



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

Through my window

'Chosen to proclaim'

2018 is a district convention year for the Minnesota South District and the other 34 districts in the LCMS.



Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy
District President

Each parish will send a pastoral and lay delegate to our June 21-23 convention at Concordia University, St. Paul, as we gather under the theme, "Chosen to Proclaim." The theme is based on 1 Peter 2:9.

The text is a great reminder that being chosen and set apart by God is not just another way to say that we're Christians. We are chosen and set apart for a specific purpose. That purpose is to "proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

Two words stand out for me in this verse. The first is **proclaim**. This is our purpose as Christians – to proclaim. There is no shyness in that word, no whisper or political correctness. It means to announce with conviction and celebration, to tell forth, to declare abroad.

In case you thought your pastor was the

THEME VERSE

“But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may **proclaim** the **excellencies** of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.”



1 Peter 2:9

only proclaimer in your congregation, an inspired Peter says otherwise. We are all proclaimers, every one of us. Our pastor is our designated proclaimer for the public proclamation of the Word on a regular basis, but in life, in the world, the Lord has chosen and set each of us apart to be a proclaimer.

The second word that catches my attention is **excellencies** — “that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.” In the original Greek New Testament, the word is difficult to translate. It can mean virtues or moral goodness, but it can also mean praises. I like the word, “excellencies.” We



proclaim not only the excellent works of power which God has accomplished for our salvation, but also the excellent character of God — His holiness, perfection and love. Given the pure excellence of God, we have a lot to proclaim — both what God has done and who God is!

As with every convention, we will have the church's business to conduct. We will elect a new district president. We will also elect officers, members of the Board of Directors and other leaders. Pray for leaders who are solid theologically and completely committed to the mission of Jesus Christ.

And there will, of course, be resolutions.

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First TAG grants awarded

The To All Generations (TAG) appeal was started to enhance the quality of Christian education in our schools and congregations. In October, the first round of grant applications were submitted, and three were approved by the Schools and Commissioned Ministers Committee, based on criteria approved by the district Board of Directors.



used to market this new center to a community that is increasingly unchurched and has relatively few Christian early childhood options.



The next deadline for To All Generations grant proposals is April 9. Grant-application windows will continue every six months until all To All Generations funds are expended. More information about these grants can be found at mnsdistrict.org/tag-grants.

NW Metro New Lutheran High School Initiative

There is currently no LCMS high school in the northwest corner of the Twin Cities metro. The Rev. Tim and Kelly Lamkin (Shepherd of the Grove, Maple Grove) want to determine if it is feasible to start a new Lutheran high school that would serve 50 to 150 students.



The study would include a look at congregational support, community demographics and possible locations for this new plant.

Winona Area Marketing Collaboration

Hope Lutheran High School, Winona; St. Martin's Lutheran School, Winona; and Immanuel Lutheran School-Silo, Lewiston, are collaborating to advertise their education ministries through a variety of local and online media.



Kingdom Kids Learning Center, Ham Lake

This early childhood center was opened in the fall of 2017. The grant will be

WANTED: School marketing ideas

The Minnesota South District will host a think tank geared toward marketing our Lutheran schools and education ministries from 10 to 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 1.

Join leaders from across the district to share ideas and collaborate on sharing the story of our ministries.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

It's hard to tell right now what resolutions we will consider. Any congregation may send an overture, which in turn will be considered by a convention floor committee and possibly sent on to the convention. I personally hope that we can say something to our culture from the Godward side of things, from the perspective of a biblical world view. I also hope we can move the mission forward in our corner of the kingdom and beyond.

Along the way, the Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, LCMS president, will preach at the opening service, June 21. The

Rev. Dr. Greg Seltz, former Lutheran Hour speaker, will be our essayist on our theme, "Chosen to Proclaim." He now serves as executive director of the LCMS's new Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty in Washington, D.C. He knows something about public proclamation.

Our Bible study leader will be Dr. Phil Johnson, assistant to the president for Mission Formation in our district. He will bring engaging insights and application from 1 Peter 2:9.

You're invited to join us, as a delegate or as a guest. As a guest, you may come for part or for all of the convention. We have a lot of proclaiming to do.

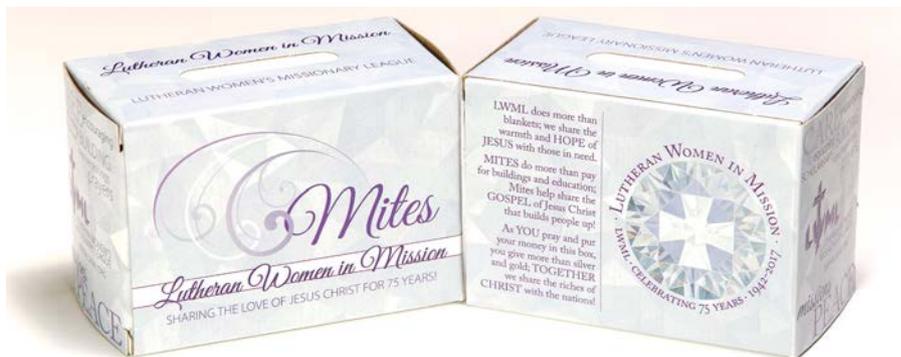
DISTRICT OFFICE

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

The mission of our mission: **MITES!**

In a message from Deb Vinkemeier, our vice-president of Gospel Outreach, she points out that we have only five (and she repeats “only” five) months left to reach our mission grant goal of \$265,000.

