



# DISTRICT NEWS

## MINNESOTA SOUTH

### Woodford re-elected as district president

Rev. Dr. Lucas V. Woodford was elected to his second term as president of the Minnesota South District at the district's 79th convention, held June 9-11 at Concordia University, St. Paul. Woodford was elected on the first ballot.

Also elected were:

- ▶ Rev. David C. Mumme (Trinity, Waterville) as first vice-president;
- ▶ Rev. Thomas L. Evans (Emmanuel, Inver Grove Heights) as second vice-president;
- ▶ Rev. David A. Kind (University Lutheran Chapel, Minneapolis) as third vice-president; and
- ▶ Rev. Mark S. Loder (St. James, Howard Lake) as fourth vice-president.

#### Ordained Minister, Region 1

- Rev. Kurt Klaus

#### Ordained Minister, Region 2

- Rev. Matthew Johnson

#### Ordained Minister, Region 3

- Rev. Jonathan Vollrath

#### Ordained Minister, Region 4

- Rev. Eric Nelson

#### Commissioned Ministers

- Mr. Harold "Andy" Frerich
- Mr. Joel Landskroener

#### Lay, East Metro North:

- Mr. Daniel Thao

#### Lay, East Metro South

- Ms. Alfrieda Baldwin

#### Lay, West Metro East

- Mr. Bill Summers

#### Lay, West Metro West

- Mr. Travis Barclay



#### Lay, Southeast Minnesota East

- Ms. Sara Sorenson

#### Lay, Southeast Minnesota West

- Mr. David Kenow

#### Lay, Southwest Minnesota East

- Mr. David Koosman

#### Lay, Southwest Minnesota West

- Mr. Daniel Uttech

#### Board of Regents, Concordia University St. Paul:

Ordained Minister: Rev. Jeremiah Johnson

Commissioned Minister: Mr. Gary Volberding

Lay Members: Dr. Lori Utech

Mrs. Rosa Summers

#### District Nominations Committee

Ordained Ministers:

- Rev. Jon Niebuhr
- Rev. Eric Nelson

- Rev. Nickolas Kooi

- Rev. Kyle Krueger

#### Commissioned Minister:

- Ms. Sarah Culbert

#### Lay Members:

- Mr. David Koosman
- Mr. Glen Meints
- Ms. Katherine Mennicke
- Mr. Bill Summers

#### Synod Nominations Committee

- Mr. Christian Preus

Delegates adopted resolutions to:

- ▶ Address current issues by speaking the Gospel clearly in the cultural context of critical race theory, by rejecting the practice of internet communion, and by reminding all that God has appointed parents to be the primary authority in the lives of their children.
- ▶ Identify potential pastoral leaders in immigrant communities and support existing learning-in-ministry, non-residential and distance programs leading to ordination, encouraging the seminaries to award the same tuition assistance to students in these programs.
- ▶ Encourage and foster partnerships across the district, utilize available revitalization resources, and creatively collaborate with sister congregations that encourage Word and Sacrament ministry.
- ▶ Actively encourage current and future Lutheran school teachers by providing financial support where possible and uplifting them in prayer as they strive for excellence in educating students and in reaching out to the ripe mission field within our Lutheran schools.



# Harrison addresses **SCOTUS DECISION**

“This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).

Today is a monumental day, a day on which we simultaneously rejoice, pray, give thanks, lament, repent and weep. The Supreme Court reversed *Roe v. Wade* and returned the responsibility for protecting life to the states. “Held: The Constitution does not confer a right to abortion; *Roe* and *Casey* are overruled; and the authority to regulate abortion is returned to the people and their elected representatives” (SCOTUS, *Dobbs v. Jackson*, 1).

“[The Lord] has brought down the mighty from their thrones and exalted those of humble estate” (Luke 1:52).

Today is also the Church’s feast day, the Nativity of St. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. These two events are a happy convergence.

