



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

Through my window

CHRIST-LIKE perspective

So much in life is a matter of perspective. The old Law of Echoes says that what we send out in terms of expectations is exactly what we'll get in return. So if I expect a meeting to be long and tedious, that's what it turns out to be. If I expect someone to be a drag-out, put-me-to-sleep bore, that's what he turns out to be. Why? Because my expectations shape reality. On the up side, if I come to a meeting with the expectation of engaging, Spirit-driven decisions, guess what's more likely to happen?



Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
District President

Studies confirm the Law of Echoes. Two teachers in a school were given classes on the same grade level and history of performance. One teacher was told beforehand that she had a class of exceptionally bright and committed students. The other was told he had a class of lazy, underachievers. In fact, both classes were equal in potential. But guess what happened? The teacher whose perspective was shaped positively ended up with a class performing far beyond the other, where expectations were shaped negatively.

To a large extent, servanthood is a mat-



LCMS/Erin M. Lunsford

ter of perspective, too. What we bring to serving others, we'll more likely see happen. It comes down to something as simple as these questions:

- ▶ The person I'm serving — do I see them as Jesus Christ in disguise, as Jesus asking to be helped (Matt. 25:34-36), or as a bother?
- ▶ Do I see selflessly serving another as an opportunity to be like Christ or just another commitment I've made?
- ▶ Do I expect something in return for my service or do I approach it selflessly?

- ▶ Is worthiness a prerequisite for my serving another or do I just choose in grace to serve?

Altruistic egoism is an old saw that says we serve others because of what it does for us — it makes us feel good, it makes others admire us. That's a far cry from denying oneself and picking up a cross to follow the Servant Jesus. One great thing about defining oneself as a Christ-like servant is how we begin to look for the next opportunity and the next. Life is not a series of self-gratifying events, but a high-expectation longing for the

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SERVANTS

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next opportunity to carry a burden, to share a cross or to walk alongside.

Thanksgiving month is a great time to put to work this Christ-like perspective on serving. Look for chances this month — at work, at school, out in the neighborhood — to serve. By all means join us Nov. 9-11 for our district-wide Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack. You can register to help pack food for the hungry at one of four sites in our district. For more information, visit our website at mnsdistrict.org.

There is no better way to thank God for blessings than to serve in His name. Watch how when you approach life with servant eyes you live life with servant acts. It's a matter of perspective. It all goes back to the One who looked on us and didn't write us off as unteachable, unworthy or impossible, but willingly came "to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many" (Mark 10:45).



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN
MOBILEPACK

MN South

Help us pack 750,000 meals and feed 2,000+ children for one year!

November 9-11, 2017
Concordia University, St. Paul
Trinity, Waconia
Rochester Central Lutheran School
Hosanna, Mankato

Volunteer or donate at
give.fmsc.org/lcms



Hamburg has new shepherd

The Rev. Mark David Triplett was installed as pastor of Emanuel Lutheran Church, Hamburg, on Aug. 6. Triplett had been serving his first call at Trinity Lutheran Church, Hayward, Wis., before being called to Emanuel. Participating in the service were, from left (front row) the Revs. Don Taylor; David S. Triplett, Concordia, Brockport, N.Y. and Mark's dad; Mark Triplett; Dr. Paul Marschke, Eric Rapp, St. Paul and Zion, Green Isle; (middle row) Tyson Mastin, St. John, Plato; Rob Jarvis, Bethlehem, Annandale; Les Uhrinak, Mission of the Cross, Crosslake; Ron Mueller; Al Holthus, St. John's, Chaska; Dr. Dean Nadasdy, district president; (back row) Layton Lemke, Peace, Hutchinson; Travis Loeslie, St. Peter, Lester Prairie; Justin Hesterman, Immanuel, Eagle Bend, and St. Matthew, Clarissa; and Paul Biebighauser, Christ Victorious, Chaska.

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Servant hearts in Excelsior

As part of their recent women's retreat, members of Our Savior Lutheran Church, Excelsior, incorporated several service-oriented projects to benefit The Dwelling Place. In partnership with Thrivent Financial, the women were able to fill more than 50 gift packs with useful daily-care items for women and children to use.

Many thanks to the women's ministry for their vision and planning to extend generous care in this way.

The photo shows the overflowing boxes, along with several ladies from the team of more than 30 women who assembled the gift packs.



MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God so that she is enabled to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world.

VISION STATEMENT

The LWML, the leading group for LCMS women, is the place where each woman is welcomed and encouraged to use her unique God-given gifts as she supports global missions and serves the Lord with gladness.

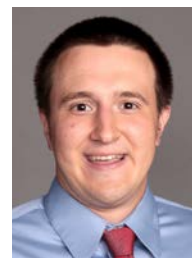
National Pastoral Counselor nominations are now being accepted for the 2019 convention ballot. Nominations are to be submitted through our LWML district president, Margaret Hesemann.

The deadline for nominations is Oct. 31.

