



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH



HAPPY 125!

Trinity, Havelock (rural Montevideo), celebrated its 125th anniversary (1898-2023) on Sept. 10. Rev. Kent Borglum, Trinity pastor, served as liturgist. Rev. Ronald Hobbie, former Trinity pastor who now serves St. Johns, Ada, and Zion, Ada, was the preacher. Guests included members of St. John's, Sparta (Trinity's sister congregation), former congregation members, family and friends.

The current church building was dedicated on Dec. 7, 1941 (the same day as the attack on Pearl Harbor). There were three services that day with 1,000 people attending. The congregation was blessed to celebrate this anniversary on a beautiful day with 100 people gathering around the Lord's Word and Sacrament. The celebration continued with a potluck dinner and fellowship.

The congregation thanks the Lord for His continued blessings among them.

Campus witness

Fifteen students of the Lutheran Student Fellowship at St. Cloud State gathered for a picture following a Bible study on Genesis. This photo was taken by Rev. Josh Reber, who, along with serving the student ministry, serves as pastor of Trinity, Clear Lake, and Faith, St. Cloud.



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BLESSINGS AT TRINITY, ISLE



Miriam Mueller, music director and organist at Trinity, led her private piano students in their annual recital with the theme, "Night Tunes." Pictured are, from left (seated), Hallie Hughley, Kenley Kohlgraf, Cadence Mueller; (standing) Abby Peterson, Aria Mueller, Thaddeus Mueller, Josiah Mueller, Lucas Peterson, Joy Vossen and Miriam Mueller.



Dave Mueller and children Josiah, Cadence and Thaddeus were among several Trinity members who volunteered for the Minnesota Department of Transportation Adopt-A-Highway project. Participants pick up litter on both sides of a road at least twice a year, contributing to a cleaner environment. Trinity has been responsible for a stretch of Minnesota Highway 27 east of Isle for several years.

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.

The Sunday school children of **St. John, Wheaton**, participated in a mission project, "Change for a Purpose," for Rally Sunday, Sept. 10. The children donated \$291 to Lutheran Island Camp for camper support, and another \$291 for general purpose use. They also gave \$110 to a local backpack program.



Trinity, Ortonville, ladies meet weekly to work on quilts for charity. In September, 60 quilts, 45 pillowcase dresses and 20 crocheted stocking caps were placed at the front of the church for a blessing, and then donated. Pictured (from left) Linda Raddatz, Karol Sherer, Ila Rae Kaufman, Linda Chase, Irene Hamann, Darlene Loeschke, Janis Hinders and Doris Scheef. Not pictured are Kathy Rabe, Betty Reinke, Mona Strege, Marion Johnson (who makes the pillowcase dresses) and Elda Schmidt (who crochets the stocking caps).



The **Minnesota North District Lutheran Laymen's League (LLL)** officers enjoyed a visit and meal in Benson with Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, speaker of "The Lutheran Hour" on the evening before the 2023 LLL district convention. Pictured are, from left, Rev. Jason Wolter (pastoral advisor), Dr. Zeigler, Karlene Gilster (secretary), David Gilster, Delano Meyer (past LLL district president) and Gary Weckwerth (LLL district president). Linda Meyer was also present.



Counselor's Corner



PREPARING FOR CHRIST'S BIRTH – AND RETURN

When December rolls around, the thoughts of many people turn to preparations for the celebration of Christmas. Many decorate their homes and churches and put up a Christmas tree. Some people make special Christmas cookies, and most people spend some time Christmas shopping. If not for mid-week Advent services, many people would give little thought to the season of Advent.

But this is a shame because Advent is a season rich in meaning. During Advent, we prepare to celebrate our Savior's birth. Advent (from the Latin word *adventus*, meaning "coming") is a period of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. But this season is not just a time to prepare to remember something that has already happened. The Latin *adventus* is the translation of the Greek word *parousia*, commonly used in reference to the second coming of Christ. The season of Advent serves as a dual reminder of the original waiting that the Hebrews did for the birth of the Messiah, as well as the waiting that Christians today endure waiting for the second coming of Christ.

Of course, Advent would not exist as a season if there had been no Christmas. In our adventure this Advent and Christmas season, hopefully we will encounter the power of Christmas as we discover the light and wonder of it. I hope that this Advent and Christmas season we will not only prepare for the celebration of our Savior's birth, but also prepare and look forward to our Savior's return.

May God bless each of you during the seasons of Advent and Christmas.

Rev. Reed Stockman
Lakeland Region Pastoral Counselor

Wanted: Officer nominations

Nominations are being sought for LWML Minnesota North District board positions. Elections will be held at the 2024 district convention at Cragun's Resort, near Brainerd.

The following positions are up for election:

- President
- Corresponding Secretary
- Treasurer
- Arrowhead I Regional Vice President
- Lakeland I Regional Vice President
- Park I Regional Vice President
- Pastoral Counselor - Park Region

Please prayerfully consider serving this wonderful organization as an officer. For more information, contact Phyllis Sommers, Nominating Committee chairman, at 218-689-8273, or members of the committee: Beth Dinger, Marilyn Hiltel, Sue Kuseske, Brenda Peterson and Carol May.

A description of officer duties are listed in the LWML district Bylaws, which are available at lwmlmnn.org. Click the "Resources" tab at the top of the page and scroll down to "Structure Resources."

LWML has resources available

From Advent to Christmas to Epiphany, along with New Year's Day and Valentine's Day ... there are devotional resources and service ideas for you and your LWML group available at lwml.org/winter. Resources include:

- Bible studies
- Devotions
- Sketches
- Crafts and printables
- Leader development
- Service projects
- Litanies/responsive readings/short programs

Sponsoring Mission Grants since 1943...

The LWML Mission Grant resume and Mission Grant history documents have been updated on the LWML website to include the 2021–2023 Mission Grants. The Mission Grants Resume is meant to help Lutheran Women in Mission with mission education and to motivate further service. It presents a quick reference and source of information for working on displays, mission fairs, skits, devotions, programs and reports.

The Mission Grant History is a listing of all the LWML grants from the 1943–1945 biennium through 2021–2023. The importance of this history is not to say, "See what the LWML has done," but to point toward a future of service.

Both resources are great documents to have available at your next zone event and district convention and are available at lwml.org/mission-grant-history.