



/ OCTOBER 2022

DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

💡 TALKING POINTS WITH PASTOR

Understanding the ‘Go’ in *Go First!*

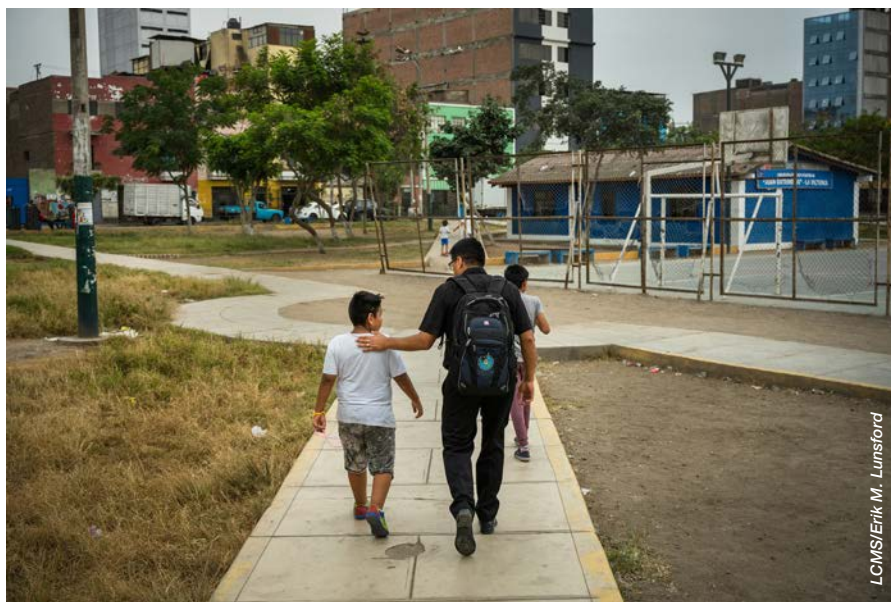
Last month I introduced the *Go First!* initiative.

It's based upon the Gospel joy that since Jesus goes first to the cross to win for us forgiveness, life, and salvation, we can trust Him. And because we trust Him, He inspires us to go first and inspire others in His name. I offer this as a building block for our work together in our district this triennium. Going first helps us unleash the potential of our congregations and schools in the name of Jesus.

To help us see how we can go first, look at when and where *Jesus* says “go.”



Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
District President



LCMS/Erik M. Lunsford

Prayer

“But when you pray, **go** into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.” **MATT. 6:6**

Study of God's Word

“**Go** and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy, and not sacrifice.’ For I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” **MATT. 9:13**

Trusting God

And Jesus said to him, “**Go** your way; your faith has made you well.” And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way. **MARK 10:52**

Life Together

“If your brother sins against you, **go** and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.” **MATT. 18:15**

Stewardship and Care of Others

Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, **go**, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” **MATT. 19:21**

Life as Disciples

“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should **go** and bear fruit and that your fruit should

abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.” **JOHN 15:16**

Intentional Missions

And Jesus said to them, “**Go** into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.” **MARK 16:15**

Intentional Catechesis and Outreach through Word and Sacrament

“**Go** therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the

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Former parsonage now helps Mayo Clinic patients

The former parsonage of Trinity Lutheran Church, Rochester has been converted into The Luther House. This facility consists of three units that will provide a comfortable and free place to stay for LCMS members who are seeking medical treatment at the Mayo Clinic. Those in need staying at units will share a main entry and laundry, but will have private doors/locked entrances.

The Luther House consists of:

- ▶ A one-bedroom efficiency unit with kitchenette and $\frac{3}{4}$ bathroom.
- ▶ A one-bedroom unit with full kitchen and full bathroom, sitting area with gas log fireplace and outdoor sitting area.
- ▶ A two-bedroom unit with full kitchen, spacious living room and full bathroom.

This new facility is replacing



the TLCare Apartments that helped Lutherans for about 10 years. God is working in Rochester to provide help and shelter to Lutherans in need.

For more information, visit. trinitylutheranchurch.org/lutherhouse.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)



Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." MATT. 28:19-20

Each passage illuminates the people, places and callings to which Jesus said "go." They inspire us to imagine what it might look like for us to go first — both in our relationship with the Lord and with others, as individuals and as a congregation.

Perhaps it's going first into your neighborhood to get to know others and invite them to your church. Maybe it means going first to the single parents of your congregation to offer childcare or to start a neighborhood food pantry. It could mean serving as a mentor to confirmation students or joining community conversations about race and biblical justice. Dream big! Jesus went first into death and back to life to show us the power of His going first and to prepare the way for us to follow.