The documents necessary for the pastoral nominations can be found at lwml.org/nominations. LWML President Patti Ross asks for prayers during this process and God's blessings on the pastors considering nomination.

If you have questions, please send an email to nominations@lwml.org. The 2017-19 Nominating Committee includes Joy Anderson (chairman), Karen Morrison, JoNette Brogaard, Linda Fees and Sherrie Smith.

Thank you!



Greetings from St. Louis! My name is Ryan Maser and I am a first-year student at Concordia Seminary. First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to you for your generous gift through the Minnesota South District. I have received the aid, and it is going toward offsetting my fall tuition expenses. It is a tremendous blessing to be able to focus on studying and preparing to be a servant in His ministry without constant financial strains and stress. Without your help, support and constant prayer, this would not be possible.

With three weeks already passed, there are many things I am looking forward to in serving God's flock as a pastor. For one, I am driven to build relationships with those I come in contact with, from my seminary classmates here to the parishioners at my field congregation (Good Shepherd, Collinsville, Ill.) and future vicarage assignment, to those I meet outside of the Church in the communities I am called to serve.

In addition to establishing and building relationships to His glory, I am also eager to share the good gifts that God has given to His Church. The proclaiming of the Word, the washing of one being claimed through the waters of Baptism, the administering of the Lord's Supper and the leading of worship are such joys and blessings that I look forward to learning about, with the hope to share all of these things in the future. The opportunity that I have ahead of me to grow in my faith and personal understanding of Christ is exciting and invigorating, especially being a believer in today's world. This is just a small glimpse into my passion to become a faithful servant and pastor in the church.

Thank you again for prayers, generosity and support. God's richest blessings to you.

TO ALL GENERATIONS

Enhancing Christian Education

By Rev. Dr. Robert and Dr. Lynn Gehrke
Campaign Chairs

“Now that God has today so graciously bestowed upon us an abundance of arts, scholars, and books, it is time to reap and gather in the best as well as we can, and lay up treasure in order to preserve for the future something from these years of jubilee, and not lose this bountiful harvest” (Martin Luther, “To the Councilmen of All Cities in Germany that they Establish and Maintain Christian Schools” *Luther’s Works*, Vol. 45, p. 347-378, ©Fortress Press).

The LCMS was certainly founded with an emphasis on education. In some places, a school was planted before a congregation. Just as in Luther’s day and in those early days of the LCMS, we have the opportunity to use the abundance of God’s first-article gifts in educating God’s people, both old and young.

We live in a culture that challenges and opposes the One who is the source and sustainer of these gifts, which can cause tension and fear. Because of this reality, it is most important that, as stewards of these gifts, we refocus our energy and resources into enhancing Christian education in our district.

We do not need to be tense or afraid because our God never stops teaching us through His Holy Word. This teaching Word prepares us for life in the mission field. In Deut. 6:6-7, our God encourages us to educate:

“These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

The To All Generations appeal is de-



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signed to encourage our renewed focus on Christian education. Please pray about how you and your congregation can get involved. May God richly bless our efforts to disciple the saved and reach out to the lost!

Questions and Answers

What initiatives are being supported by the To All Generations appeal?

- ▶ Strengthen education ministries through grants allocated in the following areas:
 - Enhance the quality of Lutheran schools and education ministries (birth through high school)
 - Encourage opportunities in parish education
 - Plant new schools and early childhood centers
 - Support educational leadership and continuing education
- ▶ Develop unified marketing strategies

- ▶ Increase efforts toward parental choice in education

Our congregation struggles with enough financial support to keep our ministry alive. We rarely talk about stewardship. Why should we consider involvement in the To All Generations appeal?

The To All Generations appeal is designed to help congregations achieve two distinct objectives:

Stewardship: Participating congregations will receive encouragement and training for implementing a congregational first-fruits giving stewardship program. This will be a direct benefit to the congregation’s local mission and the overall mission of the Minnesota South District.

Appeal: Participating congregations will receive training and resources for inviting individual gifts from their members for To All Generations.

Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending Sept. 30, 2017

Actual receipts	\$155,560
Budget receipts	\$207,166
Over (under) amount	\$(51,716)

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts	\$1,572,721
Budget receipts	\$1,864,494
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$(291,773)

Use of mission receipts (YTD-year to date)

50% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$600,807
100% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$47,412
50% for district operations (YTD)	\$600,807
100% for district operations (YTD)	\$323,695
Total receipts	\$1,572,721

Mission receipts—2017 vs. 2016

Mission receipts — YTD 2017	\$1,572,721
Mission receipts — YTD 2016	\$1,686,979
Over (under) last year	\$(114,258)

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

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

August 2017

New investments	\$972,681
Withdrawals	\$1,030,551
Net increase (decrease)	\$(57,870)

Year-to-date July 1, 2017–Aug. 31, 2017

New investments	\$1,939,888
Withdrawals	\$3,145,095
Net increase (decrease)	\$(1,205,207)