



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

💡 TALKING POINTS WITH PASTOR

On the road with Jesus

“That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. ... And he said to them, ‘O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?’ And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.”

Luke 24:13-15, 25-27



Our society depends on roads every day of every year. No doubt you probably used one today. If you have a car, you need a road to drive on (preferably, at least). Life would be a lot different without roads.

Roads allow us to travel, for recreation and vocation. Roads allow us to do things like visit family and friends. They let us receive mail from Maine and transport goods to Miami.

Roads themselves are interesting. They can be cement or tar, gravel or dirt, single lane to four lanes, one way or two way. A lot happens on roads. Cars travel, semis haul, pedestrians walk and bikers bike. There are traffic jams, car crashes, drunk drivers and drive-by shootings. A lot happens on roads.

For two rather unknown friends of Jesus, a road is where they met the resurrected Lord. While returning to the little-known village of Emmaus, two men unknowingly encountered Him. We can't be certain if it was a dirt road, a stone road or a royal road. In fact, scholars are not sure which direction it went out of Jerusalem — maybe northeast — because they cannot agree where the town of Emmaus was actually located.

Regardless, whatever their reason was for going to Emmaus — whether they lived



Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
District President

there, worked there or had other family there — these two followers of Jesus were walking along contemplating the news that Mary Magdalene, Joanna and Mary the mother of James had just told them. The tomb was empty. Angels had greeted them. Jesus had risen from the dead.

But they were still unsure. Could they believe it? Was it true? Or was it just a dead end? Jesus came and settled it for them. He appeared to them and explained to them that this had to happen. In fact, it was what the Scriptures had foretold.

Perhaps you have questions of your own. Maybe life has you traveling down a difficult road. Or maybe you're lost and not sure which exit you need to take. Where do you turn? Who can help? Between the detours, the distractions and the dead ends, it feels like there's no hope.

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Plunge raises funds for retreat center

On a cold, windy day in February, 70 brave plungers from 16 teams gathered for the second annual Camp Omega Plunge. Temperatures hovered near zero as each team took the plunge and then raced back to the warmth of the Morristown Community Center.

The Morristown Fire Department, along with a number of Morristown residents, were wonderful in helping the event run smoothly — and safely.

Inside the community center, Russ Schwitchenberg, event director, kept things hopping with “heads and tails” games to win various prizes. Food and fellowship were plentiful in between games. Trinity

Camp Omega Plunge

by the numbers

2018

50 plungers

\$38,000 raised

2019

70 plungers

\$60,000 raised

Lutheran Church, Janesville, won the traveling Plunge Trophy for raising the most funds this year — about \$34,000 from this generous church!

Heather Dimmel, who helped organize the plunge and was registration and communication assistant, said: “Camp Omega has currently received \$60,000 in donations from the 2019 plunge, and we are so grateful! We hope to continue growing and improving this event to help fund the new Adult and Family Retreat Center.”

The new center will help Camp Omega expand its ministry to adult and family retreat groups.

Is your church ready to grow?

The Center for United States Missions, along with the Minnesota South District, is sponsoring a one-day Churches Planting Churches conference on Saturday, May 4 at Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Rochester.

The conference begins at 9 a.m. and concludes at 3 p.m.

This conference will give high-quality training for established congregations, empowering those courageous congregations to give birth to daughter churches, multi-site churches and new ministries that are biblically missional and have organizational integrity.

The cost is \$15 per person. More information and registration are available at mnsdistrict.org/churches-planting-churches-2019.



TALKING POINTS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Jesus traveled the roads that we do. He experienced the twists and turns, the detours and distractions. He knows it's not easy. But He was not deterred. He was not distracted. He walked the road all the way to Jerusalem — all the way to the cross of Calvary. It was a road filled with beatings, blood and a crown of thorns. It was a one-way street that led to a certain, brutal dead end — one He

willingly walked for you. His life given for your sins. Yet the road didn't stop there. This road led to the empty tomb and the salvation of souls.

Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, the roads you travel are now full of hope. He who is “the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6) has been there ahead of you. Now when you travel, the highway is marked. The detours are gone. Dead ends are repaved with the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. This is Good News!

Whatever road you are on, be assured our Lord travels with you and walks beside you. In fact, the promise of our resurrected Lord says:

“I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” — **MATT. 28:20**

Baptized into the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, you have the sign and seal that the Lord will never leave you, nor forsake you, but go with you through all the smooth and all the rough roads, even until you walk with Him on the road of everlasting life.

