



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

Through my window

Some things I've noticed

I may have won an Observation merit badge as a Boy Scout, but I'm not the most observant guy. I need someone (like Jesus) to say, "Behold!" Then I might notice. Things usually have to repeat themselves for me to take note. By the time I have them on my radar, they may even be a trend.



Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
District President

So it is that five years into being your district president, I have noticed a few things worth mentioning. They are important for us to see in our life together, especially as Lutherans. Here they are:

1. We don't smile very much when we worship.

Someone must have told us that it's alright to feel joy deep in our hearts but not to wear it on our faces. This is true, I think, because we are mostly German and Scandinavian. It's different with our African friends in worship. They wear their joy. I think visitors would be more drawn to us if we looked more like them.

2. We quote Martin Luther a lot, especially this Reformation anniversary year.

Sometimes we quote the reformer more than the Redeemer, especially we pastors. I love to quote Luther. I'm pretty

sure, though, that Luther would not be happy with this. He was so Christ-centered, not narcissistic at all. He didn't write to be quoted.

I think we would do well in our witness to adopt the Reformation's complete focus on the full sufficiency of Christ, quoting him first and most.



3. We still don't sit in the front pews of our churches.

Even if the church is half-full, we like the back. Don't invite us up either (as in the parable) because we're not budging. It's almost as if we're afraid the pastor will ask us to do something or use us as an illustration in his sermon.

I suspect this won't change soon. It just looks silly, the gap between pastor and people, as if they're afraid of him (or God) or mad or shy or somewhat but not fully engaged. I know. I usually sit in the back.

4. We sure are hung up on offices.

The word for "office" in German is "Amt." Germans like Amt. They value

hierarchy, position and structure. Some of our churches have more positions to be filled in their governance structure than they have worshipers on a Sunday morning.

It seems to me that what we do matters more than what title we bear, that the kind of people we are speaks louder than our position.

5. It's difficult to find organists these days.

Some churches use recorded music. Others may use a pianist. Churches expect that



if they begin "contemporary" worship, the crowds will come. If it's hard to find an organist, though, it's harder yet to find an entire band that sounds good. Few of our churches can do this well.

The key here seems to be that we worship with excellence. I hope our churches, especially our smaller ones, can still do music beautifully.

6. Many of us insulate ourselves from those outside the church.

Our closest friends are in the church. We simply don't place ourselves where outsiders spend their time (Col. 4:5).

See MESSAGE, Page 2

Support our missionaries

GEO Missionary Kayla Hoem Spain



During the 2015-16 school year, as I was teaching English in Spain, I got connected with an LCMS church plant in Seville. I started regularly attending their monthly services, which were held in a hotel, and got to know the Spanish pastor, two American pastors and their families. They knew my education was in business and design, so as they started looking for a space to rent and thinking about publicity for the church, they thought of me.

After going through the application process, I was thrilled to receive the call to work as a GEO missionary. I'm still overwhelmingly honored by the opportunity to contribute my gifts to the growth of my church in Seville.

My role will be first to connect the people of Spain with the Gospel message through marketing and communications efforts. People in Spain are seeking more, and our church offers the pure Gospel that others don't. Second, I will coordinate outreach activities that nourish our congregation and draw in the community.

I was blessed in college to lead a small-group Bible study and have a mentor, and I hope to bring similar opportunities to our congregation and community.

(Kayla's is from Maple Grove and her home congregation is Beautiful Savior, Plymouth.)

How you can help!

Before Kayla and Johanna can begin work in the field, they have to establish a sustainable network of supporters and raise a substantial amount of financial support. This work is funded entirely through donations from individuals and congregations.

You are encouraged to consider hosting Kayla and/or Johanna to speak with your congregation, LWML group, missions board or other group to learn more about their mission work abroad. Learn more about them at:

- ▶ lcms.org/hoem
- ▶ lcms.org/heidorn

GEO Missionary Johanna Heidorn Asia



I am a fourth generation servant of Christ, having grown up in the Minnesota South District. My great-grandfather and grandfather

both served as pastors and my dad currently serves as pastor at Grace, Rochester.

Inspired by generations of servanthood and witness to the love and grace of God, I pray to humbly carry on this lineage as a GEO Missionary, serving as photographer and communication specialist for the Asia region. I'll be based in Hong Kong and spend time traveling throughout the region.

(Johanna's is from Rochester and her home congregation is Grace, Rochester.)

MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

No wonder we don't see many visitors in our churches or ever find ourselves explaining what we believe.

Our churches would grow, I think, if more of us intentionally placed ourselves in cafés and coffee shops, at soccer games and town-hall meetings. Instead of waiting for outsiders to come to us, we might consider going to them.

7. The Body of Christ, the church, is beautiful.

I knew it before, but now I see it with

a wider lens. I'm in three or four churches a week, and I can say that the church is as beautiful as ever — Christ still giving His gifts to His people, Christians loving one another, leaders serving, disciples growing. I'm pretty sure that the more we look like Jesus, the more beautiful we become.



