



/ MAY 2021

DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

💡 TALKING POINTS WITH PASTOR

‘They shall become one flesh’



But for Adam there was not found a helper fit for him. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said, “This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.” Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed. — **Gen. 2:20-25**

In God’s creative act, He establishes a natural order and outcome for His creation. One man and one woman who would become one flesh, and from that one-flesh sexual union they would create life. In the beginning, we then also hear God’s first great command: “Be fruitful and multiply” (Gen. 1:28). Male and female were defined. Marriage was instituted. The family was

ordained. God’s command was spoken. If we are to reclaim the virtue of family in our chaotic society today, we must begin with God’s Word and firmly stand upon it for the sake of the family.

As a church, we must not simply declare the things we stand against, but we must also robustly proclaim the things we stand for. This includes being for the family — being for faithful husbands and fathers, being for faithful wives and mothers. In a culture that has redefined what a family is, what marriage is and even what it means to be male and female, it is important that the church stands for the family and the wonders of God’s created order.

One of the wonders of creation is the way God designed the woman’s body to give birth. It’s an absolute wonder. With six children, my wife and I have experienced this wonder multiple times. And it reminds me how the vocation of mother is much deeper than men tend to realize. Comedian Jim Gaffigan makes me crack up when he describes it: “Whatever a pregnant woman is doing, she is also at the same time growing a baby inside of her. I think this is where women get their incredible ability to multitask. They can talk on the phone, cook supper, tend to the children and grow a baby all at the same time. Even when they are sleeping, they are multitasking. Often times I’m not even tasking.”



Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
District President

See **FAMILY**, Page 2

FAMILY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Indeed, women are a marvel!

God's design of a woman's body is truly amazing. A woman can grow a baby inside her body. Then a woman can deliver the baby through her body. Then, by God's design, a woman can feed a baby with her body. Again, Gaffigan cracks me up with his description: "Guys, let's be honest, when you compare that to the male's contribution to life, it's kind of embarrassing, really. As a father I'm like, 'Hey, I helped, too.' For like five seconds. Doing the one thing I think about 24 hours a day. ... Well, enjoy your morning sickness. I'm gonna eat me a chili-dog. Mmmm! Smell those onions."

All joking aside, reclaiming family virtue begins quite simply with men and women, as well as pastors and parents, identifying and celebrating the God-ordained vocations within the family — including the vocations of being male and female. Whether you are single or married, the family is still the origin of your being.

Now, as ever, Christian men of our day must reclaim what it is to be godly men, godly husbands and godly fathers — to be gentlemen of virtue, to be providers and protectors, to act as the heads of the household, to have hands of discipline and patient love and playfulness and compassion, and especially to recognize that our role is not simply a five-second contribution, but a lifetime of prayer and active involvement in the formation of our children.

Now, as ever, Christian women of our day must reclaim what it is to be godly women, godly wives and godly mothers



Getty Images

“As congregations in the Minnesota South District, I pray we continue equipping and encouraging our parents and our families to stand on the Word of God and to stand up for the family as God created it to be.”

— to be women of virtue, to nurture and encourage, to lead and to follow, to cultivate their homes as a haven, and to know their value is infinitely more than the dollar amount attached to any job, especially if they choose to stay home as a mother.

Reclaiming family virtue begins with you and me having caring conversations with our children, our grandchildren, our students and our parishioners about how God:

- **CREATES** the family through the one-flesh union.
- **ORDERS** the family through the vocations of being male and female, husband, wife and children.
- **SUSTAINS** the family through the vocations of father, mother and siblings.

These are three things I know we can be confident about and be prepared to do. As congregations in the Minnesota South District, I pray we continue equipping and encouraging our parents and our families to stand on the Word of God and to stand up for the family as God created it to be.

After all, our Lord Jesus Christ had an earthly family. He had the vocation of being male and being a son. He understood the wonders of the God-created family. He grew up in the care of an earthly family, and even while hanging on the cross, He made sure His mother would be cared for (see John 19:26-27). To be sure, Jesus understood the wonders of creation because He was the Word that was there creating these wonders in the beginning (see John 1:1-3). But He is also the Word that gives us the confidence and boldness to uphold the family and stand for the family today.

Share your news with us!

