



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH

'Adopt' a chaplain

CMS Ministry to the Armed Forces (MAF) has a program called "Adopt-a-Chap." Congregations can be matched up with an active or reserve chaplain to provide encouragement and support. No financial commitment or aid is needed or expected. Congregations that participate keep the chaplain and his family in prayer, and are in regular communication with the chaplain and learn about his specialized ministry. The congregation of Hope, Munger, are participating and have adopted Rev. Paul Sauer, who serves as a chaplain at Moffett Federal Airfield Chapel in California.

"It was a simple yet fun event that



Congregation members of Hope, Munger, watch a video of their "adopted" chaplain, Rev. Paul Sauer, who is answering members' questions about his ministry.

allowed my parishioners to hear from one of our own in that vocation," said Rev. Stafford Thompson, Hope pastor. "Lord willing more chaplains can be adopted

if other congregations hear about this program." To learn more or begin the process, call MAF at 314-996-1337.

CONFIRMATIONS

Four youth of Trinity, Isle, were confirmed on May 1. Pictured are, from left, Ethan Peterson, Rev. Mark Maunula, Abbie Gallion, Aria Mueller, Lucas Peterson and LeAnn Gregoire, Kettle River Zone Circuit youth worker and confirmation instruction assistant. Each received a personalized copy of *Lutheran Book of Prayer* from Trinity's LWML.



Karter Potz was confirmed at Nicolai Lutheran Church, Canby, on Palm Sunday, April 10. He is pictured with Rev. Dean Rager.

DISTRICT NEWS

INSTALLATIONS

Rev. David L. Steege was installed as pastor of Immanuel, Farming Township, on May 15. From left, Revs. Ben Hollingsead, Josh Reber, David Steege, Bruce Timm, David Buchs and Don Kirsch.



Rev. Daniel Gifford was installed as pastor of St. John, Wheaton, and Immanuel, Wheaton, on June 5. From left, Revs. Gordon Bock, Don Klatt, Nathaniel Biberdorf, Nathaniel Brown, Jason Wolter, Michael Breach, Daniel Gifford, William Aufdenkamp, Brady Finnern and George Sagissor III.

Rev. Caleb Worrall was installed as pastor of Shepherd of the Lake, Garrison, on July 10. From left, (front row) Revs. Paul Biegner, Karl Weber, Caleb Worrall, Tom Petersen: (back row) John Thomson, Frank Milo, Greg Coop, David Becker, Travis Lauterbach and Ron Carnicom.



MERCY

for African schoolchildren

"BE STILL, and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10) was the focus of the women's spring retreat held at Our Redeemer, Moorhead. Author and Bible study leader Deb Burma of Columbus, Neb., led the retreat attended by 75 women.

In another event, women prepared 8,202 Mercy Meals for the Orphan Grain Train (OGT) Jamestown, N.D., branch, which shipped the meals to Africa for school children. The participants also received help from the Our Redeemer children in packing the meals, which cost only 15 cents each.



Mothers, daughters honor dearly departed

The LWML of Holy Cross, St. Cloud, hosted their annual Mother-Daughter Luncheon on May 7. About 60 mothers and daughters attended the event, which was held under the theme of Psalm 23. Organizers set up a memory table honoring loved ones who have entered into eternal glory, and funds collected were given to the LWML in memory of them.

Share your news with us!

We love to feature a wide variety of events occurring in our district congregations. All that is needed is a brief description of the event and one or two photos. No event or announcement is too big or small.

Send submissions to *the.lutheran.witness@mnnlcmcs.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.

Counselor's Corner

Content to share THE GOSPEL

As I drive around in the country and look at the pastures, every so often I will see a cow with her head reaching between the fence wires trying to get at the grass that is outside of the fence, ignoring the grass that is easily accessible on the inside.

I often chuckle at the sight, but it sums up how many view their own lives. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence. Which begs the question — is it? Is the grass greener in bigger towns than it is in small towns? Is the grass greener in the neighbor's yard as opposed to your own? Or is it all just the same grass, and the only reason it looks greener is because it belongs to your neighbor and not to you?

The picture that society paints is that you always need to reach for the greener grass, no questions asked. You need to have a better life, regardless of what

your life right now looks like. You need to work hard and neglect what you have before you, and you too can be happy.

But what if what you have right in front of you is enough to make you happy? What if the grass on the other side of the fence is only greener because somebody painted it that way? What if you do not need to move to be happy because you are happy right where you are?

Sometimes God calls His people to pick up and move to far off places. Sometimes God wants His people to exceed the limitations that others have placed on them. Sometimes God wants you to do something that is completely different from everyone else around you.

But not always. There are many people whom God has called to stay where they are. There are countless people who do not need to chase some far-flung ideal that society has determined to be true. There are people, perhaps you, who see the grass on the other side of the fence for what it so often is — just the grass that somebody else has to mow.

Jesus did call the apostles to take the

Gospel to the ends of the earth, but not everyone who heard it was called to ensure that the Gospel went back the other way. The unsung heroes, whom we so rarely hear about, are those who stayed in Corinth, Galatia, Rome, Thessalonica, Ephesus, Philippi, and elsewhere and built up the churches and lived as God's people in those places.

We tend to hear the Great Commission in Matthew 28 and assume that we have to get up and go someplace else in order to fulfill it, when really the Gospel needs to be preached and the Sacraments administered right where we are.

Do you need to move? Do you need to go search out greener pastures? Do you need more to be happy? Or do you just need to turn around and realize that everything you need is already there? God has called you to believe, teach and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord. That can happen 1,000 miles away, or it can happen right where you are.

Rev. Reed Stockman
Lakeland Region Pastoral Counselor



THE LWML MINNESOTA NORTH DISTRICT BOARD OF DIRECTORS for the 2022-24 biennium includes, from left (seated) Ruby Prochnow, Teresa Klatt, JoNette Brogaard, Mary Scott; (standing) Rev. Matthew Vrudny, Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy, James Wagner, Kathy Steinmetz, Rev. Reed Stockman, Valerie Johnson, Jean Tester, Terry Schoenborn, Janice Carlson, Kathy Brandt, Gayle Ruesch Clark, Marcia Wittenburg, Karen Gorentz and Jolene Henning. Missing from the photo is Carol Borchers.

LWML Sunday

"For Us and With Us" is the theme for LWML Sunday 2022 and is based on Paul's letter to the Romans. Paul writes that each of us has faced challenges and circumstances greater than our own strength (Rom. 8:31-39), but in Christ, who is for us and with us, we are already more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time.

Find out more and download materials at lwml.org/lwml-sunday.