

DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

💡 TALKING POINTS WITH PASTOR



Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
District President

This is the theme for our forthcoming Minnesota South District Convention (June 9-11 at Concordia University, St. Paul). It flows out of our convention theme verses from Col. 3:12-17, especially verse 17:

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

A key initiative that we began in 2018 was *In the Word*. It was a back-to-basics challenge for all our congregations and ministries to have regular Sunday and midweek Bible study. The goal was for all members, and especially church leaders, to be *In the Word* often and regularly. It shouldn't be surprising, but research has shown that congregations that have at least 20% of their average Sunday worship attendance also in weekly Bible study have significantly less conflict and considerably more unity in their mission and work.

Upholding this initiative, we are planning five in-depth Bible studies on these verses that will keep us *In the Word* throughout the convention:

1. Everything IN THE NAME OF JESUS
2. CLOTHED in the name of Jesus
3. PEACE in the name of Jesus



4. WORSHIP in the name of Jesus

5. EVERYTHING in the name of Jesus

The first Bible study will focus on the person and work of Jesus Christ and why it is superior to every other teaching, philosophy or name given under heaven. The middle three themes focus on three unique gifts we have been given in the name of Jesus and are especially fitting for the challenges of our life and times. The final Bible study focuses on the key word *everything* and brings the studies all together, demonstrating how everything we are, say and do as Christians is done in the name of Jesus, encouraging us to move out into our callings with a renewed sense of purpose in all the activities of life. The work of the convention, therefore, includes the central importance of being *In the Word*.

Some additional background information about district conventions: The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod has 35 districts with more than 6,000 congregations and 2 million members. There are 33 geographical districts representing all 50 United States. Two districts — English and SELC — are non-geographical and they have member congregations in the United States and the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Quebec.

Ordinarily, the LCMS has district conventions every three years (called a triennium), and the schedule includes

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MESSAGE (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

time for worship, nurture *In the Word* and fellowship, as well as conducting business (passing resolutions), electing officers and sharing information. However, the COVID-19 pandemic prompted a vote to postpone the Synod convention for a year, which meant district conventions would, likewise, be postponed and the triennium extended by one year. (I have been calling it a mulligan year.)

The Minnesota South District is made up of 240 congregations and over 1,000 church workers.

It is situated among a vast diversity of people and cultures — rural and inner city, suburban and small town, multi-ethnic and intergenerational. All are full of sinners who need the forgiveness and love of Jesus Christ. Opportunities to share the Gospel are all around. To be

sure, many people are lost, some are afraid, others are confused and many simply don't care. Yet despite the age or culture we live in, as evangelical, confessional Lutherans we are "not ashamed of the Gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes" (ROM. 1:16). We know the name of Jesus is powerful and are not afraid to proclaim it in everything we do (Col. 3:17).

There is wonderful ministry at work in our district, even as we look to address

the challenges and tremendous opportunities for our life together. The work of a convention is to speak to the mission and ministry of our district. It is a time to be *In the Word*, encourage one another and set the priorities for the ministry of our district so that everything we do is done in the name of Jesus.



79th Convention
Minnesota South District, LCMS
June 9-11, 2022

Slate of nominations

In keeping with the following bylaw, the Slate of Nominations for the upcoming district convention is to be published in the pre-convention issue of the official district publication, which is the Minnesota South insert of *The Lutheran Witness*.

4.2.15.6 Committee on Nominations

h) This committee shall publish a complete and full list with pertinent information of each person suggested to this committee for consideration. The published information shall include the full name, address, and name and location of the congregation where the person is a member. This list shall be distributed along with the completed list of those nominated by this committee and published by the secretary of the district in the pre-convention issue of the official district publication and also in the official convention book of reports and overtures (Convention Workbook).