Some of my initial conversations about going first have been extremely exciting. One conversation was about going first to the community with a summer school program open to all. Another was a dream to begin a Christian hospital that cares for the whole person — body, mind and soul. By collaborating with other Christians who uphold a biblical view of care, it would finance, build, staff, train and teach what it is to care for the whole person. And by building the first hospital in a needy community in Minneapolis, it would be used as a model to expand across the state and even the nation. Like I said, these are exciting conversations!

I've placed each of the above passages into four groupings to help us focus and explore how we can go first. In the coming months, I'll unpack each: Life together, soul care, collaboration and intentional outreach. As we continue along our way following Jesus, I'd love to hear from you about your dream to *Go First!* Talk to you soon.

Rev. Andrew Asp was installed as campus pastor of **Concordia Academy, Roseville**, on Aug. 14. The service was held at Messiah, Mounds View. From left (front row) Revs. Thomas Pfothenhauer, Kurt Klaus, Bill Pieper, Andrew Asp, Karl Grant, Tim Gustafson; (back row) Dean Dunavan, Dr. Joshua Miller, Dr. Timothy Berner, Timothy Marshall, Dr. Lucas Woodford, Keith Grimm and Tom Gundermann



Rev. Tobias Schmidt was installed as associate pastor of **Christ Victorious, Chaska**, on Aug. 14. From left, (front row) Revs. Tobias Schmidt; (middle row) Patrick Simmons, Richard Carter, Aaron Kuehn (Christ Victorious senior pastor), David Buuck, Vicar Todd Bentz; (back row) Keith Perry, Don Andrix, Matthew Barry, Joshua Bernau and Tom Evans.



Pastors supporting pastors

Each of the 24 circuits in our district have a pastoral circuit visitor who helps the pastors in his circuit and joins them for monthly meetings (called Winkels) that include Bible study, support and encouragement. The circuit visitors for this triennium recently met at Christ the King Retreat Center in Buffalo. A list of the circuit visitors can be found at mnsdistrict.org/oversight. Pictured are, from left, Revs. Dr. Brent Klein, Paul Sajban, Jesse Krusemark, Russ Reimers, Shawn Ethridge, Bill Hugo, James King, Paul Strawn, Mick Mathews, Dr. Lucas Woodford, Allan Reed, Adam Parvey, Joel Vano, Ryan Alvey, Steve Bielenberg, Steve Jones, Ted Diedrick, Lowell Sorrenson and Rev. Stefan Wismar.

CELEBRATIONS



Abby Hendrickson was installed as sixth-grade teacher at St. John's Lutheran School, Chaska, on Aug. 28. She is pictured with Rev. Greg Snow, St. John's senior pastor.



Barbra Kozisek (principal), left, and **Katherine Parrish** (first grade teacher) were installed at St. Paul's Lutheran School, Prior Lake, on Aug. 28. Both are married to pastors: Barbra's husband, Scott, serves at St. Paul, Garner, Iowa, while Katherine's husband, Josh, serves at Redemption, Bloomington.



Megan Polzin was commissioned and installed as Director of Faith Development and Servant Leadership of Mayer Lutheran High School on Aug. 28. She will also teach theology. The service was held at First Lutheran, Glencoe. Megan is pictured with Rev. Dan Welch, First Lutheran senior pastor.



Welcome, new church workers!

God is providing for workers in the harvest field! On Aug. 9, an excited group of new called workers met at the Minnesota South District office. Consisting of pastors, teachers, DCEs, and their spouses, the group began with a devotion, met the district staff, learned about various aspects of the district, and broke into their perspective callings for additional discussion.



Educators get ready for 2022-23

The T3 Collaboration was held on Aug. 18 at Concordia University, St. Paul, as a professional development opportunity for educators. Designed as participant-driven and educator focused, each participant provided one thing to share (a lesson, document, idea, strategy, plan) and a question to ask their peers. In this way, attendees

were able to collaborate and learn from each other at this half-day event.

Comments from participants include:

- "It was honestly a great event and I was so satisfied. ... Thank you for putting this together."
- "I think it was really great and I'm looking forward to future events."

- "Great job. Interesting and fun to discuss things that interest and pertain to me and my teaching."
- "This was great, and I hope that this becomes an annual event."

For additional teacher resources, visit mnsdistrict.org/teacher-resources.

Please keep our Lutheran educators in your prayers as they share Christ's love with the children and families in our Lutheran schools — a vast mission field!

