



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

💡 TALKING POINTS WITH PASTOR



Jesus said:

“And you will be hated by all for my name’s sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved.”

— Mark 13:13

Endurance is a popular subject. Athletes train for it. Politicians craft it. Parents hope for it. **And Jesus calls for it.**

Endurance. It’s a noun that describes the capacity of someone or something to endure wear and tear. It comes from the word “endure,” which, according to my *Scholastic Dictionary of American English*, is “the ability to suffer patiently without yielding.”

Jesus tells it to us plainly. Believers should expect suffering and persecution. It’s not a pleasant picture. In Mark 13:13, Jesus was talking to the disciples about what was to come. At this point, they still didn’t understand it all. His death and resurrection were yet to come. The “gospel” still wasn’t fully clear to them.

However, it is clear for us. We know Jesus was crucified, died and was buried for the forgiveness of our sins. We know three days later He burst out of that tomb, declaring that He is the resurrection and the life. His Word declares it. His life gives it — Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life.



Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
District President

Yet there are many in this world, in this country and in our own communities who do not believe this. They are lost. They follow after the ways of this world. They believe the lies of Satan. Some even persecute Christians for their beliefs. They are in desperate need of Jesus!

Many Christians see that America is coming to a crossroads. Christian values and virtues are being threatened on numerous fronts. Some feel our country is being destroyed, that America is no longer “America the Beautiful,” but is having its foundations overturned one vote after another and one Supreme Court decision after another.

Recognizing how America has changed is a good thing. The morals and values of “Leave it to Beaver” have been replaced by “Seinfeld,” “Modern Family” and the Kardashians. But life during the Eisenhower era was not perfect either. We remember history more fondly than it was. This is why Jesus calls us to endure to the end no matter the age, country or era of history we find ourselves in.

Jesus tells His disciples — you — where hope was to be found. Hope is in Him, not in a country. Eternal confidence is in His promise, not in a government. Truth is in His Word, not in a vote of the people. True “love,” you see, comes in His death and resurrection, not the decision of a Supreme Court.

Yet that does not mean we as Christians

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TALKING POINTS

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should step back from our civic duty. Quite the opposite. Rather, it means that as active citizens defending life, teaching virtue, standing up for truth and promoting justice, we know that come what may to America, Jesus was not, cannot and will not ever be destroyed! There is always hope.

No, it will not always be easy. Tough times are ahead. Pressure to be politically correct will mount. As Christians, we can be assured people will hate us. Many will try to lead us astray. Jesus said as much.

Enduring to the end, then, is more than having the right “idea” or right “knowledge” about God. It’s more than just going through the motions. It means living our faith and fortifying our faith — through prayer, repentance and the Word of God — as we live out our daily vocations and serve our neighbors in love and good works.

Faith conversations need to happen in the home — between husband and wife, between parents and children. If we want to have strong, faith-filled children or grandchildren, we must make sure those conversations are happening in our homes and in our congregations. And I know they are, so



keep it up. Don’t stop! Endure to the end, as tough as it might become.

And when it grows heavy and difficult, Jesus walks with you through it all. After all, He knows endurance is difficult. He endured the hate and the scorn. He suffered the nails and the spear. He knows the worst that this world can bring. (He knows the worst that you and I can bring.) And He paid for it all on the cross. Yes, He endured the cross, scorning its shame so that you and I might have hope.

A government tried to kill Him, a people tried to destroy him, the devil tried to bury Him and sin tried to devour Him. But He endured, and on the third day, He walked out of the tomb alive. Come what may to this country, Christ Jesus will not turn His back on us. Baptized into His name, He will not abandon us. Jesus is our hope. He is our life. We endure because He endures!

Rally for Lutheran Hour

The Minnesota South District of the International Lutheran Laymen’s League is hosting an “old-fashioned” Lutheran Hour Rally at 4 p.m. on Sunday, March 17, at Hosanna Lutheran Church, Mankato.

The rally will feature a powerful message from Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler, Lutheran Hour speaker; music from the Hosanna praise band, a massed choir composed of members from southern Minnesota-area congregations; and a ministry expo where you can learn more about LHM resources and sharing the Gospel.

For more rally information and registration details, please contact Rev. Greg Heidorn at 507-273-8546. Color posters, bulletin announcements and massed choir information are available by emailing benjamin.bonine@thrivent.com.

More information is available at mnsdistrict.org/lhmrrally.



Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler

BIBLE BOWL 2019

On Saturday, April 6, Concordia University, St. Paul, will host the annual Bible Bowl. The questions will come from the Gospel of Mark.

More information can be found at MNBibleBowl.org. The site states: “Bible Bowl is a great way to motivate your students to get into God’s Word and learn it in depth. It’s always fun to study together, and having a goal keeps everyone on the team accountable!”

This event is for Christian youth grades seven through 12. Bible Bowl includes a fast-paced team competition and an individual competition, which is a 50-question, multiple choice test. Sample questions from last year’s contest can be found on the website.

