

DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

TALKING POINTS
WITH PASTOR

TRUTH OR TRUTHINESS



Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
District
President

TRUTH IS BEING ERODED IN OUR CULTURE.

Without question, the devil is behind it. The Bible tells us that the devil is the “father of all lies” (John 8:44). He stands for everything opposite of the truth. His aim is to undermine the truth of Jesus Christ in every possible way.

One of the ways he does this today is to make us question the content of truth itself. What it is, how it’s determined and who gets to define it. We live in a time of relative truths. People think (and say): “That may be true for you, but it’s not true for me.” Rules are no longer universal, logic is out of date and feelings reign supreme.

As a result, our government doesn’t take accountability for its spending. (Have you seen the national debt?) Likewise, things like marriage and traditional parenting have been redefined. Even more, your feelings have become more important than God’s Word of truth.

Even the word “truth” itself has come under the devil’s attack and been subverted to the chaos of our times. In practice, it’s often replaced by the newly invented word “truthiness.” The meaning of the word is utterly telling. Truthiness is defined as “the quality of sounding true, without being true.”

Truthiness was only recently added to our American dictionary and, interestingly enough, it was coined by comedian Stephen Colbert for his “Colbert Report” show on

Comedy Central. It was introduced in 2005 to make fun of our spin-zoned, half-truth, lie-based political culture. But it has caught on and taken root all across our culture.

Truthiness is rampant. Think about it. If we can make things sound true without them actually having to be true, imagine all the things we can accomplish. Imagine all the money we can make, all the power we can get and all the fame we can secure. Imagine all the sins that no longer actually have to be sins! The devil is ruthless and sinister with his lies.

Truthiness is new to our dictionary, but you and I have been telling this tale since we first learned how to lie. The devil delights in it. The devil’s desire is to destroy the truth.

BUT THIS IS WHY THE HOLY SPIRIT comes with laser focus on Him who is the way, the truth and life:

“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” —
JOHN 16:13

In a world full of chaos and confusion, the Holy Spirit comes declaring a Word of hope and speaking a Word of healing through the powerful Word of God. You can be assured He tells the truth!

In fact, He came to you personally when you were baptized, blaring into your infant or adult ears that you are a child of God! Even more, He comes to you again right now. For where God’s Word is spoken, there the Holy Spirit is at work — boldly and mightily filling you with the power of God. As Jesus said:

“He (the Holy Spirit) will glorify me,

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SPOTLIGHT ON MISSIONS

Good News at ReDO!

ReDO Fitness, a ministry of Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, Hastings, recently had a celebration of how God remains faithful and lifts His people out of the overwhelming waters of day-to-day life. It was a joyful celebration punctuated by new believers and multiple baptisms.

Rev. Chad Kirchoff explained how they landed on that Sunday's unconventional theme of "laughing dolphins."

"A friend once told me that in the face of adversity and burdens of life, I should think about them 'like a dolphin that jumps out of the water, dancing and flapping its fins, laughing at the waves,'" Kirchoff said. "That struck me as applicable given the ups and downs of my life. Most days, I'm

struggling to keep afloat. So many times, I fail to be the pastor, man, husband, son, and friend I know I should be. Yet, by grace God lifts me up with baptismal hope and faith — as He does for all of His people — so that He might raise us up amid the challenges of life, and maybe even laugh at them in Jesus' name.

"He is the air we breathe. He is the strong unction that lifts us up and out of heavy waters. Jesus Christ was lifted high on the cross for our sins. Because He died and was raised from the dead by God the Father, Jesus lifts up all who are baptized into Him, whatever the sins and burdens they're facing. So when we break water, we dance like laughing dolphins."

ReDO Fitness is a mission that focuses on reaching beyond walls



Aaron Nelson Pearson was among many who have been baptized at ReDO.

and barriers to inspire spiritual and physical fitness, to lift people up and out of heavy waters of sin and condemnation. It is a place of second chances, even if unconventional. It stands upon the unequivocal truth that minds, hearts and bodies are transformed by the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the power of His Holy Spirit.

If you want to help ReDO share the Good News of Jesus Christ, you can become a contributing member at redofitness.org/donate-hastings.

TALKING POINTS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

for he will take what is mine and declare it to you."

— JOHN 16:14

And what has He declared to you? He declares that if you want to know the truth, you must know the Word of Christ.

Everything else is fleeting. Everything else is failing.

Our culture does not get to define what is real and true. Rather, God's Word speaks the truth. And that truth is that sin does not control us, but the Holy Spirit of Jesus upholds us. It tells the truth that Satan is a down and dirty liar, and



"Our culture does not get to define what is real and true. Rather, **God's Word** speaks the truth.

Jesus' love is real and here for us now.

This is the truth: The Holy Spirit has taken the life of Jesus and given it to you and me. Where truthiness deceives us, the Word of Jesus relieves us. Where our sins assail us, the forgiveness of Jesus frees us. Where doubt distresses us, the certainty of Jesus surrounds us.

Turn to His Word. Hear His truth. The Holy Spirit has taken the life of Jesus and given it to you and me. Hear it. Believe it. Confess it. This is the truth!

Conference is designed for Lutheran laity

Issues, Etc., a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in St. Louis, is bringing its 2019 Making the Case Conference to Concordia University Chicago. The dates are Friday, June 7, and Saturday, June 8.