DISTRICT PRESIDENT (elect one)

Rev. Thomas L. Evans
3129 Alden Pond Lane, Eagan
Emanuel Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights

Rev. Kurt R. Klaus
18125 Dunbury Ave., Farmington
Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville

Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford
4517 199th St. W., Farmington
Trinity Lutheran Church, Farmington

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION I (elect one)

Rev. Thomas L. Evans
3129 Alden Pond Lane, Eagan
Emanuel Lutheran Church, Inver Grove Heights

Rev. Todd D. Stocker
6900 Stratford Draw, Woodbury
Woodbury Lutheran Church, Woodbury

Rev. Timothy B. Vaughan
22830 Zion Parkway NW, Oak Grove
Trinity Lutheran Church & School, St. Francis

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION II (elect one)

Rev. David A. Kind
11705 Arnold Palmer Trail NE, Blaine
University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis

Continued on next page

Rev. Steven J. Wheeler
9633 Xerxes Circle S, Bloomington
Cross View Lutheran Church, Edina

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION III (elect one)

Rev. David C. Mumme
415 Lake Street W, Waterville
Trinity Lutheran Church, Waterville

Rev. Nathaniel R. Schwartz
1010 Double Eagle Avenue SE, Rochester
Trinity Lutheran Church, Rochester

Rev. Jonathan H. Vollrath
237 Pearl Street S, Dover
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Eyota

VICE PRESIDENT, REGION IV (elect one)

Rev. Mark S. Loder
PO Box 680, Howard Lake
St. James Lutheran Church & School, Howard Lake

Rev. Eric M. Nelson
118 Maple Street N, Lester Prairie
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lester Prairie

DISTRICT SECRETARY (elect one)

Rev. Keith H. Grimm
15384 Wintergreen Street NW, Andover
Family of Christ Lutheran Church, Ham Lake

Rev. Matthew P. Johnson
9139 Brockton Lane, Hamel
St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Corcoran

District Board of Directors

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION I (elect one)

Rev. Christopher P. Horton
14385 Blaine Avenue E, Rosemount
St. John Lutheran Church, Rosemount

Rev. Kurt R. Klaus
18125 Dunbury Avenue, Farmington
Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION II (elect one)

Open

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION III (elect one)

Rev. Mark R. Meier Sr.
806 Cedar Drive, Unit A, LaCrescent
Messiah Lutheran Church and Grace Lutheran Church, LaCrescent

Rev. Jonathan H. Vollrath
237 Pearl Street S, Dover
Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Eyota

Rev. Loel A. Wessel
503 West Fremont Street, Spring Valley
First English Lutheran Church, Spring Valley

ORDAINED MINISTER, REGION IV (elect one)

Rev. Eric M. Nelson
118 Maple Street N, Lester Prairie
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lester Prairie

COMMISSIONED MINISTERS (elect two)

Mr. Harold "Andy" Frerich
16254 Harvard Drive, Lakeville
Messiah Lutheran Church, Lakeville

Mr. Joel Landskroener
5188 Prairie Point, Mayer
St. John's Lutheran Church, Chaska

LAY, EAST METRO NORTH (elect one)

Open

LAY, EAST METRO SOUTH (elect one)

Open

LAY, WEST METRO EAST (elect one)

Open

LAY, WEST METRO WEST (elect one)

Open

LAY, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA EAST

(elect one)

Mrs. Sara Sorenson
24686 Old Church Road, Red Wing
Immanuel Lutheran Church—Hay Creek, Red Wing

LAY, SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA WEST

Open

LAY, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA EAST

(elect one)

Mr. David Koosman
249 County Road 6 SW, Annandale
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Annandale

LAY, SOUTHWEST MINNESOTA WEST

(elect one)

Open

Board of Regents, Concordia University, St. Paul

ORDAINED MINISTER (elect one)

Rev. Jeremiah D. Johnson
9706 Lily Pond Lane, Corcoran
Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth

Rev. William H. Otte
909 18th Avenue NE, Rochester
Trinity Lutheran Church, Rochester

COMMISSIONED MINISTER (elect one)

OPEN

LAY MEMBER (elect two)

Mr. James Anderson
5497 Crossandra Street SE, Prior Lake
Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Prior Lake

Mrs. Rosa Summers
10408 Zion Avenue S, Bloomington
Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth

Mrs. Lori L. Utech
3678 120th Court W, Faribault
Trinity Lutheran Church, Medford

2025 District Nominations Committee

ORDAINED MINISTER (elect four)

