



# DISTRICT NEWS

## MINNESOTA SOUTH

*Through my window*

# Teacher

It was what they called Jesus, “Rabbi,” which means “Teacher.”

My mother was a teacher. I married a teacher. Looking back on almost 70 years of being taught, I can still name every one of my teachers.

They stand out on the landscape of my life. This one was brilliant; that one was quirky; this one was genuinely funny; that one was mostly incomprehensible — but they all taught me something. I am in a real way the sum total of my teachers.

As a pastor, I spend a good part of my time teaching the faith from the Scriptures (although I had only one course at the seminary which prepared me to teach.) Some of the most fulfilling years of my ministry came in teaching homiletics at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. Most pastors love to teach.

Contrary to what we might hear, real growth, even measureable growth, happens to Christians in every age group when they are taught from the Word. Christian teachers don't just communicate information; by the power of the



**Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy**  
District President



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Word, they shape lives. I can recall a time when teachers in Lutheran schools were addressed as “Teacher Schmidt” or “Teacher Meyer.” I like that, still. They deserve our respect, no less than a pastor as he fulfills his calling in the church.

In the Scriptures, God takes seriously the role of teacher. Not often used in the recruitment of teachers in the church is James 3:1-2. Gene Peterson recasts these verses with this apt paraphrase:

“Don't be in any rush to become a teacher, my friends. Teaching is highly responsible work. Teachers are held to the strictest standards. And none of us is perfectly qualified. We get it wrong nearly every

time we open our mouths. If you could find someone whose speech was perfectly true, you'd have a perfect person, in perfect control of life.”

Christian teachers, it seems, need to rely on their forgiveness in Christ, perhaps more than others!

May is when many churches take a moment to give thanks for all those who use their gifts in service to Christ and His mission. It's a great month especially to give thanks for all of our teachers in all of their venues — preschool, early childhood, elementary, high school, university, seminary, Sunday school, mid-week school, confirmation, youth and

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# Five Questions

with **Rev. Ben Griffin**

new executive director,  
LINC Twin Cities

## 1. How is LINC's ministry going to be different moving forward?

With a renewed and refined focus. Specifically, that focus is to empower local leaders to start new ministries that impact their communities with the Gospel.

Because LINC International (based in Houston) will be handling the majority of LINC's administrative needs, we in the Twin Cities are able to focus almost exclusively on ministry and leader development. We are also bringing in tried and tested biblical training that has been used by other LINC's across the country.

Early on in my tenure, we have already begun walking alongside seven new leaders. I am excited to add to their numbers and see the impact of their Gospel work in our community!

## 2. What's your vision for the future of LINC?

My "reach goal" for LINC Twin Cities is to impact every tribe and nation in our city with the Gospel of Jesus. I know this is a lofty vision and believe that it is the call that Jesus has given to all of us as His church.

We are in the world, not of the world and sent to the world. I pray that LINC can be a point of collaboration for Jesus' church in the Twin Cities to keep on pressing on toward this goal, for we know that God's desire is for all people to be saved.

I envision a steady pipeline of local leaders from all walks and tribes who are empowered through biblical training



LINC pastors Ben Griffin and Demelash Yoseph pray together during worship.

and mentoring. I envision new churches and ministries that not only impact their communities with the Gospel, but also replicate themselves in raising up others to do the same. I envision a coalition of churches and individuals who are committed to Gospel proclamation through action, prayer and financial support.

By the end of this year, I plan to have:

- ▶ Identified at least 15 new local leaders.
- ▶ Started at least two cohorts of LINC's Bible institute (including one cohort in Spanish).
- ▶ See at least two new ministries officially chartered

## 3. What challenges does LINC Twin Cities face?

LINC Twin Cities has an uphill battle in rebuilding its financial backing. I am personally committed to pressing forward with LINC's vision regardless of how quickly we are able to develop the support network.

## 4. How have you experienced joy in this new role?

I end most days in joy-filled awe at seeing the hand of God at work! I feel like the unique challenges and ministry of LINC are exactly what I am made for, and I have been enjoying every new connection, new leader and each new Gospel-spreading opportunity!

I have also enjoyed working alongside

amazing leaders like Pastor Demelash Yoseph, a fellow LINC pastor in the Twin Cities. He has helped oversee 16 new churches across the country and by the end of 2017 plans to see four more!

## 5. How can we pray for LINC and you in this transition?

You can join me in praising God for His good work in our city and asking Him to continue to raise up new Gospel-centered Kingdom workers. The harvest is plentiful and the workers are few. Lord would you raise up leaders for your kingdom work!