We are always in need of more submissions for the Minnesota South District *Lutheran Witness* insert. Why should you send them in? It helps remind us of what God is doing around the district.

It is also a way to share ideas for nurturing those God has already gathered into His church and for reaching those still outside of the flock with the Good News about Jesus.

It finally reminds each of us that Christ's church is much larger than just our particular congregation. Please send submissions to:

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

Please ensure photos sent electronically are high resolution.

CONGREGATIONS:

Need help
with your
website?

By Ryan Evans

The digital mission field is here to stay, and there's never been a time in the medium's short history when a church's website has been more important than at this very moment. Websites now serve as the front door of your church. People are church shopping from their couch, and oftentimes they know who the pastor is and what types of services and programs a church offers before they ever enter through your physical front door.

Websites aren't here to replace in-person worship. We're called to worship together as a family, and a digital medium simply doesn't enrich the soul like it does when you find yourself in-person. Websites exist to inform, educate, give online and help people feel welcome inside the walls of your church.



What we find in practice is that most church websites are years behind in aesthetics, usability, functionality and the ability to be updated easily. That's where The M1310 Project wants to help. The M1310 Project was created to get all of the LCMS

websites up-to-date using talent from within our own congregations. We want to hear from you if you're a church and you don't know what you need, or maybe you're a church that knows exactly where the pain points are. We'll work to match you with a designer who can help.

As a church, the work done by The M1310 Project is paid for through the M1310 Fund.

You don't need to worry about cost — we're here to help you with your online ministry so you can reach all nations. Learn more at m1310project.com.



The youth at Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth, have studied God's Word at every youth event and have also enjoyed games, including paintballing, in the fall. Through mission activities, the youth shared their time by serving others in need. The above picture was taken on Feb. 28 as they made fleece blankets for Project Linus.

All of this would not be possible without the planning and

work of Glory of Christ pastors Revs. Jeremiah Johnson (senior) and Kyle Krueger (associate), and the youth group coordinator, Julie Anderson. Many thanks to them!

Above all we give thanks to our Almighty and Merciful Father, who gives us the greatest gift of all, His Son Jesus Christ, who forgives all our sins. In Him we are empowered to show fervent love toward one another!

PRAISE GOD!

The LWML reached and exceeded its \$2.1 million mission goal that was set for the 2019-21 biennium. This means that the 21 mission grants selected at the 2019 LWML national convention have been fully funded and that God's Word is being spread throughout the world. Praise the Lord God, for He is good!



Deb Vinkemeier
LWML District President

On March 19, the national LWML Board of Directors and the Presidents Assembly met and will recommend a 2021-23 mission goal of \$2.15 million, which will be voted on electronically the week of May 24-28.

It has been decided by the LWML national board that the LWML 39th Biennium Convention will meet in-person June 24-27 in Lexington, Ky.

"Running the Race ... Looking to Jesus," the 2021 national convention theme, sets another goal. We are to run the race set before us and proclaim the joy of the Lord. Reaching our mission goal gives us great joy, and we praise our Lord that we can continue to be able to tell others about Christ's salvation for us.

We all run different courses, but we all begin running with Christ. God encourages us to run well and develop endurance for the race that lies before us. When we run, we must run with our heads up and our eyes looking to Jesus despite the obstacles and frustrations. By our faith we are able to run the race.

All women of the LCMS are encouraged to run the race together. God has given all women a gift to use in ministry to people around the world, not only to please God but also to extend His kingdom. Women are a part of this powerful force in fulfilling the Great Commission!

Jesus is our leader — He sets the pace, and He leads us to victory! As we continue to look to Jesus, He will help us grow and mature us to "Run the Race" and finally reach the finish line of eternity with Him.

Near the end of his life, St. Paul wrote to his young companion Timothy:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race.
— 2 Tim. 4:7.

By the grace of God, may we say the same!

Please continue to run the race with us to help us reach our district mission goal of \$265,000, which supports 15 mission grants. Find out more at mnskwml.org/missions. Joyfully use our "Give Online" option at mnskwml.org/give.

MISSION GRANT FOCUS

Lutheran Braille Workers

"Bringing Christ's Light to Those Living in Darkness"



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Lutheran Braille Workers (LBW), a Recognized Service Organization of the LCMS, is the only Lutheran ministry which intentionally serves people who are blind or visually impaired. In its 77-year history, LBW has produced and distributed over 14 million volumes of Braille and specialized large print and audio materials in the United States and more than 160 other nations.