Rev. Kyle D. Krueger
9656 Winslow Chase, Maple Grove
Glory of Christ Lutheran Church

Rev. Eric Nelson
118 Maple Street N, Lester Prairie
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Lester Prairie

Rev. Jon Niebuhr
1407 Cedar Avenue N, Glencoe
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Glencoe

COMMISSIONED MINISTER (elect one)

OPEN

LAY MEMBER (elect four)

Mr. David Koosman
249 County Road 6 SW, Annandale
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Annandale

Mr. Glen Meints
962 West California, St. Paul
University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis

Mr. Bill Summers
10408 Zion Avenue S, Bloomington
Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth

Synod Nominations Committee

Mr. Dave E. Kenow
1515 Truman Avenue SE, Owatonna
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Owatonna

Mr. Christian A. Preus
4770 Underwood Lane N, Unit G, Plymouth
Glory of Christ Lutheran Church, Plymouth



Last chance to register

Registration for the district convention closes May 20!

The registration form must be completed by voting delegates, advisory delegates and guests. This form also includes housing and meal choices. Register at mnsdistrict.org/convention.

When completing the registration form, keep the following descriptions in mind.

Voting delegates: The pastor, lay delegate and alternate lay delegate are elected by the congregation. They have a voice and vote at the convention. As stated in Bylaw 2.20.4, "Voting Members: All organized congregations that have joined the Synod hold voting membership. At the meetings of the district every congregation or parish (two or more congregations served by one called pastor on a permanent basis) is entitled to two votes, one of which is to be cast by the pastor and the other by the lay delegate."

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. As stated in Bylaw 3.1.3, "The advisory delegates of a district convention shall consist, unless they present a valid excuse, of all individual members of the Synod within the district, except those pastors representing member congregations as voting delegates."

Registered guests: Includes vicars, spouses of delegates, etc. They have neither voice nor vote.

All delegates who attend the convention need to register. Only register *one person per registration form*. If you are a delegate and a committee member, you would register as a delegate.

Cost (does not include housing or meals):

- Voting Delegates: \$310
- Advisory Delegates: \$180

Guests: There is no conference fee, but there is housing and meal costs if choosing on-site facilities.

Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending March 31, 2022 (unaudited)

Actual receipts.....	\$191,098
Budget receipts	<u>\$170,830</u>
Over (under) amount	\$20,268

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts.....	\$549,512
Budget receipts	<u>\$512,496</u>
Over (under) anticipated amount.....	\$37,016

Use of mission receipts (year to date)

50% designated to district and Synod	\$424,684
100% designated to district operations	\$106,705
100% designated for Synod operations	<u>\$18,123</u>
Total receipts	\$549,512

Mission receipts—2022 vs. 2021

Mission receipts — YTD 2022	\$549,512
Mission receipts — YTD 2021	<u>\$592,045</u>
Over (under) last year	(\$42,533)

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

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

February 2022

New investments	\$1,378,309
Withdrawals.....	<u>\$1,908,424</u>
Net increase (decrease).....	(\$530,115)

Year-to-date July 1, 2021–Feb. 28, 2022

New investments	\$12,506,825
Withdrawals.....	<u>\$12,939,297</u>
Net increase (decrease).....	(\$432,472)

WANTED:

Volunteers to help prepare camp

Join your brothers and sisters in Christ in fellowship while preparing Camp Omega in Waterville for the arrival of over 1,600 children and adults for summer camp programs. Work Weekend will be held May 27-29. There is no cost to participate.

Entire families are welcome to join in the service, fun and recreation of a fulfilling service weekend. Camp Omega

staff will lead the youth and children in age-appropriate service projects and recreational activities.

