



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

💡 TALKING POINTS WITH PASTOR



LCMS/Ernk M. Lunsford

‘PRECIOUS TO HIM’

Through Jesus, you have eternal wealth

In 1815, Napoleon was defeated in the battle of Waterloo. The hero of that battle was the Duke of Wellington. Interesting is that one the duke's more recent biographers claims to have an advantage over all the other previous biographers. His advantage was that he had found an old account ledger that showed how the duke spent his money. This, says the biographer, was a far better clue to what the duke thought was truly important, much more than just reading his letters or his speeches. It is a curious claim.

It prompts an interesting thought. What if someone wrote your biography on the basis of your checkbook, credit-card statements and income-tax return? What might they say about you, your loyalties, your priorities in life as well as who or what you serve?



Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
District President

It's often easy to forget that the money we have in our wallets, checkbooks, credit cards and bank accounts is really not our money. As Christians, we are God's stewards and are therefore caretakers of the money and possessions He has placed into our hands.

What would your checkbook, receipts and credit-card statements say about how you spend your money? Would God and the work of His Holy Christian Church be a consideration in that equation? Often, it's easy to get lost in what society says about our worth and value. We read it in the headlines all the time. A professional sports player signs a multimillion-dollar contract, a movie star is worth so many millions and Bill Gates and Warren Buffet are worth billions. But how much are you worth?

You could certainly look at your wallet, credit cards, checkbook and bank accounts. But I'd encourage you to read through the biographies of Jesus (the four Gospels), not only to see how Jesus did His spending, but to see how much you are worth. These biographies reveal that you are worth so much that God gave His one and only Son to die for you so that you might have eternal life (John 3:16)!

Luther's Small Catechism says it this way:

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God ... has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and

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STEWARD

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won me from all
sins, from death,
and from the power
of the devil; not with
gold or silver, but
with his holy,
precious blood
and with his
innocent suffering and death.”

(Explanation to the Second Article of
the Apostles' Creed)



“His love for you
does not depend
upon how much
you give, nor upon
how much this
world says you are
worth. His grace
is **unconditional**
and His love
irreversible.”

You are worth more than any amount of money. Forbes may have their list of the wealthiest people in the world. But God has His list. No one surpasses the wealth of God. Nothing is more valuable than the shed blood of Christ.

Our Heavenly Father is happy to give this eternal wealth to you through His Son Jesus. In fact, in a world that's constantly asking how much you are worth, trusting in Jesus brings tremendous hope. In a culture obsessed with person-

al value and worth, Jesus provides you abundant comfort.

With Jesus, there is perseverance through life's challenges and guidance in life's difficulties. With Jesus, being a steward of God is freeing rather than burdening. He helps us to give out of humble gratitude rather than a jaded, bad attitude.

Through faith in Jesus, He gives His Holy Spirit to nurture in you the desire to be a faithful steward of what God has given you. By faith, Jesus is at work in you. Yet whatever decision you make about your giving, Jesus gives you the ability to live with hope, wisdom and confidence. His love for you does not depend upon how much you give, nor upon how much this world says you are worth. His grace is unconditional and His love irreversible.

Although it cost Jesus His life to give them to you, He gives them free of charge because you are beloved and precious to Him.

Celebration in Edina

Cross View Lutheran Church, Edina, held a dedication for its new facilities on Sunday, Sept. 12. From left, Kai Larson, district LCEF vice-president, presents Rev. Steve Wheeler with a plaque commemorating the dedication of these facilities. Wheeler serves as Cross View senior pastor.

“This project turned out wonderfully and we are so happy to be a part of it,” Larson said. “These new facilities will allow the Word of Christ to be spread for generations to come.”



Understanding scientism

All are invited to a free seminar at Glory of Christ, Plymouth, featuring Dr. Angus Menuge, professor at Concordia University Wisconsin, at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 24.

He will speak on scientism, an ideology masquerading as science. We often hear today that a claim must be believed because it's science. The assumption is that anything calling itself “science” has infallible authority. Seminar attendees will learn why scientism is a mistaken and dangerous ideology, how scientism encourages the idea that life is meaningless, and why science depends on theological assumptions.

All materials and light refreshments will be provided. To register, visit gloryofchrist.org/events/perspectives-science-religion. Walk-ins are welcome.



