



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

Through my window

Numbering our days

It was always fun at our house, when the kids were still home, to open the windows on our Advent calendar each day as Christmas approached. Then it was usually a printed Bible passage we found, which one of us read aloud. Advent calendars have become more elaborate these days. You can even buy them with a piece of candy behind each window! Like most things related to Christmas, the calendars have become secularized as just a countdown until Santa shows up with all his gifts.

I like the idea of counting down the days until the Feast of the Incarnation. It paces you in the race toward Christmas. Even those living far from faith benefit from remembering how many days we have until the holiday. It can be like a doomsday clock for those who wait until the last minute to get a lot of Christmas shopping and chores done. Lost is the church's good idea of celebrating the incarnation for 12 days. You either make it or not with this worldly one-day holiday, and then it's take down the tree and de-Christmasize the house on Dec. 26.



Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
District President

There is wisdom in counting down our days. It was old Moses, likely no spring chicken at the time, who prayed in Ps. 90:12:

“So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.”

I have been numbering my days lately. The older I get, the more valuable each day seems. Oh, I know, I really don't know how many days I have left. I know over the Christmas holidays this year I'll turn 70 (Dec. 30). Our kids and grandkids will all gather and make me feel, well, somewhat patriarchal and, oh, yes, old. Amazingly, at least that is how it feels, with some amazement, I seem to have reached my “three score and ten” (Ps. 90:10).

Most of my days have been spent without numbering them. Day-in and day-out I did what was before me to do. Along the way, I prayed, worked, rested, loved, played, worried, ate too much, and at times came to tears at how rich a single day could be. It is that way with most of us. We do life as each day presents it. Now, though, I seem to be more selective, more intentional about how I spend my days.

There is a wisdom that comes with numbering our days. That is what Moses saw. If wisdom is knowing and understanding the truths of God and applying them to life, then number-



ing our days is clearly one pathway to wisdom. To know what God wants me to know this day, to be who God wants me to be this day, and to do what God wants me to do this day — this is the wisdom of numbering our days. It is to see each day as a precious gift of God to be filled with His purposes.

Maybe this is a little bit of the beauty behind the apostle Paul saying that “when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son” (Gal. 4:4). That's God numbering His days and ours so that at just the right time, Jesus the Savior was born. Leave it to God to have perfect timing. In these latter years I would like just a smidgen of that wisdom.

Seeking partners in Nicaragua

In mid-October, a pastor and lay-leader team from two district congregations went to Nicaragua with the Central American Lutheran Mission Society (CALMS) to explore partnership possibilities with villages. The Rev. Paul Rieger and Jake Langeslag from Trinity, Faribault, and the Rev. Greg Schlicker and Matt Tveite went on this trip, along with the Rev. Dr. William Utech and Billy Schultz of the Minnesota South District staff. Utech is assistant to the president for Missions and Schultz serves as director of Communications and Mission Support.



▲ Schlicker, right, led a Bible study for the members of Iglesia Luterana Resurreccion, focusing on Christian vocation.



▲ Tveite found some time to play with young Justin in Barrio El Guasimo.



▲ The team spent time with children in Barrio El Guasimo, helping them enjoy a fun time destroying piñatas.



◀ Time was spent with the children of Iglesia Luterana Resurreccion in Sebaco. They were taught volleyball and had time for crafts and Bible charades.



◀ The youth of Iglesia Luterana Resurreccion visited a nursing home outside of Sebaco, performing a drama and talking with some of the residents. Here, Rieger meets one.

Fall VBS

Hosanna, Buffalo, hosted a two-day Vacation Bible School, titled "A Mighty Fortress," during fall break. The Rev. Rob Jarvis is pictured with some of the attendees.



DISTRICT OFFICE

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On to Hong Kong

On Sept. 27, a group of Minnesota South District LWML members spent a wonderful day at Mission Central in Mapleton, Iowa. The ladies were able to hear a presentation from one of the district's own, Johanna Heidorn.

A member of Grace, Rochester, Johanna is an LCMS missionary to Asia, based in Hong Kong, and will serve as a communications specialist.



Six-pack of blessings!



