



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

Through my window



Graduation blessings

We know the readership of *The Lutheran Witness* Minnesota South District supplement. Let's just say that not too many of you are young adults. So you may have to pass this one on to a recent high school or university graduate.



Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
District President

If you graduated this spring, I would like to serve up five underhanded, unexpected and edgy blessings for your future. Jesus certainly surprised people with some of His unexpected blessings in Matt. 5:1-12, such as "Blessed are those who mourn..." and "Blessed are those who are persecuted..." Really?

In that same spirit, here is a run of unexpected blessings I offer our recent graduates.

May you be blessed to fail utterly more than once.



I have learned more from my failures than from my successes. In failure we are humbled. We are stretched. We need others when we fail. We need God. We learn from failure. The willingness to fail shows a

willingness to take risks. Risk requires trust, especially trust in God. In failure we find out who we really are, and so do others. So may you fail miserably.

May you be blessed to know people smarter than you.



You may be feeling really smart right now. People around Jesus, especially highly religious people, thought they were the smartest in the room. They weren't. He was.

It is good to know people smarter than you, people who are relationally, cognitively and spiritually smart, experientially smart. They can become mentors, people to look up to. It's good to know Jesus really well. He is the ultimate know-it-all because He does. Jesus is the premier mentor.

May you be blessed to have to wait for a long time for something you really want.



Hope is born of waiting. In the middle of the in-between, we learn patience, long-term prayer and a shaping by God into His will. If you hate to wait for anything, I hope you have to wait for something really big. Too much too soon is not good for you. My guess is that you don't like to wait,



but you have to. God will make you wait sometimes, and you will be blessed.

May you be blessed to lose yourself in another.



I don't mean just falling in love. I do mean that, but something else too. In those rare moments when we forget ourselves be-

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LCEF awards grants to help churches reach out



A 2016 LCEF outreach grant helped fund this National Night Out block party hosted by Trinity Lutheran Church, Northfield, last summer. Pictured is local law enforcement interacting with the community; more than 250 people attended the event. Several people from the neighborhood met their own neighbors for the first time.

Five Minnesota South District (MNS) ministries will receive \$1,000 each from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) to help provide funds for outreach events:

POBLO International Friendship Center, Rochester

POBLO will host a Christmas/New Year's event for neighbors who come from many religious backgrounds, including atheism, Buddhism and Islam, some of whom have never had Christian friends or heard the message of Jesus' love.

Rose of Sharon Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove

Rose of Sharon will host a community open house event and invite families to the church and tour the new Christian Child Care Center. The center will be the only faith-based childcare center in the community.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pipestone

St. Paul will host a "Thank You Lunch" for local police officers, firefighters, EMT workers and National Guard personnel, along with an outreach event in Jamaica to conduct acts of mercy

in conjunction with the church's 125th anniversary.

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Fulda

St. Paul will host "Praise in the Park," an event that includes outdoor worship, a vintage farm and auto display and a community meal on the last Sunday in July.

University Lutheran Chapel (ULC), Minneapolis

ULC will provide bilingual Bibles in Arabic, Chinese, Somali, Farsi, Russian, Korean (and others as the need arises) for University of Minnesota international students attending the weekly Bible study.

Special thanks to all district Lutheran LCEF investors and our Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) loan partners for their support. Based upon another LCEF strong fiscal-year end, this nonprofit ministry of the LCMS was able to award grant funds with a portion of its year-end operating results. It is a blessing to put funds right back into mission and ministry at the local level via these grants.

Online grant applications are accepted at lcefuppermidwest.org/mns-grants beginning in September. All LCMS Minnesota South District organizations are encouraged to apply. For more information on how to become a Lutheran Church Extension Fund investor to support ministry via affordable loans, support and more, visit lcef.org.

MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

cause we are totally caught up in gracing another, just then we are at our best. Jesus called it denying ourselves and taking up a cross. It's what He did. It defined Him. You won't be conscious of it at the time, but it is life at its best. We were made for it.

Finally, may you be blessed to see that for every end there is a beginning.

This gives way to that. There is a time for this and a time for that. They are never that far apart. So graduation is called a commencement. An end becomes a beginning. Endings are not bad. They are usually not endings at all, but transitions to what happens next, like death for a believer in Jesus Christ. You'll be blessed to see how great God is at pulling starts out of finishes.

Graduate, consider yourself five times blessed — in unexpected ways!



DISTRICT OFFICE

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Plan to attend district retreat

The LWML Minnesota South District invites you to participate in its Women's Retreat, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, July 28-29, at the Best Western Hotel in North Mankato.