Today we celebrate the birth of the one who, before he was born, leaped in joyful Spirit-inspired confession when his mother met the mother of his unborn Lord. Today we take comfort in our Lord’s unborn forerunner and in the unborn Savior. We also rejoice

at the resounding victory for life in the United States. Many of us long doubted it would ever come. The Lord has had mercy upon us, even us, sinners all, even in these times.

Today we continue to speak out against the evil of abortion, which many will continue to practice and advocate in states bent on death. Many who have been misled by the father of lies and the culture of death greet this day with weeping and gnashing of teeth. Today we continue to sing that the Lord “has visited and redeemed his people” (Luke 1:68).

Today we pray for unborn children who remain unprotected in many states. Today, in many places, the abortion industry continues to kill unborn children and welcomes those from states where such killing is illegal. Today we take comfort that by the Lord’s hand “we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us” (Luke 1:71).

Today we repent of our own lack of love for the least, the last and the lost, for mothers in need and families facing crises. Today we celebrate God’s gift of

the one He sent to “go before the Lord to prepare his ways, to give knowledge of salvation to his people in the forgiveness of their sins” (Luke 1:76–77).

Today we recommit to love all, unborn and born. Today we receive the sunrise from on high, “to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death” (Luke 1:79).

Today we proclaim: Repent and believe the Good News that Jesus Christ, conceived by the Spirit, formed in the womb and born of the virgin Mary, died and rose for sinners. That includes all of us. Today we give thanks for John who preached repentance and pointed to the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world (John 1:29).

Today we lovingly invite all to listen to Jesus’ call, “repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). If you have caused an abortion, the taking of life, there is forgiveness in Jesus! Don’t be hardened in sin or advocate for more sins. Today you have hope in the One whose way John the Baptist prepared. Jesus is for sinners. Come join the rest of us forgiven sinners! Jesus is for you! You need not have a bad conscience! Repent and believe the Good News of God’s love for you in Jesus.

Today we lament that the U.S. Supreme Court continues to deny the unborn the legally recognized right to life. Even though *Roe v. Wade* has fallen, states can still allow the killing of unborn children. Today we pray that more unborn will leap for joy in the womb, as St. John did.

Today, even as we rejoice, we weep that U.S. policy continues to promote abortion globally. Today we bend our knees in prayer.

O Lord, “let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24). The Lord preceded His Son, our Savior, with a forerunner. We pray that today’s decision points ahead to the day when every state advances the cause of life and expands protections for unborn children.

Lord have mercy upon us.



**Rev. Paul "PJ" Aarsvold was ordained** on June 5 at Immanuel, Plainview, his home congregation. A recent graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Aarsvold was called as pastor to St. John's, Denver. From left, Revs. David Frederickson, Ronald Prigge, Steven Frentz, Phil Augustine, John Fuchs, Paul Aarsvold, Fred Morck, David Mumme, Dale Kohrs and Dr. Lowell Sorenson.



**Rev. Thomas Gustafson was ordained** on June 5 at Timothy, St. Louis, where he served as a fieldworker while a student at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. A member of St. Paul's, Prior Lake, he was called as associate pastor to Immanuel, Grand Rapids, Mich. From left, Revs. Andrew Asp, Bill Wilson, John Vaughn Jr., Andrew Dinger, Thomas Gustafson, Dr. David Maxwell, Dr. Erik Herrmann, Jaime Nava, Dr. Jeffrey Oschwald and Dr. Ron Rall.