Every single piece of material has been sent to the recipients free of charge. All funding comes through the generosity of volunteers, donors, churches and other organizations like the LWML.

Lutheran Braille Workers currently has three ministry production centers located in the Minnesota South District,

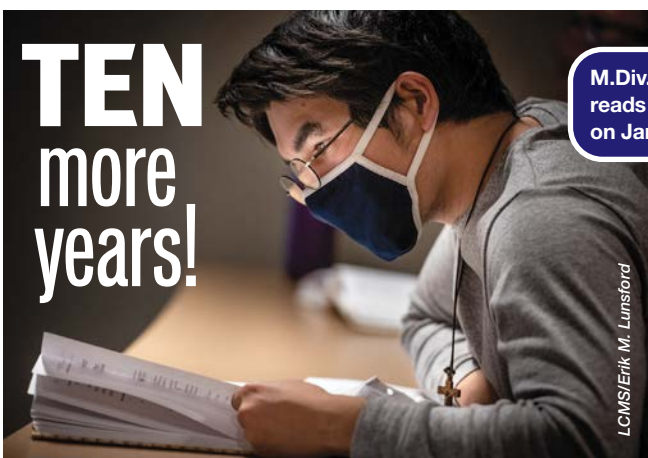
which are operated solely by dedicated volunteers. The center in Hopkins has been in operation since 1989, and the center in Bloomington has been in operation since 1990. Both centers produce thousands of Old Testament volumes in specialized large print.

The center in Wayzata has been in operation since 2017, producing numerous New Testament volumes in English Braille.

The \$15,000 LWML Mission Grant to Lutheran Braille Workers will offset production costs. With potential increased production, there may be a need to open new centers in the district.

— Submitted by Carol Hubert,
VP of Gospel Outreach





TEN
more
years!

M.Div. student Koh Yamamoto reads coursework during class on Jan. 15.

of mission and identity.”
“Both visitation teams commended the culture of assessment that informs integrated planning,” said Rev. Robert Roethemeyer, CTSFW vice-president of Strategic Planning and Mission

LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

CTSFW receives highest level of accreditation

Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. (CTSFW), has again received full accreditation from the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) for the next 10 years – the longest term the accrediting agencies can approve.

“This 10-year reaffirmation of accreditation builds upon the strength of the 10-year reaffirmation achieved in 2010,” said CTSFW President Lawrence R. Rast Jr. “Both commissions recognized CTSFW’s strong sense

Execution and self-study chair. “These are great characteristics to celebrate in this 175th year of forming pastors, deaconesses and other servants of Jesus Christ for the congregations and service organizations of the LCMS and beyond.”

The accreditors noted that CTSFW’s “mission and [Lutheran] identity permeate, animate, and guide the school and are supported by a strong sense of community.” They also complimented the seminary for “exceptional financial stewardship

and generosity of the seminary’s constituency (both local and global) that make it possible for students to graduate with manageable debt.”

The tremendous amount of work that goes into preparing an institutional self-study of this magnitude allows the seminary to celebrate and build upon its strengths and recognize areas for potential growth and improvement.

Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is also accredited by both agencies, and received its most recent 10-year renewal in 2014.

Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending March 31, 2021

Actual receipts.....	\$182,155
Budget receipts	\$166,666
Over (under) amount	\$15,489

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts.....	\$592,045
Budget receipts	\$499,998
Over (under) anticipated amount.....	\$92,047

Use of mission receipts (YTD-year to date)

50% remitted to Synod (YTD).....	\$217,189
100% remitted to Synod (YTD).....	\$23,250
50% for district operations (YTD)	\$217,189
100% for district operations (YTD)	\$134,417
Total receipts	\$592,045

Mission receipts—2021 vs. 2020

Mission receipts — YTD 2020	\$592,045
Mission receipts — YTD 2019	\$523,592
Over (under) last year	\$68,453