DISTRICT OFFICE

- ▶ 14301 Grand Ave. South Burnsville, MN 55306
- ▶ 952-435-2550
- ▶ mnsdistrict.org



Time for tea, and prom

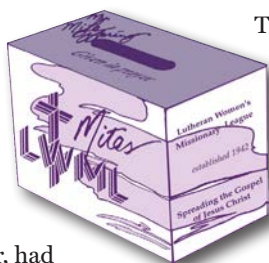
On May 21, the LWML Society of St. John's, Arlington Township, held a tea gathering, titled "Prom ... Then and Now." Twenty-nine prom dresses from as far back as the 1940s to the present day were modeled for everyone to enjoy. Afterward, a lunch of chicken salad croissants and fruit was served. Phil. 1:3-6: "I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ."

YOUR MITES AT WORK

A new chance at life

When Tara, her daughter, Kate, and her son, Brandt, came to The Dwelling Place, they were fleeing from a life of domestic violence and financial instability. Tara, struggling with a traumatic brain injury inflicted by her abuser, had little hope for their future. Within the confusion and now cognitive deficits caused by that abuse, she struggled with feelings of worthlessness and a fear that she could never function again at a level that could provide for her family.

However, after living within the safe, healing environment of The Dwelling Place and engaging in the daily programs offered for her and her children, Tara and her children began to recover. Tara engaged in daily prayer and received spiritual support from the Christ-centered ministry of The Dwelling Place. Through this trauma-informed program, intentional case management and advocacy, Tara was able to discover her path to new life.



The Dwelling Place team was able to help Tara find employment that also provided on-the-job training. Her case manager connected Tara with new programs for housing and continued recovery offered through County resources.

Tara and her children recently moved into an apartment of their own through the provision of helpful and supportive services. They have hopes to, one day, own their own home. Tara's daughter, Kate, is attending college this fall. Tara's son, Brandt, is now doing well at school and has learned to smile again.

Now Tara and her family have a new place to call home, where a new life is beginning for them.

God is so very good!

— Submitted by Kristen Nelson, director of Programs at The Dwelling Place. Names in this article have been changed to protect confidentiality.



Mites give a parent hope for child's future

The following is a note sent to Rocky Sandcork, principal, teacher and activities director at Hope Lutheran High School, Winona, from a parent of one of the school's students.

Dear Hope LHS,

I just wanted to let you know I cannot tell you how much Hope Lutheran has done for my child. As you well know, education is key to success, but a Christian education at your school has proven to be lifesaving.

Without your help and all the donations, my child would not have been able to attend Hope Lutheran. Your school has given my child a chance to have a good life. The small classes have worked miracles for her.

To put it mildly, the last few years for me have been a real struggle (as you know my drug use and jail time and not having a father in the picture has made it extremely difficult for me and my child). Your school (Jesus) has changed my child's life and it is nice to know there are still honest people out there. It has made me a believer (in Jesus)!

Thank you again for the financial support and the love you have shown my child. Words cannot express my thanks.

TO ALL GENERATIONS

Get involved!

To All Generations was launched to impact generations for eternity through our churches and schools, and we need your involvement to make this happen. We know the numerous challenges facing our churches and schools, but we also know that God has given us opportunities to do something right now, at such a time as this!

We want to hear your ideas about how to enhance the quality of Christian education through individual and collaborative efforts with other ministries. To do this, we've created a checklist of ideas that have been generated to address the needs of our congregations and schools and help spur on additional ideas.

We encourage you to be creative, and to



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.

bounce ideas off fellow staff members and leaders. If you haven't yet, please fill out our Grant Possibilities Checklist now by going to mnsdistrict.org/tag.

We are also pleased to host a free Ideation Summit on Saturday, Sept. 16. Presenters from across the country will share about how they've brought creative ideas into their education ministries, and intentional time for collaborating with other ministries is also scheduled. Register today for this fantastic opportunity by visiting mnsdistrict.org/ideation-summit.

Look for the Christian Education Festival (Rally Day) resources we are soon sending to you by mail and email. The service, sermon, hymn and bulletin

insert were created for your congregations to use and help tell the To All Generations (Ps. 145:4) story.

Other ways to get involved:

- ▶ Attend the second or third set of area information meetings (Nov. 13-16 and, in 2018, Jan. 8-11; or March 5-8 and April 9-12).
- ▶ Commit to giving your congregation members and school community the opportunity to at least learn about the campaign, and if willing, to make a gift or pledge to this campaign above and beyond normal congregation giving.
- ▶ Pray for the people of God to be generous stewards and give them opportunities to support this campaign.



TO ALL
GENERATIONS

Minnesota South District



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending June 30, 2017

Actual receipts	\$196,095
Budget receipts	\$207,166
Over (under) amount	\$(11,071)

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts	\$1,105,011
Budget receipts	\$1,242,996
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$(137,985)

Use of mission receipts (YTD-year to date)

50% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$421,133
100% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$33,460
50% for district operations (YTD)	\$421,133
100% for district operations (YTD)	\$229,285
Total receipts	\$1,105,011

Mission receipts—2017 vs. 2016

Mission receipts — YTD 2017	\$1,105,011
Mission receipts — YTD 2016	\$1,126,348
Over (under) last year	\$(21,337)

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

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

May 2017

New investments	\$1,487,179
Withdrawals	\$1,408,314
Net increase (decrease)	\$(78,865)

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

New investments	\$13,048,910
Withdrawals	\$15,961,026
Net increase (decrease)	\$(2,912,116)