



DISTRICT NEWS

MINNESOTA SOUTH

💡 TALKING POINTS WITH PASTOR

Life Together: *Go First!*

Jesus calls Christians into a community of life together. That community is a part of the Holy Christian Church that we confess in the Apostles' Creed. At the core of this life together is the message of the justification of humankind through the shed blood of Jesus. The local expression of this life together is most often seen by believers gathering for weekly worship with their congregation. The marks of these gatherings are the clear teaching and preaching of the Word of God and the faithful administration of the Sacraments.



Rev. Dr. Lucas Woodford
District President

Each local congregation has a life together, made up of the faces and voices of members. However, every Christian congregation, near and far, is united by the life of Jesus. In short, our life together is a life that follows Jesus. We go where He goes.

Last month I unpacked the *Go* in the *Go First!* initiative. We looked at some of the various places Jesus calls disciples to "go," even as He went there ahead of us on His way to the cross. The heart of this initiative is the life we have

together through the cross. It binds us together in a community of faith and love as we together "go" about our lives.

The *Go First!* logo highlights His cross as the center of this initiative. He went first to win our salvation and thus inspires us to go first as willing servants in our life together. That life together makes up the first corner of the logo. It signifies that everything we do is rooted in the truth of God's Word.

Our faith and worship are rooted in the Word. Our daily vocations are shaped by the Word. Our interactions with one another are guided by the Word.

Lutherans have a tremendous confession of faith that catechizes and strengthens believers to bear up under the pressures and temptations that come from the devil, the world and our

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INSTALLATIONS



From left, **Emily Anderson** and **Kristen Mueller** were installed as teachers at Immanuel Lutheran School, Lewiston (Silo), on Sept. 18. Emily will teach seventh and eighth grade and Kristen will teach first and second grade. They are both pictured with Sean Martens, Minnesota South District Assistant to the President, Education and Commissioned Ministers.

Marissa Bernau was installed as a second-grade teacher at St. Martin's Lutheran School, Winona, on Sept. 4. She is serving her first call after recently graduating from Concordia University, St. Paul.



Rev. Chou Vang was installed as pastor of Shepherd of the Grove Lutheran Church, Maple Grove, on Oct. 2. Pictured are, from left (front row) Revs. Chou Vang; (middle row) Matthew Moss, Matthew Johnson, Dr. Thomas Trapp, Dr. Lucas Woodford, Yia Lor, Steven Briel, Alan Braun; (back row) Martin Cornes, Richard Her, Dr. Joshua Miller, Steve Bielenberg, Vue Lee and Steve Jones.

Rev. Dan Borkenhagen was installed as Discipleship Pastor at Good Shepherd, Owatonna, on Sept. 11. Pictured are, from left, (front row) Revs. David Mumme, Greg Schlicker; (middle row) Mark Biebighauser, Dan Borkenhagen, Corey Grunklee; (back row) James Fuchs, Kirk Griebel, Brent Klein, Gatluk Reat, Paul Biebighauser and Elliott Malm.



Parker Esterberg (left) and **Taylor Mueller** were installed as teachers at Mayer Lutheran High School. Parker, a former Mayer student, is teaching life science. He is serving his first call after recently graduating from Concordia University Nebraska. Taylor previously served in Oklahoma and is teaching social science. Parker and Taylor were installed by Rev. Ron Mathison at Emanuel, Hamburg, on Sept. 18.

Students get special gifts of backpacks

As part of the #WeR4Arlington ministry of Peace Lutheran Church, Arlington, 18 backpacks full of supplies were delivered to Sibley East Elementary School! Pictured are Rev. Craig McCourt, Peace pastor, and Amanda Feterl, principal of Sibley East.



District schools receive accreditation

National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) encourages and recognizes Lutheran schools that provide quality Christian education and engage in continuous improvement. The program is voluntary and is available for early childhood, elementary schools, high schools and any combinations thereof.

NLSA helps Lutheran schools evaluate their academic quality and the spiritual dimension of the school as they gather evidence and score key indicators of the standards. NLSA regularly undergoes a rigorous review process by the state Non-public School Council in order to be recognized as an official accrediting agency by the State of Minnesota.

To be accredited, schools must pass three levels of scrutiny: the validation team, the District Accreditation Commission (DAC) and the National Accreditation Commission (NAC). The District Accreditation Commission members include Emily Anderson (District Commissioner), Natalie Marose, Kevin Wilaby, Dan Kuball and Sean Martens.