2021 congregational receipts budgeted at \$2,100,000

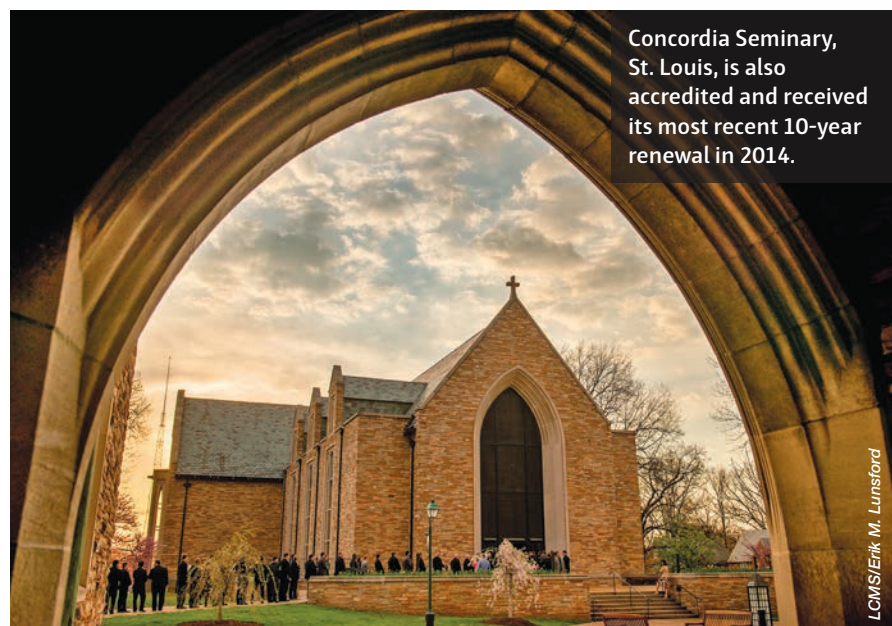
MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

February 2021

New investments	\$1,360,503
Withdrawals.....	\$662,784
Net increase (decrease).....	\$697,719

Year-to-date July 1, 2020–Feb. 28, 2021

New investments	\$14,433,808
Withdrawals.....	\$11,389,322
Net increase (decrease).....	\$3,044,486



Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, is also accredited and received its most recent 10-year renewal in 2014.

LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Thank you

to the congregations that supported the work of the Minnesota South District and Synod through your gifts in 2020. Your generosity helps us cultivate leaders intentionally engaged in God's mission. Please contact rick.marko@mnsdistrict.org for information about district giving.