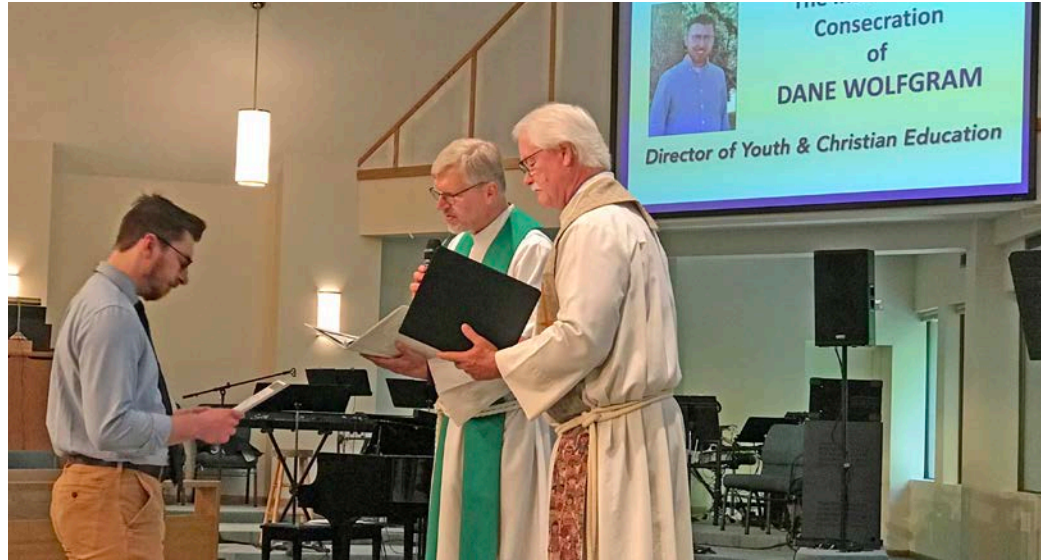
**Rev. Mark Schreiber was installed as senior pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church, Hudson,** on June 26. From left, (front row) Revs. George Riemer, Jim Bender, Mark Schreiber, Ted Diedrick, Chad Czischke; back row) Dr. Lucas Woodford.





## CELEBRATIONS

**Dane Wolfram** was installed as **Director of Youth and Christian Education** at Living Christ Lutheran Church, Chanhassen, on June 19. Performing the installation are, from left, his father, Rev. Lester Wolfram, senior pastor of Shepherd of the Valley, Bismarck, N.D., and Rev. Mark Tewes, Living Christ pastor. Dane also served his internship at Living Christ while a student at Concordia University Nebraska.



**Rev. Kevin Peterson** was ordained on July 10 at Redeemer, Rochester, his home congregation. A recent graduate of Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, he was called as pastor to St. Paul, Addison, Ill. From left, Revs. Dr. Jim Heining, Adam Koglin, David Mumme, Kevin Peterson, Dr. W. Mart Thompson, Joel Haak and Benjamin Loos.



**Trinity Lutheran Church, Waseca,** celebrated its **150th anniversary** on June 26. Pictured are, from left, Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford, district president, and Rev. Larry Sipe Jr., Trinity pastor.

**Rev. Justin Kumfer** was installed as **senior pastor of St. John, Stewartville**, on June 12. From left, Revs. Dr. David Preuss, Jonathan Vollrath, Dr. William Utech, Justin Kumfer, Eric Hauan and Joel Haak.





Play in the annual Camp Omega golf tournament, to be held at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 25, at Gopher Hills Golf Course in Cannon Falls.

The proceeds support the campership endowment fund. These funds support the camp's commitment to providing camp experiences for all, including those with financial needs. Gifts received designated for the "For the Children Campership Endowment Fund" are deposited into an LCEF fund and the interest gained is used to help balance the costs. The Camp Omega golf event is one of the ways to grow this fund.

To register, contact Russ at [russ@campomega.org](mailto:russ@campomega.org) or 507-384-7947.

## Pastors Wives Retreat

# BE STILL AND KNOW

The 2022 Minnesota South Pastors Wives Retreat will be held Oct. 7-8 at the HomeTown Inn and Suites in Belle Plaine. The presenter is Christian author Deb Burma, whose latest release, *Be Still and Know*, will be the topic for the retreat.