Speakers include: Ross Douthat, columnist for the New York Times; LCMS President Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison; Wesley Smith, author and *National Review* writer; LCMS Worship Director Rev. Will Weedon; Aaron Wolf, executive editor of *Chronicles* magazine; and Rev. Hans Fiene, creator of "Lutheran Satire," and pastor of River of Life Lutheran Church, Channahon, Ill.

Registration is \$125 and includes meals Friday night and Saturday afternoon and evening. Child care is free for children ages 1-12.

For more information, visit issuesetc.org or call 618-223-8385.

Quilts made with love

Ladies of Good Shepherd, Glencoe, made 93 quilts that were given to Orphan Grain Train and Eagle's Healing Nest in Sauk Centre, a non-profit organization that helps veterans. From left, Shirley Schwarze, Maureen Krumrey, Jean Gruenhagen, Lois Emch, Bonnie Templin, Barbara Behrens and Beatrice Koester.



New generation of quilters

Our Savior's Lutheran School, Hutchinson, celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week in January. The Women's Guild of Our Savior's was asked to share a craft with the students. On Monday, Doris Wegner shared her love of canvas cross stitch. On Thursday, the children learned all about quilting. In addition, some finished quilts were displayed along with a couple of quilts that the church ladies made and tied to send to Orphan Grain Train. From left, the ladies shown teaching are Linda Butzin, a member of Peace, Hutchinson; and Jeanette Bening and Roxann Field, members of Our Savior's, Hutchinson.

Best Practices

Deb Vinkemeier, LWML district president, was among the 2,767 who attended the Best Practices in Ministry conference Feb. 19-23 in Phoenix. From left, Patti Ross, LWML president; Debbie Larson; LMWLV of Christian Life; and Vinkemeier, who was able to help at the LWML exhibit.



Help needed for Youth Gathering event

As you know, the LCMS Youth Gathering will be held July 11-15 in Minneapolis. Feed My Starving Children is partnering with LCMS for a servant event during the Gathering, and the goal is to assemble 1 million meals for those in need.

The LWML was asked to lend a hand and financial support would be appreciated for this mission.

Perhaps you could consider this as your zone's Gifts from the Heart ingathering. Please pass this on to your societies if they are looking for a mission to support. Any dollar amount will be greatly appreciated.

Checks can be made out to LCMS Youth Ministry and sent to:

LCMS Youth Ministry
Attn: Jim Lohman
1333 S. Kirkwood Road
St. Louis, MO 63122

In the memo line, please write "Gathering Food Packaging."

Please keep the LCMS Youth Gathering and Feed My Starving Children in your prayers. As you are able, let's help support this mission to feed the hungry.

Missionary circuit pastor ordained and installed

Rev. Simon Gatluk Reat was ordained on March 17, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault. Sudanese pastors from as far away as Toronto, Ontario, attended in order to support Rev. Reat, who was also installed as the new pastor of the Sudanese Evangelical Mission Congregation of Southern Minnesota. Rev. Reat is in the front row, third from left.



Speaker gets grand tour of district

The Minnesota South District was privileged to host Rev. Dr. Michael Ziegler, the new “Lutheran Hour” speaker, for a weekend in March. Ziegler and his daughter, Elise, were able to visit many ministry sites and get to know people across a wide portion of the district.

Ziegler preached at the Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP), chapel service and joined Rev. David Kind and the students at University Lutheran Chapel for a pizza supper and discussion. He recorded an Easter message for the Main Street Living television program. He preached Sunday morning at Our Savior, Mankato, was hosted for lunch by the congregation and spoke to the district Lutheran

Layman’s League (LLL) Convention.

The weekend reached a crescendo Sunday afternoon with a rally at Hosanna, Mankato, which was attended by about 400 people. The service included Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, and Rev. Dr. Don Fondow, presidents of the Minnesota South and North districts, respectively, and Rev. Dr. Tom Ries, CSP president.

People from congregations across the district formed a mass choir directed by Dr. David Mennicke. Members of Hosanna led the congregational singing and Rev. David Preuss officiated. Rev. Dr. Ziegler’s interactive message, “My Spirit Makes My People,” was based on Ezek. 37:1-14.



Rev. Dr. Ziegler greets Our Savior members after Sunday worship.

Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending March 31, 2019

Actual receipts	\$134,996
Budget receipts	\$175,000
Over (under) amount	\$(40,004)

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts	\$498,722
Budget receipts	\$525,000
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$(26,278)

Use of mission receipts (YTD-year to date)

50% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$193,128
100% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$18,220
50% for district operations (YTD)	\$193,128
100% for district operations (YTD)	\$94,246
Total receipts	\$498,722

Mission receipts—2019 vs. 2018

Mission receipts — YTD 2019	\$498,722
Mission receipts — YTD 2018	523,726
Over (under) last year	\$(25,004)

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

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

February 2019

New investments	\$1,479,613
Withdrawals	\$1,291,164
Net increase (decrease)	\$188,449

Year-to-date July 1, 2018–Feb. 28, 2018

New investments	\$17,612,530
Withdrawals	\$12,066,649
Net increase (decrease)	\$5,545,881

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.