



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

Through my window

The bloodiness of it all

When I was serving Woodbury Lutheran Church, we had a vicar one year who was an artist, now Pastor Matthew Blackford. We asked Matthew to do a painting of Christ on the cross throughout our six Lenten Vespers services.



Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
District President

So as a part of our worship, as we sang, listened and prayed, we also watched the painting progress. By week six, we had Christ on the cross but without any blood or even wounds. It was a clean and sanitized crucifixion, like the old Western films where people got shot and didn't bleed or bled hardly at all.

So at Week-Six Vespers, Matthew preached and painted at the same time. He painted all that was left to paint — the wounds at Jesus' hands and feet, the blood trickling down His face from the crown of thorns and, lastly, the gaping wound in His side. The painting ran blood-red. All along we heard about the importance of life being in the blood, of blood atoning for sin, and of Jesus knowing deep and writhing pain. It was a sermon I've clearly not forgotten.

For many centuries in the church the images of Christ were not that of Him

bleeding and dying on a cross. Such a death was shameful in the Roman Empire during the early church's first 300 years. The church for centuries loved the images of Christ as a caring shepherd and a universal king.

It was during the recurring outbreaks of the Black Plague in Europe (1350-1750) that artists began showing Jesus truly suffering on the cross. So in the Isenheim Altarpiece (Gruenewald, 1512-1516), Jesus is depicted on the cross as bearing plague-type sores. Clearly Gruenewald and other Christian artists wanted to be sure we knew that Jesus understands and bears our suffering.

There have been times in my ministry when the bloodiness of the cross has offended people. A woman at a wedding once criticized my referencing Christ on the cross as an image of sacrificial love: "How can you bring such a violent picture into a wedding service," she asked. Looking back, at least she saw the violence of the cross.

Political correctness may ask for a cleaner crucifixion not on the order of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of Christ" (2004). I remember how in the early



“This bloody mess ... all of it points to a love so deep that it suffers like this for sinners like us.”

80s, when hymns were being chosen and revised for *Lutheran Worship*, someone actually suggested that we drop all references to blood in the hymns, lest we offend. An outcry to the contrary justifiably prevailed.

It was a bloody business alright out there at Skull Hill where they hoisted Him high to bleed and die! God would have it no other way. As the old animal sacrifices yielded blood for the mercy seat, Jesus' blood "cleanses us from all sin" (1 John 1:7). Isaiah saw it 700 years before it happened:

"With His wounds we are healed."
(Is. 53:5)

This bloody mess, this butcher shop faith of ours, all of it points to a love so deep that it suffers like this for sinners like us.

Check out report for 2016

We are pleased to announce our first annual report is now available. This report, which covers the events and activities of district staff in 2016, provides insight into the various areas in which the district serves congregations and workers. Here are some snippets of the reports from district executives:

“The wellness of our district’s mission heart showed in our district-wide, hands-on mission effort as we gathered in four locations for a Feed My Starving Children MobilePack. Families, youth groups, small groups, Bible study groups, confirmation classes and individuals came together to pack food for the hungry.”

Dean Nadasdy,
President

“The Gospel, expressed in purposeful words and deeds, always has the potential to change hearts and lives for eternity. Under the blessing

and guidance of the Holy Spirit, more and more of this good work is happening in our District. God be praised!”

William Utech,
Assistant to the President for Missions

“Each congregation is a unique expression of the Spirit’s

work of ‘calling, gathering, enlightening, and sanctifying,’ and each community presents unique opportunities for the Word to be proclaimed. The goal of our district’s Mission Formation efforts is to assist each congregation to discover their unique God-given strengths and opportunities.”



2016 Annual Report



Phil Johnson
Assistant to the President for Mission Formation

“According to statistics provided to Synod by district schools and early childhood centers, overall early childhood and high school enrollment remained flat

across the district while district elementary school enrollment saw the second straight year of growth (3 percent increase).”

