



/ JUNE-JULY 2023

DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH



Students go Bible-bowling

Immanuel Lutheran School, Walker, hosted the annual Minnesota North District Bible Bowl on March 4. Children from schools all over the district participated in a test of their Bible and Small Catechism knowledge. Area pastors and teachers served as judges for the various grade levels. The event is a great opportunity for students and parents of various district schools to meet one another in a competitive yet fun environment. Students are pictured with their certificates.

Welcome!

On March 5, Nicolai Lutheran Church, Canby, celebrated New Member Sunday. Welcomed into the congregation were Brody Berends (front, left); Scott and Laurie Bliss (back); and Kiyanna, Erilynn, Kandyce and Elaynna Johnson.





Women enjoy LIC retreat

Forty women gathered March 17–19 for the annual retreat at Lutheran Island Camp. Minnesota native Katie Koplin, who co-hosts the “Freely Given” podcast, spoke on the topic “He Leads.” Her sessions focused on the way Jesus met people with His forgiveness in Scripture, and that He does the same for people today. The ladies in attendance also enjoyed great food, fellowship and a whole lot of fun. For more information on LIC’s programs, visit islandcamp.org.



‘Let Heaven and Nature Sing’

This was the theme for the Trinity, Isle, Sunday school Christmas program. The event featured several individual speaking roles and the congregation singing along with the children. Participants included, from left (front row) Jeremy Peterson, Allie Gallion, Teagan Larson, Owen Leach, Chloe Tramm; (back row) Abby Peterson, Abbie Gallion, Aria Mueller, Ava Mauer, Leila Gallion, Thaddeus Mueller, Hayden Leach, Cadence Mueller and Kenley Kohlgraf. Laura Horsch, Sunday school superintendent, directed the production. She was assisted by Sara Dangers and Miriam Mueller, Trinity music director.

Celebrate with Zion

The congregation of Zion, North Germany Township, is celebrating its 130th anniversary this year.

Under the theme “The Faithfulness of the Lord Endures Forever,” the congregation will celebrate on Sunday, Aug. 20. The Rev. Timothy Schmeisser, Zion pastor, will preach during the Celebratory Service at 10:30 am.

David Fiala, LCMS Mission Advocate serving Minnesota and Wisconsin, will assist in the Mission Festival Service at 1:30 pm.

Zion is located at 26985 County Road 23 in Sebeka.

Thank you, first responders



Members of Holy Cross, St. Cloud, decorated and delivered more than 30 dozen cookies to local police officers, firefighters and EMTs in appreciation for their service to the community. As an extra show of love, the Holy Cross Sunday school children made a contribution to the effort, creating beautiful cards that were included in each cookie box.

Proclaiming truth to Jehovah's Witnesses

Every One His Witness® (E1HW) is the LCMS resource for equipping Lutherans to share the Gospel with the people they encounter in their everyday lives.

"Witnessing to Jehovah's Witnesses" is now available. The module encourages faithful Christians, rather than hiding from Jehovah's Witnesses or avoiding conversations with them, to see interactions with them as "opportu-

nities to bring the Good News to people oppressed by the burdens of the Law and false teachings about Jesus."

The program's core module is available at no cost at everyonehiswitness.org. Use access code "E1HWFREE" to register. The core module kit is also available for congregational use from Concordia Publishing House at cph.org/everyonehiswitness.

Share your news with us!

Why publicize your congregation's stories in *The Lutheran Witness* district Insert?

- ▶ It reminds people that Christ is active in His church in so many ways.
- ▶ It gives readers a sense of the larger body of Christ, that they have brothers and sisters engaged in the same work.
- ▶ It gives congregations ideas for events and outreach.
- ▶ It helps former members to see what is going on in their former congregations.
- ▶ It aids other congregations in knowing who to reach out to when they need resources or referrals for a project they are considering.