Paula Paulson of Holy Cross, St. Cloud, who has taken children to participate said: “It’s such a wonderful

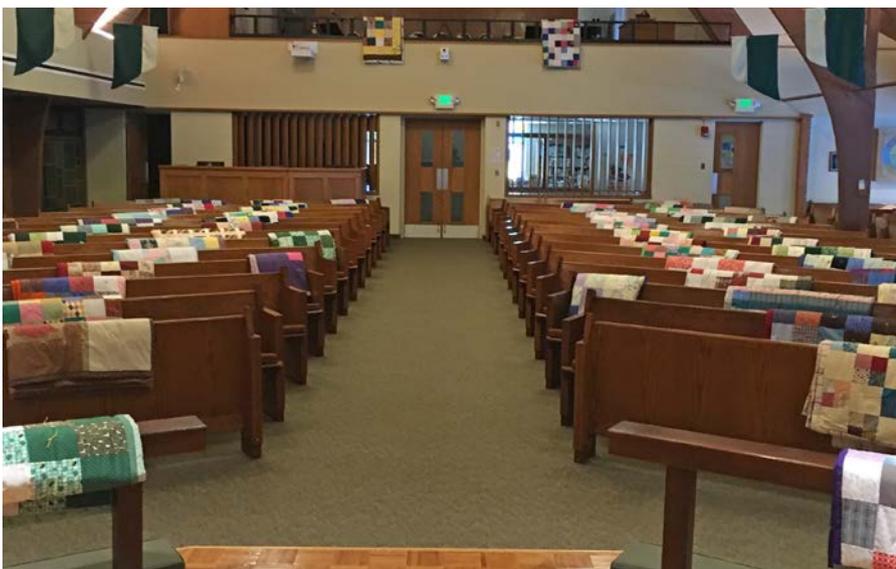


Rev. Steve Breitbarth, (Minnesota North), pictured, co-leads the event with Rev. Rudy Maurer (Minnesota South).

experience. I’ve seen what a difference it has made in encouraging my own kids to study Scripture in depth. I really want to help other

families find out about it.”

Registration is \$40 per team (worth every penny!) and **must be mailed by March 15.**



Made with love

On Sunday, Jan. 27, the ladies of South Shore Trinity Lutheran Church, White Bear Lake, dedicated 89 quilts. These quilts will be delivered to Lutheran World Relief for distribution to those in need around the world. Blessings to those who receive these quilts, which were made with love for Jesus Christ our Lord.



Operation Christmas Child

The LWML group of Good Shepherd, Owatonna, put together pony-bead cross necklaces to add to the Operation Christmas Child boxes the congregation donated. The crosses have colored pony beads, and the colors coordinated with Scripture verses. The ladies' prayer is that the children receiving the necklaces as part of Operation Christmas Child will be blessed with the thought that someone loves them and cares about their spiritual welfare. May God continue to bless the recipients as well as those who give so much of themselves.

28TH BIENNIAL DISTRICT CONVENTION

We're headed to Willmar!

The LWML Minnesota South District Board has heard your concerns about the rising cost of attending your district conventions.

These are your conventions and the Board is listening to your concerns. As costs continue to increase, we've searched for a new, more cost-conscious venue.

With that said, "Have YOU Heard?", the 28th Biennial LWML Minnesota South District Convention, is moving to the Willmar Conference Center. The center is a one-level facility with two connected hotels, both of which provide complimentary breakfasts. The Convention Bureau will also provide support with name tags, registration assistance, community tours and more.

Your LWML convention hosts, the Lyndale Conference, hope you will be in attendance. The dates are June 18-20, 2020. The theme is "Tell Everyone What He Has Done."

We hope you will attend this convention and make it one of the biggest ever. God's Word is strong, it never gives up and neither will the LWML! We want you to attend and hope this cost-saving move will inspire you to do so.

We simply ask that you pray about it and perhaps tuck a few dollars away each week for the next 18 months and the funds will be ready and waiting for you to include in your registration for Convention 2020!

BYLAWS REMINDER

Once your society and/or zone has reviewed and revised your Bylaws — which should be done every two to three years, before the conclusion of the zone president's term — please submit an electronic copy to Linda Butzin at parliamentarian@mnslwml.org.



The mission of Higher Things is to assist parents, pastors, and congregations in cultivating a distinctively Lutheran identity among their youth and young adults.

Higher Things to hold conference at CSP

“THE WORD OF THE LORD ENDURES FOREVER” (1 PETER 1:25)

“Concordia.” It literally means “with one heart” in Latin. The Church is unified around the confession of Jesus as our Lord and Savior, like a congregation singing together in many different parts but singing the same song together in perfect harmony.

Concordia isn't just a feeling that we are one. It's not only something that we strive to have. We don't sacrifice what we believe in order to be unified. True Concord is always centered around the confession of Christ and Him crucified!

God speaks. We receive His words into our

ears. He gives our tongues the words to say to Him and to those around us. We repeat, together, His Words back to Him. We sing them, we confess them, all agreeing together, “with one heart and voice” our confession of Jesus!

In a world where youth are tempted to compromise, Higher Things is excited to plan its 2019 conferences centered on the theme of the Church and Unity. One of five conferences will be held **June 26-29 at Concordia University St. Paul.**

Visit higherthings.org/conferences/concordia2019 for more information.

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

2019 LCMS Youth Gathering

Local Volunteer Applications Open!

Learn more and apply at
lcmsgathering.com/gathering-volunteers/



Interested in becoming a pastor? Deaconess?

Rev. Jamie Nava, admissions officer at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, will be at Concordia University St. Paul from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on March 18 to discuss seminary education and the path to becoming a pastor or deaconess.

Contact Rev. Nava at [navaj@csel.edu](mailto:navaaj@csel.edu) or 314-505-7224 to schedule an appointment.



Send submissions for the district supplement to:

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Photos sent by email should be in high resolution, at least 300 dpi.



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