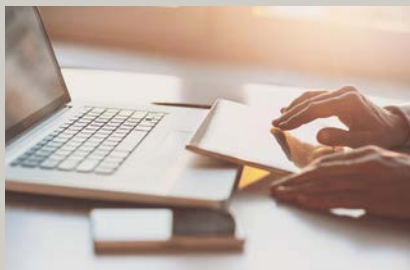
**The registration deadline is Sept. 1.** Please contact Darlene Fretham at [darlenefretham@gmail.com](mailto:darlenefretham@gmail.com) to register.



Deb Burma

## Send submissions for the district supplement to:

- [communications@mnsdistrict.org](mailto:communications@mnsdistrict.org)
- 14301 Grand Ave. South Burnsville, MN 55306



## Every One His Witness expands online access

*Every One His Witness*® (E1HW), the Synod's resource for equipping Lutherans to share the Gospel with the people they encounter in their everyday lives, is now available to everyone interested in strengthening their witness of Jesus Christ. Access to the resources on the website was previously limited to people who had completed the core module workshop. Now all of the modules, including the newest module (witnessing to people influenced by critical theory), are available at no cost to anyone who requests and receives an access code.

E1HW is available at no cost to anyone. To get a free access code to the video modules, please email [support@everyonehiswitness.org](mailto:support@everyonehiswitness.org).







# ‘Humbled to serve’

Introducing ... our new district president

The LWML Minnesota South District Biennial Convention — “Rejoice in Hope!” — was a success. Ladies and a few men gathered for Bible study, worship and missionary speakers. Thirteen new mission grants were announced with a mission goal of \$270,000. Bylaws were passed and new officers were elected.



**Lisa Kamrath**  
LWML District President

As we listened, laughed, sang, prayed and enjoyed just being together again, we were surrounded by 92 banners that were brought in by members of the many societies and zones in attendance. The LWML is 80 years young and our district’s “What’s your 80?” challenge was to have 80 banners at the convention. We accomplished that goal!

When the convention ended, one of the missionary speakers presented me with a gift basket. The title of the basket was “Pampered.” It contained a 365-day daily devotional book, an artificial rose bouquet, a manicure/pedicure kit, lavender hand cream and treatment socks. It was a very thoughtful gift.



As I took each item out of the basket, I was reminded of a Bible verse. For the daily devotional book:

So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” **JOHN 8:31-32**

For the rose bouquet:

I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. **SONG OF SONGS 2:1**

For the manicure/pedicure kit:

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands! **PS. 90:17**

The ladies are in session at the 29th Biennial District Convention, held June 20-22 at the Willmar Conference Center.

For the lavender hand cream:

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food in due season. You open your hand; you satisfy the desire of every living thing.

**PS. 145:15-16**

And, finally for the treatment socks:

How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, “Your God reigns.” **IS. 52:7**

As we LWML sisters begin this next biennium, let us fix our eyes on Jesus and His Word. We have work to do, mites to collect, quilts to make, Bible studies to keep us focused on Jesus, missionaries to support — and so much more. We will do it together, with God’s help.

I am humbled and honored to serve the LWML as the new Minnesota South District President.





## Gifts from the Heart supports halfway homes

The LWML Human Care Committee chose Team Renewed as the 29th Biennial Convention Gifts from the Heart recipient. Team Renewed, along with Damascus Way and FreedomWorks, are Christian-based halfway homes, helping those recently released from prison. They are supported through the Minnesota South District, and Dr. Jim Seemann serves as the Correctional Ministry coordinator.

The Gifts from the Heart items collected and donated include:

- ▶ 214 complete move-in kits (including sheet set, pillowcase, pillow, bath towel and washcloth)
- ▶ 6 additional kits without pillows
- ▶ 1 single-sheet set
- ▶ 3 laundry bags
- ▶ 18 greeting cards
- ▶ 19 comforters
- ▶ 230 quilts
- ▶ 789 pocket Bibles
- ▶ \$45 in cash
- ▶ Target gift cards totaling \$2,500



IN PHOTO: Dr. Jim Seemann, collects the donations for those released from prison.

