



# DISTRICT NEWS

## MINNESOTA NORTH

### Well done, good and faithful servants

#### *DCE recognized for 40 years*

On May 22, the members of Trinity, New York Mills, prepared well and managed to surprise Gary Bach, their director of Christian education (DCE), with a celebration for his 40 years of service as a DCE to Synod, 25 of which have been at Trinity.

Rev. Scott Sailer, South Dakota District president, was the guest preacher for the service. The celebration continued with a lunch and a program emceed by fellow DCE Christopher Brown of St. Paul's, Perham. Several of Trinity's members also spoke.

Gary and his wife, Laurie, will take a trip to Germany this summer, so the congregation gave the couple gifts of funds to help cover the costs and a beer stein.

Pictured are, from left, Rev. Scott and Sarah Sailer, Laurie and Gary Bach, and Tamara and Rev. Kirk Douglas, Trinity pastor.



#### *Pastor celebrates 60 years*

Rev. Robert Friedrich celebrated his 60th ordination anniversary on June 26 with a potluck held at Redeemer, Willmar. He is seated at left, next to his brother, Rev. Henry Friedrich. Their other two brothers, Martin and Bill, also were pastors, as was their father.

Also pictured are, from left, Revs. Dr. Brian Friedrich (president of Concordia University, St. Paul, and Henry's son), Dr. Don Fondow, Matt Canion, Jack Baumgarn, David Baumgarn (Jack's son) and Loren Kruse.



# Piano students make a joyful melody

Miriam Mueller serves as music director of Trinity, Isle, and also teaches piano. Her students held their annual recital last spring.

Under the theme "Choose Your Own Adventure," participants selected their own pieces to play. Emphasizing the importance of music, the bulletin's cover stated: "Music is Life. That's why our hearts have beats."

Senior Leah Melby received special recognition for having completed her regular lessons with Mueller, which began in 2016.



From left, (seated) Cadence Mueller, Abby Peterson; (standing) Leah Melby, Miriam Mueller, Thaddeus Mueller, Josiah Mueller, Lucas Peterson, Jenna Carlson, Aria Mueller and Addy Turgeon.

## Working behind the scenes



A lot of effort goes into putting on something as big as the LCMS Youth Gathering. In order to run the event as smoothly as possible, the aid of many volunteers is needed. Among those 500 volunteers, Trinity, Isle, members Kristen Gotfredson (left) and Emma Dangers served as young adult volunteers at the Gathering held July 9-13 in Houston. All volunteers received training to help the Gathering's 20,000 attendees navigate the various venues for the five-day event. Volunteers were selected based on an application and references. This was the second Gathering for Dangers and the third for Gotfredson.

## 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 December issue are needed by Dec. 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.



## Trinity welcomes Pastor Muench

Rev. Josef Muench was ordained and installed as pastor of Trinity, Twin Valley, on Aug. 28. This is Pastor Muench's first call after recently graduating from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Pictured are, from left (front row) Revs. Brock Schmeling, Christopher Durham, David Muench (Josef's uncle), Zachariah Burgdorf, Josef Muench, David Walsh, Bruce Blocker, Nathaniel Konkel, Ronald Hobbie, Thomas Batchelder; (middle row) Larry Harvala, Douglas Thompson, Philip Houser, Timothy Schmeisser, Steven Bohler, Stafford Thompson, Eric Souer; (back row) Brady Finnern, Jim Meyer and Eli Voigt. Missing from the photo is Rev. Joshua Reber.

## Love for neighbor from God's garden

The congregations of Ebenezer, Alexandria, and St. James, Parkers Prairie, conducted their eighth annual "Gifts from God's Garden" outreach events on Aug. 12 and 26. Members worked together to deliver produce to neighbors. They packaged 37 over both events.

The congregations have found the annual event to be a great way for rural churches to reach out into the community, get to know their neighbors and also show care for their home-bound members. Nearly 300 boxes of produce have been given away over the first eight years.





# Ladies blessed at retreat

Sixty district LWML members, guests and pastors gathered at Lutheran Island Camp Aug. 12-14 for their annual retreat. Under the theme, “He Who Has Ears, Let Him Hear” (based on Matt. 13:9), the weekend began with a picnic supper, a Bible study titled “Hermeneutics — WDTM?”

and a campfire with singing and snacks on Friday night. On Saturday, participants were able to choose from a variety of breakout session topics led by Revs. Bruce Timm, Ben Hollingsead, David Buchs and Josh Reber. During free time, there were a number of activities to enjoy, including

a tour of Christ Serve Ranch, a performance by Jessie the Juggler, a prayer walk, crafts, a book exchange, relaxing, visiting with friends and exploring the beauty of the island.

On Sunday morning, the group attended a prayer service in the chapel before leaving for home.

Mark your calendars for next year’s retreat — Aug. 11-13, 2023.

## Counselor’s Corner

# GOD’S MAILMEN

A saying of Greek historian Herodotus became a motto of the U.S. Postal Service: “Neither snow, nor rain, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.”

The Lord can use even pagan poetry to remind us of those apostles He sent out to deliver the Good News of His salvation. Neither the great distances involved, nor the apathy of many hearers, nor the hatred of the enemies of the cross could keep them from carrying on their kingdom mission.

In 2 Corinthians 11, Paul cites his own personal list of obstacles, including



beatings and shipwrecks. Yet he still delivered the precious message:

Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.

1 TIM. 1:15

What kinds of hindrances or excuses for not sharing the Good News pop up today for the Lord’s church and the LWML? Or do we see snow, rain and gloom of night as times

made expressly for the sharing of our Savior’s Good News?

In our own history, Martin Luther’s 95 Theses in defense of the Gospel, opposed by the papacy, still spread in about four weeks, helped by the printing press. Swift indeed!

Then, and today, heavenly angels did not need to be the messengers. The bearers of the Good News of great joy to all the world are the simple, faithful women and men whom God places in families, work places and communities.

They live lives of daily repentance, mercy, obedience and peace in Christ and His Word.

Lord, send Your people of Word and Spirit on their appointed rounds that Your saving message would be received!

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