Sean Martens
Assistant to the President for Education and Commissioned Ministers

A teaching mission

Friends in Christ,

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, from its very beginning, has always been a teaching church. Christian schools, Sunday schools, confirmation classes, youth and adult Bible studies, universities and seminaries are in our DNA. In our corner of the kingdom, it can truly be said that the mission of Christ is a teaching mission.

To strengthen our participation in the teaching mission of Christ, the Min-

nesota South District through its 2015 convention and Board of Directors has authorized the To All Generations appeal. Its theme verse says it so well:

“One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts.”

Ps. 145:4

The saving Gospel of Jesus Christ is for all people of all generations, and in every generation teaching from the Word of God had led to faith and life for eternity.

We invite you get acquainted with the exciting initiatives of the To All Generations appeal as we provide materials to your leaders and congregations. As God blesses this special appeal, we in the Minnesota South District will

better reach the hearts of those inside the church and out as we share Jesus’ love and forgiveness. We know that a gift to this campaign is a gift to all generations and invite you to join us.



TO ALL GENERATIONS
Minnesota South District

Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
President, Minnesota South District

Love abounds

If we stop to think about love, we may convince ourselves that we know all there is to know, but there is no comprehension of the greatest love of all ... the love that our Lord and Savior has for us as His children.

Take just a few minutes and ponder God's love for you. Think of the Scripture verses below as a belated Valentine's message from God to you, and be reminded of His great love for you.

1. God's love for us is not based on our goodness.

"But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Rom. 5:8).

2. God's love pursues us.

"For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost" (Luke 19:10).

3. God's love overflows.

"The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lam. 3:22-23).

4. God's love is sacrificial.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life" (John 3:16).

5. God's love is an everlasting love.

"The LORD appeared to him from far away. I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you (Jer. 31:3).

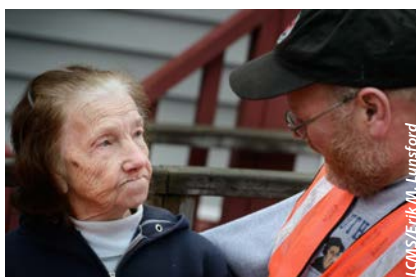
"For the LORD is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations" (Ps. 100:5).

6. God's love is life giving. Yes, He cares about our physical and emotional needs, but more importantly our spiritual life.

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (John 10:10).

7. God's love is part of His very being and character.

"Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has



been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love" (1 John 4:7-8).

8. God's love encourages us.

"For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus" (Rom. 15:4-5).

9. God's love corrects us.

"And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the LORD disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives" (Heb. 12:5-6).

10. God's love invites us.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matt. 11:28-30).

11. God's love comforts us.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too" (2 Cor. 1:3-5).

12. God's love forgives us.

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

13. God's love is patient toward us.

"The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance" (2 Peter 3:9)

14. God's love changes us.

"And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience" (Eph. 2:1-2).

New on the website

The LWML Minnesota South District recently started the publication of a new Children's Mite Calendar.



To download the calendar, go to mns.lwml.org and click the "Resources" tab.

The calendar provides an opportunity for children to learn about God's Word along with fun activities and things they may do to help fulfill their desire to be a servant of God. The calendar coordinates beautifully with the newly designed Children's Mite Box, and both provide a means to allow our young ones an opportunity to share the love of Christ through their own mite contributions.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Debra Connolly, who is celebrating 10 years as a member of the district staff.

Since January 2007, Debra has served the district as an administrative assistant (since “full-time, multi-tasking ninja” is not a job title). Her primary focus is on the pastors and congregations of the district, being directed by the district president and his executive assistant, both present and past.

Her voice is likely to be the first you hear when you call the district office. In her home life, she is a married mother of five, mother-in-law to four and grandmom to eight of the most delightful children in the Twin Cities!



Send submissions for the district supplement to:

Billy Schultz

➤ billy.schultz@mnsdistrict.org

➤ 14301 Grand Ave. South
Burnsville, MN 55306-5707

Photos sent by email should be in high resolution, at least 300 dpi.

ROSTER CHANGES

Accessions and transfers into the Minnesota South District

Rev. Peter J. Haugen, from missionary to Macau, LCMS International Mission, to sole pastor, St. Paul, Chatfield, installed Nov. 27.