Sandwich delivery helps feed the homeless

Last year, members of St. John's, Woodbury, made more than 100 sandwiches for the homeless, put them in plastic bags and gave them to The New Freedom Store. In turn, the sandwiches were given to Radia's Health, a faith-based charity whose caseworkers counsel those in encampments with the goal of getting them back into housing.

The New Freedom Store invites you to help feed the homeless. Would your church make some sandwiches? One-hundred is a very good number as they can easily fit into a car trunk and be distributed quickly before thawing or spoiling. And yet, 100 is a very substantial gift. The goal is to distribute the sandwiches around Thanksgiving and Christmas. Thanks to your support, The New Freedom Store will also hand out pocket Bibles along with a few other items, like socks, to keep those in need clean and warm.

Please contact Dr. Jim Seeman at seeman@csp.edu to receive more information before you begin your project. Thank you for serving those in need!





It's my favorite season! The trees change, with the green leaves of summer turning into beautiful autumn colors of gold, red and orange. Gardens are being harvested to bring in the final produce of fresh tomatoes, pumpkins, squash and potatoes. Soup is simmering on the stove, with fresh bread in the oven. Can you smell it?



Lisa Kamrath
LWML District President

Sweatshirts and sweaters are pulled on to warm us against the cooler air that is settling in. When you live in Minnesota, you learn to tell time by the seasons. Spring, summer, winter and fall all have a list of "things to do" to prepare for what is coming.

Conventions

As LWML members, we also prepare for what is coming. In October, we begin planning for a district convention to be held in June 2024. Decisions on the convention theme (and Bible verse the theme is based on), location, speakers and servant events, among many others, will be made by the 2024 Convention Committee.

Simultaneously, we are preparing to "Celebrate the Lord of Nations" at the LWML 40th Biennial Convention, to

be held June 22-25, 2023, in Milwaukee. Delegates will be elected, transportation arranged, Young Woman Representatives chosen and mission grants reviewed. All of these people and preparations are prayed for by many women.

Pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
1 THESS. 5:17-18

Time in the Word

Do you need to have a devotion or Bible study prepared for a meeting? The LWML can help! Whether you are an LWML member or not, you can go online to receive an outpouring of materials to use in your personal quiet time or to share with others. The "Resources" tab at the district website, mnslwml.org, and "The Word" tab at the national website, lwml.org, are filled with devotional materials, Bible studies, program resources, leadership development, litanies, dramas, retreat topics and workshop ideas.

Again, you do not have to be an LWML member to obtain these resources. Please go online and use them!

Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. **1 THESS. 5:11**

I pray that you enjoy a beautiful fall season as we pray to our Heavenly Father for what lies ahead as we "serve the Lord with gladness."

MISSION GRANT FOCUS

CTSFW
Food and
Clothing
Co-op

The voting delegates of the Minnesota South District LWML selected the Concordia Theological Seminary Fort Wayne (CTSFW) Food and Clothing Co-op as one of the top two recipients of their Mission Grant votes at the June convention. Our mission-minded women understand the tremendous support that the co-op provides to seminarians and their families, often offsetting as much as 85 percent of a family's grocery budget.

Deaconess Katherine Rittner, Food and Clothing Co-op director, was recently kind enough to share some interesting facts our mission-minded women might not know about the co-op.

"Mission grant monies are restricted and used only for the purchase of items provided in the Food Co-op as well as the processing of the hogs and steers that are donated to us year-round," Rittner says. While the co-op does employ several full- and part-time workers, mission grant dollars are never used for this purpose. Much of the work is done by seminarians who volunteer their time to help sort and restock. Rittner speaks highly of the student volunteers, "The time that the students provide is so they can show their appreciation to our amazing donors for their continued care and support. It is also how the students earn their points to shop in the Food Co-op, which are assigned based on their family size and ages of their children."

Curious about what exactly your LWML mite dollars buy? Rittner explains: "We purchase fresh milk, eggs and produce on a weekly basis for our students to shop for every Tuesday. We also order monthly from Sam's Club individually wrapped fish fillets, butter, cream cheese, diapers, wipes, laundry detergent and dishwasher detergent. In addition, we purchase items

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to stock our shelves from Aldi, wholesale retailers and Dollar Tree, including cereal, tortillas, spaghetti, canned goods, seasoning, flour, sugar, oil, personal hygiene (shampoo, conditioner, deodorant, razors, shaving cream), almond milk (for those with allergies), and gluten-free items as we can get them. An added plus is that we are a member of the local Food Bank which allows us the opportunity to purchase items at a greatly reduced rate.”

