



The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

NED NEWS

Volume 21, Issue 2

Autumn 2018

Caring for Workers, Congregations and Neighbors

Throughout August and September the staff and volunteer leaders of the New England District spent time together in God's Word, prayer, and discussion together discerning the vision the Lord has for our district throughout the 2018-2021 triennium. The resulting vision statement is:

The New England District LCMS envisions many healthy workers, congregations and ministries walking together and generously reaching out to our New England neighbors.

The touchstone verse for the vision is 1 Corinthians 13:13 **"So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."**

Love for our Workers

- Individual and personalized care for our workers and their family members.
- Programs to meet spiritual, emotional, intellectual, relational, financial and vocational needs of church workers.

Hope for our Congregations

- Consulting services in congregational finances, administration, reconciliation, conflict resolution and ministry revitalization.

Faith for our Neighbors

- Church worker recruitment and supervision.
- Equipping and supporting outreach ministries to communities throughout New England

In this article, a great deal of print has been given to the vision discerned by the Staff and Presidium of the New England District and ratified by the Board of Directors of our District. The centerpiece is "Care for the Worker". The continuing focus of that care is the hope of a resultant "Care for the Congregations" leading to "Care for the Neighbors". This vision sound as if the entire concern is for the worker with a secondary care for our people in the pews. Not so. I believe that the hope of any revival or growth begins with the people in the pews who are themselves "cared for" by healthy Church workers. Any Church movement to the glory of God starts with the people and in my heart is a belief that "saving the Synod" or "Growing the Church" (phrase it as you like) will be a grass roots movement starting with laypeople. To that extent I offer in this edition of NED News a great prayer relayed to us District Presidents by the new District President of the Texas District of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the Rev. Michael Newman. The prayer was written by another District President W. Harry Krieger who is



NED NEWS is published for members and friends of the LCMS churches throughout New England.

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THE MISSION OF NED is to encourage and assist its congregations in their ministry of Word and Sacrament to build up the body of Christ and to make disciples of all peoples.

Submissions from NED congregations are welcomed and encouraged, share what is happening in your congregation with the rest of the New England District!

Please keep all articles under 250 words. All submissions are considered available for use by the New England District for any district communication piece including digital and print.

The next deadline is Jan. 15

Email submissions to NEDcommunications@ned-lcms.org

Digital photos need to be high resolution and unedited (no reformatting or cropping) NED Staff and Editors reserve the right to edit articles and submissions for clarity and space.

now with the Lord. I pray my own heart will echo its words and please know that I pray it with ALL OUR PEOPLE – those standing at the altar and those standing in the Church Sanctuary – Pres. Yeadon, New England District, Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

Disturb us, O Lord:

- When we are too pleased with ourselves
- When our dreams have come true because we dream too little
- When we have arrived in safety because we sailed too close to the

shore

Disturb us when:

- With the abundance of things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life
- And having fallen in love with time, we have ceased to dream of eternity
- And in our vision of a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new heaven to grow dim

Stir us, O Lord:

- To dare more boldly
- To venture on wider seas where storms shall show us your mastery
- Where losing sight of the land, we shall find the stars

And now:

- To Him who pushed back the horizon of our hope and invited us to follow Him and be brave,
- Be glory, praise and honor. Amen.

#GivingTuesday and Online Generosity

Giving Tuesday is a day of global emphasis on generosity, celebrated since 2012, on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving. The New England District of the LCMS encourages generosity on Giving Tuesday, above and beyond your usual gifts and tithes to your local congregation in celebration of the blessings that our Lord and Savior has bestowed on us. You can join with us on November 27th or any day in caring for our New England District church workers, our congregations and our neighbors by making an online donation on www.ned-lcms.org

The Annual NED Ministry Conference will be held Saturday, March 9th at Our Savior Lutheran Church in South Windsor, CT beginning at 9am. The keynote speaker is Rev. Dr. Steven Schave, focusing on mission and church planting in New England. More information including registration will be available in early 2019.

