



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

Through my window



Collaboration

I've always found it interesting that the word collaboration has two very contradictory meanings. On the one hand it can mean working with another to produce or create something. On the other hand it can refer to traitorous activity with an enemy. In other words, Wilbur and Orville Wright were collaborators when they pioneered aviation, but so were World War II Nazi sympathizers in the United States or Britain who stole secrets or sabotaged ships in support of their nation's enemy.



Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
District President

Sometimes I see both forms of collaboration at work in the church. I see the traitorous kind in our easy compromise with truth and ethics. I see the enemy smile with our failure to speak up against evil and our slowness to overcome evil with good. I see us as

collaborators with the dark side when we sleep on our watch, letting those we know and maybe even love go down the slippery slope to hell without saying a word to them about Jesus. At times we play right into the devil's hands with our institutional pride and traditionalism and our run for "the higher seats" at the banquet of the faithful.

Overwhelmingly, though, collaboration is the friend of the church. The nature of our Triune God testifies to the beauty and power of collaboration as each Person — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — contributes to the creative and redeeming power of one God. Think of Paul and Barnabas, or Luther and Melancthon. Consider our dual or triple parishes managing to share a pastor and a mission. Think of the LCMS with its 6,200-plus congregations "walking together" (that's what "synod" means) in a common confession and witness.

Consider circuit mission projects. Think of the LWML and Lutheran Hour Ministries bringing people together for the sake of the church's global mission. Or how about those churches which form a school association so that kids can have a Christ-centered education. This

kind of collaboration throws dust in the devil's face and thwarts his plans to undermine the kingdom.

Our Minnesota South District is at its best when we help workers and congregations in collaborative efforts. I think of our Koinonia Project 2.0

last spring when more than 200 of us developed "A Statement of Concord" based on *Luther's Small Catechism*. Resource theologians and teams of pastors, commissioned workers and lay people met in six different locations. Together we did theology and discov-

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ReDO

Fitness for the body — and soul

Last fall, a new fitness center called ReDO Fitness opened in the basement of Shepherd of the Valley, Hastings. Now, less than a year later, nearly 450 people have passed through the doors to work out there, and more importantly, have an opportunity to be connected with Christians and to hear the Gospel. For some of these patrons, this might have been the first time they set foot in a church building.

Joan Samuelson, who regularly works out at ReDO, has told a number of people in her circles about the facility. She says many of them “don’t have something going on with their faith.”

While there are a number of faithful Christians in Hastings, a town of 14,000 people, “there is still so much work to do,” explained the Rev. Chad Kirchoff, pastor of Shepherd of the Valley and founder of ReDO.

However, this first ReDO Fitness might not have been in Hastings without God’s provision. To understand how it began, head west 80 miles to Hutchinson. Kirchoff grew up and lived much of his adult life there, and while physical fitness had always been a value to him, pastoral ministry wasn’t in his future plans.

He began his working life at the 3M manufacturing plant in Hutchinson. In 1992, he began working at America’s Fitness Center in Hutchinson in fitness training and sales.

He continued working in the fitness industry, and in 2003 was one of the co-founders of Snap Fitness, where he was responsible for the development of local and national fitness locations and recruiting and training fitness leaders. His work was instrumental in growing Snap Fitness into one of the largest fitness clubs.



From left, Joan Samuelson, the Rev. Chad Kirchoff and Zach Biermaier discuss the impact of ReDO Fitness on the Hastings community. Below: Kirchoff coaches Biermaier on how to properly do a bicep curl.



However, Kirchoff became unsettled with the secular fitness industry, and sold his half of Snap Fitness to pursue full-time ministry. He enrolled in the SMP program at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, while serving at Peace, Hutchinson, where he was ordained in 2014.

Meanwhile, plans were being made to open the first ReDO Fitness. While Kirchoff was planning on opening ReDO in that part of the state, the opportunity arose to have the first location in Hastings. However, the move was not without its challenges.

Generally speaking, the members of Shepherd of the Valley were strongly in favor of their unused basement being used for ReDO. The city, on the other hand, posed a much greater challenge.

Questions arose about how the building would be zoned — if ReDO would be charging membership fees or would continue to operate as a church and not charge fees — arose. If re-zoned to be commercial, neighbors were concerned about the possibility of increased traffic and noise.

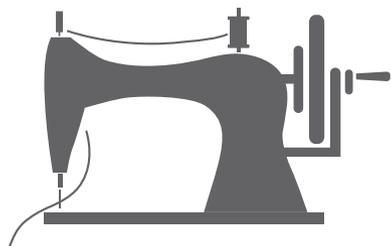
Despite the challenges, the project moved forward, and ReDO has experienced tremendous growth since it opened. Kirchoff shared that people of all backgrounds, cultures and ages have come to ReDO. “Atheists and agnostics are here because they love the environment.”

With state-of-the-art exercise equipment, a spacious facility and specially filtered air and water, ReDO is appealing to many people who desire a high-quality experience without spending too much money. In fact, ReDO charges no enrollment fees, and for those who come to work out, they’re encouraged to pay only what they can.