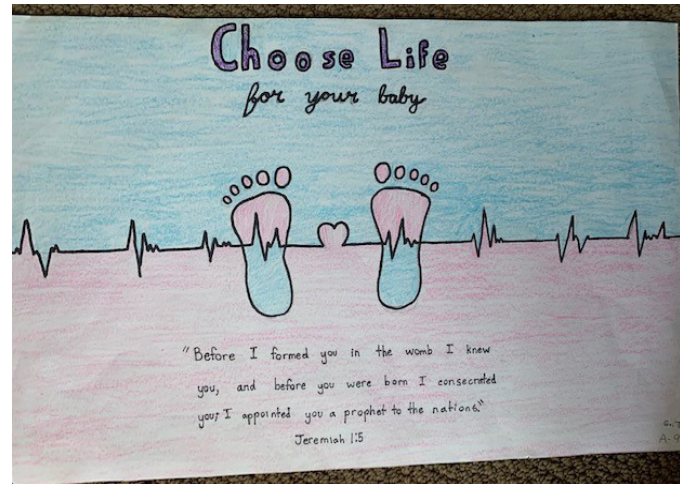
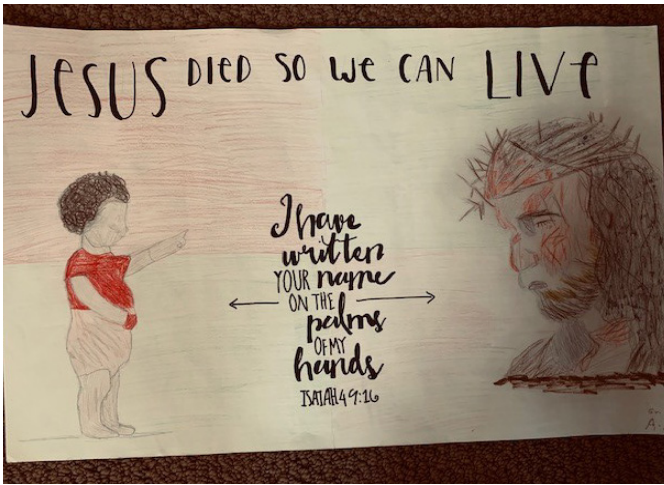
The weekend kicks off Friday evening and lasts through lunch on Sunday, but join in for any part of the weekend as your schedule allows. For more information, visit campomega.org, go to "Events" and select "Annual Work Weekend" from the drop-down menu.



DISTRICT OFFICE

- ▶ 14301 Grand Ave. S.
Burnsville, MN 55306
- ▶ 952-435-2550
- ▶ mnsdistrict.org

Students affirm life through art



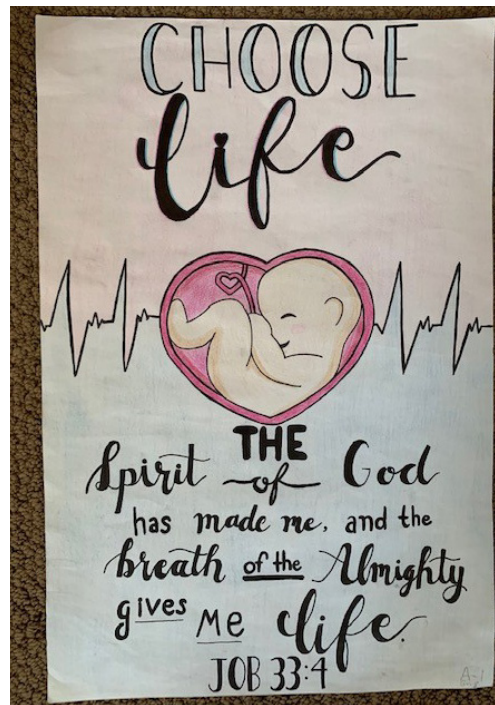
Every year students in grades 4-8 at the Lutheran schools of Carver County and surrounding area are invited to participate in the Lutherans For Life Poster Contest.

Teachers from each school then choose the top two posters from each grade and submit them to be judged. Volunteer judges from the community are then asked to choose the top posters from each grade.

The posters are judged on the following five guidelines: attracts attention, conveys the message, design, originality and workmanship. A passage from Scripture is required on each poster.

It is not an easy task to judge the many posters that are submitted and the volunteer judges are greatly appreciated for their time and effort.

The judging was especially difficult this year as the quality of the posters was exceptional. The local parochial schools are to be congratulated on their efforts in teaching the sanctity of life for all ages. There is no greater gift we can give to our children than to teach them that God gives us the gift of life.