March 9, 2019
9 am
South Windsor, CT

The New Frontier for Mission: New England

Now and Later

By Steve Gruenwald, Concordia Plan Services

Growing up, I never ate much of the Now and Later candy (introduced in '62 and still going strong). Perhaps it was because of the taffy-like texture that stuck to my teeth, or maybe it was the name: it didn't seem to fit what I was chewing, and chewing and chewing! The name Now and Later suggests that you eat some of the taffy squares right away and save the rest for another time. I don't know of too many kids that have the self-control to save some candy for later! I can tell you that SweetTarts – my preferred candy – never lasted that long.

The candy's name has been on my mind because I've been thinking about my dad who passed away 20 years ago this past spring. As an LCMS pastor, he served six congregations during his 36 years of ministry (two Calls were for double parishes). Those churches knew they were helping our family while Dad was serving (Now), but my guess is, they had no idea how they helped our family years after we were no longer a part of the congregation (Later).

Most people are good about thinking about present needs, and how to help in current situations, and so those congregations didn't hesitate to enroll – or continue to enroll – my dad and family in the Concordia Health Plan. The thoughtful actions of those church leaders provided my parents with a health plan, and as our family grew, chances are the congregation saw first-hand our family using those benefits. They certainly saw it in me: The CHP offered relief and healing when I froze my hands while living in Canada; when I needed stitches on my chin in Minnesota; and when I broke my arm while living in Illinois.

What those church leaders may not have recognized and certainly never saw come to fruition, through the Concordia Retirement Plan (and my dad choosing a joint and survivor payment option) my mom would be greatly blessed all these years after she was no longer their pastor's wife. Their commitment to Later – making payments into dad's retirement plan while he was serving their congregation – makes it possible Now for my mom to receive a monthly pension benefit and live comfortably in her retirement years.

So, thank you Mt. Calvary (Swift Current) and Trinity (Cadillac), Saskatchewan, Canada; St. John's, (Villard) and Trinity (Grove Lake), MN; St. Paul, Chapin, IL; and St. Paul, Evergreen, MN. Thank you for your care and concern for the well-being of my parents, my four brothers and me. Please know that the measures you took 29, 36, 51, and 61 years ago are still helping us today. Your actions are a shining example of the care and compassion you continue to have for church workers of the LCMS Now and when their Later happens.

NED Worship Commission offers Lenten Planning Discussion Webinar

On Tuesday, January 8th at 1 pm, the New England District Worship Commission will host a Lenten Planning Discussion via online webinar and telephone conference call. The time will be spent in conversation sharing thoughts and ideas for Lenten sermons, studies, worship planning and music to benefit one another. There is limited space available to allow for better discussion and inclusion of all participants. Reserve your space by emailing tmanor@ned-lcms.org

Love for our Workers is Love for Christ Himself

By Deaconess Tiffany Manor
Director of Worker Support

In my Gospel of Matthew exegetical class at seminary (deaconesses are certified for ministry in the LCMS at either a Lutheran university or one of our seminaries by receiving either a B.A or M.A. in theology) I was surprised to learn from several Bible scholars that a scripture passage I love has a more nuanced interpretation than the one I had heard for so many years. The passage I refer to is Matthew 25:31-46. A key verse, Mat 25:40 is “And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’” Generally, this scripture passage is applied to Christians serving one another and their neighbors, that as we serve anyone (particularly if they are lesser) we are serving our Lord. This is not an isolated concept from God’s Word, there are other verses that tell us we should see Christ in one another and serve wholeheartedly with love (Galatians 5:13, Ephesians 6:7, Colossians 3:24).



It is important to note that in interpreting and applying Matthew 25:31-46 a particular word in verse 40 tells us who Christ is speaking of and who we serve as if we were serving him. That particular word is ἀδελφός translated in English “brothers.” Dr. Jeff Gibbs, professor at Concordia Seminary – St. Louis, spends several pages in his book *Jerusalem and Parousia* thoroughly explaining that “The ‘brothers’ of Jesus in 25:40, 45 are his disciples whom he has sent as missionary heralds to all the nations” (p. 218). Christ says in Matthew 25:31-46 that when we serve the missionary preachers (here in NED we call them pastors) Christ has sent out we are serving Him. When we provide food, drink, clothing, when we welcome, and visit, when we receive the preaching of our pastors we are doing all that unto Christ Jesus our Lord.