And if you would like to join a circle of prayer around one of our leaders or partner in any other way, please don't hesitate to contact me at [ben@linc-twincities.org](mailto:ben@linc-twincities.org).

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## Outreach in Guatemala

The congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church, Waconia, sent 11 of its members to Guatemala from Jan. 27 to Feb. 3. The team, including LWML members Deb Vinkemeier and Barb Hoernemann, was led by Traci Kohls of Trinity's Discipleship Ministries

While in Guatemala, the team helped those in the El Jute village with a school roof project and installed a septic holding tank, performed basic health assessments, discussed health issues and passed out toothbrushes to the children. A VBS program was held for about 200 children. The Trinity team sang for them, acted out Bible stories and helped with a craft project. The children also received cookies and a juice box.

There was a strong, God-loving relation-

ship established with the community members. Trinity has partnered with El Jute through CALMS (Central America Lutheran Mission Society) for five years in establishing spiritual leaders, sustainable farming, a place for women to sell their art and a plan for existing building maintenance.

Before the team left Guatemala, it concluded with a final devotion at Cerro La Cruz (foot of the cross), looking over Antigua.

If you would like to hear more about this mission trip, contact Vinkemeier, LWML Minnesota South District VP of Gospel Outreach, who would be happy to make a presentation at any of your meetings or rallies, at [gospeloutreachvp@mnslwml.org](mailto:gospeloutreachvp@mnslwml.org).

## Please share!

We would love to share details of your fun and innovative activity with LWMLers across the Minnesota South District. We love to publish news about activities going on in your society and hopefully these stories will be an inspiration to you and to other

societies across the district ... and to perhaps encourage some of the younger women in our congregations to become part of it.

Won't you please consider planning an event and sharing the outcome with your fellow LWMLers through eNews Editor Roxanne Pieper.

**EVERY  
ONE**  
**HIS WITNESS**  
LUTHERAN EVANGELISM

## Register now for workshop

A *Every One His Witness* workshop will be held on Saturday, May 20, at Trinity, Rochester.

The workshop presents an opportunity to learn how to reach out to the unchurched people you come in contact with every day. There is no cost for either the workshop or for Friday-evening lodging in Rochester (two people to a room). In addition, lunch and snacks are provided on Saturday.

The registration form is available at [mnslwml.org/resources/forms](http://mnslwml.org/resources/forms). You are encouraged to register as soon as possible. Please share this information with others in your societies; and especially take time to share this information at your upcoming rallies. LWML members and counselors are all encouraged to attend. If the workshop is not filled with LWML members, it will be opened to others.

Please e-mail your article (with photos, if possible) to Roxanne at [enewseditor@mnslwml.org](mailto:enewseditor@mnslwml.org) or by postal mail to 8485 County Road 52, Carver, MN 55315.

For more information, call Roxanne at 952-393-5973.

## INSTALLATIONS



The congregation of St. John's Lutheran Church, Austin, gives thanks to the Lord for its new pastor, **the Rev. James Groleau**, from Hinckley, who was installed on April 9.

Participating in the service were, from left (front row) the Revs. Ronald Prigge, Michael Harman, Groleau, Dr. Dean Nadasdy, Robert Stohlmann; (back row) William Natzke, Loel Wessel, Jesse Krusemark, Peter Haugen, Robert Bailey and John Schleicher.



**The Rev. Tim Heinecke** was installed as pastor of New Life Church, Hugo, on March 5.

Participating in the service were, front row (from left) the Revs. John Schildwachter, Heinecke, Robert Gehrke; (back row) George Riemer, John Kallio, Nev Crowther, Dan Bodin, Martin Schoenfeld, Eugene Bunkowske, Bob Cordes, Ted Diederick, Tim Marshall and Fungchatou Lo.



## MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

adult Bible studies, men's and women's studies, membership classes, neighborhood Bible studies, small group studies and more. And, oh yes, let's not forget the primary teachers of children, their parents! When Jesus commissioned the church to teach in Matt. 28:20, He wasn't kidding! Ever since, there has been a whole lot of teaching going on!

Given all this teaching, it's no wonder our Minnesota South District launched its "To All Generations" appeal, which is intended to enhance and

grow teaching and learning across our district congregations. If you haven't heard about "TAG," you will soon. All contributions to the appeal will go right back into Christian education efforts in our churches. Lutheran schools and early childhood education will be targets, as will the ongoing growth of educators and administrators and the development and



TO ALL  
GENERATIONS

Minnesota South District

expansion of parish education ministries.

I invite you to participate in the campaign. If you have any questions, contact (Teacher) Sean Martens, assistant to the president for Christian Education, at 952-223-2152.

For now, join me in raising a "Te Deum!" and "Hoorah!" for teachers across the church!