



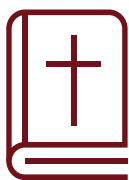
/ APRIL 2022

# DISTRICT NEWS

## MINNESOTA SOUTH

💡 TALKING POINTS WITH PASTOR

# Children of God



Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!

PS. 127:3-5

On Feb. 19, 2022, at 9:25 p.m., my wife, Becca, and I welcomed Basileia Alida Woodford into our family. Her name is the Greek word for “kingdom.” It is pronounced Boss-sil-lay-ah. She was welcomed into the kingdom of God through the water and Word of Holy Baptism on March 13. Her birth weight was 7 pounds, 10 ounces and she was 19¾ inches long. Her nickname is “Basil” (pronounced like “nozzle” — not like the herb). Her middle name (Ah-lye-da) is the name of my great-grandmother on my dad’s side (she taught me how to play gin rummy as a young boy).

I am one of those pastors who gives his children peculiar names. Perhaps not quite like Isaiah with his children (see Is. 7:3 and 8:1), in which the meanings of their names were indications of what would happen to Israel. But the meanings of our children’s names do create an apt saying for living in the challenges of today’s world:

- ▶ Isabella (18) — beautiful
- ▶ Thaddaeus (15) — courage



**Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford**  
District President

- ▶ Aletheia (12) — truth
- ▶ Ekkklacia (10) — church
- ▶ Soteria (7) — salvation
- ▶ Titus (4) — title of honor
- ▶ Basileia — kingdom

Put together, they speak a message of witness about our Christian life, namely that we are a part of a beautiful, courageous, truthful church of salvation with a title of honor in God’s Kingdom.

By faith in Jesus Christ, you and I are blessed with the title of God’s precious child, redeemed by the blood of Jesus. By grace we are welcomed into His Holy Christian Church on earth and into His eternal kingdom in heaven. It is a beautiful truth that gives us courage to live each day in the confidence of the salvation Jesus has

won for us, even as we share that good news with others.

Becca and I rejoice at receiving Basileia into our family. We look forward to raising her in the way of the Lord. She is precious to us, as are all of our children. They are indeed a blessing from the Lord, and we love having a quiver full of them. Many people gasp when they see or hear we have seven children. But we love having a large



**Basileia Alida Woodford**

See **BAPTIZED**, Page 2

# BAPTIZED (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

family. With each new child, the love in our home only grows. Although it's not always easy, we cherish raising our children. We especially treasure teaching them about Jesus, the forgiveness of sins and what it means to be a Christian in a fallen world. Our prayer is that, by the grace of God, we form them into faithful disciples of Jesus who can't help but pass on that same faith to others in their lives.

Some fear bringing children into a world full of chaos, cruelty and uncertainty. But ever since the fall into sin, this has been the way of things. You and I knew no different when we were young. The hope of Christ carried us through the challenges of our youth. Likewise, children today know no different, and the hope of Christ will carry them through just the same. Along the way, they can share the hope of Christ with others in their lives, just like you and I do.

The Lord grant you courage to stand firm on the beautiful truth of Christ the crucified. Baptized into Him you have been bestowed a title of honor — child of God. You are precious to Him. Rest secure that Jesus has won your salvation, forgives you, brought you into His holy Christian Church on earth and will one day welcome you into His eternal, heavenly kingdom.

In Christ • Pastor Woodford



“Baptized into Him you have been bestowed a title of honor — **child of God.**”



## New member has new pas

## Scholarship applications due by April 29

The Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church of North Minneapolis Scholarship awards were established to provide scholarships to eligible students pursuing a career in professional church work. To be eligible, candidates must:

- ▶ Be a member of a Minnesota South District congregation.
- ▶ Be in their third or fourth year of study and enrolled full-time at an LCMS college/university or seminary (students in their vicarage year are not eligible).

Three awards, between \$5,000 and \$10,000, will be given for the 2022-23 school year.

More information and the application are available at [thriventcharitable.com/grants/scholarships](https://thriventcharitable.com/grants/scholarships). Applications with required attachments are due on or before April 29.

Additional questions may be directed to Dave Zastrow, Thrivent Donor Services associate, at [TCScholarships@thrivent.com](mailto:TCScholarships@thrivent.com) or 800-365-4172.



Photos: LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford





Rev. Dr. Thomas Aadland was installed as pastor of St. James Lutheran Church, West St. Paul, on Feb. 27. Formerly a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, the congregation voted to apply for membership in The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) on Feb. 13. Pastor Aadland and his wife, Mary, recently served as LCMS missionaries to Kenya. From left, Revs. Michael Heggen, David Kind, Larry Wesolik, Christopher Horton, Rob Jarvis, Dr. Thomas Aadland, Dr. Lucas Woodford, Kenneth Boudreau, James Markworth, Dr. Ralph Rokke, James Kroonblawd and Richard Stadler.