The New England District vision of love for our workers is an expression of our love for Christ.

LCEF *Signature Sponsorship Series*

Partnership Opportunities to Enhance Ministry Communications

Cooperative Funding for Essential Communication Tools

Lutheran Church Extension Fund is committed to helping your ministry reach out to those you seek to serve. There are many ways to tell your ministry's story, but the reality of financial considerations may keep you from realizing your vision. We invite your ministry to become a partner in the LCEF Signature Sponsorship Series, a cooperative funding program that will empower you to share your story more widely and increase your visibility within your community—all so that the life-giving message of the Gospel can be heard.

What You Can Expect

LCEF embraces the ministries of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS), empowering them in their work to expand God's kingdom and helping to ensure that everyone knows Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Through the LCEF Signature Sponsorship Series, we offer a way to share the expense of reaching your community with news and information of your ministry and how others can get involved. Follow this link to find ideas and options for highlighting your ministry and its activities. <https://lcef.org/signature-sponsorship-series/>

- Signage
- Audio & Visual
- Print Materials
- Website Design



Mutual Benefits

We are a partner who understands that proper stewardship is at the top of your ministry priorities, and we are here to help. In return, as a sponsorship recipient, we ask that you commit to communicating the mission and ministry of LCEF either through consistent messages (provided to you by LCEF), display of the LCEF logo and/or acknowledgement of the sponsorship. These acknowledgements will be customized to each partner.

Please visit the link above or contact Brenda Bacon, LCEF Assistant Vice President at 413-783-0131 ext. 10 if your congregation is interested in the LCEF *Signature Sponsorship Series*.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund

> where investments build ministry

New from Concordia Publishing House

Video-Based, Bible-Backed, Author-Created Studies

Concordia Publishing House launches CPH FaithCourses, a new online learning platform

The landscape of Bible study has changed. From Sunday morning Bible class, to small group studies, to individual devotion time, Christians are pivoting from traditional studies to more innovative, creative ways to study God's Word.

CPH FaithCourses, from Concordia Publishing House, is just that—a new way to deepen and grow in your faith. It's an online learning platform where you get exclusive author-led videos that guide you through a book study or Bible study.

Book studies, which will be released on the first Wednesday of every month, are completely free and supplement your study of a CPH book. So, let's say, your small group is reading *Being Lutheran* together. After you read chapter one, you would watch the video for that chapter, led by author Trevor Sutton, and use the downloadable Learner Guide to guide your discussion of the video. Book studies are currently available for *Being Lutheran* and *Will the Real Jesus Please Stand Up?*.

Bible studies, on the other hand, aren't based around a book. They're exclusive to CPH FaithCourses, and they're a complete Bible study. The author of the study will lead your study through a video lesson, and your group will fill out the Learner Guide as you watch the video together. The first CPH FaithCourses Bible study is the men's Bible study *Simon Peter: Fiery Fisher of Men*.

Head to cphfaithcourses.com to learn more, browse available courses, and create your free account.

New England District LWML Update

The Mite Mission Goal for 2018-2020 is \$70,000; so far, \$20,284.25 has been received allowing the following Mission Grants to be PAID in FULL

1. Keep Baby Warm and Safe (Central Connecticut Lutherans for Life) \$ 1,575
2. Trinity Lutheran Preschool (Trinity Lutheran, Ashaway, RI) \$ 1,200
3. Open Arms Preschool Flooding Remediation (Lutheran Church of the Savior, Bedford, MA) \$ 5,000
- 4A. The Bridge (Our Savior Lutheran, South Windsor, CT) \$ 2,500



LWML

Lutheran Women *in Mission*

Parish Happenings

District Staff Visit Trinity Christian School in Keene, NH



Mrs. Brenda Bacon, Deaconess Tiffany Manor and President Timothy Yeadon visited the faculty, staff and students of Trinity Christian School in Keene, NH on November 7.

