



# DISTRICT NEWS

## MINNESOTA NORTH

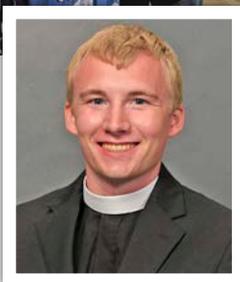
### Set Apart to Serve

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), held Call Day and vicarage assignment services in April. The Minnesota North District received four candidates and two vicars. Please keep these faithful servants and their families in your prayers!



#### CTSFW

From left, Rev. Dr. Donald Fondow, who recently retired as district president, is pictured with Eric and Rebecca Souer (pastor, St. John's, Barnesville); Josef and Tessa Muench (pastor, Trinity, Twin Valley); and Nathaniel and Hannah Konkel (pastor, Peace, Finlayson, and St. Paul's, Bruno). At right, Luke Otten was assigned as vicar to Redeemer, St. Cloud.



#### CSL

Caleb Worrall was called as pastor to Shepherd of the Lake, Garrison.



Brandon Johnson was assigned as vicar to Our Redeemer, Moorhead.



### District has new president

Rev. Brady Finnern was elected to his first three-year term as president of the Minnesota North District at the district's 24th convention, held May 9-11 in Brainerd. He replaces Rev. Dr. Donald Fondow, who has retired.



**Rev. Brady Finnern**

Finnern had previously served as pastor of Messiah, Sartell, and district third vice-president. He hosts the Bible study "Thy Strong Word" on KFYO.

Also elected were:

- ▶ Rev. Dr. Karl Weber (St. John's, Ottertail, and St. Paul, Richville) as first vice-president;
- ▶ Rev. Kirk Lee (Immanuel, Parkers Prairie) as second vice-president; and
- ▶ Rev. Bruce Timm (Redeemer, St. Cloud) as third vice-president.

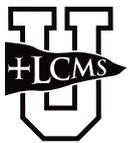
Delegates adopted resolutions to:

- ▶ Create a task force to study possibilities by which congregations can be served without closing sites;
- ▶ Encourage support for *Christ's Care for Children: Kenya* and continue support for Project 24;
- ▶ Financially support the ongoing efforts of the CROSS (Congregations Reaching Out to Support Schools) appeal to assist our schools above and beyond their normal operating budgets for the next triennium;
- ▶ Give thanks for and encourage support of Lutheran Island Camp; and
- ▶ Affirm the biblical doctrines of creation, original sin, and redemption; and reject critical theory.



## Supporting our students

Campus ministries serve a vital role in the outreach and continuing growth of the young people of our congregations. One such example in our district is the work of Rev. Joshua Reber, pastor of Trinity, Clear Lake, and Faith, St. Cloud. He has been leading students of St. Cloud State University in a Bible study.



## Mercy for Ukraine

Our Redeemer, Moorehead, served as a gathering area for a community-wide effort to collect supplies for Ukrainian refugees. Kirk Rosin of the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) branch in Jamestown, N.D., and Becky Schmitz, a member of Our Redeemer, organized the effort. For one week, donations were counted, boxed, weighed and labeled. Then Rosin drove an OGT truck with the supplies to Norfolk, Neb., where they were then sent to those in need. There was a great abundance of supplies filling 117 boxes. The congregation thanks to all who participated.





## 80 years of LWML!

In celebrating 80 years, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League has challenged its members with a question: "What's your 80?" Each member, group, zone or district has been encouraged to reflect God's love by blessing others with 80 of something, remembering events from the last 80 years, or sharing legacy concepts for carrying forth the LWML mission. The LWML of Trinity, Twin Valley, answered by collecting 80 cans of food that were donated to a food pantry.

## Rally in Montevideo

St. Luke, Wood Lake, hosted the district LWML Montevideo Zone's Spring Rally on April 24. Alfrieda B. Baldwin, founder of Laurel Community School, St. Paul, spoke at the event (pictured).



After retiring from her career as an attorney in 2013, she focused her attention on what she observed as problems in public schools, including students' lack of discipline and diminished writing skills, and the public schools' growing hostility toward Christianity. As a result, she started the Laurel Community School with one room, one teacher and a capacity of 15 students.

For the rally's ingathering, the ladies collected a number of children's books.

## Share your news with us!

We are always in need of more submissions for the Minnesota North District *Lutheran Witness* insert. They help remind us of what God is doing around the district. It is also a way to share ideas for nurturing those God has already gathered into His church and for reaching those still outside of the flock with the Good News about Jesus. It finally reminds each of us that Christ's church is much larger than just our particular congregation.

