



/ SEPTEMBER 2023

# DISTRICT NEWS

## MINNESOTA NORTH

### In memoriam

The Rev. Robert Friedrich was taken to be with Jesus in paradise on July 8. Pastor Friedrich was ordained in 1962. He served congregations in Iowa and Colorado before accepting a call in 1975 to Trinity and St. Peter's, Bellingham. He served those congregations until retirement in 2002.

A funeral service was held on July 17. Pictured are the pastors who were in attendance.



### *'We live by faith, not by sight'*



Trinity, Ortonville, is celebrating its first year as a production center for Lutheran Braille Workers. The center produces three *Mustard Seed* devotion books and the book of Revelation. A core group of Trinity members have volunteered over 500 hours and sent more than 350 books worldwide, mostly to unchurched people.

The congregation does so remembering what St. Paul says in 2 Cor. 5:7, "We live by faith, not by sight." Pictured are, from left (front row) Myron Mueller, Richard and Gail Boehnke, Rita Grim, Janice Hinders, Linda Raddatz, Becky Block, Noah Steinke, Betty Reinke; (back row) Jeff Jansen, Ron Thompson, Greg and Jane Streich, Neil Block, Beth Mueller and Kathy Rabe.



# Worship and outreach at Trinity, Isle



▲ Trinity, Isle, members and friends annually participate in a mission project in which they pack food for Feed My Starving Children. The Christian non-profit organization is headquartered in Coon Rapids. Volunteers packed vitamins, dried vegetables, soy nuggets and rice. The congregation packed 23,760 meals, enough to feed 65 children for one year.

► Students of the Trinity Sunday school classes commenced the Palm Sunday Divine Service joyfully parading into the sanctuary, with Abby Peterson carrying the processional cross. Led by Rev. Mark Maunula, the children waved palm fronds. Pictured are, from left, (front row) Jeremy Peterson, Cadence Mueller, Chloe Tramm, Allie Gallion; (back row) Abby Peterson, Thaddeus Mueller, Kenley Kohlgraf and Leila Gallion.



## Packing for the needs of others

Members of Trinity, Bemidji, recently gathered to sort and pack boxes for Orphan Grain Train (OGT). The group packed 89 boxes of clothing, bedding and quilts, along with two boxes of Bibles, all of which OGT will distribute to those in need worldwide. The group gives all glory to God.



## GIVING CHEERFULLY

The LWML of St. Paul's, Loon Lake of Vergas, gathered food and monetary donations for their area's food shelves. About 117 pounds of food and quilts were donated to The Bridge, a community pantry in Perham. The Bridge also received \$935, which was multiplied through a match program. The ladies gave the Pelican Rapids food shelf a \$250 donation, which was also increased through matching funds.

The congregation's Sunday school children gathered an offering of nearly \$70, which they gave to The Bridge. A congregation spokesperson said, "What a blessing to watch the young ones be encouraged to start their 'mission hearts' at that age."



# WANTED: Future church workers

## SET APART TO SERVE

LCMS CHURCH WORK RECRUITMENT



*Set Apart to Serve* is the intentional effort of the LCMS to identify, encourage and form future church workers for the sake of the Gospel of Jesus Christ until His return.

Your congregation can help spread the word about this effort and point interested future workers in the right direction by sharing information about the *Set Apart to Serve* initiative within your congregation. To download bulletin inserts and presentations, and to learn more about the initiative, visit [lcms.org/sas](https://lcms.org/sas).



Photos: LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford



## 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@mnnlcm.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

# Surrendering to the Lord

Are you ready to surrender? I am not talking about defeat, like giving up trying to teach your kids the new math. To surrender is to yield. We accept this moment as “just the place we need to be” to learn what is most important now. To surrender does not mean giving up or giving in. It does not mean we languish or grow lazy — quite the opposite. It means we give up trying to control what we cannot and trust the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Some situations call for striving, which is the act of working harder and longer to prove mastery over a situation. For example, during the pandemic, questions arose and were answered in due time. How would we stay in contact with members? How would we do confirmation? Through our own hard work and determination, we figured out how to put church online using Facebook Live, something I had never used before. Confirmation classes were conducted on Zoom, another software program I had not heard of. Things were figured out and we settled into a routine.

But eventually we found ourselves at a point where we had done what we could and had to wait to see how things would unfold. This can be very stressful for some people, especially those who like to have everything in their life planned out.

But we were, and actually always are, living with uncertainties. Life is constantly changing. New realities like retirement, a move to a new town, or a change in our health can plunge us once again into uncertainty and the resulting stress. We don't have all the answers, so the best thing we can do is surrender to God's leading, trusting that He is in the driver's seat.

We don't have the answers, but God does and that is good enough. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us this same thing:

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

This is the kind of surrender I am talking about. Not a giving up, but rather a giving into the leading of God. I cannot think of a better choice than to follow His lead, knowing that He is in control and wants what is best for us. Amen

**Rev. Reed Stockman**  
Lakeland Region Pastoral Counselor



## Joy in Milwaukee

More than 100 participants from the LWML Minnesota North District attended the LWML 40th Biennial Convention, held June 22-25 in Milwaukee. Two buses of participants from the LWML Minnesota North and North Dakota districts stopped at Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, and Ellsworth Creamery on the return home.

## LWML Sunday materials available now

“The King is Coming” (based on Ps. 24:7-10) is the theme for LWML Sunday, which is traditionally celebrated the first Sunday in October, but it may be celebrated at any time.

Throughout human history, God pictured the coming redemptive King through various images of His promise, providence, provision and protection for His people. The King of glory comes

in, with and through the Gospel, as we were buried with Him in Baptism and raised with Him to a new life!

The materials were written by Rev. Dr. Roosevelt Gray Jr., director of LCMS Black Ministry.

For more information and to download your LWML Sunday materials, go to [lwml.org/lwml-sunday](http://lwml.org/lwml-sunday).