



/ FEBRUARY 2023

DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH



Thank you veterans

The congregation of Our Redeemer, Cohasset, honored their members who served in the U.S Armed Forces for Veterans Day in November.

Also, the Our Redeemer Quilters prepared and gifted beautifully handcrafted, patriotic-themed quilts for the veterans.



Trinity blessed with more space



On Sept. 11, the congregation of Trinity, Millerville Township, held a ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for its new education wing.

Prior to building the new facility, Sunday school classes were held in various corners of the sanctuary, narthex and sacristy. Trinity members were immediately able to make good use of the facility when they gathered to assemble advent wreaths for each family to enjoy.

Rev. Roger Lange is pictured presiding over the dedication.

Welcome!

Zion, Hoffman, recently welcomed two of its newest members, Karen and Dennis Hoffman, who are pictured with Rev. William Aufdenkamp. Also pictured is a dahlia from the Hoffman's garden.



Bazaar

Peace, Finlayson, held its annual Bazaar on Nov. 12. The event has been organized for many years by the congregation's Women of Peace group. The Bazaar features crafts and baked goods, and a lunch that features homemade soups, sandwiches and pies.



BLESSINGS IN ISLE



TOP: During an October worship service at Trinity, Isle, Allie Gallion, a second-grader, received personalized copies of *The Lutheran Study Bible* and *Luther's Small Catechism*. The congregation's annual Bible presentation is sponsored by its LWML. Rev. Mark Maunula, Trinity pastor, gave Allie the catechism on behalf of the congregation. Allie is the daughter of Jason and RaNae Gallion. **BELOW:** Trinity, Isle received three new members into the congregation. Pictured welcoming Char and Kirby Kruse are Pastor Maunula and Mike Dangers (at right). Missing from the photo is Margie Koch (Char's mother).

Servant Events back in full swing

Registration is now open for a full summer of LCMS Servant Events in 2023. After several summers of irregular events and limited scheduling due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Servant Event leaders and youth alike are excited to be back in full swing.

LCMS congregations, summer camps and Recognized Service Organizations across the country will host Servant Events from May through August. Volunteer opportunities — geared toward high-schoolers but open to other ages — range from

building trails in Colorado, to doing home maintenance for families in need in Appalachian Ohio, to providing community outreach for refugee children in the Fort Wayne area.

For a list of upcoming Servant Events and more information on event dates and registration, visit lcms-servantevents.org.

WHAT'S YOUR 80?

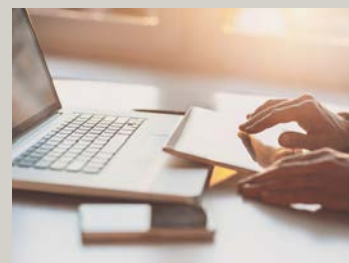


The LWML is celebrating its 80th anniversary (1942-2022) under the theme "What's Your 80?" LWML groups are encouraged to bless others with 80 or more of something in thanksgiving to God. The LWML of St. Paul's Loon Lake, Vergas, donated 80 stocking caps locally and to Orphan Grain Train. Penny Perry crocheted all 80 caps by herself in one week. Pictured are, from left, Diana Wallace, Sonya Gunderson, Pat Strand, Phyllis Fick, Penny Perry, Bev Flatland, Donna Hoffman and Polly Moltzan.



The LWML of Emmanuel, Backus, celebrated by gathering more than 80 hygiene items that were donated to the Pine River-Backus Family center. Pictured are, from left, Carin Chaney, Nancy Miller, Sue Milo, Tessa Giru and Pat Hansen.

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@mnnlcnms.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 sized photo from your camera or phone. Many email programs will try to resize the photos, but please send the original size.

Minnesota STATE BIBLE BOWL 2023

Get your teams together for the Minnesota State Bible Bowl, to be held April 1 at Concordia University, St. Paul.

The competition is open to students in grades 7-12 who attend an LCMS church or school in the Minnesota North or Minnesota South districts. The topic will be "The Life of Moses," based on Ex. 1-20 and 32-34 (ESV).

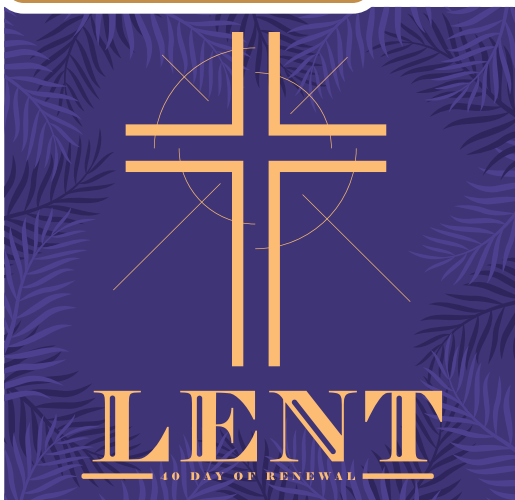
The team competition, made up of 3-4 players, is a double elimination, verbal, fast-paced quiz format. The individual competition is a written

50-question, multiple-choice test. There are no limits for four-person teams per church, but there is a limit of 3 three-person teams per church.

The cost is only \$40 per team! Send the registration fee (checks payable to MN State Bible Bowl) and the names of each participant **by March 15** to Rev. Rudy Maurer; c/o St. John Lutheran Church; P.O. Box 37; Good Thunder, MN 53037-0037.

For more information, contact Pastor Maurer at 507-278-3169 or visit mnbiblebowl.org.

Counselor's Corner



We will join Christians around the world in observing the beginning of Lent on Feb. 22. Lent is a deeply spiritual season as we reflect on the tremendous love and sacrifice Jesus made for us so that we might have forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

The price of our redemption was overwhelming. As Dr. Martin Luther writes in his explanation of the second article of the Apostles' Creed:

I believe that Jesus Christ ... is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from

the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death.

As Jesus Himself said:
"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." JOHN 15:13 NIV

Dr. Luther continued in his second-article explanation to state that Jesus made this supreme sacrifice so that:

I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives, and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.

This is to be the pattern for the life of a Christian disciple and steward.

In Jesus we have been redeemed from all sins, including that of selfishly wanting to use all of God's blessings for our own needs and wants, rather than using them to His glory and the welfare of our neighbor.

Selfishness and greed are two common enemies we struggle against as we strive to live a Christian life. We are all too aware that many people are driven by

the love of money and will engage in dishonest acts to obtain it, but they are not alone. Greed and coveting are our constant companions as we journey through life, always seeking to have their way with us.

Instead of seeing ourselves as managers of the gifts that God has given to us, we are inclined to see God's blessings simply as gifts to be hoarded for our own benefit.

Lent provides us with an excellent opportunity to reflect on our lives and repent of all of our sins, including those that find their sources in the greed and coveting found in our own hearts. Forgiveness for these sins is the greatest treasure we have acquired, and it is not something we earned ourselves.

Our salvation was purchased by the death of Christ on the cross. This great debt could not be paid by any amount of sacrifice on our part, nor could it be earned by our devotion and good deeds. Christ paid for our sins and offers us forgiveness and salvation as an act of grace.

Lent is a wonderful time to reflect on this great treasure, which is the only treasure we can take with us forever.

Rev. Reed Stockman
Lakeland Region Pastoral Counselor

Gathering over GOD'S WORD

A group of LWML members of Zion Lutheran Church, Alexandria, meet for home Bible study. Pictured are (clockwise from bottom left), Cathy Hollerman, JoNette Brogaard, Iva Kietzmann, Addie Totland, Carol Tewes, Ann Smith, Dorothy Wollmuth, Ruby Prochnow and Lisa Van Hout.

