



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA NORTH

Trunks for Treats provides a safer Halloween for children

Our Savior's Lutheran School in Crookston held its annual Trunks for Treats on Halloween.

The school began hosting this event in an effort to provide an earlier and safer Halloween experience for children in the school and community. Staff and families from the school and church decorated their vehicles and gathered in the parking lot of a member's business for the event. Participants then opened up the trunks of their cars and these served as stations from which children could come and receive goodies.

Families participating in the decorating enjoyed the social, family-feel of the event. The visitors attending appreciated the smaller, conveniently localized experience, the safety that the event provided and having an option that allowed them to finish their trick or treating before nightfall.

This year's decorations included a photo booth, a game station, Charlie Brown's pumpkin patch, Mario and Luigi and more.

—Submitted by Sandra Trittin, principal, Our Savior's Lutheran School.



Service is sunshine- (and Sonshine-) filled!

The dual parish of Gloria Dei, Virginia, and Redeemer, Aurora, celebrated a joint Sunday worship service on Aug. 21. The services were held at the beautiful outdoor setting of Camp Siegel near Biwabik. God blessed the event with beautiful weather and success, as more than 80 members of the two congregations were in attendance at a sunshine-filled service.

Following the services, attendees were treated to a delicious picnic dinner, prepared and served by the Happy Cookers.

—Submitted by Marcia Vietnam, Redeemer secretary, and Dennis Cloose, Redeemer congregation president.



Decking the halls for Christmas



Youth from St. John's Lutheran Church, Park Rapids, kicked off the Christmas season on Sunday, Nov.13. The youth hoped to help spread Christmas cheer by gathering at the church to make Christmas ornaments and cards, which are shared with family and friends and are specifically meant to give people an opportunity to talk about the birth

of Jesus Christ, the true "reason for the season."

Adults were available to help the younger children with some of the more complex ornaments. To cap off this family-friendly event, everyone had the opportunity to eat some homemade pumpkin pie.



Bringing Advent home

Members of Emmanuel, Backus, hosted a special Advent workshop for community families following worship services on Nov. 20. The goal of the workshop was to help families learn what Advent is all about and to give them some resources for celebrating Advent as a family tradition.

Families were given pre-drilled birch logs to use as a base and decorated these with greenery, pine cones and other Christmas décor. Each family was also provided with candles, an advent calendar and a booklet with devotionals for each day and verse on the calendar.

Even though a recent blizzard made the roads difficult to travel, more than two dozen wreathes were decorated by families. Many of the children and parents who attended expressed how much they looked forward to using them.

The logs were donated and prepared by generous community members. Candles, calendars and décor were provided by funds from Thrivent Financial's Action Team program.



New pastor in St. Cloud

The Rev. George Sagissor III was installed on Sunday, Sept. 4, as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church, St. Cloud. Participating in the service were, from left (front row) the Revs. Bruce Timm, Sagissor, Paul Dare, Don Kirsch (back row) Henry Koopman, David Miltz, Dr. Donald Fondow, installer and district president, and Peter Holm.



Blessings in Appleton

The Rev. John Ramsbacher was installed as pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Appleton, on Oct. 16. Participating in the service were, from left (front row) the Revs. John Ramsbacher, Dr. Donald Fondow, installer and district president; (back row) Jack Baumgam, Donald Klatt, Dennis McManus, Dennis O'Neill, Carlton Andersen and Donald Wagner.



'Let the little children come to me...'

Second graders at Trinity, Isle, received a Bible and a copy of *Luther's Small Catechism* from the congregation's chapter of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML). Pictured with their Bibles and the Rev. Mark Maunula are Ethan Peterson and Aria Mueller. Missing from the photo is Abbie Gallion.



Send us your news

If you have any announcements, or if you would like to report on special events or human interest stories from your congregation or organization, please send submissions to the.lutheran.witness@mnnlcms.org.

You may also mail your articles to:
Emmanuel Lutheran Church
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COUNSELOR'S CORNER

Christmas goes on.

By now, most people are glad Christmas is finished. The gifts have been unwrapped. The celebrations have ended. The treats have been eaten. The house can return to "normal."

That may be the way of the world, but it is not the way of the Church. The season of Epiphany, which is really part of the Christmas season, goes on for eight weeks this year. Epiphany might be called the "unwrapping" season. The word "Epiphany" simply means "to make manifest" or "to make known."

So what happens during Epiphany? The gift of that little boy Jesus, given in the flesh of Mary and laid in a manger, is unwrapped for us. He is made known to us. When the Wise Men visit, He is made known as the Savior of the World — of all mankind. When He is baptized, He is marked as the sin-bearer who would go to the cross in the sinner's place. When He turns water into wine, He is manifested as the Creator Himself. When He heals the sick, cleanses the unclean and casts out demons, He shows us that He is our Lord who will set us free from sin, death and the powers of hell. On the Mount of Transfiguration, the wrapping comes off completely and He is revealed as God of God and Light of Light.

That little baby born to Mary is God in the flesh — the fullness of His deity is unwrapped for us in this Epiphany season. Thanks be to God Christmas is not over for us — God continues through the preaching of His Word and the giving of His Sacraments not only to reveal His Son to us, but to give us His Son, and with His Son to give us forgiveness, life and salvation.

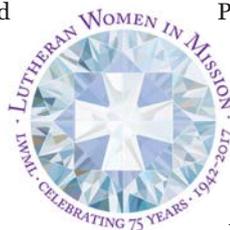
Rev. Bruce Timm
Arrowhead Region Pastoral Counselor

Taking flight in St. Louis

St. Louis was the site of the LWML Strategic Planning meeting, held Oct. 26-29.

Each day started with prayer and Bible study. Seasoned district presidents were paired with new district presidents — a mentoring process that works very well. It helps new presidents learn how the LWML Board of Directors operates.

The women (and pastors) were asked to brainstorm and come up with ideas on how to engage pastors, congregations and women of the church in the mission



of the LWML. The walls of the meeting room were plastered with yellow sticky notes full of different ideas and activities.

Planning was started for the LWML 75th anniversary celebration, to be held during the 37th Biennial Convention in Albuquerque, N.M., June 22-25.

"The LWML, the leading group for LCMS women, is the place where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique, God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness" (vision statement of the LWML).

How do I get involved...

in my local group?

Talk to your society president or pastor. There are also many resources available for you to use with your group on this page and throughout the site. Don't have a group? Consider beginning a new group or individual membership.

in my district LWML?

District LWML groups are always looking for volunteers to help spread the enthusiasm of Lutheran Women in Mission. Contact your district president!

in the National LWML?

The LWML appoints many volunteers to national committees. If you would like to offer your time and talents, please fill out a Personnel Resources Profile form. This will be kept on file for each biennium as the Executive Committee makes appointments to committees and task forces.

Find this list and more LWML resources at lwml.org/online-resource-guide.

Finding our place

So often we feel that we have nothing to contribute to a group. The thought of being a leader is daunting. By taking a step back and studying God's Word, we can get a better idea of what our gift might be in respect to leadership.

Leadership is service to others and that is something most of us do already. We can lead others by example, by mentoring and by encouragement. Remember to lead in love toward one another and always pray for the Holy Spirit to work in you to the glory of Jesus Christ!

Kathy Brandt
Leader Development Chairman



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