Do you know the song “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”? It’s a traditional African American spiritual, first published in 1927. By 1958, it became an international pop hit by English singer Laurie London and has been recorded by many singers and choirs. This song reminds us that God is in control of all aspects of His creation and our hearts are in His hand.

This October, LCMS congregations will celebrate LWML Sunday. Traditionally the first Sunday is set aside for the observation, but it may be held at any time. This year the theme is “Our Hearts Are in HIS Hand,” based on 1 Peter 4:8:

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins.

The LWML Sunday resources author is Rev. Dr. Dale A. Meyer, Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, president and professor emeritus.

Picture 1 Peter 4:8, with Christ on the cross with everyone’s sin hanging in front of Him and His nail-pierced hands wrapped around the world. What a powerful message. God is holding the world, and He so cares about you and me that He holds us in His hand. He cares about us so much that even death itself couldn’t defeat Him.

Jesus wants us to reach out our hand to others. God gives us many opportunities to tell others who desperately need to know about Jesus and His love. God has given us the heart that He holds in His hand to reach out to others.

The LWML glorifies God by sharing His love with others. With our mites, we can share the Gospel throughout the world. Please join your congregation on LWML Sunday to become involved in reaching others with the love of Jesus and to give thanks and praise to God for holding us in His hand.



Deb Vinkemeier
LWML District President



Pictured is the Chapel of St. Timothy and St. Titus at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis.

Tom Evans, grant writer for Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, sent this email after receiving a check from the LWML Minnesota South District:

Once more, I express Concordia Seminary’s gratitude to the LWML Minnesota South District for its generous mission grant in support of our international students’ education costs. When our 2021-22 academic year begins late this month, we will have 47 international students enrolled in our graduate school.

During our 2020-21 academic year, nine of our interna-

tional students earned their advanced-level theological degrees and resumed their service to their home countries’ church bodies. In addition, a 10th student — from Ethiopia — earned his Master of Arts degree early this year and qualified for admittance into the seminary’s doctor of philosophy program. He remains on campus pursuing his doctoral studies.

This entire mission grant of \$7,000 will be fulfilled with a final payment in November.

Carol Hubert
Vice-President of Gospel Outreach

Food, fun and funds raised!

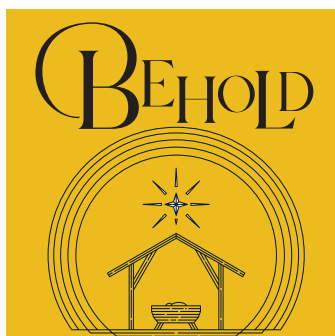


On July 11, Immanuel, Potsdam (rural Elgin), held its annual Ice Cream Social. This event has been held for over 25 years and Immanuel members help in numerous ways, including donating food, serving, cleaning, setting up and taking down tables and chairs, and providing entertainment. Attendees from the community and other area churches enjoyed ice cream, hamburgers, hot dogs, fellowship and music.

Funds raised from this event have helped a variety of groups and organizations. For 2021, the free-will donation was given to Immanuel Lutheran School, Plainview, and Daniel and Hannah Miller, members of St. John’s, Hammond (part of a dual parish with Immanuel), who had a fire on their produce farm earlier this year.

2021 Advent and Christmas Media Kit

NOW AVAILABLE!



Downloadable materials to promote your Christmas services to your community.
lcms.org/christmas-media-kit



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.

Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending Aug. 31, 2021

Actual receipts.....	\$132,333
Budget receipts	\$166,666
Over (under) amount	(\$34,333)

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts.....	\$1,428,580
Budget receipts	\$1,333,328
Over (under) anticipated amount	\$95,252

Use of mission receipts (YTD-year to date)

50% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$534,909
100% remitted to Synod (YTD)	\$58,443
50% for district operations (YTD)	\$534,909
100% for district operations (YTD)	\$300,319
Total receipts	\$1,428,580

Mission receipts—2021 vs. 2020

Mission receipts — YTD 2020	\$1,428,580
Mission receipts — YTD 2019	\$1,321,432
Over (under) last year	\$107,148

2020 congregational receipts budgeted at \$2,100,000

Minnesota South District LCEF

July 2021

New investments.....	\$2,171,428
Withdrawals.....	\$1,674,081
Net increase (decrease).....	\$497,347

Year-to-date July 1, 2021–July 31, 2021

New investments.....	\$2,171,428
Withdrawals.....	\$1,674,081
Net increase (decrease).....	\$497,347



DISTRICT OFFICE

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