



/ AUGUST 2023

DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH

Welcome!

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis (CSL), and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW), held Call Day and vicarage/deaconess intern assignment services in April. Pictured with Rev. Brady Finnern, district president (at left in both photos), are the students who were called or assigned to serve in the Minnesota North District.



AT CTSFW: Zachary Klumpp, pictured with his wife, Kellie, and their son, Ralph, was called as pastor to Gloria Dei, Virginia, and Redeemer, Aurora.



AT CSL: Chad Berg was called as associate pastor to St. Johns, Park Rapids, and was scheduled to be ordained at St. Andrew, West Fargo, N.D. (his home congregation) on July 9 and installed at St. John's on July 16. Johnathan Chapa, pictured with his wife, Stephanie, was assigned as vicar to Redeemer, Moorhead.

*Please keep these faithful servants
and their families in your prayers.*



Love for neighbor

The quilters of St. John, Madison, were busy sewing quilts, diapers, boys' shorts and pillowcase dresses for Orphan Grain Train (OGT). When delivering the item to the OGT branch in Milbank, S.D., the group was able to visit and learn more about OGT's mission and needs. From left: Eunice Mork, Barb Halvorson, Cathy Mork, Liz Bremer, Norma Laechelt, Eleanor Block and Lois Sather.



CELEBRATE 125 YEARS with Immanuel

Immanuel, Bartlett Township, Verndale, invites you to join its members on Sept. 17 to celebrate its 125th anniversary.

The congregation's first service was held in a schoolhouse a half-mile east of the present location, 17097 460th St. The first building (still in use today) was built in 1918 with services held in German until 1941. The congregation opened a cemetery in 1901. Over the years, the congregation added a basement and narthex. Immanuel joined the LCMS in 1948.

Service begins at 10 a.m. and former Immanuel pastor Rev. Fred Kutter (emeritus) will be the preacher. A noon meal will follow the service. At 2 p.m., the congregation will hold a "remembering service," a time of fellowship with former pastors and members. Cake and coffee will be served at 3 p.m.



A pancake tradition



The confirmation class of Trinity, Isle, carried on the annual tradition of serving Finnish pancakes to the congregation prior to one of the Lenten services. The congregation was thankful for the culinary skills of, from left, Leila Gallion, Thaddeus Mueller, Rev. Mark Maunula, Abby Peterson and Abbie Gallion.

Trinity also recently added two new members through adult confirmation. From left, Mike Dangers (congregation president), new members Chad Adams and Dylan Hardy, and Pastor Maunula.



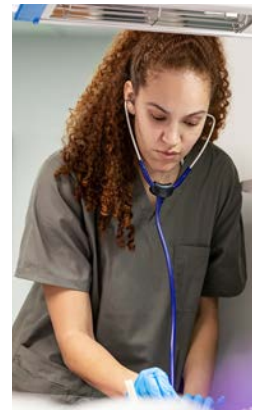
LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR **CONCORDIA UNIVERSITIES**

This summer's LCMS convention in Milwaukee (July 29–Aug. 3) is featuring significant discussions about the Concordia universities — their governance model and the entire system.

In preparation for these conversations, a new webpage is now available to provide relevant information in one place: the history of the Concordias, their growth from small Lutheran teacher training schools to competitive regional universities, the current pressures they face, and their future for years to come, by God's grace.

The page features a video from LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison. Watch the video and peruse the tabs that follow to learn about the treasure we have in the Concordia universities and the opportunity they have to grow and flourish through bold, faithful confession in the years to come.

Visit lcms.org/cus-future.





Fun, and frustration, at St. Johns

On March 26, congregation members and guests gathered together at St. Johns, Park Rapids, for Trivia Night. An evening of frivolous fun — along with a bit of frustration — the event raised funds for Good Shepherd Lutheran School, North Fort Meyers, Fla. The school sustained significant damage from Hurricane Ian in September 2022. Since November, St. Johns has donated more than \$11,000 to Good Shepherd through a Sunday service offering, Christmas basket auction, bake sale, general offering contributions, and the trivia night. Sunday school offerings for the year will also be sent to Good Shepherd. The congregation is blessed to be able to help their brothers and sisters in North Fort Meyers.



Dinner and a movie

The Evangelism Board of Trinity, Ortonville, has been holding "Supper and a Movie" on Sunday evenings. The showings have featured the first season of the series "The Chosen." Between 45 and 75 congregation and community members have enjoyed food, fellowship and Christian encouragement together during each week's event. "The Passion of the Christ" was shown on the evening of Easter Sunday.

Counselor's Corner

PURPOSE INDEED!

In John 17:15 Jesus says

"My prayer is not that You take them out of the world but that You protect them from the evil one."

Sometimes a person will ask, "Why has God left me here?" They ask because they feel old and alone and useless, or maybe just eager to be with Jesus in their heavenly home. Jesus wanted His disciples to stay in this world after He bodily left, despite the hardship, persecution and trouble they would face.

Why? Because every disciple, by virtue of the Spirit and gift of faith, plays a part in the ongoing mission of His church. Before ascending, He told His followers, including us:

"You will be My witnesses ... to the end of the earth."

ACTS 1:8

Every living disciple has His purpose, regardless of any weakness, age or condition. Even our small actions in support of His Gospel, such as a few words, a few mites or a few prayers for servants of the church has the ultimate goal of making disciples of all nations and the eternal saving of souls.

That's purpose! That's why God has left you and me here. Protecting our faith from the evil one, He makes our faith a witness for His amazing grace expressed at the cross and empty tomb. That's the prayer your Lord Jesus has made to the Father for you. When that voice of doubt wonders why you're still here, your faith has Jesus' answer: I am His witness!

Rev. Matthew Vrudny
Park Region Pastoral Counselor

Our district YWRs



Shawna Kohls, left, and Rachel Franck represented the district at the LWML convention in Milwaukee.

The LWML Minnesota North District was pleased to have two Young Woman Representatives (YWR) at the LWML 40th Biennial Convention in Milwaukee in June, along with 76 YWRs from 35 districts celebrating 50 years of the YWR program at the convention.

Our Minnesota North District YWRs were Rachel Franck, a member of Mount Olive, Duluth; and Shawna Kohls, a member of Good Shepherd, Alexandria.

At the convention the ladies were busy with various activities with the other YWRs. In addition, the women were also present at all the convention sessions and sat with the Minnesota North District delegation. A highlight of the convention was their participation in the district banner procession and the procession of the flags of 83 nations where the LWML has participated in missions.

Both ladies encourage young women to apply to be a LWML Minnesota North District YWR at a future convention. We appreciate our YWRs and look forward to seeing future participants at upcoming events.



Pictured are the voting delegates who represented the LWML Minnesota North District at the LWML 40th Biennial Convention in Milwaukee, held June 22-25.