Immanuel Lutheran School, Lewiston (Silo)
From left, Emily Anderson, teacher and NLSA District Commissioner, and Kevin Meyer, principal, are pictured with Sean Martens, Minnesota South District Assistant to the President, Education and Commissioned Ministers.



Trinity Lutheran School, Waconia
Martens and Dan Maser, principal.



King of Kings Lutheran School, Roseville
Jay Schutte, principal, and Martens.

MESSAGE

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

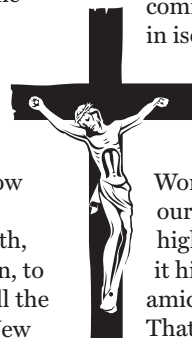
sinful nature. We acknowledge our life together must deal with the guilt and the shame of the sin in our lives. We sin and we are sinned against, but it is the blood of Jesus that cleanses us from both (1 John 1:7). That is why our life together centers upon the forgiveness of sins earned by Jesus, which is regularly delivered to us through Word and Sacrament worship. There we are forgiven and freed, renewed and refreshed, disciplined and dispersed to

“go” out into our daily vocations to serve our neighbor, love the Lord and give witness to His mercy. (See the logo arrows pointing out.)

The Advent blue coloring of the “life together” corner (along with the other liturgical colors of the remaining corners) reminds us that we follow the life of Jesus from His birth, through His ministry, to His death, to His resurrection and ascension, to the sending of His Holy Spirit, all the way through the growth of the New

Testament Church.

The Holy Christian Church is a community of faith. We do not live in isolation of one another, but together as brothers and sisters in Christ. We need His reconciling grace to guide us to reconcile with one another. The Word of God stands at the center of our life, with the cross of Jesus lifted high. We proclaim it, teach it and lift it high even as we live out its truth amid a broken and hurting world. That is our life together. Go first!



Paid off!

Congregations celebrate with mortgage burnings



St. John's Lutheran Church and School, Corcoran

We praise God for this significant day and future ministries of St. John's! From left, Rev. Matthew Moss (senior pastor), Gabriel Lodholz (crucifer) and Rev. Matthew Johnson (associate pastor).



Trinity Lutheran Church, Waterville

We lift up a prayer of thanksgiving for this milestone and anticipate the great things God has in store for Trinity! Pictured is Rev. David Mumme.

125 years of St. John's



St. John's, Sargeant, celebrated its 125th anniversary on Aug. 21. What a blessing! Pastors who participated in the anniversary service were, from left Rev. Marc Freiberg Sr. (current pastor) and former pastors Rev. Ronald Prigge and Rev. Collin Duling. Not pictured is Rev. Jesse Krusemark (circuit visitor).



God bless our military chaplains

Veterans Day, observed every Nov. 11, is a day to honor all those who have served our country in the military, both during war and peace. The Minnesota South District is privileged to have a number of military chaplains serving the armed forces.

Several of them responded to the following questions:

1. How long have you been serving?
2. What are your primary responsibilities?
3. What do you enjoy the most about being a military chaplain and why?
4. What is the most challenging part of being a military chaplain and why?
5. In what way can district members pray for you?



Rev. Robert Burmeister

Major, Retired, U.S. Army Reserve (USAR)

1. I served 20 years in the USAR in the USA and overseas and on active duty with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment (ACR) in Iraq and Kuwait. I'm a veteran of the second Gulf War.



2. My primary responsibilities included providing religious services, counseling and ceremonies for the soldiers, especially Lutheran/LCMS members. It was also my duty to provide guidance to the commander and unit regarding matters of religion, morality and ethics as it pertained to the mission.

3. The most enjoyable part of my duties as a chaplain was and is to share the Gospel (Word and Sacraments) with our military personnel, as well as people of other nations and faiths, and to see the fruits of my labors as the Holy Spirit worked in the lives of the hearers. It is especially rewarding to reach individuals who have little or no contact with the organized church. That's one reason why chaplains are counted as part of the Synod's mission outreach.

4. The most challenging aspect is balancing the role of an LCMS pastor/missionary with that of a soldier. Chaplains are unarmed, non-combatants

according to the Geneva Conventions but must still meet all the qualifications required for military officers.