What a host of mighty blessings come from those little mites!

August is a busy time of the year, with the arrival of new students and the return of vicars to campus, “sometimes with more family members than what they left with,” Rittner says. “The vicars are always the most thankful and appreciative of the co-ops because they have been out and away for a year and have had to figure out how to do it on their own. Of course, the congregation that they have spent the last year at does amazing at caring for them, but it doesn’t compare to what we are able to do at the co-ops with your help.

“The ‘first-timers’ are always the best. When they first come in to shop and have no idea how to do it, sometimes it makes for a special bonding time with them because of their amazement that so many from across the country have taken an interest in their well-being, and that they are being provided for while they are here preparing to go into the harvest field of Christ.”

The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

PS. 145:15-16 NIV

Molly Loder • VP of Gospel Outreach

1 Cor. 1:18-25



Nominations sought for LCMS convention

Nominations are now being accepted for the 69 officer, board and commission positions to be elected on during the 68th Regular Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The convention will be held July 29-Aug. 3, 2023, in Milwaukee.

The Committee for Convention Nominations (CCN) urgently needs names of the most highly qualified and churchly lay members of member congregations, ordained ministers and commissioned ministers to fill the important offices that govern the Synod and its agencies on behalf of the member congregations. Each congregation is urged to search itself diligently for those with the requisite gifts.

For more information on the specific requirements of each office, please see the “Officer, Board, and Commission” document available at lcms.org/convention/nominations-and-elections.

The nomination form is available for download at lcms.org/convention/2023-nomination-form. It can be downloaded and filled out electronically, then emailed to the Office of the Secretary at ccn@lcms.org. Electronic submission, according to the accompanying instructions, will expedite processing. With your affirmation and contact information on the form, including your return email address, there is no longer a need to send a hard copy by U.S. mail.

Nominations for regional offices can come from anywhere in the Synod, but the nominee must reside in the designated region.

Nominations must be received by Oct. 29, 2022, but are desired as soon as possible.



Meet a missionary

Rev. Dr. Daniel and Joan Jastram

SERVING THE LORD
IN ASIA



Rev. Dr. Daniel Jastram serves as a missionary on behalf of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Asia, where he lives with his wife, Joan, in Tokyo. In this role, Dr. Jastram coordinates efforts to make Lutheran resources of theology and worship available in all of Asia. He monitors and reports the progress of existing work, while also developing, coordinating and supporting new work.

Daniel was born in Shibata, Japan, and was raised overseas in an LCMS missionary family. His childhood congregation was Shibata Lutheran Church. He received his Master of Divinity degree from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Later, he earned both a master's degree and a doctorate in classical languages from the University of Wisconsin—Madison.

Before serving in Asia, he was a professor of theology at Concordia University, St. Paul, and Concordia University Wisconsin, Mequon, Wis. He also served as sole pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church, Forest Lake. In his free time, Daniel enjoys reading, hiking and bookbinding.

Joan was born in Mitchell, S.D., where her childhood congregation was Zion Lutheran Church. She received her Doctor of Psychology (Psy.D.) degree from the Minnesota School of Professional Psychology at Argosy University, Twin Cities, Minn. Currently Joan works as a clinical psychologist in private practice in Tokyo. In her free time, she enjoys reading and hiking.

The Jastrams' home district is Minnesota South. For more information and to support, visit lcms.org/jastram.



Dr. Jastram presents during a theological convocation in 2019.

Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending Aug. 31, 2022 (unaudited)

Actual receipts.....	\$156,004
Budget receipts	<u>\$170,832</u>
Over (under) amount	(\$14,828)

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts.....	\$1,392,781
Budget receipts	<u>\$1,366,656</u>
Over (under) anticipated amount.....	\$26,125

Use of mission receipts (year to date)

50% designated to district and Synod ..	\$1,062,384
100% designated to district operations ...	<u>\$281,734</u>
100% designated for Synod operations	<u>\$48,663</u>
Total receipts	\$1,392,781

Mission receipts—2022 vs. 2021

Mission receipts — YTD 2022	\$1,392,781
Mission receipts — YTD 2021	<u>\$1,428,580</u>
Over (under) last year	(\$35,799)

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

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

July 2022

New investments	\$1,322,922
Withdrawals.....	<u>\$1,321,082</u>
Net increase (decrease).....	\$1,840

Year-to-date July 1, 2022–July 31, 2022

New investments	\$1,322,922
Withdrawals.....	<u>\$1,321,082</u>
Net increase (decrease).....	\$1,840



DISTRICT OFFICE

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