These six LWML sisters in Christ have been nurturing a close bond through their 20-plus years of serving the Lord with gladness together on the district Board of Directors. That's just one of the many blessings the ladies experience as Lutheran Women in Mission. Having become closer friends despite living throughout the district, they strive to spend "sister-ship" time together in what they now call "ReTreat." Most recently, they gathered to share, spend time in the Word and make "homeless mats" as a mission service activity — a true LWML experience. To God be the glory for the mutual encouragement of one another's faith (Rom. 1:12 NIV).

Getting everyone involved

Redemption, Bloomington, celebrated 75 years of LWML on Sunday, Oct. 1 with the reminder that it's not all just about women, but rather about helping others. Men and children are needed to help raise mites as well. Man Mites provided another way for all to be involved.



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.

Wanted: nominations

The deadline for submitting nominations for Minnesota South District LWML officers is Jan. 15.

Nominations are sought for the following officers:

- President
- VP of Gospel Outreach
- VP of Communications
- Recording Secretary
- Financial Secretary
- Nominating Committee

For the nomination form and mailing instructions, go to mnskwml.org/events/nominations.

A MIGHTY CELEBRATION

On Oct. 29, about 2,500 people attended the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation festival worship service, held in the Gangelhoff Center at Concordia University, St. Paul. The event was sponsored by the Minnesota South District, Minnesota North District and Concordia University. Framed within a Luther drama and verses of "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God," the celebration featured music by handbells, organ, choirs, band and orchestra; liturgy led by district presidents Rev Dr. Dean Nadasdy and Rev. Dr. Don Fondow, and a sermon preached by LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison.



First district tri-parish installs pastor

To more effectively share the Gospel in its community, three congregations have formed a tri-parish and called the Rev. Robert E. Moeller Jr. to serve as pastor. St. John's, Trosky; Trinity, Jasper; and Our Saviour's, Pipestone, held a joint Divine Service and installation on Oct. 15.

Moeller has been serving St. John's since 2013, and as vacancy pastor at Trinity and Our Saviour's since November 2016. He was ordained and installed in 2001 at Trinity, Hartford, S.D., prior to his call to St. John's. A second-career pastor, Moeller sold livestock feed and was a Lutheran Brotherhood District representative in Freeman, S.D. for 15 years before enrolling at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind.

He credits the experience of visiting people in their homes for the emphasis he places on personal visits in his ministry.

After installing Moeller, District President Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy told the members of the new parish that "as the first tri-parish in the district, you are pioneers and the rest of the district's leaders and congregations will be watching to see how you do."

Nadasdy anticipates that with changing demographics, particularly in rural and small-town areas — and with a shortage



Participating in the service were, from left, the Revs. Clifford Adair, St. Paul's, Pipestone; Dr. Nadasdy; J. J. Stefanic, Good Shepherd, Marshall; H. Douglas Minton, Trinity, Slayton; Evan Schiller, circuit visitor; and Shawn Ethridge, St. Paul, Fulda.

of available pastors — there will be more similar arrangements in the future. He complimented the congregations on their boldness to move forward and their

willingness to work together "to share the Gospel and to assure that Word and Sacrament ministry continues in your communities."

Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending Oct. 31, 2017

Actual receipts	\$212,299
Budget receipts	\$207,166
Over (under) amount	\$5,133

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts	\$1,785,020
Budget receipts	\$2,071,660
Over (under) anticipated amount	(\$286,640)

Use of mission receipts (YTD-year to date)

50% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$672,036
100% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$60,879
50% for district operations (YTD)	\$672,036
100% for district operations (YTD)	\$380,069
Total receipts	\$1,785,020

Mission receipts—2017 vs. 2016

Mission receipts — YTD 2017	\$1,785,020
Mission receipts — YTD 2016	\$1,871,862
Over (under) last year	(\$86,842)

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

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

September 2017

New investments	\$1,322,625
Withdrawals	\$1,858,653
Net increase (decrease)	(\$536,028)

Year-to-date July 1, 2017–Sept. 30, 2017

New investments	\$3,262,513
Withdrawals	\$5,003,748
Net increase (decrease)	(\$1,741,235)