



# DISTRICT NEWS

## MINNESOTA SOUTH

Through my window

# The American flag in our church

I am occasionally asked the question: **“Why do we display the American flag in our church?”**



**Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy**  
District President

The question may come from someone who is simply curious about the traditional practice. It may also come from someone who is seriously concerned about our confusing Christianity with nationalism. That is, in displaying the flag we may be saying that God is on our side and our side only when it comes to the nations of the world.

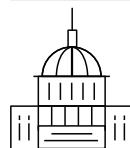
Another way of stating this objection is to say that our Lord is bigger than any one nation; He is Lord of all nations. Or to put it still another way, we as individuals and congregations are called to go “into all the world” with the Gospel, not just into the United States. Still others may object to the flag’s display as a simple confusion of church and state.

More than one pastor has stumbled into conflict by simply removing the American flag from the sanctuary. One Sunday

it is there, the next Sunday it is gone. The aforementioned arguments may have been his motivation, but conversation and teaching are always best before a unilateral act which may be perceived as unpatriotic or controlling or both.

I would like to add to the conversation and teaching by presenting five good reasons for displaying the American flag in our sanctuaries. You might have guessed that I would come down in favor of such a tradition, but I do so for the following reasons:

1. Our Lutheran teaching of the two kingdoms reminds us that God works His will in both the kingdom of the right, the church, and the kingdom of the left, the state. Placing the American flag in our church affirms that our God is at work in the governing of our nation, just as our God is at work in the governing of every nation (Rom. 13:1). Placing the Christian flag in our church is a strong visual reminder of our two kingdoms theology. It says we are one nation “under God.”



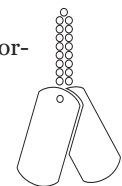
2. The flag is a constant reminder that we are encouraged in the Scriptures to pray for our national leaders (1 Tim. 2:1-2), which many of our congregations do every weekend.



3. The American flag serves as a reminder to everyone in worship that a crucial setting for our Christian vocation is our American citizenship. We are not just spouses, children, parents, students and workers. We are citizens, not of every nation, but of our nation. The flag in our sanctuary keeps our calling as citizens before us.



4. The flag places before us, whenever we gather for worship, a reminder of those from our midst who are away on active military duty. Once again, it reflects our prayers for



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## Good News in Austin

### Children in after-school program are baptized

By Rev. James Groleau  
Pastor, St. John's, Austin

One of the initiatives I began when I started here at St. John's, Austin, last April was an after-school youth program that I developed at my previous congregation. It is called Christian After School Education (CASE). We began by making connections with families through vacation Bible school.

Over the next few months, children invited their friends. We now have 15 to 20 children show up each Wednesday afternoon. About half are not members of our congregation. During class time, we use Bible lessons to teach the individual components of the six chief parts in *Luther's Small Catechism*.

As we spent time learning about Baptism, a number of the children stated they had not been baptized. That prompted some conversations with the



Clockwise from top, Arrianna Nicole Pineda, Dagito Sophia Kewatt and Abel Kipkosgei Kirui were among those recently baptized at St. John's, Austin.

parents, and shortly thereafter, we had lined up nine baptisms. To accommodate family schedules, we had three special services, two during CASE time and one on a Sunday afternoon. The congregation demonstrated their support and excitement by showing up in force. Each service brought in 30 to 35 congregation members to help cel-

ebtrate this awesome time and to share in the joy with these families.

There's still more work to do. We have also learned that some of the parents are not baptized. We are working on getting them in for some brief instruction and prayerfully, we may have more being brought into God's family soon.

## MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

them and our hope for their safe return.

5. The flag helps us remember those who in past wars and conflicts have paid the ultimate price for our freedom. It is a memorial recalling their sacrifice.



These are my thoughts on why I still love to see the American flag displayed in our churches. I understand the objections some might have to this practice. I take them as helpful cautions, but not as objections strong enough to remove a flag from a place of worship. I know not everyone agrees with me. So, as always, I welcome gracious, thoughtful conversation.



## What happens since we didn't meet our mite goal?

This question was asked at the last LWML Minnesota South District Board of Directors meeting. The answer was that those grants not paid are carried forward into the next biennium. Unfortunately, we did not meet our goal for the 2016-18 biennium. We were short by \$13,372. But, with prayer and continued mite contributions, we can still collect the funds needed for the 2016-18 mission grants goal.

Remember, you can donate online with your Thrivent Choice dollars, through Joyful Response or by sending a check to Joann Rosenfeld, financial secretary, 44356 220th Street, Arlington, MN 55307.



If you need more information about Joyful Response, contact Joann at [financialsec@mnskwml.org](mailto:financialsec@mnskwml.org) or 507-317-1009. Please leave a message if she can't answer her phone when you call.

Let's see if we can get the mite thermometer on the website to the top before the convention at the end of June!

## Mercy in action

The Women of Eternal Hope Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park, recently sponsored a pillow case project for Minneapolis Children's Hospital. Twenty-three women made a total of 250 pillow cases.

More than enough cotton fabric was donated by members, plus a large quantity was purchased with Thrivent Financial Action Team funds.



The pillow cases were spread out on pews of the sanctuary and blessed during a worship service.