## St. Matthew welcomes Pastor Fast

Rev. Thomas Fast was installed as pastor of St. Matthew, St. Charles, on Feb. 20. From left, Revs. Ronald Prigge, Frederick Morck, Peter Haugen, Mark Meier, Thomas Fast, Mark Triplett, Richard Moore, Harold Storm, Herbert Mueller III, Ryan Eden and William Meilner.





## How's your eyesight?

How many of you wear glasses? I was in my 40s when I discovered I needed glasses. I was no longer able to read the name and addresses on the mail I was sorting, unless I held it up to my nose or at an arm's length away.

I didn't mind wearing glasses, until they were splattered with rain or frosted up from the cold. Now that I have been wearing them for years, I have gotten used to them. But now I have a different situation that is annoying — a floater getting in the way of my sight. Floaters are spots in your vision.

I think about the story of how Saul (Paul), who was persecuting the Lord, became blind for three days (Acts 8). But he regained his sight, was baptized and converted from a sinful life to being an apostle for Jesus, boldly proclaiming Him as the Christ throughout the Roman Empire. What a Christian legacy he left us!

Lutheran Women in Mission have been joyfully proclaiming Christ for 80 years. We have supported missions through



**Deb Vinkemeier**  
LWML District President

our mites and equipped women to honor God by serving others. What a blessing that the LWML is able to continue to carry out this legacy, telling others about Jesus and sharing His great love around the globe.

We will now celebrate Easter, a time to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. Like a floater in the eye, we can lose focus on what Christ did for us. Let's not make Easter a one-day celebration or lose focus on its meaning. Let us continue to celebrate Easter every day until Christ returns. Let this be our legacy: to continue to pass on what Christ has done for us from generation to generation.

As time goes on, the little floater in my eye is less noticeable and my life is a bit easier. When it does appear, I remember I belong to a powerful, all-seeing Savior who watches over me daily as I joyfully follow Him out into the world, sharing the legacy of what He has done for us all.

Will your Easter eyesight continue to be 20/20? I'm praying it will be so that others may clearly see Jesus in our midst and faithfully follow and serve Him as the precious Savior who died for us and lives eternally.

Easter Blessings!



## Thank you

In February, the LWML of Good Shepherd, Marshall, gave donuts and thank you cards to police, firefighters and EMTs in appreciation for their protection of the community. Thank you to all who serve.

## Share your '80'!



In thanksgiving for 80 years of the LWML, each member, group or zone is encouraged to reflect God's love by blessing others with 80 of something, remembering events from the last 80 years, or sharing ideas for carrying forth the LWML mission.

The ladies of Holy Cross, Prior Lake and members of their congregation collected socks for those exiting prison or transitioning from homelessness or shelters. The Holy Cross LWML group prayed for 80 pairs of socks to be donated — and the Lord multiplied it by five times! The 400 pairs will keep many feet warm through the New Freedom Store and Damascus Way.

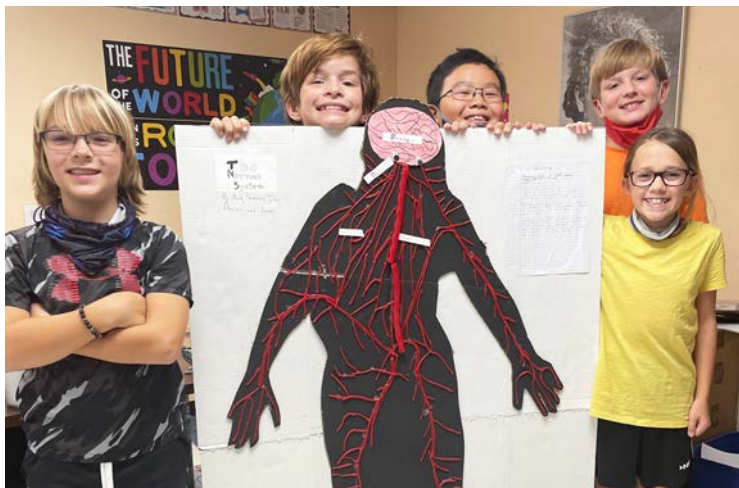
What will your "80" be? Will you personally give \$80 more toward mites this year? Maybe your group will collect 80 stuffed animals for your local first responders to share with children in crisis situations. For more ideas and promotional materials, visit [lwml.org/80](http://lwml.org/80). Be sure to take a picture of your group's 80. We'd love to share your 80 with others!

**Joy Anderson** • VP of Christian Life



## Emanuel Lutheran School, Hamburg

The fifth and sixth graders worked a shift at "Emanuel Memorial Hospital," performing "sentence surgery." They worked on diagnosing and fixing sentences, fragments and run-ons. They also worked on using correct punctuation and writing each type of sentence: declarative, imperative, interrogative and exclamatory.