5. Prayers are welcome for the gifts of the Holy Spirit, wisdom, perseverance and the blessing and God-pleasing fruits of any chaplain-related duties or influences on the church, nation and world.

Rev. Matthew Franke

Colonel, U.S. Air Force, Command Chaplain, HQ Air Force Material Command, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio

1. Twenty-eight years active duty service (24 years as a chaplain, four years as a Space Systems analyst).

2. As a Major Command chaplain, I advise senior Air Force leaders on matters related to religious, spiritual, ethical, moral and morale concerns, and advocate for the religious and spiritual needs of airmen and their families. In addition, I provide guidance and staff assistance to 115 chaplains and religious affairs airmen across the command.

3. Military members and their families understand service and sacrifice. I have the opportunity to share with them that God loves and serves them to the point of sacrificing his Son.



4. Ministry in a deployed/combat environment is the most rewarding for any chaplain, but being apart from your family for months or even years is a challenge for any military member.

5. Pray for our military members and their families who serve faithfully around the world, and the chaplains who have the honor to serve them.

Rev. Sol Grosskopf

Captain, U.S. Air Force, Ramstein Air Base (pictured with his wife, Tierney)



1. I have been at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, for just over two years.

2. I have certain units whose airmen and families are my main focus to check on and assist through resilience training, pastoral care and counseling. I am also the lead pastor for the traditional Protestant service on base.

3. Every day is different for a chaplain. Some days are fun, some are difficult, some are happy, some are sad, but all days are long and filled with a variety of interactions with airmen and leaders.

4. Every day is busy — at any point there is someone who needs help or a listening ear. There is never a time where everything has been accomplished. Without a good understanding of our theology of vocation, the demands of our job can lead to burnout.

5. Prayers for the leaders of our nation to make wise choices to take care of

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our uniform members, and prayers for those serving to find connections and peace through the gift of fellowship.

Rev. Merlin E. Stephan

Lieutenant, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy (LT, CHC, USN), Naval Service Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill.

1. I have been serving as a U.S. Navy active duty chaplain since February 2015. I was commissioned as a lieutenant in November 2014. I previously served on active duty as a U.S. Navy Seabee Construction Mechanic from October 1983 to April 1990.



2. My primary responsibilities in my current assignment are as follows:

- Warrior Toughness Team instructor for the Naval Service Training Command, Recruit Training Command, and Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Units
- Assistant chaplain for the Recruit Convalescent Unit at Recruit Training Command
- Primary chaplain for the Friday-evening Lutheran Divine Service at Recruit Training Command Chapel
- Provide chaplain support for

other Naval Region Mid-Atlantic Commands as needed

3. What I enjoy most about being a military chaplain is the embedded nature of my vocation. My assignments place me in the center of the day-to-day life of my sailors and Marines. It is within this context that I can speak to them about the things of God. I have the privilege of bringing these men and women Word and Sacrament ministry that strengthens them in their military vocations.

4. The most challenging thing about military chaplaincy has been speaking the Word of Truth in love to a culture that can no longer distinguish truth from error. The men and women I serve are hungering for truth and the peace that can only come by being reconciled to God through faith in the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ on the cross. There are many competing voices and conflicting beliefs that promote spiritual confusion, rather than the clarity that can only come through the Word of God.

5. Please continue to pray for our men and women in uniform! Their challenges are monumental, and the pace and scope of operations is daunting and relentless. Please pray for their safety, their success, their families and their return home with their honor intact. Please pray that God would grant our chaplains the strength needed for our task, and that He would continue to open doors where we can speak the Word of Truth in love to this generation of warriors.

Congregation mission receipts

For the period ending Sept. 30, 2022 (unaudited)

Actual receipts.....	\$114,943
Budget receipts	\$170,832
Over (under) amount	(\$55,889)

Year-to-date receipts

Actual receipts.....	\$1,507,724
Budget receipts	\$1,537,488
Over (under) anticipated amount.....	(\$29,764)

Use of mission receipts (year to date)

50% designated to district and Synod ..	\$1,156,209
100% designated to district operations ...	\$300,265
100% designated for Synod operations	\$51,250
Total receipts	\$1,507,724

Mission receipts—2022 vs. 2021

Mission receipts — YTD 2022	\$1,507,724
Mission receipts — YTD 2021	\$1,603,290
Over (under) last year	(\$95,566)