This is the fifth year the ladies have enjoyed the fellowship in this project, completing about 760 pillow cases over that time.

## Faribault Zone blesses The Dwelling Place

Gloria Kenow and Candi Schafer of the Faribault Zone recently delivered basic supplies to The Dwelling Place in St. Paul.

During a visit to Esther's Place, the third and newest home associated with The Dwelling Place, Gloria and Candi were able to see the work being done and met some of the crew that is working on the home. They also had the privilege of blessing the home by writing a Scripture verse on the floor.



In addition, Deb Vinkemeier, district vice-president of Gospel Outreach, was invited by Linda Wiza, The Dwelling Place director, for a tour of the three homes. Deb was able to meet two of the families living there and the staff.

She was blessed by receiving a gift from one of the resident children.

It is such a blessing to see God's ministry working strongly and having such dedicated servants helping the less fortunate and bringing them to Christ.

## Zone hears from former missionary at rally

The Northwest Suburban LWML Zone Spring Rally was held April 7 at Eternal Hope Lutheran Church, Brooklyn Park. Brunch was served to 48 attendees by the ladies of Eternal Hope.

The theme was the "Woman at the Well/Water of Life" and "Recognizing the Living Water" — focusing on sharing the Good News with our neighbors. Coral Rose, former LCMS missionary to Africa, shared stories and showed slides on her service, and she explained how her life evolved into becoming a missionary in South Africa and Ghana. She also shared favorite Bible verses to emphasize how God guided her service as a missionary.

The display of pictures, material, jewelry and other items collected during Coral's years as a missionary in Africa helped to explain some of the culture she experienced. Coral wishes to tell her story to many others. She may be contacted at [crosesa@hotmail.com](mailto:crosesa@hotmail.com).

Sandy Slack, Human Care chairman for the Northwest Suburban Zone, led a prayer of dedication for 237 pounds of supplies and \$40 donated to Home Free Shelter. She also talked about and displayed a sample of the baby kit and hospice kit for the upcoming LWML Minnesota South District Convention.

## Mites at work

Deb Vinkemeier, LWML district vice-president of Gospel Outreach, recently presented Rick Marko, Minnesota South District treasurer, with a mission grant check for \$15,711 for Student Aid Scholarships. The Minnesota South District is very grateful for the generous mite support being used to help students who are preparing to be professional church workers.

# DISTRICT NEWS

## CALL DAY

was held at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, on April 24 and Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., on April 25. Concluding students received their pastoral and diaconal calls, and second-year students received their vicarage and internship assignments.



From Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind., Joshua Reber will serve as vicar at St. James, Howard Lake, and Joshua Arndt was called as pastor of St. Peter, Lester Prairie. From left, Maggie Marcus (Reber's fiancée), Joshua Reber, Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy and Joshua and Ivy Arndt.



From Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, George Denholm received a vicarage assignment from Woodbury Lutheran Church. He is pictured with his wife, Kara, and Nadasdy.

## WANTED: Gathering volunteers

Are you interested in volunteering in some capacity for the 2019 LCMS Youth Gathering?

We are looking for people in the broader Twin Cities area (congregations in the Minnesota South and North districts, and South and North Wisconsin districts) who are willing to serve before, during and after the Gathering.

If you are interested in being a volunteer, please visit [mnsdistrict.org/nyg](http://mnsdistrict.org/nyg) and follow the link to enter your contact information. We will keep you up-to-date with the volunteer timelines, local events and application process.



Send submissions for the district supplement to:

**Billy Schultz**

► [billy.schultz@mnsdistrict.org](mailto: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.



**DISTRICT OFFICE**

► 14301 Grand Ave. South  
 Burnsville, MN 55306  
 ► 952-435-2550  
 ► [mnsdistrict.org](http://mnsdistrict.org)

## Congregation mission receipts

### For the period ending April 30, 2018

Actual receipts . . . . .	\$179,533
Budget receipts . . . . .	\$200,000
Over (under) amount . . . . .	\$(20,467)

### Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts . . . . .	\$703,259
Budget receipts . . . . .	\$800,000
Over (under) anticipated amount . . . . .	\$(96,741)

### Use of mission receipts (YTD-year to date)

50% remitted to Synod (YTD) . . . . .	\$262,627
100% remitted to Synod (YTD) . . . . .	\$26,975
50% for district operations (YTD) . . . . .	\$262,627
100% for district operations (YTD) . . . . .	\$151,030
Total receipts . . . . .	\$703,259

### Mission receipts—2018 vs. 2017

Mission receipts — YTD 2018 . . . . .	\$703,259
Mission receipts — YTD 2017 . . . . .	\$724,907
Over (under) last year . . . . .	\$(21,648)
<i>2018 congregational receipts budgeted at \$2,400,000</i>	

### MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

#### March 2018

New investments . . . . .	\$1,332,712
Withdrawals . . . . .	\$1,149,227
Net increase (decrease) . . . . .	\$183,485

#### Year-to-date July 1, 2017–March 31, 2018

New investments . . . . .	\$13,310,394
Withdrawals . . . . .	\$14,235,903
Net increase (decrease) . . . . .	\$(925,509)