The posters pictured were created by, clockwise from top left:

- **Addi Salzer**
Seventh grade,
Zion, Mayer
- **Peytra Traska**
Seventh grade
Zion, Mayer
- **Avery Arvig**
Eighth grade
Zion, Mayer



Share your news with us!

We are always in need of more submissions for the Minnesota South District *Lutheran Witness* insert. They help 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.

Please send submissions to:

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

thank you

to the congregations that supported the work of the Minnesota South District and Synod through your gifts in 2021. 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			Japanese Christian Fellowship, Minneapolis	800	-
Mt. Olive, Anoka	500	1			
King of Glory, Blaine	4,342	23	Southwest Suburban Circuit		
St. John, Elk River	2,999	6	Holy Emmanuel, Bloomington	7,800	33
Family of Christ, Ham Lake	8,000	9	Redemption, Bloomington	2,025	7
Spirit of Christ, Ham Lake	11,856	68	Mt. Hope, Bloomington	5,000	27
Messiah, Mounds View	40,400	64	St. Michael's, Bloomington	36,200	28
Prince of Peace, Spring Lake Park	1,843	9	Cross View, Edina	113,512	236
Trinity, St. Francis	16,800	18	Holy Cross, Prior Lake	11,445	86
Prince of Peace Deaf, Spring Lake Park	200	7	Immanuel, Prior Lake	21,000	54
			St. Paul, Prior Lake	4,165	6
St. Paul Metro Circuit			Lake Minnetonka Circuit		
The Gathering Place, Arden Hills	3,968	54	Living Christ, Chanhassen	64,704	95
King of Kings, Roseville	16,292	27	Victory, Eden Prairie	7,200	68
Bethel, St. Paul	11,101	50	Our Savior, Excelsior	4,800	9
Bethlehem, St. Paul	4,824	18	Zion, Hopkins	30,000	51
Eastern Heights, St. Paul	2,000	4	Mt. Olive, Mound	1,200	9
Emmaus, St. Paul	6,000	30	Redeemer, Wayzata	1,950	3
Jehovah, St. Paul	1,500	7			
St. Croix River Circuit			North Carver County Circuit		
St. Peter, Afton	6,697	24	Zion, Mayer	6,000	9
Good Shepherd, Circle Pines	35,786	99	St. John, New Germany	3,093	19
Rose of Sharon, Cottage Grove	10,000	36	St. Mark, New Germany	2,500	9
Family of Christ, Houlton	6,000	21	Trinity, Waconia	11,000	7
Trinity, Hudson	16,095	16	St. Peter, Watertown	145	1
New Life Church, Hugo	6,500	46			
South Shore Trinity, White Bear Lake	43,700	75	South Carver County Circuit		
St. John, Woodbury	38,000	161	Trinity, Carver	12,982	87
Woodbury - Valley Creek Campus, Woodbury	20,000	8	Christ Victorious, Chaska	18,614	34
			St. John's, Chaska	21,000	19
Southeast Suburban Circuit			Zion, Cologne	7,235	18
Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Burnsville	11,871	93	Emanuel, Hamburg	10,000	20
Christ, Eagan	5,000	9	St. John, Norwood Young America	20,000	18
Trinity Lone Oak, Eagan	22,110	51	St. John, Plato	1,081	3
Trinity, Farmington	22,682	76			
Emanuel, Inver Grove Heights	24,000	54	Lake Pepin Circuit		
Messiah, Lakeville	121,787	119	Immanuel, Elgin	13,127	135
St. John, Rosemount	1,000	5	Trinity, Elgin	10,575	25
Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Rosemount	5,000	18	St. Peter, Goodhue	11,690	62
Concordia, South St. Paul	1,200	-	St. John, Hammond	3,870	82
			Shepherd of the Valley, Hastings	500	8
Northwest Suburban Circuit			Bethany, Lake City	8,465	20
Eternal Hope, Brooklyn Park	3,170	16	Immanuel, Plainview	22,142	36
Grace, Brooklyn Park	9,658	35	Concordia, Red Wing	804	4
Shepherd of the Grove, Maple Grove	8,584	55	Immanuel, Red Wing	17,500	69
St. Paul, Osseo	10,000	34			
Beautiful Savior, Plymouth	4,750	3	Winona Circuit		
Glory of Christ, Plymouth	5,500	15	Messiah, La Crescent	1,634	37
Redeemer, Robbinsdale	300	2	Immanuel, Lewiston	9,990	26
			St. John, Rushford	10,575	47
Minneapolis Metro Circuit			St. Mark, Rushford	497	3
St. Matthew, Columbia Heights	31,810	76	St. Matthew, St. Charles	4,203	13
St. Peter's, Edina	6,587	40	Redeemer, Winona	3,250	33
Golden Valley, Golden Valley	10,000	21	St. Martin, Winona	10,909	8
Holy Cross, Minneapolis	2,135	14			
St. James, Minneapolis	500	11	Rochester Circuit		
Trinity First, Minneapolis	505	10	Christ, Rochester	500	6
Berea, Richfield	12,000	40	Grace, Rochester	600	2
Mt. Calvary, Richfield	8,372	33	Holy Cross, Rochester	5,000	21