	Total Giving	Average per Communicant member		Total Giving	Average per Communicant member
Northeast Suburban Circuit			Golden Valley, Golden Valley	10,000	21
Mount Olive, Anoka	500	1	Faith, Minneapolis	2,495	30
King of Glory, Blaine	4,209	2	Holy Cross, Minneapolis	1,023	7
St. John, Elk River	6,327	14	Mount Zion, Minneapolis	10,000	161
Family of Christ, Ham Lake	8,000	9	Trinity First, Minneapolis	558	11
Spirit of Christ, Ham Lake	9,381	54	Berea, Richfield	12,000	40
Messiah, Mounds View	39,204	62	Mount Calvary, Richfield	10,000	39
Prince of Peace, Spring Lake Park	1,000	5	Japanese Christian Fellowship, Minneapolis	500	–
Trinity, St. Francis	10,200	11			
Prince of Peace Deaf, Spring Lake Park	200	7	Southwest Suburban Circuit		
St. Paul Metro Circuit			Holy Emmanuel, Bloomington	7,500	32
Trinity, Arden Hills	1,829	25	Redemption, Bloomington	5,600	19
King of Kings, Roseville	16,796	28	Mount Hope, Bloomington	5,004	27
Bethel, St. Paul	6,962	31	St. Michael's, Bloomington	21,200	16
Bethlehem, St. Paul	4,897	18	Cross View, Edina	94,449	196
Eastern Heights, St. Paul	2,000	4	Holy Cross, Prior Lake	9,959	75
Emmaus, St. Paul	6,083	30	Immanuel, Prior Lake	21,000	54
Jehovah, St. Paul	1,500	7	St. Paul, Prior Lake	3,545	5
Our Saviour, St. Paul	2,000	8			
St. Croix River Circuit			Lake Minnetonka Circuit		
St. Peter, Afton	6,000	22	Living Christ, Chanhassen	66,804	98
Good Shepherd, Circle Pines	37,640	105	Victory, Eden Prairie	7,200	68
TheAlley, Cottage Grove	2,000	19	Our Savior, Excelsior	4,800	9
Rose of Sharon, Cottage Grove	9,900	35	Zion, Hopkins	30,000	51
Family of Christ, Houlton	6,000	21			
Trinity, Hudson	14,000	14	North Carver County Circuit		
New Life Church, Hugo	6,500	46	Zion, Mayer	6,000	9
South Shore Trinity, White Bear Lake	43,700	75	St. John, New Germany	2,137	13
St. John, Woodbury	36,750	156	St. Mark, New Germany	2,500	9
Woodbury–Valley Creek Campus, Woodbury	20,000	8	Trinity, Waconia	15,000	10
			St. Peter, Watertown	50	–
Southeast Suburban Circuit			South Carver County Circuit		
Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Burnsville	9,596	76	Trinity, Carver	7,887	53
Trinity Lone Oak, Eagan	26,304	61	Christ Victorious, Chaska	10,665	20
Trinity, Farmington	23,198	78	St. John's, Chaska	20,000	18
Emanuel, Inver Grove Heights	16,000	36	Zion, Cologne	6,765	17
Messiah, Lakeville	124,413	122	Emanuel, Hamburg	10,000	20
St. John, Rosemount	1,000	5	St. John, Norwood Young America	32,868	29
Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Rosemount	5,000	18	St. John, Plato	848	2
Concordia, South St. Paul	1,300	4			
Northwest Suburban Circuit			Lake Pepin Circuit		
Eternal Hope, Brooklyn Park	3,178	16	Immanuel, Elgin	8,989	93
Grace, Brooklyn Park	11,019	40	Trinity, Elgin	10,770	25
St. John, Corcoran	5,209	6	St. Peter, Goodhue	10,041	53
Shepherd of the Grove, Maple Grove	9,075	58	St. John, Hammond	3,610	77
St. Paul, Osseo	10,000	34	Shepherd of the Valley, Hastings	500	8
Beautiful Savior, Plymouth	4,000	2	Bethany, Lake City	6,035	15
Glory of Christ, Plymouth	5,000	14	Immanuel, Plainview	12,453	20
Redeemer, Robbinsdale	3,424	17	Concordia, Red Wing	528	3
			Immanuel, Red Wing	19,000	75t
Minneapolis Metro Circuit			Winona Circuit		
St. Matthew, Columbia Heights	34,686	83	Immanuel, Lewiston	10,540	27
St. Peter's, Edina	5,079	31	St. John, Rushford	12,760	57
			St. Mark, Rushford	1,105	6
			St. Matthew, St. Charles	2,374	7