We welcome pictures and stories of congregational events, youth events, outreach events, installations, events from your men's or women's group, servant events, conferences, anniversaries, church renovations or additions, and much more. If you would like an upcoming event publicized, please make sure we have the information at least two months in advance.

**Submissions for the October issue are needed by Aug. 15.**

Please send submissions to [the.lutheran.witness@mnnlcms.org](mailto:the.lutheran.witness@mnnlcms.org). You may also mail your submissions to Emmanuel Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 12, Backus, MN 56435, attn. Rev. Travis Lauterbach.

Please ensure photos sent electronically are high resolution. Send the largest size from your phone.

Counselor's Corner



# SERVE WITH GLADNESS

In Luke 17, Jesus tells a story about a servant laboring through his assigned tasks all day. Then, at the end of the day, the master expected the servant to clean up and still prepare supper for him. There would be no praise or thanks! Jesus then tells us:

“So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’” LUKE 17:10

Does this seem harsh, to not receive any thanks? Have you ever been miffed about not being thanked for your hard work and so stopped your serving? But were you not “serving the Lord and not people” (Ephesians 6)? Paul described himself as a servant of Christ Jesus. Why? Because by amazing grace, Christ has purchased him and all believers by the shedding of His innocent blood on the cross.

For now we are servants of God, but Jesus has also called us His “friends” who have an eternal kingdom

waiting for us. Even the biggest things we can do are very little compared to what our Redeemer has accomplished for us — to save us.

So our Master may assign us to serve Him in poor conditions — including being mocked, having some very long days, being abandoned by others who could help, or feeling unnoticed. Yet our Master knows and sees all; we are not on our own. We have first been served, bought at a price and baptized with the promise of His helping Spirit.

You and I have been called into the labors of love and assigned with fitting tasks by the One who knows us. In this living faith, we may not hear the words “thank you” very often. But doing our duty, we are eagerly waiting to hear those other words:

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

MATT. 11:28

**Rev. Matthew Vrudny**  
Park Region Pastoral Counselor

# Convention Summary



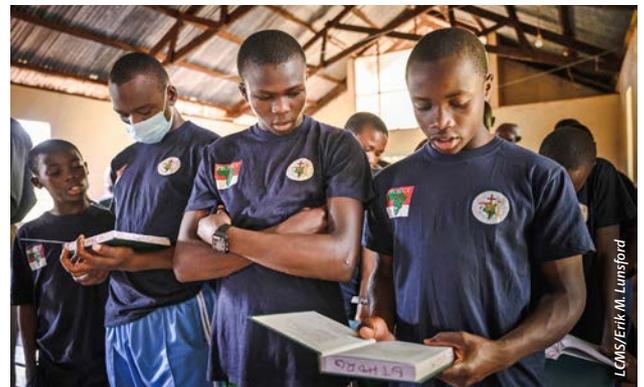
The LWML Minnesota North District convention was held June 20-22 in Moorhead under the theme “Drawn to the Cross.”

**Officers elected** for the 2022-24 biennium were:

- ▶ Valerie Johnson, executive vice-president
- ▶ Terry Schoenborn, recording secretary
- ▶ Jan Carlson, financial secretary
- ▶ Jolene Henning, Arrowhead II Region vice-president
- ▶ Teresa Klatt, Lakeland II Region vice-president
- ▶ Karen Gorentz, Park II Region vice-president
- ▶ Gayle Ruesch-Clark, vice-president of Communication
- ▶ Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy, pastoral counselor, Arrowhead

The **Mission Grant** goal for the 2022-24 biennium was set for \$145,000. The grants are:

1. Orphan Grain Train, \$10,000
2. C.R.O.S.S. Appeal, \$18,000
3. Scholarships for men preparing for ordination, 8,000
4. Lutheran Island Camp, \$10,000
5. Scholarships for full-time church work students, \$32,000
6. Swaddling Clothes, \$10,000
7. *Main Street Living* ministry outreach television program, \$10,000
8. DOXOLOGY pastoral care and well-being, \$15,000
9. Project 24, Christ’s Care for Children: Kenya, \$10,800
10. New Shepherds for South Sudan, \$7,500
11. Promoting an Inclusive Christian Housing Community of Faith, \$13,700



Young men and boys of the Othoro (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya) Project 24 worship in February. Project 24 is a current district mission grant recipient.