Do you wonder what the big deal is when we “still” have five months left? We still need \$101,683. Deb is now asking us to divide that amount by five for the remaining five months to collect mites this biennium. Was your answer



\$20,337? You are correct! This is what we need by the end of April. This is usually the average amount of mites we receive quarterly. We close the financial books on April 30, and so the mite box is crying “Feed me, feed me!”

The mite box doesn’t just want you, our LWML members, to feed it. No, please

have your congregation, the men, the teenagers and especially the children help feed it. Allow them the privilege and the joy of spreading God’s Word and helping the hurt, the disabled and the missionaries near and far. Pray for our mite giving and our mission grants. Don’t let your mite box go hungry.

Thank you



Every Sunday, the Rev. Dr. Brent Smith and I are in a different congregation and are amazed at the numbers of people that still don’t understand that our missionaries have to raise 100 percent of their own support. That is why your LWML mite support has been such a blessing in helping to tell so many in lands of darkness about our dear Savior Jesus.

Remember His last words as He was ascending into heaven: “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to all creation” (Mark 16:15). That is His command and we must carry out this great privilege to tell more and more people about our dear Jesus before He returns.

Please know we send our love and blessing to you, and we couldn’t keep up this work for Jesus without your love, prayers, blessings and support.

Gary Thies • Mission Central, Mapleton, Iowa

Helping our future church workers

The training of young men and women for full-time professional church work is imperative to carrying out the Great Commission. There are many positions desperately needed to be filled in the mission field and in our congregations.

District mites totaling \$24,289 have been combined with other donations to provide aid to professional church-work students in the Concordia University System, our two seminaries and other institutions.

We are happy to support the following for the 2017-18 school year with scholarships. We applaud and support them as they are intentionally engaged in the mission of God.

Concordia University, Irvine, Calif.
Rachel Holtzen

Concordia University, Mequon, Wis.
Kiah Bakken, Kelsey Charron, Martha Kulberg, Brittany Wilaby, Michaela Wilaby

Concordia University, St. Paul
Emily Bernau, Ezekiel Green, Thomas Gustafson, Samantha Guthrie, Allyssa Guynes, Katherine Mahlum, Elizabeth Parrish, Alison Rudolph, Willow Schuckert, Clara Snow, Andrew Stroming, Mackenzie Thiesfeld

Concordia University, Seward, Neb.

Hannah Davis, Kate Esser, Mark Esser, Laura Hedstrom, Brandon Holmes, Danielle Mahlum, Leah Mussell, Julia O’Laughlin, Jacob Pralle, Rebekah Rusert, Micah Summank, Makenna Taylor, Emma Wendorff, Izaak Wendorff, Amanda Uecker

Concordia Seminary, Fort Wayne

Joshua Arndt, Thomas Batchelder, Cory Kroonblawd, Marie Landskroener, Tanner Post

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis

Jesse Baker, Andrew Jones, Kevin Koester, Ryan Maser, Andrew Mussell, Benjamin Oelschlaeger, Daniel Ondov, Joshua Otterman, Joshua Parrish, Kevin Peterson, Christian Pieper, Benjamin Stoebig, Connor Wondrasch, Craig McCourt

Graduate Students

Tim Beckendorf (Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary, Hamilton, Mass.); Christopher Dehning (Concordia University, Seward, Neb.); Jennifer Hall (Northwestern University, St. Paul); Brett Hardecopf (Concordia University, St. Paul); Christine Klug, Dana Raabe (Concordia University, Mequon, Wis.); Mark Loder (Bethel Seminary, St. Paul); William Sabol (Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne); Anna Vanvleet (Grand Canyon University, Phoenix, Ariz.)

Turning hunger into hope

Our second Feed My Starving Children MobilePack was a success.

Held Nov. 9-11 at Concordia University, St. Paul; Trinity, Waconia; Rochester Central Lutheran School; and Hosanna, Mankato, volunteers came together to pack nearly 100,000 more meals than last year. People of all ages, ethnicities and corners of our district came together in this mercy ministry.

Thank you to everyone who made this possible with your time and gifts, and a special thank you goes to LCEF for their sponsorship!

Save the date for this year's MobilePack, to be held Nov. 8-10. Locations will be announced at a later date.



Waconia

At four locations:

3,132
people

packed
778,248
meals

that will feed
2,132
children
in Haiti for a year



Rochester



Waconia



St. Paul



Mankato



St. Paul