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

MINNESOTA SOUTH DISTRICT LCEF

August 2022

New investments	\$1,517,100
Withdrawals.....	\$1,420,625
Net increase (decrease).....	\$96,475

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

New investments	\$2,840,022
Withdrawals.....	\$2,741,707
Net increase (decrease).....	\$98,315

QUILTS OF LOVE

The Quilting Ministry at First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Glencoe, meets several afternoons each week. Twenty-seven quilts were recently donated to Orphan Grain Train; 46 quilts and 18 lap robes were donated to Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch (North Dakota) and Yellowstone Boys and Girls Ranch (Montana); and quilts also were given to McLeod Emergency Food Shelf in Glencoe.



From left, Lucille Kraemer, Linda Duenow, Sharel Hoops, Ardeen Graupmann, Joyce Schirro, Madrienne Weber, Sharon Gerde, Ida Rutske and Joanne Samuelson. Missing from the photo are Linda Ranzau, Doris Jungclaus and Pat Bartels.



Thankful

We should always be thankful for the many gifts we have received from our Heavenly Father. The national holiday of Thanksgiving reminds Americans to set aside a special day for thanks. As Christians, we have so much to be thankful for every day of the year. I am thankful to our Heavenly Father for sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to be our Lord and Savior. I am thankful for my husband, sons, daughters-in-law, grandchildren, our home, our church family and many other blessings we have been given.



Lisa Kamrath
LWML District President

This year, I am especially thankful for the LWML women — young, middle-aged and older. It is amazing to observe all of them working together as Christian women, spending time in God's Word and focusing on mission work. They are sisters in Christ, dedicated to being servants and leaders in their congregations and communities. LWML women are supportive of one another, sharing ideas and learning to blend the new and old ways of doing things. All that we do, as LWML

women, is to give honor, praise and thanks to our God for His abundant mercy and grace in Christ.

I am thankful for the pastoral counselors who meet with us, provide devotions and Bible studies, doctrinally check our publications, counsel us and pray with and for us. I have spent most of my adult life working with men: military, cub scouts, boy scouts, my husband, Keith, and five sons, Michael, Jonathan, Matthew, Joshua and Luke.

Men and women are different from each other, and for that I am also thankful! I appreciate our pastoral counselors and the male insight they offer to the LWML. Together we all work to further God's Kingdom.

Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. 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. (COL. 3:16-17)

May you be thankful this Thanksgiving Day and every day. We have been blessed beyond measure so that we can serve our fellow neighbors and share Christ's love and forgiveness with them. Happy Thanksgiving!

WANTED: YWR applicants

It's a bird! It's a plane! It's a Young Woman Representative! Wouldn't it be super to send one of your congregation's young women to the LWML 40th Biennial Convention, June 22-25, 2023, in Milwaukee?

Look around! Do you see this super gal? She loves Jesus and has a great desire to share His love with the people around her. Would sending her to the LWML national convention refuel her jets for service within her home, church and community? The Young Women Committee will be looking for someone who checks the boxes in the following categories:

Qualifications

Any mature young woman, preferably 22-40 years of age and an LCMS member may apply to become a Young Woman Representative (YWR) at the national convention.

A YWR candidate:

- ▶ Should have a deep love and devotion to her Lord Jesus Christ and is able to participate in the full scope of the convention.
- ▶ Should be willing to attend all sessions of the convention, sitting with the district delegation, though she would not be able to vote.
- ▶ Is able to be away from home/work/children for the entire convention and travel time.
- ▶ Will fill out the application completely and honestly.

Expectations

- ▶ You will be asked to give a report of your impressions and account of experiences from the national convention at the LWML district convention in the following year.
- ▶ You shall commit yourself to be active in your LWML society and will encourage other young women to be a part of your excitement.
- ▶ You may be invited to attend Zone and Society functions and be open to take part in their programs upon request.
- ▶ You will be asked to help with the YWR program in the LWML Minnesota South District.

The district will cover travel, housing and meal-package costs (as per the district guidelines) to the national convention.

Enjoy your research as you seek the young woman our Lord has in mind for this super opportunity! Encourage her to download an application at mnskwml.org (go to "Faith & Service" and select "Young Women" from the drop-down menu).

— Submitted by LaDonna Peterson (Immanuel Lakefield), member of Young Women's Committee