## Trinity Lone Oak Lutheran School, Eagan

The fifth- and sixth-grade science class (left) created models of human body systems. It's so fun to see them use their imaginations to create amazing things while learning, and to talk about how amazingly God created us. Also, first graders had fun celebrating the 100th day of school by building a pyramid with 100 cups



## St. James Lutheran School, Howard Lake

Even though it's been a frigid winter, students enjoyed some time sledding

## Immanuel Lutheran School, Plainview

Students created a snow family.



# Plunge!



The fourth annual Camp Omega Plunge, held on Feb. 20 at Morristown Community Center, was a huge success! God has the ability to provide and He did. A new record of 103 plungers had the courage to jump into very cold water and through pledges received, they helped raise \$36,000 for Camp Omega, also a new record. There were also nine new teams and 60 new plungers.

Pictured are award winners, from left, Abbey Anderson, Todd and Terri Bentz and their son, Isaac, and Curt Braun.

Thank you to all who volunteered their time and effort to "take the plunge." We'll see you on the dock next year!

## CRITICAL RACE THEORY:

# Our Community and Christian Response

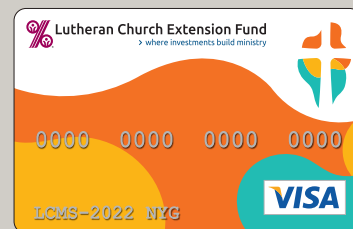
Despite the protests to denounce discrimination against Black Americans and other people of color, the divide only grows wider and deeper. A sectional, held Feb. 26 at Golden Valley Lutheran Church, Golden Valley, focused on the underlying issues of racial division in America. Participants discussed how to address sensitive issues with those in our congregations, and school staff and parents. In the end, the goal is to look at our paths going forward as believers.

The keynote speaker was Rev. B. Keith Haney, Iowa District West assistant to the president for Missions, Human Care and Stewardship, and an ordained LCMS pastor for 28 years.



Rev. B. Keith Haney

## LCEF offers prepaid cards for Gathering



Lutheran Church Extension Fund is proud to partner with LCMS Youth Ministry for the LCMS Youth Gathering, to be held July 9-13 in Houston.

Through this partnership, LCEF will offer prepaid Visa cards for use throughout the Gathering. In response to the pandemic, LCEF will no longer provide cash transactions at the LCEF booth, but will distribute the debit cards and provide card assistance. Download the order form at [lcef.org/yg22](http://lcef.org/yg22) and submit it by May 2.

Leaders will be able to pick up their group's cards at registration in Houston. Make sure you stop by the LCEF booth in the exhibit hall for some fun giveaways, too!

If you have questions on the prepaid cards, contact LCEF at 800-843-5233 or Kai Larson at [kai.larson@lcef.org](mailto:kai.larson@lcef.org).

## Share your news with us!

Send submissions to:  
[communications@mnsdistrict.org](mailto:communications@mnsdistrict.org).

You may also mail your submissions to Minnesota South District, 14301 Grand Ave. South Burnsville, MN 55306.

Please ensure photos sent electronically are high resolution.



## Learning ‘best practices’

As in previous years, this year's Best Practices Conference was a winner! Over 2,300 people from all over our Synod descended upon Christ Church Lutheran, Phoenix, Feb. 17-19 to be fed spiritually, physically, emotionally and intellectually. The sunshine and sky-blue weather “warmed” everyone's heart, body and soul. Once again, Rev. Jeff Schrank and Christ Lutheran congregation showed attendees what extreme hospitality looks like.

The Minnesota South District was well represented. Four congregations were able to send teams, thanks to support from a district Congregational Mission Formation grant. These congregations represented the most pastors and lay people the district has ever

had participate. The feedback was very positive, and those who attended brought home new and innovative ideas to help inspire efforts to think, plan and act more intentionally in the mission of God.

If your congregation would like to send a team next year, grants will again be available. For more information and a grant request form, contact Phil Johnson at the district office at [phillip.johnson@mnsdistrict.org](mailto:phillip.johnson@mnsdistrict.org). You can also learn more about the kind of impact the conference can have by contacting one or more of the congregations that participated, or by reading their stories in the district *eNews*, which is sent out each Tuesday. To sign up, go to [mnsdistrict.org/publications](https://mnsdistrict.org/publications).

District attendees had the added benefit of escaping frigid Minnesota for the warmer Arizona temperatures.

## POBLO has new coordinator

By God's grace, Shari Schulze has become the People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) Twin Cities International Friendship Centers (IFC) coordinator. In this capacity, she will manage IFC's resources, supplies and database.

Shari will be the point of contact for volunteers and IFC students, coordinating schedules and rides. She will also continue to recruit congregational advocates in the Twin Cities to serve as liaisons between

LCMS congregations and the IFCs. Shari will have office hours at Mount Hope, Bloomington (host of the Bloomington IFC), but will coordinate at the other two sites as well: Burnsville IFC (Ascension) and Prior Lake IFC (Holy Cross).