	Total Giving (\$)	Average per Communicant Member (\$)		Total Giving (\$)	Average per Communicant Member (\$)
Redeemer, Rochester	40,000	41	Zion, Green Isle	3,341	45
Trinity, Rochester	6,500	7	Centennial, Henderson	780	8
St. John, Stewartville	47,000	88	Redeemer, New Ulm	13,000	36
Austin Circuit			Mankato Circuit		
Zion, Albert Lea	8,201	17	St. Paul, Amboy	700	6
Holy Cross, Austin	9,000	-	St. John, Good Thunder	9,616	29
St. John, Austin	17,410	69	Salem, Madelia	2,400	15
Immanuel, Racine	899	9	Hosanna, Mankato	74,010	18
First English, Spring Valley	2,000	10	Our Savior, Mankato	56,627	67
Trinity, Waltham	6,035	43	Good Shepherd, North Mankato	17,366	86
St. John, Wykoff	22,140	80	St. Peter, Vernon Center	1,500	10
			River of Life, St. Peter	5,145	60
Waseca Circuit			Blue Earth Circuit		
Bethlehem, Elysian	25	-	Immanuel, Blue Earth	2,000	23
Immanuel, Janesville	6,642	68	St. Paul, Blue Earth	17,056	31
Trinity, Janesville	5,035	4	St. John, Elmore	4,500	-
St. John, Minnesota Lake	2,126	29	Immanuel, Fairmont	10,035	16
Bethlehem, Morristown	3,912	16	St. Paul, Fairmont	9,000	10
St. John, Kilkenney	898	31	Zion, Fairmont	17,140	87
Trinity, Morristown	2,000	8	Trinity, Lewisville	500	11
First, Waldorf	10,326	60	St. James, Northrop	10,175	31
St. Paul, Waseca	10,700	33	St. John, St. James	610	4
St. Peter, Waterville	1,577	8	St. Paul, Truman	13,470	31
Trinity, Waterville	721	2	Our Savior, Winnebago	495	2
Faribault Circuit			Sherburn Circuit		
St. John, Claremont	1,220	6	Trinity, Alpha	6,432	78
Grace, Dodge Center	14,318	75	St. Paul, Ceylon	2,000	13
Peace, Faribault	6,000	13	Our Redeemer, Jackson	10,100	27
Trinity, Faribault	59,000	70	Trinity, Mountain Lake	17,166	35
Trinity, Medford	2,204	9	Immanuel, Ormsby	9,258	117
Trinity, Northfield	7,575	19	Trinity, Sanborn	2,997	60
Good Shepherd, Owatonna	25,500	31	St. John, Sherburn	23,000	47
Redeemer, Owatonna	5,792	23	Zion, Springfield	2,535	22
			Trinity, Trimont	5,084	34
Litchfield Circuit			Bethany, Wabasso	1,028	28
Life In Christ, Albertville	10,000	29	Worthington Circuit		
Bethlehem, Annandale	2,000	18	Holy Trinity, Lakefield	5,000	33
Zion, Annandale	13,800	46	St. Paul, Lakefield	8,000	48
St. John, Atwater	9,443	51	St. Peter, Lakefield	3,500	22
St. John, Buffalo	30,854	43	Trinity of Sioux Valley, Lakefield	4,800	25
Immanuel, Litchfield	5,964	77	Our Redeemer, Okabena	2,430	20
McLeod Circuit			Bethel, Round Lake	1,000	8
Immanuel, Brownton	7,000	14	St. John, Rushmore	968	10
First Evangelical, Glencoe	14,096	9	Our Savior, Windom	18,285	40
Good Shepherd, Glencoe	4,999	9	Pipestone Circuit		
Our Savior, Hutchinson	28,474	59	St. Paul, Fulda	32,165	95
Peace, Hutchinson	35,000	17	Zion, Hardwick	4,655	31
St. John, Hutchinson	1,706	6	St. James, Holland	5,000	26
St. Paul, Lester Prairie	21,704	30	Trinity, Jasper	1,291	18
St. Peter, Lester Prairie	13,735	95	St. John, Luverne	18,184	46
Arlington Circuit			Good Shepherd, Marshall	15,389	63
Peace, Arlington	7,611	16	St. Paul, Pipestone	32,000	78
St. John, Arlington	3,001	34	Trinity, Slayton	1,500	10
Immanuel, Courtland	18,300	46	St. John, Trosky	3,300	59
Immanuel, Gaylord	9,603	20	Average for District		26
St. John, Gaylord	2,260	23			
St. Peter, Gibbon	11,161	58			
St. Paul, Green Isle	2,765	15			