National Lutheran School Accreditation (NLSA) awarded to Immanuel Lutheran School in Bristol, CT

District President Tim Yeadon and Deaconess Tiffany Manor present the NLSA five year accreditation to Immanuel Lutheran School Principal Dr. Anne Stuhlman and Pastor Kevin Karner.



New Spanish Bible Study at Trinity West Roxbury, MA

Pastor James Hopkins of Lutheran Church of the Way, Raynham, MA will be leading a Bible study in Spanish at Trinity, West Roxbury, MA

Orphan Grain Train

OGT is also helping with disaster relief efforts in Florida from hurricane Michael and we are not done helping families in North Carolina and Texas. We need your support to be able to continue to purchase and deliver construction materials, supplies and food to our neighbors struggling to recover. OGT – New England is blessed to be offering up to \$3,000.00 match, which 100% of your donation will go toward hurricanes Michael and Florence recovery efforts. The matching opportunity will run through December 31, 2018, or until the \$3,000.00 goal is met, whichever comes first.

If this event has touched your heart in any way, please step up and help a brother or sister. Checks should be made payable to: "OGT New England Branch" and sent to 400 Wilbraham Road, Springfield, MA 01109 and note in the memo area "disaster relief". Please know that 100% of your contribution goes directly to those in need.

Items Currently in Demand (bolded are most needed) Food items: **Canned meat: Chicken, Tuna, Spam, and Vienna Sausages; Juices (Individual);** Mac & cheese in cups (you add water to it); Pasta & Pasta Sauces; Dry Milk; Fruit cups (individual); Apple Sauce (individual); Instant Coffee. Please make sure there is a pull-tab on top of the cans. Household and Hygiene Items: **DIAPERS: Sizes Newborn, 1, 4 & 5; Diaper Rash Ointment; Deodorant - Men & Women's; Hand Sanitizer 3 oz. size; Band Aids & Peroxide; Lysol Spray & Wipes; Bleach (smaller size) not gallon size; Paper Plates, Paper Towels and Cups; Color Books & Crayons; Dog & Cat Food (Dry) small size bags; New Socks (All sizes infant to adult all sexes); Towels & Washcloths; New Blankets**

Circuit and Regional Breakdown

REGION I

REV. JAMES BUTLER, VICE-PRESIDENT

CIRCUIT NO. 1

○ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Rev. Don Colageo, Immanuel Lutheran, Manchester, NH
 Pastor Steven Bartell and Associate Pastor Christopher Bartell, Regeneration Lutheran, Exeter, NH
 Pastor Edwin Harkey, Trinity Lutheran, Keene, NH
 Pastor George Ruwisch and Associate Pastors Michael Meyer and Bryan Stecker, Grace Lutheran, Nashua, NH
 Pastor William Ringer, Our Redeemer Lutheran, New Ipswich, NH
 Pastor David Muehler, Good Shepherd, Peterborough, NH
 Pastor William Ringer, Christ Lutheran, Troy, NH
 Served by Pastor Paul Nielsen, Hope Lutheran Church, Bangor, ME
 Pastor Timothy Sandeno, Redeemer Lutheran, Gorham, ME
 Pastor Paul Nielsen, Lutheran Church of the Resurrection, Waterville, ME
 Pastor Calvin Kemp, Williamstown Lutheran Church, Williamstown, VT
 Pastor Matthew Rasmussen, Community Lutheran, S. Burlington, VT

CIRCUIT NO. 2

○ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Paul Gramit, Trinity Lutheran, Clinton, MA
 Pastor Timothy Knapp and Associate Pastor Eric Sahlberg, Mt. Calvary Lutheran, Acton, MA
 VACANT, Lutheran Church of the Savior, Bedford, MA
 Pastor David Jacoby, Messiah Lutheran, Fitchburg, MA
 Pastor Jeremy Pekari, Messiah Lutheran, Lynnfield, MA
 also serving Messiah Lutheran is Specific Ministry Pastor Dave Brezina
 Served by Deacon Steve Vekasy, Trinity Lutheran, W. Roxbury, MA
 Pastor Jeffrey Jensen, Our Savior Lutheran, Topsfield, MA
 Pastor Peter Gregory, Our Savior, Westminster, MA