On Monday evenings, Kirchoff leads a topical discussion guided by Scripture. Near the entryway, a whiteboard shows the upcoming topic being discussed. Even when ReDO clients don’t attend that meeting, they still talk about those topics, explained Zach Biermaier, a local youth pastor and ReDO client. As he works with high school students at his church and the local high school who work out at ReDO, he finds the youth engaged and excited to talk about what the Monday night group is

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Serving with gladness



A few ladies from the dual parish of Our Saviour's, Pipestone, and Trinity, Jasper, have been getting together for nearly two years and sewing much-needed items for Orphan Grain Train (OGT), a Recognized Service Organization (RSO) of the LCMS based in Norfolk, Neb.

The project was initiated by Annetta Legler, who helped sew 220 pillowcase dresses over the last few years. What is truly remarkable is that Annetta is 90 years old and still using her talents to "Serve the Lord with Gladness."

Pillowcases, bias tape, rickrack and laces were donated for this project; and a year ago, a Thrivent Action Team grant provided seed money to buy more pillowcases and bias tape.

Helping Annetta are Sheri Cox, also of Our Saviour's, and Lorna Hill, who attends Trinity. These ladies have also knit and crocheted hats and scarves and other items, and found gently used clothing and blankets to send to OGT. Lorna has also been putting together Mercy Kits for OGT ... to God be the glory.

Orphan Grain Train is a volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature and other aid to meet real needs.

"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work."

1 Cor. 12:4-6 NIV

LWML Sunday service available

The first Sunday in October is traditionally set aside for the observation of LWML Sunday, but it may be celebrated at any time. This year's service is written by the Rev. Dr. Lawrence R. Rast, Jr., president of Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.



A full worship service is available for free download lwml.org/lwml-sunday. If you wish, you may also

order the entire worship service folder. As many pastors prefer to tailor their services to their congregation's needs, the sermon, litany and children's sermon can also be downloaded separately and may be inserted in any worship service where needed.

All worship and devotional materials have received approval from LCMS Doctrinal Review.

An idea for Christmas

The ladies of Holy Cross, Prior Lake, held their 13th Annual Christmas Tea. They diverted from their usual "tea" and tried something new ... a proper English tea. Joy Anderson of Holy Cross asked two ladies — under the age of 40(!) — to chair and lead the event. Joy says, "this (new format and new leaders) threw off some of the ladies, but all went well and we were glad we changed it up."



Three courses were offered, finger sandwiches, scones, jam and cream and desserts. In addition to the tea, they also served wassail and hot chocolate. In the past, cookies and other Christmas treats were served buffet style with a few savory items to balance out the sweets.

The tea also provided a venue where

guests were given the opportunity to contribute to Toys for Tots. There was no charge to attend the tea, but mite boxes were placed on all the tables. Those attending the tea sang Christmas carols, had a short program with a devotion and learned about the LWML.

We realize that some societies don't meet during the summer months, but perhaps a Christmas event could be on your meeting agenda for September? Try thinking of ways you might be able to have fun by inviting women who are not LWML members to join you; and if you are able, make it a fundraiser for mites or for some other special project in your church or community. What a wonderful way to share the spirit of this joy-filled season.

Save on clearance items



LWML is reducing inventory to make room for new products. Many items will be discontinued. You can benefit from this sale. All items will be sold while supplies last. Normal postage rates will apply. All sales are final — there will be no returns on sale items.

Check out the LWML products and resources at lwml.org/store. If you have any questions, contact the LWML office at 800-252-5965.

Lorfeld installed

The congregations of St. Paul and Immanuel, Blue Earth, give thanks to the Lord for its new pastor, the Rev. Matthew Lorfeld, from LaCrescent, who was installed on July 16. Participating in the service were, from left (front row) the Revs. David Schultz, L-orfeld, Tyson Mastin, Juan Palm; (middle row) Jesse Krusemark, Anthony Bertrum, Robert Bailey, Greg Volbrecht, Wade Daul; (back row) Harold Storm, William Sabol, Donovan Riley, Samuel Morsching and Joel Lintner.



ReDO (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2)

discussing. “They’re open to talk about whatever,” he intimated.

Kirchoff’s hope for ReDO is simple: “to create a safe haven for nurturing relationships where people will be able to ask questions, be encouraged, receive

guidance, learn about saving grace — all, while also learning how to become physically fit in a non-judgmental environment.” He’s working through his relationships with those who aren’t church attenders to invite them into

hearing the Gospel and becoming active Christians.

Kirchoff believes that, as he and other Christians at ReDO build relationships, even the strongest atheists will come to faith by the Holy Spirit. “Intentional relational evangelism takes time,” affirmed Kirchoff.

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ered both the breadth of our agreement and the ongoing need for conversation where we disagree.

This fall, we’ll see two strong opportunities for collaboration in our district. We will involve more and more congregations in our “To All Generations” Appeal. TAG will raise funds for grants to congregations and schools in support of innovative and collaborative efforts in Christian education. Every dollar raised will be put back into our churches and schools as we enhance our identity as a teaching church. Some things we can do better together than alone.

The other opportunity will be our

district-wide Mobile Pack for Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Nov. 9-11. Youth groups, small groups, confirmation classes and busloads of packers will converge on four locations to pack 750,000 meals for God’s starving kids across the world.

God-willing, as packers raise sponsorships and funds, we also hope to raise \$165,000 for FMSC. We’re hoping for 3,750 volunteers. Some things we can do better together than alone.

I like how Halford Luccock put it: “No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.”

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