Rev. Richard W. Holz, from emeritus, Texas District, to emeritus Minnesota South District, Dec. 19.

Rev. David L. Hormann, from executive director, Missions and Ministry, Mid-South District, to sole pastor, St. John, Winsted, installed Nov. 23.

Candidate Vue Lee (Concordia Seminary/EIIT), ordained and installed as associate pastor of King of Kings, Roseville, Dec. 18.

Rev. Richard C. Resch, from emeritus, Indiana District, to emeritus, Minnesota South District, Dec. 31.

Transfers out of the Minnesota South District

Rev. Harvy G. Johnson, from emeritus, Minnesota South District, to emeritus, Oklahoma District, Nov. 8.

Rev. Dr. Peter H. Nafzger, from sole pastor, New Life Church – Lutheran, Hugo, to professor, Department of Practical Theology, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Sept. 2.

Rev. Jon C. Olson, from sole pastor, Trinity and Our Saviour’s, Jasper and Pipestone, to pastor, Trinity, Casper, Wyo., Nov. 8.

Rev. George A. Ruwisch, from associate pastor, Immanuel, Farimont, to pastor, Grace, Nashua, N.H., Dec. 15.

Rev. Warren. W. Schmidt, from emeritus Minnesota South District, to emeritus, Missouri District, Nov. 8.

Rev. David W. Seabaugh, from sole pastor, Bethel, St. Paul, to senior pastor, Immanuel, Elmhurst, Ill., Oct. 27.

Rev. Rance A. Settle, from sole pastor, Holy Cross, Prior Lake, to senior pastor, Lamb of God, Flower Mound, Texas, Dec. 21.

Rev. Joel L. Sutton, from sole pastor, St. James, Holland, to pastor, St. Timothy, Huber Heights, Ill., Oct. 27.

Changes in the district

Rev. Thomas P. Braun, from associate pastor/church planter, Our Savior, Mankato, to sole pastor, River of Life, St. Peter, installed Dec. 11.

Rev. Keith W. Brutlag, from sole pastor, Trinity First, Minneapolis, to emeritus, July 30.

Rev. Adam B. Koglin, from associate to senior pastor, Redeemer, Rochester, installed Dec. 11.

Rev. Robert L. Lund, from sole pastor/SMP, Trinity and St. John, Rapidan, Lake Crystal and Mankato, to candidate status, Oct. 1.

Rev. Robert A. Schulze, from senior pastor, Messiah, Lakeville, to executive assistant to the president, installed Oct. 21.

Rev. Gregory J. Snow, from associate to senior pastor, St. John, Chaska, installed Dec. 4.

Rev. Dr. Thomas H. Trapp, from sole pastor, Emmaus, St. Paul, to emeritus, Oct. 1.

Called To Glory

Rev. Paul A. Klemp, emeritus, Sept. 28.

Rev. George P. Raap, emeritus, April 5, 2015.

Congregational Changes

River Of Life Lutheran Church, St. Peter, became a member congregation of the LCMS Minnesota South District, Dec. 11.

Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending Jan. 31, 2017

Actual receipts	\$200,453
Budget receipts	\$207,166
Over (under) amount	\$(6,713)

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts	\$200,453
Budget receipts	\$207,166
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$(6,713)

Use of mission receipts (YTD-year to date)

50% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$72,703
100% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$8,743
50% for district operations (YTD)	\$72,703
100% for district operations (YTD)	\$46,304
Total receipts	\$200,453

Mission receipts—2017 vs. 2016

Mission receipts — YTD 2017	\$200,453
Mission receipts — YTD 2016	\$202,487
Over (under) last year	\$(2,034)

2016 congregational receipts budgeted at \$2,486,000

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

December 2016

New investments	\$1,585,109
Withdrawals	\$1,461,432
Net increase (decrease)	\$123,677

Year-to-date July 1, 2016–Dec. 31, 2016

New investments	\$6,246,191
Withdrawals	\$7,370,225
Net increase (decrease)	\$(1,124,034)