Getty Images

Leaving time for God

The last few months have been overwhelming. I have been getting ready for our 29th LWML District Convention, dealing with emails and phone calls, traveling to zone events and practicing for worship services. Trying to balance this with my duties as a wife, I realize I am blessed with a husband who can cook and is OK when attention is not given to him.



Deb Vinkemeier
LWML District President

I'm not whining, but my patience becomes very thin. I become tired and weary, wondering why everything has to happen all at once. I become impatient with myself and with people around me. Sometimes I want to throw in the towel, sit down with a bag of chips, watch TV and let the world go by. Have you ever had these kinds of moments in your life?

Satan loves to use these moments to place a wedge between God and us.

Often, due to time constraints, we skip our devotions, time in the Word and sitting quietly with God in prayer. Our sin separates us from the love of God.

Despite our sin, God has time for us. He is always calling us to run to Him when we become overburdened. As the apostle Paul writes, nothing "will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (ROM. 8:39B).

Jesus knows our needs as we balance our time between families, work and other commitments. He understands how overwhelmed we become.

Because of His love, He gave Himself up for us by His great act of suffering, dying and rising again. Jesus becomes our strength and wisdom, giving us the time to show compassion to others. God has blessed us with many talents and gifts so we may show others that the "surpassing power belongs to God and not us" (2 COR. 4:7).

When you face overwhelming circumstances, balance your time by spending a portion of it with God in prayer, remembering the promises He has given us. Jesus is always by our side in all circumstances.



MLHS grant PAID IN FULL

Martin Luther High School (MLHS), Northrop, has an enrollment of 51 students in grades 9-12. It is situated in a rural community that faces a decrease in population density and in the median household income as compared to the growth and economy in other metropolitan areas.

In MLHS, families who have sent their children to Lutheran elementary schools in Northrop, Fairmont, Truman and Lakefield can look forward to enrolling their teens in a Christ-centered high school in their area.

"The hurdles to funding our ministry crop up often from so many new places and the constant support of the LWML is such a blessing," says Marge Thiesse, who serves as MLHS director of Development and Recruitment. Marge, along with the staff and students of Martin Luther High School, are thankful to the LWML Minnesota South District for supporting their ministry and giving children the opportunity for a Christian education.

Our LWML Minnesota South District Mission Grant to Martin Luther High School was in the amount of \$15,000 and has now been paid in full. To God be the glory.

Carol Hubert
VP of Gospel Outreach