	Total Giving	Average per Communicant member		Total Giving	Average per Communicant member
Redeemer, Winona	2,500	26	Immanuel, Courtland	13,733	35
St. Martin, Winona	5,557	4	Immanuel, Gaylord	9,173	19
Rochester Circuit			St. John, Gaylord	4,156	42
Grace, Rochester	600	2	St. Peter, Gibbon	7,538	39
Holy Cross, Rochester	2,000	8	St. Paul, Green Isle	3,541	20
Redeemer, Rochester	40,000	41	Zion, Green Isle	1,621	22
Trinity, Rochester	6,500	7	Centennial, Henderson	1,212	12
St. John, Stewartville	47,000	88	Redeemer, New Ulm	13,000	36
Austin Circuit			Mankato Circuit		
Zion, Albert Lea	8,883	18	St. Paul, Amboy	800	6
Holy Cross, Austin	8,125	-	St. John, Good Thunder	1,485	4
St. John, Austin	21,327	84	Hosanna, Mankato	72,300	17
Immanuel, Racine	946	10	Our Savior, Mankato	59,725	71
St. John, Sargeant	3,000	24	Good Shepherd, North Mankato	7,378	36
First English, Spring Valley	500	2	St. Peter, Vernon Center	1,000	7
Trinity, Waltham	2,530	18	River of Life, St. Peter	6,935	81
St. John, Wykoff	7,500	27	Blue Earth Circuit		
Waseca Circuit			Immanuel, Blue Earth	4,000	45
Bethlehem, Elysian	30	1	St. Paul, Blue Earth	18,061	33
Immanuel, Janesville	6,011	62	St. John, Elmore	4,500	-
Trinity, Janesville	6,409	5	Immanuel, Fairmont	10,000	15
St. John, Minnesota Lake	2,189	30	St. Paul, Fairmont	9,000	10
Bethlehem, Morristown	3,985	16	Zion, Fairmont	17,659	90
St. John, Kilkenny	390	13	Trinity, Lewisville	400	9
Trinity, Morristown	1,937	8	St. James, Northrop	11,860	37
First, Waldorf	10,459	60	St. John, St. James	75	1
St. Paul, Waseca	10,505	32	St. John, Truman	400	4
Trinity, Waseca	85	1	St. Paul, Truman	6,451	15
St. Peter, Waterville	2,198	11	Sherburn Circuit		
Trinity, Waterville	833	2	Trinity, Alpha	6,778	83
Faribault Circuit			Our Redeemer, Jackson	10,100	27
St. John, Claremont	1,000	5	Trinity, Mountain Lake	13,890	28
Grace, Dodge Center	7,932	42	Immanuel, Ormsby	7,109	90
Trinity, Faribault	59,000	70	Trinity, Sanborn	3,226	65
Trinity, Medford	5,141	22	St. John, Sherburn	23,400	48
Trinity, Northfield	11,626	29	Zion, Springfield	2,085	18
Good Shepherd, Owatonna	25,500	31	Trinity, Trimont	5,666	38
Redeemer, Owatonna	6,388	26	Bethany, Wabasso	739	20t
Litchfield Circuit			Worthington Circuit		
Life In Christ, Albertville	10,000	29	Holy Trinity, Lakefield	3,750	25
Bethlehem, Annandale	200	2	St. Paul, Lakefield	16,260	97
Zion, Annandale	13,842	47	St. Peter, Lakefield	3,000	19
St. John, Atwater	8,916	48	Trinity of Sioux Valley, Lakefield	4,800	25
Hosanna, Buffalo	300	5	Our Redeemer, Okabena	2,187	18
St. John, Buffalo	14,025	20	Bethel, Round Lake	1,500	12
St. James, Howard Lake	4,000	5	St. John, Rushmore	954	10
Immanuel, Litchfield	4,684	61	Our Savior, Windom	10,561	23
McLeod Circuit			St. Matthew, Worthington	2,000	3
Immanuel, Brownton	7,000	14	Pipestone Circuit		
First Evangelical, Glencoe	10,804	7	St. Paul, Fulda	29,532	87
Good Shepherd, Glencoe	4,999	9	Zion, Hardwick	3,055	21
Our Savior, Hutchinson	26,024	54	St. James, Holland	6,000	31
Peace, Hutchinson	30,000	15	Trinity, Jasper	1,268	17
St. John, Hutchinson	3,138	10	St. John, Luverne	18,999	48
St. Paul, Lester Prairie	15,236	21	Good Shepherd, Marshall	18,435	75
St. Peter, Lester Prairie	13,256	91	Our Saviour's, Pipestone	750	7
Arlington Circuit			St. Paul, Pipestone	39,000	95
Peace, Arlington	5,045	11	Trinity, Slayton	1,625	11
St. John, Arlington	4,645	52	St. John, Trosky	3,300	59

God bless Chaplain Czischke

Rev. Chad Czischke, pastor of Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Houlton, Wis., also serves as a chaplain with the Minnesota Army National Guard. He has deployed for a second time and will return to the congregation upon his return. Clockwise from top right:

Chaplain Craig G. Muehler, director of LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces, blesses and sends Pastor Czischke during service at Family of Christ on Feb. 14. Czischke is surrounded by veterans of the congregation; Czischke address the congregation; and members offer their support.

Family of Christ is a Minnesota South District congregation.



Photos: LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford



Connolly to retire May 31

Debra Connolly, who has been serving the Minnesota South District as administrative assistant to the district president, has announced her retirement effective May 31. Debra has served the district for over 14 years and with three different presidents. We thank Debra for her exemplary caring service and pray blessings on her as she enjoys new ways to serve the Lord in retirement.

Deborah ("Debbie") Borchardt, currently serving the district office as administrative assistant-Commissioned Minister Support, will become the president's assistant June 1. The district has begun a search for Debbie's replacement in Commissioned Minister Support.



DISTRICT OFFICE

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