Sisters help ministry in Thailand, LCMS youth

Women at New Life Church, Hugo, showed their passion to serve the Lord by raising money to help Rev. Dr. Fungchatou Lo and his family's mission work as they support Christians in Thailand, and also those attending the LCMS Youth Gathering in Minneapolis in July.

When the women of New Life heard Pastor Lo speak about his work, they felt moved to help our fellow Christian sisters and brothers. Pastor Lo's primary ministry is to improve the theological training that is currently going on with the Hmong pastors and leaders in Southeast Asia, where there are over 2 million Hmong who still



don't know Jesus. He also provides support and discipleship training to the local Hmong Christian congregations to do outreach, start new ministries and plant more churches.

The women followed through with ideas to organize a spaghetti feed. These ladies worked together to gather donations for the meal, as well as organize games to help Pastor Lo and the youth.

Pastor Lo's wife, Kalia, is a former LWML Minnesota South District

Heart-to-Heart Sister and served until Pastor Lo accepted the call to Thailand in 2016. In Thailand, Kalia is helping Southeast Asia Christian Services by providing leadership and Christian education to students and staff at Huayniam Christian Children Hostel. She also initiated a deaconess training program for Hmong women.

Before answering the mission call to Thailand, Pastor Lo had served as executive director of LINC Twin Cities since 2013.



Mercy for foster care children

The creative and energetic ladies of Emanuel, Hamburg, made 60 pillowcases for Wings – McLeod County, whose mission is "to provide a care package that serves as an immediate bridge for every child as they enter the uncertainty of foster care." The pillowcases are filled with some essentials which are certainly appreciated by the children going through challenging times. Thanks to a few stitches and taking the time for fellowship and creativity, and with the help of an Action Team grant from Thrivent Financial, the Lord has again blessed these thoughtful ladies to be a blessing to others! They serve as the hands and feet of Jesus!

Quilts for LWR



The Trinity Guild women of South Shore Trinity Church, White Bear Lake get together monthly to work on quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). In 2018, the group made 89 quilts and held a dedication service for the quilts on Feb. 3. LWR then gives the quilts to those in need.

Pastor Sabol installed in Brooklyn Center

On Feb. 17, Rev. William Sabol was installed as pastor of Lutheran Church of the Triune God, Brooklyn Center. The congregation is very blessed and excited to welcome Pastor Sabol as its new shepherd. Clergy attending this installation were, from left, (front row) Revs. Matthew Johnson, Peter Preus, Timothy Lamkin, Sabol, Matthew Brackman, Richard Resch, Jeremiah Johnson; (back row) James Markworth, David Markworth, Douglas Minton, Vance Milbrath, Thomas Stoebig, Dr. Lucas Woodford, Dr. Gordon Bynum, Matthew Moss and Daniel Burns.



Pastor brings service to the snowbound

Trinity Lutheran Church, Janesville, got creative one Sunday in February when blizzard conditions and road closures made it difficult — and unsafe — for people to attend church. The usual attendance of 450 over three services dropped to just 20. That's when Rev. Paul Muther, associate pastor, pulled out his cell phone and started livestreaming on Facebook from the front

pew. Seventy-five people watched the service live, and in the following week, the service had more than 2,200 additional views and 19 shares.

Pastor Muther shared: "These numbers, of course, don't tell the whole story of Christian fellowship, but on a day when roads in southern Minnesota were impassable, it was an opportunity we were grateful to take advantage of."

The many comments on the livestream echoed these sentiments of thanksgiving.

Trinity members stuck at home were still able to witness the service, including Rev. Dr. Larry Griffin's sermon, on Facebook.



Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending Feb. 28, 2019

Actual receipts	\$137,096
Budget receipts	\$175,000
Over (under) amount	\$(37,904)

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts	\$363,726
Budget receipts	\$350,000
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$13,726

Use of mission receipts (YTD-year to date)

50% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$138,023
100% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$72,584
50% for district operations (YTD)	\$138,023
100% for district operations (YTD)	\$15,096
Total receipts	\$363,726

Mission receipts—2019 vs. 2018

Mission receipts — YTD 2019	\$363,726
Mission receipts — YTD 2018	353,587
Over (under) last year	\$10,139

2018 congregational receipts budgeted at \$2,100,000

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

December 2018

New investments	\$2,886,831
Withdrawals	\$1,525,949
Net increase (decrease)	\$1,360,882

Year-to-date July 1, 2018–Dec. 31, 2018

New investments	\$16,132,917
Withdrawals	\$10,775,485
Net increase (decrease)	\$5,357,432

Send submissions for the district supplement to:

- communications@mnsdistrict.org
- 14301 Grand Ave. South
Burnsville, MN 55306

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