prior to the Ash Wednesday worship service, the youth provided the pancakes to the congregation. Pictured are, from left (in front) Ethan Peterson, Abigail Peterson, Leila Gallion, Abbie Gallion; (in back) Lucas Peterson, Rev. Mark Maunula and Aria Mueller.

Kids in the KITCHEN

Scripture declares, "Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers" (PROV. 17:6). The congregation of Trinity, Sauk Rapids, recently experienced this truth as the children served the congregation a "Kids in the Kitchen" breakfast fundraiser in March. Willing children with joyful hearts (and parental supervision) prepared and served the meal. The event was well received and a great success as over \$1,000 was raised for Lutheran Island Camp scholarships.



Counselor's Corner



Of first importance

What is of first importance in your life? Paul answers the question for us:

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. **1 COR. 15:3-4**

He tells us that Jesus is of first importance. Why? Jesus is the foundation of life. He is the basis of who we are. Easter is the heart and soul of what the church confesses and teaches the world. For 2,000 years, the message proclaimed is this: Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

Why do we keep coming back? What holds the church together? Jesus does, and not a building, not a pastor, not money. Jesus is alive and active among us. His resurrection, as the culmination of God's promise to save you, is the most important event in history.

Remember those calendars with red numbers and letters to highlight special days? Easter is a gold-letter day. It is of first importance. But we face a problem once we walk out of Easter service. All of the celebrating is done. That gold-letter quality seems to fade, doesn't it? It has only been a couple of weeks since we celebrated Easter, but already our thoughts turn to other things. Life takes over and may push Jesus out of that first spot. There may be days we don't even think about Je-

sus, let alone see Him as of first importance. Our culture, society and world we live aren't of much help here. Way back in 1966, *Time* magazine published an issue — at Easter, mind you — asking “Is God Dead?” What a shame.

The world changes. Magazine articles come and go. But God's church will continue to do what it has always done. We will stand together and confess our faith in the creeds. We will say over and over what is of first importance: “I believe ... in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. ... The third day He rose again from the dead.”

We will baptize in the name of the Triune God. We will proclaim Jesus in our sermons and services, at home and at work. We will proclaim Jesus of first importance at confirmation, weddings and funerals. We will reach out and share Jesus with the world around us.

To the disciples, the resurrection was of first importance. The day they saw Jesus alive again was a gold-letter day. And every day afterward, they lived in the power and presence of Jesus, with hope and purpose. Every day they came back to the heart and core of who God made them through faith in His Son. This Gospel was of first importance then and remains so today. Salvation is only through Christ and that is why He remains of first importance in our lives.

Rev. Reed Stockman
Lakeland Pastoral Counselor

Plan to attend retreat

The LWML Minnesota North District Retreat will be held Aug. 12-14 at Lutheran Island Camp. There will be break-out sessions on various topics led by district pastors.

More information is available at lwmlmnn.org/mnnretreat.html.

Convention ingatherings

The LWML Minnesota North District Convention will be held June 20-22 at the Marriott in Moorhead. The following items are needed for ingatherings:

For Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch
New items are playing cards, socks, school supplies (no glue, scissors, spiral notebooks, mechanical pencils — nothing with metal), bath/body products for sensitive skin (nothing containing alcohol, like mouthwash), toilet paper and other paper products. Gently used items include Legos and balls of any kind.

For The Perry Center
New items are baby clothing (new-born-12 months), diapers (new-born-size 6), formula, baby wipes, diaper rash cream, baby soap/lotion.

For MOST Ministries
Collect and bring used eyeglasses. They will be recycled and given to people in developing countries.

Convention servant events

- ▶ Plastic sleeping mats will be prepared (bring only as many plastic bags as you will cut at the event). If you have a favorite N, O, P or Q crochet hook, please bring it.
- ▶ Witness bracelets and finger puppets will be prepared. All supplies will be provided. (You may bring an H, J or K crochet hook.)
- ▶ Cards will be created for cancer patients (all supplies will be provided).