Start your missions work in the fertile soil of the Twin Cities, where the harvest is plentiful and the laborers are few. POBLO is looking for prayer warriors, volunteers and individual donors. They are able to help your congregation start an outreach ministry in your front and backyard by overcoming religious and cultural gaps. Visit [poblo.org/minnesota-poblo-mission](https://poblo.org/minnesota-poblo-mission).



### DISTRICT OFFICE

- ▶ 14301 Grand Ave. S.  
Burnsville, MN 55306
- ▶ 952-435-2550
- ▶ [mnsdistrict.org](https://mnsdistrict.org)



# Register for convention



Registration for the 79th Minnesota South District Convention is now open. The convention will be held June 9-11 at Concordia University, St. Paul.

The registration form has been emailed to district members and congregations and is also available at [mnsdistrict.org/convention](http://mnsdistrict.org/convention). Email will be the primary method of dispersing information before and during the convention. As preparations continue, participants are encouraged to provide an email address to the district at [communications@mnsdistrict.org](mailto:communications@mnsdistrict.org) if they have not already done so.

The registration form is different from the delegates form submitted earlier. Even though congregations submitted the delegates form, which indicates the voters from the congregation, the registration form must be completed by voting delegates, advisory delegates and guests. This form also includes housing and meal choices. Registration closes May 20.

When completing the registration form, keep these descriptions in mind:

- ▶ Voting delegates: the pastor, lay delegate, and alternate lay delegate elected by the congregation. They have a voice and a vote at the convention.
- ▶ Advisory delegates: advisory pastors, emeriti pastors, emeriti teachers, active rostered teachers, directors of Christian education, director of Christian outreach, deaconesses, the district Board of Directors and executive staff. These participants have a voice but no vote.

- ▶ Registered guests: includes vicars, spouses of delegates and others. They have neither voice nor a vote.

The cost for the convention (not including housing or meals) is

- ▶ Voting delegates: \$260 if paid by April 30; \$310 from May 1-20
- ▶ Advisory delegates: \$130 if paid by April 30; \$180 from May 1-20
- ▶ Guests: No conference fee, but there are housing and meal costs if choosing on-site facilities

Please visit [mnsdistrict.org/convention](http://mnsdistrict.org/convention) for updates.

## Convention offering

An offering will be gathered at the opening service, which will go to People of the Book Lutheran Outreach (POBLO) to support Nader and Georgette Alaraj as they continue in their outreach efforts.

Minnesota's foreign-born population in recent years has increased dramatically, with an influx of immigrants from Somalia, Laos and India, among other nations. Over 100,000 refugees have come to Minnesota over the past three decades, and the state is home to the largest population of Somali Muslims in the United States

As of 2011, more than 7 percent of the state's population was foreign-born, and in 2006 Minnesota became the first state to elect a Muslim representative to Congress. Eighty percent of the foreign-born population is concentrated in the Twin Cities region, where POBLO Minnesota missionaries are based.

For the past 4-plus years, and in partnership with our district, Nader and Georgette have worked with the pastors and people of our southwest suburban congregations to open up International Friendship Centers for our district.

**POBLO**  
International

They do this by teaching, training and raising up volunteer workers who will serve and bless the Muslim immigrants in our midst. They offer language, cooking, sewing and citizenship classes in order to build friendships and create opportunities for Gospel sharing and Christian discipleship.

You are invited to contribute to this offering, as you feel led. Please join us in thanking God for their work and that they are successful in their continued outreach efforts.

## Congregation mission receipts

### For the period ending Feb. 28, 2022

Actual receipts.....	\$206,333
Budget receipts .....	\$170,833
Over (under) amount .....	\$35,500

#### Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts.....	\$358,414
Budget receipts .....	\$341,666
Over (under) anticipated amount.....	\$16,748

#### Use of mission receipts (year to date)

50% designated to district and Synod .....	\$279,194
100% designated to district operations .....	\$68,570
100% designated for Synod operations .....	\$10,650
Total receipts .....	\$358,414

#### Mission receipts—2022 vs. 2021

Mission receipts — YTD 2022 .....	\$358,414
Mission receipts — YTD 2021 .....	\$409,890
Over (under) last year .....	(\$51,476)

2022 congregational receipts budgeted at \$2,050,000 (does not include designated to Synod operations)

## MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

#### January 2022

New investments .....	\$1,558,432
Withdrawals.....	\$1,083,797
Net increase (decrease).....	\$474,635

#### Year-to-date July 1, 2021–Jan. 31, 2022

New investments .....	\$11,128,516
Withdrawals.....	\$11,030,873
Net increase (decrease).....	\$97,643