## Blessings in Glencoe



On June 13, the LWML of First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glencoe, hosted a luncheon featuring Rev. Vance and Linda Becker, LCMS missionaries serving at Matongo Lutheran Seminary in Kenya, Africa. Rev. Becker served as associate pastor at First from 1988 to 2003. Above, from left, Linda and Vance are pictured with Rosie Karg, First LWML president.

The event also recognized three honorary LWML members, Frances Downer, Serena Stradtman and Bernice Wolter, who all turn 100 this year. Below, Rosie is pictured with Bernice (left) and Serena.



## Strengthening Sudanese Ministry



From left, Martha Deng, Kaway Guin, Bishop Peter Antibati Abia, Rev. Gatluk Reat and Rev. James Ruey.

The Sudanese Ministry Steering Committee, made up of pastors and laypeople from our Minnesota South District congregations, is working to strengthen its work among the Sudanese people in our district and among the believers in areas of Africa from which many of our Sudanese people immigrated.

The main goal of the Steering Committee is to raise up enough support for this ministry so that Rev. Gatluk Reat, an ordained LCMS Sudanese pastor from Faribault, can be devoted to this ministry full-time. Pastor Reat currently must work a full-time job in the secular world to support his family, and he ministers to the Sudanese people in his spare time.

Pastor Reat has been involved in Sudanese ministry since his arrival in the United States over 25 years ago. He was ordained in 2019 and has made several mission trips back to Africa to support the believers in South Sudan and western Ethiopia.

The Steering Committee was privileged to meet with Rev. Peter Antibati Abia, bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of South Sudan/Sudan (ELCSS/S), at Trinity Lutheran Church, Faribault. Bishop Abia was in the

United States to raise awareness and support for the ELCSS/S, a thriving church body that is ministering to many refugees in the South Sudan/western Ethiopian region of Africa.

Bishop Abia shared with the committee about the political situation in South Sudan and how it impacts our churches in the area. The greatest need of the ELCSS/S is for pastors and other church leaders to minister to the people, many of whom are in refugee camps.

One of the first projects the Steering Committee undertook was to raise funds for a new electronic piano for the Sudanese ministry in Faribault and Austin. The cost of the piano was \$2,000. Half the funds for the piano were raised by the Sudanese people and the other half were raised by the congregations and individuals of the Faribault and Austin circuits of our district.

Pastor Reat and other members of the Steering Committee are available to make presentations about the Sudanese ministry to groups and congregations in our district. If you would like to schedule a presentation, you may contact Pastor Reat at [gatlukhul@yahoo.com](mailto:gatlukhul@yahoo.com) or Rev. Kirk Griebel at [redemerowatonna@outlook.com](mailto:redemerowatonna@outlook.com).

## Congregation mission receipts

### For the period ending June 30, 2022 (unaudited)

Actual receipts.....	\$125,660
Budget receipts .....	\$170,832
Over (under) amount .....	(\$45,172)

#### Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts.....	\$1,022,770
Budget receipts .....	\$1,024,992
Over (under) anticipated amount.....	(\$2,222)

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

50% designated to district and Synod .....	\$772,450
100% designated to district operations ..	\$215,352
100% designated for Synod operations .....	\$34,968
Total receipts .....	\$1,022,770

#### Mission receipts—2022 vs. 2021

Mission receipts — YTD 2022 .....	\$1,022,770
Mission receipts — YTD 2021 .....	\$1,088,805
Over (under) last year .....	(\$66,035)

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

## MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

### May 2022

New investments .....	\$2,398,442
Withdrawals.....	\$2,788,777
Net increase (decrease).....	(\$390,335)

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

New investments .....	\$17,850,459
Withdrawals.....	\$19,301,289
Net increase (decrease).....	(\$1,450,830)



## DISTRICT OFFICE

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