The retreat will offer opportunities for rest and renewal to nourish your body and soul. The Scripture verse associated with this year's retreat is Is. 26:4:

"Trust in the LORD forever, for the LORD God is an everlasting rock."

For more information, keep an eye out for the summer issue of the *Women on a Mission* newsletter at mnslwml.org/wom.

Grant goal REACHED!

The Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) announced that the LWML 2015-17 mission grant goal of \$2 million has been surpassed by nearly \$100,000!



"Praise and thanksgiving to God!" said Patti Ross, LWML president. "Through mite box offerings and generous responses to our Lord's blessings, LWML will be able to fund all 19 grants chosen by the Des Moines Convention in 2015.

"In humble adoration and with praise to our faithful God, we dedicate these dollars to Him for the work of missionaries and ministries around the world who work to spread the saving message of Christ's love and forgiveness."

We give thanks to God for all the mite offerings received and for the generous contributors, which allowed our LWML mission grants to be funded and Gospel outreach completed. To God be the Glory.



'Not just plain water'

Submitted by Darlene Dammann and Glenda Schuft

First Evangelical LWML, Glencoe

Many of our past LWML members from First Evangelical and neighboring congregations now make their home at Glencoe Regional Health Services Long Term Care. The decision was made to include them in our regular April meeting, which was held in the chapel there.

Our theme was "In Remembrance of Your Baptism." The meeting was included as a facility activity, so all who wanted to remember their baptisms were welcome (men as well). About 40 were in attendance.

Roll call was taken with all present responding with the place and year of their own Baptism and any interest-

ing facts that they wanted to share. Attendees participated in the devotion and Catechism study, and the event concluded with questions and answers about Baptism.

Baptism gowns, certificates and many interesting memories were shared. Some had one to four middle names — usually it was the name of one of their sponsors, and all enjoyed telling their unique Baptism stories.

Residents were urged to take their two-page program back to their own rooms and share it with family, friends and staff. The afternoon concluded with refreshments and fellowship.

The residents were very thankful for the spirit-filled program and "You should do this again" was heard as they left.

Jesus Christ Above All

The Lutheran Woman's Missionary League (LWML) is celebrating 75 years of serving the Lord with gladness! Its rich heritage will be highlighted at the 2017 LWML Convention June 22-25 in Albuquerque, N.M., with the theme professing "Jesus Christ Above All."

Go to lwml.org/convention for all the information.

Along with watching the convention online, here are a few ways to participate if you are unable to attend the convention

in person:

1. **PRAY** for God's guidance as mission grants and new leaders are voted on. Pray for safety and protection for all participants. Pray that convention goers will spread God's Light in Albuquerque.
2. **GET** the new 75th anniversary mite box and collect mites for missions!
3. **PURCHASE** convention and anniversary items at lwml.org/store.

Resource to help with Arabic outreach is free

Open doors to conversation with Arabic-speaking immigrants or exchange students in your community with a new resource from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation: *A Child's Garden of Bible Stories*, translated into the Arabic language.



Available in hardcover and paperback, this colorfully illustrated collection of 60 Old and New Testament Bible lessons is available for free to the ministries that need them.

Call LHF at 800-554-0723 or email info@LHFmissions.org to order your copies.



Send submissions for the district supplement to:

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

Call Day 2017

From Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Peter Adelsen was called as pastor of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glencoe; and Christian Jones will serve as vicar at Woodbury Lutheran Church, Woodbury. With Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy are, from left, Christian and Krysti Jones and Melissa and Peter Adelsen.



From Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., Timothy Bayer was called as pastor of St. James Lutheran Church, Howard Lake. He is pictured with his wife, Kristin, and Dr. Nadasdy.



Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending April 30, 2017

Actual receipts	\$218,256
Budget receipts	\$207,166
Over (under) amount	\$(11,090)

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts	\$724,907
Budget receipts	\$828,664
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$(103,757)

Use of mission receipts (YTD-year to date)

50% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$275,540
100% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$24,820
50% for district operations (YTD)	\$275,540
100% for district operations (YTD)	\$149,007
Total receipts	\$724,907

Mission receipts—2017 vs. 2016

Mission receipts — YTD 2017	\$724,907
Mission receipts — YTD 2016	\$815,469
Over (under) last year	\$(90,562)

2017 congregational receipts budgeted at \$2,486,000

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

March 2017

New investments	\$1,226,181
Withdrawals	\$1,824,091
Net increase (decrease)	\$(597,910)

Year-to-date July 1, 2016–March 31, 2017

New investments	\$10,683,582
Withdrawals	\$13,461,007
Net increase (decrease)	\$(2,777,425)