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

Counselor's Corner

Only ONE who can help

Where do you go for guidance? There are so many options out there in the world today. You can call Delilah, the coast-to-coast radio broadcaster. You may even contact Dr. Phil or send a letter to Dear Abby. All the ways we could find advice begins to sound a bit like a Dr. Seuss book: You can get it in your car, receive it in a bar. You can gaze to a star and even zoom from afar.

We go online in countless searches for help. Yet we never find it. The reason is simple. Because true guidance does not come from Dr. Phil, a bartender, or a book about becoming a better you. True guidance comes to us from a book that is not authored by a psychiatrist, attorney or celebrity. It is written by the One who formed the heavens and the earth, who knit your inmost being together, who knows your trials and struggles and who loves you and will never leave you. The guidance that comes to us from God comes to us in the Word that is living and active, that is never outdated, irrelevant or obsolete. Yes, sometimes the guidance revealed through its pages is what we don't want to hear, but it's what we need to hear. It is the only guidance that heals, strengthens and equips us for our lives in this world.

A woman said to me not too many years ago: "I thought by the time I was 80 I would have figured things out." Being lost and disoriented by the circumstances of our lives can be so frustrating. Yet we have all had moments when we felt lost. That is because every one of us is broken as a result of our sin. Nothing good lives in us or comes out of us without God working in and through our lives. Whether it's endurance through a rough time in a marriage, love shown to a rebellious child or forgiveness to a long-lost friend, all of it is possible because God lives in our lives.

The reason, no matter your age, you still haven't "figured it out" is because you need God and His Word, and that will never not be true. This was true when you were dead in your sin and our Lord moved and gave you the faith to see the sacrifice of His Son Jesus Christ as the atonement of our sin and the means of reconciliation with God. Just as it was true then, it is true now. We need that same message — as we wander and exchange God for the world — that we are forgiven because of His blood. It is true for us now as He still moves to us and causes us to see how He would have us live our lives as His children.

You are not the only one who is broken because of sin. Dr. Phil, Dear Abby, Delilah — they are broken. They all offer guidance outside of the Word of God, shortchanging you the true guidance that withstands the test of time. This especially goes for the horoscopes. The stars, those balls of gas burning in the sky, can't help you. The One who holds them in His hand and knows them by name can and does.

May His Word always serve as a lamp to your feet and light to your path (Ps. 119:105). To Him be all the glory.

Rev. Dr. Patrick Lovejoy • Arrowhead Region Pastoral Counselor

LWML Retreat

- Aug. 11-13
- Lutheran Island Camp, Henning

The theme is "Balancing Act Amid Life's Challenges." The Bible verse is from 1 Cor. 10:31:

Whatever you do, do it all for the Glory of God.

Balancing life's challenges will be our focus in Bible study. The study is very fitting for women of all ages.

The speakers for the retreat are Deb Vinkemeier and Katie Koplin. Deb Vinkemeier lives in Bigfork with her husband. She is very much involved in LWML, and recently served as president of the LWML Minnesota South District. Katie is contributor at 1517.org and co-hosts "Freely Given," a podcast about the freedom that comes with dependence on Christ. She lives in Elbow Lake with her husband and four children. She also writes devotionals and inspiring articles on her website: lovedinspiteofself.com.

More retreat information can be at lwmlmn.org. Go to "Events" and select "District Retreat" from the drop-down menu.

LWML RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Special needs _____

Roommates _____

Special Needs _____

Bringing a "first-timer"? Who? _____

Under 18 _____ First timer? _____

✓ Check Before Aug. 1 After Aug. 1

☐ Friday-Sunday \$150 \$160

☐ Friday-Saturday \$100 \$110

☐ Saturday Only \$80 \$90

Housing preference: ☐ Cabin ☐ Retreat Center

The Registration deadline is Aug. 4

There is an additional \$10 fee for late registration.
No refunds after Aug. 6.

Make check payable to: LWML MN North District

Send registration with check to: Valerie Johnson,
12651 110th St, Hoffman, MN 56339 (320-760-9540)