CIRCUIT NO. 3

● CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Paul Lantz, Lutheran Church of the Cross, Hanover, M.
 Pastor Ingo Dutzmann, First Lutheran, Boston, MA
 Pastor Thomas Dornan, St. James Lutheran, Canton, MA
 Pastor James Butler, St. Luke's Lutheran, Dedham, MA
 Pastor Steve Law, Lutheran Church of Wollaston, Quincy, MA
 Pastor James Hopkins, Lutheran Church of The Way, Raynham, MA
 Served by Pastor Bob Schipul, Christ Lutheran, Scituate, MA
 Pastor Leon Schultz, St. Paul Lutheran, Providence, RI
 VACANT, Our Redeemer Lutheran, Smithfield, RI

REGION II

REV. SCOTT SCHUETT, VICE-PRESIDENT

CIRCUIT NO. 4

□ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Jonathan Manor St. Paul's Lutheran, New Hartford, CT
 Specific Ministry Pastor Kevin Mongeau
 Pastor Jim Rice, Trinity Lutheran, Easthampton, MA
 Pastor Randall Bessette, First Lutheran, Holyoke, MA
 Pastor Ralph (Butch) Lanphar, Trinity Lutheran, Springfield, MA
 Pastor David D. Riley, St. John's, Westfield, MA
 Pastor Michael Coons, Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, Enfield, CT
 Pastor Randall Pekari and Associate Pastor John Rasmussen, Our Savior, South Windsor, CT
 Served by Pastor Ralph (Butch) Lanphar, Good Shepherd, Suffield, CT

CIRCUIT NO. 5

■ CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Joe Nollet, Hope Lutheran, Storrs, CT
 Pastor James Wiese, Trinity Lutheran, Ashaway, RI
 Served by Pastor Bob Mikulastik, Prince of Peace Lutheran, Coventry, CT
 Pastor Timothy Gordish, Faith Lutheran, Groton, CT
 Pastor Phillip Booe, Christ Lutheran, Amston, CT
 Pastor Scott Schuett, Redeemer Lutheran, Lebanon, CT
 Pastor Volker Heide, Lutheran Church of Madison, Madison, CT
 VACANT, Zion Lutheran, Manchester, CT
 Pastor Mark Valigorsky, St. Matthew's, New Britain, CT
 Served by EIIIT Pastor Gem Gabriel, Our Redeemer Lutheran, New London, CT
 Pastor Paul Scheyder, Christ Lutheran, Niantic, CT
 VACANT, Bethany Lutheran, W. Hartford, CT

REGION III

REV. ROBERT BEINKE, VICE-PRESIDENT

CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Mark Clow, Grace Lutheran, Middletown, CT
 Pastor Kevin Karner, Immanuel Lutheran, Bristol, CT
 Pastor Scott MacDonald, St. John's Lutheran, Meriden, CT
 Served by Pastor Kevin Mongeau, Shepherd of the Hills, Morris, CT
 VACANT, St. Paul Lutheran, Naugatuck, CT
 Pastor Christian Bunzel, Trinity Lutheran, New Milford, CT
 Pastor Joel Kotila, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Terryville, CT
 Pastor Robert Hass, Zion Lutheran, Wallingford, CT
 Served by Pastor Joel Kotila, St. John's, Waterbury, CT

CIRCUIT NO. 7

CIRCUIT VISITOR — Pastor Eric Wismar, Holy Cross Lutheran, Trumbull, CT
 VACANT, Zion Lutheran, Bridgeport, CT
 Pastor David Rowold, Cheshire Lutheran, Cheshire, CT
 Pastor Walter Harper and Pastor Christopher Chandler, Immanuel Lutheran, Danbury, CT
 Pastor Justin Smith, Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, New Fairfield, CT
 Pastor Evan Scamman, First Lutheran, Greenwich, CT
 Pastor Rob Morris, Christ the King, Newtown, CT
 Pastor Robert Beinke, St. Peter's Lutheran, Norwalk, CT
 Pastor Timothy Boerger, Zion Lutheran, Orange, CT

